

THE G.O.A.T
Season 1, Episode 11
"The Playoffs"

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TITLE: THE PLAYOFFS

FADE IN.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM HALLWAY - DAY

Conan Jones walks through one of the stadium's non-public hallways. He walks past a set of elevator doors and they open. Leah Owens steps off and almost bumps into Jones.

OWENS

Oh... sorry.

JONES

My fault. I wasn't looking where I was going.

Owens smiles.

OWENS

You're pitching today, right?

JONES

I am.

Owens claps him on the shoulder.

OWENS

Well break a leg.

She turns and walks the way Jones came from.

OWENS (CONT'D)

But not literally.

She chuckles.

Jones lets out a deep breath, as if he'd been holding it the whole time.

JONES

(softly)

Thanks.

He goes past the elevators and into a men's room. He goes into the stall, locks the door and sits on the stall.

Jones reaches into his pocket and pulls out a bottle of Winstrol and a syringe. He sighs as he sticks the needle into the bottle.

CUT TO:

Owens walks into the locker room. Solly and Mackey wait for her.

OWENS
Everybody decent?

Scattered laughs.

OWENS (CONT'D)
(under her breath)
Anybody fighting?

A few scattered chuckles.

OWENS (CONT'D)
How's everybody doing?

Mumbles and such.

OWENS (CONT'D)
C'mon? You've gotta be excited
about the playoffs. This is the
first time for most of you.

BISHOP
I'm a bit nervous.

He looks like a wreck. Speck punches him in the shoulder.

SPECK
Bishop, you're ALWAYS a bit
nervous.

Laughter.

OWENS
Don't worry about it. Have some
fun. No one expected us to be here,
so we've already exceeded
expectations.

Bishop nods along, he gets it.

OWENS (CONT'D)
Win or lose, you guys have
accomplished a lot and I just want
to say I'm proud of you.

Murmurs of assent and thanks.

OWENS (CONT'D)
Now go out there and kick some ass.

Laughter and cheers.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - LATER

SUPER: Playoffs, Round 1, Game 1

The Statesmen host the Philadelphia Porters. The field is blanketed with Hater-Ade ads.

SUPER: Second Inning

Cam Kendrick, the newly-minted Team MVP starts Game 1. In the second inning, he's got a 2-0 count with two outs. The Philadelphia batter, Chomsky, stares him down.

Kendrick throws a fastball, Chomsky swings wildly and misses.

CUT TO:

Chomsky flails at another fastball.

CUT TO:

Chomsky doesn't even swing at the next fastball. He just watches.

In the dugout, Ferd Langwieler sits next to Vernon Howell. He points the radar gun at the field. It reads 100.

LANGWIELER

All three strikes hit 100 or higher.

HOWELL

Good start.

GLOVER

The temperature hit 100 on the field.

Gray spits.

CUT TO:

Kendrick leads off the bottom of the second. He has a 1-1 count against the Porters' pitcher, POE. Poe pitches and Kendrick drives it through the middle for a single.

CUT TO:

Bennett stands at the plate with a 2-0 count. Poe throws the next pitch and it just misses outside.

In the stands, the B*stards are active:

B*STARDS
Walk 'em on, rag arm, walk 'em on.

Clap, clap.

Cult member Rebecca walks up the stairs to the B*stards. When Richard sees her, he smiles and stops the chant.

RICHARD
Hey, everybody, this is our newest
B*stard, Rebecca.

B*STARDS OF SECTION B
(as a group)
Hi, Rebecca. You bastard!

Cheers, laughter, merriment.

On the field, Poe misses well outside and walks Bennett.

CUT TO:

Ronnie Pitts steps up to the plate. Poe throws a fast ball that stays too high, Pitts deposits it in the bleachers. The Statesmen lead 3-0. The Statesmen bench goes crazy.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Seventh Inning

There are two outs in the bottom of the seventh and the Statesmen are still up 3-0. The bases are loaded and there are two out. Kendricks stands in the box. The new pitcher for Philadelphia is Hemsley.

In the stands, the B*stards are having fun. The stadium is rocking.

RICHARD
Kendricks, Kendricks, he's our man,
if he can't do it...

Hemsley throws a wicked breaking pitch and Kendricks misses badly for strike three. The crowd deflates.

RICHARD (CONT'D)
Then I guess we'll do it next
inning.

The B*stards laugh. Rebecca makes eye contact with Richard, she liked the joke and lets him know with her eyes. Richard is giddy.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Eighth Inning

Kendricks stands on the mound with bases loaded and one out. The batter, BACON, gets set. Kendricks pitches and Bacon slaps the ball into the left-field gap. Chomsky scores. Wyeth stops at third. Bacon stands at first with a single. 3-1 Statesmen.

CUT TO:

Kendricks has a 3-0 count on the batter, Green. Kendricks throws but misses just outside. Bases loaded.

CUT TO:

The next batter, HART, has a 2-2 count. Kendricks throws a fastball, but he just doesn't have it. Hart silences the crowd with a home run to right field. Kendricks drops his head and stares at the ground.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

The score is still 5-3 for the Porters. Bishop stands at the plate with two outs and a 2-2 count. Hemsley stares him down.

Bishop finishes his last practice swing and gets set. Hemsley pitches, it drops and Bishop strikes out.

SUPER: Porters lead series 1-0.

OPENING CREDITS.

INT. ALEX WATKINS' TRAILER - NIGHT

Radio shock jock Alex Watkins sits at a desk that looks suspiciously like the Oval Office. Watkins wears a hoodie and jeans, of course. He spits with rage as he talks.

WATKINS

I'm noted radio and video host Alex Watkins and I'm here with a VERY serious message. They're coming to get you. Yes, you!

He jabs a finger at the camera.

WATKINS (CONT'D)

Who is it? The Cancel Culture crowd. They've canceled Dwayne McDaris, the last true scion of Walter Cronkite...

(MORE)

WATKINS (CONT'D)

Shout out to McDaris' Minions...
 Next they're coming for the one
 true American sport. America's
 SACRED sport, one might say. If we
 don't do something about it,
 they're going to take the game away
 from us. And then America is next.

INT. SPORTS CENTRAL STUDIO

Sports Central starts up with lots of whooshes and flags and sports images and bald eagles and such.

This leads us to the very futuristic and busy Sports Central set. Blue is the dominant color. At the desk are Inesta Morgan and Major Sumrell.

INESTA

Welcome back.

MAJOR

We thank you for watching Sports Central.

INESTA

In breaking news, Major KILLED it with the future in-laws.

Major grins.

MAJOR

First I'd like to give a Yom Kippur shout-out to our Jewish viewers and then I'd like to thank Inesta and her amazing family on behalf of myself and my family. This wedding is going to be a pretty big deal.

Inesta is happy.

INESTA

Let's bring in Sharon Alligood, reporting live from Game 2 of the first round Eastern Conference playoffs. Thanks for joining us, Sharon, did we have more fireworks tonight or did things go more according to plan?

ALLIGOOD

First of all, congrats on the upcoming wedding.

INESTA AND MAJOR
 (simultaneously)
 Thank you.

They look at each other and laugh.

ALLIGOOD
 And congratulations to the D.C.
 Statesmen who have tied this
 opening round series after a
 dominating pitching performance
 from Conan "The Barbarian" Jones.

The CAMERA switches from a side-by-side to Alligood standing
 outside National Stadium.

ALLIGOOD (CONT'D)
 Jones took the mound in Game 2 and
 it's the strongest he's looked all
 year. Jones threw a complete game,
 striking out 11. A three-run shot
 from Gus Bennett and a solo homer
 by Ronnie Pitts lead the team to a
 6-0 victory. Notably, Cam Kendrick
 went hitless on the night.

The crawl at the bottom of the screen shows the following
 messages, on a loop:

"Statesmen and Porters tied 1-1."

"President Winfrey sets Puerto Rico talks in Oslo"

"Hurricane McConnell keeps up record pace"

"Florida State holds on to #1 ranking after close win at
 Notre Dame"

"National murder rate up 327% over last year"

"Biden leads Buffalo to best start in 20 years"

"The Masked Deranger 5 opens well below expectations"

INT. NBS NEWS STUDIO

Jeffrey Brack sits in the NBS News Studio, which is a lot
 less busy and more professional than the Sports Central set.
 Blue is still the dominant color, although it's softer here.

BRACK

But the big question off of Sports Central is whether or not I'll be getting an invite to the wedding or not.

Brack smiles. Kinda.

CUT TO:

Inesta smiles into the camera.

INESTA

It is a long guest list, I'm sure your invitation is in the mail.

Major stares awkwardly at his script.

CUT TO:

Brack continues to grin.

BRACK

Look forward to it.

He gets serious.

BRACK (CONT'D)

Our lead story tonight... In addition to Leila Rassi, it appears there is a SECOND whistleblower from the Order of the Crimson Ram and we have an exclusive with them now.

The screen shows a person sitting in the shadows. You can't tell anything about them, even their gender. When they speak, their voice is distorted.

BRACK (CONT'D)

Thank you for joining us. I know you don't care to share your real name, but what can we call you tonight?

JACOB

You can call me Jacob.

BRACK

Thanks for joining us, Jacob. Now, tell us how you got involved...

INT. NBS NEWS STUDIO, HALLWAY - LATER

Sharon Alligood walks down the hallway, followed by Steven Beck, who is uniformed. They go into a private meeting room and take a seat at a table.

BECK

Thanks for seeing me, ma'am.

ALLIGOOD

Sure, what is this about? I have a flight to Philadelphia.

BECK

Sure, it won't take more than a second.

She offers a strained grin.

ALLIGOOD

No more than five minutes.

BECK

I promise.

Beck pulls out his notebook and checks it.

BECK (CONT'D)

I understand that you've had a run-ins with Dwayne McDaris this year?

Alligood furrows her brow.

ALLIGOOD

He's harmless.

BECK

Be that is may, can you e-mail me your schedule?

ALLIGOOD

Sure. How far back?

BECK

Just to the beginning of the season, if that's okay.

She nods.

BECK (CONT'D)

He ever make you... uncomfortable?

Alligood starts to say something but changes her mind.

ALLIGOOD
I don't like him. I'm on edge when
he's around.

BECK
Anything specific?

ALLIGOOD
No. Not yet.

BECK
Any idea where he might be?

ALLIGOOD
No, I definitely don't keep tabs on
him.

BECK
If you hear from him or see him,
let me?

ALLIGOOD
Don't hold your breath.

Beck hands her a business card.

EXT. PDDC PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Cody walks towards her Camry, keys in her hand. She's
dragging, it's been a long day.

O'REILLY (O.S.)
Hey.

Cody whirls around, gripping the keys like a weapon. She
relaxes a bit when she sees it's Mitchell O'Reilly.

CODY
Oh. What do you want?

O'REILLY
I read the files.

CODY
And?

O'REILLY
It looks like you were right.

Cody raises an eyebrow.

O'REILLY (CONT'D)
Not just about Till and Byars.
There's been another one.

CODY
Another witness.

O'Reilly nods.

O'REILLY
Tucker.

CODY
Again.

O'Reilly nods.

CODY (CONT'D)
How do you know about this new one?

O'REILLY
I saw it. I'm an eyewitness.

Cody is shocked.

O'REILLY (CONT'D)
And if what I overhear is
accurate... there's about to be
another witness disappeared.

CODY
Yeah?

O'REILLY
That cult woman? Rassi?

Cody's eyes grow big. O'Reilly nods.

CODY
Why come to me?

O'REILLY
I don't want to go down with a
sinking ship.

Cody laughs.

CODY
I guess I'll take it.

O'REILLY
So what's next?

CODY
We'll be in touch.

O'Reilly raises an eyebrow.

O'REILLY
We?

Cody nods.

INT. PDDC BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Ariel Schur and Lavi Weiner sit at the front of the room, with Captain Alex Levin and Cody the only other officers present.

SCHUR
According to your files...

Schur waves a stack of police reports and tosses them on the bale.

SCHUR (CONT'D)
You attempted to apprehend the two key suspects, individually, and, in both cases, the suspects escaped before you could apprehend them?

Levin nods.

LEVIN
That is correct.

SCHUR
Now, don't take this personally, but what would lead your people to miss BOTH of them, if not incompetence?

LEVIN
I do take it personally.

Schur laughs and taps Weiner on the arm.

SCHUR
I told her not to do that...
(to Levin)
I told you not to do that.

Levin raises an eyebrow.

LEVIN
Then how should I take it?

Levin is almost whimsical.

SCHUR
Legally.

The whimsy drains from Levin's face.

SCHUR (CONT'D)
Do you currently have any leads on
the suspects?

Weiner writes everything down.

LEVIN
Yes. I believe we do. According to
reports from several CI's that the
suspects are hiding out, together,
in Baltimore.

SCHUR
CI's, you say?

LEVIN
I did.

Schur taps Weiner on the arm again.

SCHUR
You see that?

WEINER
I do.

SCHUR
Confidential files. Conveniently.

LEVIN
I'm insulted by the ins--

Schur raises a hand to quiet her.

SCHUR
Don't bother. Pretty clear nothing
of value will come from this
interview. Next?

WEINER
Next is...

He checks his notes.

WEINER (CONT'D)
Bill Tucker.

SCHUR

Oh, okay. We're going to need the room for this one.

Cody gets up to leave. Levin doesn't.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

Task Force only.

Levin hesitates. She gets up to go, making sure that her chair is as loud as possible as she goes. Cody looks back. Schur and Weiner ignore her.

INT. LEKEBRA BENJAMIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Lekebra Benjamin stands inside her office, peeking from behind the door. She's watching the front office like a hawk.

Owens walks in and Benjamin quickly but carefully shuts the door. Owens doesn't notice and goes into her office, followed by Ms. Richardson.

Once they shut the door, Benjamin slips past them and into the elevator.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM EXTERIOR - MOMENTS LATER

Benjamin is outside now, away from any other people. She calls Manda Starr.

INT. MANDA STARR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Starr answers her phone.

STARR

Ms. Benjamin? What can I help you with.

Cut back and forth between Benjamin and Starr.

BENJAMIN

What's next?

STARR

For you? Nothing.

Beat.

BENJAMIN

But I put my career on the line?
For this plan.

STARR
And it failed.

Benjamin takes a deep breath.

BENJAMIN
So, you're just giving up?

STARR
No. I'm not the giving up type.

BENJAMIN
What should I do?

STARR
Whatever you like.

BENJAMIN
You don't need my help?

Starr shakes her head.

STARR
No. I don't.

Silence.

BENJAMIN
But...

STARR
Good day.

Starr hangs up.

INT. CARMESI MOLTO OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Starr stops by Gayle Martin's desk.

STARR
Per my schedule, I'll be out for
the rest of the afternoon. You may
reach me via phone.

Starr steps on the elevator and the doors close. Gayle picks
up her phone, which was on hold.

GAYLE
Today's your luck day. The boss is
out for the rest of the day and I'm
pretty much caught up. Stop by if
you're free.

LEWIS (O.S.)
Sure, I'll drop by.

INT. CARMESI MOLTO OFFICE - LATER

Gayle and Lewis stand in front of the desk. Lewis admires the décor.

GAYLE
And if you think this is sweet,
wait until you see Starr's office.

Lewis gets excited. Gayle unlocks the door to Starr's office and they go inside.

LEWIS
Wow, this is amazing. I can't begin
to imagine how much this cost.

GAYLE
I'm not sure they've made a number
that big yet.

Laughter.

LEWIS
What's that?

Lewis walks across the room to a display case that holds Leah Owen's crimson brooch.

GAYLE
No idea, but Starr's pretty
attached to it. Like her prized
collectable.

CUT TO:

Gayle and Lewis walk out of Starr's office and Gayle tosses her keys on the receptionist's desk.

LEWIS
Can I get that drink?

GAYLE
Sure. Red wine?

Lewis smiles and Gayle walks away.

GAYLE (CONT'D)
I have to stop by the ladies' room
first.

As soon as Gayle is out of sight, Lewis pulls out a small handheld scanner and the keys sitting on Gayle's desk. She lays each key against the desk so that the groove can clearly be seen and takes a picture of each one. Once she's done she pockets the scanner.

GAYLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Here we go.

Lewis turns towards Gayle and takes her glass of wine.

EXT. VICTORY PARK, PHILADELPHIA - NIGHT

SUPER: Playoffs, Round 1, Game 3

The Statesmen visit the Porters. The field is blanketed with Hater-Ade ads.

SUPER: First Inning

Kendricks stands at the plate, with Jason Doster on second and Derrick Speck is on first. The Porters pitcher, SMITH winds up and pitches. Kendricks pops up to center; the runners don't advance.

In the dugout, Huebner paces back and forth.

HUEBNER

He's struggling. Any ideas on what's holding him back.

None of the other coaches respond.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)

Diet? Hangover?

Nothing.

Huebner crosses his arm and sits back.

CUT TO:

Bennett stands at the plate. The count is 0-2. Smith pitches and Bennett drives it to right field. Back, back, back. The Statesmen lead 3-0.

CUT TO:

Ronnie Pitts bats. Smith pitches and Pitts hits it to almost the same place Bennett did. Statesmen lead 4-0.

CUT TO:

Grady Duhart stands on the mound, facing the first hitter, Chomsky. Chomsky swings at the first pitch and grounds to Kendricks at first.

CUT TO:

The next batter, Wyeth, has an 0-2 count. Duhart throws and Wyeth can't catch up, striking out.

CUT TO:

Bacon stands in the box. Duhart pitches and Bacon pops up to right. 1-2-3 inning.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Howell stands next to the mound. Duhart looks tired.

HOWELL

You got us the W. Let us handle the rest.

Duhart nods and hands him the ball. He walks off the field as Hector Delarosa sprints on.

CUT TO:

The Porters batter is Hart. Two outs. No one on. Delarosa throws a ball that drops and Hart pops it up. Delarosa points to the sky and Brito gets the last out at short.

The scoreboard reads 8-0 for D.C.

SUPER: Statesmen lead series 2-1.

EXT./INT. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL - DAY

Outside, the Four Seasons looks spectacular, particularly the landscaping. Huebner goes inside, walks past the front desk, past the Giuliani Ballroom and towards the elevator.

He exits on the top floor and heads towards the honeymoon suite. He knocks on the door.

In a few seconds, Owens answers.

OWENS

Come in.

He does.

CUT TO:

Huebner sits on the couch. Owens walks over with two glasses of whiskey and hands one to Huebner. He quickly takes a sip. She sits on a second couch, facing him.

OWENS (CONT'D)

So he'd prefer to pay you to do nothing rather than do anything?

HUEBNER

I've never heard of anything like it. Glover's got hitting now.

Owens isn't bothered by that.

OWENS

I agree. It's not just strange, but unprofessional.

She takes a sip.

OWENS (CONT'D)

But there's still nothing that can be done about it. For the time being.

Huebner frowns.

OWENS (CONT'D)

There's NO chance that we're ALL going to be back here next year. That I guarantee. So, for now, stand down. Be patient. Next year, I will NOT be working with Harold Gray.

Huebner finishes his whiskey.

INT. PDDC BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Schur and Weiner sit on one side of the table, Captain Alex Levin on the other.

In the bullpen, Cody peers through the window to see Levin settle in. Cody looks around to see that the bullpen is mostly empty. No one is around that she's worried about.

She walks over to Levin's office door, looks around again and slips into the office.

Cody pulls out the bug and looks around for a place to put it. It's too obvious to put it in the lamp.

Outside, Bill Tucker stands, his back to Levin's office. The window is frosted to shoulder height. Cody ducks down behind the desk. While down there, she sees a potted plant and conceals the bug.

Tucker still hovers outside the door talking on the phone.

LEVIN (O.S.)
Shouldn't you be working?

Cody freaks out and starts to move across the room on her hands and knees.

Tucker turns and walks away. Levin walks in AND...

Cody is sitting on the chair, calm, waiting for Levin.

LEVIN (CONT'D)
Oh, jeez. What are you doing in my office?

CODY
I wanted to talk to you about Eversmith. It wasn't her that leaked the photos--

Levin puts up a hand.

LEVIN
Don't want to hear it. Don't care. Get out of my office.

Cody stares up at her.

LEVIN (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Now!

Cody flinches. Then she gets up and walks out.

LEVIN (CONT'D)
Stay away from my office.

Levin slams the door.

From the Briefing Room, Weiner sticks his head out.

WEINER
Cody, you're next.

Cody turns and walks away.

CUT TO:

Cody sits across from Schur and Weiner. Schur smiles at her warmly.

SCHUR

Do you know why we had you sit in
with Levin?

Cody looks towards Weiner who smiles gently at her.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

You, Officer Cody Paige, you're the
only one who has consistently told
us the truth around here.

Cody is taken aback.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

Some of your coworkers are, shall
we say, not as smart as they think
they are. Especially at covering
their own tails.

CODY

Thank you. I'm here to help people,
not whatever Levin is doing.

Schur nods.

SCHUR

So what did you think about what
Levin told us?

CODY

She's lying. Till and Byars are
dead. As far as I can tell, she had
them killed.

Weiner looks up from his notes.

SCHUR

You can prove this?

CODY

I've been doing some... independent
investigation with a variety of
experts. Without Levin.

Schur is impressed.

CODY (CONT'D)
You should meet them.

Weiner clears his throat.

WEINER
Wait, so we don't know who the real
murderers are? And they're on the
loose KNOWING we don't know who
they are?

CODY
Yeah.

SCHUR
We definitely should meet your
friends. Soon.

He smiles at her. A friendly smile.

CUT TO:

Weiner sticks his head out of the briefing room.

WEINER
O'Reilly, you're next.

O'Reilly follows Weiner into the briefing room and takes a
seat.

SCHUR
Thank you for your time, Officer
O'Reilly. Mitchell. Can I call you
Mitchell?

O'Reilly nods.

SCHUR (CONT'D)
Good, Mitchell. I like to make a
personal connection in these
interviews.

O'REILLY
You don't have to butter me up, I
already told Cody I'm in.

Schur and Weiner exchange a look.

SCHUR
Okay, why don't you tell us
everything you know about Levin,
Tucker and anybody else who might
be... crossing the lines.

O'REILLY
Sure, you taking notes?

He nods towards Weiner.

WEINER
I got this.

O'Reilly shrugs.

O'REILLY
Okay, I've been here for seven
years. Since then...

CUT TO:

O'Reilly leaves the Briefing Room and bumps into Cody.

O'REILLY (CONT'D)
Sorry.

CODY
How'd it go in there.

O'Reilly shrugs.

O'REILLY
I told the truth.

CODY
That's the best you can do.

EXT. PDDC PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Cody crosses the parking lot to her Camry. As she unlocks it and goes to get in, Anne Snell approaches her.

SNELL
Hey.

CODY
What do YOU want?

Snell puts up her hands in peace.

SNELL
Hey, I'm done. I was lied to.

CODY
You think I care?

Snell shakes her head.

SNELL

I don't. I just wanted to let you know.

Cody shrugs.

CODY

Can I get in my car?

SNELL

I'm the one who sent you the pictures.

Cody cocks her head.

SNELL (CONT'D)

Of the bodies at Union Station.

Cody visibly relaxes.

CODY

You talk to the Task Force yet?

Snell shakes her head.

CODY (CONT'D)

They're coordinating all this. They have everything they need, but you probably want to go ahead and tell them before they conclude. Make sure you're on the right side of things when this comes down.

Snell nods.

SNELL

I'm sorry.

Cody looks her in the eye for a moment.

CODY

Don't worry about it.

Cody doesn't smile. She gets in the Camry.

By the entrance to the precinct, O'Reilly watches Cody drive away. He turns to go back inside and Tucker stands in front of him. Tucker does his best to look menacing.

TUCKER

What was that all about?

O'REILLY

Work-related business.

Tucker emits a contemptuous bark.

TUCKER
What were you talking with that
task force about?

O'REILLY
Personal business.

TUCKER
Right.

O'Reilly pushes his way past Tucker to go back inside. Tucker resists at first, but then let's O'Reilly go past.

TUCKER (CONT'D)
Watch yourself.

O'Reilly ignores him.

EXT. THE PINCH - DAY

Brice Eversmith steps outside the Pinch and walks around the corner. She pulls out her phone and a scrap of paper with Leila Rassi's phone number on it. She dials and after a few rings, Leila picks up.

EVERSMITH
Can I speak with Leila Rassi?

LEILA (O.S.)
This is she.

EVERSMITH
Hello, Leila, my name is Brice
Eversmith. I'm a detective with
PDDC. Cody Paige gave me your
number.

LEILA (O.S.)
'Sure. Officer Paige has been very
helpful.

EVERSMITH
That's what I understand. I was
wondering if you could be helpful
as well. To me. In other words, can
we sit down and have a chat?

Beat.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)

I know you're getting a lot of questions about the Order, but I have a few more. They're important for getting justice for the people they hurt.

Beat.

LEILA

Sure. We can chat.

EXT. VICTORY PARK, PHILADELPHIA - NIGHT

SUPER: Playoffs, Round 1, Game 4

The Statesmen visit the Porters.

SUPER: Fifth Inning

Kendricks pitches, the Statesmen trailing 3-0.

In the dugout, Huebner paces back and forth.

HUEBNER

Kendricks has given up three solo home runs. How are we not pulling him?

No answer.

Huebner gets up and walks into the locker room.

Glover leans over to Howell.

GLOVER

How long we gonna keep it up?

Howell shrugs.

HOWELL

Let's get to the net round first.

Glover chuckles.

CUT TO:

Kendricks faces Wyeth with a 3-2 count. He pitches and Wyeth blasts a shot to right field.

CUT TO:

Kendricks faces Bacon with the count still 0-0. He pitches and Bacon slams a homer to center.

CUT TO:

Kendricks faces Green with a 2-0 count. He pitches and Green bloops a solo homer to right field.

CUT TO:

Kendricks faces Hart with an 0-1 count. He pitches and Hart drives the ball over the left field fence.

In the dugout, Langwieler sighs.

LANGWIELER

Well THAT tied two more records.

HOWELL

Which ones?

Langwieler looks up the answer on his phone.

LANGWIELER

Four consecutive home runs. Seven home runs in a game. Both set by one Corky Sherwood in 1886.

HOWELL

Damn. And my name is forever associated with that.

Laughter.

Huebner stands at the end of the dugout, arms crossed.

HUEBNER

Can we pull him now?

No answer.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Hemsley pitches for Philadelphia. Pulsipher stands at the plate. Hemsley pitches and Pulsipher is ready, he hits a solo homer to right.

CUT TO:

Hemsley pitches to Pompey. Pompey swings and misses. Strike three. The Statesmen lose 11-3.

SUPER: Series tied 2-2.

CUT TO:

Most of the fans and players are gone. Harold Gray sits on a stackable chair, with Craig Glover, Ferd Langwieler and Vern Howell.

HOWELL

We have to at least consider it.

Glover nods.

GLOVER

He's been bad at the plate, but he's a liability on the mound.

LANGWIELER

We really considering this? After the season he had? League MVP, without question.

Gray spits.

GRAY

Let's save him for the next round.

LANGWIELER

We gonna get there without him?

HOWELL

Jones is pitching the best of his career.

GLOVER

What are we gonna do in his place?

HOWELL

We have a bench filled with arms that have been getting the job done all year. Let's use them all.

Gray spits.

GRAY

Let's do it.

Langwieler shakes his head, but the others all nod along.

Huebner walks into the dugout. He stops when he sees the coaches.

HUEBNER
You guys having a meeting without
me?

They all stare at him.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)
What's this about benching someone?

Nothing.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)
Still with the silent treatment?

Silence. Huebner looks from man to man. Silence.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)
Super mature, guys.

Chuckles.

Huebner storms from the dugout into the locker room.

INT. SEEDY MOTEL - NIGHT

Whaley wakes up in a seedy motel bed as his phone rings in the dark room. He's alone this time. The table shows evidence of his earlier heroin binge.

It takes Whaley a while to find his phone and even longer to answer it. He's still high.

WHALEY
Yeah?

He's very groggy.

INT. ANOTHER SEEDY MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

McDaris sits at the table in his motel room, digging through Kendricks' old possessions as he talks to Whaley on the phone.

MCDARIS
It's me. McDaris.

Cut back and forth between Whaley and McDaris.

WHALEY
Yeah... what's up?

MCDARIS
Just checking in on you. How are
you doing?

Silence.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)
You there?

WHALEY
Yeah. I'm... whatever.

MCDARIS
When I get back to town, we should
talk. I should write down all the
details of your time with
Kendricks.

Silence.

WHALEY
It might be a while. I got a
playing gig. In the Netherlands of
all fucking places.

MCDARIS
The Netherlands?

Whaley shrugs.

WHALEY
At least I get to play.

MCDARIS
Yeah.

WHALEY
And they pay me.

Beat.

WHALEY (CONT'D)
Beats selling cars.

MCDARIS
Better you than me.

They laugh with no humor in it.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)
I'm at the Victory Motel, I'll text
you the number.

CUT TO:

McDaris sits before his laptop, holding his phone. He dials David Tessell. Tessell answers.

 TESSELL
Yello?

 MCDARIS
Hey, it's me.

Switch back and forth between Tessell and McDaris.

 TESSELL
Me, who?

 MCDARIS
Dwayne. McDaris.

Tessell gets a little excited.

 MCDARIS (CONT'D)
I need a favor.

 TESSELL
Sure. Shoot.

 MCDARIS
When I get back to town, I want to
have you on my show.

 TESSELL
TV?

McDaris shakes his head.

 MCDARIS
No, web video.

Tessell's smile fades.

 TESSELL
That's almost as good, I guess.

 MCDARIS
Also, I'm going to send you some
information. Hold on to it for me.
In case.

Tessell frowns.

 TESSELL
In case what?

McDaris e-mails copies of Johnson information.

MCDARIS
Check your e-mail.

Beat.

TESSELL
Got it. Dwayne, what's this--

MCDARIS
Thanks.

He hangs up.

On his laptop, he switches over to Spotify and hits play. The bruising sounds of "Fetuscake," by the Elder Sign Cuties. McDaris smiles at the heavy sound.

EXT. ANOTHER SEEDY MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

A nondescript white van sits close by in the parking lot. Inside the van, Esau sits in the back with headphones on.

MCDARIS (O.S.)
I'm going to send you some
information. Hold on to it for...

Esau types a few strokes on the computer and an hourglass pops up. After a few seconds, the screen says "Location Found" and the CAMERA zooms very quickly from the van all the way to the seedy motel is staying in.

A pop-up on the computer says "MATCH."

Esau hits a button on his headset. Abraham answers on the other end.

ABRAHAM (O.S.)
Are we happy?

ESAU
Yes. Team A is a go. Team B is
ready to go once Team A confirms
completion.

ABRAHAM (O.S.)
Good. You are authorized to
initiate.

INT. SAVOY BISHOP'S CONDO - NIGHT

Bishop lays on his couch, nursing a beer. Prince's "N.E.W.S." album noodles in the background. He flips through the TV channels with the sound off and comes across Pulp Fiction.

BISHOP

Oh, I've heard of this one, I think.

He turns the music off. He turns up the TV and puts the remote down. Bishop takes another sip of his beer.

Christopher Walken comes on screen. And tells the watch story.

Bishop spits out his beer and sits up straight.

BISHOP (CONT'D)

What the hell?

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Playoffs, Round 1, Game 5

The Statesmen host the Porters.

SUPER: Statesmen Elimination Game

Jones and Philadelphia pitcher Luis Narvaez meet behind home plate and shake hands. Narvaez grins.

NARVAEZ

I told you we'd be here.

JONES

That you did.

NARVAEZ

How you feeling.

JONES

Never better. You?

NARVAEZ

Confident.

Jones chuckles.

NARVAEZ (CONT'D)

Feel like we can't lose unless someone cheated.

Beat.

JONES.

Then I guess you guys are gonna win.

NARVAEZ

Looks that way.

They laugh as they shake hands, but there's no humor in either man.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Third Inning

Narvaez stands on the mound with a 2-0 lead and a 2-1 count. Jones is the batter and there is one out.

Narvaez nods to the catcher. He pitches. Jones drives the ball to deep right field. In the dugout, his teammates and coaches can't believe it.

GLOVER

You've gotta be kidding me.

Home run. Jones rounds the bases.

In the stands, the B*stards are jubilant.

MITCH

Is that one even gonna count?

RHETT

What the hell are you talking about?

MITCH

I don't know, it seems like it's too high.

The B*stards crack up. Richard and Rebecca laugh together. She puts her hand on his knee. He stops laughing, but keeps smiling.

In the dugout, Langwieler clears his throat.

LANGWIELER

That was the first home run Conan has hit in nearly a decade. Only the third in his career.

GLOVER
He must have stayed at a Holiday
Inn Express last night.

Gray spits.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Seventh Inning

Kendricks stands at the plate with an 0-2 count. Narvaez pitches, Kendricks swings, the ball breaks, Kendricks strikes out.

In the dugout, Langwielier marks his scorebook.

LANGWIELER
That would be the Golden Sombrero.

Domingo Santana leans towards him the scout.

SANTANA
Golden Sombrero? That some kind of
racist thing?

Glover laughs.

GLOVER
You don't watch much Sports
Central, huh?

Santana shakes his head.

LANGWIELER
It means Kendricks struck out three
times today.

Santana nods. He's not convinced it's not racist.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

The crowd is on its feet as the Statesmen are down to their last three outs. Philadelphia leads 2-1. Speck is on first.

Kendricks puts on a helmet and reaches to grab a bat.

GLOVER
Hey, Cam, we're gonna let you sit
this one out.

Kendricks looks at him sharply. Glover doesn't back down.

GLOVER (CONT'D)

Narvaez has your number and this is do or die. Take a break and let your teammates help you out this time.

Kendricks starts to say something, but Glover gives him a look somewhere between "don't test me" and "pick your battles." Kendricks takes a seat. Glover nods, then he turns and walks the other way.

GLOVER (CONT'D)

Winston!

Pulsipher stands up and grabs a helmet.

CUT TO:

Pulsipher has worked Narvaez to a full count. Narvaez pitches, Pulsipher destroys the pitch. Statesmen win 3-2. The crowd goes crazy. The bench goes crazy. Kendricks walks into the locker room. Glover and Howell shake hands.

Narvaez makes his way towards the Statesmen dugout. Jones sees him and quickly makes his way into the locker room. Narvaez sees him duck out and frowns in disappointment. He turns and shakes Speck's hand.

SUPER: Statesmen win series 3-2.

EXT. CONAN JONES' MANSION - NIGHT

Jones' mansion looks exactly like it did for the Pre-Season Blowout. Other than the people walking up to the house, you wouldn't know a party was raging inside. Bishop, Alfredo Brito and Eddie Parker walk up to the house.

PARKER

I've been waiting for this to happen again.

BRITO

Same.

Bishop says nothing.

PARKER

What's wrong with you?

BRITO

Yeah, you not into partying tonight?

Bishop never looks at them.

BISHOP
Nah, I'm about to get fucked up.

Brito and Parker exchange a look of concern.

INT. CONAN JONES' MANSION - NIGHT

Bishop walks with a red solo cup through the party, making a beeline to where the weed smokers are hanging out. Clint Youngblood hands him a joint.

BISHOP
Awesome, thanks.

He inhales deep.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
Needed that.

He passes the joint to Shawn Derby, who takes a big hit. Hector Delarosa smacks Bishop on the shoulder.

DELAROSA
You getting fucked up tonight,
Bishop?

BISHOP
B.A.R.

Bishop empties his red solo cup of beer and wanders off to find more. The smokers are puzzled.

DELAROSA
Bar?

BISHOP
Beyond all recognition.

CUT TO:

Standing inside, near the front door, are a group of pitchers, including Flowers, Purvis and Rodgers. All are armed with red solo cups.

Bishop approaches them with a refilled cup, already stumbling.

Some of the bench players arrive: Steve Reeves, Scott Pompey, Domingo Santana.

PURVIS

Uh-oh, the JV squad is here.

Laughter. Reeves doesn't think it's funny and keeps walking.

Cam Kendricks comes in next.

FLOWERS

Oh shit, I didn't know you came to these parties, Killer Cam.

KENDRICKS

I usually don't.

Doman wanders over holding a canvas and a handful of multi-colored markers.

DOMAN

Everybody sign the commemorative Conference Champions canvas for coach.

FLOWERS

Dude, when did you become a poet?

DOMAN

What?

He stares at Flowers.

DOMAN (CONT'D)

Anyway, take a marker and sign away.

They do. Kendricks goes first.

DOMAN (CONT'D)

I've just about got everybody.

Rodgers finishes and starts looking at who all has signed. Bishop has some trouble signing his name.

RODGERS

Who are you missing?

DOMANS

Lassiter, Westmoreland...

RODGERS

They can't make it. Insurance reasons.

DOMAN

Pasco, Gay...

FLOWERS

Those guys are too SCARED to come
back to a party here.

Laughter.

DOMAN

Duhart.

Even more laughter.

PURVIS

You wanna find Duhart, check the
church.

Bishop is finished. He wanders away, sipping from his cup.

CUT TO:

In the kitchen, Bishop stands talking with Brito.

BRITO

Since she... lost her job, she
hasn't been returning my calls.

BISHOP

Man, that sucks.

Next to them, Doster is on the phone.

DOSTER

I'm probably not gonna stay late,
it's a sausage-fest here.

Shotwell and Derby walk buy and stop to make fun of Doster.

SHOTWELL

Ooh, are you talking to your
boyfriend?

DOSTER

Yeah.

Shotwell kinda stares at the floor.

SHOTWELL

Cool.

DOSTER

Cool.

DERBY

You guys make a great couple.

DOSTER

Thanks.

Doster goes back to talking on the phone. Bishop stumbles away and wanders into the living room, where Speck watches Lombardi, Bennett, Pitts and Pulsipher play Beer Pong.

Speck puts his arm around Bishop and grins.

SPECK

I'm going to party...

He makes a sniffing noise.

SPECK (CONT'D)

Who's in? Lombardi?

LOMBARDI

Nah, I'm gonna kick these guys asses. I'll join you later.

BISHOP

I'll come.

Speck grins.

SPECK

There we go.

Across the room the Reliever Party Patrol (Parker, Wheeler, Delarosa, Derby, Youngblood) convenes. Speck nods towards them then the bedroom. They follow. Bishop stumbles along after them.

CUT TO:

Later, a VERY high Bishop wanders out front to meet up with a group of smokers. He stumbles with yet another full beer in his hand.

BISHOP

Alright fuckers, the MVC is here.

He laughs at his own joke.

BISHOP (CONT'D)

(to no one)

MVC, get it? Most Valuable Catch--

Among the smokers is Betty Billups. She's leaning on a TALL HANDSOME MAN.

BETTY

Hey, Savoy.

He puts his hands in his pockets.

BISHOP

Hey.

She stares at him for a moment, but he looks away.

BETTY

Well, we should get going. I'm exhausted.

The Tall Handsome Man kiss her and they walk away.

BISHOP

(under his breath)

Bye.

Speck hands Bishop a joint.

SPECK

Here you need this.

Bishop takes it and hits it.

BISHOP

I need something stronger. Let's go back inside.

They turn to go and there standing talking to a few other partygoers is shock jock Alex Watkins.

WATKINS

You guys say something about doing coke?

SPECK

Nah, man, we just say no to drugs.

BISHOP

Aren't you that sweaty radio host?

Watkins is exasperated.

WATKINS

I am probably primarily a video host at this point, after the ratings--

SPECK

Dude, your shit is terrible!

Speck turns and goes inside. Bishop wants to go with him, but he isn't bold enough to act.

WATKINS
 (mumbling)
 I have a problem with my sweat
 glands... ,

Watkins looks at Bishop for a second.

WATKINS (CONT'D)
 You know your boy is a murderer,
 right?

BISHOP
 Who? What?

WATKINS
 Your teammate. All these murders
 happening around here? Same thing
 happened when you guys went to
 Florida. Severed heads and all
 that.

Bishop is taken aback.

BISHOP
 What? Like the ones here? Who...

Speck walks back outside, followed by Pitts, Lombardi,
 Bennett and Pulsipher.

SPECK
 That guy.

He points to Watkins. Watkins start getting flustered and
 tries to hide behind Bishop.

SPECK (CONT'D)
 Hey, nutjob, you have to go.

WATKINS
 Me?

SPECK
 Get the fuck out!

The larger players help escort him to the end of the
 driveway. Bishop stumbles inside.

CUT TO:

A fire pit keeps everyone warm in the VERY private back yard.
 Kendricks, Purvis and Shotwell smoke cigars and stare at the
 full moon. Bishop walks up to Kendricks.

BISHOP
Can I talk to you?

The guys all stare at him.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
Alone.

Purvis and Shotwell stare at each other, laugh and walk away.

SHOTWELL
We were gonna go gets some beers
anyway.

PURVIS
Yeah, *MVC*.

SHOTWELL
Mr. Comeback.

Chuckles. Shotwell claps Kendricks on the shoulder as they walk away.

SHOTWELL (CONT'D)
Helluva game, Cam.

PURVIS
With you, we're going all the way.

SHOTWELL
Yo, rookie, beer me.

Beat.

SHOTWELL (CONT'D)
Where's that rookie at?

He and Purvis laugh. Jones walks up as they leave.

JONES
Can I have a word with you?

KENDRICKS
Get in line.

He nods his head towards Bishop.

JONES
Sorry, Savoy, this'll just take a
minute.

BISHOP
I--

He's a little drunk AND high, he sits down with a thud.

JONES
I came back for you.

Kendricks puffs on his cigar.

JONES (CONT'D)
(increasingly agitated)
I sacrificed my body. For you.

They are nearly face-to-face now and Kendricks doesn't flinch.

JONES (CONT'D)
You gonna help us get this fucking ring or what?

Kendricks doesn't say anything.

JONES (CONT'D)
About what I thought.

He walks away. Bishop stares at Kendricks, trying to gather up the courage to speak. Kendricks drinks from a glass of Scotch and smokes.

BISHOP
Where'd you go that night in Florida?

Kendricks finally joins the conversation.

KENDRICKS
What are you talking about?

Bishop stumbles to stand up.

BISHOP
I saw you leaving, remember, we ran into each other in the lobby.

Kendricks shakes his head.

KENDRICKS
No idea.

BISHOP
It was late for someone to be going out at night...

KENDRICKS
It's late to be going out right now.

He waves his arms at the party surrounding him.

BISHOP
You ever thought about talking to
someone?

KENDRICKS
What?

BISHOP
Like a therapist or something. I
started seeing one--

KENDRICKS
Why don't you just mind your own
business, hayseed?

Kendricks tosses his still-lit cigar to the ground and walks
away. Bishop falls backwards on his ass.

BISHOP
I guess I should start seeing that
therapist again...

He manages to struggle to his feet and heads towards the
house.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
Tomorrow. Tonight, I need all the
tequila I can get before the sun
rises.

INT. SUNDAY SPORTS CHAT SHOW STUDIO

The lights shine down on host Michael Weisman and his guests.
Behind him is a giant sign that says: The Sunday Sports Chat
Show.

WEISMAN
Hello everyone and welcome to this
week's Sunday Sports Chat Show.

Next to Weisman is Tessell.

WEISMAN (CONT'D)
With me today are four of our
regular panelists: David Tessell
from the Chicago Dispatch-Times.

TESSELL
Greetings from the Windy City.

WEISMAN

Sharon Alligood of NBS...

ALLIGOOD

Thanks again for having me.

WEISMAN

Jonnie Travis of Denver Tribune...

TRAVIS

Back again, one more time!

WEISMAN

...and Ricky Womble of the Los Angeles Defender.

Womble waves at the camera.

WOMBLE

Great to see everyone.

WEISMAN

Okay, first question. The Statesmen struggled against the lowly Porters. What are their chances against the defending champion New York Smashers?

TESSELL

The Smashers are on fire. They'll likely sweep D.C.

ALLIGOOD

Get me some of whatever you're on, The Statesmen are the best team in the league.

WOMBLE

They HAVE been struggling... But, I think they'll pull it together.

TRAVIS

I'm with David. I still think the Smashers will defend their title.

WEISMAN

Evenly divided on that one. Now we turn to the Southern Conference and Atlanta vs. Texas. Who are you picking?

TRAVIS

They've been going back-and-forth for first all year, this one likely comes down to the wire. I've got Atlanta.

TESSELL

No way, Atlanta isn't going to Texas and winning.

ALLIGOOD

They split the series in Texas during the regular season. It's a toss-up. Gimme Texas.

WOMBLE

Yeah, Texas just has too many bats for Atlanta.

WEISMAN

In the Midwestern, we have Minnesota vs. Chicago? Your take?

WOMBLE

Biggest mismatch in the playoffs. Chicago, easy.

TRAVIS

Same thing as Texas, Chicago is just loaded with bats.

TESSELL

Fischer, Ford, Disney and Patinkin? Chicago sweeps.

ALLIGOOD

I don't know about a sweep, but it doesn't look like good odds for Monsters.

WEISMAN

Finally, we head out west for the Freeway Series, California and Los Angeles.

ALLIGOOD

I think it's clear the only team that can beat L.A. is D.C.

WOMBLE

The Bulls closed well, but I don't think it'll be enough against the Cougars.

TRAVIS
There are no real holes in the Los Angeles lineup.

TESSELL
L.A. in four.

WEISMAN
Okay, moving on, let's--

TESSELL
Before we move on, I have an exclusive to report.

ALLIGOOD
Oh, here we go.

TESSELL
I have had both a phone conversation and a zoom chat with one Tina Warren.

Audible gasps.

TESSELL (CONT'D)
She is alive and well, but is currently in hiding.

WEISMAN
From Kendricks?

Tessell smiles.

TESSELL
I didn't say that... yet.

The panel goes crazy asking questions. He sits back in his chair as the credits roll.

TESSELL (CONT'D)
Bazooooooooooooom!

Everyone turns and stares at him as the music takes the show to commercial. Alligood makes a face like she's going to vomit.

INT. ALTON NIX'S OFFICE - DAY

Alton Nix sits at his desk looking over a document. His frown deepens the more he reads.

He picks up his phone and dials Mary Billups.

BILLUPS (O.S.)

Alton?

NIX

I have... uh... some VERY bad news.

BILLUPS (O.S.)

Is it okay? Your husband?

NIX

No, Wesley is fine. This is a work call.

BILLUPS (O.S.)

What's the bad news?

NIX

I have in my hands a failed drug test. I can't say who yet, legal has it, but I wanted to give you a heads-up.

BILLUPS (O.S.)

No hints?

Nix thinks for a second.

NIX

All I can say for now is that this guy has a LOT of wins this season AND he's still playing.

BILLUPS (O.S.)

Dammit.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Conference Finals, Game 1

The Statesmen host the New York Smashers. Flowers gets the start. Doman is starting at catcher. They warm up on the field.

Jones walks up to Glover, who is going over the lineup with Langwieler.

JONES

I see Haywood is starting. Where's Bishop?

GLOVER

Out for the next two games.

Jones raises an eyebrow.

GLOVER (CONT'D)
Family issues.

Glover shrugs. He nudges Howell.

GLOVER (CONT'D)
You sure Flowers is ready? That
sure is a quick turnaround time for
an injury like that.

HOWELL
Green and Carter say he's good to
go.

GLOVER
Their jobs on the line, not yours.

HOWELL
Exactly.

In the stands, the B*stards are already drinking heavily.
Richard and Rebecca hold hands. Mitch and Rhett arrive and
see the lovebirds.

MITCH
What's up.

He does one of those douchebag nods.

MITCH (CONT'D)
Are you guys on a date or
something?

Mitch elbows Rhett and they laugh.

REBECCA
(smiles pleasantly)
Yeah.

Beat.

MITCH
Cool

RHETT
You guys would make a great couple.

CUT TO:

SUPER: First Inning

Kendricks steps up to the plate. Umpire William Smith looks him up and down.

SMITH

Hey, Cam. Looking good. You on a new diet or something?

KENDRICKS

Atkins.

Smith settles into position. The Smashers pitcher, GILLESPIE, throws and Kendricks slaps a double into the right-field gap.

CUT TO:

Bennett stands at the plate while Kendricks bounces off of second. Gillespie throws, Kendricks runs, Bennett homers. D.C. 2-0.

CUT TO:

Flowers is rolling along with two outs and an 0-2 count on Alda. He pitches and Alda blasts the ball to right-center field. D.C. 2-1.

In the dugout, Howell adjusts his hat in frustration.

HOWELL

Gonna be one of those days.

GLOVER

Yep.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Third Inning

Kendricks stands at the plate with Doster on second. Gillespie pitches and Kendricks blasts the ball to left. His teammates climb the dugout steps to watch the towering shot leave the park. 4-1 Statesmen.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fourth Inning

Flowers has based loaded and no outs. The batter is Hines. Flowers pitches and gets the double-play ball he wanted, but a runner scores from third. D.C. leads 4-2.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Sixth Inning

Kendricks is at bat. Doster on third. Gillespie pitches and Kendricks drives another double into the right-field gap, scoring Doster. The Statesmen lead 5-2.

CUT TO:

The new pitcher for the Statesmen is Wheeler. He doesn't look super healthy. The Smashers have a runner at second, Joel, and Ledger is the batter. Wheeler throws and Ledger hits a line shot off the right-field wall. Joel scores. D.C. holds on to a 5-3 lead.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Once again, Kendricks stands at the plate with Doster on third. The new Smashers pitcher is EWING. Ewing throws his best fastball, but it isn't good enough and Kendricks deposits it in the right-field stands. D.C. 7-3.

In the dugout, the coaches are impressed.

HOWELL

What got into him today?

Gray spits.

GRAY

If we could bottle that, my blood pressure would be a LOT lower.

CUT TO:

Shotwell jogs out to the mound. The scoreboard shows a 7-5 lead for D.C. There is one out and runners are on first and second.

Derby walks into the bullpen, sweaty and dirty, and plops down next to Wheeler, who also hasn't showered yet.

WHEELER

(laughing)

How do you get dirty during one-third an inning's work?

DERBY

Dude, it was FIVE batters. Most took me to a full count. Not like you did any better.

WHEELER

You ain't seen nothing yet.
Shotwell's dragging the most of all
of us.

DERBY

How? That party was like three days
ago.

Wheeler shrugs.

DERBY (CONT'D)

Where's Youngblood? He should be
out there now.

WHEELER

Death in the family.

DERBY

(chuckles)
Another grandmother?

Wheeler chuckles.

On the field, Shotwell looks terrible. He tries a fastball
against Alda, but he doesn't have it and Alda hits a three-
run homer. New York wins 8-7.

SUPER: Smashers lead series 1-0.

INT. JAMELLE LEWIS' HOUSE - DAY

Jamelle Lewis' house is empty. Chad and Shirley covertly
climb a brick wall and arrive in the back yard. Chad is less
athletic than Shirley, who isn't athletic, he struggles to
get over the wall. By the time he gets down, he's breathing
heavily and sweating.

Shirley nods her head towards the house and runs across the
lawn. Chad slowly follows.

CHAD

Whose house is this again?

SHIRLEY

Jamelle Lewis. And keep it down.

The walk through the living room. Chad heads for the stairs.

CHAD

Who is Jamelle Lewis?

SHIRLEY
Team president.

Chad starts walking upstairs.

CHAD
What are we looking for?

SHIRLEY
Anything that connects Ms. Lewis to
anything... nefarious.

Chad shrugs and goes up the stairs and into Lewis' bedroom.

INT. JAMELLE LEWIS' BEDROOM - LATER

Chad looks around the room, which is largely gender-neutral in décor. Very little personal is in the room, it's very functional but expensive.

Chad opens the top drawer on a dresser. Socks. Underwear. He's a little turned on by the panties, but doesn't do anything freaky. He closes the drawer and looks around the room.

His eyes stop on the nightstand where a diary sits. He grabs it and sits on the bed. He opens it and starts reading.

INT. JAMELLE LEWIS' KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Shirley goes through a stack of mail sitting next to the microwave.

CHAD (O.S.)
Jackpot!

Shirley runs from the kitchen.

INT. JAMELLE LEWIS' BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Chad sits on the bed waving the diary at Shirley.

CHAD
Her diary.

Shirley comes over and takes it. She flips through the pages.

SHIRLEY
How'd you know to find this?

CHAD
I always wanted to read a girl's
diary.

SHIRLEY
Gross.

CHAD
Gross just found your information.

Shirley frowns at him and hands the diary back to him. He starts flipping through the pages again.

SHIRLEY
Don't ever say anything like that
again. What's in here?

CHAD
Your girl had a "relationship."

He uses air quotes.

CHAD (CONT'D)
With Augustus Owens.

SHIRLEY
The owner of the team?

CHAD
Well, not since he died.

Shirley frowns at him.

CHAD (CONT'D)
Apparently she's REALLY upset that
she didn't get the team and that
Leah Owens did.

SHIRLEY
Really.

Chad nods.

CHAD
There's more. It's pretty complex.
Not sure you'd understand that.

SHIRLEY
Give me that!

She snatches the diary from him. He laughs.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - DAY

SUPER: Conference Finals, Game 2

The Statesmen host the Smashers.

SUPER: First Inning

Conan Jones stands on the mound, looking strong and confident. He's ready to go.

In the stands, Richard and Rebecca make out while the B*stards awkwardly try not to stare.

Montage of Jones striking out three straight batters.

CUT TO:

Kendricks stands at the plate with Lombardi on first. The Smashers pitcher, DANZA, is ready. He hurls a fastball and Kendricks homers to left field.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

Danza faces Kendricks again and is behind 3-0 in the count. He fully expects Kendricks to take the next pitch, so he takes some speed off his fastball. Danza chose poorly and Kendricks blasts another homer, easily clearing the right-field wall.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

With the game now 3-2 and the bases loaded, Jones hands the ball to Howell. He walks off the field, still looking strong and healthy. The new pitcher is Parker.

The hitter, Cagney, is set. Parker pitches and Cagney hits a hard chopper directly at Kendricks. It takes a tough hop and ricochets off his glove and into right field. Two runners score before Lombardi gathers the ball and throws it to Bennett, who tags out Alda who tried to make it to third. The game is now 4-3 for the Smashers.

CUT TO:

Brito stands at the plate with two outs and two strikes. The new Smashers pitcher is AGUILERA. He brings his best heater against Brito and the shortstop wildly flails away.

SUPER: Smashers lead series 2-0.

INT. CHAD'S HOUSE - DAY

Chad sits in the basement, working on his computer.

CHAD
Got it!

He picks up his phone and dials Shirley.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)
Yeah?

CHAD
I found your attackers.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)
They guy from the park?

CHAD
No, the online one.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)
The DD...

CHAD
DDoS. It took some digging but I eventually was able to track down the IP address. Oddly enough, it's local.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)
Local?

CHAD
A place called the Red Sheep Ranch.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)
Never heard of it.

CHAD
Maybe we should pay it a visit.
With our friends.

SHIRLEY (O.S.)
Maybe, let's get everybody together first and go over all this stuff.

CHAD
I'll set it up.

EXT. MADISON CUBE GARDEN, NEW YORK - DAY

SUPER: Conference Finals, Game 3

The Statesmen visit the Smashers. Unlike every other stadium so far, the Garden is covered in ThunderBrew ads.

SUPER: Statesmen Elimination Game

The rain is massive. The sky is dark. The field is covered. The soaked fans that remain file out.

In Section B, the B*stards haven't left yet, they've turned their umbrellas into an impromptu group covering that keeps them and their ponchos mostly dry.

RICHARD

NBS says the game has been rained out. Hurricane Donald, which they're saying is going to be the most disastrous hurricane on record.

SUPER: Smashers STILL lead the series 2-0.

INT. THE PINCH - DAY

Eversmith sits at a private table across from Leila. Annie tends bar.

EVERSMITH

Thank you for joining me. Hopefully this won't take up too much time.

Leila nods.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)

And don't worry, I'm not particularly interested in the abuse, the violence, the murder. I mean WE are interested in that, but that's not why I asked you here today.

Eversmith drinks from a coffee mug.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)

I wanted to know what else you have on Augustus Owens. Like, what's his back story? What happened at the end? What do I NEED to know, you know?

Leila nods.

LEILA

Today is your lucky day.

Eversmith smiles. Leila reaches into her pocket and pulls out a small booklet made from thick cream-colored paper and stapled together. The front simply reads "History."

LEILA (CONT'D)
A complete history of the Order,
from it's founding up until THIS
year.

Eversmith's eyes go wide.

LEILA (CONT'D)
We had to memorize it. There's a
LOT in there about Augustus.

Eversmith flips through at least 100 pages.

LEILA (CONT'D)
But one important thing about
Augustus isn't in there.

Eversmith frowns.

LEILA (CONT'D)
Augustus was in trouble for
violating the virtue of purity. He
fell in love with a MUCH younger
Black woman. It's why he died.

Eversmith is speechless.

EXT. MADISON CUBE GARDEN - DAY

SUPER: Conference Finals, Game 3

The Statesmen visit the Smashers.

SUPER: Statesmen Elimination Game

Chaka Purvis finishes up his warm-up throws with Doman catching. Umpire William Smith signals it's time to start.

SMITH
Play ball.

SUPER: First Inning

BISHOP (O.S.)
Hold up, Blue. Got a substitution.

SMITH
We haven't started yet.

Doman looks up to see Bishop.

BISHOP
I'm back.

Doman nods and runs off the field.

SMITH
Savoy.

He nods.

BISHOP
William.

They get into position.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Second Inning

Kendricks leads off against the New York pitcher, GAFFIGAN. First pitch of the inning flies and immediately Gaffigan knows that Kendricks got him. He stares at the ground as the ball flies out of the stadium. D.C. leads 1-0.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

The game is still 1-0 and Youngblood is now pitching in the ninth with one out. Joel, the Smasher baserunner, takes a lead off of second base. Youngblood winds up and throws to the batter, Ledger. It's far enough outside that Bishop has to dive for it. Joel takes off and safely makes it to third before Bishop can get to his feet.

In the dugout, Howell sits with his arms crossed.

GRAY
You got anybody else left?

HOWELL
Not really.

GRAY
Youngblood it is.

Gray spits.

Youngblood fires the next pitch to Ledger and the Smasher pops it up to deep right field. Easy out. Joel scores. Tie game.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Thirteenth Inning

The game is still tied 1-1 with two outs. Bishop stands at the plate, facing the new Smashers pitcher, Ewing. Bennett stands on third base.

Ewing tries a breaking ball, but it doesn't break much. Bishop gets ahold of it and one-hops it to the right-field wall. Bennett scores and the Statesmen lead 2-1.

CUT TO:

Youngblood stands on the mound, looking tired. But he has two outs and two strikes on Cagney. Youngblood takes a deep breath, the sound drops out and he throws the ball. Cagney swings and misses. The Smashers are still alive.

SUPER: Smashers lead series 2-1.

INT. LEAH OWENS' OFFICE - DAY

Benjamin sits at the desk while Owens pours two glasses of whiskey. She hands one to Benjamin, who accepts it with some surprise.

OWENS

Let's cut to the chase. You are here about your current and future job status.

Benjamin nods and takes a sip of the whiskey.

OWENS (CONT'D)

Let's just say that you made a mistake.

Benjamin takes another sip.

OWENS (CONT'D)

Are you going to make the same mistake again?

Benjamin eagerly shakes her head.

OWENS (CONT'D)

Then you are fine. Let's just say that the video showing your betrayal was... corrupted. There's no evidence you engaged in any wrongdoing.

BENJAMIN

Thank you, I appreciate your... mercy.

Owens takes a sip of whiskey.

OWENS

You owe me.

BENJAMIN

Of course.

OWENS

And I will collect.

They both take another sip of whiskey.

INT. THE PINCH - NIGHT

Eversmith walks into the Pinch basement, shutting the door behind her. Sitting at the bar drinking a beer is Beck.

BECK

'Bout time.

EVERSMITH

Sorry. There's a lot going on.

BECK

No shit.

EVERSMITH

Why'd YOU invite me here?

Beck turns and glares at Eversmith.

BECK

It's all your fault.

Eversmith is taken aback.

EVERSMITH

Are you talking to me?

Beck barks a laugh and takes a big sip of beer.

BECK

I wouldn't have gotten involved if
it weren't for how they wronged
you.

Eversmith gets up and sits next to Beck.

EVERSMITH

I've seen you. In the precinct.

BECK

Beck.

EVERSMITH

Eversmith.

They shake hands.

BECK

I know.

EVERSMITH

Yeah.

Beck drinks half his beer.

BECK

I crossed the line.

EVERSMITH

What line?

BECK

The thin blue one.

Eversmith takes a sip of her soda.

BECK (CONT'D)

I'm the one that sent all the files
to you and Paige.

Eversmith sits on the bar stool.

BECK (CONT'D)

I just couldn't keep it up. What
those guys were doing. How they
treated you.

EVERSMITH

You don't strike me as the bleeding
heart liberal type.

Beck laughs.

BECK

I have an uncle... I mean an
aunt... YOU know?

Eversmith's nod alludes to the microaggression but she holds
her tongue.

BECK (CONT'D)

I saw what she went through... you
know... after the transition.

He takes a sip from his beer.

BECK (CONT'D)

It was brutal. I'm not like that.
I'm not like them.

Eversmith takes a sip of her soda. Beck finishes his beer.

EXT. MADISON CUBE GARDEN - NIGHT

SUPER: Conference Finals, Game 4

The Statesmen visit the Smashers.

SUPER: Statesmen Elimination Game

SUPER: Third Inning

On the Statesmen bench, Howell is excited.

HOWELL

Now this is my kind of game.

Both teams are hitless and scoreless so far. On the mound for
the Statesmen is Melvin Rodgers. There are two outs.

Rogers throws a fastball, trying to nip the corner of the
plate. Umpire William Smith allows it.

SMITH

Strike three!

The Statesmen run off the field.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fourth Inning

Rodgers pitches to Alda with one out and a 3-0 count. He pitches and his plant foot buckles a bit. The pitch just misses outside.

CUT TO:

Cagney watches Rodgers pitch miss way outside.

SMITH (CONT'D)

Ball four.

CUT TO:

Rodgers walks Hines on four pitches as well, which brings Howell out from the dugout.

RODGERS

Sorry, coach. I tweaked my ankle. I can't get any velocity.

HOWELL

Don't worry, we got this.

Howell waves Kendricks and Speck over to help Rodgers walk off the field without putting weight on his ankle.

CUT TO:

Duhart has finished his warm-up throws, bases loaded, one out. Joel stands at bat. Duhart whispers a prayer as he pitches and he gets Joel to ground to Brito for the easy double play. The game is still scoreless.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Top of the ninth, two outs, 2-1 count, game still scoreless. Mario Gay pinch hits. The Smashers pitcher, OSMENT, hurls a fastball and Gay fouls it off.

Osment pitches again, Gay fouls it off again. The crowd stands up and gets LOUD!!!!

Osment pitches and it's low. Full count.

Osment pitches, Gay swings away and the ball just clears the right field wall. The stadium goes silent.

CUT TO:

The Statesmen take the field with Youngblood on the mound. In the dugout, Gray walks over to Howell.

GRAY
 You sure about Youngblood? He's
 been a bit spotty.

Howell nods.

HOWELL
 I'm sure.

Gray shrugs.

GRAY
 If you're sure, you're sure.

Huebner looks on it what is best described as horror.

Gray sits, then he spits.

Montage of Youngblood striking out Hines, Joel and Van Buren.

The Statesmen win, 1-0. In the dugout, Gray walks over to Howell.

GRAY (CONT'D)
 Good call. Good coaching.

He walks away.

SUPER: Series tied 2-2.

INT. ALEX LEVIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Levin grins at Mindy and Fernando of America PAC, who sit across from her. Mindy sits right next to the plant where Cody hid the bug.

MINDY
 If you check, you'll see that we
 have fulfilled our half of our
 little... agreement.

On her computer, Levin checks an online bank account. The latest transaction is a deposit for \$500,000. There is no depositor listed. Levin smiles.

FERNANDO
 Are we happy?

He grins. Levin nods.

LEVIN
 We are happy.

Mindy hands her a small piece of paper. Levin looks at it and it simply says "Robert Diggs."

FERNANDO

It is our position that Mr. Diggs is falsely imprisoned.

MINDY

The type of thing a sheriff might be able to rectify.

LEVIN

That sounds like a miscarriage of justice.

They all grin big corrupt grins.

INT. CODY PAIGE'S CAMRY - MOMENTS LATER

Cody sits alone in her Camry. She twists sideways to work on her laptop. She plugs in a set of headphones and puts them on. She hits play on an audio file.

LEVIN (O.S.)

...sounds like a miscarriage of justice.

Cody hits stop on the recording. She smiles, starts the Camry and drives away.

INT. RED SHEEP RANCH - NIGHT

Jacob walks down the hall towards Manda Starr's private quarters. Once he arrives at the door, he pushes the intercom button next to the door. It buzzes briefly.

STARR (O.S.)

You have what I want?

JACOB

I do.

Silence. Jacob shifts uncomfortably from foot to foot. The door opens, but Starr doesn't invite him in. She's still fully dressed.

STARR

You completed the entire city?

JACOB

Yes. Using the bus system, as instructed.

STARR

Good. We need that data for what's next.

Jacob is eager.

JACOB

When do we get to earn what that is?

STARR

Soon. Something big is coming. Game 7 of the USA Classic. Or earlier of the Statemen should fail to live up to the hype.

JACOB

So it'll be focused on the nation's capitol. Of course.

Starr smiles.

STARR

Congratulations on your television appearance.

Jacob grins.

STARR (CONT'D)

No one suspected anything?

Jacob laughs.

JACOB

Those morons?

Starr raises an eyebrow.

JACOB (CONT'D)

Sorry. They had no idea.

STARR

Good.

She goes inside and shuts the door.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Conference Finals, Game 5

The Statesmen host the Smashers.

SUPER: Statesmen Elimination Game

Huebner sits next to Howell at the far end of the bench from the other coaches. Huebner whispers.

HUEBNER
C'mon man, talk to me.

Howell stays silent.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)
What did I do? I disagreed. Is that worth all this?

Howell sighs.

HOWELL
You broke the code.

HUEBNER
What code? What the hell are you talking about?

He realizes his voice was too loud and he quiets down again. Chris Lawthon stares in their direction, but only for a second.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

Howell nods.

HOWELL
That's a start. But it's not just me.

HUEBNER
I--

He nods. They stay silent for a bit.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)
Why the hell is Kendricks pitching?

HOWELL
We need Jones to start the first game of the next round.

HUEBNER
That's sketchy.

HOWELL
He's been hitting well.

HUEBNER
And?

HOWELL
When he hits well, he pitches well.

Beat.

HOWELL (CONT'D)
No, I'm with Gray on this one. I
think he'll come through.

HUEBNER
So you're talking to me again?

HOWELL
I am. Nobody else is.

CUT TO:

SUPER: First Inning

Montage of Kendricks striking out Alda, Cagney and Hines.
With each strikeout, the B*stards put a K on the fence.

In the dugout, Huebner leans over towards Howell and
whispers.

HUEBNER
Good start.

Glover overhears and nods in approval.

GLOVER
What'd he hit on that last pitch?

Langwieler checks the radar gun, which is set up on a stand.

LANGWIELER
103.

GLOVER
Helluva good start.

HOWELL
Looks like he's got it today.

Montage of Kendricks striking out nearly every batter on the
other team. 13 total strikeouts. All the while, the B*stards
hang K's on the fence. Richard and Rebecca make out.

SUPER: Seventh Inning

Brito steps to the plate with Pulsipher on second and Bishop
on first. Aguilera pitches for New York. He throws and Brito
hits a ball that goes down into the right field corner and
just lands fair before going into foul territory.

Pulsipher scores. Bishop stops at third. Brito stands on first base and claps his hands.

BRITO

That's what I'm talking about!

The crowd goes crazy. In section B, Richard and Rebecca make out. Mitch and Rhett do a double high five AND a chest bump.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Kendricks faces Alda. Two outs. Two strikes. Kendricks doesn't even look like he broke a sweat. He's calm and confident.

Fastball. Strike three. Game over, man. The stadium erupts. The players rush the field. Kendricks is the hero of the day.

SUPER: Statesmen win series 3-2.

CUT TO:

The fans celebrate. Most of the players and coaches are doing media interviews or drinking champagne. At the end of the dugout sit Huebner, Howell, Lawthon and Glover. They are wet from champagne showers. Huebner drinks from a champagne bottle.

HUEBNER

Proved me wrong. Again.

HOWELL

I've never seen a better pitching performance.

GLOVER

You probably never will again. Except for that walk in the third.

HUEBNER

I've never seen a perfect game before.

LAWTHON

I have. Actually scored the winning run. Beat San Francisco 3-0 back in 98.

HUEBNER

Nice.

Huebner hands Lawthon the champagne bottle and turns to Glover.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)
Hey, man, I'm sorry.

GLOVER
Don't worry about me. I knew what you were doing. You were wrong, but you did it for the team.

HOWELL
I did.

Lawthon nods in agreement.

GLOVER
Don't do it again.

HUEBNER
I won't.

GLOVER
Good. Let's go get these rings.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM HALLWAY - LATER

Owens walks in the direction of the locker room. A jubilant Gray comes out, champagne still drips from his head.

GRAY
That's enough of that. Next guy that sprays me gets suspended.

He turns away from the door, laughing, and sees Owens. His laughter fades.

They stare at each other for a moment.

OWENS
Good job.

Gray shifts his cap back on his head and grins.

GRAY
Hell, I couldn't have done it without Kendricks. That was your idea.

She smiles.

OWENS

I can only claim so much. A little birdie told me about him.

GRAY

Maybe if we win this whole thing, you tell me about that little birdie?

She laughs and starts walking away.

OWENS

Why don't you hatch those chickens before you count them.

He laughs, too.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

In the stands, Richard stands up and quiets the B*stards.

RICHARD

Hey, everybody, it's a final.

Everybody quiets down to listen.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

TEXAS has beaten Atlanta and we're facing the Angels in the Final Four.

Mostly cheers.

RHETT

Who else made it?

Richard scrolls on his phone for a second.

RICHARD

Los Angeles already won. And they'll face off against... Chicago. The Ghosts!

MITCH

I'm worried about LA.

Rhett scoffs.

RHETT

No way, we'll KILL 'em.

Laughter.

INT. SEEDY MOTEL - NIGHT

The inside of Alfred Whaley's motel room is dark. A knock comes from outside.

MOTEL CLERK (O.S.)
Mr. Whaley? Mr. Whaley?

The knocking becomes pounding.

Nothing.

The jingling of keys. The door opens and the light shines in on the bed, where Whaley's body lays. A heroin needle still hanging in his arm, which is tied off.

MOTEL CLERK (CONT'D)
Not another one.

He slams the door and walks away.

FADE OUT.