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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

an original photoplay

by

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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story 1.

FADE IN:

A1 BLACK & WHITE FOOTAGE A1

of bizarre "sports" plays. Horses pull skiers down snowy slopes. Men joust on row boats. Two teams on motorcycles play soccer. Underwater, a man spins and throws a sledgehammer for distance, underwater fans applaud.

We enjoy the strangeness as CREDITS ROLL and then...

DISSOLVE TO:

1 INT. SMALL BATHROOM - DAY 1

The bathroom light is FLICKED ON to reveal a HOMEELY MAN who stares into the mirror, fingering his dark circles and thinning hair.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Tired of the same old you?

2 INT. BAR - NIGHT 2

Smiling at a PRETTY GIRL, a GEEKY MAN casually leans against the bar, knocking his drink over in the process.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Tired of being out-of-shape and out-of-luck with the opposite sex?

A3 INT. AIRPLANE - DAY A3

An OVERWEIGHT WOMAN is scrunched in a middle seat.

NARRATOR (V.O.)
Tired of being over-weight and under-attractive?

She looks over at a BEAUTIFUL THIN WOMAN who laughs and sips champagne as two HANDSOME MEN sitting on either side, hit on her. Sigh.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Well suffer the shame and embarrassment of yourself no longer!

3 OMITTED 3

4 INT. GLOBO GYM - DAY 4

A huge warehouse of a space: chrome, glass and neon abound. It's more techno-dance club than gym.

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2.

4 CONTINUED:

4

QUICK CUTS of beautiful MEN and WOMEN wearing designer Globo Gym outfits as they aerobicize, lift and flirt, music THUMPING and BUMPING.

A SEXY WOMAN squeezes her legs together on a workout machine as suddenly WHITE GOODMAN (30's) pops up between them.

WHITE GOODMAN

Oh, hello there. I'm White Goodman, owner, operator and founder of Globo Gym America Corp. And I'm here to tell you that you don't have to be stuck with what you've got.

Overly tan, White sports a feathered and highlighted lion's mane hair do, with a carefully manicured Fu-Manchu moustache and a soul patch.

White begins touring through Globo Gym, turning corners as we CUT TO different camera angles.

WHITE GOODMAN (CONT'D)

(to passing man)

Hey Rory, looking good.

(back to camera)

Here at Globo Gym we understand that "ugliness" and "fatness" are genetic disorders, much like baldness or necrophilia. And it's only your fault if you don't hate yourself enough to do something about it.

(a big smile)

And that's where we come in.

White turns a corner, passing rows of BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE on stair-masters, all talking on cell phones.

WHITE GOODMAN (CONT'D)

Globo Gym employs a highly-trained staff of Personal Alteration Specialists, like Alec here...

White stops next to ALEC, patting him on the shoulder as the muscle-bound Austrian watches over a WOMAN doing leg curls.

WHITE GOODMAN (CONT'D)

Making her work, Alec?

ALEC

Yah. Is sveat like pig.

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4 CONTINUED: (2) 3. 4

WHITE GOODMAN
Atta boy.

White continues on, passing a ROCK CLIMBING wall...

WHITE GOODMAN (CONT'D)
And with our competitively-priced on-site cosmetic surgery, we can turn that Frankenstein you see in the mirror every morning, into a Franken-Fine.
(beat)
Just think of Globo Gym as your one-stop Shame Reduction Center.

CUT TO:

5 THE SHAME REDUCTION CENTER 5

Doors swing open revealing a MUMMIFIED WOMAN, wrapped head-to-toe in gauze, offering a thumbs up as she's wheeled by.

BACK TO:

6 WHITE GOODMAN 6

Of course, you'll still be you, in a "legal" sense, but think of it as a thinner, more attractive, better you than you could ever become without us.
(beat)
How do I know? Well I'm not only the founder of Globo Gym...

FLASH CUT TO:

7 A PHOTOGRAPH OF A 500 POUND, BED-RIDDEN, NAKED MAN. 7

Thankfully, a black bar covers his sweaty genitalia. The caption reads: **White Goodman, 1987.**

WHITE GOODMAN (V.O.)
I'm also a client.

BACK TO:

8 INT. GLOBO GYM / FRONT DESK - SAME 8

White casually hands out towels to passing GYM MEMBERS.

WHITE GOODMAN
So come on down and join the winning team.
(beat, a motto)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



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4.

8 CONTINUED:

8

WHITE GOODMAN (CONT'D)

Because here at Globo Gym: We're better than you, and we know it.™

White's salesman smile is replaced by the Globo Gym Logo. It's then that we PULL BACK to reveal that we're actually watching a small TELEVISION SCREEN in...

9 INT. HEALTH FOOD STORE / FRONT COUNTER - DAY

9

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Sign up now and receive a complimentary granola genital scrub!

...where we FOLLOW an EMPLOYEE as he passes by and we SETTLE on

PETER LaFLEUR, handsome in a thrift-store sort of way. Peter rolls his eyes at the commercial and spies a very ATTRACTIVE WOMAN watching the same TV.

PETER

Boy, I need hair like that.

The Attractive Woman looks over.

PETER (CONT'D)

You know, real aggressive, feathered, go-getter type hair. I think that's what's been holding me back.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

You think that's all?

PETER

Well, you need every advantage you can get in the fitness game.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

The fitness game?

PETER

I own a little gym on the corner.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

You don't look like a gym owner.

PETER

Thank you. Thank you for that because I don't like to flaunt my physique. I'm tired of being judged based on my body. I want people to get to know the chewy chocolate center that's me, not just the candy coated shell -- you know?

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5.

9 CONTINUED:

9

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

I see.

PETER

So when we're in the couples beach volleyball game, then I take my shirt off and - POW - you get the abs, you get the back muscles, and you're like "wow" I never knew a man could be so open and in touch with his feminine side as well as be in such great shape.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

That's a pretty detailed fantasy.

PETER

Look, I'm into health. Clearly, you're into health. What say we get together, I'm thinking over dinner, and talk about your health.

Just then, a HEALTH FOOD CLERK comes back to the counter.

HEALTH FOOD CLERK

Hey Pal, I checked in the back, we don't have any cigarettes. Sorry.

Peter smiles at the woman, then turns to the Clerk.

PETER

(reading the clerk's name-tag)
Thank you...Stuart, for the help.

The Clerk shrugs and leaves as Peter turns back to the woman.

PETER (CONT'D)

Ha-ha. Kids. So...where were we?

Just then, her MUSCLE-BOUND BOYFRIEND arrives, shooting a side-long glance at Peter.

MUSCLE-BOUND BOYFRIEND

Come on, babe. They're out of Creatine.

The woman smiles at Peter, oh well, and the two depart.

Peter takes out the last cigarette in his pack, lighting it.

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9 CONTINUED: (2) 9

As we watch them leave we get a good look at the WINDBREAKER JACKET that the boyfriend wears which bears the insignia for GLOBO GYM. We hold on that insignia then

MATCH CUT TO:

10 OMITTED 10

11 OMITTED 11

12 EXT. GLOBO GYM - DAY 12

The Globo Gym Logo sitting proudly on this gleaming monolith of fitness. Huge walls of black mirrored glass make the building look more like the Death Star than a gym.

We pull back from the sign and pan over and down to reveal...

AVERAGE JOE'S GYM

This sweetly dilapidated brick building has seen better days in it's 50 plus years on the corner.

Peter pulls into his parking spot, cutting the engine just before it coughs to a stall.

He gets out as we hear the sound of music thumping and bumping. Peter looks across the street to see...

GLOBO GYM.

BACK TO:

PETER

who steps on his cigarette and crushes the empty beer can, tossing it in the back seat.

13 INT. AVERAGE JOE'S GYM / FRONT DESK - DAY 13

Where we find OWEN, rail thin and anxiously standing over the speakerphone...

COMPUTERIZED VOICE

Welcome to Romance Ahoy! America's #1
Dating Connection! Please dial your --

Owen quickly types in his pass code and waits breathlessly.

COMPUTERIZED VOICE (CONT'D)

Thank you for checking your Personal
Romance In-Box!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



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7.

13 CONTINUED:

13

COMPUTERIZED VOICE (CONT'D)

There are **-ZERO-** people interested in dating you. Congratulations! Thank you for using *Romance Ahoy!* America's #1 Roma-

Owen hangs-up. Sigh. Just then, DWIGHT (African-American, 30's) enters carrying a basket of thread-bare towels. He puts them down and pulls out a flyer. *

DWIGHT

Man, these Globo Gym flyers are everywhere. I got two today alone. One in the mail and one on my car.

(beat)

I'm telling you, Owen, marketing is the key. That's the only way we're gonna be competitive in a competitive market place. It's all about how we sell Average Joe's to the public.

Owen grabs the towels and starts rolling them up.

OWEN

You think?

DWIGHT

That's how they do it at Globo Gym. They think *strategically* over there. That's the difference. You see, when I worked over there...

OWEN

As a trainee.

DWIGHT

Trainee Train-~~er~~.

OWEN

Right. And you got fired.

DWIGHT

I wasn't fired, I left. Okay? Too corporate over there. Too corporate. I always said that.

(noticing Owen's work)

Wait, what are you doing?

OWEN

I'm folding the towels like you told me.

DWIGHT

No-no. You're *rolling* the towels. I asked you to fold them. Squares.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



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8.

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

Squares is folding. Look man, I can't trust you with the towel-folding responsibility if you're gonna be creative about it.

Owen fingers his glasses back against his face.

OWEN

Sorry, Dwight. I'll redo them.

DWIGHT

Alright, good. Now, I'm gonna go make some chocolate.

Dwight heads to the bathroom, just then front door opens and Peter breezes in...

PETER

Buenos Dias "O", how's my little tax shelter this morning?

OWEN

Hey, Peter. Everything's ship-shape.

Cruising behind the counter Peter grabs a juice box from the mini-fridge. He notices Owen's dour demeanor.

PETER

What's up? Why the long face?

OWEN

Ah, nothing. It's just, I'm doing this voicemail dating thing, and no one has left me a message yet -- it's been almost two months.

PETER

Keep your chin up. There's someone out there for you.

OWEN

You think?

PETER

Absolutely. And sometimes there's two somebodies for one person, and that's when I recommend ample lubricant. Don't go trying to be a hero, Owen. Nobody likes a sexual showboat.

Owen chuckles, a little happier.

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9.

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

OWEN

Thanks, Peter.

PETER

No problem. I'm gonna catch a power-nap
in my office. Wake me for lunch.

(noticing)

Nice work with the towels. I like the
rolling. Very "Day Spa."

Owen brightens as Peter moves off.

14 INT. AVERAGE JOE'S GYM / MAIN WEIGHT ROOM - CONTINUOUS

14

Peter moves past the 10 year-old equipment nodding his hellos
to his MEAGER CLIENTELE ("Looking good Mr. Johnson." "Have
you lost weight, Mrs. Sanchez?", etc.)

GORDON (O.S.)

Hey, Peter!

GORDON (30's) a chubby guy sporting a spiffy Nike ensemble,
is Average Joe's resident sports nut. He hustles over to
Peter who doesn't stop walking. They walk and talk.

GORDON (CONT'D)

I'm really whaling on my glutes this
morning.

PETER

Sounds great, Gord.

GORDON

Gonna shock the biceps later, then finish
with some cardio. You know, change it
up, keep the body guessing.

PETER

That's always been my approach.

GORDON

Hey, did ya catch the game last night?

PETER

Can I say yes?

GORDON

Amateur Curling Championships on ESPN 8.
Wow. You missed a doozy. Really great
stuff.

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100.

105 CONTINUED:

105

DWIGHT

Cuz he knows we're gonna get killed out there, that's why.

KATE

That's not true. I don't know why Peter left, but we can do it without him. Owen, you'll just have to play.

GORDON

That's great, but we'd still be two players short.

DWIGHT

Yeah, we're also missing the teenage love puppy and Steve The Pirate.

That last bit catches Owen funny...

OWEN

Who's Steve The Pirate?

Dwight looks at Owen, puzzled by the question...

DWIGHT

The only guy on our team who dresses like a pirate.

OWEN

Wait, there's a guy on our team who dresses like a pirate?

CUT TO:

106 EXT. NATIONAL CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONSHIPS - DAY

106

A huge crowd has gathered, waiting for the finale to the finals, which is being televised nationally by Fox Sports.

BACKSTAGE

Dressed in a cheerleading uniform, Justin stands just off stage with the other WEST DAVENPORT CHEERLEADERS. He checks his watch. It's 10 minutes to noon -- he's cutting it really close.

A ribbon in her blonde hair, Amber bounces up to Justin.

AMBER

You ready?

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101.

106 CONTINUED:

106

JUSTIN
(smiling, deeply in love)
You bet.

Justin looks over at Derek, who lays on a GURNEY in a full body cast. Justin gives Derek the thumbs-up.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)
Thanks for the uniform Derek.

DEREK
(muffled)
Ferck Go!

AMBER
Come on, we're up. You ready?

Justin smiles through his butterflies.

JUSTIN
Let's do this.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
And now the last squad in the final competition, let's hear it for the West Davenport High Chargin' Donkeys!

The crowd CHEERS and Justin runs out with the team. A CLUB MUSIC MIX blasts from the speakers as we begin a montage of:

JUSTIN

moving and turning, jumping and clapping, in perfect sync with the rest of the team. The crowd loves it.

Justin comes to the finale with Amber in front of him. She sneaks a peek at him, Justin looks nervous.

A breath, then he lifts her, tossing Amber high into the air where she spins in slow-motion for a long moment, then WHOOSH! regular speed returns and Amber descends in a blur...

Justin catches Amber perfectly! As they both hit their marks in-time, smiling broadly as the music cuts out.

The crowd goes wild and the Fox Sports cameras televise the excitement. The West Davenport Donkeys hug and high five, celebrating their performance. Amber screams with joy and hugs Justin.

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106 CONTINUED: (2)

106

AMBER

You did it! You did it! That was perfect! You were perfect!

Justin is caught up in the moment, then suddenly remembers...

JUSTIN

Oh my God! I gotta go!

AMBER

What? You're not staying for the trophy?

JUSTIN

Sorry Amber, I've got my own trophy to win.

Justin hurries off, leaving Amber a little disappointed.

A moment passes, then Justin rushes back in, grabbing hold of Amber and kissing her -- hard. Justin lets go. Amber swoons.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Now I'm going.

And with that, he's gone, just like the Lone Ranger.

CUT TO:

107 INT. LOCKER ROOM - SAME

107

Where things are much the same...

DWIGHT

(covering one eye, imitating)
Argh! Shiver me timbers. Blow the man down. Steve. Steve The Pirate.

Owen blinks, confused.

OWEN

Nope, not ringing any bells.

DWIGHT

(disgusted)
Forget it.

By the door, Kate stands with the Referee and the DODGEBALL CHANCELLOR, the conversation isn't going well...

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DODGEBALL CHANCELLOR

I'm sorry Miss, but there's nothing I can do. Rules are rules. You don't have enough players.

(to the Referee)

Inform the committee and Mr. Goodman of Average Joe's forfeit.

(to Kate)

Better luck next year.

The Dodgeball Chancellor and the Referee leave passing Justin who hustles through the door.

JUSTIN

Sorry I'm late, but you'll never believe what happened.

KATE

That's alright, Justin.

DWIGHT

Yeah, you're just in time to help us forfeit.

JUSTIN

Forfeit? Why?

CUT TO:

108 INT. LAS VEGAS AIRPORT / "LAST CHANCE" CASINO AREA - DAY

108

This section of the airport has been given over to the gambling gods. Peter sits at the Sportsbook bar looking miserable.

He sees his captain's jersey sticking out of his carry-on bag. Peter shoves it back in, zipping up the bag.

Just then, a HANDSOME ATHLETIC MAN orders from the bartender...

HANDSOME ATHLETIC MAN

Just an ice water, please.

(noticing Peter)

Hey, aren't you Peter LaFleur?

Peter looks over, surprised someone recognizes him. The man extends his hand, Peter shakes it dubiously.

LANCE ARMSTRONG

Lance Armstrong. I'm a big fan of yours.

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104.

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PETER

Really?

LANCE ARMSTRONG

Oh yeah, I've been watching the dodgeball tournament on the Ocho. I'm addicted to ESPN 8, can't get enough. Anyhow, I'm really pulling for you guys against those jerks from Globo Gym.

(checking his watch)

Hey, better hurry up or you're gonna be late.

PETER

Actually Lance, I decided to quit.

That hits home with Lance. He sighs...

LANCE ARMSTRONG

Boy, I know what that's like. When I had brain, lung and testicular cancer, all at the same time, I thought about quitting cycling too. But with faith and the love and support of my friends and family I beat cancer and went on to win the Tour de France five times in a row. But I guess you probably have a really good reason to quit.

(beat)

So, what are you dying from that's keeping you from the finals?

PETER

Well, right now it feels a little like shame.

LANCE ARMSTRONG

That's okay. Heck, I guess if a person never quit when the going got tough, he wouldn't have anything to regret for the rest of his life, right?

(beat)

Good luck to you, Peter. I'm sure this decision won't haunt you forever.

With that, Lance Armstrong pats Peter on the shoulder, tips nicely and heads off.

A moment passes as Peter considers the strangeness of what just happened. He looks around the room, then decides. Reaching into his bag, Peter grabs his jersey and hastily pays his bill.

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105.

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A KENO WAITRESS sidles up to Peter.

KENO WAITRESS

Keno?

PETER

No thanks. I've never been very good at picking random numbers.

KENO WAITRESS

Just pick your birthday, that's what I do. That way, it's like you're betting on yourself.

Peter stops short and stares at the waitress as mental tumblers start to fall in place. Peter has a plan. He smiles, kissing the Keno Waitress squarely on her lips.

PETER

Thank you.

He tosses a \$50 on her tray and rushes out the door, briefcase in hand. The Keno Waitress shrugs, moving off as we PUSH IN on the TELEVISION where we hear a very familiar voice...

COTTON MCKNIGHT (V.O.)

Hello everybody, and welcome to what you've all been waiting for...

MATCH CUT TO:

109 INT. DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT FLOOR / ESPN 8 DESK - CONTINUOUS

109

COTTON MCKNIGHT

...a David and Goliath story, truer than the Bible itself -- the championship dodgeball match here on ESPN 8, the Ocho. I'm Cotton McKnight and with me as always is my compadré, Pepper Brooks. Pep?

PEPPER BROOKS

Thanks, Cotton. You know, I spoke with White Goodman before today's match and he told me that his team really wants to win this one.

A long moment as Pepper blinks into camera. That's the end of his point. Cotton jumps in, taking over.

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109

COTTON MCKNIGHT

Right you are, and it seems as though the stage is set for Darwin's cruelest play to unfold here today. So don't go anywhere folks, the schadenfreude is about to begin.

110 INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

110

The locker room is deadly silent. No one looks at each other. Kate does her best to console the distraught team.

KATE

Look, I know it's hard, but...

Kate doesn't have the words. There's no speech to give.

KATE (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's get out there and get this over with.

111 INT. DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT STANDS - MOMENTS LATER

111

The stands are packed. A NERVOUS BUZZ fills the air as people aren't sure what's going on.

Amber and the other cheerleaders make their way through the stands taking a seat next to the S&Mers.

112 AT THE ESPN 8 DESK,

112

Cotton McKnight vamps for time...

COTTON MCKNIGHT

Well folks, I don't know what to tell you, but...

(plugging his ear)

Yes. I'm being told that Average Joe's is, in fact, forfeiting the championship match.

PEPPER BROOKS

A bold strategy, Cotton. Let's see if it pays off for them.

COTTON MCKNIGHT

And down to the tournament floor we go for the scepter presentation.



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113 INT. DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT / CENTER COURT - SAME

113

The Globo Gym team and Average Joe's stand on either side off a four foot GILDED SCEPTER which serves as the dodgeball trophy.

White looks over at Kate and gives her a shit-eating, fuck-you grin. It's unbearable.

The Dodgeball Chancellor stands in the middle for the presentation.

DODGEBALL CHANCELLOR

Ladies and Gentleman, by the power vested in my by our governing body, the American Dodgeball Association of America, and in concordance with our sponsors Flooring Liquidators and Omaha Steaks, it gives me great pleasure to declare the winner of this year's Las Vegas International tournament...

Suddenly in the crowd, Amber SCREAMS...

AMBER

Wait! He's here!

The crowd rises to their feet, craning their necks to see...

PETER

slipping on his jersey as he runs onto the court, passing his teammates without breaking stride...

PETER

Hey, guys. Sorry I'm late.

...stopping at the Dodgeball Chancellor, who covers the mic.

PETER (CONT'D)

Our team's ready to play, your honor.

WHITE GOODMAN

Too late, LaFleur. Your losers already forfeited. The trophy and the money are mine.

DODGEBALL CHANCELLOR

I'm afraid he's right. Your team has already forfeited. There's nothing you can do.

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113 CONTINUED:

113

WHITE GOODMAN

Whoo! Facial, LaFleur! Total Facial!

Gordon looks up from his ADAA rule book.

GORDON

Actually, that's not true. The tournament committee can over-turn the chancellor's decision by a 2/3rds vote.

WHITE GOODMAN

What?

DODGEBALL CHANCELLOR

I'm afraid he's right. It's a bylaw.

The Dodgeball Chancellor looks over at the phalanx of SECURITY surrounding three unseen COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

Peter looks over to his team, they wait nervously.

The crowd senses the debate happening on the court floor. They begin a chant that builds to a deafening ROAR...

CROWD

LET THEM PLAY! LET THEM PLAY! LET THEM PLAY!

It's a long moment as we see the hope and desperation in the eyes of the Average Joe's squad, awaiting judgement.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)

Well folks, it's clear what the crowd here wants, but the committee members have the final say. And it looks like they've come to a decision.

AT THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE DESK

We TRACK OVER each COMMITTEE MEMBER as they give their vote with a thumbs up or thumbs-down.

COMMITTEE MEMBER #1, a female librarian type, gives a thumbs-up.

The crowd CHEERS. White winces as Joe's spirits are lifted.

COMMITTEE MEMBER #2, a stodgy bearded man, gives a thumbs-down.

The crowd BOOS heartily. White gives Peter a confident smile.

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113 CONTINUED: (2)

113

We TRACK onto our last committee member and reveal that it's...

WILLIAM SHATNER.

He plays to the crowd, teasing the moment out before finally giving us a...THUMBS UP!

The crowd CHEERS wildly! The ADAA Dancers bounce and kick!

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Holy smokes! Celebrity judge William Shatner says, Average Joe's can play!

White is livid. Peter calls over, pointing...

PETER
Thank you, William Shatner!

The Referee calls Peter and White to center court.

REFBREE
Okay you both know the rules. Shake hands and let's have a clean match.

Peter and White shake hands.

PETER
Good luck, White.

WHITE GOODMAN
Cram it, LaFleur. Prepare to be humiliated on cable television.

The two part, heading in opposite directions. Kate meets Peter halfway as he heading back to his team.

KATE
Where were you, Peter? What's going on?

PETER
Relax, Kate. I have a plan.

Kate's not buying it.

PETER (CONT'D)
Trust me.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)



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113

ON JOE'S SIDE, THE TEAM HUDDLES UP.

PETER (CONT'D)

Okay guys, let's play smart. Wait for the two-on-one's, cover closely for pick-ups and what's our team motto?

OWEN

Aim low?

PETER

That's right. So let's just go out there, let it all hang loose and have some fun. I mean, it's only dodgeball, right?

The team laughs a little, letting out some tension.

PETER (CONT'D)

Alright then, put 'em in.

The team does. Peter looks at each player, smiling.

PETER (CONT'D)

(quickly)
One-two-three!

EVERYONE

Joe's!

CUT TO:

114 THE REFEREE

114

He looks at each side. It's a tense build-up.

REFEREE

Average Joe's, ready?
(turning)
Globo Gym, ready?
(beat)
Dodgeball!

And the game is on. Balls fly. Players duck and throw, dodge and jump. For the first few moments we enjoy the chaos of the game. The match seems evenly drawn. Our scrappy team is holding their own.

The crowd, Amber and the S&Mers cheer with all they've got.

Then, Globo Gym makes its move:

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

111.

114 CONTINUED:

114

White and a TEAMMATE tag Kate, WHACK-SMACK! She's gone.

At the same moment, Peter retaliates, hitting White on the shoulder, but his ball ricochets into the air and is caught by a GLOBO GYM-ER before it hits the ground -- eliminating Peter.

With their two best players out, things get rapidly worse for Average Joe's:

Owen spins and is about to fire on an opposing player when he realizes it's Fran She stops too, holding her dodgeball.

OWEN

Hi.

FRAN

Hey.

Dumbly smiling, they're both too in love to throw at each other. Then, BAM! BAM! each is hit -- eliminated.

Dwight ducks a ball then pegs Me'Shell in the hip.

DWIGHT

Yeah! Who's the trainee, now, bitch?!

Dwight makes a nice move to avoid two balls, but is hit by a third.

Gordon drills a Globo Gymer and throws a ball at another, its caught eliminating him and bringing Me'Shell back in.

Suddenly, it's just Justin left, facing five Globo Gym-ers.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)

Well, it's all up to Average Joe's youngest member -- he's gotta make a play here, Pepper.

In the crowd, a worried Amber grips the hand of an S&Mer. Again the crowd starts POUNDING the plexi-glass. It's deafening.

On the bench, Peter and the others won't look at each other. They're all thinking the same thing: it's over.

On the balls of his feet, Justin dodges two balls then dives toward the Joe's bench, catching a ball as he slides to a stop.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

112.

114 CONTINUED: (2)

114

In a flash, Kate leaps off the bench, diving to catch a ball that would've eliminated the prone Justin. It's a slick play, especially so because now Peter's off the bench and in the mix.

Amber and the others ROAR, hugging with relief and excitement.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Holy smokes! Just like that, a three-
player swing! Joe's isn't done yet!

In the crowd, Amber can't hold in her excitement any longer...

AMBER
Justin! I love you!

Shocked, Justin looks into the stands to see a blushing Amber.

JUSTIN
I love you t--

WHACK! Justin gets hit, going down hard. Amber winces.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)
Ooh! True love hurts, folks!

Suddenly there are two players left on each side. White and Me'Shell for Globo Gym, Peter and Kate for Joe's.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Two players left on each side, what a
match! What a sport!

Kate dodges White's throw as Peter makes a break to pick-up a ball stumbling badly and falling to the floor.

Me'Shell seizes the opportunity, hurling his ball right for the defenseless Peter. At the last moment, Kate dives in front of Peter.

KATE
(slo-mo voice)
NOOOOOOOOO!!!

WHACK! Kate takes the dodgeball bullet for Peter. He's amazed by her sacrifice, it's a moment. White jealously notices.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

113.

114 CONTINUED: (3)

114

Speed returns as Kate gets up to walk off the court, but not before White, unable to hold himself back, takes dead-aim at the eliminated Kate, whipping his ball at her and hitting her flush in the mouth with a clearly intentional cheap shot -- WHACK!

Kate falls to the hardwood. The crowd BOOS heartily. On the bench, Dwight and the others are furious.

The Referee BLOWS his whistle, stopping play. He pulls a strange RED TASSEL from his pocket, waving it at White.

REFBREE

That's a warning!

WHITE GOODMAN

What?! It was an accident! Gimme a break, Ref!

But the referee isn't buying it...

REFBREE

Turn! Kneel!

WHITE GOODMAN

Oh, sweet Linus!

White SLAMS his dodgeball into the court, furious with the call.

As custom dictates, White kneels in the triangle floor marking.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)

Ooh! White Goodman is sent to the Shame Triangle. You don't see that often.

PEPPER BROOKS (O.S.)

Well that's what its there for, Cotton. Shame.

Peter rushes over to help Kate whose mouth is bloody.

PETER

Jesus, are you okay?

KATE

Yeah, I'm fine.

REFBREE

Sorry Miss, but you're out, gotta get off the court.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

114.

114 CONTINUED: (4)

114

Helping her to her feet, Peter glares over at White.

KATE

Hey, Peter?

PETER

Yeah?

KATE

Kick his ass.

Peter nods. Kate heads off. Peter walks back to center court.

REFEREE

Players to your positions!

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)

Folks, it looks like it's gonna be two on one, a ménage-a-trois of pain.

PEPPER BROOKS (O.S.)

Usually you pay double for that kind of action, Cotton.

The Referee BLOWS his whistle and, fast as lightening, Peter jumps a ball from Me'Shell, then hurls his own, WHACK! eliminating the huge man. Average Joe's bench CHEERS!

At the same time, White throws at Peter who sees it a split-second too late...

THUD!

Hit squarely in the chest, Peter is eliminated. It's over.

The moment is drawn out: The crowd looks on, shocked. Kate, Dwight and the others are heart-broken.

White raises his arms in victory...

WHITE GOODMAN

Whoo-hoo! Yeah!

Then suddenly, the Referee blows his whistle, waving his hands wildly and rushing toward us.

REFEREE

No elimination! Double-fault! Double-fault!

(pointing at White's foot)

You stepped over the line on the throw!

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

115.

114 CONTINUED: (5)

114

White looks down. Indeed, his foot is on the line.

WHITE GOODMAN

What!? This is outrageous!

REFEREE

It's ADAA Continuation Rule 113D, sir.
(motioning to the crowd)
Sudden Death!

The crowd goes NUTS! Free dodgeball! The ADAA dancers kick with excitement!

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)

(gravely serious)

A double-fault, final play elimination hasn't occurred since the Helsinki Episode of 1919, and I think we all remember how that turned out.

(beat)

Ladies and gentleman, prepare to see the greatest happening in sport: Sudden Death Dodgeball.

The referee calls White and Peter to center court.

REFEREE

This is Sudden Death. Only striking the opposing player eliminates him. Catching a ball does nothing. Both feet must remain in the triangle and you may throw anytime after my call. Understood?

Peter and White nod, staring daggers at each other.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Okay, lets have a clean match.

The Referee walks away leaving White and Peter alone.

WHITE GOODMAN

This is it, Lafleur. You ready for the "Hurricane" !?

White does a weird "Hurricane" pose and makes laser-beam noises.

PETER

Just don't go cryin' to Momma when I spank you in front of all these people.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

116.

114 CONTINUED: (6)

114

WHITE GOODMAN
(scoffing)
Bring it, Cholo.

The two part, but Peter calls back...

PETER
Oh, and White?

WHITE GOODMAN
Yeah?

PETER
You look fat in those pants.

Instantly, White looks stricken. Peter hit him where it hurts. As they part, we see the pressure building in White's eyes, he's starting to crack.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)
It's true what they say ladies and gentleman: this sport doesn't build character, it reveals it.

Peter shoots a glance to the Joe's bench as he walks to his position.

On a thin metal stand, a silver dodgeball waits at hip height.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
It's all about gamesmanship here folks.
Throw too early, and you're defenseless.
Throw too late, and you're eliminated.
Who will make the first move?
(beat)
Dilemma, thy name is Dodgeball.

PEPPER BROOKS (O.S.)
I never liked word problems much, Cotton.

Peter exhales a breath of nervous energy, and sound falls away as he pulls something from his pocket...it's PATCHES' WHITE SILK SCARF.

PETER
Talk to me, Patches. Talk to me.

Suddenly, Patches O'Houlihan appears in a white fuzzy image on the scarf itself...

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

117.

114 CONTINUED: (7)

114

PATCHES O'HOULIHAN (V.O.)

Listen up Crotch Stain, remember what I taught you. Remember your training and trust your instincts.

REFEREE

Players, turn!

White turns to Peter, ready.

Then Peter turns to White, staring him down for a moment before he takes Patches' scarf and ceremonially ties it around his eyes, blindfolding himself.

White looks on, confused and chuckling...

WHITE GOODMAN

You've really lost it, LaFleur.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)

In 23 years of broadcasting, I thought I'd seen it all folks, but it looks like Peter LaFleur has actually blindfolded himself.

PEPPER BROOKS (O.S.)

He's not going to be able to see well, Cotton.

The Joe's bench looks confused. -- what's Peter doing?

REFEREE

Players ready...

White's hand is poised above his ball, a smile creeping across his lips. Peter's remain at his side.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Dodgeball!

Neither player moves. The stillness of the moment is deafening as we see...

White's eyes narrow. A bead of sweat slowly snakes down his temple.

Peter's blindfolded face remains motionless.

White's hand moves even closer to his ball, hovering there, waiting for Peter to make the first move.

Peter's hands are palm open -- vulnerable.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

118.

114 CONTINUED: (8)

114

In the stands, AMBER covers her mouth.

The DODGEBALL DANCERS, posed on their stripper poles, wait.

Cotton is poised to make the final call as Pepper chews his gum in slow motion.

The Dodgeball Chancellor, unwittingly holds hands with David Hasselhoff, both on the edge of their seats.

The Globo Gym bench is stoned-faced, carefully hiding their fear.

On the Average Joe's bench we PUSH IN ON Dwight and Owen hugging. Gordon grips a towel, Justin and Kate hold hands crouched on the floor.

ON PETER'S FACE as we can make the very quiet mantra...

PETER

(sotto)

Dodge, duck, dip, dive, dodge.

(beat)

Dodge, duck, dip, dive, dodge.

White's fingers twitch ever so slightly. Peter remains defenseless. Then...

White snatches his ball and pump fakes. The Joe's bench GASPS!

White smiles, Peter really can't see him. White laughs to himself.

WHITE GOODMAN

Goodbye, LaFleur. I always new you were weak.

White steps and whips on at Peter.

WHOOSH! We FLY RIGHT BEHIND THE BALL as it races for Peter's head.

The ball closes in on Peter's blindfolded face, inches away now...

The Joe's bench try to warn Peter, but there isn't time.

At the last possible second, Peter ducks the throw with Spiderman-like quickness.

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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

119.

114 CONTINUED: (9)

114

We race with the ball as it sails past Peter and hits the plexiglass wall behind.

In that split second, White Goodman inhales with shock.

In one blindingly fast move, Peter drops, grabs his ball and throws.

We RACE with it as it rockets through the air and...

WHACK!!!

Drills White Goodman in the face with such force that it lifts him off his feet and sends him flying back, where he hits the floor with a sickening THUD! White's out cold.

Peter stops, pulling off his blindfold to see his victory. Like a waterfall being turned on, sound rushes back as...

THE AVERAGE JOE'S SQUAD

Bursts from their bench, running toward Peter, SCREAMING in jubilation. They pick him up, carrying him on their shoulders.

The CROWD goes WILD, storming the court. The Globo Gym team is furious. Except for Fran who jumps up to join the celebration.

COTTON MCKNIGHT (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, I've been to the Great Wall of China. I've seen the pyramids of Egypt. I've even witnessed a grown man satisfy a Camel. But I have never, in all my years as a sportscaster, seen something as improbable, as impossible, as what we've witnessed here today.

(dramatic pause)

The little team that could, Average Joe's Gymnasium, underdogs throughout, stand before us aglow in perfect victory, as true Dodgeball Champions.

The Average Joe's players hug each other, jumping up and down.

The momentous moment is broadcast by both ESPN 8 and Fox Sports cameras which rush the floor, capturing the excitement.

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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

120.

114 CONTINUED: (10)

114

The DODGEBALL CHANCELLOR, escorted by two CASINO COPS, holds the over-sized novelty check for \$50,000 and the dodgeball scepter. He shoves his way through the crowd, handing it to Peter. The crowd quiets.

DODGEBALL CHANCELLOR
On behalf of the American Dodgeball Association of America, it's my honor to present you with this check in the amount of \$50,000. Congratulations!

Peter holds the check and scepter aloft as the crowd CHEERS!

PETER
Yeah!

Just then, White Goodman, his face creased with the pattern from Peter's dodgeball, shoves his way to the front.

WHITE GOODMAN
What are you so happy about LaFleur?!
None of this matters!

White clutches the contract Peter signed, waving it around.

WHITE GOODMAN (CONT'D)
You signed your stupid gym over to me last night! You lost! I won! Your gym is mine!
(to the Joe's Squad)
Suck failure, freaks!

The Joe's squad is thunderstruck.

OWEN
Peter, is that true?

Peter looks over his team, they're hanging on his answer. Finally...

PETER
Yeah. It's true.

UGH. The team and the crowd let out a wounded, "Ooh."

PETER (CONT'D)
It's true I sold Average Joe's to White.
It's true that every man has his price.
(sly beat)
And it's also true that money won is twice as sweet as money earned.

(CONTINUED)



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121.

114 CONTINUED: (11)

114

Just then, two CASINO WORKERS wheel in a rack of silver coins held in a clear box.

CASINON WORKER #1

Here are you're winnings, Mr. LaFleur.
Congratulations.

PETER

Right on time, boys. Thanks.

WHITE GOODMAN

Winnings? What winnings?

PETER

Gosh, I thought I told you. You see, I took that \$100,000 bribe you gave me last night and bet it on us to win.

GORDON

What if we lost, Peter?

PETER

Well, I'd rather lose a game than lose my friends.

Our Underdogs smile, touched by the sentiment.

PETER (CONT'D)

More importantly, the odds were 50 to 1 against us, so does anyone know what 50 times \$100,000 is?

OWEN

\$50,000?

KATE

\$5 million. Oh my God, Peter -- that's amazing.

PETER

Surprise.

WHITE GOODMAN

Stick it in your ear, LaFleur! I wouldn't sell you your gym back for \$10 million! It's gone! Forever!

PETER

You're right. I can't make you sell Joe's back me. So I guess I'll take your advice and invest it in something, like, say, a controlling stake in Globo Gym.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

122.

114 CONTINUED: (12)

114

WHITE GOODMAN

What? You can't. I won't allow it!

KATE

Globo Gym is a publicly traded company, there's nothing you can do about it, White.

PETER

So, I'll control Globo Gym and everything that Globo Gym owns, which as of last night, is Average Joe's Gym too.

(waving)

Hi, White. I'm your new boss.

WHITE GOODMAN

What? I...this isn't...

PETER

Oh, and you're fired.

WHITE GOODMAN

No! No! You can't!

Peter smiles, calling out to the crowd...

PETER

Now, who wants to party?!

Everyone CHEERS! A crowd of MEDIA and FANS rush forward. White is knocked to the ground in the tumult and nearly trampled.

PETER AND KATE

stare at each other -- ORCHESTRAL MUSIC lets us know this is the moment.

Peter looks into Kate's eyes and is about to plant one on her when Kate suddenly looks past him...

KATE

Joyce?

PETER

Huh?

Peter turns to see a very sexy woman. This is JOYCE (30's).

KATE

You said you were in Guam!

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

123.

114 CONTINUED: (13)

114

JOYCE

I caught an earlier flight. I wouldn't have missed this for the world.

KATE

You're amazing.

The two women kiss, one long, passionate kiss. Peter is dumbfounded. Dwight sidles up to Peter amid the chaos.

DWIGHT

Told you she was a lesbian.

PETER

Wow. Good call.

Kate turns as she hears this.

KATE

What? I'm not a lesbian.

PETER

You're not?

KATE

No. I'm bisexual.

Before Peter can smile, Kate grabs the back of his neck and plants one on him. The place erupts even louder. Kate grabs Joyce and suddenly there's a steamy three-way kiss going on.

Dwight can't believe it.

DWIGHT

Oh, snap.

The crowd ROARS their approval.

Disgusted, White pushes his way through the crowd, he trips falling to the ground. It's embarrassing and awkward. Me'Shell tries to help him to his feet, but White slaps away the aid.

White spots a CHUBBY KID with nachos. He shoves the kid aside and grabs a handful of cheese covered chips and shoves them at his mouth. White chews absently as he walks off.

BY THE CELEBRATION,

A MAN in jeans and a t-shirt walks up to Peter.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

124.

114 CONTINUED: (14)

114

MAN IN JEANS

Hey, Peter. Congratulations. Sorry I missed it.

Peter looks at this guy, it takes him a moment before he realizes the man is...

PETER

Steve?

STEVE THE PIRATE

Yeah. I just wanted to tell you that I thought about what you said and I guess you're right. I'm not really a pirate.

PETER

I don't know, Steve. If you're not a pirate, who am I gonna split share buried treasure with?

Peter steps aside, showing the casino winnings to Steve. Indeed, it does resemble a treasure chest. Steve looks at it a moment, then up at Peter. Steve smiles...

STEVE THE PIRATE

Gar, Peter.

PETER

Gar, Steve.

The two embrace, friends again. The rest of our team surrounds Peter, all smiling.

Dwight hugs two ADAA dancers. Gordon holds his kids. Justin is with Amber. Steve holds his treasure. Owen's with Fran. And Peter's with Kate. It's even more perfect because...

PETER (CONT'D)

Alright everyone, smile big.

Our team poses for their picture as PHOTOGRAPHS FLASH and WE FREEZE on the perfect image, our Underdogs holding their trophy high. Even William Shatner's there, standing next to them.

DISSOLVE TO:

115 THE COVER OF OBSCURE SPORTS QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

115

our Underdogs on the cover, smiling. A moment then we...

CUT TO BLACK:



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story 125.

116 OMITTED 116

117 INT. SMALL BATHROOM - DAY 117

A light is FLICKED ON to reveal a HOMELY MAN stares into his bathroom mirror...

NARRATOR (O.S.)
Tired of the same old you?
(beat)
Well, come to a place where you're always
welcome!

118 OMITTED 118

119 EXT. NEW & IMPROVED AVERAGE JOE'S - DAY 119

It's new and improved, with better signage.

120 INT. NEW & IMPROVED AVERAGE JOE'S - CONTINUOUS 120

Average Joe's has been remodeled. Everything is new, bright and clean while still maintaining an old-school charm.

Peter appears from around a corner.

PETER
I'm Peter LaFleur, owner and operator of
Average Joe's Gym, and I'm here to tell
you that you're great just the way you
are.

Peter passes HAPPY GYM MEMBERS working out on new equipment.

PETER (CONT'D)
But if you feel like losing a few pounds,
getting healthier and making some good
friends in the process, then Joe's is the
place for you.

IN THE NEW "PRO SHOP" Gordon helps a PATRON to select gym shorts.

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Gordon can help you find the perfect
workout gear for your body type.

OWEN & FRAN stand in front of a classroom full of INTERESTED COUPLES. Fran is bent over with Owen behind her, instructing.

(CONTINUED)



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126.

120 CONTINUED:

120

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Need help in the bedroom? Let Owen and Fran give you some pointers.

The blackboard reads: "How to Tap that Ass for a Lifetime."

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Or if you just want to give your heart a good work out, try our new Swashbuckling aerobics class...

STEVE THE PIRATE leads the "Swashbuckling" aerobics class. The room is packed, filled with CLASS MEMBERS sporting eye-patches and bandanas.

STEVE THE PIRATE
Argh!

SWASHBUCKLING CLASS
Argh!

Peter continues his stroll through Joe's.

PETER
And forget about expensive membership dues. Average Joe's is about giving back to the community. We offer low student rates. Right guys?

Holding hands and dressed in their cheerleading outfits, Justin and a very pregnant Amber enter frame.

JUSTIN & AMBER
You bet!

PETER
But if you're not a student, don't worry. Just talk to Kate, she's our financial guru and also teaches our "alternative lifestyle" class. She'll make it work for you -- no matter what your income.

KATE looks up from behind her desk and smiles

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And if you've got any questions about our facilities, just ask Dwight. He's the full-time manager and is here to help.

DWIGHT, gives us a thumbs up as he helps a SEXY WOMAN use a thigh-machine.

(CONTINUED)



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Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story

127.

120 CONTINUED: (2)

120

IN THE MINI GYM

*

Peter walks past an ENORMOUS VELVET PAINTING OF PATCHES O'HOULIHAN: holding a dodgeball in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

PETER (CONT'D)

And don't forget, youth-league dodgeball classes are forming now.

We PULL BACK from Peter, who we now see is surrounded by a gaggle of 10 YEAR-OLD KIDS.

PETER (CONT'D)

So come on down and learn a great game the way it's supposed to be played!

That's their cue, and the Kids don't miss it -- hurling dodgeball after dodgeball at Peter who takes the hits smiling, but suddenly takes a really hard shot to testicles.

He staggers back, holding his groin...

PETER (CONT'D)

Ow! Motherfu--

MATCH CUT TO:

121 OMITTED

121

122 OMITTED

122

123 INT. T.G.I. THURSDAYS - DAY

123

Like T.G.I. Friday's but a little less classy.

We find Me'Shell, dressed in his busboy apron, looking at the television where the Average Joe's logo fills the screen.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Come to Average Joe's where just being yourself is more than enough!

He shakes his head, taking his full load of plates through the swinging back doors and into



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124 THE KITCHEN

124

where Me'Shell slides his rubber tray down the stainless steel counter. THUMP. A rubber gloved hand stops it. We track up it to reveal

WHITE GOODMAN

some eighty pounds heavier and sporting a hair net and love handles and a gut underneath his wife beater tank top.

White picks up a milk shake glass and pulls out a sodden half-eaten hamburger. He regards it for a moment, then takes a bite of the burger, glugging back the remainder of the shake as a chaser. It's a sad and fairly sickening sight.

Just then the SNOTTY MANAGER pokes his head in through the door, pointing at Me'Shell.

SNOTTY MANAGER

Hey Goodman, when you're done with those dishes, take out the trash. It's chili night.

White levels a look at Me'Shell.

WHITE GOODMAN

I'll see you back at the apartment, Me'Shell.

Me'Shell unties his apron.

ME'SHELL

Yes, sir.

CUT TO:

125 EXT. ALLEY BEHIND T.G.I.H. - DAY

125

White struggles with an overflowing trash bag. He tries to hoist it over the dumpster, tearing it in the process and covering himself with slime and chili sewage.

Sitting on their bicycles, Two KIDS watch the embarrassment. White sees them watch him just as one of them calls over...

KID #1

Hey Fattie, show us your tits!

(CONTINUED)



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129.

125 CONTINUED:

125

They two kids laugh hysterically as they pedal off and we hold on White Goodman's broken face. Then...

FADE OUT.

