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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"Buckball Season"

Episode 619

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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - DAY

APPLEJACK stands beneath an apple tree staring at a painted target in the distance. She glances up into the branches of the tree and spots a single apple. Looking out toward the target again, she holds up a hoof to test the wind.

Satisfied, she gives the tree just enough of a buck to dislodge the apple. In SLO-MO the apple falls and Applejack winds up to kick it toward the basket when...

BACK TO NORMAL SPEED - RAINBOW DASH pops up next to her.

1 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, Applejack. Whatchya doin'?

Distracted by Dash's sudden appearance, Applejack misses the apple completely and kicks empty air, extending her back legs and landing onto the ground with a <THUD>.

2 APPLEJACK
WHAOOOO--OOOF!

The apple rolls past her head as Applejack tilts her hat up and stares at Dash.

3 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Well, I was practicin' my distance buckin'.

4 RAINBOW DASH
Distance bucking? What for?

Applejack gets up and dusts herself off.

5 APPLEJACK
Because Braeburn and the rest of the Apple Family in Appleosa seem to think that their team can beat Ponyville at Buckball.

Applejack bucks down another apple and with one swift kick, knocks it across the field and it smacks into the center of the target.

6 RAINBOW DASH
(taking great umbrage)
WHAT!?! That's ridiculous! No pony beats Ponyville!
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I mean, I could beat the whole town
of Appleoosa at Buckball with one
wing tied behind my back.

Applejack bucks down another apple and kicks it high. Dash
zooms skyward, flipping over the apple's trajectory and bats
it back down to Applejack with her wing.

Applejack kicks the falling fruit midair and again, hits the
target. Dash lands back down beside her.

7 APPLEJACK
So I can count on you to join the
Ponyville Buckball team?

8 RAINBOW DASH
Oh, yeah! I am so there. I've just
got one question.

Dash looks from the tree to the target, then back to
Applejack.

9 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
What's Buckball?

Off Applejack's eye roll...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 2 - EXT. PONYVILLE - ROAD - DAY

Applejack, Dash, PINKIE PIE, and FLUTTERSHY head down the
road toward Sweet Apple Acres.

10 RAINBOW DASH
Basically, Buckball is the coolest
game ever.

She does a flip in the air.

11 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Offence! Defence! Teamwork. Non-
stop action. It's got it all!

12 FLUTTERSHY
Wow, Rainbow Dash. You sure seem to
know a lot about this game. I've
never even heard of Buckball.

13 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. I'm kind of an expert.

14 APPLEJACK
(scoffs)
An expert who hadn't heard of the game either until I told you.

15 RAINBOW DASH
Well, it's a new game. I probably know more than most ponies so that makes me an expert.

16 PINKIE PIE
I don't know anything about it at all. But it sounds like there's a ball and bucking, so I'm betting it's super-duper fun.

17 APPLEJACK
The point is my cousin Braeburn somehow convinced a pegasus and a unicorn to come play with him on the Appleoosa team and he can't stop bragging about how his team is gonna beat ours.

18 FLUTTERSHY
But we don't have a team.

19 RAINBOW DASH
Well, between Applejack and me we've got two thirds of a team. All we need is a unicorn. That's where you two come it.

Pinkie leans over to Fluttershy with a loud whisper.

20 PINKIE PIE
(loud aside)
They know we're not unicorns, right?

21 RAINBOW DASH
Obviously. Your gonna be on my team and Fluttershy is gonna be on Applejack's team.

22 APPLEJACK
We'll play against each other, along with whatever unicorns wanna try out until we find the best one.

23 PINKIE PIE/FLUTTERSHY
Oooohhhhhh.

24 PINKIE PIE
That's a relief because I left my
unicorn costume at home.

Applejack and Dash give Pinkie an odd look.

SC. 3 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - FIELD - DAY

[PRODUCTION NOTE: The field is three concentric circles with a line dividing them in half. The smallest circle is in the center, like center ice. The playing field takes up the majority of the rest of the area with the Keepers (goalies) confined to their half of a strip that rings the outside, like the warning track around a baseball field.]

Applejack, wearing a green practice jersey, stands in front of a group of unicorns who are also wearing practice jerseys - half are green like Applejack's and the other half are red.

25 APPLEJACK
I know a lot of you are here
because I told you what an amazing
game Buckball is...

Applejack trots over to a cart full of RED BALLS. BIG MAC stands next to it in an equipment manager outfit. He gives her a ball.

26 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
...and even though it's already an
Apple Family favorite, most of you
probably don't know anything about
it, so I thought we'd give you a
quick demonstration.

Applejack leads Pinkie (wearing a red jersey) out onto the field where they meet GRANNY SMITH wearing a referee outfit. Applejack hands the ball to Granny then turns to the group.

27 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
The two earth ponies are on
offense. They meet in the middle of
the field for the buck off.

Granny blows a whistle and throws the ball down onto the ground. It bounces high in the air.

28 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
They both try to be the first one
to kick it.

Applejack rears back and give it a buck, sending the ball toward a basket set on a stick at the edge of the field. Dash (wearing the a red jersey of Pinkie's team) swoops in and blocks the ball with her wing before it goes in the basket.

29 RAINBOW DASH

And the pegasus is on defense. She tries to keep the ball from going in the goal and passes it back to the earth pony on her team.

Dash bounces the ball wing to wing, then bats it over to Pinkie.

30 PINKIE PIE

Oooh! I get it!

Pinkie winds up and kicks it - hard. The ball sails into another make-shift goal on the other side of the field, past Fluttershy who hovers nearby (in a green jersey).

Applejack and Dash exchange a quick look, impressed by Pinkie's kick. Applejack turns to the unicorns.

31 APPLEJACK

And all the unicorns have to do is float these here baskets around the outside of the field and catch as many balls as possible for their team.

Applejack turns to Pinkie and Fluttershy.

32 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

You two get the idea?

33 PINKIE PIE

Absolutely!

34 FLUTTERSHY

I don't know. That ball moves pretty fast.

Dash zips over to the group of unicorns.

35 RAINBOW DASH

All right. Let's see which of you has what it takes.

Dash nudges two unicorns, one in red and one in green, toward opposite edges of the field where Granny and Big Mac take down the make shift goals and pull out official BUCK BASKETS (think: a cross between a regular apple basket and a basketball hoop).

The Green Shirted Unicorn levitates her basket up, then looks to Dash.

36 GREEN SHIRT
Um... What do I do?

37 RAINBOW DASH
When the ball comes toward you...
catch it.

Green Shirt takes up her position on Applejack's and Fluttershy's side of the field, while Dash flies back to join Pinkie and The Red Shirt Unicorn on theirs.

Pinkie lines up opposite Applejack while, Fluttershy tentatively flies up across from Rainbow Dash.

Granny holds up another ball, blows her whistle, and bounces the ball on the ground.

Applejack winds up, but Pinkie's doesn't even wait for the ball to fly up. Kicking it off the bounce, Pinkie sends the ball flying.

Surprised, Applejack stares as the ball rockets upwards towards...

FLUTTERSHY - who looks wide-eyed at the oncoming ball. Terrified, she shies away, but as SHE SPINS, her tail flows around the ball, whipping it to...

APPLEJACK - who takes the perfect pass and bucks the ball straight toward...

RED SHIRT UNICORN - who shakily levitates her basket up, but freaks out at the speed of the oncoming ball. She ducks and covers, dropping her basket to the ground just as...

DASH - zooms in, just in time to block Applejack's shot. Dash manages to pass the ball over to...

PINKIE - who bounces toward it and flips over, hitting the ball with all four hooves, and sending it rocketing toward...

GREEN SHIRT UNICORN - who tries to get her basket up, but flips it entirely over her head. The ball sails past as the basket goes flying. Green Shirt blushes.

Back on the field, Pinkie continues to bounce, excitedly. Fluttershy spins nearby whipping her tail around.

38 PINKIE PIE
Hey, this game is easy!

39 FLUTTERSHY
(brightly)
It actually is kind of fun.

Applejack and Dash stare at their friends, surprised.
Applejack turns back to the group of unicorns.

40 APPLEJACK
Um... Okay, let's see what the rest
of you can do.

Two more unicorns switch out as we...

START MONTAGE

PINKIE AND AJ - line up on either side of Granny again--
PINKIE NOW BOUNCING BACK AND FORTH LIKE A POGO-STICK.

The WHISTLE blows and Applejack rears back, but again, Pinkie easily bucks the ball first. Applejack grits her teeth in frustration.

ON THE BALL - sailing toward Rainbow Dash who bats it with her wing back to Pinkie. But as PINKIE BOUNCES over, FLUTTERSHY SPINS IN, using her same shying away technique to intercept the ball.

Dash stares with growing frustration as Fluttershy uses her tail to whip the ball back to...

APPLEJACK - who runs backward and rears up to buck the ball, but even as she does, PINKIE BOUNCES high into frame and AJ's shot ricochets off of Pinkie's hooves and goes careening toward...

UNICORN 1 - who's horn GLOWS as he tries to levitate the basket into position to catch the speeding ball, but he completely misses it and the ball goes sailing past. He drops his head, dejected, while...

DASH & APPLEJACK - share a look of mutual frustration as we CUT TO...

A QUICK SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Applejack bucks ball after ball toward a different Unicorn Keeper every time-- and every time, FLUTTERSHY SPINS in from a different side of the screen, whipping the ball away at the last moment while Applejack stares in shock.

- Dash blocks ball after ball, each coming faster than the next, her frustration and effort mounting, sweat pouring off her brow as we CUT TO the reverse to reveal-- PINKIE BOUNCING in the air, effortlessly bucking ball after ball and having a grand old time.

- Dash and AJ stare in wonder at Pinkie and Fluttershy, who continue to SPIN and BOUNCE as a series of Unicorns struggle to get a single ball in their baskets. Off Dash and Applejack's consternation we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 4 - EXT. FIELD - LATER

Applejack and Rainbow Dash stand on the sidelines looking over all the Unicorns lying on the ground, exhausted.

41 RAINBOW DASH
This didn't go how I thought it would.

Applejack looks out at Pinkie and Fluttershy continuing to play in the background.

42 PINKIE PIE/FLUTTERSHY
WHEEEEEEE!/Oooohhhh!

43 APPLEJACK
It sure didn't.

ON FLUTTERSHY - who uses her tail to whip a ball around her body.

44 FLUTTERSHY
(to Pinkie)
This game is a lot more fun than I thought it would be.

Pinkie bounces on one hoof and uses her other three legs to juggle several balls in the air.

45 PINKIE PIE
It's exactly as much fun as I thought it would be-- A WHOLE BUNCH!

Pinkie gets so excited she bucks all three balls at where a goal would be, but there's no unicorn there.

The balls go rocketing toward the road where...

SNAILS trudges along carrying two water buckets from a shoulder pole.

46 SNAILS
(singing to himself)
*Carrying my water, my water, my
water. Carrying my water on my
shoulder pole...*

ON PINKIE AND FLUTTERSHEY - who watch as the balls careen toward the unsuspecting Snails.

47 PINKIE PIE
(yelling)
SNAILS LOOK OUT!!!

AJ AND DASH - look up at Pinkie's shout to see...

SNAILS - who turns to see the balls speeding toward him. By reflex, his horn glows and both buckets spin up, levitating around the pole, like a pinwheel, catching all three balls without spilling a drop of water.

Snails sets the pole back on his shoulders and ambles over to Pinkie and Fluttershey as Dash and Applejack run up.

Snails sets the buckets down and floats the balls out of them and over to Pinkie.

48 SNAILS
You should be more careful with
these. You could lose them.

AJ and Dash share a look.

49 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, Snails can you float one of
those baskets over here?

Applejack points to one of the Buck Baskets on the side of the field.

50 SNAILS
Sure.

Snail's horn glows and he levitates a basket over.

51 SNAILS (CONT'D)
What do you want me to do with it?

Applejack walks over to the cart of balls.

52 APPLEJACK
CATCH!

With that, Applejack bucks several balls right at Snails.

Without much effort, Snails whips the Buck Basket around, catching every one. He looks to Dash.

53 SNAILS
Anything else?

Dash and Applejack share a smile.

SC. 5 - EXT. ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Pinkie and Fluttershy walks alongside Snails as he continues hauling his water down the road. Dash and AJ follow a few steps behind talking (inaudibly) among themselves.

54 FLUTTERSHY
Wow, Snails, you're a natural at Buckball.

55 PINKIE PIE
It's a good thing too. We were running out of unicorns.

56 FLUTTERSHY
Do you think you'll be ready to play with Applejack and Rainbow Dash against the Appleoosa team?

57 SNAILS
I guess I'll find out. Plus, after I deliver this water, I don't really have anything else to do.

Dash and AJ catch up to them.

58 RAINBOW DASH
Well, Snails, with you on the team, Ponyville is one step closer to crushing Appleoosa.

59 APPLEJACK
And after today it's pretty clear who the other two players should be.

60 FLUTTERSHY
What do you mean? I thought you and Dash were going to play.

61 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. If you're not crushing Appleoosa, who is?

62 RAINBOW DASH
(laughs)
You two, obviously.

Pinkie and Fluttershy stop short and stare at each other. Off their surprise we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - EXT. ROAD - RESUME

Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie stare at AJ and Dash in shock.

63 FLUTTERSHY
You want us to play Buckball
against Appleosa instead of you?

Applejack and Dash nod.

64 PINKIE PIE
That's un-credible.
(indignant off the other's
looks)
Unbelievable and incredible? Come
on.

65 APPLEJACK
I can't explain it, but you two are
really good at this game and if it
means beating Appleosa, I'll give
either one of you my spot on the
team quicker than Granny Smith can
core an apple.

66 RAINBOW DASH
Me too.
(to Fluttershy)
I'd normally be so pumped all of
Ponyville was counting on me to
win, I'd run right over the
competition, but you still flew
rings around me.

67 FLUTTERSHY
Oh, I'm sorry. I was just having
fun.

68 APPLEJACK
You can have all the fun you want
as long as it's while you're
beatin' the hide off of Braeburn's
team.

69 PINKIE PIE
I do like fun...

70 FLUTTERSHY
Honestly, the game was a little
scary at first, but once I got the
hang of it I had a pretty good
time.

Pinkie and Fluttershy share a quick nod. Pinkie turns back to
Applejack and Dash.

71 PINKIE PIE
Let's get this party started!

72 APPLEJACK
All right, but if we really wanna
beat Appleoosa, we're gonna have to
get serious.

73 FLUTTERSHY
Serious?

Pinkie's eyes narrow.

74 PINKIE PIE
Serious how?

CUT TO:

SC. 7 - EXT. FIELD - DAY

Applejack and Dash stand in front of a series of drill
stations: painted lines extending across the field, like
racing lanes; a slalom course of cones; and a series of Buck
Baskets lined up on sticks, one after the other.

75 APPLEJACK
With serious practice!

Pinkie and Fluttershy look out at everything warily.

76 FLUTTERSHY
Wow. This looks pretty intense.

77 RAINBOW DASH
Well, duh. You two are gonna be representing all of Ponyville, and more importantly...

(indicating herself and AJ)

Us!

78 APPLEJACK
That's why before we leave for Appleoosa tomorrow, you two are gonna practice just as hard as we would.

79 RAINBOW DASH
So, let's hop to it. Snails already has a head start on you!

Dash points off screen as we WHIP PAN to Snails standing in front of three Buck Baskets. His horn GLOWS as he lifts them one at a time, moving a Buckball between them with military precision.

WHIP PAN back to Fluttershy and Pinkie sharing an uncertain look.

CUT TO:

DASH WITH FLUTTERSHY

Dash and Fluttershy hover at the start of the slalom course of cones. Dash juggles the ball between her wings.

80 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Okay. If you wanna win, you've totally gotta get this drill down.

81 FLUTTERSHY
I do?

With that, Dash takes off through the course. She zooms around the cones, "dribbling" the ball (passing the ball from wing to wing) the whole time, then finishes, zipping back to Fluttershy.

82 RAINBOW DASH
It's all about ball control.

Dash tosses the ball to Fluttershy, who isn't ready and bobbles it. Dash looks on as Fluttershy regains control, then meekly hovers over to the start of the course.

83 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Ready?
(off FS's nod)
GO!

Startled at Dash's shout, Fluttershy gets off to a jerky start, but quickly recovers, spinning around the cones as she whips the ball with her tail.

Dash shouts as Fluttershy maneuvers through the course.

84 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Come on! Faster! You don't want
Ponyville to lose because you can't
get into high gear, do you?

Startled at Dash's yell, worry washes over Fluttershy's face and she accidentally whips the ball way off course.

The ball sails over to Snails, who's now juggling his baskets. He sees the oncoming ball and tosses one of his baskets high to catch it.

Back at the slalom, Fluttershy casts a nervous glance at Dash who looks at her, puzzled.

CUT TO:

APPLEJACK AND PINKIE

Applejack wheels a cart of balls in front of Pinkie as the two of them face the row of baskets on sticks.

85 APPLEJACK
Being able to bucking into a goal
from any direction is the most
important thing in the game.

AJ tosses a ball behind her and bucks it at an odd angle into one of the baskets.

86 PINKIE PIE
If you say so.

Pinkie starts bouncing as Applejack tosses her a ball and she bucks it in. AJ nods, satisfied.

As the two of them move down the line, Pinkie spins and flips around as Applejack tosses more balls which Pinkie continues to send into the goals.

87 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
WHEEE! WOOO!

88 APPLEJACK
Keep it up! Just one miss'll ruin
the Apple Family's Buckball
reputation forever.

89 PINKIE PIE
WHOA--Wha?

Pinkie's expression drops as she only gets one hoof on the next ball, sending it ricocheting off of AJ's head.

The ball flies through the air toward Snails, who's now levitating his basket in a circle around himself, first over his head, then hopping over it like a jump rope. He spots the wayward ball and jump rope hops over to catch it.

Back with Pinkie as she shoots AJ and embarrassed look.

90 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Whoops.

AJ looks at her, confused.

ON DASH AND FLUTTERSHY

Dash flies alongside Fluttershy as she continues to work the slalom course, heading toward the end.

91 RAINBOW DASH
Come on! Push. Push! PUSH!

As Fluttershy casts a worried glance at the end of the course, she trips over a cone and tumbles forward, sending the ball flying once more. Dash looks on with a frown.

ON APPLEJACK AND PINKIE

Pinkie moves along the line of baskets, barely bouncing as she listens to AJ talk while tossing balls at her.

92 APPLEJACK
Come on now! Every shot is for
Sweet Apple Acres. And me! And
Dash! And ALL OF PONYVILLE!

Pinkie's expression drops as she takes her eyes off the next ball and lands on it, rolling off and landing on her back with a THUD.

93 PINKIE PIE
Ow.

Applejack frowns as we...

CUT TO:

APPLEJACK AND DASH

Watching as Pinkie and Fluttershy gallop down the painted lines passing the ball back and forth between them-- missing each other every time.

94 APPLEJACK
What in the apple happened to those two?

95 RAINBOW DASH
I don't know! They wiped the field with us before.

They look on as Fluttershy tries her spin move but just gets hit in the head with an errant buck from Pinkie.

Applejack looks to the field and calls out to Pinkie and FS.

96 APPLEJACK
All right! That's it for today, y'all!

Fluttershy and Pinkie slump with relief as they head over to the side of the field. Snails looks up from working with his baskets and ambles over.

97 PINKIE PIE
I thought practice was supposed to make us better.

98 FLUTTERSHY
Maybe we just need a little rest.

99 RAINBOW DASH
Or a whole lot of it.

100 APPLEJACK
Just be sure to get your heads in the game before tomorrow. All of Ponyville is counting on a win.

With that, Dash and Applejack turn and head off. Snails follows. Fluttershy and Pinkie share a worried look.

SC. 8 - EXT. ROAD - DAY

Fluttershy and Pinkie walk along exhausted and dejected.

101 FLUTTERSHY
I really don't want to let
Applejack and Rainbow Dash down, or
anypony else, but after that
practice, I'm not feeling very
confident.

102 PINKIE PIE
(brightly)
Maybe we weren't that bad.

Fluttershy shoots Pinkie a look. Pinkie drops her head.

103 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
I guess I was hoping you saw
something I didn't.

104 FLUTTERSHY
I know our friends want us to win,
but how can the whole town be
counting on us if most ponies have
never even heard of Buckball?

105 PINKIE PIE
I know! How can we disappoint a
pony who doesn't even know we have
a team?

106 FLUTTERSHY
Or that we're going to play
Appleosa.

107 PINKIE PIE
Yeah, I don't think we need to
worry. I'd be surprised if anypony
in town cares about this game at
all.

Fluttershy looks to Pinkie, hopeful.

SC. 9 - EXT. PONYVILLE - TRAIN PLATFORM - THE NEXT MORNING

Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie stand on the train platform,
staring out like ponies caught in the headlights. PULL WIDE
to reveal they are surrounded by CHEERING Ponvillians.

A couple of ponies unfurl a yellow BANNER across the train
with Pinkie, Fluttershy, and Snail's faces on it. A
spontaneous chant starts up.

108 TOWNSFOLK
Go Ponyville! Go Ponyville! WIN!
WIN! WIN!

Snails walks up twirling a buck basket, surprised at all the attention.

109 SNAILS
Wow. The whole town really seems to care about this game a lot.

Off Pinkie and Fluttershy's expressions of worry and shock...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 10 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - DAY

As the train pulls away from the station, Pinkie and Fluttershy look out the window shell-shocked at the rabid fans still cheering and waving banners back on the platform.

Applejack and Dash walk up.

110 RAINBOW DASH
We kinda went around town and talked up the team a little.

111 APPLEJACK
Yep. We wanted to make sure you two knew that all of Ponyville was behind you.

Both Fluttershy and Pinkie stare out at the crowd, eyes wide.

112 PINKIE PIE
Greaaaaat...

Applejack leans down, looking past them and out the window.

113 APPLEJACK
I hear the town's already planning a parade for when you get back after whoopin' Appleoosa. That should feel pretty good.

Fluttershy looks down, trying to contain her nerves.

114 FLUTTERSHY
It should?

Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy look at each other, troubled.

115 RAINBOW DASH
Totally! Just spend the whole ride to Appleoosa thinking about everypony cheering for the victorious Ponyville Buckball Team. I bet Princess Celestia even comes to congratulate you. If that doesn't get you in the zone, nothing will.

With that, she gives them both a heartening pat, then heads to the back of the car with Applejack.

Fluttershy looks to Pinkie.

116 FLUTTERSHY
I don't know what zone Rainbow Dash is talking about, but I'm pretty sure I don't want to be in it. Do you?

Unable to speak, Pinkie just gives Fluttershy a look, her lips quivering as she shakes her head.

SC. 11 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - BACK OF THE CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy walk up to Rainbow Dash and Applejack. Rainbow Dash looks them up and down.

117 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, you two are supposed to be in the zone.

Pinkie is so beside herself she can only manage the smallest whisper.

118 PINKIE PIE
You see... The thing is... Thinking about everpony... thinking about us... there's just no way...

Finally, Fluttershy snaps, shouting at the top of her lungs.

119 FLUTTERSHY
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET IN THE ZONE BECAUSE THE ZONE SOUNDS LIKE A HORRIBLE PLACE SINCE WE ARE TERRIBLE AT BUCKBALL AND ARE GOING TO LOSE AND LET EVERYPONY DOWN AND WE DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE!!!

With that Pinkie breaks out in tears and runs off. Fluttershy runs after her as Applejack and Dash stare in shock.

Suddenly, Snails sticks his head through the middle of their seats.

120 SNAILS
I'm still okay with playing, in case you were worried.

SC. 12 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - DAY

Applejack and Dash wander through the train looking for Pinkie and Fluttershy.

121 RAINBOW DASH
I don't get it. They're naturals. Why wouldn't they want to play anymore?

They move out of one car and into the next.

122 APPLEJACK
Maybe us telling them how much we and everypony was counting on them messed them up somehow.

123 RAINBOW DASH
What? That's crazy talk. Having ponies depend on you is exactly what you need to focus and...

124 APPLEJACK
Get serious and play hard and...

125 RAINBOW DASH
Get ready to totally smash the competition and...

Dash and Applejack look at each other, realizing.

126 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And none of that sounds like Pinkie or Fluttershy, does it?

127 APPLEJACK
I guess not. We got so wrapped up in what's important to us, we went and ruined what was fun about the game for them.

128 RAINBOW DASH
What do we do now?

Off Applejack and Dash considering...

SC. 13 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - BAGGAGE CAR - DAY

Applejack and Dash enter.

129 RAINBOW DASH
Pinkie? Fluttershy?

130 APPLEJACK
We know you're in here. We've
looked in every other car on the
train.

Fluttershy's and Pinkie's voices come from behind a stack of luggage.

131 FLUTTERSHY (O.S.)
Maybe you need to look again.

132 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Yeah. Because we are totally not in
here.

133 FLUTTERSHY (O.S.)
And we are definitely not in here
if you're going to try to make us
play against Appleosa.

134 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Or anypony else!

Dash and Applejack share a look, then peer around the stack of suitcases. Pinkie and Fluttershy sit huddled on the floor.

135 FLUTTERSHY
We're sorry to let you down, but
it's better to do it now than
during the game against Appleosa.

136 RAINBOW DASH
You don't have to play against
Appleosa.

137 FLUTTERSHY
We don't?

138 APPLEJACK
Nope. We're gonna take your place,
so you don't have to worry about
that at all.

Pinkie and Fluttershy immediately pop up, the worry and stress flowing off of them instantaneously.

139 PINKIE PIE
Why didn't you say so?

140 RAINBOW DASH
Buuut.... We can't take on Braeburn and his team without any practice so we need you to play just one more time...

141 APPLEJACK
Against us.

Off Pinkie and Fluttershy considering...

SC. 14 - EXT. APPLEOOSA - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Applejack and Dash warm up on a much dustier version of a Buckball field on the outskirts of Appleoosa. Pinkie and Fluttershy bounce and spin nearby, visibly relieved now that the pressure is off.

142 APPLEJACK
Now I know we mixed up the teams, before, but since Dash and I really need the practice, we'll play against the two of you.

Dash sets up a Buck Basket on a stick on one end of the field while Snails twirls his basket on the other.

143 FLUTTERSHY
I don't know how much practice you'll get against us, we've been playing just awful.

Dash zooms up next to her, bouncing a ball from wing to wing.

144 RAINBOW DASH
Don't worry about it. Applejack and I just need a little work out.

145 APPLEJACK
Yep. You two just do your best.

Pinkie bounces up across from Applejack at center field.

146 PINKIE PIE
I can do that.

Applejack looks up at Dash and nods.

[Production Note: Since we don't have a referee here, the players will just toss the ball into play as described...]

Dash takes up her position on the field across from Fluttershy and tosses the ball down toward center field for the buck off as we...

START MONTAGE

Pinkie bounces tentatively as the ball lands and Applejack beats her to the kick, passing to...

DASH - who juggles the ball as she whips around Fluttershy, who spins with a smile as Dash passes the ball back to...

APPLEJACK - who gallops toward the falling ball, and rears back to give it a buck but...

FLUTTERSHY - spins into frame, smiling as she intercepts the pass and whips the ball with her tail, flipping it to...

PINKIE - who bounces over to the perfect pass and gives a kick, sending the ball careening into the basket on the stick for a goal.

Dash and Applejack share a smile as Fluttershy retrieves the ball and flies back.

147 FLUTTERSHY
Looks like you two really do need
practice.

With that, she tosses the ball toward center field as we CUT TO A SERIES OF SHOTS...

- Applejack bucks ball after ball toward Snails, but each time Fluttershy spins into frame from a different direction, blocking every shot.

148 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Heee-heee!

Applejack smiles, impressed.

- Pinkie bounces randomly around the field, on two hooves, on one hoof, on her head, on her side, etc., bucking a ball with every bounce while...

- Dash zips around trying to block them, but it's so exhausting she finally gives up and the balls go flying past.

- Applejack and Dash watch, amused, as Pinkie and Fluttershy bounce and spin around the field, passing and bucking as...

- Ball after ball sails into the fixed basket, while across the field, Snails just sits on his basket watching the display as we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 15 - EXT. APPLEOOSA - PRACTICE FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack and Dash walk up as Fluttershy and Pinkie pass the ball back and forth, giggling.

149 FLUTTERSHY
If you need more practice we can keep going.

150 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. I could do this aaaalllll day.

151 RAINBOW DASH
No thanks. Playing against you two is just as humiliating now as it was when we weren't trying to show you how awesome you are.

Pinkie and Fluttershy stop suddenly, letting the ball drop. It rolls over toward Snails who immediately whips his basket over and scoops it up.

152 SNAILS
Finally!

Pinkie and Fluttershy turn to Applejack and Dash.

153 PINKIE PIE
Wait. What?

154 APPLEJACK
You must have noticed how you aren't bad anymore.

155 PINKIE PIE
Ooh yeah. Weird.

156 FLUTTERSHY
But, why were we so terrible before?

157 RAINBOW DASH
I guess some ponies thrive on pressure and some ponies don't. And even though we weren't playing, we were treating you like us which totally stressed you out.

158 APPLEJACK
And that just sucked the fun right
out of the game for you.

159 RAINBOW DASH
And having fun is what makes you
really, really, really good.

160 FLUTTERSHY
But being good doesn't matter if
we're too afraid of letting ponies
down to play.

161 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. What about all those ponies
back in Ponyville counting on us to
win.

162 APPLEJACK
I'm sure folks want you to win, but
not if worrying about it makes you
miserable. Winning's never worth
that.

163 FLUTTERSHY
But how do we keep from worrying
about it?

164 SNAILS
You could do what I do and not
think about it. Seriously, I don't
think about anything. Ever.

Pinkie and Fluttershy share a look.

165 PINKIE PIE
Works for me!

With that, Pinkie kicks up a ball from the ground and bucks
it. Follow the ball soaring in SUPPER SLO-MO as we...

MATCH CUT TO:

SC. 16 - EXT. APPLEOOSA - RODEO STADIUM - DAY

A ball soaring in REAL TIME through the air off Pinkie Pie's
hooves and blasting into Snails's basket.

A <CHEER> goes up as we PULL WIDE to see the crowd gathered
around the fences. The voice of an ANNOUNCER comes over a
speaker hung from a post.

166 ANNOUNCER
And with another bouncing goal from
Pinkie Pie the score is tied! Four
to four with twenty seconds left on
the clock.

Pinkie and Fluttershy gather with Snails at the sidelines.
Dash and Applejack rush up.

167 RAINBOW DASH
You guys are amazing!

168 PINKIE PIE
Braeburn is really good!

Fluttershy looks over at the Appleoosa Team's MUSCLE BOUND
PEGASUS.

169 FLUTTERSHY
So is that pegasus. I don't know if
we can win.

170 SNAILS
You know what I would do...

171 PINKIE PIE
Not think about it?

172 SNAILS
...not think-- Oh. Yeah. That.

173 APPLEJACK
And as long as you're having fun it
doesn't matter if you win or not.

Applejack, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie and Fluttershy all exchange
smiles as the players take their positions the field.

A REFEREE PONY walks up with the ball. He blows his whistle,
but just before he drops the ball, Pinkie flips over onto her
head. Braeburn looks down at her confused.

174 PINKIE PIE
I think it's more fun this way.

With that, the Ref drops the ball and Pinkie bucks it before
it even hits the ground. Braeburn stares aghast as the ball
goes soaring toward...

Fluttershy - as the Muscle Bound Pegasus zooms in front of
her to intercept it. Fluttershy easily spins around him and
whips the ball with her tail to Pinkie. The Pegasus stares in
shock. Fluttershy looks to him.

175 FLUTTERSHY
You might be thinking too much.

Pinkie flips and bounces toward Fluttershy's pass, then bucks it in a high arc to Snails who sends his basket straight up to catch it.

Another <CHEER> erupts from the crowd as the Announcer comes over the speaker again.

176 ANNOUNCER
And that's game! Ponyville wins!

Fluttershy and Pinkie rush toward each other as Snails, Applejack and Dash run toward them and they all high-hoof.

Applejack points toward the fence where a group of excited Appleosan FOALS cheer.

177 FOALS
(chanting)
PONY-VILLE! PONY-VILLE! PONY-VILLE!

178 APPLEJACK
Looks like you three made quite an impression.

Braeburn strides up with an intimidating UNICORN and the Muscle Bound Pegasus in tow. He looks to Applejack.

179 BRAEBURN
Well, cousin, I have to admit, your Ponyville team played a pretty good game.

180 RAINBOW DASH
Good game!? We bucked the hooves right off you.

181 BRAEBURN
Yep. You sure as shootin' did. I'm gonna have to get real serious about a strategy for our rematch.

182 FLUTTERSHY
I wouldn't get too serious.

183 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. Eeeeverypony knows the secret to good Buckball is just having fun!

Applejack, Dash, Pinkie, and Fluttershy all laugh as Braeburn looks around confused and we...

IRIS OUT

END