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MY LITTLE PONY
Season 9

Common Ground
Ep 906

LOCKED SCRIPT

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TEASER**IRIS IN ON:****"PONYTONE" NEWSREEL FOOTAGE**

In sepia-toned, classic newsreel-style (think 1940s Movietone News) we see a shot from high above a Buckball Stadium filled to capacity [i.e., high enough so "capacity" is still production friendly].

1 ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Highlights in the world of sports!
Buckball fever has swept
Equestria...

ANOTHER SHOT - much closer to the action, as TWO EARTH PONIES joust for the ball.

2 ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
What started as a backyard hobby
for fruit farmers and the like has
blossomed into a literal
phenomenon.

The ball pops out and we cut to ANOTHER SHOT - of a skilled PEGASUS twirling in the air to whip a ball off screen.

3 ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
With something for everypony,
Unicorns, Pegasi, and Earth Ponies
alike can't get enough of this
breakthrough sport.

ANOTHER SHOT - as a nonchalant UNICORN player quickly levitates a basket over to catch a speeding ball, then turns with a smile and winks to the camera.

[Note: It'd be super fun if the footage had an "overcranked" quality with slapdash editing reminiscent of that old documentary news style.]

A PANING SHOT - across the faces of eager FANS, all cheering, waving pennants, etc.

4 ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
And with its popularity still on
the rise, Buckball fans want, nay
demand, an institution catering to
their new obsession.

SLOW PAN ACROSS - The grounds of the BUCKBALL HALL OF FAME: a museum, a theater, and a small stadium.

5 ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
And the ponies of Appleoosa
answered the call, delivering a
state of the art locale where fans
Equestria-over can celebrate their
passion: the Buckball Hall Of Fame!

SEVERAL SHOTS - of PINKIE PIE, APPLEJACK, and SNAILS in
action as they play the team from Appleoosa. (Potentially
newsreel-treated reuse from MLP619 "Buckball Season"?)

6 ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)
Though given the game's recent
nature, the only inductees so far
will be the members of the current
championship team from Ponyville!

Off CLOSE UP SHOTS of Pinkie, Fluttershy, and Snails mugging
for the camera...

SC. 1 - INT. THEATER - SAME

Pinkie, looking up at the screen, leans over to Fluttershy in
the theater and WHISPER SHOUTS.

7 PINKIE PIE
Do you think they know we're here?

PULL WIDE to reveal all the PONIES in the place are turned
around in their seats, staring at them excitedly. Fluttershy
tries to sink into her cushion as RAINBOW DASH leans forward
from the row behind them.

8 RAINBOW DASH
I think they have a pretty good
idea.

PAN TO Snails, oblivious, eating popcorn.

9 SNAILS
A pretty good idea about what?

Off the others giving him a look...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC . 2 - EXT. BUCKBALL HALL OF FAME - GROUNDS - DAY

Pinkie, Fluttershy, and Dash exit the theater with a trail of FANS behind them, SNIPS and Snails follow. The grounds of the Buckball Hall of Fame looks just like they did in the film.

10 FLUTTERSHY
I can't believe the ponies of
Appleosa built this place.

11 PINKIE PIE
Yeah. Especially after their team
lost to us. They must reeeeally
love Buckball!

More FANS rush up and crowd around.

12 FAN
Oh my gosh! It's you! I can't
believe you're you! I mean here! I
mean Team Ponyville! AHHHH!

13 SNAILS
Yep. It's us.

14 FAN
How much for an autograph?

The Fan pulls out a sack of bits. Surprised, Snips and Snails look out at the crowd.

15 SNIPS
Bits for autographs, eh? Snails,
you thinking what I'm thinking?

16 SNAILS
What's the sound of one hoof
clapping?

17 SNIPS
Yeah. I mean, ugh, no! (to the
crowd) How many of you would pay
for an autograph from my best
friend Snails!

Several more ponies offer up bits. Snails looks out at them.

18 SNAILS
Wow. That's a lot of writing.

Snips starts to collect bits and as the giddy fans line up in front of Snails. The others side-step around the crowd and head toward the stadium.

19 FLUTTERSHY
I'm so proud they decided to honor us. I never thought I'd get to be in anything like a Hall of Fame.

20 PINKIE PIE
Me either! Unless you count a Royal Order of Party Planners Memorial Library, which I don't because every party planner gets one of those eventually.

They walk up to the stadium and look over the rail at a few PLAYERS warming up. Fluttershy glances back at Snails, still signing for a line of Buckball fans.

21 FLUTTERSHY
I hope Snails finishes signing autographs soon. We can't play without him and if we lose or forfeit one game, we'll be out of the tournament.

Dash kicks at the dirt, anxious.

22 RAINBOW DASH
Well, he better get his flank over here then. You have to win the first few games without me cheering you on.

23 FLUTTERSHY
Why?

24 RAINBOW DASH
Applejack was too busy to come, so she made me promise to go to all the museum exhibits and tell her about them. I'm gonna try to get in first and beat the crowd so I can get back to the tournament faster.

25 PINKIE PIE
Oooh, then you better hurry. It looks like there's already a line.

Pinkie points over toward the front door of the museum where a TENT is set up.

26 RAINBOW DASH
What!?

With that Dash rushes over...

SC. 3 - EXT. BUCKBALL HALL OF FAME - CONTINUOUS

Sure enough the first spot in line is occupied by a small tent and a camping chair.

27 RAINBOW DASH
The doors aren't even opened yet.
What kind of sports fan camps out
for a museum!?

A familiar VOICE (Quibble Pants) comes from inside the tent.

28 QUIBBLE PANTS
The real question is, what kind of
sports fan doesn't?

With that the "mystery pony" emerges from the tent and we see that it is none other than QUIBBLE PANTS!

29 RAINBOW DASH
Quibble Pants?

30 QUIBBLE PANTS
Rainbow Dash! Fancy meeting you
here.

31 RAINBOW DASH
Fancy meeting me? I'm a sports
pony, of course I'd be here. What's
fancy is you being here... if fancy
meant confusing.

32 QUIBBLE PANTS
There's nothing fancy or confusing
about it. You can't keep me away
from that buckball rink. I'm the
biggest fan there is.

33 RAINBOW DASH
It's a buckball field. And you are?

34 QUIBBLE PANTS
(thrown, but soldiering on) Ah,
sure! With all the bucking and the
balling and the um... (floundering,
but trying to cover) I wanted to be
first inside to experience the grand
history of the sport. I guess only a
real fan would understand that.

35 RAINBOW DASH
Wha--?!

Before the insult even has time to register, a unicorn (CLEAR SKY) and a young pegasus (WIND SPRINT) walk up and join Quibble in line.

36 QUIBBLE PANTS
Oh! Perfect timing. Rainbow Dash,
I'd like you to meet Clear Sky,
(with a swoon) the most amazing
pony I've ever met.

Clear Sky blushes, but Dash just looks confused.

37 RAINBOW DASH
Um... you've met Daring Do, so
that's probably an exaggeration.
(then quickly to Clear Sky). No
offense.

38 CLEAR SKY
None taken. When it comes to
describing your special somepony, a
little exaggeration is normal. (to
Quibble with affectionate whisper)
And I feel the same way about you.

Quibble and Clear Sky share a nuzzle and Dash gets it: These two are a couple. She also notices Wind Sprint roll her eyes at the whole affair. Dash leans down to her.

39 RAINBOW DASH
And who is this?

40 CLEAR SKY
This is my daughter, Wind Sprint.

41 QUIBBLE PANTS
(trying a smidge too hard)
And she is prett-y amazing too!

Wind just rolls her eyes again, but Clear Sky puts a hoof on her shoulder.

42 CLEAR SKY
Wind, did you thank Quibble for
camping out so we'd be first in
line?

43 WIND SPRINT
(monotone)
Thanks.

44 QUIBBLE PANTS
No problem! I probably would have
done it anyway.
(MORE)

QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)

I mean, I can't wait to see the...
(pulls out a pamphlet and reads)
...evolution of the buck basket
from farm to field. That sounds
just... I mean, wow! There is a lot
to see.

Quibble holds the pamphlet up, but Wind looks unimpressed.
Just then a CHEER rings out from the stadium.

45 WIND SPRINT
I'd *rather* see the game.

46 QUIBBLE PANTS
(disappointed)
Oh... Well, I mean, sure. That
makes sense. We could just go to
the tournament instead...

Quibble starts to fold up the pamphlet but Clear Sky stops
him, turning to her daughter.

47 CLEAR SKY
No. Quibble planned this whole
thing for us and you could be a
little more appreciative.

Wind rolls her eyes again and pouts. Quibble turns to Dash
with a nervous smile just as the doors open and the crowd
ushers them all inside.

SC. 4 - INT. BUCKBALL HALL OF FAME - CONTINUOUS

Wind Sprint trudges alongside the older ponies as they enter
the hall. Dash buddies up to her.

48 RAINBOW DASH
I kinda wanted to skip the museum
too. (off Quibble's look) Buut...
I promised a friend that I'd check
out all the exhibits.

Wind looks out at the interior -- boring looking displays
with plaques everywhere.

49 WIND SPRINT
(not pleased)
Ugh. All of them?

50 QUIBBLE PANTS
You know, I'd like a chance to
catch up with Rainbow Dash. Why
don't we split up? We'll cover more
ground that way and--

Wind doesn't even respond and immediately walks off as Clear Sky hurries to keep up with her. Dash turns to Quibble.

51 RAINBOW DASH
So... You and Clear Sky, huh?

52 QUIBBLE PANTS
Yeah. She's great. Honestly, I've never been happier. (sudden panic)
WHICH IS WHY I NEED YOUR HELP!

Quibble drags a shocked Dash around a corner. He checks to make sure Wind isn't looking then turns back, pleading.

53 QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)
I don't know what any of this stuff is!

54 RAINBOW DASH
What do you mean?

Quibble grabs a ball from a nearby display.

55 QUIBBLE PANTS
See this? I don't know what it is.

56 RAINBOW DASH
A ball?

He grabs a basket.

57 QUIBBLE PANTS
And this? No idea.

58 RAINBOW DASH
It's a basket. How do you not know what those are?

59 QUIBBLE PANTS
I'm not even 100% sure what "bucking" is. I literally know nothing about buckball, or any other sport!

60 RAINBOW DASH
Well, I figured you weren't the sportiest pony in Equestria...

61 QUIBBLE PANTS
But Wind Sprint is! And her dad was some big athlete too. I can't compete with that.

Quibble tries to figure out how the ball and the basket go together - without success. Dash helps out, placing the ball in the basket.

62 QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)
I really want things with Clear Sky to work out, but if Wind doesn't like me, I might as well give up.

63 RAINBOW DASH
Why?

64 QUIBBLE PANTS
They're a family. Even if it's okay with Clear Sky, I wouldn't ask them to make me a part of it if Wind Sprint isn't on board.

Clear Sky spots them from across the hall and gives a wave. Quibble flashes a big smile and waves back, then turns back to Dash, panicked again.

65 QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)
I thought if I could convince Wind I was some big buckball fan, we'd have something to bond over, but I'm pretty sure she's on to me.

He tries to toss the ball into the basket, but misses, steps on the ball, and falls backwards into the basket.

From across the room, Sky and Wind Sprint look over at exactly that moment -- Wind rolls her eyes again.

66 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. I don't think she's fooled.

67 QUIBBLE PANTS
Could you talk to her? I mean, you're a famous sports pony, you'd know what to say. Maybe you could talk me up a little.

68 RAINBOW DASH
No problem! I've totally got your flank.

As Sky walks over to help Quibble extricate himself from the basket, Dash finds Wind, who's wandered over to an exhibit depicting the evolution of buckballs from apples.

69 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Trust me. The game's a lot harder to play with apples.

70 WIND SPRINT

You play?

Dash points to another display featuring Pinkie, Fluttershy, and Snails.

71 RAINBOW DASH

Who do you think taught them? Of course being a Wonderbolt takes up most of my time, so I don't get to practice as much as I'd like.

72 WIND SPRINT

Wait. You're Rainbow Dash, the Wonderbolt? Whoa! My dad was a great flyer too.

73 RAINBOW DASH

You don't say. You know, Quibble's pretty sporty too.

They both look across the museum at Quibble, now standing while Sky tries to pry the basket off of him. Finally, it comes off with a POP and Quibble plows into another display.

74 WIND SPRINT

(unconvinced)

If you say so.

Off Dash's look of concern...

SC. 5 - INT. BUCKBALL HALL OF FAME - GIFT SHOP - LATER

Dash and Wind head for the exit, just as Quibble and Sky walk out of a small gift shop. Quibble waves to them excited, holding a gift bag. Wind rolls her eyes again.

75 RAINBOW DASH

I think I've seen enough of this museum for three Applejacks. Let's go watch some buckball!

Wind's expression brightens.

76 QUIBBLE PANTS

That sounds awesome! But first (to Wind) I got you a little surprise.

He pulls out a HUGE BOOK out of the gift bag and gives it to Wind. Her excited expression drops.

77 WIND SPRINT

Oh. A book.

Quibble leans over her shoulder and leafs through the pages.

78 QUIBBLE PANTS
Oh, not just a book, it's a
buckball almanac. This thing has
every buckball fact and statistic
ever recorded!

79 WIND SPRINT
(flat) Wow.

80 QUIBBLE PANTS
I know! I never realized there was
so much math in buckball. I mean,
this game's got more numbers than
Ogres & Oubliettes! (LAUGH-SNORT)

81 WIND SPRINT
Thanks.

Wind looks at the giant book like she has absolutely no idea
what to do with it. After an awkward beat...

82 QUIBBLE PANTS
I guess I could hold it for you.
You know, so you don't have to
carry it.

Wind gladly hands the book off and turns to her mom.

83 WIND SPRINT
Can we go to the game now?

84 CLEAR SKY
Sure, honey.

Excited once more, Wind turns and heads out. Quibble looks
after her, disappointed. Sky pulls him aside.

85 CLEAR SKY (CONT'D)
Listen, Q, this trip was a lovely
idea and the book was sweet, but
you don't have to try so hard.
Everything's going to be fine.
You'll see.

With that, she give him a nuzzle and heads after her
daughter. Quibble looks to the ground, dejected.

86 QUIBBLE PANTS
Not even my presents are in the
ball court.

87 RAINBOW DASH
Do mean ballpark?

88 QUIBBLE PANTS
Do I? I don't know! One thing's for
sure, Wind is never going to like a
pony like me.

89 RAINBOW DASH
Of course she will. She just needs
to see your sporty side.

90 QUIBBLE PANTS
I don't have a sporty side.

91 RAINBOW DASH
Everypony has a sporty side and
we're gonna find yours. By the end
of the day I'm going to turn you
into the sportiest pony in
Equestria!

Off Quibble's look of shock and horror we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 6 - EXT. BUCKBALL HALL OF FAME - DAY

Wind Sprint gallops toward the sound of CHEERING from the stadium, and Clear Sky quickens to a trot to keep up. Quibble hangs back with Dash, giving her a nervous look.

92 QUIBBLE PANTS
Look, I'm not saying it's a
terrible idea... but it's a
terrible idea! You can't turn me
into an athlete. It's impossible!

93 RAINBOW DASH
It's either that or be yourself and
bond with Wind over comic books and
role playing games.

The two of them glance over at Wind who leaps into the air and does an excited (and super coordinated) barrel roll/loop, then lands perfectly at the end of the line of ponies waiting to get in to the stadium.

94 QUIBBLE PANTS
Don't you think I tried? She
doesn't even like Daring Do. She
thinks she's not athletic enough.

95 RAINBOW DASH
<GASP> WHAT?! Wow. We need to get
started on operation sportify asap!

Off Quibble, apprehensive...

SC. 7 - EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

Dash and Quibble stand on the pitch. Quibble looks around nervously while Dash tosses a ball between her wings.

96 RAINBOW DASH
To figure out what your sporty side
is, we just need to see what your
skills are. Everypony's got
something: Speed...

She rockets back and forth across the field, then stops on a dime right in front of Quibble.

97 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Strength...

She reaches out and lifts a surprised Quibble off the ground.

98 QUIBBLE PANTS
<WHOA!>

99 RAINBOW DASH
Agility!

Dash sets Quibble down and pulls a collection of balls out of nowhere and starts juggling them back and forth between her wings and hooves.

100 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
'Course, some ponies can do it all.

101 QUIBBLE PANTS
(flat)
You're amazing. But what about me?

102 RAINBOW DASH
Right. We should probably start
small. I'll pass the ball to you
and you just pass it back to me.
Okay?

Quibble nods. Dash sets a ball down and ever-so-lightly, kicks it toward him.

We watch in SLO-MOTION as the ball rolls, end over end, along the ground toward Quibble who screws up his face in worried concentration as he awkwardly winds up, and prepares to kick it back. Then, with a tortured, flinch of a kick, he swings his hoof and... completely misses the ball.

Still in SLO-MO, the momentum of his own hoof carries him up into the air, flipping completely over and landing in a sprawled belly flop onto the ground as we END SLO-MOTION.

103 QUIBBLE PANTS
Ow.

104 RAINBOW DASH
Okaaaay. Maybe agility's not your
thing.

SC. 8 - EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - LATER

Dash looks off screen, a whistle around her neck.

105 RAINBOW DASH
Ready?

PAN OVER to reveal Quibble, in racing gear (i.e., wearing a headband) and Snips, similarly attired.

106 QUIBBLE PANTS
If I say no do I still have to run?

107 RAINBOW DASH
Yep.

108 SNIPS
Can we get on with this? Snails and
I did so well with the autographs,
we decided to expand and these
souvenirs aren't going to sell
themselves.

Snips points toward the finish line, where a basket full of Snails memorabilia (pictures, pennants, balloons, etc.) sits. Dash turns to Quibble.

109 RAINBOW DASH
Remember. Think, speed.

110 QUIBBLE PANTS
Got it. Speed.

111 RAINBOW DASH
On your marks...

112 QUIBBLE PANTS
Speed...

113 RAINBOW DASH
...get set...

114 QUIBBLE PANTS
Speed...

115 RAINBOW DASH
Go!

As Dash blows the whistle we CUT CLOSE on Quibble moving in a flurry of PANTS and EFFORTS, dust rising around him...

116 QUIBBLE PANTS
<EFFORTS> Speed! Speed. Speed...

Finally Quibble comes to an exhausted stop, wiping his brow as he <COUGHS> and <WHEEZES>.

117 QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)
WHEW! Okay! What a race! Right?

The dust settles to reveal Quibble is a mere four steps past the starting line. At the finish, Snips hoists up his basket and dons a souvenir Snails hat.

118 SNIPS
This was fun, but I've gotta get
back to work!

As Snips waddles off, Dash turns to a dejected Quibble.

119 QUIBBLE PANTS
So much for speed.

SC. 9 - EXT. MUSEUM - LATER

CLOSE ON - Dash cheering Quibble on.

120 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, Quibble. You got this!

CLOSE ON - Quibble, straining with all his might, sweat pouring down his face.

121 QUIBBLE PANTS
<GRUNT> I-- Got-- This...! I--
don't got this...

Exhausted, Quibble gives up as we PULL WIDE to reveal...

He's been struggling to lift TWO BOOKS at once. He looks up at his meager "free wights" and <GROANS>.

122 QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)
This is hopeless! I don't have any skills. Not agility. Not speed. I can't even lift more than one book - AND I LOVE BOOKS!

123 RAINBOW DASH
If we had time to train I know I could mold you into the perfect sports pony. (off Quibble's look) Or at least a sportier pony.

124 QUIBBLE PANTS
Who knows how long that would take? I need to get Wind to like me now.

Suddenly, there's a CHEER from the stadium and Dash gets an idea.

125 RAINBOW DASH
Maybe you're not the best athlete in Equestria, or the most coordinated, or the fastest, or even a little bit strong--

126 QUIBBLE PANTS
Is this supposed to be making me feel better? Because it's not.

127 RAINBOW DASH
--But none of that matters because I just figured out how to sportify you.

Off Dash's look of confidence...

SC. 10 - EXT. STADIUM - LATER

On the field, Pinkie bounces around with the ball - to the consternation of the opposing earth pony PLAYER. With a <SQEEE> Pinkie bounces the ball over his head to...

Fluttershy, who spins and twirls around her opponent, catching Pinkie's pass and whipping it toward...

Snails who bends down to pick a flower while simultaneously floating his basket over to catch Fluttershy's shot and SCORE!

A CHEER erupts from the crowd as the GAME ANNOUNCER's voice rings out.

128 GAME ANNOUNCER
And with that score, the stars of
Team Ponyville advance to the next
round! If they keep winning like
this they'll never get off the
field!

CLOSE ON - Sky and Wind in the stands as the crowd give
another CHEER! An excited and pleased Wind looks to her mom.

129 WIND SPRINT
Wow. The players from Ponyville are
so good!

Suddenly, a voice comes from off screen

130 QUIBBLE PANTS (O.S.)
They sure are!

Sky turns around as we PULL OUT to reveal Quibble standing
behind them.

131 CLEAR SKY
Quibble! Where have you been? I was
hoping we'd all watch the
tournament together.

Quibble casts a nervous glance off screen where Dash hides
behind a pylon. Dash motions for him to keep going.

132 QUIBBLE PANTS
Oh, I've just been arranging for us
to hang out with a few of my close
friends... from Team Ponyville!

Wind's expression shifts to shocked excitement.

133 QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)
That is, if Wind's up for it.

Wind looks up at her mother with pleading excitement. Off
Clear Sky shooting Quibble a slightly exasperated look...

SC. 11 - EXT. STADIUM - FIELD - SOON AFTER

Quibble and Sky walk together as Dash leads Wind toward
Pinkie and Fluttershy. Sky turns to Quibble as Wind rushes
ahead excited.

134 CLEAR SKY
This is wonderful, Q, but I still
feel like you're trying too hard to
get Wind's approval.

Before Quibble can answer, Wind comes bouncing back to them.

135 WIND SPRINT
This is so great. Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy are the best players out there!

136 RAINBOW DASH
Well, you can thank Quibble. Wonderbolts, Buckball stars... he's friends with the sportiest ponies around, so he must be pretty sporty too, right?

Wind looks Quibble up and down, considering the thought that he could possibly be sporty.

Suddenly, Pinkie comes bouncing into frame and lands right in front of Quibble.

137 PINKIE PIE
Ooooh. So this is Quibble Pants. Rainbow Dash told us all about how you two spent a whole Daring Do Convention geeking out together about books!

138 FLUTTERSHY
And even though at first she thought you were the most annoying fan pony she every met, you eventually became friends.

139 QUIBBLE PANTS
Uhhhh....

Unsure what to say, Quibble watches Wind's newfound respect for him start to fade. Sky notices too and tries to help.

140 CLEAR SKY
I guess even sports ponies agree, Quibble's a pony you like more and more over time.

But Sky's words falls on deaf ears as Wind rolls her eyes again, then turns her attention to Fluttershy and Pinkie.

141 WIND SPRINT
Knowing sports ponies isn't the same as being one, right? What's it like playing in front of all those fans?

Fluttershy and Pinkie exchange looks, not quite sure how to respond.

142 FLUTTERSHY
Um...

Dash looks around, trying to figure out how to salvage the situation, then blurts out.

143 RAINBOW DASH
I guess you'll find out!

144 WIND SPRINT
What do you mean?

Quibble turns to Dash with concern.

145 QUIBBLE PANTS
Yes. What do you mean?

146 RAINBOW DASH
I think it's time we told Wind about your next surprise...

147 CLEAR SKY
Q, Wind really doesn't need any more surprises.

Wind looks back to Quibble with a bored expression.

148 WIND SPRINT
(flat)
Is it another book?

149 RAINBOW DASH
A, books are awesome, and B, this is way more awesomer than that. For the tournament half-time show, you and Quibble are gonna play a game of buckball against Team Ponyville!

150 QUIBBLE PANTS
WE'RE WHAT?!

Off everyponies' looks of shock we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 12 - EXT. STADIUM - FIELD - SOON AFTER

Quibble stands frozen on the pitch, looking from the stands to Wind who warms up, zooming through the air as she whips buckballs toward Snips who floats a basket up for her - playing keeper for their side.

Dash flies around Quibble trying to get him to stretch, pulling his legs, etc.

151 RAINBOW DASH
You should probably stretch.

152 QUIBBLE PANTS
No amount of stretching is going to make this okay. What were you thinking?

153 RAINBOW DASH
Look, you wanted to impress Wind and this just made sense.

154 QUIBBLE PANTS
Really? How does me making a fool of myself in front of her, Sky, and a billion buckball fans make sense?!

155 RAINBOW DASH
More like thirty buckball fans, but don't worry, I've got your flank. I already talked to Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy. They're totally going to make you look good.

Quibble looks over at Pinkie and Fluttershy who give him encouraging waves.

156 QUIBBLE PANTS
Oh. Okay. Maybe this isn't the absolute worst idea ever.

Suddenly, the Announcer's voice rings out through the stadium.

157 GAME ANNOUNCER
Mares and Stallions, foals and colts. Put your hooves together for today's halftime presentation as buckball's biggest stars take on a team of fans just like you!

With that, a deafening CHEER erupts from the crowd. Excited, Wind Sprint flips and rolls in the air. Quibble looks out at the cheering fans - eyes wide with fright.

158 QUIBBLE PANTS
But that still doesn't make it a
good idea.

GAME MONTAGE

CLOSE - on a REFEREE PONY who tosses a ball high in the air.
PULL OUT to see Quibble and Pinkie beneath. Pinkie nods encouragingly toward the ball a couple of times.

Quibble stares, unsure what to do until finally Pinkie grabs his hoof and holds it out. Quibble closes his eyes as the ball hits his hoof and bounces off at an odd angle.

The ball hits Pinkie, ricochets off of her, and sails into the Ponyville goal, catching Snails off guard. The crowd CHEERS.

159 GAME ANNOUNCER
And that's one for the Ponyville
Champs. Looks like these fans don't
know what they signed up for.

Wind looks to Quibble with a look of consternation. On the sidelines Dash drops her head into her hooves. CUT TO:

CLOSE - on Fluttershy performing her go-to tail whipping maneuver, but Wind soars up as she releases the ball and catches it in her wings.

Wind spots Quibble next to Snips and their goal. Quibble waves his hooves for the pass, but Wind hesitates. Fluttershy flies up with mock-concern.

160 FLUTTERSHY
Oh no, Quibble's wide open and I'll
never get there in time to block.

Wind launches the ball toward Quibble.

In SUPER SLOW MOTION we watch as the ball travels toward Quibble, who screws up his face in concentration, lifts his hind legs and BUCKS - completely missing the ball which drops to the ground and rolls out of bounds. BACK TO NORMAL SPEED.

161 GAME ANNOUNCER
Ooooh! Looks like our fan team
needs to work on their passing.

Quibble looks over at the ball, embarrassed as Wind soars around in frustration. CUT TO:

CLOSE - Fluttershy again. She spin-passes the ball to Pinkie who bounces toward it but...

Wind soars in and blocks the ball before Pinkie can get it. The ball bounces off of Wind and goes sailing in a high arc. Quibble races beneath it.

162 QUIBBLE PANTS
I got it! I got it!

CLOSE - on everypony's expressions: Pinkie hopeful, Fluttershy concerned, Dash worried, Wind uncertain, as Quibble winds up his hind legs beneath the falling ball and... makes a perfect buck!

The ball goes flying across the field and lands into a goal. The crowd CHEERS.

163 GAME ANNOUNCER
And the fan team finally scores --
for the other side! Too bad. That
makes three. Team Ponyville wins!

PULL OUT to reveal the ball is in Snail's basket. Everyponies' expressions drop. Quibble looks over to Wind who just shakes her head as we...

END MONTAGE

SC . 13 - EXT. STADIUM - FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Quibble stands with the referee as the others gather around. The buckball almanac lays open on the ground and Quibble points emphatically at a page.

164 QUIBBLE PANTS
It says very clearly on page six
forty-seven of the expanded
buckball tournament rules that "a
goal is scored when an earth pony
sends the ball into a basket," but
it doesn't say which basket.

Even Dash can see Q's grasping at straws.

165 RAINBOW DASH
I'm pretty sure everypony knows
you're not supposed to score in the
other team's goal.

166 QUIBBLE PANTS
But, the rules don't say that. If
that goal is ours it's only 2-1 and
we can keep playing.

167 WIND SPRINT (O.S.)
I don't want to!

They all turn as Wind flies up to Quibble.

168 WIND SPRINT (CONT'D)
You're not a sports pony. It's not
fun playing this game with you.
It's not fun doing anything with
you!

With that, the young pegasus storms off. Clear Sky trots up from the stands and Quibble turns to her, heartbroken.

169 QUIBBLE PANTS
I was just trying to get her to like
me.

170 CLEAR SKY
I know. But I told you, you didn't
need to. You and I have to rethink
all of this.

With that, Sky turns and walks off after her daughter. Devastated, Quibble slumps off in the opposite direction.

Dash looks on, distraught, as they go their separate ways.

SC. 14 - EXT. MUSEUM STEPS - LATER

Dash walks up to a despondent Quibble sitting on the steps, solemnly leafing through the giant almanac.

171 RAINBOW DASH
What are you doing out here?

172 QUIBBLE PANTS
Apparently, this book is as close
to sports as I'll ever get.

173 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, that goal you scored for
the other team was amazing!

174 QUIBBLE PANTS
Thanks for trying, Rainbow Dash,
but I think we can both agree the
whole sportify idea was a big flop.

175 RAINBOW DASH
What?! We haven't even gotten
started! I've got, like, seven more
top notch ideas to turn you into a
super sporty pony.

Quibble closes the book and SIGHS. He shakes his head.

176 QUIBBLE PANTS
Wind's already made up her mind and
so have I. It's time to throw up
the towel.

177 RAINBOW DASH
It's throw in the towel, and that's
ridiculous! You can't just give up.

178 QUIBBLE PANTS
Wind and Sky deserve a pony they
both like in their lives. Besides,
Sky wants to "rethink" things, so
I'm just beating her to the lunch.

179 RAINBOW DASH
It's beating her to the punch. And
it's barely a sports reference. How
do you not know that?

Quibble looks at Dash, wide-eyed and intense, clapping his
hoofs together on each word for emphasis.

180 QUIBBLE PANTS
Because I. DON'T. KNOW. ANYTHING.
ABOUT. SPORTS! And pretending I did
just made things worse.

Dash looks at Quibble, realizing.

181 RAINBOW DASH
So you should stop pretending. (off
Quibble's "Duh" expression) Look,
you are terrible at sports. You're
uncoordinated, slow, weak...

182 QUIBBLE PANTS
Again, not really making me feel
better.

183 RAINBOW DASH
And you're completely clueless
about anything having to do with
athletics, but maybe I'M not the
pony you should have come to for
help...

Quibble looks to Dash, realization slowing spreading across
his face...

SC. 15 - INT. MUSEUM - DAY

Wind stands in front of an exhibit depicting a soaring
pegasus chasing a ball. Clear Sky walks up.

184 WIND SPRINT
I wish we didn't even come here.

185 CLEAR SKY
Quibble thought you'd like it.

186 WIND SPRINT
Well, I don't. And I don't like
him. He's not fun. He's not sporty.
And he's not dad.

Sky looks at her daughter, surprised.

187 CLEAR SKY
No, he isn't.

188 WIND SPRINT
Why do you like him?

189 CLEAR SKY
(thinks)
Because he's kind and smart and his
friends certainly seem to care
about him, which is always a good
sign.

190 WIND SPRINT
I don't care how many ponies care
about him, they're not going to
make me forget about dad.

Wind looks to Sky, welling up. Sky pulls her daughter close.

191 CLEAR SKY
Oh, sweetheart, I know Quibble's
trying too hard, but he doesn't
want you to stop loving your dad,
he just wants you to like him.

Wind looks up at her mom, confused.

192 CLEAR SKY (CONT'D)
And I think maybe there's enough
room in your heart to do both.
Don't you?

As Wind looks at Sky, considering, Quibble and Dash rush up.

193 QUIBBLE PANTS
(winded)
Hey there. Whew! Glad I found you
because I have a confession to
make. I know it's hard to imagine,
but I'm not really all that sporty.

194 CLEAR SKY
(dripping with sarcasm)
No!

Quibble shoots her a look, then turns back to Wind.

195 QUIBBLE PANTS
I'm sorry I was trying so hard to
convince you otherwise. I just
really wanted us to get along, but
I guess it backfired. Do you think
we could start over? Maybe we could
watch some of the tournament
together and you could teach me
some sports stuff?

Wind gives a look to Clear Sky who smiles. Wind looks back to Quibble and does the same.

SC. 16 - EXT. STADIUM - STANDS - LATER

Quibble and Wind sit next to each other looking out at the field where Pinkie and Fluttershy take on the next team. Wind points to Snails.

196 WIND SPRINT
Okay, that's their goal.

197 QUIBBLE PANTS
I'll try to remember that if I ever
decide to play buckball again--but
I probably won't.

Wind and Quibble exchange a smile. Quibble looks up suddenly.

198 QUIBBLE PANTS (CONT'D)
Ooh, look. Pinkie Pie is going to
flip and triple bounce the ball
into the goal.

Wind gives Quibble a "Yeah, right" look, but when she looks out to the field, Pinkie flips, bounces three times and bucks the ball into the goal. Wind looks back to Quibble in awe.

199 WIND SPRINT
How did you know that?!

Quibble pulls out the giant buckball almanac and flips to a chart in the back.

200 QUIBBLE PANTS
It's right here. Pinkie flips and triple bounce-bucks over 83% of her shots from the northwest section of the field when the wind is blowing from the east.

He points to a flag blowing in the wind. Wind Sprint looks back to him, impressed. She scoots closer to look at the book.

201 WIND SPRINT
Huh. I guess this book's kind of cool after all.

Quibble smiles and gives her the book, then looks up to see Sky and Dash coming back to their seats with refreshments. Quibble gets up to help.

202 QUIBBLE PANTS
Look, Sky, I know you're thinking of calling it quits between us, and after today I don't blame you, but Wind and I just made a connection!

203 CLEAR SKY
Calling it quits? What are you talking about?

204 QUIBBLE PANTS
You said you wanted to rethink things.

205 CLEAR SKY
Yeah, things like having your friend help you pretend to be a sports pony so Wind would like you.

Quibble and Dash fuffer, embarrassed.

206 QUIBBLE PANTS/DASH
Whaaaaaat? / We didn't... / I mean...

Just then the crowd erupts into a CHEER and Wind rushes over, dragging the almanac. She points down at a page.

207 WIND SPRINT
Mom, look what Quibble showed me! When Fluttershy flies higher than the other pegasus, Pinkie scores 92% of the time! And it just happened.

208 CLEAR SKY
Wow. You better watch out or you'll
start to like books.

Wind looks to Quibble and smiles.

209 WIND SPRINT
I guess that wouldn't be so bad.

With that, she drags the book back to her seat.

210 CLEAR SKY
Huh. Looks like you didn't need
sportiness, famous ponies, or
lavish gifts to bond with Wind.

211 RAINBOW DASH
Technically, he still needed to buy
her the book, but that's it.

Quibble and Sky give Dash a look and as she shrugs. Off them
rolling their eyes at her we...

IRIS OUT

END.