

Distribution:

Production

Devon Cody

Jim Miller

Denny Lu

Mike Myhre

Zoe Borroz

Josh Haber

Jada McDermott

Discovery Family

Linda Shima Tsuno

Beth Mohammed

MY LITTLE PONY

Season 9

2, 4, 6, Greaaat

Ep 915

LOCKED SCRIPT

Premise: Kaita Mpambara
Outline: Kaita Mpambara
Teleplay 1st Draft: Kaita Mpambara
Teleplay 2nd Draft: Kaita Mpambara
Teleplay Final Draft: Kaita Mpambara
Teleplay Final Draft V2: Kaita Mpambara

Premise: January 23, 2018
Outline: February 05, 2018
Teleplay 1st Draft: February 28, 2018
Teleplay 2nd Draft: March 14, 2018
Teleplay Final Draft: March 28, 2018
Teleplay Final Draft V2: April 02, 2018
Locked Script: April 18, 2018

Hasbro Studios

Stephen Davis

Meghan McCarthy

Eliza Hart

Leslie Wishnevski

Finn Arnesen

Nina Scales

Tyla Bucher

Loretta Masters

Narae Song

Bill Cheungcp

Molly Shaffer

Emily Thompson

Kevin Farrell

Lauren Devereux

Michael Kelly

Hasbro Brand

Julie Sanfilippo

Matt Riordan

Andrea Ehret

Samantha Lomow

Gretchen Forrest

Brian Chapman

TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY**

TWILIGHT SPARKLE talks a mile a minute as she leads PINKIE PIE, FLUTTERSHY, and SNAILS around the side of the school.

1 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I have to admit I was a little shocked when Princess Celestia told me she wanted to start an Scholastic Buckball League, but I was even more surprised that she wanted the first game to be between her school and ours! Apparently, she's a huge sports fan.

2 PINKIE PIE
I always thought Celestia was kind of a jock. Just with reallly wavy hair.

As they turn a corner Twilight points toward a crew of WORK-PONIES busily adding to the stands around the school's buckball field.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Anyway, we don't have much time. The game is in two weeks! And I want all of you to coach the team!

Twilight points to a collection of STUDENTS standing off to the side. Fluttershy starts breathing heavily and Twilight takes her own deep, happy, satisfied breath.

4 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I know how you feel. Young athletes ready to take the field... You can almost breathe in the excitement--

Twilight turns to see Fluttershy HYPERVENTILATING! Snails and Pinkie rush to catch the gasping pony as Fluttershy half-faints on the grass!

5 SNAILS
I don't think you should breathe it in so hard!

6 FLUTTERSHY
It's just... two weeks doesn't feel like a lot of time to train a whole team.

7 PINKIE PIE

Maybe the School of Magic could play a few other schools first. Like the Mane and Tail Styling College, or the Scroll-Making Institute?

8 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Relax. You're gonna do just fine.

9 FLUTTERSHY

Um... what makes you so sure?

10 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Because I have faith in my friends... Who also happen to be the best buckball players in Equestria.

11 PINKIE PIE

Oh, yeah.

Pinkie kicks up a nearby ball and juggles it back and forth between her hooves before passing it to Fluttershy who whips it around with her tail, sending it across the field -- right into a basket of other balls. The students all <WHOOOA>, impressed.

12 FLUTTERSHY

I guess that is sort of true.

13 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I asked Rainbow Dash to help too. (looking around) But I'm not sure where she--

Suddenly, RAINBOW DASH ZOOMS in over the field (nearly blowing over several work ponies with her jet wash) carrying a huge bag of sports equipment!

14 RAINBOW DASH

Sorry I'm late! But when Twilight said she needed my help with the buckball team, I figured I'd better grab every piece of coaching equipment I could find!

She drops the bag and all manner of equipment spills out. She picks things up one at a time as she talks.

15 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

So, what should I focus on? Offense? Defense? Trick plays?

16 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I was thinking of something even
more important.

17 RAINBOW DASH
Awesome! Lay it on me! Whatever
it is, I'll give it 120%!

Dash is so excited she starts spinning with joy in the air!

18 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I knew I could count on your
enthusiasm. That's why I want you
to coach the Cheer Squad!

Rainbow Dash stops spinning in shock, crashing right into her
pile of equipment. She stares at Twilight in shock.

19 RAINBOW DASH
CHEERLEADING!?!

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 2 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - RESUME

Snails, Pinkie, and Fluttershy head off to start working with
the team as Twilight turns to go back inside. Dash hurries to
follow.

20 RAINBOW DASH
I don't mean to sound ungrateful.
It's just, when you said you wanted
my help with something important, I
thought you meant... something
important.

21 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
The Cheer Squad is important.

Rainbow Dash BURSTS OUT LAUGHING, then sees Twilight's
stopped to frown at her and backtracks.

22 RAINBOW DASH
Oh. Well, sure Cheer Squad is
tootally important to somepony who
isn't me, but I'm more about the
ponies playing in the game, not
cheering for it.

Dash points to the team out in the field, passing balls back and forth. Off another sideways glance from Twilight...

23 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I mean, it's great that someponies only want to cheer, though I don't know why they would.

Twilight looks at Dash, considering.

24 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, maybe this will be a good opportunity for you to find out.

25 RAINBOW DASH
(not listening)
Of course I've seen cheer squads before. On the sidelines. But I'm not even 100% sure what they do. I'll probably just mess it up.

Twilight turns, smiling to herself as she walks off.

26 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I think you might be surprised. In fact, I'm more sure than ever that you're the perfect choice.

Unconvinced, Dash watches as Twilight heads back inside.

27 SNIPS (O.S.)
I'm actually 120% sure!

Dash whips around to see SNIPS standing next to her. He wears an over the top cheer squad uniform and is covered, head to toe, in buckball paraphernalia (buttons, pins, hat, hoof-bands, etc).

28 SNIPS (CONT'D)
And it's a good thing too. The cheer squad really needs you.

29 RAINBOW DASH
What do you mean?

30 SNIPS
Well, I've been helping out and let's put it this way. We've got two weeks until the big game and we could use two years.

Dash's expression drops even further.

31 SNIPS (CONT'D)
But that's all gonna change because
you're here to save the day!

32 RAINBOW DASH
Ookaaay... So why are you here?

33 SNIPS
What, a pony can't show school
spirit?

34 RAINBOW DASH
You don't go to the school.

A beat.

35 SNIPS
Look, when I went to the Buckball
Hall of Fame I found out buckball
souvenirs are big bits. If
Twilight's team does well I can
start selling them full time in
Ponyville, so I have a vested
interest and you have an assistant
coach!

Snips pulls a WHISTLE out from the collection of junk he's
wearing and BLOWS it. Off Rainbow Dash's SIGH...

SC. 3 - INT. DASH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

As Rainbow Dash and Snips walk into her gymnasium-like
classroom, two Earth Pony students, SHIMMY SHAKE and
LIGHTHOOF, <GASP> in excitement and scatter.

36 SHIMMY SHAKE
She's here!

37 LIGHTHOOF
Get the lights!

The gym is suddenly shrouded in darkness as a SPOT LIGHT
finds the pair of Earth ponies decked out in sequined
outfits. <DISCO-STYLE MUSIC> starts to play (think ABBA's
Dancing Queen).

As Dash stares confused, Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof hop-
scotching over one another, getting closer and closer as they
CHANT to the beat.

38 SHIMMY SHAKE
Over, and over, and over again!

39 LIGHTHOOF

*We wanna dance for each other and
for all of our friends!*

Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof break out into an CHOREOGRAPHED DISCO-ISH ROUTINE (refs: <https://youtu.be/cZcet1RXceM>, https://youtu.be/_zuC8l0ra_k), moving in perfect unison, then diving on the ground and thrusting their hooves in the air in front of a stoic Rainbow Dash. Snips turns on the lights.

40 RAINBOW DASH

(flat) Dancing. Right. <SIGHS>
(then) I've seen you two around
school, haven't I?

They jump up and nod, excitedly.

41 SHIMMY SHAKE

I'm Shimmy Shake, and this is
Lighthoof!

42 LIGHTHOOF

And we are your lead dancers!

Dash nods, not knowing what to say. Luckily, she spots SMOLDER, OCELLUS, and YONA strolling up.

43 RAINBOW DASH

I didn't know you three would be
here.

Yona, starts jumping up and down with such excitement her mighty stomps shake the floor.

44 YONA

Yona want to cheer and make pony
pyramid!

Ocellus steps up, timid.

45 OCELLUS

And I thought this could be my
chance to make an impression on
everypony-- you know, for something
other than changing shape.

Rainbow Dash arches a curious eyebrow at Smolder.

46 RAINBOW DASH

I didn't realize you were into
school spirit, Smolder.

Smolder shrugs like a disaffected teenager who doesn't want to admit she likes something.

47 SMOLDER

Oh, I just came with these two.
Guess they think you can make cheer
squad cool or something.

48 RAINBOW DASH

Don't count on it.

Dash walks past Smolder (not noticing her look of disappointment). Snips joins her in the center of the room.

49 SNIPS

Okay, now that we're all here, why
don't you tell us the plan? How are
you gonna make us into the most
awesome cheer squad ever?!

50 RAINBOW DASH

(shrugs) I don't know.

The squads' expressions drop. Dash looks out the window at the buckball team practicing on the field below.

51 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

I mean, if you guys were an actual
buckball team, I'd have plenty of
ideas, but I don't know anything
about cheerleading.

The squad just stare at her. Snips steps forward.

52 SNIPS

(with a nervous laugh) Hehehe. Good
one, coach! But Headmare Twilight
picked you for the job so, I'm
pretty sure you know what you're
doing.

Dash keeps watching the team practice, not really listening.

53 RAINBOW DASH

If you say so.

Snips looks to the squad with another nervous LAUGH.

54 SNIPS

Hehehe. Right. (to the squad) Okay,
gang. Let's show Rainbow Dash what
we've been working on and she can
take it from there.

The squad's expressions shift to hesitant excitement. Yona stomps around in a circle.

55 YONA
Cheer Squad can do that!

56 LIGHTHOOF
Yep! All we need is a little music!

She points to Snips who reaches over and starts a record player.

As soon as the MUSIC starts, Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof go into the exact same dance routine, but their hopscotching gets thrown by Yona's stomping.

57 SHIMMY SHAKE
*Over, and <WHOA>ver, and <WHOA>ver
again...*

58 LIGHTHOOF
*We wanna dance for each other and
for all of our fri<AHHH>!*

They start the next part of their routine, but keep having to stop and start over, while...

Ocellus hands a scroll to Smolder who looks down at it and rolls her eyes. Ocellus elbows her and she reads...

59 SMOLDER
(Half-hearted cheer) 2, 4, 6, 8...

Ocellus picks it up from there, but mumbles, her head buried in the scroll.

60 OCELLUS
(continuing) ...Friendship School
is really great...

Smolder looks over at her and shakes her head.

Snips quickly nudges Smolder and gestures to Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof who near their big finish. Smolder rolls her eyes again and blows a puff of SMOKE at them (like a living smoke machine) and at Yona, who bounces toward them excitedly.

The dancers thrust their hooves in the air just as the smoke covers them, Yona, and Ocellus and we hear a loud <CRASH>.

As the smoke clears we see Smolder standing next to the rest of the squad, all laid out in a heap.

61 SMOLDER
Well, that was a disaster.

62 SHIMMY SHAKE

It's kind of hard to stick to our choreography when the floor is moving.

63 LIGHTHOOF

Yeah, Yona. Your stomps a little too powerful.

64 YONA

Can we make pony pyramid instead?

Ocellus shuffles through a hoof-ful of scrolls.

65 OCELLUS

Maybe we should figure out which cheers we should do first.

66 SMOLDER

(sarcastic) Yeah. Because that'll fix everything.

Snips walks over to Dash, who's still glancing out the window, and nudges her.

67 SNIPS

So? I'm mean there's a few, err-- a lot of problems, but nothing you can't solve. Right?

They all look to Dash who turns to face them, distracted.

68 RAINBOW DASH

Huh? Oh. Yeah. Listen, you guys don't have anything to worry about.

69 SMOLDER

We don't?

Dash casts another gaze at Pinkie and Fluttershy working with the buckball team outside.

70 RAINBOW DASH

Nope. In fact, I think what you all just did is totally fine. You guys have got this! So... I'm just gonna head down to the field. Great practice everypony!

With that, Rainbow Dash heads out the door, the Squad members all look at one another, like, "What just happened!?"

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**SC. 4 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - HALLWAY - RESUME**

Rainbow Dash trots down the hall toward the front door when she's suddenly brought up short by a tug from behind. She looks back, confused to see Snips pulling on her tail.

71 RAINBOW DASH
Um, what are you doing?

72 SNIPS
What are you doing? You gotta come back and coach the Squad.

Dash shakes her tail free, heads back down the hall.

73 RAINBOW DASH
I watched some cheer stuff. Looked fine to me.

Snips runs in front of Dash and tries pushing her backwards.

74 SNIPS
Well, it's not! Do you know what'll happen if they do what they just did at the big game?

Rainbow Dash flaps her wings and flies over him.

75 RAINBOW DASH
Ah... Nothing?

Snips uses unicorn magic to grab her by the hoof, straining as she struggles against it.

76 SNIPS
Ah, wrong! <GRUNT> A good cheer squad gets the fans excited, which gets the team excited. But if nopony's excited, then nopony buys any <STRAINING> souvenirs!

77 RAINBOW DASH
I think you're blowing this a little out of proportion.

78 SNIPS
The point is, if I'm going to make any bits at these games, that squad has to get better. And to do that, they need a coach.

Snips points back toward the classroom. Rainbow Dash stops struggling, thinks for a minute, then grins.

79 RAINBOW DASH
You know, what? You're right. Why don't you do it? You do have a vested interest!

With that, Dash flies off leaving Snips, considering...

SC. 5 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - LATER

TIGHT on SNAILS sitting cross-legged and blindfolded.

80 SNAILS
The trick to being a good buckball keeper is to do nothing. Just empty your mind. Be the ball.

PULL WIDE to reveal he's using magic to float above the buckball team gathered around him. One of the PLAYERS looks up, confused.

81 PLAYER 1
Um, balls don't have minds.

82 SNAILS
Exactly.

Across the field, Fluttershy and Pinkie toss a collection of balls at Snails and he levitates a nearby basket up and catches them all, still blindfolded. The team all <GASP>.

83 TEAM
Where's my blindfold? / My turn! /
I wanna do that! / Etc.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash looking on from the stands eating popcorn. A disgruntled Smolder steps in front of her, blocking her view.

84 SMOLDER
Why are you watching Snail's weird practice when you're supposed to be practicing with us?

Dash gives a little laugh, agreeing.

85 RAINBOW DASH
Snail's practice is definitely weird... (then, looking up) Oh. Ah... I thought Snips was practicing with you.

86 SMOLDER
He was...

Smolder steps aside to reveal the rest of the Cheer Squad, all of them covered head to toe in Snips' SOUVENIR GEAR.

87 SHIMMY SHAKE
Do you have any idea how hard it is
to dance in this stuff?

88 OCELLUS
Plus all these buttons jingle so
much you can't hear my cheers.

89 SMOLDER
Speaking up might help a little.

Ocellus shoots Smolder a look, but Dash just shrugs.

90 RAINBOW DASH
So don't dance and cheer.

They all stare at her, incredulous.

91 YONA
Then what Cheer Squad do?

92 RAINBOW DASH
(shrugs) I don't know.

93 SMOLDER
Well, maybe you should!

Everyone is surprised by Smolder's outburst. Especially Smolder. She tries to cover.

94 SMOLDER (CONT'D)
Or whatever. You're the coach.
You're supposed to come up with
stuff for us to do.

Dash looks past the Cheer Squad at Snails, still blindfolded, levitating a bucket and catching balls that the buckball team throws at him. She smiles.

95 RAINBOW DASH
Okay. I've got something for you to
do...

SC. 6 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - DASH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

TIGHT on Lighthoof and Shimmy Shake.

96 LIGHTHOOF/SHIMMY SHAKE
What do you mean nothing?!

PULL WIDE to reveal Snails, blindfolded again as he floats in front of the cheer squad.

97 SNAILS
Just do nothing. Empty your minds.
Be the squad.

98 SMOLDER
We are the squad.

Snails lift his blindfold and looks at them.

99 SNAILS
Oh, yeah.

Off to the side, a disgruntled Snips packs up a trunk of buttons and pennants and pins.

100 SNIPS
At least helping sell my souvenirs
was something.

Rainbow Dash looks on, bored, as Snails uses his unicorn magic to tie blindfolds around Yona, Smolder, Ocellus, Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof.

101 YONA
Yona still not understand how this
make us better.

Yona fiddles with her blindfold, and it falls loose enough for her to see Rainbow Dash sneaking out of the room. She charges over and blocks her path. The angry Cheer Squad surrounds Dash in a flash!

102 YONA (CONT'D)
Professor Dash needs to stay and
coach!

Rainbow Dash rolls her eyes.

103 RAINBOW DASH
You guys asked me to come up with
something and I did.

104 SMOLDER
(flat)
I don't think "nothing" counts.

105 RAINBOW DASH
Well, then I'm out of ideas.

Snails floats over, still blindfolded.

106 SNAILS
This is the School of Friendship.
If you need ideas, you should ask
your friends for help.

Dash gives Snails a hard look, then...

107 RAINBOW DASH
(flat) Fine.

SC. 7 - INT./EXT. - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MONTAGE

In a quick series of shots, Rainbow Dash talks to several of her friends...

1) On the buckball field, Dash shakes her head and shrugs at Pinkie Pie who runs off, then comes back with her cannon and fires a HUGE BLAST of Confetti! Dash gives her a look like, "Why not?"

2) In a school hallway, Dash looks on, confused as Rarity bursts out of her classroom with a collection of PURPLE RHINESTONE-STUDDERED JUMP SUITS. Dash looks at them skeptical but just shrugs like, "Okay."

3) At Sweet Apple Acres Dash stares at APPLEJACK, bewildered. BIG MAC enters pushing several BALES OF HAY. AJ gestures to the bales, but Dash's confused expression just deepens.

4) TIGHT on Dash as she talks to a pony off-screen.

108 RAINBOW DASH
And I guess the cheers are supposed
to rhyme or something, so...

PAN OVER TO REVEAL -- ZECORA who arches an eyebrow at her like, "Really?" Off Dash's sheepish smile... END MONTAGE

SC. 8 - INT. DASH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Rainbow Dash stands in front of something covered by a large drop cloth. The squad all stand looking at her, less than inspired.

109 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, since you guys have been
nagging me non-stop about this
cheer stuff for, like, ever--

110 SMOLDER
It has literally been one day.

111 RAINBOW DASH
(plowing forward) --I went around
and got everything you need.

With a flourish she flies up and pulls away the drop cloth to reveal all the stuff she's collected, haphazardly stacked in a pile. The squad stare at it confused.

Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof hold up Rarity's outfits with satisfied nods. Yona eyes Pinkie's party cannon. Smolder pokes at the bales of hay.

112 SMOLDER
What are we supposed to do with
hay?

113 RAINBOW DASH
Beats me, but Applejack seemed
pretty sure about it. (suddenly
remembering) Oh! I almost forgot.

Dash reaches into the pile and pulls out a book. She tosses it to Ocellus.

114 OCELLUS
A rhyming dictionary?

115 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. Zecora's a lot less helpful
then you'd think. That's from the
library so you can come up with
cheers. (claps her hooves together)
Okay! Good practice.

With that she turns and starts to head out.

116 SMOLDER
So, you're just leaving again?

Dash stops and rolls her eyes as she turns back to them, exasperated.

117 RAINBOW DASH
Look, I talked to my friends and
they said this is the stuff you
need. (then, stuck with an idea)
Wouldn't a true cheer squad be able
to figure out what to do with it?

118 LIGHTHOOF
But Futtershy and Pinkie want us to
show them everything we've come up
with tomorrow!

119 SHIMMY SHAKE

They want us to get the team all excited before the big game.

120 RAINBOW DASH

Then it's a good thing I got you all this stuff. You better get to work!

With that Dash turns and trots out, leaving the team to share dubious looks. They turn to Snips, still in a huff sitting on his trunk of souvenirs.

121 SNIPS

Don't look at me.

SC. 9 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY

Pinkie and Fluttershy watch from the sidelines as the buckball team finishes up their practice.

A Pegasus on defense makes a dazzling spin pass, tossing the ball to an Earth Pony who bucks it into a bucket perfectly! Fluttershy flies overhead and blows a whistle.

122 FLUTTERSHY

Good work, everypony. Let's take a break.

As the team heads to the sidelines, Dash, back in her spot in the stands, whistles and claps, then rushes over to Fluttershy and Pinkie.

123 RAINBOW DASH

Wow. This team is really shaping up! Nice job!

124 FLUTTERSHY

Thanks. I'm excited to see what you've been up to.

125 PINKIE PIE

Yeah! I can't wait to see the Cheer Squad.

Dash LAUGHS, like Pinkie just told the funniest joke of all time. She looks up to see Pinkie and Fluttershy staring at her, confused.

But before they can pursue it, the Cheer Squad takes the field, obviously reluctant. Pinkie Pie cheers, oblivious to their unsettled expressions.

126 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
WOOOO-HOOOO!!! GO TEAM! This is so
exciting!

Fluttershy turns to Dash.

127 FLUTTERSHY
Well, I'm sure you've put in a lot
of hard work.

128 RAINBOW DASH
(shrugs) How much work does cheer
squad need?

Pinkie and Fluttershy look at each other, not sure what to
make of Dash's attitude, when Snips pops up between them with
a tray of souvenirs.

129 SNIPS
Anypony wanna buy an official
School of Friendship Cheer Squad
headband? (then, quickly) I'd buy
them before the performance.

As Pinkie and Fluttershy exchange confused looks, the Cheer
Squad get into position-- Lighthoof dragging hay bales onto
the field as Yona wheels in the party cannon.

They all look to Ocellus who nods and starts the MUSIC as
Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof start their EXACT SAME ROUTINE
again.

130 SHIMMY SHAKE
Over, and over, and over again!

131 LIGHTHOOF
*We wanna dance for each other and
for all of our friends!*

As before, they hopscotch over each other then jump onto
separate hay bales for their freestyle section, while Smolder
tosses a few streamers and flatly calls out a chant.

132 SMOLDER
School of Friendship Rah-rah-rah...

She turns to Ocellus, who pages through the rhyming
dictionary and continues, trying to speak up...

133 OCELLUS
...Let's win this game and hit the--
(turns a page) spa?

She looks to Smolder who just shakes her head. Meanwhile, Yona stomps along to the music, the cannon tilting down with every hoof-fall.

As the dancing ponies finish their routine, thrusting their hooves into the air, the MUSIC STOPS-- and then stay there, awkwardly frozen for a longish beat.

Without turning their heads, they glance over at Yona, who's still caught up in her own world of stomps, and WHISPER SHOUT out of the sides of their mouths.

134 LIGHTHOOF/SHIMMY SHAKE
Yona!

Yona looks up and yanks the cord on the party cannon--which is now pointing directly at the squad--BLASTING confetti at the bales of hay which explode as a cloud of hay and confetti settles over the field in a giant mess.

Fluttershy and Pinkie stare in shock.

135 PINKIE PIE
I know I said I couldn't wait to see the Cheer Squad, but maybe I could've waited just a tinsy bit longer.

From off screen we hear Dash's excited voice.

136 RAINBOW DASH (O.S.)
Oh, yeah! Nice one!

They all turn to look and we PAN OVER to reveal Dash tossing a buckball back and forth with a player on the sidelines. SHE WASN'T EVEN WATCHING!

The player she's tossing with stops and Dash turns to see everypony staring at her.

137 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
What?

Off the utterly demoralized expressions of the cheer squad we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 10 - INT. DASH'S CLASSROOM - LATER

Smolder, Shimmy Shake, Yona, Lighthoof and Ocellus all surround Dash, who tosses a buckball between her hooves.

138 RAINBOW DASH

I don't know what everypony's so upset about.

The students just stare at her.

139 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

So it wasn't great. Cheerleading's never great. That's why everypony gets up to get a snack during it.

Before Dash can finish, Yona bursts into tears and runs from the room. Dash looks after her, confused.

140 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

What is the big deal?

141 SHIMMY SHAKE

If you don't know, there's no point in us trying to explain it to you.

142 LIGHTHOOF

Lead dancers out!

With that Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof storm from the room in perfect unison. Dash watches them go, more confused than ever.

143 SMOLDER

It's not that we were bad. It's that you didn't even try to help us get better.

144 RAINBOW DASH

Didn't try? What are you talking about? I got you a party cannon! It's not my fault you couldn't figure out how to use it right.

Ocellus turns to Dash, red in the face.

145 OCELLUS

(shouts) WELL MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE SHOWN US!!

With that, she turns and flies out of the room.

146 RAINBOW DASH

Wow. Ponies might actually care about cheer squad if she cheered like that all the time.

147 SMOLDER
Why would you say ponies don't care
about Cheer Squad?

148 RAINBOW DASH
Because they don't.

149 SMOLDER
No. You don't. (points after the
squad) But they do. I bet Headmare
Twilight does. And you know what? I
do too!

Rainbow Dash looks at Smolder, surprised.

150 SMOLDER (CONT'D)
I actually got excited when I found
out you were gonna be our coach. I
figured, if anypony can make Cheer
Squad awesome it's you.

151 RAINBOW DASH
Me? Why?

152 SMOLDER
Because everything's always awesome
with you. Or "20% Cooler." Or
whatever. You're the most
enthusiastic pony in Equestria--
when it's something you care about.
I just wish we were one of those
things.

With that she exits, leaving a stunned Dash in her wake. From
across the room, Snips calls out and he starts dragging his
trunk toward the door.

153 SNIPS
And it looks like my assistant
cheer coach / souvenir selling
business is a bust. So, I'm gonna
take off unless you can think of
something else for me to do.

Having a sudden thought, Dash zips over in front of Snails
and looks down at him.

154 RAINBOW DASH
Actually, maybe I can.

SC. 11 - EST. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - VARIOUS - NEXT MORNING

In a quick series of shots Snips races around the school...

--INT. DORMS - Ocellus and Yona still sleeping, are suddenly jarred awake as Snips runs into their room and blows a coach's whistle with an loud <TWEEET!>.

155 SNIPS
Squad meeting. Outside. ASAP!

He rushes out leaving the students to share confused looks.

--INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM - Lighthoof and Shimmy Shake, aerobicise when their music suddenly stops with a <RECORD SCRATCH>. They look over to see Snips with his hoof on the phonograph.

156 SNIPS (CONT'D)
Dance ponies. Buckball field.
Pronto!

--EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - STANDS - Snips stands looking at the new, larger, bleachers. CUT underneath where Smolder naps.

157 SNIPS (CONT'D)
HEY. DRAGON! Get out here and join
your squad!

From under the seats comes a SLAM, then Smolder emerges rubbing her head. She looks to Snips who runs off. She follows him toward...

SC. 12 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY

Smolder flies over and joins the rest of the squad who stand around aimlessly.

158 SMOLDER
So, what? Is there some new button
you wanna sell?

159 SNIPS
Not a button...

Snips points behind them as Rainbow Dash comes soaring across the field and stops right in front of them in a cloud of dust. The squad all <GROAN>. Lighthoof looks to Snips.

160 LIGHTHOOF
Sorry, we're not buying.

They all turn to go, but Dash stops them, flying in a fast circle around the group.

161 RAINBOW DASH

Wait! Look, I know I haven't been a great coach because I don't care about cheerleading-- (off another squad GROAN) --BUT all of you do, and I care about you. So I guess maybe I care about Cheer Squad, and a good friend reminded me that I can make anything I care about totally awesome!

Dash gives Smolder a smile. The rest of the squad all look to Dash, guardedly hopeful.

162 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

So from now on, I'm gonna give this thing 120% and I expect the same from you! (to the dancers) We are gonna dance. (to Ocellus) We are gonna cheer. (to Yona) We're gonna make the biggest pony pyramid Equestria's ever seen!

Dash flies around in a circle as the squad shares excited looks.

163 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

And when we're done, we're gonna make sure everypony on that field is so amped up, they'll forget they even came to see a game!

164 SNIPS

But not so amped up that they forget to buy a pennant or a button or a quality souvenir tee shirt!

The rest all give Snips a look.

165 SNIPS (CONT'D)

What?

SC. 13 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY - MONTAGE

In a quick, "Eye of the Tiger" style montage, Dash (in full coach regalia, whistle, cap, etc.) gets her squad into shape.

1) Dash stands in front of Yona, blasting her whistle. With each BLAST Yona gives a stomp. PULL WIDE to reveal Yona is flanked by Lighthoof and Shimmy Shake who shift from dance move to dance move--totally in sync with Yona's stomps...

2) Smolder flies through screen from the left, then from the right, then up into frame from the bottom and does a loop and a flip. PAN DOWN to see Dash using semaphore stile flags to direct her flight...

3) Dash puts a hoof on Ocellus' shoulder and takes back the rhyming dictionary. The changeling frowns until Dash holds out a MEGAPHONE. Excited, Ocellus' eyes light up and she takes it--just as she and Dash are covered with a BLAST of confetti. PULL WIDE to see an embarrassed Snips struggling with the party cannon.

Off the whole squad laughing we...

FADE TO:

SC. 14 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY

As CHEERING pony spectators look on, a spirited game of buckball takes place.

CLOSE on a UNICORN with a GLOWING METAL BAND around her horn as she bucks a ball toward... A SECOND UNICORN who has been outfitted with MAGICAL WINGS (like Rarity's butterfly wings from ep. 116). The flying unicorn whips the ball across the field-- but Gallus intercepts it, whipping it back and into the School of Friendship's goal!

As the spectators <CHEER>, we see Twilight and CELESTIA sitting in the stands.

166 PRINCESS CELESTIA
I realize the game of buckball
traditionally requires an earth
pony, a pegasus, and a unicorn, but
I appreciate you allowing my
students to compete.

167 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course! And the wings and
magical dampening ring you made
seem to be working really well.

168 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Indeed. Though not as well as your
team. (then, with a sudden,
unexpectedly aggressive cheer) Come
on School of Magic!

Off Twilight's slightly shocked, sideways glance at her former mentor...

ANGLE ON: Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, and Rainbow Dash nervously watching the game from the sidelines, their eyes darting back and forth as they follow the ball around the field.

169 FLUTTERSHY

Oh! This suspense is horrible.
It's the most nervous I've ever
been. And that's saying something.

170 RAINBOW DASH

(Biting her hooves) I know how you
feel.

171 PINKIE PIE

Don't worry! Celestia's team might
be tough, but we can still win this
thing!

172 RAINBOW DASH

What? Oh, yeah. Totally. But I
wasn't talking about the game...

A LOUD BUZZER suddenly sounds and startles Dash out of her skin as she starts to freak out.

173 ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

*And that's the end of the first
half!*

174 RAINBOW DASH

<AGHHHH> Okay! Here we go! Come on,
come on, come on...

175 PINKIE PIE

Gee-whiz, Rainbow Dash, it's just
half-time.

176 RAINBOW DASH

Sorry! Can't talk right now!

With that she flies off to get a better view of the field. Fluttershy turns to Pinkie.

177 FLUTTERSHY

I sure hope Dash being nervous is a
good sign.

Silence stretches out across the field for an endless moment.

Then MUSIC (think: Europe's "The Final Countdown") begins to play as the CHEER SQUAD takes the field!

First: Yona gets the attention of the crowd by STOMPING her way to center field in perfect time to the beat.

Then: Shimmy Shake and Lighthoof follow, hop-scotch/dancing as they make their way to mid-field. The crowd starts to clap along.

178 SHIMMY SHAKE
(chanting) *Over, and over, and over
again...*

179 LIGHTHOOF
*We'll cheer for our team till the
very end.*

Then: The crowd looks up, amazed as Smolder does a flyby over the stands, dropping streamers along the way and laying a line of SMOKE through which...

Ocellus comes cartwheeling onto the field! Bold, energized, finally the yell leader of her dreams, she raises her megaphone, her voice and confidence amplified tenfold.

180 OCELLUS
*Everypony in the crowd, if you're
feeling hip / When I say "Friend,"
you say "Ship!" Friend!*

181 CROWD
Ship!

182 OCELLUS
Friend!

183 CROWD
Ship!

As the crowd continues a steady chant of "Friendship! Friendship!" Ocellus continues her cheer, Yona stomping along, the dance ponies freestyling in sync, and Smolder circling overhead.

184 OCELLUS
*Welcome everypony to the halftime
show / We're the Friendship Squad
and we're ready to go...*

Lighthoof and Shimmy Shake break off and return, pushing hay bails in on either side of Yona. As Ocellus keeps going, they cartwheel onto the bales, then hop onto Yona's shoulders joining hooves.

185 OCELLUS (CONT'D)
*We're here to cheer and get you all
excited / And if you'd like to join
in then you're all invited--*

Ocellus flies up as she continues...

186 OCELLUS (CONT'D)
*It's a simple cheer, so don't chime
in late...*

She lands on the dance ponies forming the last part of a inverted pyramid.

187 WHOLE CHEER SQUAD
It goes 2 - 4 - 6 - Great!

Just as the squad shouts the final word, Smolder flies directly over them, wings fully extended, and blasts A BALL OF DRAGON FIRE!

And the crowd loses it's mind!! Everypony is overwhelmed with excitement!!

ANGLE ON: Pinkie and Fluttershy staring in utter shock. Dash comes zooming in behind them, nearly bursting but trying to play it cool.

188 RAINBOW DASH
Not bad, right?

189 FLUTTERSHY / PINKIE
They - were - awesome!

Rainbow Dash smiles, beside herself with pride.

190 RAINBOW DASH
Well, the have a pretty decent coach.

SMASH CUT TO:

SC. 15 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - LATER

CLOSE ON a buckball flying into a basket as THE FINAL BUZZER sounds! PULL WIDE to see the unicorns of the School of Magic jumping and flipping as the celebrate of the field.

191 ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
*And that's the game. School of
Magic 5, School of Friendship 4!*

ANGLE ON: Pinkie and Fluttershy consoling their team as they make their way off the field.

192 FLUTTERSHY
Nice work everyone. You can't win them all.

193 PINKIE PIE
Sometimes that's just how the
cupcake crumbles.

The team SIGHS as Rainbow Dash comes soaring in - overflowing
with enthusiasm!

194 RAINBOW DASH
You guys were amazing!

Pinkie, Fluttershy and the team all look up confused, but
Dash flies right past them and over to her Squad.

195 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
It was flawless! I can't think of
any way that could've gone better!

196 SMOLDER
We could have won the game.

197 RAINBOW DASH
Pfft! The game was just a sideshow.
You guys were the main event!

198 PRINCESS CELESTIA (O.S.)
I'm glad to see such good
sportsponyship on display. Your
cheer squad was an inspiration.
I'll have to start one at my school
as well.

Dash whips around to see Twilight and Celestia walking up.
Dash is all smiles.

199 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wow, Rainbow Dash, it's almost like
you were the perfect pony to coach
Cheer Squad after all!

Dash gives Twilight a side-eye.

200 RAINBOW DASH
Wait a second. Was this one of
those things where you knew the
lesson I needed to learn before I
learned it?

201 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
You mean how you don't have to care
about a thing other ponies like as
long as you care about the ponies
who like it? (then) Nope. I don't
know what you're talking about.

Celestia looks down at Twilight and gives a little laugh.

202 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Nicely done.

They bump hooves. Dash just rolls her eyes and shakes her head as everypony else LAUGHS and we...

FADE OUT

END