

SLUMPBUSTERS

Written by

D.K. Devine

72 Utica Street
Hamilton, NY 13346
Dkiely033@gmail.com

Ph. (315) 825-1829

TITLE CARD:

'Slumpbuster' (slump' bust 'er) : Brief encounter of a physically intimate nature with the sole purpose of changing one's luck; usually in an athletic contest.

- FENSTER'S Online Dictionary of American Slang

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD - DAY - Late 1980's.

FOUR IMPATIENT LITTLE LEAGUE PALS (in uniforms that read CLIPPERS on the front) wait on the bench and debate about girls before their championship game. AN ANCIENT GUY slumped over a riding mower TAKES FOREVER TO MOW THE FIELD while his DECREPIT OLD DOG WATCHES. A fifth player on the bench SNORES.

CHAD

Okay. Hottest 'Brat Packer.'

ALEX

Ally Sheedy.

LAYNE

No way. Demi Moore. Hands down.

DINK

What about Daphne Zuniga?

CHAD

'Spaceballs?' Disqualified. Not a Brat Packer.

DINK

Why not?

CHAD

She's not a brat and she doesn't run with the pack.

The conversation stalls. The SNORING GETS LOUDER.

ALEX

'No Doz.' 'No Doz!' Wake up!

LAYNE

Let him sleep Alex. This could take awhile.

We see they are the only ones in the park as ANCIENT MOWER GUY passes and SPRAYS THEM WITH GRASS CLIPPINGS.

ALEX

What a job! Going around in circles
all day? I'd go crazy!

DINK/CHAD

Ditto!

DINK

Why did you want us here so early
Alex? Coach isn't even here!

ALEX

Geez Dink! It's the championship!

DINK

Really? It only seems like the
tenth game.

CHAD

It's a ten game season, moron.

The captain of the opposing team, RON BLOWERS, speeds toward
them on his FANCY RACING BICYCLE WITH HIS EXPENSIVE, BRAND
NEW BALL GLOVE ON THE HANDLE BARS.

ALEX

(bitter)

Plus, it's against *Blowers* team.

BLOWERS SKIDS TO A HALT in front of the bench, SPRAYING THEM
WITH DIRT. He reaches for a dixie cup from the Clipper's
cooler.

BLOWERS

Hey Alex. You mind?

Without waiting for an answer, Blowers TAKES A SWIG FROM
THEIR COOLER. He spits it out and tosses the cup.

BLOWERS (CONT'D)

Ugh! What is that?

DINK

It's called water.

BLOWERS

It tastes like piss!

CHAD

Get another cup Blowers. You can
try some of *mine*!

LAYNE

Why don't you drink out of your own team's cooler Blowers?

BLOWERS

I will! We've got *Powerade*!

ALEX

Wow! We might as well forfeit!

BLOWERS

There's no shame in that. This game could get ugly. (scanning bench) Oh wait! -- It already has!

ALEX

We'll take our chances.

BLOWERS

It's *your* funeral. Later losers!

Blowers PEELS OUT toward his team's bench.

ALEX

I can't believe he's got a BMX racing bike. Twelve gears!

DINK

Twelve gears! Sweet! -- I mean, what a dick!

CHAD

Did you see his glove?

ALEX

It's a Mizuno Z28 proto type model. It's not even in stores yet. How did *he* get one? The *pros* can't even get them!

DINK

You sure know your sporting goods Alex!

ALEX

Big deal. *Blowers* owns it all! I hate that guy!

TWELVE YEAR OLD HOTTIE, CORAL saunters by, catching all the boys attention and clearly loving it.

LAYNE

I'm not hatin' *that*!

CHAD

Oh man! What I wouldn't give to get to second base with her!

DINK

Too late. Alex has already rounded first!

CHAD

(to Alex)

No way! So you two are like a *thing* now?

ALEX

I don't know. I *guess* so.

CHAD

Well, if you are it's good for us!

ALEX

What do you mean 'for us?'

CHAD

It makes us winners, by association. Look at the best big leaguers. They always have hot girls. It carries over to the field. They play better and the whole team benefits.

LAYNE

You're full of it. Girls got nothing to do with winning at baseball. It's about 'flow.' It's about gripping it and ripping it, like Reggie does.

CHAD

You haven't 'ripped one' all season!

LAYNE

Yeah? Wait until I get a hold of one! You'll never see it land!

CHAD

Well 'Reggie,' just in case you don't, we need any edge we can get.

Chad removes a 'SPORT' magazine from his back pocket.

ALEX

'SPORT?' I thought you subscribed to Sports Illustrated.

CHAD

Not anymore. Sports Illustrated doesn't have cool articles like *this!* Check it out. This guy did a study where he asked players how often they 'did it' and matched that against when the team won and lost. They won more when they 'did it' more. It's called 'Slumpbuster Theory.'

DINK

Question -- Did what?

CHAD

You know. 'Get with' girls. It's *totally* scientific. There's graphs and everything.

Dink GRABS THE MAGAZINE. A graph accompanying the article LOOKS LIKE AN ERECTION.

DINK

I still don't get it.

ALEX

It sounds pretty crazy Chad.

CHAD

You know who *doesn't* think it's crazy Alex? (pointing to article) Five time 'All Star' Taylor Rawling, that's who!

ALEX

Gimme that!

Alex GRABS THE MAGAZINE.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(reading)

"It's better to 'get lucky' than be good." - Taylor Rawling, pitcher, California Angels.

LAYNE

Taylor Rawling? I thought he was in jail.

ALEX

You don't go to jail for throwing spitters. He's just suspended. He's still gonna be a Hall of Famer.

DINK
They suspended him for spitting?

ALEX
They caught him using Vaseline on
the ball.

LAYNE
Hey Dink, just like your mom caught
you!

DINK
What's that supposed to mean?

LAYNE
You know what it means.

Dink goes after the much bigger Layne. Alex pulls them apart.

ALEX
C'mon guys! Let's focus!

Chad pours dixie cups of water for the other players.

CHAD
Listen up doubters. All I'm saying
is Alex getting with Coral is a
good omen. At the end of the day
we're gonna be on top, and Blowers
is gonna be on the bottom!

Chad hands each player a cup. They hold their cups high.

CHAD (CONT'D)
To Alex and Coral. To Slumpbuster
theory. And to being winners!

ALEX/DINK/LAYNE
To being winners!

THE PLAYERS TOAST, THE SLEEPING PLAYER 'NO DOZ' CONTINUES
SNORING, and ANCIENT MOWER GUY'S DOG PEES ON THEIR COOLER.

TITLE CARD: SLUMPBUSTERS

EXT. LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD - TWO HOURS LATER

LAST INNING. ALEX is on the mound. A table between dugouts
holds the CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY. The 'Clippers' are ahead by
one run. Ron Blowers swings three bats as he comes to the
plate with a base runner on first.

BASERUNNER
C'mon Ron! Ducks on a pond!

The first baseman LAYNE corrects him.

LAYNE
Duck. There's only one base runner.
It's *singular*.

BASERUNNER
(annoyed)
Whatever.

The CLIPPERS COACH tries to get Layne's attention.

CLIPPERS COACH
Layne! Layne! Wake up Kyle!

The coach POINTS to the NARCOLEPTIC SECOND BASEMAN, KYLE 'NO DOZ' KWIKOWSKI, who is ASLEEP STANDING UP. Layne THROWS A PEBBLE AT 'No Doz.'

LAYNE
No Doz!..No Doz!..KWIKOWSKI!

NO DOZ (STARTLED)
What? -- I'm up!

LAYNE
C'mon. Look alive!

Layne trots over to the mound to encourage Alex. CHAD and DINK leave their infield positions to join them.

LAYNE (CONT'D)
One more out Alex. Blowers is all talk. He's got no 'game.'

DINK
How come we have a second baseman with -- what's he have again?

LAYNE
Narcolepsy.

CHAD
His dad paid for the uniforms,
that's how.

The uniform backs read KWIKOWSKI MATTRESS.

DINK

Man I wish I had necrophilia. Every time I had to take a test or go to the dentist, I'd have an attack.

CHAD

It's *narcolepsy*.

LAYNE

(to Dink)

Necrophiliacs have sex with dead people dummy.

DINK

Cool! We should get one of those!

LAYNE

Anyway, don't sweat it Alex. Kyle's awake now.

Alex is suddenly distracted. His crush, CORAL is encouraging the batter.

CORAL

Hit a homer Ron!

Coral kisses Blowers on the cheek and eyes Alex.

ALEX

(to self)

Coral? Aww! Not *Blowers*!

DINK

Forget her Alex. She's a --

ALEX

A what?

DINK

Nothing. She's -- great! I mean -- I'm sorry. I don't know what to say in these situations.

CHAD

Oh well. You were with her. Maybe the good luck still holds. Like an aftershock.

LAYNE

Don't listen to him Alex. It's superstition. Just focus on the competition.

ALEX

You're right Layne. I just gotta focus on the competition.

Layne, Chad and Dink go back to their positions. Lots of chatter from both sides as Alex pitches two quick swinging strikes to Blowers.

BLOWERS

(to Alex)

Those were warmup swings! The next one's outta here!

Blowers swings. A fly ball to right center field. The ball lands in the gap and rolls toward the fence. The right fielder picks up the ball.

CLIPPERS COACH

(to right fielder)

Hit your relay man Donnie!

The right fielder throws to No Doz, the second baseman. No Doz is ASLEEP AGAIN, snoring loudly, not facing the outfield. THE RELAY THROW SMACKS HIM IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD.

ALEX

Kyle! Kyle!

The ball rolls back into the outfield. 'No Doz' CONTINUES SNORING.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Somebody get it!

LAYNE

I'm not outfield!

ALEX

Dink!

DINK

(pointing to No Doz)

He's the one with necrophilia!

CHAD

It's narcolepsy!

ALEX

Forget it!

Alex runs to the outfield as the base runners round the bases. Alex throws the ball home. Too late. IN A CLOUD OF DUST, BLOWERS SLIDES AHEAD OF THE TAG.

HE GRABS THE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY from the trophy table and taunts Alex's team with it.

BLOWERS

In your face! In your face!

Coral hugs Blowers.

CORAL

You're number one babe!

AN AIR HORN BLOWS in celebration. With dust still clouding the air, Layne, Chad and Dink try to console Alex.

CHAD

He wins the girl, he wins the game.
It's the 'way of the world Alex!'

LAYNE

It's just a game man. Forget it.

DINK

Someday when we're grownups and we've all moved away, we'll never have to see Coral or Blowers ugly faces again!

ALEX

Yeah. I guess you're right.

TWENTY YEARS LATER.

EXT. ELAINE BARRY'S FRONT LAWN - PRESENT DAY

The dust and air horn from the little league game have faded into EXHAUST FUMES AND THE BLAST OF A TRUCK HORN coming from Blower's BIG, BAD ASS RIDING MOWER, THE 'SHOCK AND LAWN 3000.' Alex, holding a pair of HEDGE CLIPPERS, waves fumes away from his face. Alex is the owner of GREEN CLEAN, an 'eco-friendly' lawn care business. He and his crew of Dink and Chad are almost finished with their job as BLOWER'S MOWERS finishes a job next door. Blower's trailer blocks the driveway. The trailer is hitched to a huge truck which reads BLOWERS MOWERS, "IF IT'S GROWIN' WE'RE MOWIN!"

Dink loads a manual reel mower into the Green Clean van. Alex notices the lawn corners under the shrubs haven't been mowed.

ALEX

Hold up Dink! What about the corners?

DINK
It's kind of tough getting under
those shrubs Alex.

ALEX
Well we're not cutting corners! If
you want to do that you can work
for Blowers Mowers!

Alex points to his nemesis next door. Dink looks at Blowers
too.

DINK
Okay.

Dink continues to load the mower into the van.

ALEX
What are you doing? We do things by
the book!

DINK
(confused)
So we're not cutting corners?

ALEX
No! I just told you that!

Dink starts loading the mower again.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Dink! --

Ron Blowers approaches on the bad-ass riding mower, with his
wife Coral riding on the back.

CORAL
Hi Alex. We holding you up?

ALEX
Yeah but what else is new Coral?

CHAD
Hey Blowers! Don't you know better
than to block someone's driveway?
What if there was an emergency?

BLOWERS
What emergency? It's not like you
guys have another job to get to!

ALEX

We're starting slow; building a loyal fan base. Isn't that right Mrs. Barry?

Elderly ex-Brooklyn Dodger groupie ELAINE BARRY stands on her porch in a housecoat. BOOZY, CHAIN SMOKING. A real "BROAD."

ELAINE

That's right Alex. And I'm not telling you again! It's *Elaine*.

BLOWERS

I didn't peg you for an eco- Nazi Mrs. B. Why'd you fire us and go with these losers?

ELAINE

Can't I care about the environment like the youngsters do? Besides, these guys got nicer tushies.

Blowers is bent over his trailer, showing lots of crack.

BLOWERS

You could do better. And this 'green' business? It's a fad. Trust me. You guys should cut your losses now and sell out to me. I could use your power cords when I do my Christmas decorations.

CORAL

You do the most bad-ass Christmas decorations in town babe!

ALEX

Christmas is a long way off. You should worry about us putting you out of business by then.

BLOWERS

Don't bet on it. Nothing personal Alex but you are what you are. And what you are is number two. I've got the number one lawn care business, a smokin' hot wife, and you know, in some way I feel like I have you to thank for it all.

ALEX

How's that?

BLOWERS

That home run off you to take the little league championship was a sign. It was like the universe saying Ron, you're a winner and you'll always be a winner.

CORAL

(teary)

That was beautiful babe!

CHAD

That was dumb luck.

BLOWERS

That was a clean home run!

DINK

The throw home got stopped by a second baseman with necrophilia!

CORAL

What?

ELAINE

Is this what I'm paying for? A bunch of boys fighting over a little league game?

BLOWERS

It was more than that Mrs. B. We're talking about destiny here. These guys don't get it. That's why they're where they are and I'm where I am.

ALEX

Wow! A whole business philosophy built on a lie! You should be on Wall Street!

BLOWERS

For the last time that home run was clean! (to Coral) Tell 'em hon!

CORAL

Clean home run babe!

ELAINE

If this home run dispute is so important to you guys why don't you settle it like men. In the cages.

DINK

That's not a bad idea. *Cage fighting!* I think I know where I can get a cage!

ELAINE

I mean the batting cages, down at Manny's.

DINK

They let you fight in there?

ELAINE

(wistful)

That *would* be a turn on. Shirtless. We could oil you up. I think I've got some 'PAM.' -- No, no. You grab a bat and some balls and you see whose still 'got it.'

CHAD

Or see who never had it.

CORAL

Do it babe! Show 'em who's still got it!

BLOWERS

I'm a working man, unlike you guys! I've got jobs to do.

DINK

I guess we know who never had it.

BLOWERS

You know what? It'll take me about five minutes to wipe the field with you guys and send you home with your tails between your legs! And I'll still have time to mow six more lawns today! I'm in!

CORAL

Oh you guys are gonna be sorry!

ELAINE

This I gotta see! I can miss my 'stories' for one afternoon.

DINK

(to Elaine re. 'stories')

I can't believe Victor's still trying to nail Nikki *and* get her stock options in Jabot!

ELAINE
Victor's such a putz!

ALEX
This is ridiculous! We're *not*
twelve years old! I'm a business
owner. I'm an *adult*!

EXT. - MANNY'S ALL PURPOSE SPORTS COMPLEX - LATER

Alex and Blowers HAVE A DEATH GRIP ON THE SAME BAT. Chad,
Dink, Coral and Elaine watch like kids watching a schoolyard
fight.

BLOWERS
No 'crow's feet!'

DINK
You didn't call no 'crow's feet!'

BLOWERS
It's implied!

CHAD
Two syllable words! He means
business.

MARTINA, a cute employee of TITAN SPORTS unloads pitching
machines from a van. She watches with amusement and disdain
as Alex and Blowers struggle. THE BAT GOES FLYING AND HITS
THE VAN.

ALEX
Sorry!

MARTINA
I think you're supposed to throw
the *ball*, not the bat!

Martina hands the bat back to Alex.

ALEX
Good advice. We'll try that!

MARTINA
Aren't you guys a little *old* to be
acting like this?

ALEX
Yes. Yes we are.

Martina rolls her eyes and goes back to her work.

ELAINE

This 'crow's feet' nonsense doesn't apply! The dispute is did Ron really hit a home run off Alex or not, correct? So this is to see if Ron can hit Alex's pitching. Now let's get started. Who's shirts and who's skins?

Dink starts to take his shirt off.

CORAL

We're skins! Take your shirt off babe! Show 'em that rockin' bod!

MANNY, the manager of the sports complex sees Dink and Blowers disrobing.

MANNY

Hey you two! No shirt, no shoes, no service!

Dink and Blowers put their shirts back on.

ELAINE

(to Manny)
Killjoy.

MANNY

Don't you guys have lawns to mow or something?

DINK

Blowers thinks he can hit Alex.

CHAD

We're proving him wrong.

MANNY

You guys with that little league grudge. You're worse than the Hatfields and the McCoys.

BLOWERS

The difference here Manny is *that* rivalry was a lot more even. This is going to be a slaughter.

MANNY

Well make sure it stays in the cage. *Excitement* I don't need.

A rowdy bus load of kids from ST. MALACHY'S PARISH CENTER day camp pulls in. A PRIEST and a NUN get off the bus and get out of the way as the rowdy kids pile off the bus.

MANNY (CONT'D)

No way! You're not dumping them off here again!

The kids sprint for the batting cage, climbing on it.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(to girl on batting cage)
Get down from there! These men are trying to settle a bet!

GIRL

Gambling's a sin!

MANNY

So's child abandonment!

The nun and the priest start to make their escape.

NUN

(boarding bus)
Bless you Manny!

PRIEST

There's a special place in Heaven for you!

A team from the WOMEN'S ROLLER DERBY skates by.

ROCKET RHONDA

Hey Coral!

CORAL

Hey Rhonda!

ROCKET RHONDA

Whatcha doin'?

CORAL

Just watching Ron kick some ass in the batting cage!

ROCKET RHONDA

Bor-ing! Wanna come watch *us* instead? We're trying out our new tear away jerseys!

BLOWERS

(to Coral)

Do what you gotta do hon. I got this!

CORAL

No mercy babe!

Coral follows her roller derby friends.

CHAD

Ooh! Chicks full of pent up aggression! The most irresistible force on earth!

DINK

All I heard was 'tear away jerseys.'

Chad and Dink FOLLOW THE ROLLER DERBY GIRLS.

DINK (CONT'D)

We're behind you all the way Alex!

ELAINE

I can't believe I'm missing my 'stories' for *this*! (yelling to priest) Can I catch a ride?

PRIEST

Of course!

Elaine heads for the bus.

ELAINE

(lustful, to priest)

You can put me in the back seat if I misbehave!

The bus peels out.

MANNY

I've had three toilets back up and a brawl in 'Over Eighty' kickball today. What's next?

A CREAKING SOUND AND A POP come from the stressed batting cage. The batting cage crashes down like a dinosaur skeleton.

EXT. BATTING CAGE AREA - LATER

Paramedics WHEEL INJURED, CRYING KIDS TO AN AMBULANCE. The nun and the priest charge at Manny.

NUN

(to MANNY)

We'll never patronize this
deathtrap again!

MANNY

Can I help it if your little
geniuses can't tell a batting cage
from a jungle gym?

PRIEST

You'll be hearing from our lawyer!

MANNY

From what I hear you guys might
want to *save* that lawyer for more
important things!

The ambulance leaves. Alex, Blowers and Manny remain.

BLOWERS

(to Alex)

It looks like you're off the hook.

ALEX

You got that ass backwards my
friend!

MANNY

Say. You guys are business rivals
right? Why don't you settle the
score on the field? Sponsor teams.
You get some snappy uniforms. It's
great advertising.

BLOWERS

You mean like softball teams?

MANNY

(evasive)

Yeah. -- Like softball.

ALEX

(unsure)

Why not?

BLOWERS

(unsure)

Why not?

ALEX

(firm)

Why not!

MANNY

Let's step into my office.

INT. MANNY'S "OFFICE." - MOMENTS LATER

Alex and Blowers sit across from Manny at what appears to be a desk. Manny is looking at a clipboard.

MANNY

Okay. I'm looking at the softball leagues and --

A voice in a THICK INDIAN ACCENT interrupts. PUNJAB DIPWAHDI, the HEALTH INSPECTOR, checking a clipboard of his own, examines the surroundings with disdain.

DIPWAHDI

Excuse me Sir.

MANNY

(dismissive)
Yeah, one second. (to Alex and Blowers) Now the 'A' and 'B' leagues are full right now --

DIPWAHDI

Excuse me!

MANNY

(not looking)
I'm busy! Keep your shirt on! (to Alex and Blowers) Now as I was saying, the softball leagues are full, but there's an experimental league --

DIPWAHDI

I can do this with or without you!

Dipwahdi begins marking his clipboard.

MANNY

Oops! Sorry fellas. I gotta take this.

Manny stands and we see that his office is actually a HOT DOG STAND.

DIPWAHDI

How long has that cooler been leaking?

MANNY

Gee? Must have just happened. I'll take care of it right away!

Dipwahdi marks his clipboard.

DIPWAHDI

Those boxes of chips. They shouldn't be on the floor.

MANNY

Of course not. I'm a little squeezed for space.

Manny haphazardly throws them on top of some other boxes.

DIPWAHDI

How long have those hot dogs been cooking?

We see the most DECREPIT DISGUSTING HOT DOGS ever, under a heat lamp.

MANNY

Five, six minutes.

DIPWAHDI

More like hours. Get rid of them.

MANNY

Do you know how much those cost?

The Roller derby girls skate by, temporarily distracting Dipwahdi who gives them a long, longing stare.

ROCKET RHONDA

Take your picture! It might last longer!

Embarrassed, Dipwahdi turns his attention back to Manny.

DIPWAHDI

You get rid of those hot dogs! I could shut you down! I have a badge!

Dipwahdi flashes his badge in Manny's face.

MANNY

Okay! Take it easy!

Dipwahdi snaps his clipboard in half and stomps away.

ALEX
 Wrapped a little tight isn't he?

MANNY
 I think he needs a hobby.

BLOWERS
 I think he needs to get laid.

ALEX
 So Manny, you were saying something
 about an experimental league.

MANNY
 Oh -- right. *Experimental*.

BLOWERS
 (suspicious)
 What do you mean by 'experimental?'

INT. HOURGLASS SPORTS TAVERN - EVENING

CHAD
 (to Alex)
Wiffle ball? You signed us up for
wiffle ball? What are we, eight
 years old?

DINK
 We'd be on the clock right?

ALEX
 No, we wouldn't be on the clock.
 It'll be fun. And we can shut
 Blowers up once and for all.

CHAD
 What if he challenges us to
 hopscotch? Where does it end?

ALEX
Wiffle ball is a sport. There's a
 rule book and everything.

CHAD
 Wrong! *Wiffle ball* requires a
 plastic bat and ball which are toys
 therefore it's not a sport.

DINK
 What about lawn darts? That's a toy
and a sport.

CHAD

Lawn darts are also *lethal*. Why do you think they banned them?

DINK

No one's getting killed with a wiffle bat.

CHAD

Oh yeah? Watch me! (to Alex)
Football, basketball. Those are sports.

Alex TAKES OUT A VIDEO.

ALEX

Manny gave me this. Just watch it before you say no.

Alex, Chad and Dink approach Greg, the bartender.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Greg, can I put this in?

Greg points to the television.

GREG

It's a sports bar Alex. No movies.

ALEX

(re. t.v.)
But that's mud wrestling!

GREG

You've got to admit. They're *athletic*.

ALEX

This *is* a sports video. And it's quick. I promise.

Greg puts in the DVD to BOOS FROM THE BAR PATRONS.

CHUCK SCHICK (ON SCREEN)

Hi! I'm Chuck Schick, president and CEO of Schick Insurance. As the head of a profitable business I know how important it is to wind down after a long day. And I can't think of a better way to do just that than with a competitive game of wiffle ball. I should know. I'm commissioner of the American Wiffle ball Federation. That's right;

(MORE)

CHUCK SCHICK (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)
 commissioner. I've got a
 certificate and everything. (points
 to certificate on wall)

BARFLY #1
 What the hell is this?

BARFLY #2
 Greg, what are you thinking?

CHUCK SCHICK
 I know what you're thinking. Wiffle
 ball is a *child's* game.

The screen shows a blooper scene of a child HITTING A BALL
 INTO A FATHER'S CROTCH.

CHUCK SCHICK (CONT'D)
 But did you know that *adults* play
 in leagues sanctioned by the
 American Wiffle ball Federation
 everyday? Let's grab 'Wendy Wiffle'
 and check out some of the finer
 points of the game!

Patrons THROW POPCORN AT THE SCREEN.

BARFLY #2
 Wendy Wiffle? C'mon! Put mud
 wrestling back on!

The BARFLIES suddenly become rapt with attention seeing that
 WENDY WIFFLE is a SUPER HOTTIE in a hotpants baseball outfit.
 Wendy Wiffle holds a wiffle bat and ball in front of a
 plywood strike zone on a pole.

CHUCK SCHICK
 That's Wendy showing off the
 equipment --

CHAD
 That's 'equipment' alright!

CHUCK SCHICK
 -- consisting of one official ball
 and bat and the strike zone.
 Measurements are 24" by 14." That's
 for the *strike zone*, heh, heh!

Wendy MAGICALLY MULTIPLIES INTO SIX WENDYS.

CHUCK SCHICK (CONT'D)
 Teams consist of six players and
 one alternate.

DINK
I'd settle for *one* of her!

CHUCK SCHICK
Each player responsible for their
area just like in baseball. Games
last seven innings. Fields are
sprouting up all across America!

A NERDY GUY'S HOME FIELD is shown that RIVALS FENWAY PARK.

CHUCK SCHICK (CONT'D)
Even in your own back yard!

BARFLY #2
I guarantee *that* guy doesn't have a
girlfriend!

BARFLY #1
And *you* do?

CHUCK SCHICK
Your local Wiffle ball Federation
representative can set you straight
with all the rules. So what are you
waiting for? Get off the couch! Get
off the bar stool!

The barflies EXCHANGE GUILTY LOOKS.

CHUCK SCHICK (CONT'D)
And start a team today! For fun!

A player SWINGS AT A PITCH.

CHUCK SCHICK (CONT'D)
Competition!

A player SLIDES INTO HOME PLATE as the umpire calls him out.

CHUCK SCHICK (CONT'D)
And friendship!

Opposing players CLINK BEER MUGS TOGETHER.

RAPID VOICE OVER
Injuries incurred on the wiffle
ball field or during the watching
of this video are in no way the
responsibility of Schick Insurance
or its subsidiaries.

Greg puts the mud wrestling back on.

BARFLY #2

Hey Greg! Play it again. I wanna see that strike zone scene again!

Alex, Chad and Dink sit back down at their table.

CHAD

(to Alex)

Okay, so it's a sport -- sort of. We're still missing one thing. *Athletes!*

AUSTIN, a six foot four inch Australian stud enters the Hourglass. He's BRUISED, BLOODY AND MUDDY in his rugby uniform. Girls flock around him. One girl tends to Austin's cuts with a bar rag.

GROUPIE #1

Oh Austin! When are you going to quit that stupid rugby? I can't stand to see that beautiful face get cut one more time!

AUSTIN

Might as well ask me to stop breathing ladies. The thrill of competition is my life!

AUSTIN GROUPIES

(thrilled)

Awww!

CHAD

(to Alex)

That's an athlete. Do we bear any resemblance to that?

DINK

He's like a god. If gods were cool and got chicks.

ALEX

Thor got chicks. I'll bet *Zeus* and *Apollo* got chicks.

CHAD

Compared to Austin we're *boys*. Come to think of it maybe wiffle ball is perfect for us.

Austin approaches them.

AUSTIN
Wiffle ball? Isn't that like
cricket but with a toy bat and
ball?

CHAD
(to Alex)
Told ya.

DINK
(to Austin)
I thought the rugby guys hang out
at 'The Risky Business' after a
game?

AUSTIN
Match.

DINK
Oh right. I mean match.

CHAD
Forgive him Austin. He's not a man
of the world like us.

AUSTIN
No harm, no foul. I'll hit 'The
Risky' later. I like to spread
myself around. Wouldn't be fair to
the 'shirleys' to tie myself down
to one place would it?

ALEX
Austin, you wanna join our wiffle
ball team?

AUSTIN
Oh, I'd love to if I wasn't tied up
with the rugby.

ALEX
We gotta catch a match sometime.

CHAD
Yeah. Alex needs to see what *real*
athletes look like.

AUSTIN
Yeah. You guys should come out.

CHAD
I wonder if I'd make a good rugby
player.

AUSTIN

An aggressive 'take charge' guy like you Chad? You'd make a great attacker!

DINK

What about me?

AUSTIN

What about you what?

DINK

Playing rugby.

AUSTIN

Oh sure Dink. You're a wily backfielder type. You know we've got an opening. We lost a player last week.

ALEX

Lost? You mean quit?

AUSTIN

Injury.

CHAD

But he's okay, right?

AUSTIN

Oh yeah. 'Tallywacker's' just temporarily on the fritz.

Alex, Chad and Dink look confused.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

Oh, sorry. Everyone's so friendly over here I think I'm talking to my mates back home. What I meant to say is he'll be peeing on his own in a couple weeks.

ALEX

(wary)

Really. That's great. But maybe being spectators is more our speed.

AUSTIN

Sure. 'Different strokes' and all that. *Playing's* not for everyone. We could use more fans. We're down a few of those too.

CHAD

What do you mean *down*?

AUSTIN

Injured. Or banned.

DINK

Banned?

AUSTIN

Brawls. Hooligans. The fights spill down to the pitch -- I mean field, sometimes. The fans can be worse than the players.

The conversation is interrupted by 'Austin's Groupies.'

GROUPIE #2

C'mon Austin! We're doing 'belly shots!'

AUSTIN

(to Alex, Chad, Dink)

I'll see you guys around. Good luck with your -- uh, team. (to groupies) Don't push, don't crowd! There's plenty Austin to go around!

Austin goes back to the bar. The groupies all compete for Austin's attention.

ALEX

Rugby really sounds like fun.

DINK

A blast.

CHAD

You guys knock yourselves out. I'm kind of partial to my Tallywacker.

EXT. WIFFLE BALL FIELD AT SPORTS COMPLEX - DAY

Two teams, Alex's 'GREEN CLEAN' team and the law office of WEIR, GITNER, DUNN wait for the first game to start. GREEN CLEAN players wear whatever 'sweats' they can put together while the opposition is wearing fancy uniforms with 'WEIR, GITNER, DUNN' AND A GUY WITH A BRIEFCASE CHASING AN AMBULANCE printed on the front. GREEN CLEAN has a cooler with a home made sign taped on that says GREEN CLEAN.

DINK

Gee.(Re. opposing team) They look really *professional*.

CHAD

I don't know if you've noticed Alex but we've only got three guys to their *six*.

ALEX

Layne's coming. Plus Sully, my tax guy.

CHAD

(incredulous)

You're tax guy? Is he any good?

ALEX

He's kind of disorganized but he really knows the tax laws.

CHAD

I mean at playing ball.

ALEX

He's actually a pretty good athlete. He's got sports trophies all around his office.

CHAD

Awesome! Because no one ever puts fake stuff in their office to make themselves look better than they are. Shouldn't we get people we *know* can play?

DINK

What about Kwikowski? He was pretty good; when he was *awake*.

CHAD

'No Doz?' He never spoke to me again after little league.

ALEX

Me either. We were pretty rough on him.

CHAD

If there's ever been an appropriate time for a wedgie that game was it. It wasn't personal.

ALEX

He transferred to another school.
I'd say he took it personally.

DINK

We've still only got five.

Along comes Manny, accompanied by the health inspector
Dipwahdi.

MANNY

Six! You got six!

CHAD

What six? Alex what's he talking
about?

ALEX

I don't know.

MANNY

Green Clean, meet your sixth man!
Punjab Dipwahdi!

DINK

Punch, jab, dip whatee?

MANNY

Nailed it on the first try! I'm
impressed!

DIPWAHDI

I don't see any cheerleaders! You
said there would be cheerleaders!

ALEX

Wait a second! Thanks Manny but we
already have a sixth player.

MANNY

Where is he?

ALEX

He's got a rugby game.

MANNY

That's not gonna cut it. Besides I
only see four.

ALEX

The other guy is on his way.

MANNY

Well you can't play with five.
That's a forfeit.

Chad begins to pack up.

CHAD

Oh well. That's the way the ball
bounces. Good effort guys --

MANNY

Hold up!

Manny pulls Alex aside.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Help me out Alex. This guy could
shut me down! He wants to be on a
team. Says he wants to be a 'real
American jock' so he can get girls.

ALEX

And you think wiffle ball is going
to do that for him?

MANNY

He doesn't know the difference. I
told him 'Wilt the Stilt' one of
America's greatest wiffle ball
legends got twenty thousand girls.

ALEX

Wilt Chamberlain played basketball.

MANNY

Details! Do me this solid and I'll
waive your entry fee.

ALEX

The whole team?

MANNY

Just yours.

Alex doesn't budge.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(grudgingly)
Alright fine! The *whole* team.

ALEX

Is he athletic?

We get a final look at Dipwahdi, jogging in place and dressed like he belongs in a Jane Fonda exercise video.

MANNY

If that's not an athlete I don't know what is!

EXT. BENCH AREA OF WIFFLE BALL FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Alex, Chad, Dink and Dipwahdi wait on the bench.

DIPWAHDI

So you guys get a lot of girls huh?

DINK

Who gets a lot of girls?

DIPWAHDI

You wiffle ball players.

CHAD

Yeah. We're real chick magnets.

DIPWAHDI

Yes! Chick magnets! *That's* what I'm talking about!

Layne arrives in FULL GEAR. Glove, cleats, and a couple of wooden bats.

LAYNE

(to all)

What's up? Who's the Indian dude?

DINK

It's *Native American* Layne. Get into the twenty first century man!

DIPWAHDI

I'm here for the girls!

CHAD

That's Dipwahdi. He's hitting cleanup.

LAYNE

If he's cleanup what am I?

CHAD

Over accessorized.

LAYNE

What does that mean?

CHAD
(to Alex)
You didn't tell him?

LAYNE
(suspicious)
Tell him what?

CHAD
This is wiffle ball. No gloves, no wooden bats.

LAYNE
(to Alex)
You said this was a softball team.

ALEX
I said 'ball' team. You inferred.

LAYNE
I'm about to open a can of whoop ass if this isn't a joke! Actually even if it is a joke. What are we twelve?

CHAD
I said *eight*. Alex wants to beat Blowers ass.

LAYNE
That was twenty years ago. Let it go man!

ALEX
It's not just about that. It's good advertising.

Layne notices the cooler with the 'GREEN CLEAN' sign.

LAYNE
For what? Gatorade?

ALEX
We're gonna have uniforms.

LAYNE
(sarcastic)
Really? My own uniform? With my name and number and everything?

ALEX
If you want.

LAYNE

You guys are *trippin!*'

ALEX

Look. You're already dressed.
You're out of the house. You said
yourself your job was stressing you
out and you needed an outlet.

LAYNE

Golf is an outlet. Even building
birdhouses is an outlet. Wiffle
ball is a cry for help.

ALEX

Give it a try, just for today. If
you don't like it you can quit.

CHAD

Does that go for me too?

ALEX

No.

LAYNE

Okay, today only. But just to keep
you guys from getting totally
embarrassed.

Manny starts his pre-game speech.

MANNY

Okay everybody listen up! I'm only
going to say this once. The name of
the game is Wiffle ball. The
equipment consists of one bat
(holds up bat) and one ball. There
will be no substitutions, additions
or alterations of any kind.

The Green Clean players talk as Manny prattles on.

LAYNE

(to Alex)

So who else is on the team?

DINK

Austin. The rugby guy.

CHAD

You couldn't get Michael Jordan,
Alex? How did you convince 'the
world's greatest athlete' to be on
our team anyway?

ALEX

I didn't. I just put his name on the form as our alternate. It's not like we're gonna need him.

CHAD

I could break Dink's arm so we do.

ALEX

Let's see how things go first.

MANNY

Games are seven innings! In the event that one team is leading by ten runs or more after the third inning a 'mercy rule' will automatically take effect and the game will be awarded to the leading team. In the event of a tie -- 'tie goes to the runner of course.'

Manny waits for laughter which doesn't come.

MANNY (CONT'D)

Boy, you guys are serious.

Manny's WALKIE TALKIE GOES OFF. MUFFLED, STATIC SPEECH.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(into radio)

No! You don't need a starter pistol for kickball! Just say 'play ball!'

Manny puts the walkie talkie back on his belt.

MANNY (CONT'D)

(to self) Kid is just *dyin'* to use that starter pistol. (to wiffle ballers) Well, what's everyone standing around for? Play ball!

Players take the field as Manny drives off in his golf cart.

SUPER: Game 1 versus law office of WEIR, GITNER, DUNN.

Alex reads the lineup card to his players on the bench.

ALEX

Okay, the batting order goes as follows. Dink you're at shortstop leading off --

DINK

Yes!

ALEX

Because you're short and we can probably get some walks from that.

Dink is not so enthusiastic now.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Layne you'll be hitting second playing first base.

LAYNE

Hold on! I'm not 'cleanup?'

There is an AWKWARD PAUSE.

ALEX

Well I thought Chad --

CHAD

Don't look at me! If 'Reggie' here wants to be 'cleanup' it's fine by me.

ALEX

(reluctant)

Okay then. Chad you hit second and Layne you hit fourth.

LAYNE

Obviously.

ALEX

I'll be pitching and batting third. Where's Sully?

CHAD

Must have had a big tax emergency.

ALEX

When he gets here Sully will hit fifth and play second base. Dipwahdi, you're kind of an unknown entity, nothing personal, so you'll hit last and be outfield 'rover.'

Dipwahdi howls like a dog to the disbelief of everyone.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Also, are you good with numbers?

DIPWAHDI

(sarcastic)

Of course! I'm Indian. I must be good with *numbers*!

ALEX
Well are you?

DIPWAHDI
(resigned)
Yes.

ALEX
Okay. You're on stats. Alright! I'm
psyched! Are we ready to kick some
ass?

The Green Clean players clap and put their hands together.

GREEN CLEAN TEAM
One, two, three go!

EXT. PLAYING FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Dink, chewing tobacco and wearing two batting gloves approaches the batter's box. The Green Clean bench yells encouragement. Dink taps his sneakers with the bat, spits some tobacco juice and readies himself for the pitch. He doesn't see the first two fastballs for strikes. The third pitch NAILS HIM IN THE EAR.

CHAD
Alright! We got a man on base! -- I
mean, you okay Dink?

Dink starts for first base trying to shake off the hit.

DINK
I'm good! (to pitcher) You're gonna
hear from my lawyer! -- I'm just
messin' with ya.

Green Clean is feeling good. Chad steps into the batter's box.

CHAD
I'm bringin' ya home Dink!

Dink is leading off of first base, not paying attention.

DINK
Hey, good start huh guys?

The pitcher fires the ball to first. DINK IS PICKED OFF.

UMPIRE
Yer out!

Dink jogs back to the bench.

LAYNE
(to Dink)
Nice goin.'

DINK
He's got a good pickoff move. Let's
make a note of that, guys.

ALEX
There's no stealing so there's no
leading. Make a note of *that!*

Chad yells from the batter's box.

CHAD
Alright, no sweat! The meat of the
order's coming up!

First swing from Chad he lets go of the bat, sending it
flying and SETTING OFF A CAR ALARM.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Geez these things are light!

DIPWAHDI
Try one hand!

The second swing is one handed. Chad swings and lets go of
the bat. Everyone ducks as the BAT KNOCKS OVER GREEN CLEAN'S
WATER COOLER.

ALEX
Come on Chad! Get a grip!

On the third swing he hangs onto the bat with both hands but
KNOCKS OVER THE STRIKE ZONE TARGET on his back swing. Chad
slinks back to the bench.

CHAD
It's like playing golf with new
clubs. Don't worry. I'll get it.

Alex steps into the batter's box. He's way behind on two
fastballs. On the last pitch he swings early. THE BALL FLOATS
IN LONG AFTER HIS SWING IS DONE. Strike three.

END OF HALF INNING.

Green Clean takes the field, still missing a player. Dipwahdi
begins running back and forth in the outfield.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Dipwahdi, what are you doing?

DIPWAHDI
I'm 'roving!'

CHAD
Love the spirit, but you can wait
until they hit the ball.

DIPWAHDI
Got it!

Dipwahdi stops running.

UMPIRE
Looks like you guys are short a
man. You want to forfeit?

ALEX CHAD
No! Yes!

UMPIRE
Okay. Play ball!

DINK
Go get 'em Alex. These guys aren't
athletes! They're pencil pushers!

BATTER
Beats pushing a *mower* asshole!

Alex's first pitch misses the strike zone.

UMPIRE
(overly enthusiastic)
Ball one!

Alex's next pitch is another ball.

UMPIRE (CONT'D)
(louder)
Ball twooo!

CHAD
(to umpire)
Since there's a strike zone to hit
isn't the ball and strike calling a
little redundant?

UMPIRE
That's a good point.

Alex throws another ball.

ALEX
 (to self)
 These things are harder to control
 than I remember.

Alex throws another ball.

UMPIRE
 Take your base!

CHAD
 Good strategy Alex. We'll double
 'em up. Two for one!

A QUICK MONTAGE OF BALLS and the bases are loaded.

LAYNE
 Okay, no more walks Alex. Just lay
 it in there. Let your fielders take
 care of it.

Alex lays a BIG FAT SLOW BALL down the middle. GRAND SLAM.

BATTER #4
 You've been 'served!'

Weir, Gitner Dunn WHOOPS IT UP.

NEXT INNING, LAYNE BATS.

ALEX
 C'mon Layne! Give it a ride!

Layne TAKES A HUGE SWING, CATCHING NOTHING BUT AIR.

DINK
 Just a little contact Layne!

Layne swings at the next pitch. He MAKES CONTACT. LAYNE
 CASUALLY FLIPS THE BAT AWAY.

LAYNE
 Buyea! *That's* how it's done!

Layne shields his eyes, LOOKING FOR THE FLIGHT OF THE BALL.

LAYNE (CONT'D)
 Where is it?

The ball ROLLS ABOUT TWO FEET IN FRONT OF THE PITCHER WHO
 PICKS IT UP.

WEIR GITNER PITCHER
 Hey "Hammerin' Hank!" (holding
 ball) Is *this* what you're looking
 for?

The pitcher TOSSES IT TO FIRST. Layne struts to the bench.

LAYNE
 Guess I got 'over it' a little.

CHAD
 Just a little.

ALEX
 Okay who's up? Damn! It's Sully.

Sully FINALLY SHOWS.

SULLY
 That's what it says on my parking
 space.

ALEX
 Jesus! Where have you been? We've
 been getting killed!

SULLY
 I'm really sorry. I got a flat
 tire. And then this smokin' hot
 motorcycle cop stopped --

Dipwahdi is fascinated.

UMPIRE
 Batter up!

DIPWAHDI
 (frustrated)
 Let the man speak!

CHAD
 I don't think that ump likes us. I
 bet it was the ball and strike
 comment.

Sully gets in the batter's box. He swings at the first pitch
 and misses by two feet.

LAYNE
 This just keeps getting better.

SULLY
 My bad!

Sully puts on his COKE BOTTLE GLASSES.

CHAD
We are *so* screwed.

Sully KNOCKS THE NEXT PITCH OVER THE FENCE.

DINK
Yeah baby!

LAYNE
That's what I'm talkin' about!

Sully rounds the bases and is met at the bench by his Green Clean teammates.

CHAD
Sully I take back all the rotten wisecracks I made about you.

ALEX
See? We just have to get on a roll!
We're just getting started!

EXT. HOME PLATE AREA - LATER

UMPIRE
Game over! Score is thirteen to one after three innings. By 'mercy rule' Weir Gitner Dunn is the winner! Green Clean, the *loser*!

The Green Clean players sit on their bench, stunned.

LAYNE
He could have stopped at winner. I mean we get the point.

DIPWAHDI
Mercy rule? What's a mercy rule?

CHAD
It's like when your kid stinks at something but they give him a trophy anyway.

DINK
We get a trophy?

LAYNE
The trophy is they let us go home without any further humiliation.

ALEX

I don't think we were humiliated.

LAYNE

Are you kidding? My ex wife's lawyer never reamed me that bad.

ALEX

Don't worry Layne. We'll find a replacement for you.

LAYNE

Replacement? You think I'm gonna let that stand? I've gotta get my mojo back.

CHAD

(sarcastic)

Yeah. *That* will solve everything.

DINK

We can't let this happen against Blower's Mowers.

DIPWAHDI

(holding clipboard)

If I may interject. There is some light at the end of the tunnel. We actually made contact with the ball six times, with the frequency increasing by the third inning, when the game was unfortunately called. And Alex threw nine strikes in the game.

LAYNE

Put those strikes in succession you've got one shutout inning.

ALEX

We can't quit now. I'm a little rusty. I'm bound to improve. And Layne thought it was a softball game when we started. Let's face it. There's nowhere to go but up.

EXT. WIFFLE BALL FIELD - GAME #2 VS. BLOWER'S MOWERS

Score board reads BLOWERS MOWERS 14 GREEN CLEAN 0. By the third inning the game is over. Green Clean players sulk on the bench. Blower's team passes the Green Clean bench.

The team consists of Blower's, Coral, their son Owen, two Mexican employees and one former big time athlete who looks remarkably like Bruce Jenner.

BLOWERS

I wish I'd known it was going to be this easy Alex! I would have saved my ringer! Right B.J.?

Blowers slaps B.J. On the back.

CHAD

Four home runs! That guy should be on a Wheaties box!

ALEX

(to Blowers)
It's a long season!

BLOWERS

Not really!

Manny pulls up in his golf cart.

MANNY

What's going on? Why aren't you guys playing?

BLOWERS

Mercy rule Manny!

MANNY

Mercy rule! Again?

ALEX

We're a little out of practice.

MANNY

What you guys need is *motivation*.

ALEX

What *kind* of motivation?

MANNY

I applied for this government grant. Youth and fitness or some crap like that. Anyway I got it. I can use it for anything I want. And I want someone to take over the landscaping here.

BLOWERS

I don't know Manny. I'm pretty busy.

MANNY

It's twenty five 'grand.'

BLOWERS

Twenty five grand!? Why didn't you say so? I could probably squeeze you in.

MANNY

Not so fast. What about you Alex?

BLOWERS

Him!? You need a 'pro' for this!

MANNY

(to Green Clean bench)

If I can show that I'm trying to be environmentally friendly I can get another five grand. You think you guys can handle it?

DINK

Sure we can handle it? Right Alex?

ALEX

(staring down Blowers)

If *they* can do it, we can do it!

MANNY

Why don't we make it interesting then? Team with the best record at the end of the season gets the contract.

CORAL

We can build that deck with the jacuzzi babe!

OWEN

I'll keep playing if I get a motorcycle!

BLOWERS

You're playing to support your father! This is about *honor* son!

Blower's Mowers leave.

DINK

They're pretty good.

ALEX

We've probably gotten the toughest teams at the beginning of the schedule. We're going to get that contract! Who's up next?

DIPWAHDI (HOLDING CLIPBOARD)

That would be the 'Killer 'B's.'

LAYNE

(fearful)

Killer 'B's?'

ALEX

(determined)

Killer 'B's.

SUPER: GAME 3 - VS. KILLER 'B's.'

EXT. WIFFLE BALL FIELD - DAY

A TWELVE YEAR OLD GIRL IN A BROWNIE UNIFORM IS ON THE MOUND. SHE WEARS A SLING on her right arm and PITCHES WITH HER LEFT. Her teammates are all Brownies as well. Alex is at bat.

SHORTSTOP

No batter Mindy! No batter!

DINK

That's no pitcher it's an underwear stitcher!

The opposing first baseman glares at the Green Clean bench. Even the Green Clean players are embarrassed by Dink's line.

DINK (CONT'D)

I don't see anyone else coming up with new material.

CHAD

C'mon Alex! Give it a ride!

DINK

That's original.

The brownie pitcher delivers the ball. Alex swings.

UMPIRE

Strike three! That's game, by 'mercy rule!' Brownie Troop 'B' wins ten, zero!

Manny shakes his head on the sidelines.

MANNY

Alex! Can I see you in my office?

ALEX

You mean the hot dog stand?

MANNY

You say Tomato. I say *tomahto*.

EXT. / INT. - MANNY'S "OFFICE" - DAY

Manny is behind the counter. Alex on the other side.

MANNY

I'm sorry Alex. The other teams want you out of the league.

ALEX

Out of the league? Why?

MANNY

You've played three games and used the mercy rule three times. People want to get away from their jobs and their families -- and *homework*, for more than three innings.

ALEX

I really feel like we're improving.

MANNY

You haven't even gotten uniforms! I'll buy you some time if you show me you're serious and get some uniforms. Go to Titan Sports. They'll hook you up. Ask for Marty.

EXT. TITAN SPORTS - DAY

Alex is about to enter Titan Sports when the KILLER 'B' TEAM PITCHER comes out with her father. She is in a PARTY DRESS and her HAIR DONE UP. In the window behind them Titan employee MARTINA PUTS UP A SIGN that says 'APPEARING TODAY...'

BROWINE PITCHER

(re. Alex)

Daddy! *That's* the pitcher on the team whose ass we kicked!

DAD shakes Alex's hand.

DAD
 (polite)
 It's a pleasure! She hasn't stopped
 talking about you!

ALEX
 Glad to be such an influence on the
 youth.

BROWINE PITCHER
 You know they want to kick you out
 of the league?

ALEX
 Yeah, I heard.

BROWINE PITCHER
 Next time I'm using my 'good' arm
 on you panty waists!

ALEX
 Thanks for the warning.

DAD
 You wish they could stay twelve
 forever!

ALEX
 It's a cute age.

DAD
 Take care.

Alex is now DISCOURAGED as he watches the girl leave, holding
 her father's hand.

ALEX
 (to self)
 What's the use?

Alex's pity party is interrupted by SOMETHING HE SEES IN THE
 WINDOW.

ALEX (CONT'D)
 (to self)
 No way!

A LIFE SIZE CARDBOARD CUTOUT of former major league spitball
 pitcher TAYLOR RAWLING has caught Alex's attention. Rawling
 is in a pristine uniform, shiny shoes and clean shaven. A
 sign reads, APPEARING TODAY!

INT. TITAN SPORTS - MOMENTS LATER

Alex stands in awe in front of the Taylor Rawling figure.

ALEX
(to figure)
Taylor Rawling! One of the
'greats!'

A voice SEEMS TO RESPOND.

MARTINA (O.S.)
Jockstraps!

Alex is alarmed. Martina's face emerges from behind the Taylor Rawling figure she has been trying to get to stand straight.

MARTINA (CONT'D)
He's over by the jockstraps.

ALEX
Oh. Thank you. I can't believe
Taylor Rawling is here!

MARTINA
(sarcastic)
And only forty five minutes late.
So, what, he used to be a player or
something?

ALEX
Used to be a player? More like
legend! Still is.

MARTINA
Didn't he get caught cheating?

ALEX
That's a pretty strong word.

MARTINA
If you say so.

ALEX
Oh, I say so. Anyway, I'm looking
for Marty. He's supposed to hook me
up with uniforms.

Martina extends her hand. Alex looks confused. Martina points to her name tag.

ALEX (CONT'D)
Oh. Sorry.

Alex shakes her hand.

MARTINA
Uniforms? For softball?

ALEX
(embarrassed)
Actually they're for, uh, wiffle
ball.

MARTINA
Oh, right. With the toy bat and
ball.

ALEX
They're really not toys --

MARTINA
The captain of the Brownies team
was just in. You know Freud might
say you're beating up on a little
girls team to compensate for your
own inadequacies with women.

ALEX
I don't think Freud has seen my
team play.

Martina gets a form.

MARTINA
Just fill this out. Basic
information. Colors, sizes,
psychological profile.

ALEX
Thanks. I guess we measure our own
inseams?

MARTINA
(dismissive)
The line's getting longer. If you
want to meet your hero you'd better
get over there with the *other* kids.

ALEX
You're in the presence of greatness
and you don't even realize it.

MARTINA
'Pearls before swine' I suppose.

ALEX
If you say so.

INT. AUTOGRAPH TABLE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Alex waits in line to meet his hero. TAYLOR RAWLING looks nothing like the cut out figure. He is OLDER, UNSHAVEN AND SLOPPILY DRESSED. Grumpy, buzzed, sipping brown liquid from a Gatorade bottle.

TAYLOR
(impatient)
Next!

A father, with his son, GETS A CARD AUTOGRAPHED.

PARENT
Can we get a picture?

TAYLOR
Picture costs another ten.

PARENT
I'll give you *five*.

Taylor takes a VERY UNENTHUSIASTIC POSE with them. Alex approaches the table.

ALEX
I don't need a picture or anything
Mr. Rawling. Just a handshake.

TAYLOR
Handshake's five bucks.

Alex fishes through his wallet.

ALEX
The ATM was down. I've got two?

Taylor hesitates, then holds out a fist. They FIST BUMP.
Taylor TAKES THE TWO DOLLARS.

ALEX (CONT'D)
I'm a big fan.

TAYLOR
(bored)
Thrilled to hear it.

ALEX
Remember that playoff game against
Baltimore when they caught you with
the sandpaper --?

Taylor PULLS ALEX ASIDE.

TAYLOR

Hey! What are you doing? This is a family event. I went clean in '89.

ALEX

Oh. Right. I'm sorry. But really. You shouldn't have to hide that part of your career.

TAYLOR

It's not like I was doing steroids. I wasn't gambling; well not on games anyway.

ALEX

You were an *artist*. A magician!

TAYLOR

I was, wasn't I? It's not easy sneaking an emery board out of your ass crack in front of fifty thousand people at Yankee Stadium. Houdini's a 'master of illusion.' Me? I'm a disgrace to the national pastime.

ALEX

It's not fair. You should be in the 'Hall.'

TAYLOR

You bet your lily white ass I should be!

Taylor extends his hand.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

So what's your name?

Alex is wary of the handshake.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

No charge.

Alex takes Taylor's hand.

ALEX

I'm Alex. I'm a pitcher too.

TAYLOR

Yeah? You any good?

ALEX

We're on a losing streak. Actually every game so far. Hey, maybe you could give me some tips that would work on a wiffle ball.

TAYLOR

Wiffle ball? That's a toy --

ALEX

(frustrated)
It's not a toy!

Startled shoppers look over.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(to Taylor)
Sorry.

TAYLOR

I don't know. I suppose it could work. You wear cleats?

ALEX

Sneakers.

TAYLOR

Wear cleats. Or something with a buckle that you can sharpen. When you're tying your laces you put three sharp cuts on one side of the ball. Add some Vaseline to it and you get what I used to call the 'Big Dipper.' It drops a foot and a half.

ALEX

Wow. The 'Big Dipper.'

TAYLOR

The 'Big Dipper' paid for two houses, two divorces and these.

Taylor shows off his dental work.

ALEX

Nice.

TAYLOR

You wear a cap?

ALEX

Sure.

Taylor takes his hat off. Another parent with a child is HEARING THE CONVERSATION.

TAYLOR
You take that wad of Vaseline,
about the size of a quarter and you
wedge it in there like this.

The parent COVERS THE CHILD'S EARS and walks away.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
When you need a big out that
Vaseline will make the ball squirt
out of your hand like you're
spitting watermelon seeds at the
county fair.

ALEX
That's just what I need!

TAYLOR
Look, I gotta get back. It was nice
meeting a true fan.

ALEX
It was an honor!

Taylor goes back to the table.

SNOTTY KID
Can I get a picture?

TAYLOR
Ten bucks.

SNOTTY KID
I'll give you *three*.

Taylor TAKES THE KID'S MONEY.

INT. FRONT OF STORE - MOMENTS LATER

MARTINA
Was it everything you'd dreamed of?

ALEX
And more! I'll be back to order
those uniforms!

MARTINA
Well, clothes make the man.

ALEX

And a little sound advice from a legend doesn't hurt.

MARTINA

(skeptical)

If you say so.

INT. ALEX'S BATHROOM - LATER

Alex LOOKS IN THE MIRROR OF HIS MEDICINE CABINET WITH STEELY DETERMINATION. We hear the opening hand claps of John Fogerty's baseball tribute "CENTERFIELD."

JOHN FOGERTY (V.O.)

*Put me in coach. I'm ready to play.
Today...*

Alex pulls a small jar of VASELINE, a tube of K-Y JELLY and finally a tube of PREPARATION 'H' from the medicine cabinet. Alex attempts to learn Taylor Rawling's tricks of the trade.

MONTAGE.

Alex tries in vain to jam the wiffle ball into the small jar of Vaseline.

Alex's pitches can't find the plywood target in his backyard.

Alex uses a grinder in his garage to sharpen lace hooks on his work boots.

A neighbor picks up one of Alex's errant pitches and is disgusted by what he finds on the ball.

Finally one of Alex's pitches makes a huge dip and hits the target.

ALEX

(awed)

The 'Big Dipper!'

Super: Game 4. Green Clean vs. Cane Mutiny

EXT. ST. AGNES RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

The old folks home is clearly a PRISON ATMOSPHERE. CHAIN LINK FENCE TOPPED WITH BARBED WIRE. GUARDS IN TOWERS, WATCH DOGS.

LAYNE

Why aren't we playing at Manny's?

ALEX

This is a lock down facility. They don't let them off the grounds.

CHAD

It's like a roach motel for seniors.

LAYNE

Grammy checks in but she doesn't check out.

CHAD

Exactly.

DIPWAHDI

Shameful! In my country, the elderly are *revered*.

CHAD

Well just 'put me down' before I end up in a place like this.

DINK

When are we getting uniforms?

ALEX

Soon. Anybody seen Sully?

No response.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I told him we'll replace him if we have to.

CHAD

But he's our best player!

ALEX

Only if he's *here*.

Layne notices Alex is WEARING WORK BOOTS.

LAYNE

What's with the work boots?

ALEX

They're comfortable.

LAYNE

You're going to *pitch* in those?

ALEX
 (defensive)
 I'm not breaking any laws!

An old guy takes a really long time putting the foul lines on the field.

LAYNE
 This doesn't seem fair. I don't want to beat up on a bunch of old people!

CHAD
 A win's a win. If a few geriatrics have to go down so be it.

ST. AGNES HOME BALL FIELD - LATER - GAME ACTION MONTAGE

The Cane Mutiny team is not the pushovers Green Clean expected.

We see BEANBALLS from both teams, leading to A BENCH CLEARING NEAR BRAWL.

A Cane Mutiny player USING A WALKER CHARGES HOME FROM THIRD KNOCKING DINK OVER WITH THE WALKER AS HE COVERS HOME PLATE.

A Cane Mutiny player reaches a glove over the fence, GETTING HIS ARM SNAGGED ON BARBED WIRE TO MAKE THE CATCH.

Game action is WATCHED ON MONITORS BY TOWER GUARDS.

ST. AGNES HOME BALL FIELD - LATER - LAST INNING

The game is tied but Cane Mutiny has two runners on base with two outs. Two strikes on the batter. Alex is on the mound. Alex LOOKS AT THE SCOREBOARD, THEN EYES THE BALL IN HIS HAND. He furtively looks around before bending down to tie his shoe. It's time for THE BIG DIPPER.

CANE MUTINY BATTER
 Quit stalling! Let's see how much gas you got left in the tank punk!

Alex lets the ball fly. The batter takes a huge swing but the ball dips under the bat for strike three. The batter is in disbelief. Green Clean team trots off the field.

CANE MUTINY BATTER (CONT'D)
 (to ump)
 Hey! Check that ball!

CHAD

Check your jockstrap 'cause you
just got faked out of it!

LAST INNING - Green Clean at bat. Sully arrives. Late again.

ALEX

Jesus Sully!

SULLY

(out of breath)
Alex, I'm really sorry, but I had a
dentist appointment.

CHAD

That's your excuse?

SULLY

Yeah. Well, no. That's not the
whole story. See, my regular
dentist is on vacation so there was
a replacement dentist. A *female*
replacement dentist.

LAYNE

So?

SULLY

So as she's cleaning my teeth she
asks me if I ever saw that movie
'Little Shop of Horrors' with Jack
Nicholson. I say sure and she says
"Boy that guy really liked it
rough!" I really don't know where
this is going so I just say "Yeah,
I guess so." So she says "How about
you? Do you like it *rough?*" I'm
like 'I don't know do I?' She's
like 'I don't know *do you?*'

The Green Clean players listen in awe.

DIPWAHDI

Oh man! I love America! Was she
hot?

SULLY

Was she hot? Hells yeah! I'm
talkin' Jennifer Aniston in
Horrible Bosses!

DINK

She *peed* on you?

SULLY
Jennifer Aniston didn't pee on
anyone in Horrible Bosses.

DINK
Well somebody peed on someone.

SULLY
(dismissive)
Anyway, she leans in real close.

ALEX
Dentists always lean in close.

SULLY
While straddling you?

CHAD
Not usually.

UMPIRE
Okay break it up! Let's play some
ball!

DIPWAHDI
Can't you guys let us have a team
meeting!

CHAD
These umpires really do not like
us.

Sully goes to bat. On the first pitch he knocks out the pitcher with a line drive. Cane mutiny players and an attendant come to the pitcher's aid. Sully rounds the bases as the distraction on the pitcher's mound continues. He touches home plate with the winning run as the Green Clean players celebrate, ignoring the potential tragedy on the pitcher's mound.

ALEX
This is the start of a brand new
season. I really feel like our luck
is changing!

CHAD
Maybe it's *Sully's* luck that's
changing our luck.

DINK
What do you mean?

CHAD

I'm saying maybe we can thank
Sully's dentist for this win.

ALEX

What does Sully's dentist have to
do with anything?

CHAD

Maybe she's kind of a slumpbuster?

DIPWAHDI

Slum whatter?

LAYNE

Wait. You mean that brilliant
theory you had in little league
about girls helping to win games?

CHAD

Not *my* theory. A scientist.

LAYNE

Time out. You're saying we won
because Sully got rocked in the
dentist chair?

CHAD

It clearly didn't hurt.

LAYNE

Whatever you're on, you better
start breaking those pills in half.

DINK

I think it was Alex's pitching.
Right Alex?

ALEX

(deflecting)

I don't know. Maybe Chad has
something here.

LAYNE

Not you too Alex! I think you're
all crazy!

CHAD

Well if some of us did get lucky I
bet we'd play more relaxed.

DIPWAHDI

I sure would!

SULLY

Hey, my masseuse is pretty hot too.

DINK

Yeah. Keep going Sully. Maybe we can win the league title.

CHAD

It doesn't have to be Sully.

DINK

Can I be on deck?

CHAD

You?! We'd never win another game?

LAYNE

I still say this theory, or whatever you want to call it, was made up to sell magazines. It's not *real*. It's just superstition.

DIPWAHDI

It's '*Bhagyatra*.'

Everyone quiets.

DIPWAHDI (CONT'D)

We have the same thing in India. No one gets lucky, the Cricket team loses. Someone gets a girl, the team wins. '*Bhagyatra*.'

LAYNE

(skeptical)
Bhagyatra?

DIPWAHDI

Bhagyatra.

CHAD

(awestruck)
Bhagyatra!

INT. TITAN SPORTS - LATER

Alex greets Martina with his uniform order.

ALEX

I'm back!

MARTINA

You sure you want to do this? I heard about the 'Attack of the Killer Brownies.'

ALEX

Minor speed bump. We're just hitting our stride.

Martina takes the order form.

MARTINA

You can pick these up Thursday.

ALEX

Perfect! Our next game is Thursday. You should come watch us play.

MARTINA

Thanks, but I'm kinda busy working on my 'psyche' dissertation.

ALEX

Maybe I could help. I know a few psychos. What's it about?

MARTINA

Sports and the male ego.

ALEX

Our team has males. And egos. We'd be the perfect guinea pigs.

MARTINA

I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

ALEX

Besides, the form says you *deliver*.

Martina looks at the form.

MARTINA

(cornered)
So it does.

Martina takes another look at the form.

MARTINA (CONT'D)

Are you sure *this* is what you want on the jerseys? It seems kind of -- *ominous*.

ALEX

Exactly!

WIFFLE BALL FIELD - LATER

Martina holds up a uniform jersey for the Green Clean team as they wait on the bench for game five to begin. The jersey reads **GANG GREEN** in bold letters.

LAYNE

Bitchin'!

DINK

They're awesome!

CHAD

You know what they are? *Ominous!*

ALEX

We can thank Martina.

CHAD

Yeah, nice job sweetie!

The players start rifling through the uniform box. Martina dodges out of the way of the jackals and takes a seat on the bench. She **TAKES OUT A NOTEPAD**.

ALEX

Also, Martina is gonna hang around awhile.

The players stop their uniform grab.

SULLY

Hang around? What for?

ALEX

She's doing research. For her dissertation.

MARTINA

It's about athletes.

LAYNE

Well you came to the right place!

DINK

And we're on a winning streak!

MARTINA

Really? How many games?

DINK

One. I bet you'll never guess why we started winning --

CHAD KICKS DINK IN THE SHIN.

CHAD
We owe it all to Alex's pitching.

ALEX
(guilty)
It's not me. It's really been a
team effort.

Dipwahdi rushes in. He's in an excited state.

DIPWAHDI
Sorry I'm late. Busy night. I got
lucky with one of the other
inspectors --

The players try to point out Martina's presence but Dipwahdi
doesn't catch on.

DIPWAHDI (CONT'D)
I won't go into details except to
say she did a *thorough* inspection
of me --

Dipwahdi finally notices Martina.

DIPWAHDI (CONT'D)
Because -- we *got lucky* at the
casino and -- she wanted her share
of the money.

Total silence.

DIPWAHDI (CONT'D)
The end.

The umpire yells PLAY BALL.

Improvised game action against 'Killer B's here.

WIFFLE BALL FIELD - LATER

Dink is on first base.

BROWINE FIRST BASEMAN
(to Dink)
Think you little girls can get past
the third inning this time?

DINK
Don't worry about us. We've got a
secret weapon.

BROWINE FIRST BASEMAN
What secret weapon?

DINK
Ever hear of *slumpbusting*?

BROWINE FIRST BASEMAN
No.

DINK
(re. Dipwahdi)
See that guy? He got lucky last night.

BROWINE FIRST BASEMAN
What are you talking about?

DINK
That's our secret weapon. Picking up girls. It's good luck.

The UMPIRE OVERHEARS THE CONVERSATION.

DINK (CONT'D)
(to first baseman)
You guys should try it.

The girl looks completely confused.

UMPIRE
(to Dink)
Hey! Knock off the chatter!

DINK
Right. (to first baseman) But seriously. You should try it.

GAME ACTION MONTAGE.

A TIGHT GAME. DINK BREAKS UP A DOUBLE PLAY, KNOCKING A BROWNIE PLAYER OVER SLIDING INTO SECOND BASE. THE GIRL CRIES AND DINK LEAVES THE BASE TO CONSOLE HER. SHE TAGS HIM OUT.

ALEX FURTIVELY SCOOPS VASELINE OUT OF HIS CAP AND STRIKES OUT A BROWNIE.

MARTINA OBSERVES AND JOTS DOWN NOTES.

SULLY HOMERS.

THE BROWNIE GIRLS CRY AS THE FINAL SCORE SHOWS GANG GREEN WITH ANOTHER WIN.

DAD
 (to GANG GREEN team)
 You guys ought to be ashamed of
 yourselves!

GANG GREEN BENCH - POST GAME - MOMENTS LATER

CHAD
 Well, any doubters left that my
 theory is sound? And I guarantee a
 win on Saturday. Friday's Vanessa's
 and my anniversary as well as my
 birthday --

Chad stops himself as he remembers Martina is on the bench.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 So that will be extra good luck
 because I love my fiance sooo much!

DINK
 (whispering)
 Hey Alex, why don't you ask the
 uniform girl out? For the team.

ALEX
 I don't think she's interested.

LAYNE
 C'mon man, just get in the 'zone!'

CHAD
 You're on a roll Alex. Take
 advantage!

Alex approaches Martina.

ALEX
 So how's the paper going?

MARTINA
 I got some good ideas. This was
 really -- inspiring.

ALEX
 I'm sure the guys are glad to help.
 Maybe we could get some coffee or
 something?

MARTINA
 I'm really just here for research.

Manny approaches.

MANNY

Hey Marty! I'm glad you're here.
I've called Titan like five times
to get those pitching machines re-
calibrated. Could you do it while
you're here?

We see an ENTIRE FLEET OF PITCHING MACHINES lined up by a
storage shed.

MARTINA

Oh, uh, actually -- I've got this
thing with, um --

ALEX

Alex.

MARTINA

Alex.

MANNY

Oh, I see. 'Young love.' You don't
have to hit me over the head with a
fungo bat! Just get to those
pitching machines when you can.

Manny leaves. Alex thinks he's got a date.

MARTINA

You're not going to *hold* me to
that?

INT. CAFE - LATER

Alex and Martina sit drinking coffee.

ALEX

So you said you got some good stuff
for your paper?

MARTINA

Yeah. I think so.

ALEX

Like what?

MARTINA

I can't tell you. You're the
subject.

ALEX

Right.

MARTINA

So how did you end up in a wiffle ball league?

ALEX

The softball leagues were full.

MARTINA

Why do I feel like there's more to it than that?

ALEX

Well, I kind of want to beat one particular guy.

MARTINA

Don't tell me. The guy from the batting cage?

ALEX

I know. It must seem kind of juvenile. It actually started as a bet.

MARTINA

At the batting cage?

ALEX

We were kind of rivals in little league. And we're also business rivals. Oh, and his wife was also my first girlfriend.

MARTINA

And if you beat him at wiffle ball you're back on top?

ALEX

It sounds dumb when you put it like that.

MARTINA

Did you ever think of just being happy for *you*?

ALEX

No. I never thought of that. So what about you? You work in a sporting goods store but you don't seem to be interested in sports.

MARTINA

I thought it would be a good idea. For my dissertation.

ALEX

How long have you been there?

MARTINA

(embarrassed)

Um, a little over three years.

ALEX

That must be some dissertation.

MARTINA

I feel like its barely started.

ALEX

Why don't you pick another subject.

MARTINA

Well my father told me it wasn't the right subject because it's been done to death. I guess I'm trying to prove him wrong.

ALEX

Trust your instincts. What would your father know about psychology anyway?

MARTINA

He's a psychologist.

ALEX

Did you ever think of just being happy for *you*?

HOURLASS SPORTS TAVERN - LATER

Alex, Layne and Dink discuss slumbusting strategy.

DINK

So do we split up or work as a team?

LAYNE

I plan on being as far away from you as possible.

DINK

I need help!

LAYNE

I won't argue that.

ALEX
 Just feel things out. Whatever
 works, works. Do you see anything
 promising?

A big girl in a ROLLER DERBY uniform stands at the bar.

LAYNE
 There's one for you Dink!

DINK
 She's kind of -- big.

ALEX
 So she's got a little muffin top.

LAYNE
 Muffin top? More like a wedding
 cake. And not just the top.

DINK
 Shouldn't we be looking for *hot*
 girls?

LAYNE
 It's better luck if they're not.
 It's more of a sacrifice.

DINK
 Yeah. That makes sense.

LAYNE
 Hey Alex, I think I see your
 uniform girl.

Martina is at the bar with her co-workers.

ALEX
 Anything for the team.

LAYNE
 Atta boy. Go get her.

Alex approaches Martina at the bar.

ALEX
 More research?

MARTINA
 These guys have asked me to go to
 happy hour like a dozen times. I
 was out of excuses.

ALEX

I think you've been missing out.

Layne and Dink yell to Alex from the other end of the bar.

LAYNE

For the team Alex!

DINK

Gang Green!

MARTINA

What's *that* about?

ALEX

They can't handle their alcohol.

MARTINA

Didn't you just get here?

Layne and Dink give big thumbs up.

ALEX

It could be just that they're morons.

HOURLASS SPORTS TAVERN - LATER

Dink chats up roller derby girls.

DINK

So you guys are in the roller derby?

MAD DONNA

Gee, how did you guess?

DINK

That's funny, because you're in uniforms and roller skates. I'm Dink.

MAD DONNA

It fits.

MAD DONNA reluctantly introduces herself and teammates.

MAD DONNA (CONT'D)

I'm Mad Donna. That's Cruelia Roberts, Pillory Clinton, Justine Timbershake, 'Hurricane' Bonham Carter and -- Joan Crawford.

JOAN CRAWFORD wears a mink stole and taps a COAT HANGER menacingly.

DINK

You're not giving me fake names are you? Because believe it or not that's actually happened to me before.

The roller girls stare at Dink in disbelief.

HOURGLASS SPORTS TAVERN - RESTROOM AREA - CONTINUOUS

Layne exits the men's room. He runs into his ex-wife CHERYL.

LAYNE

(surprised)
Cheryl!

CHERYL

Layne! Hey. So this is what you do with your time now? Hang out in bars. You can't handle booze.

LAYNE

And you can? I'm here on business.

CHERYL

Business? What kind of business.

LAYNE

Alex's lawn care company. I'm helping him -- promote it.

CHERYL

Promotion! What do you know about promotion?

LAYNE

You don't know *everything* about me.

CHERYL

Still shooting for the stars.

HOURGLASS SPORTS TAVERN - LATER

A short MONTAGE of Dink's pickup lines.

Dink talks to a roller girl who is eating a slice of pizza.

DINK
 If you think about it you're *always*
 eating 'chewed' food.

The grossed out roller girl puts her plate down and walks away.

LATER.

Dink talks to a different roller girl.

DINK (CONT'D)
 Do you ever use those knee pads for
 anything else?

The roller girl smacks Dink and walks away.

DINK (CONT'D)
 I meant like for *gardening*!

HOURLASS SPORTS TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

MARTINA
 So how did you get into the green
 lawn care business?

ALEX
 It seemed like a good niche.
 Helping the environment.

MARTINA
 You're an environmentalist?

ALEX
 I guess so. There's nothing wrong
 with that is there?

MARTINA
 Of course not. You should follow
 your passion.

ALEX
 And your passion is the mind.

MARTINA
 I like finding out what makes
 people tick.

ALEX
 What observations do you have about
 this place?

MARTINA

You have your different tribes in their uniforms which keeps them from forming actual tribes and killing each other. But it also keeps them in shape so I guess that's a good thing.

ALEX

And I just thought it was a sports bar. I didn't realize it was a war metaphor.

MARTINA

Jung said the only interesting war left is the war between the sexes.

ALEX

He may have something there.

EXT. HOURGLASS SPORTS TAVERN - PARKING LOT - LATER

Dink has gotten Mad Donna to leave with him.

MAD DONNA

So. Your place or mine?

DINK

(hesitant)

I'm sorry. I'm just not --

MAD DONNA

Just not what?

DINK

I'm just not attracted to you. My buddies put me up to this.

MAD DONNA

That's okay. I'm not attracted to you.

DINK

You're not?

MAD DONNA

Hell no! Who would be?

DINK

Then why did you leave with me?

MAD DONNA

You're a *slumpbuster*.

DINK

A *what?*!

MAD DONNA

We're on a losing streak. Someone had to score, ya know, throw themselves on a grenade. Change the team's luck.

DINK

Nice way to talk about a person! I have feelings you know!

MAD DONNA

I'm sorry about your feelings but the team comes first. So you wanna come home with me or not?

DINK

No! You can count me out! I don't want any part of this!

MAD DONNA

Your loss.

Mad Donna gets in her car.

DINK

Hey wait! Do you think *Joan Crawford* is still in there?

HOURLASS SPORTS TAVERN - BOOTH - LATER

Layne and Cheryl share a booth.

LAYNE

I don't get it. We were happy weren't we?

CHERYL

Were. But then you got district sales manager. Then *regional* sales manager.

LAYNE

I did that for you!

CHERYL

But I never saw you! And it didn't make you happy. You were still looking for the next promotion.

LAYNE

But I want you to have it all! I
wanna swing for the fences -- for
you baby!

CHERYL

But maybe you're a *singles* hitter.

LAYNE

(skeptical)
Singles?

Cheryl puts her hand on Layne's.

CHERYL

You can't score without getting to
first base.

A picture on the wall of Reggie Jackson in his Angels uniform
catches Layne's attention.

REGGIE JACKSON

(to Layne)
First base? Don't listen to her!
Trust me. Chicks go for the four
bagger every time!

LAYNE

(to Reggie)
Who asked ya!

HOURGLASS SPORTS TAVERN - BAR AREA - LATER

Martina has had one too many.

MARTINA

(to Alex)
You're kind of cute in this light.

ALEX

Is that your clumsy attempt at a
compliment?

MARTINA

It's just that the fluorescent
light at the store isn't flattering
to anyone.

ALEX

It seems to work for you.

MARTINA

Is that *your* attempt at a compliment?

ALEX

Just speaking the truth.

MARTINA

You know if you play your cards right I might let you walk me home. Maybe even invite you inside.

ALEX

You might regret it when you sober up.

MARTINA

I'm not drunk! Well, not *that* drunk.

ALEX

I'd better pass.

MARTINA

I swear you're not taking advantage of me.

ALEX

It's not that.

MARTINA

Then what?

ALEX

It's really stupid. It's just -- I don't want you to be a *slumpbuster*.

MARTINA

A what?

ALEX

You're gonna laugh.

MARTINA

I like a good laugh as much as the next guy.

ALEX

Okay. It's just this thing we're doing to help us win.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

It probably doesn't have anything to do with us winning but -- well -- the guys are trying to pick up girls -- you know for good luck. It's called slumpbusting.

MARTINA

Slumpbusting.

ALEX

Yeah. It's supposed to keep the team on a win streak. I told you it was stupid.

MARTINA

So you're picking up girls because of some superstition that says it will help you win wiffle ball games? (sarcastic) I thought you said it was stupid.

ALEX

Well it's for any sport really.

Martina scans the bar. Layne is at a table with Cheryl, Sully is behind a girl at the pool table helping her use the pool cue. JOAN CRAWFORD IS THROWING A DRINK IN DINK'S FACE.

MARTINA

This is sick!

ALEX

Wait --

MARTINA

And immature!

ALEX

Hold on! I don't want to do this with you!

MARTINA

(sarcastic)
Why not? I'm not 'hot' enough?

ALEX

The girl doesn't have to be 'hot.'
Actually there's a theory that it's better luck if she isn't.

MARTINA

So you're saying I'm not 'hot?'

ALEX

No! I'm saying I don't want to do anything with you.

MARTINA

You don't?

ALEX

No! Wait -- Yes. I mean I would --

MARTINA

'For the *team*.'

ALEX

You're twisting this --

MARTINA

This was twisted long before it got to me!

ALEX

You know what I think? I think you're looking for an excuse to trash my friends so your paper is more interesting?

MARTINA

I obviously won't have to look far!

Alex notices Martina's notebook sticking slightly out of her purse. ALEX GRABS THE NOTEBOOK.

MARTINA (CONT'D)

Hey! That's private!

ALEX

If it's about my friends it's on the public record! (opens notebook) Let's see. (reading) Layne -- Aren't you supposed to use codenames or something?

MARTINA

(grabbing at notebook)
I haven't gotten around to that yet!

ALEX

(reading) Layne. Takes big swing and behaves as if he's hit a home run, although ball dribbles only a few feet.
Delusional.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)
 Possible 'superman'
 complex. (not reading)
 That doesn't sound very
 flattering.

MARTINA
 It's not supposed to be a love
 letter!

ALEX
 (reading) Deke -- (not
 reading) For your
 information it's Dink.

MARTINA
 Forgive me for giving him a less
 insulting name!

ALEX
 (reading) Deke. Arrested
 development. Child like tendencies.
 Smelled new jersey like it was a
 Christmas present for an eight year
 old. (not reading) Smelling the
 jersey? That's universal!

MARTINA
 I didn't see anyone else doing it.

ALEX
 Believe me they did it when they
 got home! (looks at notebook) I
 can't wait to get to *me*!

MARTINA GRABS THE NOTEBOOK AND STUFFS IT IN HER PURSE.

MARTINA
 We're not going to get to *you*!

MARTINA HEADS FOR THE DOOR.

MARTINA (CONT'D)
 Sorry I can't be your slum buster!

ALEX
 It's *slumpbuster*! And nobody asked
 you! But since you mentioned it,
 I'm gonna work on a ten game
 winning streak, starting tonight!

MARTINA STORMS OUT OF THE BAR. Dink approaches Alex.

DINK

I like your confidence Alex. But actually we've only got *two* games left.

ALEX

(exasperated)
Shut up.

INT. CHAD AND VANESSA'S SUBURBAN HOME - EARLY EVENING

Chad's fiance VANESSA arrives home and throws her keys on the kitchen counter after a tough day at work.

VANESSA

Chad. Chad! I just had the *worst* day! You were *so* right about Mr. O'Connell. When he said he was a 'hands on' boss he literally meant *hands on*. I might as well be at Marineland if I'm going to work for an octopus. Chad! Are you listening to me? Where are you?

Vanessa leaves the kitchen and opens the bedroom door.

INT. CHAD AND VANESSA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Vanessa opens the bedroom door and finds Chad on the bed **TOTALLY NUDE**. In one hand he holds a box of candy. Flowers in the other. Balloons cover his 'johnson.' He proudly holds up the candy and flowers to a shocked Vanessa.

CHAD

Happy anniversary Baby!

Vanessa is speechless.

CHAD (CONT'D)

Oh, right. I almost forgot.

Chad holds up the balloons.

CHAD (CONT'D)

(singing) *Happy birthday to me!*
Happy birthday to me --

EXT. CHAD AND VANESSA'S SUBURBAN HOME - MOMENTS LATER

CHAD, **STILL NUDE**, is shoved out the front door. The **DOOR SLAMS**. The door opens a moment later.

The box of chocolates flies out, hitting Chad in the chest and falling to the ground. The door slams again. Chad picks up a chocolate, puts it in his mouth and spits it out.

CHAD
(to self)
Should have gotten cherries.

INT. ELAINE BARRY'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Elaine, is in her housecoat with a cigarette and oxygen tank. Her soap opera plays on the television.

ELAINE
Can I get you something Alex?

ALEX
I should get right to work.

ELAINE
Work?

ALEX
Yeah. You said you had some
'inside' work you needed done?

ELAINE
Oh sure. We'll get to that.

Elaine pours herself a scotch.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
I like you Alex. You remind me of
my -- uh --

ALEX
Son?

ELAINE
Third husband. Ray. Yeah, that was
his name.

ALEX
What happened to your husbands, if
you don't mind my asking?

ELAINE
Weak hearts.

ALEX
That's too bad.

ELAINE
So how are things with you Alex?

ALEX
(unenthusiastic)
Okay. Okay I guess.

ELAINE
Do you have a special girl?

ALEX
Uh, no. I seem to be striking out
in that department.

ELAINE
Oh that's a shame. But you have
your friends. And your ball team.
How's that going?

ALEX
The team? It's -- going.

ELAINE
You know, I was quite a baseball
fan in my youth.

Alex notices a PICTURE OF A BASEBALL TEAM on the wall.

ALEX
Is that the Dodgers?

ELAINE
That's the *real* Dodgers. Did you
know I grew up in Brooklyn?

ALEX
Really? I wouldn't have guessed.

ELAINE
That's where the Dodgers used to
be.

ALEX
Sure. The Brooklyn Dodgers. Carl
Furillo, Ralph Branca --

ELAINE
Duke Snider, Sal 'The Barber'
Maglie --

ALEX
Why did they call him 'The Barber'?

Elaine strokes Alex's chin.

ELAINE

Cause he'd give you a close shave
if you crowded the plate. Knock you
right on your keister!

Elaine gives Alex a light slap on the rear. Alex backs away a little.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

I knew them all.

ALEX

You actually *knew* them?

We see more old pictures of Elaine with ball players. Some of the pictures are risqué.

ELAINE

I ran with a fast crowd in those days. Anyway, when the team was in a slump they had a little trick to get themselves out of it.

Elaine HIKES ONE LEG UP ON THE ARM REST OF THE PLASTIC COVERED COUCH.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

Have you ever heard the term
'*slumpbuster?*'

ALEX

(nervous)
Slumpbuster? Uh, no. Doesn't ring a bell.

ELAINE

Professional ballplayers are under a lot of pressure. It can *get* to a man. I was quite a looker in those days. And I had a wild side. I guess I was kind of a good luck charm.

Alex steps on oxygen tube trying to get away. Elaine seems to get a jolt from the oxygen.

ELAINE (CONT'D)

What a rush! You know I was against this oxygen thing at first, but it seems to make the scotch more effective.

ALEX

Are you sure that's safe?--

ELAINE

Safe? What fun is safe? Anyway, long story short, those guys may have been 'Bums' on the field but they weren't bums in the bedroom. And Pee Wee Reese? Let's just say the nickname did *not* fit.

Alex backs into Elaine's bird cage.

ALEX

I really should go --

ELAINE

Then in '52 Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. I don't mind telling you I caught a serious case of 'jungle fever.' Of course he was loyal to his wife. Mr. 'Goody Two Shoes.' Or 'Cleats' I suppose. Eventually the Dodgers moved to L.A. and that was that. Rumor had it they figured the 'tail' was hotter out there.

ALEX

I'll bet your grandchildren would love to hear these stories.

ELAINE

Don't have any.

ALEX

It's never too late --

Elaine COMES CLOSER.

ELAINE

How are you going to win Alex if you don't swing the 'bat?' C'mon. I'll even let you 'choke up!'

ALEX

Choke up? What does that even mean?

ELAINE

We can have the whole team over! Let me help you Alex! (doing her best Jerry Maquire) Help *me*, help *you*! Help *me*, help *you*!

Elaine turns to TAKE THE PLASTIC COVER OFF THE COUCH.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
 It's a 'pullout.' Unlike you I
 hope.

Elaine turns back around. Alex is nowhere in sight.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
 Alex? Alex?

Elaine fans herself.

ELAINE (CONT'D)
 (wistful)
 Ah. Summer nights!

EXT. STEAL THIS MUFFIN COFFEE HOUSE - EVENING

Chad and Dink enter the coffee house.

DINK
 Are you sure about this? I feel
 kind of out of place. Let's just go
 to the Hourglass.

CHAD
 Are you kidding? I'll bet there's
 even more loose women here than the
 Hourglass.

A MANNISH LOOKING GIRL BRUSHES BY DINK.

DINK
 I don't know. Some of them look
 trance gender.

CHAD
 'Trance' gender? You think someone
 hypnotizes them to want to change
 sexes?

DINK
 I think that's how it works.

CHAD
 Nobody's 'trance' anything. They're
 probably bi-curious. (looking at
 Dink) Or hopefully *tri*-curious.
 Let's get some coffee.

Chad and Dink POUR COFFEE for themselves. A LEATHER CLAD
 'RIOT GRRL' WITH LOTS OF PIERCINGS APPROACHES TO GET COFFEE.
 Dink reaches for a CARDBOARD INSULATOR for his coffee cup.

RIOT GRRL
 (re. cup insulator)
 Those are for pussies.

DINK
 (startled)
 Huh?

RIOT GRRL
 Insulators. They're for pussies.

DINK
 Oh. Right. Totally.

Dink pours his coffee without the insulator and promptly
 BURNS THE SHIT OUT OF HIS HAND.

DINK (CONT'D)
 (dropping cup)
 AHHH!

Riot grrl puts an insulator over her cup and gets her coffee.

RIOT GRRL
 (to Dink)
 Sucker.

Riot grrl walks away.

CHAD
 You got the toughest one out of the
 way. You're narrowing down the
 list. Let's go listen to the band.

DINK
 I don't want to listen to the music
 they play in here.

CHAD
 We've got to. Otherwise we look
 like we're here trying to nail
 chicks.

INT. STAGE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

HIPSTER emcee takes the stage.

HIPSTER
 I want to thank everyone for
 coming.
 (MORE)

HIPSTER (CONT'D)

Just a quick reminder, if you want to help pay for Shimalia's Llaso Apso's past life regression therapy the donation jar is by the free range Arabic decaf. It takes a village people.

A few people get up to donate.

HIPSTER (CONT'D)

Now let's get to the main event. She just knocked 'em dead at 'Burning Men.' You know her. You love her. You're a little afraid of her. Let's have a warm 'Steal This Muffin' welcome for Ms. Ari di Castrata!

Enthusiastic applause as Riot Grrl takes the stage with a guitar.

CHAD

(to Dink)

Hey! It's 'insulator girl.' You better not make eye contact.

DINK

I don't plan to.

RIOT GRRL (ARI)

(to crowd)

I want to thank you all for coming to hear my new songs. It really keeps me going.

ARI gives a POINTED STARE AT CHAD AND DINK.

ARI

Of course some of you are probably here just to hit on women.

Chad and Dink squirm in their seats.

ARI (CONT'D)

Don't sweat it. Everyone's got their agendas. My agenda is my latest album 'PyroFem' on 'SWIFTKICK' records. This song is about my last relationship. And when I say 'last' I *mean* it. It's called 'Heart of Jello.'

Cheers from the crowd.

DINK
Heart of Jello? C'mon!

Dink tries to get up to leave. Chad grabs him.

CHAD
Sit down! This chick could probably
castrate us with her guitar pick.

DINK
Fine. I'll stay for one set. Then
I'm going to The Hourglass.

Ari starts playing aggressively. The crowd digs it.

ARI (SINGING)
*I used to be mellow/now I am
not/you took me for granted/now I'm
a sad little twat.*

Dink LAUGHS. Ari sees him.

CHAD
(angry)
Chill!

DINK
It's funny!

CHAD
Then think of something that's not!

DINK
Like what?

CHAD
Anything! Hum the theme from
'Brian's Song.'

DINK
'Brian's Song?'

CHAD
You know. James Caan. Billy Dee
Williams. At the end when Billy Dee
Williams is dying. (humming) Da da,
da da da daaaa.

DINK
Wait. Isn't it James Caan who dies
in 'Brian's Song?'

CHAD
 What's the friggin' difference?!
 Just hum it.

Dink starts humming OUT LOUD.

CHAD (CONT'D)
 To *yourself* dummy!

Dink hums the 'Brian's Song' theme softly to himself.

ARI (SINGING)
*My heart it jiggles/my heart it
 shakes/my heart of jello is a grade
 five quake.*

Dink really gets into the 'Brian's Song' theme, even hearing the string parts. We hear the full orchestra production. We see heart wrenching scenes from the movie. A TEAR FORMS ON DINK'S CHEEK. It does not go unnoticed by Ari. She's clearly flustered by Dink's show of emotion. She barely finishes the song.

ARI (CONT'D)
 I'm going to take a little break.
 I'll see you all in 'ten.'

Ari PUTS DOWN HER GUITAR. The audience is confused.

CHAD
 That's it? Her first set is one
 song?

DINK
 C'mon, let's make our break!

Chad and Dink head for the door. Ari BLOCKS THE DOOR.

ARI
 Where are you going?

DINK
 (nervous)
 Uh, we were just --

CHAD
 We left our wallets in the car. How
 are we going to buy your CD without
 our wallets?

ARI
 You know, I've been doing this a
 long time.
 (MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

I've played my heart out for a lot of people in a lot of places. (to Dink) But you *really* 'get' me!

Ari GIVES DINK A BIG HUG. Dink looks to Chad for help.

CHAD

I'm gonna get those wallets.

Chad SCRAMS.

WIFFLE BALL FIELD - DAY

Next to last game. Sully collides with umpire while trying to score. He breaks his arm and takes out the umpire in the process. Gang Green loses. Quick game scene.

EXT. RUGBY PITCH - DAY

Alex, Chad and Dink arrive at the rugby 'pitch' to convince Austin to replace Sully on the team. They are surprised to find an idyllic scene. Well dressed families picnic with wine and cheese as a boom box softly plays classical music. Children laugh, chase each other and fly kites. There is also a rugby game in progress. Alex, Chad and Dink approach a player with a 'C' for captain on his jersey.

CAPTAIN

(to players)

C'mon guys! Watch the cheap shots!

ALEX

Excuse me.

CAPTAIN

What's up?

ALEX

We're looking for Austin.

CAPTAIN

(to bench players)

Anyone seen Austin?

RUGBY PLAYER #1

(pointing over hill)

He went to take a leak.

CAPTAIN

Why doesn't he ever just use the 'loo?'

The captain points to the FANCIEST PORT-0-POTTY EVER.

DINK

Sounds like Austin. *'Roughing it.'*

CAPTAIN

(confused)

Right. You guys want a latte or an
eclair or something?

The rugby captain points to a table holding FANCY COPPER
CAPPUCINO AND LATTE MACHINES AND PASTRIES.

ALEX

We just need to talk to Austin.

CAPTAIN

Suit yourself.

ALEX

Hey, you guys don't have a game on
Saturday do you?

RUGBY PLAYER #1

We better not. I got 'Zumba' class
on Saturday.

RUGBY PLAYER # 2

(to captain)

Yeah. I've got barbershop quartet
that day.

CAPTAIN

(to Alex)

No. We don't play again until
Sunday.

ALEX

Thanks.

Alex and Chad leave. Dink grabs a couple of scones and
follows.

EXT. BEHIND RUGBY PITCH - MOMENTS LATER

CHAD

(re. Rugby game)

Somehow that's not the picture I
had in my mind.

ALEX

If they put out a spread like that
every week I might sign up.

Dink is STUFFING HIS FACE.

DINK
(eating, unintelligible)
Me too!

ALEX
Anybody see him?

Chad spots Austin behind a willow tree.

CHAD
There he is!

Austin is acting peculiarly. He's doing head and neck rolls, shrugging his shoulders, jogging in place, loosening up.

ALEX
What's he doing?

DINK
Maybe it's some kind of weird pre-game ritual.

Austin PINCHES HIS NOSE AND DOES A FACE PLANT INTO A MUD PUDDLE. He starts rolling around in the puddle.

ALEX
What the --?

CHAD
I think he's having a seizure!

Alex, Chad and Dink run to the rescue. As they approach Austin GRABS A ROCK AND STARTS BASHING HIMSELF IN THE HEAD WITH IT. ENOUGH TO DRAW BLOOD.

CHAD (CONT'D)
I got this!

Chad JUMPS ON TOP OF AUSTIN TO PERFORM CPR.

AUSTIN
What the hell!?

DINK
Don't let him swallow his tongue!

Chad SHOVES HIS FINGERS IN AUSTIN'S MOUTH. AUSTIN FIGHTS HIM OFF.

CHAD
A little help guys!

Alex and Dink pile on as well. Austin fights them off, pushing them off one by one.

AUSTIN

Crikey! What the devil are you blokes doing!

DINK

We thought you were having a seizure!

AUSTIN

I might have one now!

ALEX

What's the deal Austin? You were rolling around in that puddle and bashing yourself with a rock!

AUSTIN

Oh, -- that. That's just -- you know, how I psyche myself up. You gotta start off with a few scrapes of your own. Then you don't even feel the ones you get in the game.

DINK

I knew it was something like that.

CHAD

That's funny Austin. If I didn't know better, and to be honest I don't, it looks like you do this to look like you play. Even if you don't.

AUSTIN

That's a good one Chad! You Yanks! Always pulling on the leg!

ALEX

Forget it Austin. We need a favor.

AUSTIN

(sarcastic)

You guys just saved my life. Name it.

ALEX

Our championship game is Saturday. We're short a player.

AUSTIN

Gee guys. I'd love to help you out but we've got a match on Saturday.

ALEX

We checked. You don't. Besides we put you down as our alternate. You're all we've got.

AUSTIN

Wiffle ball? I don't know--

CHAD

It would be a shame if the 'Shirleys' found out how you *really* get those cuts and bruises.

AUSTIN

You wouldn't!

Chad stares right through Austin.

AUSTIN (CONT'D)

(resigned)

Sure you would.

RUGBY PITCH - LATER

The rugby match is over. Everything, including the latte machine, is being packed up. Alex, Chad, Dink and Austin come back from the willow tree.

CAPTAIN

Austin! Where you been?

RUGBY PLAYER #1

You look like hell! You run into a tree again?

AUSTIN

Yeah! Clumsy me!

CAPTAIN

That's why we keep you around Austin! You're always good for a laugh!

AUSTIN

Just happy to contribute.

The captain points to four huge duffle bags.

CAPTAIN
 Make sure you get those bags before
 you go buddy. See you Sunday.

AUSTIN
 Right. Sunday.

Captain and player #1 depart.

ALEX
 (to Austin)
 And we'll see you *Saturday!*

AUSTIN
 (resigned)
 Wouldn't miss it for the world.

Alex, Chad and Dink start walking.

DINK
 (to Alex)
 So he's a *scrub?*

ALEX
 Yeah, with *these* guys. That's like
 being the last girl Hef picks to
 live at the Playboy mansion. Wiffle
 ball will be a *cakewalk* for Austin.

Alex and Dink continue walking. Chad lags behind.

CHAD
 I've got a *baaad* feeling.

EXT. MANNY'S ALL PURPOSE SPORTS COMPLEX - DAY

Alex arrives for the championship game and is surprised to
 see Taylor Rawling sitting alone in the stands, smoking a
 cigarette. Alex approaches him.

ALEX
 Taylor. Remember me? Alex. We met
 at Titan Sports.

Taylor struggles to place Alex.

TAYLOR
 Oh yeah. You play with the toy --

ALEX
 It's not -- (resigned) Yeah. I play
 with a toy bat and ball.

TAYLOR

How's that workin' out?

ALEX

We're in the championship.

TAYLOR

Fantastic. Glad I could help.

ALEX

I take it you're not here for the wiffle ball championship.

TAYLOR

I'm giving a clinic. Five hundred for the autograph session. Another five to teach the 'mouth breathers' how to pitch. Gotta pay the bills.

ALEX

Can I ask you something about your playing career? Was it worth it? The cheat --

TAYLOR

Careful chief. *Chicanery*? Is that the word you're looking for? *Chicanery*?

ALEX

Yeah. *Chicanery*. Was it worth it?

There is a long pause as Taylor ponders the question.

TAYLOR

I don't know. Maybe it helped me. Maybe it just gave me confidence. Believing I had an edge. Truth is, I'd give anything to know what I could have done without the tricks. And the only way I'm gonna see Cooperstown is with a ticket.

Alex ponders Taylor's soul bearing.

ALEX

What about the other thing?

TAYLOR

Other thing?

ALEX

The slumbusting.

TAYLOR
Slumpbusting?

ALEX
You know. *"It's better to get lucky than be good."*

TAYLOR
I never said that.

ALEX
You didn't?

TAYLOR
Duke Metzger said it.

ALEX
Duke Metzger?

TAYLOR
Relief pitcher. 'The Stud' they called him. I think that book 'BALL FOUR' was like his bible. He was always saying crazy stuff like that. Funny thing is last I heard he was shackled up with our bullpen catcher. You think you *know* a guy.

ALEX
But you were quoted in SPORT magazine --

TAYLOR
The press was always trying to pin those things on me. The 'bad boy' image and all. Sells a lot of magazines.

ALEX
So you don't believe in slumpbusting?

TAYLOR
Alex, at the end of the day there's just you, your talent and the mirror.

The St. Malachy bus pulls up and kids storm out. Taylor snuffs out his cigarette.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
And a paycheck.

The rowdy kids run over the Taylor Rawling cutout. All that is left is a 'PITCHING CLINIC SPONSORED BY TITAN SPORTS' sign and Martina, who is setting up the clinic with pitching nets and a wooden catcher figure. She and Alex lock eyes. Alex cautiously approaches her.

MARTINA

Sorry. The clinic's for eight to fourteen year-olds only.

ALEX

Is that chronological age or maturity?

MARTINA

When you put it *that* way maybe you *do* qualify.

Martina puts the Taylor Rawling cutout back upright. Alex helps her.

ALEX

(re. Taylor)

You know, he really is a 'stand up' guy.

The kids are clamoring for Taylor's attention. Surprisingly he seems to be enjoying it.

MARTINA

It's nice when people don't disappoint you. And *rare*.

There's an awkward pause. Alex knows he deserved that.

ALEX

We're in the championship.

MARTINA

Awesome. You must have had a successful slumbusting session. Mission accomplished.

ALEX

No. No slumbusting. Just back to basics. If you get a chance -- You should come over and watch.

MARTINA

(re. Taylor)

I'm supposed to keep an eye on -- (she knocks on Taylor figure) I don't know. *Maybe*.

ALEX
I'm telling ya. (re. Taylor) 'Stand
up' guy.

Taylor is showing a girl how to follow through with her
pitching motion. He stops abruptly, noticing her shoes.

TAYLOR
Those shoes have *buckles* on 'em?

EXT. - BENCH AREA OF WIFFLE BALL FIELD AT MANNY'S - DAY

Chad, Layne, Dink, Dipwahdi, Austin (in his rugby uniform)
and Sully (with arm in sling) wait impatiently for their big
game against Blower's Mowers. An ancient guy on a riding
mower mows the field. He tows a puppy behind in a cart.
Austin grabs a ball.

AUSTIN
Is this little thing the ball we
play with?

LAYNE
Yeah.

AUSTIN
Don't they have any without holes
poked in them?

CHAD
I've got a *baaad* feeling about
this.

Alex arrives.

ALEX
Sully, what are you doing here? We
got an alternate for you.

SULLY
I've still got one good arm Alex. I
think I can swing.

ALEX
Austin?

AUSTIN
No offense taken. I'm ready to go
if you need me.

DINK
I still don't get it. How did we
lose the last game?
(MORE)

DINK (CONT'D)

Layne got lucky. I got lucky. The slumbusting karma should have worked.

LAYNE

Maybe someone on the other team got lucky. Did anyone think of that? Maybe it evened out? Or maybe this slumbusting theory was all 'bunk' in the first place.

CHAD

Maybe it was all in our heads.

DINK

But the day after you got lucky we won.

CHAD

I didn't get lucky. Vanessa was so mad at me she didn't even let me in the house for two hours. And she certainly didn't let me in *anywhere else* that night.

DINK

There's still Dipwahdi. You scored right? With your inspector chick.

DIPWAHDI

Well-- I let her borrow my new clipboard. That's *something*. (ashamed) I guess I was just trying to keep up.

LAYNE

How about you Sully? Any confessions to make? You're not going to tell us your dental hygienist *isn't* a nymphomaniac.

SULLY

Well --

DINK

Et tu Sully?

SULLY

You guys were going to kick me off the team for being late all the time. I had to give you *something*.

CHAD

So maybe we just got better, right
Alex?

ALEX

(guilty)
Yeah. Maybe we just got better.

A dusty old Packard pulls into the parking lot. Elaine and her elderly girlfriends jump out in their best fifties era bobbysoxer dresses and ponytails.

ELAINE

Hey guys! I brought some friends
for good luck! Maybe we can all
meet behind the stands for the
seventh inning stretch. Go Gang
Green!

Elaine does a FULL OUT LEG SPLIT ON THE GRASS.

DIPWAHDI

(re. Elaine)
The one in the poodle skirt's kinda
hot.

The Blowers Mowers team arrives.

BLOWERS

You guys actually showed up! I
don't know whether to respect you
or feel sorry for you!

CORAL

Feel sorry for them Babe! It makes
you the bigger man!

LUIS

(to Fernando)
Are you understanding any of this?

FERNANDO

Who cares? We're getting time and a
half right?

Manny breaks up the conversation.

MANNY

Alright enough jawing. Let's get
started.

HOME PLATE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

A mic is set up at home plate. Ari di Castrata sings the national anthem. She is without studs and piercings now and not dressed in black.

ARI
(singing)
...And the home, of the braaaaave!

Scattered applause in the stands. Ari continues singing. This one's for Dink.

ARI (CONT'D)
(singing)
Baby I'm a want you. Baby I'm a
need you --

Manny grabs the mic.

MANNY
Okay, let's play some ball!

Sully, in sling, grabs the mic from Manny.

SULLY
(to Manny)
Can I say a few words?

MANNY
Make it quick.

Sully goes into Lou Gehrig 'Pride Of The Yankees' mode.

SULLY
(to crowd)
I know I've caught a bad break
(echo) break.. break. And some of
you may feel sorry for me now..now.
But I want you to know that today,
I consider myself..self..self. the
luckiest man..man. On the face of
the earth.. earth..earth!

MANNY
Seriously! Give me that!

Manny grabs the mic.

MANNY (CONT'D)
Let's play wiffle ball!

HOME PLATE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Manny meets Alex and Blowers at home plate with their lineup cards. A large crowd on the Blowers Mowers side cheers.

MANNY

Looks like we got a crowd. *Half* a crowd anyway.

BLOWERS

Just a few loyal clients, supporting the team. (to Alex) I see *your uh, client* is here as well.

Elaine and her friends practice cheers, acting like teenagers.

ELAINE

We're with you all the way Alex!

Ancient mower guy is still trying to finish the outfield.

MANNY

This is it. For the championship and the field contract. Let's have a clean game and may the best team win.

Game Montage here. Alex is pitching, 'cleanly' this time. GANG GREEN is managing to stay in the game barely with the help of Sully's one handed hitting. Coral in her hotpants is a constant distraction as is Blowers ranting and berating his son and his player/workers.

As the final inning comes Blowers gets a drink at the water fountain. Taylor Rawling is already there.

BLOWERS

Hey. Aren't you Taylor Rawling, used to pitch for the Angels?

TAYLOR

That's right.

BLOWERS

Can I shake your hand?

TAYLOR

Yeah. I guess.

They shake hands.

BLOWERS
You're my hero.

TAYLOR
That so.

BLOWERS
Hells yeah! You were like the
biggest cheater ever!

Taylor is not amused.

TAYLOR
Some people see it that way.

BLOWERS
What are you doing *here*?

TAYLOR
Giving a clinic.

Taylor nods in the direction of the kids. They are running around haphazardly in circles. Some are sitting or laying on the grass. Some are fighting.

BLOWERS
Hey, you wanna *really* do some good?

Blowers points to GANG GREEN.

BLOWERS (CONT'D)
You should give a clinic to *these*
basket cases. We're beating their
asses for the championship. Not
that it's *real* competition.

TAYLOR
(re. GANG GREEN)
Those guys?

BLOWERS
Yeah. They're a *real* charity case.
You could probably 'write it off.'

TAYLOR
I'll remember that.

BLOWERS
Well, last inning. I gotta go.

Blowers grabs Taylor's hand.

BLOWERS (CONT'D)

It was an honor. The greatest cheat
in the game! I'm not washing this
hand for a long time.

Blowers goes back to the game. Taylor runs his *handshake* hand
under the faucet and wipes it on his shirt. He rejoins his
pitching clinic.

TAYLOR

Alright, listen up!

The kids stop what they're doing.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

We're learning a new lesson. It's a
lesson in *loyalty*.

Taylor points to Alex.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

See that guy? He's my biggest fan.
And starting now you all are *his*
biggest fans. Got it?

The kids are silent.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

And you're going to get out those
little walkie talkies you kids
carry around and you're going to
get all your little friends to come
here and be fans too.

The kids don't move.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Now!!!

The kids get out their cell phones and begin frantically
texting.

Top of the last inning. GANG GREEN is only down by two runs
but make two quick outs to start, bringing Layne up to bat.

Layne makes two big swinging strikes to start.

ALEX

Layne! We just need a baserunner.
Nothing fancy. Just choke up and
make contact!

Layne sees his ex Cheryl watching from the stands. She points
to Alex and makes a choking up on bat motion.

CHERYL

C'mon baby! Just make contact!

Layne hears 'Reggie' in his head.

REGGIE JACKSON (V.O.)

Just make *contact*?! You're not going to listen to this?

LAYNE

Yes. Yes I am.

REGGIE JACKSON (V.O.)

Loser.

Layne chokes up on the bat and taps a single over second base as the team and St. Malachy kids go wild. The next batter is Sully.

Sully confidently strolls to the plate.

NEW UMPIRE

C'mon. Let's move it along!

Sully drives the first pitch far toward the foul pole and over the fence. It looks like a fair ball.

NEW UMPIRE (CONT'D)

Foul ball!

The GANG GREEN bench erupts.

SULLY

You're crazy! That was *fair*!

NEW UMPIRE

I call 'em like I see 'em!

Alex tries to restrain Sully.

SULLY

Maybe you're just on the '*take!*'

NEW UMPIRE

You're *outta* here!

SULLY

You can't throw me out! It's the last inning!

NEW UMPIRE

I just did!

Alex pulls Sully back to the bench. Everyone looks to Austin.

ALEX

Looks like you're up Austin.

Austin gets up to make his getaway.

AUSTIN

Are you guys *sure* I don't have a rugby game today?

CHAD

We're sure.

AUSTIN

All right then. I guess it's time to pay the piper.

ALEX

You're a *natural*. Just let the game come to you.

Alex hands the bat to Austin who holds it up. He's gripping it by the *wrong* end.

CHAD

On the other hand, a *walk* is as good as a hit.

Austin cautiously approaches home plate. As he stands in the batter's box he looks to the GANG GREEN bench for guidance.

Austin doesn't swing and works the count to three balls and two strikes.

CHAD (CONT'D)

You're one ball away from first base! Hang in there!

Austin nods and keeps the bat on his shoulder. The next pitch goes behind him and hits the bat. The ball dribbles on to the field.

GANG GREEN BENCH

Run!!

AUSTIN

I thought you guys said I should *walk*?

GANG GREEN BENCH

RUN!!!

Austin drops the bat and runs. Like an eight year old girl. The ball is overthrown to first. Layne scores to tie the game.

Austin continues running to second base at the urging of the GANG GREEN bench and the St. Malachy kids. He is tagged out. Austin tackles the second baseman then takes the ball from him and runs with it.

CHAD

Not sure he understands the *finer points* of the game.

ALEX

But we're all tied up. I'll take it.

Austin continues running with the ball.

It's the bottom of the last inning. Taylor Rawling approaches Alex.

TAYLOR

Tight game chief.

ALEX

Sure is. (re. St. Malachy kids) Thanks for the crowd support.

TAYLOR

They just wanna blow off steam anyway. Notice anything funny about the bat your opponent's using?

ALEX

No, why?

TAYLOR

There's a shadow on the end of it. My guess is it's a weight or maybe compressed squash balls. Something to make the ball jump off the bat.

ALEX

I guess I shouldn't be surprised. Thanks for the tip.

TAYLOR

You learn anything from me? That time at the store.

ALEX

I sure did. The 'Big Dipper.'

TAYLOR

I'm impressed. With that extra weight on the bat it might be tough to hold up a swing on the 'Big Dipper.' Just sayin' it might be time to 'fight fire with fire.'

ALEX

I think I'm going to do this on my own. I might have the umpire check that bat though.

TAYLOR

All right then. Your call.

Alex approaches the umpire before taking the mound.

ALEX

Hey ump. Does their bat look funny to you?

The umpire takes a cursory look at the bat being swung in the Blowers Mowers on deck circle.

NEW UMPIRE

Looks fine to me. Play ball!

ALEX

You're not even going to --

NEW UMPIRE

I said play ball!

ALEX

Alright, alright.

Alex takes the mound. The first two batters hit long fly ball outs, bringing up Blowers himself with two outs and a chance to win the game.

BLOWERS

Like old times Alex!

ALEX

Like old times.

Blowers hits two long foul balls, dangerously close to home runs.

BLOWERS

Warmup swings!

With the game on the line Alex surveys the crowd. The St. Malachy kids cheer him on. Taylor watches steely eyed.

The ancient mower guy watches from his mower seat. The puppy yaps. Even Martina is now watching.

Alex removes his cap and considers the big wad of vaseline tucked inside the headband. He takes long look around before putting the cap back on, leaving the vaseline inside.

Alex winds up and throws. Blowers swings, driving the ball to right center field. The ball lands and rolls between Austin's legs. Austin chases it to the wall and picks it up. He awkwardly tries to throw it but it falls out of his hand and drops behind him. Dipwahdi runs over and picks it up as Blowers rounds the bases. Alex covers home. Dink relays the ball to Alex as Blowers slides home in a cloud of dust. The crowd is silent, waiting for the umpire's call which doesn't come. Just loud, steady snoring. GANG GREEN players gather around home plate.

CHAD

I thought he looked *familiar!* It's
'No Doz!

ALEX

It *is!* Kyle! Kyle! Wake up!

The startled umpire comes to.

NEW UMPIRE ('NO DOZ')

SAFE!!!

The BLOWERS MOWERS bench erupts. Blowers parades around with the trophy.

BLOWERS

In your face! In your face!

The GANG GREEN players gather around to console Alex.

CHAD

Nothing ever changes. He gets the girl. He gets the trophy. He gets the contract. That's life.

ALEX

You know what? I don't care. I don't want the trophy or the contract or to beat Blowers. I don't think I ever really did.

Martina has already begun picking up the equipment from Taylor's pitching clinic.

ALEX (CONT'D)

But I know what I *do* want.

Alex heads toward Martina, leaving the GANG GREEN players at home plate. Dipwahdi starts heading in Elaine's direction.

CHAD
(to Dipwahdi)
Where *you* going?

DIPWAHDI
I think some cheerleaders are going
to need some *consoling*.

The ancient mower guy's puppy pees on 'No Doz.'

INT. TITAN SPORTS - DAY

A customer enters Titan Sports with his twelve year old son. They encounter a slacker manager who is clearly suited for some other line of work.

CUSTOMER
Do you have something that will put
some '*giddyup*' on my son's
fastball? He really got '*shelled*'
his last start.

SLACKER MANAGER
(confused)
Uh, '*giddyup*'? Hey Martina?

MARTINA
Why don't we ask the *new guy*? Hey
new guy!

Alex, the '*new guy*', has tools out and is working on a pitching machine.

ALEX
He needs a *cable roller*. It'll
strengthen his flexor muscle. Hand
grippers wouldn't hurt either.
They're in the free weight aisle
behind you, between the dumbbells
and the ab crunchers.

CUSTOMER
Thanks. Thanks a lot!

The customer and his son go to the free weight aisle.

SLACKER MANAGER
(to Alex)
Show off.

MARTINA

(to Alex)

I think you're going to be moving up the corporate ladder pretty quickly here. Still kind of a come down from owning your own business.

ALEX

Actually it already feels like a promotion. (re. pitching machine) Why don't you get in the (batting) cage so I can test this thing out.

MARTINA

You mean with a bat?

ALEX

(sarcastic)

No, with a golf club.

MARTINA

You don't think I can do it do you?

ALEX

Strictly professional curiosity.

Martina grabs a bat and enters the cage.

MARTINA

You asked for it buddy!

The first pitch almost nails Martina in the head.

MARTINA (CONT'D)

Hey! You're supposed to *fix* it, not soup it up!

ALEX

I guess you have to bring your 'A' game.

Actors improvise with more pitches as credits roll.

THE END