

THE G.O.A.T
Season 1, Episode 12
"The USA Classic"

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TITLE: THE USA CLASSIC

FADE IN.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM - DAY

SUPER: Final Four, Game 1

The Statesmen host the Texas Angels. The stadium is covered in Hater-Ade ads.

SUPER: First Inning

Conan "The Barbarian" Jones stands on the mound in a scoreless game. MAHOMES is the Texas batter. Jones pitches and Mahomes is called out on the third strike.

Alvin Huebner walks into the dugout. He passes Harold Gray and Ferd Langwieler, who ignore him. He takes a seat between Craig Glover and Chris Lawthon.

GLOVER

How's it going, Alvin?

Huebner gives Lawthon a fist bump.

HUEBNER

Been better, been worse. How's he doing?

Vernon Howell joins the conversation.

HOWELL

Three pitches, three strikes.

Back on the field, Jones pitches to the Angels batter, MCCONAUGHEY, who grounds out to Derrick Speck.

In Section B, Rhett stares at Rebecca and Richard, who are cuddling and canoodling. Rhett elbows Mitch.

RHETT

You guys are serious, huh?

They don't even answer, they lean in and kiss. Mitch shrugs.

On the field, Jones has an 0-2 count on the Texas hitter, SWAYZE. He throws and Swayze pops the ball up in foul territory. Bishop quickly gets off the ground and tracks the ball down near the backstop. Inning over.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Third Inning

In the dugout, Doman steps up to Ivan Pasco and Mario Gay.

DOMAN

Guys. I am GLAD to see you. Come with me.

Pasco and Gay exchange a look. They follow Doman into the locker room. Doman leads them towards his locker. He looks around to make sure nobody else is watching.

DOMAN (CONT'D)

I've been looking everywhere for you guys. I need you to sign this canvas. It's for Coach Gray.

PASCO

Sure.

GAY

You got something to write with?

Doman grins and hands them markers.

Meanwhile, on the field, the Angels pitcher, WILSON, faces off against Gus Bennett. Cam Kendricks stands on second. Wilson pitches and Bennett homers to left. D.C. leads 2-0.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fourth Inning

Wilson faces off against Stan Lombardi. Jason Doster stands on first. Wilson pitches and Lombardi deposits the ball in the right field seats. The Statesmen lead 4-0.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Seventh Inning

The new Angels pitcher, TUDYK, faces off against Ronnie Pitts with Lombardi and Bennett on base. Tudyk pitches and Pitts hits the ball to pretty much the same right field spot as Lombardi in the fourth. The Statesmen win 7-0.

SUPER: Statesmen lead series 1-0

OPENING CREDITS.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO

Sen. Bob Gibson sits at a generic news desk with a white background. His face is grim.

GIBSON

I'm Sen. Bob Gibson and I'm here today to talk to you bout a very serious issue. In the past six months, the American people have been a target of an increase in cult-related activity of more than 2000%. Unprecedented in our history.

Gibson turns and looks into CAMERA 2.

GIBSON (CONT'D)

Rest assured that your government is using every resource available to put a stop to cults and the violence they promote. But you can do your part, too.

SUPER: National Cult Hotline, 1-800-NOCULTS

GIBSON (CONT'D)

If you observe any cult-related activity... if you suspect any family, friends or neighbors of being a member of a cult... if you, yourself, are a cult member... dial 1-800-NO CULTS today and talk to one of our qualified experts who can help you with deprogramming, counseling and intervention planning. Your privacy is one of our top concerns, so rest assured that only the RIGHT people will see your information and it will be used exclusively to take down suspected cult members.

Gibson smiles as little as possible.

GIBSON (CONT'D)

That's 1-800-NO CULTS. God bless you and God bless the United States of America.

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 on this autumnal equinox.

INESTA

And the NEXT big event on the calendar is the gala wedding of one Major Sumrell and...

MAJOR

The incomparable Inesta Morgan.

INESTA

But BEFORE the big day, let's get through these playoffs. Reporting from Los Angeles is Ricky Womble.

The screen splits to show Inesta and Womble.

WOMBLE

Thank, you Inesta and hello from sunny Southern California.

Major joins them for a three-way split.

MAJOR

What's the latest from USBL's Final Four?

WOMBLE

Another stellar pitching performance has the Cougars up 2-0 before the series shifts to Chicago. Tonight, the bats came alive, too, en route to an 11-1 victory for Los Angeles.

CUT TO:

On the split screen, Womble has been replaced by Sharon Alligood.

MAJOR

Shifting to the nation's capitol,
Sharon Alligood, tell us about D.C.
and Texas.

ALLIGOOD

Thanks, Major. After his no hitter,
the coaches told Cam Kendricks that
he could pitch whenever he wanted.
He wanted it in game two,
scattering six hits on the way to a
6-1 victory.

SUPER: Statesmen lead series 2-0.

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

"Former USBL player Albert Whaley found dead of suspected
overdose"

"Duke football remains undefeated"

"Oktoberfest returns after coronavirus hiatus"

"Record set as Hurricane Rush makes landfall"

"First Burning Man in two years begins in Nevada"

"Heat Wave Panel begins investigation"

"Biden leads Buffalo to football's only perfect record so
far"

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

Before we get to our top story, my
first question is... where is my
invitation to the wedding?

The split screen comes back up with Inesta and Major joining
Brack.

INESTA

I...

MAJOR

Uh...

Brack grins. It's awkward.

BRACK

What if I told you our top story tonight was?

Laughter.

BRACK (CONT'D)

What if I told you it was about the continuing Puerto Rico talks taking place in Oslo?

More laughter.

INESTA

I will double check and make sure you got your invitation, Jeffrey.

Brack pumps a fist and gently bites his lip in a way he thinks is cool. The split screen goes away.

BRACK

In our REAL top story... according to Order of the Crimson Ram whistleblower "Jacob," the Order has been crushed under the weight of a federal investigation. The remnants of the cult that has plagued us all year are on the run...

INT. CARMESI MOLTO OFFICE - DAY

Lewis stands before Gayle.

LEWIS

So your boss is never here, is she?

Gayle chuckles.

GAYLE

She's here most of the time. She's just... occupied today. She did say she would meet you. I sent you the calendar invite.

Lewis pulls a small device like a car fob out of her pocket and pushes a button. The CAMERA closes in on her ear to show an ear-plug.

A high-pitched whistle turns into a whine and Gayle almost vomits.

GAYLE (CONT'D)

Ex... cuse...

She covers her mouth to hold it in and runs toward the bathroom.

Lewis looks around the room and sees the security camera. She walks towards the door and opens it. As the door starts to close behind her, she pushes a button on the device in her hand. The whistle surges and she points it towards the camera. The red light goes off.

She rushes towards the door to Starr's office and opens it with a copy of Gayle's key. As she opens the door, she pushes the button again and waits for a second.

Lewis rushes inside. The security camera light is off. Lewis opens the display case, grabs the brooch and rushes back out of the office.

She stands by the office door and points the device towards the bathrooms. The whistle is followed by an audible groan.

Lewis walks out the door. She pulls out her phone and texts Gayle:

LEWIS (V.O.)

Hope you feel better!! Had to run!

EXT. ALEX WATKINS' TRAILER - DAY

Officer Steven Beck knocks on the front door of apartment #37 in a poor two-story apartment building. Alex Watkins opens the door.

WATKINS

Can I help you?

BECK

Steven Beck...

He hands Watkins a business card.

BECK (CONT'D)

You are familiar with Dwayne McDaris?

WATKINS

Of course. He's a patriot.

Beck nods awkwardly.

BECK
So, you would say you know McDaris?

WATKINS
We aren't best friends, but we've met.

BECK
When was the last time you saw him?

Watkins rubs his head.

WATKINS
Not sure, more than a month.

Beck pulls out a notepad and starts writing.

BECK
Any way to confirm the date?

Watkins shrugs.

WATKINS
Sure, we did a show together.

BECK
TV? Radio?

WATKINS
Online.

Beck nods and writes.

BECK
You talk to him since then?

WATKINS
Once. On the phone. When the video debuted. What's with the third degree? Something wrong?

BECK
He's been miss--

Beck closes his eyes and silently curses himself.

BECK (CONT'D)
I shouldn't have said that.

Beat.

BECK (CONT'D)
Don't let me hear about this online, okay?

Watkins holds up the Scout three finger sign.

WATKINS
Scout's honor.

He grins.

INT. PDDC PRECINCT, HALLWAY - DAY

Officer Anne Snell walks through the precinct hallway and turns a corner to find Bill Tucker standing there. He blocks her way.

TUCKER
I hear you're talking to that task force later?

SNELL
Yeah, what's it to you?

TUCKER
You'd better watch what you say.

SNELL
You really think I'm afraid of you?

TUCKER
You should be.

SNELL
I have the same sidearm you do.

She puts her hand on that sidearm.

Beat.

He turns and walks away.

SNELL (CONT'D)
That's what I thought.

INT. ALEX LEVIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective Brice Eversmith sits across from Captain Alex Levin.

LEVIN
To what do I owe this honor?

She obviously doesn't consider it an honor.

EVERSMITH
I'm here to ask you to reinstate
me.

Levin laughs loudly.

LEVIN
On what grounds?

EVERSMITH
I've found additional evidence on
the cult-related murders. I have--

LEVIN
First off, there is no cult...

Eversmith laughs.

LEVIN (CONT'D)
Second... you've been working while
you were suspended?

EVERSMITH
Yes, I was--

LEVIN
You're fired.

EVERSMITH
I wasn't working on my own, I had
an officer with me to hand--

Levin raises an eyebrow.

LEVIN
Who?

EVERSMITH
Cody Paige.

LEVIN
Well she's fired, too.

Eversmith flinches.

EVERSMITH
You can't be serious?

LEVIN
Get out of my office.

Levin points towards the doorway. Eversmith shuffles out of
the office.

EXT. OSCORP STADIUM - NIGHT

SUPER: Final Four, Game 3

The Statesmen visit the Texas Angels. The stadium is filled with Hater-Ade ads.

SUPER: First Inning

Grady Duhart stands ready to face the Angels. Mahomes leads off. Duhart pitches and Mahomes drives it up the middle for a double.

CUT TO:

Duhart faces off against McConaughey. Duhart throws, and McConaughey doubles, driving in Mahomes. The Angels lead 1-0.

CUT TO:

Paxton bats for Texas now, with McConaughey on second and Swayze on first. Duhart pitches and Paxton singles to right, scoring McConaughey. Angels 2-0.

CUT TO:

The batter is SCOTT. Duhart pitches and Scott lines a shot off the right field wall. Swayze and Paxton score. Angels 4-0.

Vernon Howell gets off the bench and walks out to the mound, signaling the bullpen for a new pitcher.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Second Inning

Kendricks faces off against the Angles pitcher, HARRELSON, with nobody on and no outs. Harrelson pitches, Kendricks is way ahead of the pitch. Umpire William Smith punches him out.

SMITH
Strike three!

CUT TO:

SUPER: Sixth Inning

With the score now 4-1, the Angels face off against Hector Delarosa. Swayze and Paxton are on base for Texas. Scott is the batter. Delarosa pitches and Scott homers to center field.

CUT TO:

The new pitcher is Omar Wheeler and the Angels now lead 8-1. The bases are loaded with one out. Wheeler pitches and the batter, FOXX blasts a home run to right field.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Eighth Inning

Alfredo Brito stands at home plate. Bishop stands on first. Harrelson pitches, Brito swings and drives it over the right-field wall. Too little, too late. The Angels win 13-3.

SUPER: Statesmen lead series 2-1.

INT. MARY BILLUPS' OFFICE - DAY

Alton Nix sits across from Mary Billups in the USBL offices.

BILLUPS

Who is it?

Nix frowns.

NIX

You aren't going to like it.

BILLUPS

Cut the foreplay.

Nix shrugs.

NIX

Jones.

Billups is shocked.

BILLUPS

From D.C.?

Nix nods.

BILLUPS (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Nix goes to Billups about Jones.

BILLUPS (CONT'D)

What's the union going to do?

NIX

We are strictly in reactive mode right now.

(MORE)

NIX (CONT'D)

Lawyers working overtime to figure out what we can do. We're covering our asses.

Billups stares at him for a moment.

BILLUPS

One thing I can say for sure that I'm not about to get burnt again.

NIX

Feel free to do more tests. Test other players. Whatever you want.

BILLUPS

It doesn't matter.

She shrugs.

BILLUPS (CONT'D)

I really don't think I can say anything before the end of the Classic.

NIX.

You're gonna let them play? But it'll be tainted.

BILLUPS

It's already tainted.

Beat.

BILLUPS (CONT'D)

I know you think I'm in charge around here, but I'm really not.

Nix cocks an eyebrow.

NIX

Who is?

BILLUPS

You don't want to ask that question. You REALLY don't want to know the answer.

She stares at him. Afraid of things he doesn't yet know of.

INT. SHIRLEY MULDOON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Shirley stands at the kitchen sink, washing dishes. Her head is down and she's really focused on getting some burnt cheese off of a plate.

Quietly, Isaac (aka Jeremy Spencer) tiptoes up behind her, holding an ancient dagger that glows with a faint blue light.

A bead of sweat rolls down Shirley's forehead. She looks at her reflection in the window and reaches up to wipe it off. She sees the reflection of blue light in the window.

Shirley looks down at the cast-iron skillet on the counter. It's filled with soapy water and food remnants.

Isaac steps closer, quietly. He raises the dagger. He brings it down.

Seeing his reflection, Shirley sidesteps the dagger blow. She grabs the cast-iron skillet with both hands and whirls towards Isaac. The soapy water splashes his face, blinding him just before the heavy skillet connects with his jaw. Isaac crashes backwards, hitting his head on the stove. He falls to the ground, unconscious.

Shirley steps closer to Isaac's motionless body. She holds the skillet ready to strike again as she nudges Isaac with her foot. Nothing.

She kneels down and checks his pulse. She sees that he is breathing. Shirley stands up, takes a deep breath and sets the skillet back on the counter.

CUT TO:

Shirley dials Cody. On the floor behind her, Isaac is tied up with a variety of household items: bungee cords, a jump rope, anything that works.

CODY (O.S.)

Hello?

SHIRLEY

Hey, you're never going to believe what happened to me.

CODY (O.S.)

What happened?

SHIRLEY

Come on over. And bring everyone.

INT. SHIRLEY MULDOON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Isaac sits tied to a chair. Eversmith faces him, sitting on her own chair. Cody, Chad, Ashley and Shirley sit behind Eversmith.

EVERSMITH
Hello, Jeremy. Long time, no see.

ISAAC
That's not my name.

Eversmith smiles.

EVERSMITH
What would you like to be called?

ISAAC
My name is Isaac.

EVERSMITH
Okay, Jeremy...

Laughter from everyone but Isaac.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)
What the hell is going on here?

Nothing.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)
Dude, you have no idea how much trouble you're in. I think espionage laws might apply to your little undercover operation there.

ISAAC
What?

EVERSMITH
Sure, Supreme Court precedent is pretty clear on this one.

She looks towards Cody.

CODY
Plessy v. Ferguson, I think.

SHIRLEY
Based on the Court's interpretation of the Third Amendment.

ISAAC
What are you talking about?

EVERSMITH

5-10.

CODY

For the first charge. How many you think Jeremy's got here?

EVERSMITH

At least three counts.

ISAAC

What do you want to know?

Eversmith nods.

EVERSMITH

So, magic is real, huh?

Isaac nods.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)

And it comes from Hell or whatever?

ISAAC

Satan. And his minions.

CODY

This is all a joke, right?

ISAAC

No. I used to think so. But I've seen it with my own eyes. Things you wouldn't believe.

EVERSMITH

You're right, I don't believe.

ISAAC

It doesn't matter what you believe. They will come for you.

EVERSMITH

That's fine, I'm always armed. And your friends are a bit of a joke.

CODY

How does this magic work?

ISAAC

Like all of it? There's a lot.

EVERSMITH

Start small and we'll work our way up from there.

ISAAC
They kill someone. It releases
magic. They shape the magic.

EVERSMITH
They?

ISAAC
I never participated in any of
that.

CODY
You opposed to murdering people all
of a sudden?

ISAAC
I... uh... no.

EVERSMITH
You aren't really helping us much
here, Jer... Isaac. You gotta give
me something helpful or I gotta
start compiling those charges.

ISAAC
Game 7.

SHIRLEY
Baseball?

Isaac nods.

ISAAC
It's gonna be big. You should get
tickets.

EXT. MILDLY SEEDY MOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C. - NIGHT

A uniformed guard sits outside the door to a motel room. Jacob approaches him quietly and hands him a small stack of hundred-dollar bills. The guard gets up and leaves.

Once he's gone, Jacob uses a keycard and opens the door. He slips inside quietly.

INT. MILDLY SEEDY MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Leila Rassi lays on the bed, pretending to sleep. She closes her eyes once the door opens. Jacob tiptoes across the room, no idea that Leila is awake.

He carries a dagger that glows faintly blue.

Leila opens her eyes with her back facing Jacob. From beneath her blanket, she pulls out a fully-extended steel self defense baton. She quietly grips it and readies herself.

Jacob goes around the end of the bed and towards the head. Leila holds the baton close, so Jacob can't see it. She squints her eyes and watches him take two steps towards her.

On the third step, Leila sits up quickly, swings the baton and breaks Jacob's jaw. He staggers backwards.

Leila jumps to her feet and brings the baton down on Jacob's hand. He drops the dagger. The blue light goes away. Jacob is distracted by the fading light.

Leila brings the baton down on Jacob's head and he crashes to the ground. He struggles to reach for the dagger, but Leila scrambles towards it and gets there first.

She picks up the dagger, but the blue glow doesn't return. Jacob lunges towards her and Leila jabs the dagger in his direction.

It plunges into his chest and it briefly glows BRIGHT blue. Jacob falls back with the glowing blue dagger still in his chest. He falls dead.

Leila kicks him.

Twice.

She holds the baton ready to strike as she reaches down and pulls the dagger from Jacob's chest.

His corpse flinches. Leila smashes the baton down on his chest, but he's dead and doesn't move again.

Leila breathes for the first time in a while.

EXT. LAW OFFICES OF BENJAMIN STUMP - DAY

Benjamin Stump holds a press conference in front of his law firm. The crowd around him is bigger today.

STUMP

I want to think you all for joining
me. You all know the families of
Pervis Till and Clifford Byars...

The family members nod to the crowd and mutter hellos.

STUMP (CONT'D)

Joining us today is the family of yet another young Black man who has disappeared after interactions with the PDDC. We are here today searching for justice, as always, but we are now seeking justice for Kenneth Taylor, too.

At the back of the crowd, Schur and Weiner have been watching. Schur turns to Weiner.

SCHUR

Let's reach out to Stump. Share info.

Weiner takes note.

EXT. OSCORP STADIUM - NIGHT

SUPER: Final Four, Game 4

The Statesmen visit the Texas Angels.

In the dugout, Vernon Howell and Harold Gray sit in discussion.

GRAY

Rodgers fully recovered from the injury?

HOWELL

Doc says so. Says there's nothing physical wrong with him.

Gray spits.

SUPER: First Inning

Kendricks stands at the plate with the bases loaded. The Angels pitcher, NELSON, throws the pitch. Kendricks is ready for it and slams the ball to center. The Statesmen jump out to a 4-0 lead.

Kendricks walks into the dugout, the cocky hero.

KENDRICKS

What would you guys do without me?

Domingo Santana looks up at him.

SANTANA

According to Bill James, we'd still
be in first.

Laughter.

KENDRICKS

Yeah, right. You guys were in last
without me...

SANTANA

(under his breath)
Not me, I just got here.

KENDRICKS

You'd be in last without me.

Santana isn't buying it. Kendricks steps towards him with malice. Alvin Huebner steps up and punches Kendricks in the face. His nose starts bleeding.

GLOVER

Let me help you with that.

Glover rushes Kendricks towards the locker room, making sure to steer clear of Huebner. Huebner stares him down. Kendricks fights to hold himself back.

The dugout bursts into applause. Huebner blushes.

CUT TO:

The Statesmen take the field, with Kendricks playing first with a bandage on his nose.

In the dugout, Huebner sits at the end of the bench, fuming over his interaction with Kendricks. Terrence Kimbell walks over and sits next to him. Huebner looks up and Kimbell gives him a nod of approval.

KIMBELL

That was pretty legit.

Huebner smiles a bit, but tries to hold it in.

KIMBELL (CONT'D)

That dude is a prick. Whether we
get the ring or not, he's a prick.
And he's been asking for that.

HUEBNER

I didn't do it on purpose, it was
just... you know.

Kimbell laughs.

KIMBELL
I do know. Respect.

Kimbell reaches out for a fist bump. Huebner is a little awkward, but returns it.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fourth Inning

The game is now 4-1 for the Statesmen and the Angels have the bases loaded with no outs. Swayze has a 2-0 count against Rodgers.

Rodgers takes a deep breath, the sound drops out and he pitches. Swayze hits a chopper to Brito, who fields it easily and flips to Speck for the out at second. Speck turns the double play, but Paxton scores from third. D.C. leads 4-2.

CUT TO:

The new Angels batter is Foxx. Scott stands on third. The count is 2-2. Rodgers concentrates and throws a ball that drops wickedly. Foxx whiffs.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

Kendricks stands the plate with Speck on second. Nelson pitches and Kendricks hits a homer to left. The Statesmen lead 6-2.

CUT TO:

Bennett is next. Nelson throws. Bennett deposits the ball in almost the same spot as Kendricks. Statesmen 7-2.

CUT TO:

Pitts faces the new Texas pitcher, RICHARDS. Richards throws and Pitts hits a home run to right field. Statesmen 8-2.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Eighth Inning

Bishop steps up to the plate with Pitts on first. Richards pitches and Bishop hits his second home run of the year. The Statesmen win 10-2.

SUPER: Statesmen lead series 3-1.

EXT. PDDC PARKING LOT - NIGHT

O'Reilly is dressed in civilian clothes and walks to his Hyundai Accent carrying a duffle bag. Leaning against O'Reilly's car is Bill Tucker.

TUCKER

What did you say to the task force?

O'REILLY

I told the truth.

TUCKER

Whose truth?

O'Reilly scoffs.

O'REILLY

Dude, there's only one truth.

Tucker laughs.

TUCKER

Watch your back.

O'REILLY

Or what?

Tucker steps closer to him. O'Reilly reflexively punches him in the face.

Tucker punches back and they exchange a few blows before O'Reilly grabs Tucker in a bear hug.

The twist around and O'Reilly smashes Tucker's body into the car. Tucker pulls away from O'Reilly's grip, but he's clearly winded.

O'Reilly punches Tucker in the face. Tucker shakes it off and readies himself to punch again when O'Reilly's fist smashes into his face. Tucker falls to the ground.

O'REILLY (CONT'D)

Stay the fuck away from me.

TUCKER

Screw y--

O'Reilly kicks Tucker in the ribs. Tucker emits a grunt of pain and rolls away. O'Reilly takes a step to follow, but Tucker scrambles to his feet and runs towards the precinct building.

TUCKER (CONT'D)
I know where you live!

He disappears around the side of the building.

O'REILLY
I'm tired of this bullshit.

Beat.

O'REILLY (CONT'D)
I did NOT graduate a community
college certificate program to put
up with this nonsense.

INT. THE PINCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

Eversmith, Cody, Shirley, Chad, Ashley and Leila sit in the
basement. Annie drops off a round of drinks and shuts the
door on her way out.

EVERSMITH
I think I've gotten most of this
figured out, but I hope we have
some new information? There are
still some missing pieces.

CODY
The wiretap with Levin definitely
has some illegal stuff on it.
Bribery related to America PAC. No
connection to the Order as far as I
can tell.

Shirley holds up Lewis' diary.

SHIRLEY
Jamelle Lewis may be involved. We
checked her house out. Found this.
She and Augustus Owens had a
relationship. Leah didn't know
about it.

ASHLEY
Whoa. Guess I didn't work at
National Stadium long enough for
the real drama.

SHIRLEY
She was SUPER angry about Leah
getting the team.

EVERSMITH

That would explain a lot about Augustus. Leila gave me this history...

He holds it up.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)

...of the Order. The Owens family used to own slaves but they cashed out before the war. LOTS of money. When Leah was young, Augustus disowned her mother. Her father was gunned down by a cop. The mother committed suicide and Augustus raised Leah.

CHAD

Wait a second...

They turn to stare at him.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I've seen Leah Owens, she is very Black. And I've seen pictures of Augustus Owens and he's very white. What--

LEILA

He's not, though.

They turn to Leila.

LEILA (CONT'D)

He was mixed. But VERY light-skinned.

Cody crosses her arms and frowns.

LEILA (CONT'D)

He lied to everyone and said he was white. He got away with it up until the end.

CHAD

Maybe it's part of why they killed him?

EVERSMITH

It's likely. Leila, you know the Ranch pretty well, right?

She nods her head.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)
There has to be something there
with some kind of evidence.

LEILA
They have an altar. For sacrifices.
But they scrub it pretty clean.

CODY
No way to get in and out of there
with any forensic evidence?

Leila shakes her head.

LEILA
There is an area down there that is
off limits, but I never went down
there.

Eversmith contemplates Leila for a moment.

EVERSMITH
Do you think you could go back?
Find that room? Find that evidence?

Leila takes a deep breath.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)
We couldn't go in with you. But
we'd be on call in case you needed
back-up.

CODY
Which, admittedly, is STILL
dangerous.

Cody nods pointedly at Eversmith starts to nod along.

LEILA
Almost nobody would know I'm gone
at this point. The Order heavily
frowns on any TV or radio or social
media, so the members wouldn't
know.

EVERSMITH
But...?

LEILA
The leaders would all know. They
wouldn't tell anyone else, nobody
EVER leaves the Order. It's not
even something they'd consider
telling anyone.

CODY
Can you do it?

Leila takes a deep breath and nods. Cody puts a hand on her shoulder in thanks.

INT. RED SHEEP RANCH - NIGHT

In the Temple, a group of cult devotees are preparing for another ceremony. Leila is in the room, covered by her robe and hood to the point where no one can tell who she is. None of the cult's leaders is in the room.

Leila walks out of the main chamber and down a hallway to a set of bathroom doors. She pretends to go into the women's room, holding the door and looking down the hall to make sure she's alone.

Since she is, she DOESN'T go into the bathroom. She sneaks down the hallway and quickly turns a corner so that no one coming from the main room can see her.

She walks to the end of the hall and comes across a door that has a keypad lock. She tries several different combinations of numbers, but the door doesn't unlock.

She turns and walks away from the door and rounds the corner near the bathrooms. As she rounds the corner, she bumps into Cam Kendricks dressed in a cult outfit.

LEILA
(hiding intense fear)
H-hey.

Kendricks nods at her and walks on by. She watches him go and quickly ducks into the women's room. She stops and takes a few deep breaths. She calms herself.

She opens the door and peeks outside. Starr and Abraham stand there talking. She can't hear them, but she lets the door shut and she goes to hide in the stall. She pulls out her phone and the time reads 3:30.

CUT TO:

Leila still sits in the stall. She pulls out her phone again. It's now 4:00.

She quietly slips out of the stall. She puts her ear to the door. She doesn't hear anything.

Leila cracks the door and peers into the hallway. Nothing.

She tiptoes down the hallway and back into the main room. The cult members are starting to gather near the altar.

She walks along with a group of cult members, mingling among them so she can't be seen. Near the altar Abraham and Rebecca talk about something. Abraham looks in Leila's direction and he sorta recognizes her, but not really. He goes back to talking to Rebecca.

Leila quickly slips out the door.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Final Four, Game 5

The Statesmen host the Texas Angels.

In the stands, Rebecca has brought gifts for the B*stards in a small bag. She grins and holds the bag up.

REBECCA
I've got presents!

The B*stards cheer.

Rebecca hands out various candy bars and other snacks to the B*stards. When she gets to Mitch and Rhett, she grins.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Got something special for you guys.

She hands each one of them a \$20 gift card for the beer tent. Mitch and Rhett high five each other and then hug Rebecca at the same time. They rush off to get their free beers.

Rebecca turns to watch the players warm up on the field. Richard raises an eyebrow.

RICHARD
That it?

Rebecca briefly looks his way and then looks back towards the field.

REBECCA
Hmm?

Richard starts to frown a bit.

RICHARD
Nothing for me?

Rebecca looks at him with a devious grin.

REBECCA

You get your present AFTER the game.

She winks and turns back towards the field. Richard doesn't react at first. Then he gets it. His eyes grow wide and he grins as he turns to watch the players.

CUT TO:

SUPER: First Inning

Harrell Flowers gets the start. He tosses his warm-up pitches, but he looks off.

In the dugout, Ferd Langwieler turns to talk to Howell.

LANGWIELER

He's not looking that strong.

HOWELL

Agreed. Get Malay going.

Howell nods to Lawthon and he grabs the bullpen phone.

CUT TO:

With one out, Flowers has runners at first and third. He's overly sweaty and looks uncomfortable. He throws the pitch and comes down on his plant foot a little awkwardly. Paxton drives the pitch into the left-field gap, scoring two.

CUT TO:

Flowers pitches, Foxx swings and homers to right. The Angels are up 4-0.

GRAY

Go get him.

Howell walks onto the field, signaling to the bullpen.

CUT TO:

Malay faces Mahomes, who stands at the plate for Texas. Malay pitches and gets Mahomes to pop up for an easy third out.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fourth Inning

Speck is the batter. Scott Pompey is on second and Doster on first. The Texas pitcher is WILSON. The Angels lead 4-1.

Wilson pitches and Speck drives the ball into the right-field corner. He slides into second with a double while the runners score. Texas 4-3.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

Eddie Parker now pitches for the Statesmen. He throws to Foxx and Foxx singles to right, scoring Scott. Angels 5-3.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Seventh Inning

Doster stands on second while Speck is the hitter. Wilson stares him down. He winds up and pitches. Speck hits the ball to the right field gap. Doster scores easily and Speck pulls into second with a stand-up double. Texas leads 5-4.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Eighth Inning

The new pitcher for D.C. is Omar Wheeler. There are two outs and the bases are loaded. The batter is Swayze. With a 2-2 count, Wheeler pitches. Swayze swings and hits a fast bouncing shot through the hole between first and second. Mahomes scores easily.

McConaughey rounds third and speeds towards home, despite the Texas third base coach using the hold up sign. In right field, Lombardi sees and rifles the ball towards home plate.

The ball bounces once and Bishop gets it. He turns to tag McConaughey, but the Angel slides beneath the tag. Texas leads 6-4.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Tudyk is the new Texas pitcher. He faces Ivan Pasco with one out and Brito on first and Bishop on third. Tudyk pitches, Pasco homers to right D.C. wins the game 7-6.

SUPER: Statesmen win series 4-1.

INT. THE PINCH BASEMENT - NIGHT

It's Punk/Rap Karaoke Night in the Pinch basement. Near the bar in the back Kendricks and Jones share beers.

On stage, Bishop is KILLING "When Doves Cry," by Prince. He finishes to thunderous applause.

He makes his way over to his teammates.

KENDRICKS
What was that?

JONES
Amazing. Worth celebrating.

Jones pulls out three cigars and hands one each to Kendrick and Bishop. Kendrick smells his.

KENDRICKS
Puerto Rican cigars? Are they from before or after the coup?

Laughter. Bishop doesn't really get it, but he laughs along anyway. Kendrick turns to Dan to get another beer. Jones turns towards Bishop.

JONES
What's up?

Bishop shrugs.

JONES (CONT'D)
You missed two games. You aren't hurt. What's up?

BISHOP
I don't know. I lost my... love for the game.

Jones takes a sip.

JONES
Want to tell me why?

BISHOP
I don't know it was just...

Kendrick rejoins them. Bishop looks up and makes eye contact. Kendrick stares him down as if they are about to fight.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
I lost focus. But I'm refocused now.

Jones nods.

BISHOP (CONT'D)
You guys? You focused?

He never breaks eye contact with Kendricks.

JONES
It'll be tough, but I'm gonna make
it.

KENDRICKS
I'm always ready. Always focused.

He never breaks eye contact with Bishop. Bishop flinches and
looks away. Kendricks takes a sip of his beer.

INT. THE PINCH - LATER

Bishop stands at the bar while Annie rings him up.

ANNIE
\$37.45.

BISHOP
Put it on the card.

Annie goes to ring Bishop up.

BETTY (O.S.)
Hey.

Bishop turns to see Betty Billups. She's alone. He smiles at
first, but the joy quickly drains from his face.

BISHOP
Hey.

Betty waits for more. It doesn't come.

BETTY
How have you been?

Bishop shrugs. Betty sighs, exasperated.

BETTY (CONT'D)
Is surly your new thing?

BISHOP
I don't know what that means.

Betty shakes her head.

BETTY
Look... can we start over?

BISHOP

I don't see how. The rabbit is out of the cage, so to speak.

BETTY

Are you going to stay hung up this?

He nods.

BETTY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry then. I still like you, but I'm not going to be with just one person.

BISHOP

I can't handle that.

BETTY

Then we're back where we started.

BISHOP

I guess we are.

They sip their drinks.

BETTY

I'll be around.

BISHOP

I will, too. At least until the end of the playoffs.

She cocks an eyebrow.

BISHOP (CONT'D)

Who knows what'll happen after that?

BETTY

Who knows, indeed?

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 David 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

Ricky Womble of the Los Angeles Defender

Womble waves at the camera.

WOMBLE

Great to see everyone.

WEISMAN

...and Edith Merman of the Philadelphia Inquisitor.

MERMAN

Thank you for having me.

Weisman turns and looks into the camera.

WEISMAN

Okay, first question... the Cougars easily defeated the Ghosts and the Statesmen had little trouble against the Angels. Who wins the USA Classic, why and how?

ALLIGOOD

The Cougars are good, but the Statesmen are a team of destiny. D.C. in six.

WOMBLE

I'm a believer. Statesmen in four.

Laughter.

MERMAN

It won't be a sweep. The Statesmen really struggled in the first two rounds of the playoffs.

(MORE)

MERMAN (CONT'D)

That being said, this IS a season
no one will ever forget. One our
grandchildren will be reading
about.

TESSELL

Yes. Because the Statesmen aren't
going to win.

Uproarious laughter. Even from the crew.

WEISMAN

Ludicrous.

Tessell stares at them with contempt in his eyes.

TESSELL

Kendricks is going to completely
bomb. Jones is too old and their
best pitchers are all injured. L.A.
in 7.

Shocked silence.

TESSELL (CONT'D)

Bazooooooooooooom!

INT. DAVID TESSELL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Tessell dials McDaris. It goes directly to voice mail. The
box is full. He grabs his laptop and looks up the motel
McDaris was staying in. He dials the number.

CLERK (O.S.)

Victory Motel, how may I help you?

TESSELL

Who am I speaking with?

CLERK (O.S.)

The clerk.

Tessell shakes his head.

TESSELL

What's your NAME?

CLERK (O.S.)

(exasperated)

Geoff. Call me Geoff.

TESSELL

Hi... Geoff. I'm a reporter, David Tessell of the Chicago Dispatch-Times...

CLERK (O.S.)

(unimpressed)

Yeah?

TESSELL

I'm trying to track down a friend of mine. He told me he was staying there.

CLERK (O.S.)

A lot of people stay here.

TESSELL

At the Victory Motel?

CLERK (O.S.)

They don't call it the 'Loser Motel'.

Tessell explicitly DOESN'T laugh.

TESSELL

His name is Dwayne McDaris.

CLERK (O.S.)

Yeah, the other reporter. He WAS here.

Tessell raises an eyebrow.

TESSELL

What do you mean, was?

CLERK (O.S.)

He was here. Now he's not.

TESSELL

When did he check out?

CLERK (O.S.)

He never did.

TESSELL

But you said he wasn't there?

CLERK (O.S.)

Correct. And I'm about to take all his stuff if he doesn't come back or pay. You want to pay for him?

Tessell laughs and hangs up. He walks across the room and grabs a small tripod. He sets his phone up and starts recording himself sitting at his desk.

TESSELL

Hey, David Tessell here and I want to give a shout-out to all of McDaris' Minions out there. Dwayne couldn't be on the show today and he asked me to fill in.

Tessell takes a deep breath.

TESSELL (CONT'D)

And today, I'm going to reveal some EXCLUSIVE details about baseball hero Cam Kendricks.

A glint of anger appears in his eye.

TESSELL (CONT'D)

I have clear evidence here...

He holds up the birth certificate and ID.

TESSELL (CONT'D)

That Cam Kendricks is neither who he says he is, nor was he born when he claims. He's a liar. And it's about time we expose him.

Tessell holds up the ID and points to the name Dan Cooper. The video continues to record.

INT. MONIKA ARO'S OFFICE - DAY

Monika Aro dials Janice Taylor. Janice picks up right away. The CAMERA switches back and forth between them.

MONIKA

Did you hear?

JANICE

Yeah, I saw it on the news.

Silence.

MONIKA

How are you doing?

Janice takes a deep sigh.

JANICE
 Fine. That transfer come through.
 Chicago. Thanks.

MONIKA
 Call me next week.

JANICE
 Okay.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: The USA Classic, Game 1

The Statesmen host the Los Angeles Cougars. Hater-Ade ads are everywhere. Even more than previous rounds.

Jones sits at his locker, listening to music on his headphones. Glover sticks his head out of the coaches offices.

GLOVER
 Jones?

Jones can't hear Glover.

GLOVER (CONT'D)
 Bishop?

He looks up.

GLOVER (CONT'D)
 Tell Jones he's got a visitor. In
 the conference room.

Bishop reaches to pull on Jones' sleeve.

CUT TO:

Jones walks into the conference room to find Alton Nix sitting and waiting for him. Nix is all business, no niceties.

NIX
 Have a seat, Conan.

JONES
 What's this all about?

He sits.

NIX
 I think you know.

Jones pretends he doesn't.

JONES

No idea.

NIX

Interesting. We have some test results that suggest otherwise.

Jones doesn't crack.

JONES

If that were true, why are you coming to me and not going to the press?

NIX

Not my call to make.

Beat.

NIX (CONT'D)

Yet.

Jones considers the man.

NIX (CONT'D)

My interest is protecting the players. To do that I have to protect the game. From any threats. External or internal.

Beat.

NIX (CONT'D)

Get my meaning?

JONES

A dog could pick up on your meaning.

NIX

Yes he could.

CUT TO:

Jones walks out of the conference room and into the hallway. Out of the main office area walk Chuck Chester and Kit Riggins. They are dressed in Los Angeles Cougars uniforms.

JONES

(with an eyebrow raised)
Hey, guys. New duds?

RIGGINS
Yeah. We got traded.

CHESTER
Again.

JONES
I guess you guys are having a good year, playing for BOTH of the teams that make it to the Classic?

CHESTER
It'll be a better year when we beat y'all.

They all laugh. It's friendly laughter. Jones starts walking again.

JONES
Don't hold your breath.

RIGGINS
Don't hold yours.

Jones laughs as he goes into the locker room.

CUT TO:

SUPER: First Inning

Jones pitches against the L.A. batter, WASHINGTON. Jones throws and the ball is just outside for ball four.

CUT TO:

There is now one out. Washington is on second, PINE is on first and GLOVER is at bat. Jones pitches and Glover hits a sharp hopper to Pulsipher at third. He fields it steps on the bag and throws to second. Speck steps on the bag for out number two. He turns and throws to first, but Glover is safe.

CUT TO:

The next batter is GYLLENHAAL. Jones throws and the Cougars batter pops up to Brito at short to end the inning, still scoreless.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

With two outs in the fifth, Chuck Chester steps up to the plate. Jones nods to the batter, but Chester keeps his game face. Jones hasn't allowed a hit yet.

Jones takes a deep breath, but the sound won't drop away. He concentrates anyway and pitches. Chester lines the ball to left to break up the no-hitter.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Jones continues to pitch in a 0-0 game. He stares down the batter, Pine. The pitch. The swing. Pine hits a solo homer to right to give Los Angeles a 1-0 lead.

CUT TO:

The Cougars pitcher, HILL, has given up six hits, but so far the Statesmen haven't scored.

In section B, Richard and Rebecca sit holding hands. Richard nervously bounces his knee. Rebecca reaches out a hand, grabs the knee and steadies it.

RICHARD

Sorry. I hate low-scoring games.

REBECCA

Don't worry about it, it's only Game 1. The real action is in Game 7.

Richard calms down.

Speck is in the batter's box with a 3-1 count. Hill winds up and pitches, Speck hits a line drive back at the pitcher. Hill throws up his glove in self-defense and catches the ball. Three outs. Los Angeles wins 1-0.

SUPER: Cougars lead series 1-0.

EXT. BALTIMORE, BROKEN DOWN ROW HOUSE - DAY

Schur and Weiner lead a group of heavily-armed and armored Baltimore police. They stand outside the closed front door of a row house that looks shoddy enough to be abandoned.

Schur counts to three with his fingers. They smash the door with a battering and go inside.

Schur, Weiner and the CAMERA stay outside. One of the BALTIMORE OFFICERS comes back outside, shaking his head.

BALTIMORE OFFICER

Clear. No one's even been in there recently.

Schur and Weiner exchange a skeptical look.

EXT. BALTIMORE, CRUMBLING APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

Schur silently counts to three outside an apartment building with broken windows and overgrown grass. The officers break down the door.

CUT TO:

The Baltimore Officer walks out, shaking his head.

WEINER

This is a waste of time.

SCHUR

And resources. These guys aren't here.

Weiner looks down at his notes.

WEINER

Last one?

SCHUR

Let's cross the T's.

INT. LEKEBRA BENJAMIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Benjamin walks into her office and immediately spots a small unmarked box sitting on her desk. She quickly opens it, but we don't see what's inside. Benjamin's eyes grow with recognition and shock.

Her phone rings. She reflexively snaps the box shut. She takes a deep breath, then answers the phone.

EXT. BALTIMORE, DECREPIT DUPLEX - LATER

Schur and Weiner wait outside a duplex apartment with a dirt front yard. The Baltimore Officer walks back out, he and another OFFICER carrying a SUSPECT between them. The suspect is a homeless Black man in his 30s.

Weiner shows the Suspect a series of photographs. Pervis Till. Clifford Byars. Kenneth Taylor.

SCHUR

You seen these guys?

The Suspect coughs, nearly hacking up a lung, and shakes his head.

SUSPECT
I heard those guys are dead.

SCHUR
Where'd you hear that?

SUSPECT
Everyone is saying it.

WEINER
Everyone?

The Suspect nods his head.

SCHUR
Who got them?

The Suspect shakes his head and laughs.

SUSPECT
You did.

Schur raises an eyebrow.

SUSPECT (CONT'D)
Cops killed all them dudes.

Weiner writes in his notes.

INT. SHIRLEY MULDOON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eversmith, Cody, Shirley, Chad and Ashley sit around a table. Chad eats ghost pepper wings. He's not prepared for how hot they are.

EVERSMITH
Okay, we have to present to the task force. Let's break down what we're going to say and what we're gonna show--

Leila walks in.

LEILA
Sorry I'm late. You're NEVER gonna believe this.

SHIRLEY
You okay, you look a little worse for the wear.

LEILA

I had to sneak out of the Ranch.

EVERSMITH

Did you find anything?

LEILA

Yeah. I didn't get inside, but there's a door with a keypad. I don't have the passcode, but THAT's not what's important.

Cody scoots forward in her chair.

LEILA (CONT'D)

I saw HIM there.

CODY

Him, who?

LEILA

Kendricks. Dressed up in the robes and all that.

Silence.

CHAD

Are you sure?

LEILA

As many times as you people and PDDC and the Task Force and the TV have shown me his picture over the past few months? It was him.

ASHLEY

I guess that changes the presentation.

Everyone sits with the information for a moment.

EVERSMITH

Okay, let's get this ready. It seems a lot of lives depend on it.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: The USA Classic, Game 2

The Statesmen host the Los Angeles Cougars.

SUPER: First Inning

Kendricks gets the start in Game 2. He has runners on second and third with one out. The Cougars' batter is CRANSTON.

Kendricks throws a pitch that Cranston fouls off.

In the dugout, Langwielier looks at his radar gun. It reads 100 mph.

LANGWIELER

He hit three digits on that one.

HOWELL

If he doesn't pace himself, he's gonna be in trouble.

Gray spits.

Kendricks pitches again. The gun shows 101. But the pitch is high and Cranston blasts a shot to right field. Los Angeles leads 3-0.

CUT TO:

Kendricks steps up to the plate to face the L.A. pitcher, O'CONNELL. Doster is on third and Speck is on first. O'Connell winds up and throws. Kendricks homers to center field, tying the game.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

Kendricks looks worn out. The bases are loaded and he faces off against the massive Cougars' hitter, DUNCAN.

Kendricks pitches. Duncan swings. The bases are now empty. Los Angeles takes a 7-3 lead. Howell walks out to the mound to pull Kendricks.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Brito stands at the plate with one out and Bishop on first. The L.A. reliever, EILISH, has a 2-2 count. Eilish throws and Brito swings, driving a grounder to second baseman Gyllenhall. He fields it cleanly and turns the double play. Los Angeles wins 9-3.

SUPER: Cougars lead series 2-0.

INT. OLD POST OFFICE - DAY

Schur and Weiner sit across from Anne Snell.

SCHUR

Thank you, Officer Snell, for your offer to cooperate with us today. We had you scheduled for an interview next week, but glad to move it up.

Weiner smiles at Snell. Snell doesn't smile in return.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

What are we talking about today?

Beat.

SNELL

I can help you find the victims.

Weiner scribbles his notes.

SCHUR

Which ones?

Snell emits a remorseless laugh.

SNELL

Till, Byars, the other one.

SCHUR

The ones killed by Tucker?

Snell nods.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

You know where they are? How?

SNELL

I know where the bodies are... because I helped bury them.

EXT. DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE - DAY

Schur and Weiner stand on the deck of a PDDC boat with numerous PDDC officers.

The crew pulls a net on board. Inside are at least two human bodies.

Schur and Weiner exchange a look of concern.

EXT. OCEANIC FIELD, LOS ANGELES - DAY

SUPER: The USA Classic, Game 3

The Statesmen visit the Los Angeles Cougars. The stadium is smothered in Hater-Ade ads.

SUPER: First Inning

Grady Duhart gets the start. He mumbles a prayer to himself and throws the pitch to WASHINGTON, who has a 2-2 count. Washington swings and misses.

WILLIAM SMITH
Strike three.

Washington shakes off his head and walks back to the dugout. The next batter is Pine. Duhart gets set, but he forgets to pray. He pitches and Pine blasts the ball to deep left. It hits the top of the wall and bounces over for a home run.

CUT TO:

The score is still 1-0, but the bases are empty and there are two outs. Duhart throws to Glover, who fouls off the pitch.

Duhart throws again and Glover swings at a ball that drops wickedly.

WILLIAM SMITH (CONT'D)
Strike three!

Duhart claps his hands as he rushes off the field.

In the dugout, Chris Lawthon leans towards Glover.

LAWTHON
That your boy?

GLOVER
Sure is.

LAWTHON
123 RBIs? Nothing to sneeze at.

GLOVER
More than I ever got.

He beams with pride.

CUT TO:

At the far end of the dugout from Gray, Brito sneaks his phone into his mitt and starts scrolling. Bishop sees him.

BISHOP
 (whispering)
 Dude, don't let coach see that.

BRITO
 Don't worry about it. What's he
 going to do, fire me?

BISHOP
 I think it's a fine?

BRITO
 Whoa, shit!

Bishop, Pulsipher and Scott Pompey sit nearby and hear him.
 They all swivel to see what's up.

BRITO (CONT'D)
 Whaley's dead.

Bishop is confused.

BISHOP
 Albert Whaley?

BRITO
 Yeah. Heroin.

Everybody is shocked.

GLOVER (O.S.)
 What have I told you about phones
 in the dugout?

Glover stands with his hands on his hips, frowning at Brito.
 Brito looks up.

BRITO
 Whaley OD'd. He's dead.

Glover covers his mouth with his hand.

GLOVER
 Let me go talk to Gray.

He turns and heads that way. He stops when he sees that
 Lekebra Benjamin stands in the dugout, whispering into Gray's
 ear.

Gray turns and stares at Benjamin. Benjamin nods her head.
 Gray drops his head. Benjamin puts a hand on his shoulder
 before going back inside.

Glover sits next to gray.

GLOVER (CONT'D)
You heard?

GRAY
God-damned tragedy.

GLOVER
Yep.

Gray spits.

GLOVER (CONT'D)
You gonna say anything to the team?

GRAY
About that sick fuck? Nah.

Glover nods.

GLOVER
You want me to say anything?

Gray spits.

Glover nods and walks away.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

Kendricks stands at the plate with the bases loaded. The L.A. pitcher, RIBISI, throws a fastball and Kendricks drives it into the right-field corner. It bounces off the wall and the right fielder, Glover, misplays it. All three runners score and Kendricks pulls in safe at third. The Statesmen lead 3-1.

CUT TO:

Eilish is the new Cougars pitcher. He faces Bennett. Eilish tries a curve, but Bennett is ready for it and blasts a home run to center. Statesmen 5-1.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Eighth Inning

Duhart now has a 7-1 lead, but he has runners on first and second with no outs. He fires a fastball at Chuck Chester but it misses well outside.

WILLIAM SMITH
Ball four.

Chester runs down to first. Howell walks to the mound, signaling the bullpen.

CUT TO:

Shotwell comes in. Bases loaded, no outs. Shotwell pitches and Washington hits a sharp chopper back to the pitcher. Shotwell throws to Bishop and gets the force out at home. Bishop turns and throws to first for the double play.

CUT TO:

Shotwell sets. He pitches to Pine, who watches strike three called to end the inning. D.C. wins 7-1.

SUPER: Cougars lead series 2-1.

INT. RED SHEEP RANCH - NIGHT

Esau stands before Abraham, who is seated at a desk. Abraham's work space looks like any community organizer, but, you know, with more Satanic cubicle decorations.

ABRAHAM

Full report?

ESAU

Team A went in and solved the Whaley situation.

Abraham nods.

ESAU (CONT'D)

Once that was completed, Team B went in and took care of the McDaris situation.

ABRAHAM

No witnesses? No survivors?

ESAU

Perfect execution.

ABRAHAM

Good. Next. Let's look into this Alex Watkins.

Esau nods.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Find out if he's... persuadable.

Beat.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)
If not, make him the SUBJECT of
future conspiracy theory videos.

INT. SHARON ALLIGOOD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alligood sits on her couch reading "The Kite Runner." Her phone rings. It's David Tessell. She answers.

ALLIGOOD
Hello.

TESSELL (O.S.)
Did you hear?

ALLIGOOD
About what?

She continues to flip through the pages of the book.

TESSELL (O.S.)
McDaris?

She bookmarks "The Kite Runner" and closes it. Tessell has her attention.

ALLIGOOD
No.

TESSELL (O.S.)
He's been officially reported
"missing."

ALLIGOOD
He's ALWAYS missing.

TESSELL (O.S.)
They suspect foul play.

ALLIGOOD
What?

TESSELL (O.S.)
That's all I can say for right now.
It'll be out soon.

Alligood hangs up and stares into the distance pondering the information.

INT. LEAH OWENS' OFFICE - DAY

Owens sits at her desk when the intercom buzzes.

OWENS

Yes?

MS. RICHARDSON (O.S.)

Ms. Benjamin is here to see you.
She says it's urgent.

Owens raises an eyebrow.

CUT TO:

Benjamin sits across from Owens. In her lap is a small unmarked box.

OWENS

Let's make this quick. Busy with
playoffs and... OTHER things.

Benjamin sets the box on the desk in front of Owens. Owens is mildly amused and is curious about the box.

BENJAMIN

Open it.

Owens carefully opens the box and looks inside. Her eyes grow wide. She reaches in and pulls out the crimson brooch. Benjamin beams with pride.

OWENS

How did you--

BENJAMIN

I have my own resources and
friends, you now.

OWENS

I do now. How can I thank you?

Benjamin chuckles.

BENJAMIN

You owe me.

OWENS

Of course.

BENJAMIN

And I will collect.

Owens makes eye contact. She approves of Benjamin's new confidence and aggression.

EXT. OCEANIC FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: The USA Classic, Game 4

The Statesmen visit the Los Angeles Cougars.

SUPER: First Inning

Kit Riggins pitches for the Cougars. Kendricks is on first. Ronnie Pitts bats.

Riggins pitches, Pitts hits a towering shot to left field. D.C. leads 3-0.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fourth Inning

Chaka Purvis pitches for the Statesmen. Chester stands on third, Washington on second, one out. Pine takes his last practice swing and gets set. Purvis pitches and Pine singles to right field. Both runners score. The game is tied.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

There are two outs and Riggins is ready. Bennett and Pitts are on base and Brito is the hitter. Riggins pitches and Brito hits a bloop single to left. Bases loaded.

Pompey pinch hits for Purvis. Eilish pitches for L.A. Eilish throws, but the ball rises and Pompey is ready. He dinks a homer just over the right field wall. Glover jumps for the ball, but it's gone. D.C. wins 6-2.

SUPER: Series tied 2-2.

INT. HAROLD GRAY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gray sits in his office talking on the phone. The rest of the offices are dark and he thinks he's in the building alone.

Ferd Langwieler quietly steps out of his office and locks the door. Gray doesn't hear him.

GRAY

Yeah. I've made the decision
already. Not going to tell anyone
until after the Classic.

Langwieler overhears and eavesdrops.

GRAY (CONT'D)
It's enough. It's too much.

Gray listens.

GRAY (CONT'D)
I just want to fish. Nothing else.
Fish. Catch 'em, clean 'em, cook
'em, eat 'em, repeat.

Langwieler tiptoes away as Gray drones on.

EXT. OLD POST OFFICE - DAY

Paige, Eversmith, Hernandez, Shirley and Chad sit at a large ornate conference table. Schur and Weiner sit across from them.

SCHUR
Thank you all for joining us today.

Murmurs of hello.

SCHUR (CONT'D)
We are temporarily housed in this building...

He waves his arms at the overly fancy room. It's kind of garishly over the top, something a person with no taste at all would love.

SCHUR (CONT'D)
Which used to be rented out to some bankrupt loser.

Chuckles.

SCHUR (CONT'D)
But I understand you've got a presentation to make?

He exchanges a bemused look with Weiner.

WEINER
Fancy.

CODY
I know you guys trust me. I trust Brice.

Eversmith stands up and joins Cody at the front of the room. A PowerPoint presentation is ready to go.

CODY (CONT'D)

Me and the rest of our guests...

She gestures towards Ashley, Shirley and Chad.

CODY (CONT'D)

...will add context and evidence.
Brice?

EVERSMITH

Thanks, Cody.

She turns towards the Task Force.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)

What if I told you we could prove that not only are we dealing with a murderous and expanding Satanic cult, but that the cult's membership and influence involve not only the USBL, but the PDDC, the Washington Gazette and others? That there is no upper limit to how widespread and insidious the conspiracy is. The involvement could go as high as the Mayor and higher.

Schur looks over at Weiner who is furiously taking notes. Then he looks to Eversmith.

SCHUR

Well, if you could prove that to my level of satisfaction, I'd call my boss and we'd have arrests done within the hour.

Eversmith smiles.

EVERSMITH

Get out your phone and start scrolling through your contacts. You're going to be making that call when we're done.

Schur is impressed.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - DAY

The Statesmen host the Cougars.

SUPER: The USA Classic, Game 5

In Section B, the B*stards cheer as Rebecca has brought everybody cookies. Richard leans in and kisses her forehead.

RICHARD
You're awesome.

Rebecca flashes a smile.

REBECCA
I know I am. Wait until Game 7,
I've got something BIG for you
guys.

The B*stards cheer.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
And I'm gonna need your help.

She boops Richard on the nose.

RICHARD
Sure, whatever, I'm all in.

CUT TO:

SUPER: First Inning

Jones looks strong and healthy today. A quick MONTAGE shows William Smith calling the third strikes on Washington, Pine and Glover. Glover swings on his strike and isn't close to catching up to the pitch.

GLOVER
What got into him?

CUT TO:

SUPER: Third Inning

Pasco pinch hits against the Cougars' Hill. Brito stands on second. Hill throws and Pasco drives a double into the right field gap. Brito scores.

CUT TO:

Doster faces the new L.A. pitcher, GOLDBERG. Pasco steals third without Goldberg even throwing to the base.

Goldberg pitches and Doster dinks a single to short right field. D.C. leads 2-0.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Sixth Inning

Jones is in trouble. He has bases loaded with 1 out. Pine stands at the plate confidently. Jones pitches and just misses the outside corner. The count is 3-2.

Jones takes a deep breath, but the sound doesn't drop out. He pitches, Pine takes and the ball is outside. The Statesmen lead is down to 2-1.

CUT TO:

Glover is the new batter. He has a 3-1 count. Jones pitches and Glover singles to right. The Cougars lead 3-2.

Howell comes out to get Jones.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Ninth Inning

Shotwell faces the L.A. batter, Chester, with Duncan on second. Shotwell pitches, Chester drives the ball into the right-field gap and Duncan scores. Los Angeles wins 4-2.

SUPER: Cougars lead series 3-2.

INT. NATIONAL STADIUM CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Around a conference room table, Glover, Howell, Langwieler, Lawthon, Kimbell and Tannehill sit and chat with coffee and cigarettes and cigars and a bottle of Johnnie Walker Blue Label Scotch.

LANGWIELER

That's what I heard him say. Win or lose, Gray is retiring.

Howell sips his Scotch while everyone contemplates Gray's retirement.

LAWTHON

So who is going to get the job?

TANNEHILL

I don't know how much more of this craziness I can take.

Nods of agreement.

LANGWIELER

They could go big, get somebody from outside the organization.

GLOVER

Who is going to come into this
shitshow?

HOWELL

We have a lot of talent. We'll be
contenders next year, too.

KIMBELL

I've asked around. The buzz is ALL
about how toxic this place is. No
qualified manager's going to give
up a gig for this.

TANNEHILL

And why would we want anybody that
doesn't have a job?

They all sit and contemplate for a moment.

GLOVER

It's gonna be Huebner.

Nobody believes him. The skepticism and disdain is audible.

LANGWIELER

That's utter bullshit.

GLOVER

Now wait a damned--

Langwieler shakes his head.

LANGWIELER

Not your reaction, Craig, the idea
that Huebner can do the job. Sorry.

Glover nods.

GLOVER

But you KNOW he's gonna get it.

Everyone turns to look at Langwieler. He reluctantly nods his
head.

The room rests silent for a while.

HOWELL

So are we walking out?

Most of the coaches nod and murmur assent. Lawthon sips his
Scotch and doesn't nod. Glover also refuses to go with the
group.

GLOVER
I'm not going to do it.

Howell takes a full shot of Scotch.

HOWELL
What are you saying?

Glover shrugs.

GLOVER
I'm too old to start over. But I'm
too young and too into this stuff
to give it up. Alvin's the manager,
Alvin's the manager.

The room sits in silence. Lawthon nods his head while the others sit in contemplation.

INT. OLD POST OFFICE - DAY

At his computer, Weiner finishes typing and hits print. He walks to the printer and grabs the paper and hands it to Schur. He reads it up and down.

SCHUR
You triple-checked it? We got
everything documented fully?

WEINER
I don't make mistakes.

SCHUR
No you do not.

Beat.

SCHUR (CONT'D)
Let's go arrest these fucks.

INT. MANDA STARR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Starr walks into the office and heads towards her desk. She's about to sit and stops short. She turns and looks towards the display case.

She walks towards it and opens it. She feels the felt. She lifts it and searches for the brooch. She closes the case and scans the floor nearby. Nothing.

She walks out to the front office.

STARR

Gayle, bring up the video from today.

Gayle looks up, concerned.

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS - DAY

A series of images:

-O'Reilly and Beck walk Tucker into the PDDC precinct in handcuffs. Tucker snarls at them.

-Weiner and several uniformed officers slap handcuffs on Mindy and Fernando at the America PAC offices, each of whom is baffled by the arrest.

-In the captain's office, Schur puts Levin in handcuffs. Levin glares at Schur with murder in her eyes.

-At the Gazette, Snell and several uniformed officers arrest Simon Meyers while the bullpen looks on.

-Schur and Weiner perp walk Mayor Fair down the front steps of City Hall while the press snap pictures.

EXT. OCEANIC FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: The USA Classic, Game 6

The Statesmen visit the Los Angeles Cougars.

SUPER: Statesmen elimination game.

Kendricks pitches for D.C. He finishes his warm-ups.

WILLIAM SMITH

Play ball!

CUT TO:

SUPER: Second Inning

D.C. trails 1-0. Chester is the hitter and there are no outs. Kendrick throws a fastball that isn't fast enough, Chester hits a grand slam. L.A. leads 5-0.

CUT TO:

Kendricks is in the box with Doster and Speck on base. O'Connell pitches for the Cougars. He throws and Kendricks smashes a double to right field. The Cougars lead 5-2.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Fifth Inning

O'Connell pitches to Pitts and immediately he knows that it was a bad throw. Pitts' solo shot makes it 5-3, Cougars.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Sixth Inning

O'Connell pitches to Speck, who singles up the middle. Doster scores from third. L.A.'s Lead is now 5-4.

CUT TO:

O'Connell throws the best fastball he can, but it misses inside.

WILLIAM SMITH (CONT'D)
Ball four. Take your base.

Lombardi trots down to first.

CUT TO:

Riggins is now pitching for the Cougars. Kendricks is the hitter. Riggins doesn't even think about pitching to him and issues the intentional walk. Bases loaded.

CUT TO:

Gus Bennett steps up to the plate. There are two outs. The count is 1-2. Riggins throws and misses just outside.

Riggins throws again. Just misses the corner.

Riggins throws again. It's low.

WILLIAM SMITH (CONT'D)
Ball.

Bennett walks. Speck scores. Game tied.

CUT TO:

SUPER: Tenth Inning

Pulsipher leads off in the 10th. Riggins has an 0-2 count. Riggins pitches. Pulsipher drives the ball over the right field fence. D.C. wins 6-5.

SUPER: Series tied 3-3.

INT. OLD POST OFFICE - NIGHT

Schur oversees a team of officers getting ready for a large-scale raid. Dozens of men strap on armor and guns and other equipment. Shirley, Chad, Cody, Eversmith and Ashley stand by. They aren't going on the raid.

Weiner walks into the room and whispers into Schur's ear. Everyone watches them. Schur raises an eyebrow and then walks out of the room.

Chad watches in fascination as a nearby OFFICER gets dressed in riot gear.

CHAD

You do this kind of thing a lot?

OFFICER

More than we should.

Chad nods in sympathy. Everyone gets ready in silence. Schur walks back into the room and clears his throat to get everyone's attention.

SCHUR

Let's put preparations on hold for now. Stand down.

Shirley, Cody and the others are baffled and upset.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

Just got a personal call from Sen. Bob Gibson. This thing has hit the desks of those above my pay grade.

SHIRLEY

So we're just giving up?

Schur shakes his head.

SCHUR

It's not a full shut down, we're just delayed.

CODY

How long?

SCHUR
Until after the baseball games are
over.

EVERSMITH
What?

Schur shrugs.

SCHUR
Not my call. Not my budget.

ASHLEY
So that's just it?

Shirley shakes her head.

SHIRLEY
No. We're still going.

Everyone turns to look at her.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)
I know all of these guys can't go
in, but we have weapons, badges,
cars, body armor. We have all the
resources to do it yourself.

CHAD
Well I'm certainly not strapping on
body armor and storming the gates.

ASHLEY
I will.

EVERSMITH
I actually think we can do this.

They turn to look at her.

SHIRLEY
How?

EVERSMITH
(to Schur)
If we were to give you CLEAR
evidence of wrongdoing on the
ranch, could you go in? Like
probable cause, plausible
deniability. That kind of thing.

Schur nods.

SCHUR

Yes. I can do that. I can also send
in my men and women if law
enforcement officers...

He pointedly looks at Cody and Eversmith.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

...are in danger, I can act and
explain it later.

CHAD

And at least we have a PDDC
officer.

CODY

Who?

CHAD

You.

Cody starts shaking her head.

CODY

Not anymore.

They all turn to look at her.

CODY (CONT'D)

I have joined you all in the ranks
of the unemployed.

Uneasy laughter.

SCHUR

Don't worry about it.

They turn to look at him.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

We're coming along.

He gestures to himself and Weiner.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

In an official capacity.

They all stare at him.

SCHUR (CONT'D)

That way we have legal coverage.
And backup. If we need it.

Enthusiastic nods of assent and words of agreement.

CHAD

Good idea.

SHIRLEY

So how are we doing this?

EVERSMITH

I have ideas. Let's talk it out.

EXT. SEEDY MOTEL OUTSIDE AKRON - NIGHT

A MAID unlocks the door to Dwayne McDaris' motel room. It's dark inside and there's no movement.

MAID

Hello?

No answer.

She turns on the light.

And screams.

McDaris lays on the bed, heroin needle on the night stand. He's in almost the exact same position as Whaley. Like the same person put him there.

FADE OUT.