

ERIC

"Air Ric II: Fresh Out the Box"

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EXT. STADIUM - PARKING LOT - DAY

ERIC NELSON, 18, black, walks with his mother, Professor RHONDA NELSON-JAMES, 40's. With them are ELEANOR DUMBECK, 19, white, and her brother-in-law, JACOB JACKSON, 20. All wear Green Bay Packers gear and carry souvenirs. They approach GINA RICHARDS, 20's, black, who also wears Packers gear.

GINA

Professor! Ya'll made it!

RHONDA

First time I get to see my former student in action!

ERIC

And who would say no to a Packer game at Lambeau Field?

JACOB

Or free tickets?

Eleanor looks around.

ELEANOR

Interesting. First time I've been to a stadium that I own.

Gina looks at Eric's hat.

GINA

Cool Bucks hat, Eric!

ERIC

You know, gotta rep the "M.K.E."!

GINA

Well, the grill's fired up. Let's get our tailgatin' on!

They begin to walk together.

ELEANOR

(to Jacob)

Who's "Mike"?

Jacob rolls his eyes.

INT. STADIUM - LATER

Eric and the gang sit in their seats. The crowd CLAMORS. The PA makes an announcement.

PA

Packers vs. Jets, fourth quarter, 60 seconds left! Jets get the ball, and they are out of time-outs!

JACOB

Alright! Defense gotta make a stand, then we win!

GINA

Yeah! I just wish it wasn't against Marty's team.

RHONDA

I know.

ERIC

Hey, Gina, speaking of that, I appreciate the seats, but you're the girlfriend of a Jet. You couldn't get any box seats or anything?

JACOB

Maybe he gave them to his other girl!

GINA

(mock laughter)

Ha, ha, don't even!

RHONDA

Let's all be glad we even got a chance to be here.

ERIC

True. Oh, Mom, can you sign this?

He hands Rhonda a slip.

RHONDA

What's this?

ERIC

A note to excuse me from class tomorrow. I'm sure I'll be too tired to go.

RHONDA

Eric, you're in college! Professors aren't gonna take excuse slips from students' mothers!

ERIC

You're right. I'll just sign it myself.

He takes the slip back.

RHONDA

Oh, brother.

GINA

Hey, Packers are kicking, and Marty's gonna receive it!

ERIC

Has he returned the ball before?

GINA

No.

Gina's boyfriend, MARTY O'DELL, 20's, black, is on the field and holds his arms out. The ball falls and slips out of his hands. The crowd GASPS. Both teams jump on the ball.

ELEANOR

And he won't this time, either!

PA

O'Dell mis-played it! It's a fumble!

The crowd CLAMORS excitedly.

PA (CONT'D)

The ball is recovered by Green Bay! And that will do it!!

Most of the crowd CHEERS.

RHONDA

How unfortunate for Marty!

JACOB

Ha, ha! Nice catch, Marty!

GINA

(to Jacob)

Hey, watch it!

JACOB

Calm down, it's football. Nothing personal.

A MALE JETS FAN, sitting next to them, yells.

MALE JETS FAN

O'Dell, you suck!! Kill yourself!!

JACOB

See?

Gina WINCES.

EXT. PRISON - YARD - DAY

The female warden, MS. HAPP, 30's, black, tall, stocky build, walks with the inmates, which includes Jacob's sister, GRETCH, 20's.

MS. HAPP

(to Gretch)

Jackson, I told you to stop pulling that fire alarm!

GRETCH

(scoffs)

What are ya gonna do, put me in prison jail?

MS. HAPP

For the last time, yes!

Ms. Happ looks around.

MS. HAPP (CONT'D)

The guard will take ya'll back to your cells. I gotta look for Brown. She's unaccounted for, again.

INT. PRISON - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

MS. HAPP

Where could that Brown be?

She walks past the gym room, then walks back over there and looks in the window. She GASPS and bursts in the door. She finds inmate CARLETHA BROWN, black, standing there, hands in cuffs and pants undone, with Eric's brother, BILLY NELSON, 20's, standing directly behind her.

MS. HAPP (CONT'D)

Carletha Brown, what's the meaning of this??

CARLETHA

(pause)

He's working on my form!

MS. HAPP

I can see that!

INT. WARDEN'S OFFICE - LATER

Carletha and Billy stand in front of Ms. Happ, who sits behind her desk.

BILLY

Ms. Happ, really, I was helping your inmate out! I was showing her how to stretch! We didn't even hear the alarm!

MS. HAPP

Yeah, right!

CARLETHA

Ms. Happ, I'm up for parole next week! I'll do whatever you need me to do!

MS. HAPP

You can tell me what you two were really doing in that gym!

BILLY

I was helping her...play basketball! There's a tournament coming up in Milwaukee, my hometown! It's a charity event to fund towards the research for...toenail fungus! And I'm gonna coach the team! And any inmate here can join!

MS. HAPP

Basketball tournament, huh? And here I thought you were teaching her to play, so she can square off against the other inmates out in the yard.

BILLY

Yeah, that sounds like a more reasonable answer.

MS. HAPP

Brown, is he for real?

CARLETHA

Yes, ma'am! The competition is this weekend!

Billy looks at her surprised.

BILLY

That's right! The date was kinda fluid, but it's set in stone now! Just think, these girls have been stuck in the box for a long time. This game would give them a little bit of exposure.

MS. HAPP

Well, Mr. Nelson, go on and assemble your team to play.

BILLY

Alright!

MS. HAPP

And if you win, you get to keep your job, and Brown will be on schedule to get outta here.

BILLY

Great! And if we lose?

MS. HAPP

Uh, the exact opposite would happen. Isn't it obvious?

BILLY

Oh yeah.

Billy and Carletha exit the room and walk into the hallway.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Carletha, I gotta go.

CARLETHA

Wait! We didn't even finish yet!

BILLY

Not now! I gotta try and get a team set up!

CARLETHA

Aw, come on, how much more trouble could we get in?

MS. HAPP (O.C.)

A whole lot!

BILLY

I'm outta here.

They both exit in opposite directions.

INT. ERIC'S ROOM - LATER

Eric and Eleanor enter Eric's dorm room. They find ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND, who is also Eric's roommate, sitting down and doing homework. He has a strong, booming voice throughout.

ELEANOR

Hey, baby!

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Hey! Sorry I couldn't make the game. My exam is tomorrow. How was it?

ELEANOR

I don't know. I haven't take any exams lately.

ERIC

Uh, I think he means, "How was the game."

ELEANOR

Oh! Duh!

(giggles)

It was great! We won!

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Outstanding! Did you get to see Marty O'Dell play?

ELEANOR

Yeah! Marty's the reason we won!

ERIC

No, he's not, Eleanor. We were winning all along. He just made a mistake. Real fans know that.

SFX: Door KNOCK!

ERIC (CONT'D)

Come in!

Gina sneaks in with Marty, wearing a large blanket over his upper body. In the hallway are students pointing and LAUGHING.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Gina! What's goin' on here?

Gina closes the door.

ELEANOR

Yeah, is that Marty under there?

GINA

No, Eleanor. You must've gotten him mixed up with another 6'5", 300-lb. player in a sheet.

ELEANOR

Sorry. Well, next time you see Marty,
tell him not to get down!

Marty takes off the sheet.

MARTY

Eleanor, it's me!
(to Gina)
And it's 290.

ELEANOR

(gasps)
Mind blown!

ERIC

(to Eleanor)
You have to have a mind first.

GINA

Can we hide out here?

ERIC

I don't think so, Gina!

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Hey, hold on, Eric! We have Marty O'Dell
in our room!

MARTY

I don't know how much that means now!
Never again will I complain about
autograph-signing.

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Good, then sign my jersey, if you're
staying.

He tosses a jersey to Marty.

ERIC

Marty, ain't you supposed to be on the
team flight back to New York?

MARTY

I was! As soon as I got off the plane, so-
called fans were booing me and throwing
stuff at me! Fortunately, or
unfortunately, the airlines were in no
hurry to send me back here!

ERIC

But why didn't you just hide out at your
New York home?

MARTY

No way! New York critics are brutal! And everybody there knows me!

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

I know the feeling!

MARTY

So I came back to my hometown, where at least I'm more appreciated!

SFX: Eggs SPLATTERING off-screen.

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

What the...?

He opens up the window.

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND
(CONT'D)

Duck!

Eggs fly inside and SPLATTER on the floor. People from outside JEER.

MARTY

Hold on!

He runs to the window.

GINA

Marty, no!

Marty sticks his head outside.

MARTY

Hey! And you call yourselves, "family"?!
I'm tellin' Mom!

An egg SPLATS in Marty's face.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Real mature, Mom!

He sticks his head back in, closes the window, and wipes his face.

ELEANOR

Now, Marty, let me give you a little constructive criticism.

MARTY

Yeah?

ELEANOR

You're not that good. You should go back to teaching.

ERIC

(to Eleanor)

Step aside, "Vince Lombardi"!

Eric pushes her aside.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Listen, Marty, like with most stuff, people will stop talking about it when something else crazy happens.

MARTY

How long is that supposed to take? I'd feel better if I could do something on my own.

ERIC

Well, you could give a presser and apologize.

MARTY

Nah, I'm not too fond of reporters. And Gina, I'm still appealing that fine.

GINA

That was your fault for not answering their questions!

MARTY

(scoffs)

All I said was that I was only there so I wouldn't get fined, and they fined me for saying that!

ERIC

Well, I'm sure we can think of something.

ELEANOR

Yeah, Marty! And soon, you can focus all your attention on playing the Lions!

MARTY

Eleanor, we don't play the Lions this year.

ELEANOR

Really? Then I better email that scalper back, so he can give me a raincheck.

She pulls out her phone and types. Eric looks at her, then at Marty.

ERIC

I'm sure I can think of something.

INT. PRISON - YARD - DAY

Female INMATES play basketball on an outdoor court. Billy and his roommate, RON TYSON, 20's, black, stand on the side.

BILLY

Okay, Ron, these girls look like they can play. All I gotta do is form a team with Carletha.

RON

But you don't even have a venue yet! And what do you know about coaching, anyway?

BILLY

Oh, it'll just be for one day. Besides, it looks like these girls already know the rules.

An inmate dribbles down the court. Another inmate SOCKS her in the face and takes the ball.

RON

Dang! Isn't she on her team?!

Ms. Happ approaches the men.

MS. HAPP

Hosting tryouts, Mr. Nelson?

BILLY

Yes, exactly.

MS. HAPP

Well, you guys better practice like Ms. Brown's freedom and your job depend on it, because they do!

She looks at Ron up and down.

MS. HAPP (CONT'D)

Who's this?

BILLY

Ron, my roommate.

MS. HAPP

(to Ron)

Hmm, you're a cutie. Watch your back around here.

RON

I'll be careful around them.

MS. HAPP

I was talking about me.

She sashays away.

RON

Yeah, Billy, maybe picking up girls at a jail wasn't the best idea. See ya at home.

BILLY

Alright.

Ron exits.

BILLY (CONT'D)

(sighs)

What other choice do I have?

He pulls out his phone and dials.

INTERCUT - PRISON/ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND'S ROOM

ELEANOR

Yeah, what is it?

BILLY

Eleanor, did I catch you at a bad time?

ELEANOR

No, I'm just trying to email that scalper back, but this "Daemon" guy keeps sending me the emails back!

BILLY

Uh, yeah. Eleanor, I need to throw an impromptu basketball fundraiser this weekend. Do you know of a spot?

ELEANOR

Yeah, I can call some folks.

BILLY

Good, thank you!

ELEANOR

Sure, anything for you! Just know that this doesn't mean I'm coming back to you!

BILLY

Okay.

ELEANOR

I'm in a healthy relationship with my boyfriend!

BILLY

Understood!

PAUSE.

ELEANOR

So, is Eric still with Berniece? I haven't been seeing her around.

BILLY

Goodbye, Eleanor.

He hangs up.

ELEANOR

What a guy!

ZOOM OUT TO SHOW HER BOYFRIEND SITTING NEXT TO HER

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Uh, I heard everything you were saying!

ELEANOR

I meant, "What a guy," like, "I can't believe anybody would mess with those Nelsons!"

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

"Anything for you"?

PAUSE.

ELEANOR

Hey, look over there!

She points at their reflection in a mirror. She readies to escape.

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

At us?

ELEANOR

Aw, shoot!

EXT. OUTDOORS - DAY

On a curb, Marty stands next to POLLY and PABLO McNAIR, 12 and 9, respectively, Puerto Rican, who sit on top of coolers.

MARTY

(shouts)

Get your ice cold drinks here!

Eric approaches them and takes pics of them.

ERIC

So how's it going?

MARTY

You tell me! Am I trending yet?

ERIC

You will soon. You're helping little kids sell water!

POLLY

"Little kids"? I'm taller than you!

ERIC

Be quiet and keep selling your product!

(pause)

It is legal product, right?

POLLY

Of course!

PABLO

Somewhere it is.

Polly nudges Pablo. A GENTLEMAN approaches them.

GENTLEMAN

One fruit punch, please.

PABLO

Coming right up!

They exchange money and the drink. The man sips.

GENTLEMAN

A-ha! This has alcohol in it!

PABLO

Yeah?

The man pulls out a badge.

GENTLEMAN

And I'm undercover!

MARTY

Hey now, I'm over 21. I can sell alcohol!

GENTLEMAN

You're right. Where's your license?

PAUSE.

MARTY

Uh...

EXT. OUTDOORS - LATER

Eric, Eleanor, her boyfriend, and Marty walk through campus. Marty reads from his phone.

MARTY

"Jets Star Marty O'Dell Peddles Booze
With Little Kids"??

Eric looks at his phone.

ERIC

And why'd they show me instead of the
kids?

MARTY

This is terrible! You got me into this,
Eric! You need to get me out!

ERIC

Alright, alright, I will! Just go to
practice, so you're ready for the next
game!

SFX: CHIME!

Eleanor's boyfriend pulls out his phone.

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

No need to worry, Marty. You've been
benched!

MARTY

What??

Marty looks at his phone.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Aw, man! And on my birthday, too!

SFX: CHIME!

Eleanor pulls out her phone and reads from it.

ELEANOR

Here's a comment on "Insta". "Hashtag
'Loser'. Happy birthday, Marty O'Dell!
Hope you like pine!"

Eleanor GIGGLES. Marty looks at her angrily. She quickly STOPS.

ERIC

We have to come up with something that'll
put you in a good light!

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Something where a whole lot of people
will see you!

ELEANOR

I'd like to help you guys out, Eric, but
I have to set up this charity basketball
game for your brother.

They walk past a basketball court with a ball sitting on
the grass.

MARTY

Hey, speaking of basketball, wanna shoot
some hoops?

ERIC

You play basketball, too?

MARTY

My second love!

ERIC

Okay, but then, we gotta put our heads
together!

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Wait here, Eleanor!

The guys go to the court.

ELEANOR

(sighs)

And they call me stupid.

(calls out)

Hey, guys, stop and think! Isn't it
obvious?

ERIC

What?

ELEANOR

There's four of us. That's enough for a two on two!

ERIC

You're right! Come on!

Eleanor follows them.

INT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

People in the stands CHATTER. Billy approaches his basketball team.

BILLY

Okay, I think we got a squad. Now remember, I want ya'll to play clean. This is the first time ya'll seen daylight in a while. Everybody's looking. So follow the rules, keep your hands to yourselves, no fouling on purpose, get the razor blades out of your mouths, and we can win this, okay? Now bring it in!

Everyone puts in their right hand.

BILLY (CONT'D)

"Team" on three! One, two, three, team!

Billy looks at them.

CARLETHA

You mean, say "Team" on three?

BILLY

(sighs)

Yes! Come on, one, two...

EVERYONE ELSE

Team!

BILLY

No, I didn't say "three" yet.

CARLETHA

But you said to say it on three, so wouldn't you...

BILLY
 Alright, alright! I'll snap my fingers,
 and after that, say, "Team!"

Billy SNAPS.

ALL
 Team!

Billy walks towards Eleanor, who wears a referee's uniform.

BILLY
 Eleanor, are they looking at me with lust
 in their eyes?

ELEANOR
 Yeah.

BILLY
 I love my work!

He walks away.

ELEANOR
 (lustfully)
 And I love you.

Her boyfriend approaches her with an eyebrow raised. She looks at him, then back in Billy's direction.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)
 (calls out)
 ...to get ready for tip-off!

She TWEETS her whistle. Billy approaches his stepfather, MATT JAMES, 40's, black, and Rhonda.

BILLY
 Mom! Matt!

MATT
 Hey, son!

BILLY
 Thanks for coming to see me coach! What a surprise!

RHONDA
 It is a surprise. We didn't know you'd be here! We came to see Eric coach!

BILLY
 Eric?

Eric approaches them.

ERIC

That's right, bro. Say hello to my team,
"The Mil-town All-Stars"! Featuring NFL
lineman Marty O'Dell!

Marty, wearing a jersey and shorts, walks past. Eric's
girlfriend, BERNIECE WILLIAMS, 18, black, chimes in.

BERNIECE

Ahem!

Eric says the name of each player as they walk past. They
also wear jerseys and shorts.

ERIC

And Berniece, Timmy, and the rest of
them.

BILLY

What?? Hey, I wanna revamp my team!
Eleanor, can I do that?

ELEANOR

Well, the game's supposed to start right
n--

BILLY

Stall or something! I'll be right back!

Billy ZIPS past a basketball team sitting behind a sign
that says, "THE MUTES". The team includes OLIVER the duck
and his friend, Dr. Syd the mole, WINSTON the snake, and
the plush version of FRANKFURT the pig. They all wear
jerseys and shorts.

OLIVER

(to Dr. Syd, telepathically)
*This doesn't make sense! Why are we on
"The Mutes"?*

Dr. Syd shrugs. Winston talks to the lifelike version of
Frankfurt.

WINSTON

Hmmph. They must not know about us!

FRANKFURT

I would much rather be on the All-Star
team!

Lacing Frankfurt's shoes is his and Winston's owner,
CONNIE McDOWELL, 17, white.

CONNIE

Don't press your luck, guys. I tried out for the All-Stars and didn't make it.

FRANKFURT

Yeah, I can see that.

CONNIE

What?

FRANKFURT

Nothing.

CONNIE

I heard you say something. What was it?

FRANKFURT

I didn't say nothin'! I'm a mute, remember?

LATER

Billy approaches Eric and Eleanor.

ERIC

'Bout time!

BILLY

Shut up! You got the Mil-Town All-Stars, well, check out the starting lineup for my Mad-Town All-Stars!

Billy announces each player as they walk by. Each wears a jersey and shorts.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Pauletta! Patty! Sharon! Mildred!

MILDRED, an old, black lady, creeps to the front.

MILDRED

You said we were going for a malted!

BILLY

(sighs)

And last, and definitely least, Dad.

Billy and Eric's father, JUNIOR, 40's, black, slides to the front, on his knees. He wears a headband over his afro, similar to his usual outfit.

JUNIOR

Wassup, Mil-town!

ERIC
 (cackles)
 How can you lose?

BILLY
 Well, if I knew you were gonna get a
 celebrity, I would've had more time!

ERIC
 It's not even like that! I'm trying to
 help Marty out!

BILLY
 Oh sure! Eric T. Nelson always there to
 save everybody! Everything good happens
 to you!

Eleanor BLOWS her whistle in Billy's ear.

ELEANOR
 That's enough out of you!

BILLY
 What, you're taking his side?

ELEANOR
 No, I don't have a dog in the house!

Eric and Billy stare at Eleanor, then walk away in
 opposite directions. Matt and Rhonda approach Billy.

RHONDA
 Listen, Billy, I don't know what's in
 stake here for you...

MATT
 And going by your track record of women,
 maybe it's for the best.

RHONDA
 ...but maybe you should let Eric have
 this one. He's trying to clean up Marty's
 image.

BILLY
 But I'm the one who organized this thing!
 Why can't ya'll ever be Team Billy?

MATT
 You never asked us to be on your team!
 You picked convicts over us!

BILLY

That's not what I meant, Matt! And you're from Kenosha!

Billy storms away.

MATT

(subdued voice)

I like being asked for things.

Rhonda puts her hand on Matt's shoulder.

LATER

The Mad-town All-Stars play against another team. Mildred takes the ball down the court. She dribbles behind her back and between her legs, with PRINCIPAL PETERS, black, on defense. PAULETTA, black, calls out to Mildred.

PAULETTA

Alright, "Granmama"!

Peters' teammates sit on the bench and cheer him on. They sit behind a sign that says, "THE SPEAR CARRIERS". IKE, black, calls out with his usual "surfer dude" dialect.

IKE

Come on, Principal-dude! "D" up!

Other Spear Carriers include some of Rhonda's students, Junior's bandmates, and CLEO, black, who dons a large Afro. She clutches her right fist.

CLEO

Yeah, fight the power!

BILLY

Kick out the ball, Mildred!

Mildred passes to Carletha, who sinks a basket.

SFX: Buzzer BLARES!

Billy's team CHEERS. The Spear Carriers MOAN. Members of the crowd CHEER. DENNIS "DIMMEY" ROBERTS, 18, white, announces the game from a desk.

DIMMEY

And that's game! The Mad-Town All-Stars move on!

MOMENTS LATER

The Mil-Town All-Stars play against another team. Berniece passes the ball to Dimmey's father, TIMMY, 40's, white, who dribbles past a defender and shoots the ball.

DIMMEY

Roberts, whose good looks runs in the family, shoots the ball. It misses the basket!

The ball BOINKS off the rim. Marty jumps up, catches the ball, and dunks it. The crowd ERUPTS and takes pics with their phones.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

And Marty O'Dell with the rebound and jam! Man, is there anything he can't do?

Eleanor approaches him.

ELEANOR

Well...

ERIC'S TEAM

(calls out)

Shut up, Eleanor!

Eleanor BLOWS her whistle in their direction and signals to them.

DIMMEY

Mil-Town All-Stars, 51, Bus Riders, 20.

The team named, "THE BUS RIDERS", sits behind a sign that says their name. Among the players are MARY, 18, black, and VANKA, white, who speaks with a Russian accent.

VANKA

I come all the way for Russia for "dis"?

MARY

Calm down. At least they brought you back.

LATER

DIMMEY

And the final competition is set, folks! The Mil-Town All-Stars versus The Mad-Town All-Stars!

The crowd CHEERS, as do both teams. Eric approaches Billy.

ERIC

Hey, bro, good luck!

BILLY

Leave me alone!

ERIC

What's up with you?

BILLY

Why's it always a competition, huh? It ain't good enough for you to be the favorite, or go to college early, or have a steady girlfriend?

ERIC

Well, what about you? Always throwing your grades in my face? Correcting my English? Acting like your crap don't stink?

BILLY

I don't wanna hear it! Just get your team ready!

ERIC

Fine, I will!

They both march away.

LATER

The teams circle around Eleanor, who holds the basketball.

ELEANOR

Alright, guys, this is for all the marbles. That goes to charity. Just pretend like the marbles are going to you.

She tosses the ball up. Marty jumps and tips it to Timmy, who dribbles it and lays it up. The crowd CHEERS.

DIMMEY

And Roberts gets it started! 2-0, Mil-Town!

MONTAGE - FINAL COMPETITION

-- Mildred dribbles through her legs and passes the ball to Patty, who then passes it to Carletha, who makes a jump shot. Their team and some of the crowd CHEER.

DIMMEY

8-7, Mad-Town!

-- Timmy passes the ball inbound to Berniece. She approaches Mildred, fakes a right, then dribbles left. She drives to the hoop and lays it in. Her team CHEERS.

ERIC

Yeah, baby! That's what I'm talkin'
'bout!

DIMMEY

And they're just trading back and forth!
9-8, Mil-Town!

-- Timmy dribbles the ball and faces a tall, gruff, female inmate from the other team.

INMATE

You sure you wanna do that?

-- Timmy stops in his tracks and continues dribbling. He GULPS.

ERIC

C'mon, Timmy!

-- Carletha steals the ball.

DIMMEY

And Roberts, no relation, turns it over!

-- Carletha passes it to Sharon, who passes it back to Carletha, who lays it in. The crowd CHEERS.

DIMMEY (CONT'D)

And makes him pay!

-- Timmy walks past Dimmey.

TIMMY

And the announcer will be grounded!

DIMMEY

Hmmph.

END OF MONTAGE

MOMENTS LATER

DIMMEY

The game is tied up, ya'll! Only five minutes left! Junior takes the ball out.

Junior dribbles the ball. He stops and looks around.

CARLETHA

Right here, Junior!

Junior takes a step and dribbles. Eleanor BLOWS the whistle.

DIMMEY

Turnover by Mad-Town!

JUNIOR

Oops!

He gives the ball to Eleanor. His team GROANS. Eric calls "time" with his hands.

DIMMEY

Time out, Mil-Town!

Both teams retreat to their benches.

BILLY

Dad, that's the fourth time you did that! I thought you said you played ball in high school!

JUNIOR

I did! Not for the team or anything!

BILLY

Dad, sit down!

JUNIOR

But, son...

BILLY

Sit down!

Junior sits. Billy talks with the rest of the team.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Patty, you sub for Junior. Marty's your man.

PATTY

Ooh, I wish!

Gina sits in the crowd behind them.

GINA

Hey!

BILLY

Alright, alright! Tighten up on the defense, and let's get it!

They all CLAP once and break. Carletha sits on the bench and faces Gina.

CARLETHA

I know how you feel. I'm protective of my man, too.

GINA

Who's your man?

CARLETHA

The coach!

INMATE #2

What? You trippin'! Mr. Nelson is my man!

PAULETTA

(to Sharon)

You better talk to them, Sharon. They're fighting over your man!

INMATE #2

(to Sharon)

Now you're sayin' he's your man?

SHARON

No! He's just my baby daddy! Ya'll can have him!

INMATE #3

No they can't, because his thang belongs to me!

INMATE #4

And it's a nice one!

(to Sharon)

Right?

SHARON

Girl, I...

(pause)

...I'm staying outta this.

CARLETHA

All ya'll broads is wrong! He's mine! He even getting me outta prison!

INMATE #2

You're leaving, so you won't be around him, then!

Carletha approaches her.

CARLETHA

You better shut up!

INMATE #2

And who's gonna make me?

INMATE #5

Hey, ya'll, stop it! Ya'll can't be fighting over no man!

(pause)

Especially since he's mine!

INMATE #6

Hey, me and Billy will always have the broom closet!

OTHER INMATES

"Broom closet"??

INMATE #3

That's our place!

The inmates ARGUE, push, shove and throw punches. The crowd CLAMORS and take pics. Eleanor BLOWS her whistle repeatedly.

ELEANOR

Hey! Technical foul for fighting!

GINA

Each other?

The inmates keep fighting. Eleanor runs to Dimmey's microphone.

DIMMEY

Oh, girls, watch the hair! Who knew a prison fight would be so dangerous?

ELEANOR

(in the mic)

Stop it right now, or you'll be disqualified! Where's Billy?

Matt and Rhonda are in the audience and look around.

MATT

Hey, where is Billy?

ELEANOR

If the coach isn't here, then his team forfeits!

DIMMEY

And then?

ELEANOR

And then Eric's team wins!

RHONDA

Hey, where's Eric?

PAUSE.

ELEANOR

Ladies, continue fighting among yourselves. Everybody else, haul ass.

The inmates continue fighting. Everyone else runs away and YELLS.

INT. ERIC'S CAR - SAME

Eric drives. Billy slowly rises up from the passenger's seat.

BILLY

Is the coast clear?

ERIC

I guess.

BILLY

You didn't have to do this, Eric!

ERIC

You crazy? You would've gotten killed out there! On and off the court! And then I would have no one to borrow money from.

BILLY

And you still don't. Well, since we both left, neither of our teams win.

ERIC

I know. The "Toenail Fungus Association" will be very disappointed.

BILLY
And now I'm out of a job.

ERIC
(sighs)
Billy, you still have your job, and your
girl is still getting out of jail.

BILLY
Really? Damn! What, do you have naked
pics of the warden?

ERIC
(groans)
Yes. With you in them.

BILLY
(groans)
Oh yeah.

A female inmate rises up from the back seat.

INMATE #7
That warden ain't got nothin' on me, Mr.
Nelson.

Eric and Billy, both startled, face her.

ERIC AND BILLY
AAAAUUUUGGGHHH!!!

INT. ERIC'S ROOM - DAY

Eric sits on the couch and watches TV.

SFX: Door KNOCK!

ERIC
Open!

Marty enters.

MARTY
Hey, Eric.

ERIC
Oh, Marty, sorry I left ya'll hanging. I
guess the benefit game is ruined.

MARTY

Not really. After the fire department hosed down the inmates, which you really should've stayed to see, the two runners-up played against each other. The "One-Notes" ended up taking home the trophy.

INT. OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT - FLASHBACK

The One-Notes stand in front of a sign that says their name. They hold up a trophy. Among the teammates are KATHY and KEISHA HUGHES, two black, Gothic teenagers with black makeup. They both speak in a dull voice.

KATHY

It's great that we traded with the Mutes for the MVP, Chaz Trepur.

KEISHA

Hmmph. Whateva.

CHAZ TREPUR, black, lies on the bleachers and snuggles with a trophy that reads, "MVP". He SNORES.

BACK TO PRESENT SCENE

ERIC

So you ain't mad at me?

MARTY

No, man! There's great reels and memes and stuff of me now! You helped revive my career! I can go back and play football again!

Eleanor's boyfriend enters the room.

ELEANOR'S BOYFRIEND

Marty! I thought your team was playing the Bills!

MARTY

Oh, dang, that's today??

Eric SIGHS.

THE END