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Squad Goals

A comedy in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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One-act comedy
6-20+ actors, gender flexible

The crackpot coaches of a ragtag basketball team are looking for one more player, but if inspirational sports movies have taught us anything, it's that winners don't need to have superior talent – just the most heart. So these tryouts will test the hopefuls on the really important things: playing through an injury, giving a thrilling halftime speech, and, of course, moving exceptionally well in slow-motion to dramatic music. Scoring on the absurd cliches in every sports movie from Rudy to Air Bud, Squad Goals is a hilarious slam-dunk.

Cast of Characters:

COACH MORRISON, the head coach
COACH WEEBLY, the assistant coach, a little bit in love with Coach Morrison

PLAYER 1
PLAYER 2
PLAYER 3
PLAYER 4

ALEX
JONES
BAILEY
WATKINS
THOMPSON
BLAKE
LULU
TERRY
MILEY

The gender of the characters: This play is meant to be tailored to your group. Coach Weebly or Coach Morrison may be any gender without changing the script. It's probably best if they were opposite gender, but they could be the same gender without any problem. (It might be funnier that way)

Gender does not need to be mentioned – the team can simply be co-ed, so any character can be played by any gender.

If you have a preponderance of boys or girls, you can make it a boys' team or a girls' team. In which case, you can use the *optional lines* included in various parts of the play.

The sport: I envision the sport as basketball, and the default is girls' basketball. Other sports are certainly possible, however, so football, soccer, ping pong, foosball, or anything else can be substituted for basketball. If you want to change the sport, you'll need to change some of the lines, which is fine.

Number of players: Feel free to add more players, or have different actors play the players in each scene. You could easily use 20-30 actors in this play.

Music: There are a number of calls for music in the play. You can use the songs suggested, or create your own music, or choose alternatives. Music can be inserted in a number of places – inspirational sports movie music is the way to go. The soundtrack to *Rudy*, for instance, is a great place to start.

Cutting: To make the play shorter, simply remove one or more of the scenes.

The world premiere of *Squad Goals* was performed March 24-25, 2017, at Kapolei High School in Kapolei, Hawaii. It was directed by Rachelle Amparo and the original cast was as follows:

Coach Morrison	Kaia Stallings
Coach Weebly	Diovanni Castro
Player 1	Angeleia Ordonez
Player 2	Cenar Millare
Player 3	Melanie Sao
Player 4	Ethan Garrido
Player 5	Karlynna Davis-Soto
Player 6	Dann Causing
Alex	Elaine Adams
Jones	Juliette Moody
Bailey	Taylor Gates
Watkins	Kiana Paulino
Thompson	Annika Erickson
Blake	Xander van den Berg
Lulu	Chloe Fieber
Terry	Amber Liu
Miley	Shane Petrus

Director	Rachelle Amparo
Student Stage Mgr	Jaymark Abendanio
Student Assistant Director	Ricardo Pagoada-Lopez

(End of game buzzer.)
(Perhaps disappointed crowd noises.)
(PLAYERS 1-4 enter, dejected, followed by COACH MORRISON and COACH WEEBLY.)

COACH MORRISON

What happened out there?!

PLAYER 1

Sorry, Coach. I feel like I let you down.

COACH MORRISON

You did. You let me down, you let Coach Weebly down -

COACH WEEBLY *(waving)*

Hee-ey.

COACH MORRISON

You let your dead grandparents down. They were watching from heaven. You know why it's raining out there? That's their tears.

PLAYER 1

My grandparents are alive –

COACH MORRISON

I don't care about facts! And that goes for all of you! That was the single worst performance I have ever had the misfortune to witness! We had no spirit! We had no drive! You ought to be ashamed of yourselves!

(PLAYER 2 breaks down in tears.)

PLAYER 2 *(sobbing)*

I'm so sorry!

COACH MORRISON

Actually you were okay.

PLAYER 2

Thanks.

COACH WEEBLY

I'm going to say something –

COACH MORRISON

Don't. You know what our problem is? We don't have heart.

PLAYER 3

Actually we all have hearts. If we didn't have hearts we'd be dead.

COACH WEEBLY

Don't interrupt the coach.

PLAYER 3

Unless we were robots.

COACH MORRISON

Shut your mouth, whatever your name is. If I've learned anything from the countless inspiring sports movies I watch every day, it's this: There's only one way to win the championship: We need to be more inspirational.

COACH WEEBLY

Ooh I like that.

COACH MORRISON

We need to be a ragtag bunch of losers that come together to triumph over impossible odds. We need another player – someone so inspirational that we become the greatest underdog story ever.

PLAYER 3

I don't think we need another player – the four of us are doing great.

COACH MORRISON

There's supposed to be five of you. It's a basketball team. All right bring it in. Say it loud and clear one more time.
Closed eyes. Tight buttocks.*

(This might be funnier with a male team, you could do "closed eyes. Shaved legs." If you'd like.)

PLAYERS

CAN'T LOSE.

PLAYER 4

Um… I'm not really comfortable with our cheer.

COACH MORRISON

I don't care. Tryouts are tomorrow. Get some sleep. Hug your loved ones. Pet your pets. Be kind to stray animals. And by gosh when you come back tomorrow be ready to slay. Let's say the cheer again.

PLAYER 4

Oh come on.

COACH MORRISON

We're saying it again!

PLAYER 4

You said one more time last time.

COACH MORRISON

Closed eyes. Tight buttocks.

PLAYERS

CAN'T LOSE.

PLAYER 4

Seriously, it's not appropriate.

COACH WEEBLY

All right you heard Coach Morrison, get out of here.

(The PLAYERS exit.)

You should write a book. You're amazing.

COACH MORRISON

I know.

COACH WEEBLY

I'm a little bit in love with you.

COACH MORRISON

I know that too. But I love this team more than you, Coach Weebly. And there's not enough room in my life for more than one wife.

COACH WEEBLY

You're married?

COACH MORRISON

To basketball. And this other lady in Portland, but we're estranged so don't worry about it. All right let's get ready for tomorrow. Cue the inspirational music.

(Inspirational music plays. COACH MORRISON exits with a raised fist. COACH WEEBLY follows, also with a raised fist.)

1. Alex.

(COACH MORRISON and COACH WEEBLY set up a table.)

COACH WEEBLY

Ready, sir?

COACH MORRISON

Only one way to find out.

(ALEX enters, nervously.)

ALEX

Hi I'm Alex I'm here to try out for the team?

COACH MORRISON

Heck yes you are.

ALEX

Great. Um… so I've been playing basketball for a while now, and I think I'm pretty good –

COACH MORRISON

You *think* you're pretty good?

COACH WEEBLY

We don't *think* we're good on this team. We *believe* we're good.

COACH MORRISON

That was nicely stated.

COACH WEEBLY

Thank you.

ALEX

I'm not sure I understand the difference –

COACH MORRISON

I'm gonna tell you right away, I don't like your attitude and I don't like you. But that's okay, we don't have to get along. We can have a contentious relationship filled with drama until you finally listen to me at the last moment.

ALEX

Can I maybe show you my skills?

COACH MORRISON

I don't care about your skills.

ALEX

If I had a basketball I could show you –

COACH MORRISON

What I need to be see can't be shown with a basketball. It's in here.
(He points to his chest.)
The heart. I'm gonna need to see heart from you.

ALEX

Um… okay?

COACH MORRISON

You ever see the Natural?

COACH WEEBLY

It's a really good movie.

COACH MORRISON

It's about playing hurt. It's about fighting through pain. There's a baseball player, Roy Hobbs, and at the end of the movie, he's bleeding internally. And he swings the bat anyway. ANYWAY. And you know what happens? Blood is spurting out of the side of his ribs – like a fountain of blood, and he hits the ball, Alex. He hits the ball. And you know how far it goes?

ALEX

It goes a long way?

COACH MORRISON

So you have seen it.

ALEX

Just guessing.

COACH MORRISON

He hits it long and true into the night. And it smashes into the light tower. Home run. The light tower explodes like it was hit with a surface to air missile. Shards of burning glass rain onto the crowd. They're jumping up and down and cheering and getting hit with burning glass. The light tower itself totters and collapses – people are dying. Old ladies struck by debris. And you know what our baseball player does? He rounds the bases. Still bleeding. And then he dies when he reaches home plate.

COACH WEEBLY

I don't remember that part of it.

COACH MORRISON

It's there! So I want you to show me that, Alex.

ALEX

…okay. Um…

COACH MORRISON

Squad!

(PLAYERS 1-4 enter.)

Let's run through an end-of-game scenario where Alex is badly injured.

ALEX

Do I get a ball?

COACH MORRISON

You have to earn the ball.

ALEX

But how can I show you how I play hurt if I don't have the ball?

COACH MORRISON

You have to *believe* you have the ball.

COACH WEEBLY

Believe, Alex. *Believe.*

ALEX

I believe I have the ball?

COACH MORRISON

We're gonna need some inspirational end of the game music.

(Inspirational music, possibly from The Natural, plays.)

(COACH WEEBLY blows her whistle.)
(PLAYERS 1-4 mime being in a basketball game.)

PLAYER 1

Pass the ball!

PLAYER 2

Over here!

PLAYER 3

I'm open!

PLAYER 4

I'm unreliable!

COACH MORRISON

Feel it, Alex!

(ALEX mimes dribbling.)

ALEX

I'm dribbling, I'm dribbling… Ah!

COACH MORRISON

You have appendicitis!

(ALEX contorts in pain)

Skipping Forward

And you know what shows heart? An inspirational story. You ever see Hoosiers?

JONES

Yeah. All the time. We get wings there.

COACH MORRISON

No. *Hoosiers*. It's a movie about a ragtag bunch of losers in Indiana, cause everybody's a loser in Indiana.

COACH WEEBLY

Not everybody. Just most of them.

COACH MORRISON

Let me tell you about Jimmy Chitwood. Lives on a farm. Best shooter in Indiana. He's so poor he doesn't even own a ball. So you know what he does? Every day he goes out into a field and he takes a couple of chickens, and he crushes them into a sphere. And he throws that chicken sphere at a hoop made out of pig intestines.

COACH WEEBLY

Where does he get the pig intestines?

COACH MORRISON

From the pigs.

COACH WEEBLY

Doesn't that hurt them?

COACH MORRISON

Intestines are like your brains. You only use twenty percent of them.

JONES

And you teach Biology?

COACH MORRISON

Forget about the details. The point is that he's dirt poor. And his father was killed in a mining accident and his mother sells squirrels to survive.

COACH WEEBLY

Why would you buy squirrels?

COACH MORRISON

Cause poor people can't think straight, all right? Whatever! And he leads that team to the state championship. So if you're gonna be part of this team, Jones, you need to have an inspirational story and it needs to be underscored by stirring, dramatic music. Got it?

JONES

…okay. All right, um…

COACH MORRISON

Hold on. Squad!

(The PLAYERS enter and get down on one knee to listen to JONES' story.)

This here is Jones. You guys are soft. You had it easy. Listen to Jones' story!

(COACH WEEBLY blows her whistle.)

(stirring, dramatic music plays.)

JONES

Okay um… hey.

COACH MORRISON

Yeah. Tell it.

JONES

So uh… growing up I had it rough.

(The players start nodding.)

There were times… when my parents forced me to eat broccoli.

(The players grit their teeth)

And I didn't want to eat the broccoli. Cause I don't like it. But they said…

(JONES starts getting emotional)

Your grandfather… died for this broccoli. Cause he uh… was in a whole bunch of wars where people didn't want us to have vegetables and… um… he got shot down over the South Pacific, where I guess a lot of broccoli is grown but… he um… made a hologram of himself and he sent that to my grandmother and he said, whatever you do, don't stop dreaming. Whatever you do, don't stop dreaming.

(PLAYER 3 is crying.)

That's right. So… when we take that court today and we play that team that's a lot better than us and more talented and practiced a lot harder, I want us to remember that people died for us. Like a long time ago. And we never even knew them. And they died so we could have healthy leafy vegetables.

(PLAYER 1 starts a slow clap.)

(The other players join in.)

COACH MORRISON

What does that have to with basketball?

JONES

I don't know, I'm just –

COACH MORRISON

You didn't even tie it in.

JONES

I grew up in the suburbs, it hasn't been that tough.

COACH MORRISON

Out!

(JONES exits.)

COACH WEEBLY

I love your decisiveness.

COACH MORRISON

I know. I know, Coach Weebly. Don't fall in love with me.

COACH WEEBLY

Okay. Next!

(the players exit as the next person comes in.)

3. Bailey

(BAILEY enters.)

BAILEY

Hi my name's Bailey, I'm here to try out for the squad.

COACH MORRISON

Why don't you handle this one, Coach Weebly? I'm emotionally spent.

COACH WEEBLY

Can you show us some victory poses? We're looking for someone who looks good on the poster.

BAILEY

There's a poster?

COACH WEEBLY

Of course there's a poster. We can't have a basketball team without a poster.

BAILEY

Sure. Uh…

(She tries one victory pose)

COACH WEEBLY

What is that? Are you a wrestler?

BAILEY

Sorry. Uh…

(She tries a different pose – it's better.)

COACH WEEBLY

You've just won the state championship – there are people cheering all around you, someone has thrown popcorn into the air, and you freeze like –

(BAILEY freezes.)

COACH MORRISON

I can't sit on the sidelines any longer. This is breaking my soul.

BAILEY

I don't know what to do!

COACH MORRISON

No one does. Until it's time to do it. I don't care about victory poses, honestly.

(COACH WEEBLY is hurt.)

COACH WEEBLY

I was just trying to –

COACH MORRISON

I know what you were trying to do. And this is why you're the assistant coach. You can't see the big picture.

COACH WEEBLY

I have failed you.

COACH MORRISON

Yeah.

(He turns away from her. She cries a bit.)

We need someone completely inadequate. Physically. That's the only way we win.

BAILEY

Oh.

COACH MORRISON

Have you ever seen Rudy? About a football player named Rudy. Ridiculous name. He plays football for Notre Dame. Rudy is eighteen inches tall. He's barely taller than the ball. He lives in a shoebox in the quarterback's closet. But when it's time for the big game again Miami, who do they give the ball to?

BAILEY

Rudy?

COACH MORRISON

So you've seen the movie?

BAILEY

No I'm just guessing based on what you're saying.

COACH MORRISON

Well you're right. They give the ball to Rudy, and you know what he does?

BAILEY

He scores the winning touchdown?

COACH MORRISON

Yes! You are so good at this! Rudy is so small he's able to run through the legs of the defenders, carrying the football over his head like an ant dragging off a grasshopper. Rudy gets to the endzone. But the strain of carrying the football is too much, and it crushes him. So he dies there. And that's where he's buried today.

COACH WEEBLY

Are you sure that's in the movie?

COACH MORRISON

Don't question me! Squad!

(The team enters.)

We're about to engage in a scenario. It's the end of the game. Bailey's team is down by two. You're the opposing team this time. Bailey's going to make that game winning shot. Here.

(COACH MORRISON takes out a small plush basketball and tosses it to BAILEY)

This will match your tiny hands.

COACH WEEBLY

Should we have inspirational music?

COACH MORRISON

What do you think?

(Inspirational music, perhaps from Rudy, plays.)

(COACH WEEBLY blows her whistle.)

(BAILEY tries to dribble with the plush basketball, but it's really hard.)

You're too tall!

(BAILEY gets down on her knees and tries to dribble. The other players get around her.)

BAILEY

There's too many of them!

COACH WEEBLY

Inspire us! You're completely inadequate but you can do this!

BAILEY

Okay!

(She tries to dribble.)

Can I pass to my teammates?

COACH MORRISON

All the other people on your team are dead! It's up to you now! You're the only one who can do it!

COACH WEEBLY

And shoot!

(BAILEY puts up a shot)

(Immediately rejected back in her face by one of the other players.)

PLAYER 1

Um… I gotta tell you, I was not inspired by that.

PLAYER 4

I was the opposite of inspired.

COACH MORRISON

Me too. Bailey, you're cut

BAILEY

This is ridiculous! I didn't even get to play! How am I supposed to play basketball on my knees!?

COACH MORRISON

Remember: Character is what comes from dealing with adversity. And you clearly have none. Get out of here.

(BAILEY storms off, perhaps throws down the ball.)

(The squad exits.)

COACH WEEBLY

Next!

4. Watkins

(WATKINS, kind of nerdy-looking, enters.)

WATKINS

Hi there. While I may not be the most physically gifted of your recruits, I can assure you that I study very hard and I will know the rules. I have no social life. I have no friends. I am ready to be a basketball guru.

COACH MORRISON

Oh man. I already want to punch her in the face.

COACH WEEBLY

Coach Morrison, you're not allowed to punch the players anymore.

COACH MORRISON

I know. Everything's going to heck.

WATKINS

I can tell by your reaction that you are intrigued by me.

COACH MORRISON

No we're not. Listen up, nerdy, we already got one geek on the team. And that's what's-her-face.

(PLAYER 4 enters.)

PLAYER 4

Are you talking about me?

COACH MORRISON

Yes.

PLAYER 4

Oh.

COACH MORRISON *(to PLAYER 4)*

What are you doing? You're totally ruining my moment.

PLAYER 4

Sorry. I was just a little offended.

COACH MORRISON

I'm offended that you're talking to me right now.

WATKINS

I think there can be room for more than one smart person on the team –

COACH MORRISON

Wrong. This is a ragtag band of inspirational misfits and losers.

(The rest of the players enter. COACH MORRISON points at them in turn, and each of them is offended.)

We got one smart kid, we got one foreign kid, we got a good-looking person, we got an idiot, and we need…

(he points at WATKINS)

a loose cannon.

WATKINS

Me?

(COACH WEEBLY approaches)

Skipping Forward

(COACH MORRISON breaks character.)
Nice work! I like what you did there, Watkins.
(WATKINS is nowhere to be seen.)
Watkins?
(PLAYER 3 enters.)

PLAYER 3
Um… she just keyed your car, hopped on a motorcycle, and gave us all the finger* before riding off.
*(*can be replaced with "rode off")*

COACH MORRISON
Huh.

COACH WEEBLY
Next!

5. Thompson

(THOMPSON enters. She's highly enthusiastic.)

THOMPSON
Hi! My name's Thompson, and I am ready to rock this squad!

COACH MORRISON
I'm not sure we need rocking, but whatever.

THOMPSON
I'm just transferring in from out-of-state, where I was on the championship team. We were undefeated and I was the MVP.

COACH MORRISON
Look, not to burst your bubble, but we're looking to be inspirational underdogs here.

COACH WEEBLY
Right.

COACH MORRISON
You didn't need to agree with me there, Coach Weebly.

COACH WEEBLY
But I did. And it made you feel nice, right?

COACH MORRISON
Nothing makes me feel nice except puppies.

THOMPSON

I was literally the best player in the state last year.

(COACH MORRISON gets up and approaches.)

COACH MORRISON

I know you think you're hot stuff –

THOMPSON

Actually, I'm really humble. I've been blessed with a lot of talent, but it's hard work that really gets me to the top.

COACH MORRISON

We're not really into "hard work" and "talent" around here. We're about heart.

THOMPSON

I've got that too. I volunteer most of my nights at the old folks home.

COACH WEEBLY

Can we just move on from this one? She's not right for us.

COACH MORRISON

Hold on. Have you ever seen Air Bud?

THOMPSON

What?

COACH MORRISON

It's about a golden retriever named Bud. Hence the name, Air Bud. He plays basketball.

THOMPSON

How does a golden retriever play basketball?

COACH MORRISON

Very well, thank you. Everyone said Bud couldn't play, but they forgot to the check the rulebook.

COACH WEEBLY

Nowhere does it say that dogs can't play.

COACH MORRISON

Thank you. But you know what they did? They injected that dog with a milk jug full of synthetic hormones, and he developed into the greatest basketball player this world has ever seen. He destroyed the competition. He dunked. Have you seen a dog dunk before? It was glorious. And when it was done, he peed all over that court to mark his territory.

COACH WEEBLY

They must have left that scene out of the movie.

COACH MORRISON

It was in the director's cut.

THOMPSON

So… what does that have to do with me?

COACH MORRISON

You might be pretty good for a human. But what if this team doesn't need a human? What if this team needs a basketball playing dog? Squad!

(The players enter.)

Game time. Thompson is a dog. Two on two.

PLAYER 1

Awesome.

PLAYER 3

Let's do this.

THOMPSON

You know what? Fine. I'm game.

(COACH WEEBLY tosses THOMPSON a dog mask, or a dog nose, or ears, or something.)

(THOMPSON puts it on.)

Let's do this.

COACH WEEBLY

Dogs can't talk. They just play basketball.

THOMPSON

Woof woof.

(THOMPSON gets down on her hands and knees.)

(COACH MORRISON tosses the foam ball into the middle of the floor. The two teams square off. PLAYER 3 gets the ball, passes it to PLAYER 4.)

PLAYER 3

Look for Thompson! She's going to the rim!

PLAYER 4

Go Thompson!

PLAYER 3

This is totally unrealistic yet so wonderful!

THOMPSON

Woof!

(PLAYER 1 tries to guard THOMPSON, but THOMPSON bites her in the leg.)

PLAYER 1

Aaah!

(PLAYER 4 passes the ball to THOMPSON, who grabs it in her mouth and heads for the "basket.")

PLAYER 3

Shoot!

(THOMPSON tries to "shoot" the ball by spitting it out. It goes about a foot.)

PLAYER 4

Noooo!

COACH MORRISON

Buzz! Time's up. You lose.

PLAYER 4

You lost us the game you dumb dog! I'm taking you back to the shelter!

PLAYER 3

I thought you were going to be inspirational. Instead, you're just stupid.

(THOMPSON takes off the dog mask.)

THOMPSON

What the heck? How am I supposed to shoot?

COACH MORRISON

If you were talented, you'd figure it out.

THOMPSON

I was the MVP in the –

COACH MORRISON

Yeah, yeah, we've heard. Get out of here.

THOMPSON

You people are insane.

(THOMPSON storms off)

COACH WEEBLY

Next!

6. Blake

(BLAKE enters.)

BLAKE
Hey is this the audition for *West Side Story*?

COACH MORRISON
No. We're just borrowing the stage.

BLAKE
Oh… um… do you know when they're having auditions?

COACH MORRISON
Do we care? This is about sports. Totally more important.

COACH WEEBLY
You should see the difference between our budget and theirs.

BLAKE
All right then – do you mind if I just practice my song?
(BLAKE launches into a song)
My name is Blake Minor and I'll be singing I feel pretty.
I FEEL PRETTY
SO PRETTY
I FEEL PRETTY AND WITTY AND BRIGHT
AND I PITY
ANY GIRL WHO ISN'T ME TONIGHT

I FEEL CHARMING
OH SO CHARMING -

COACH MORRISON
Wait. What do you know about basketball?

BLAKE
Absolutely nothing. I'm really not into sports.

COACH MORRISON
You could be just the freak we're looking for.

BLAKE
Freak?

COACH WEEBLY
Oh come on, you're in the theatre. You're not fooling anyone.

COACH MORRISON

You know what the most important moment in the championship game is?

BLAKE

When you have the ball?

COACH MORRISON

The inspirational halftime speech. Have you ever seen Any Given Sunday?

BLAKE

I don't watch sports movies.

COACH MORRISON

Al Pacino is the coach of the Sharks. The team is losing seventy-five to nothing at halftime. People are beating their heads against the wall. The quarterback had his legs sawed off by a defensive lineman. And you know what Al Pacino does? He gives a speech. Football is a game of inches. And every inch you need to give one hundred and ten percent and TAKE ONE GAME AT A TIME AND PLAY WITHIN YOURSELF AND SAY ALL THE CLICHES! And the Sharks go out there – and they annihilate their opponents. It's like it was all in a script or something.

COACH WEEBLY

Al Pacino is such a good actor when he's trying.

COACH MORRISON

So now it's your turn. It's halftime. Squad!

(The players enter, excited and whooping.)

You're losing forty to nothing.

(They immediately become sad and angry.)

PLAYER 2

We scored zero points in a basketball game?

COACH MORRISON

You should be ashamed of yourself.

PLAYER 2

Dang it.

PLAYER 4

I am ashamed!

COACH MORRISON

This is Blake and she's going to give the inspirational halftime speech.

(COACH WEEBLY blows her whistle.)

(Dramatic music again.)

PLAYER 1

We're getting killed out there!

PLAYER 3

Oh man I hope I learn something about myself through adversity.

PLAYER 4

Shut up! Don't you get it! It's done! We're over!

BLAKE

It's. Not. Over.

(Everyone turns to look at BLAKE.)

(Maybe she kicks something over.)

If you want to quit, go ahead and quit, there's the door. But let me tell you something: Those… Sharks are going to be out there anyway. And when you're a Jet… you're a Jet all the way. From your first cigarette to your last dying day.

(She snaps)

PLAYER 2

I didn't think we were supposed to smoke.

BLAKE *(dramatically, perhaps snapping)*

When you're a Jet… you're the top cat in town!
You're the gold medal kid – with the heavyweight crown!
They think they're tough? Let's see how they tough they are when they've got my switchblade in their stomachs!

(she takes out a switchblade.)

PLAYER 1

Um… I'm not sure that's legal.

BLAKE

Since when have the Jets cared about what's legal? We're here to win. And if you aren't willing to go all the way, then I don't want to be out there with you.

PLAYER 2

Yeah!

PLAYER 3

She's right!

BLAKE

We're a team. We look out for each other. And when one of those Sharks comes to our side of town and tries to steal one of our girls, we strike!

(She makes a stabbing motion with her knife)

Skipping Forward

COACH MORRISON

I'm putting you in a Nope sandwich and eating you with a pickle and potato chips!

LULU

My name is Lulu.

COACH MORRISON

Sounds like Luu-zer.

COACH WEEBLY

Good one. Even though you're being really mean right now.

LULU

All right –

COACH MORRISON

Nope –

LULU

YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND LET ME TALK! I AM HERE TO TRY OUT FOR THE TEAM AND STOP SAYING NOPE!

(COACH MORRISON claps slowly.)

COACH MORRISON

Well-played. You see, if we really want to win the state championship, we need to make sure no one believes in us. Helps a lot.

COACH WEEBLY

Ohhhh.

COACH MORRSION

So if you want to join this team, you're gonna have to deal with people not believing in you. Squad!

(The team enters.)

PLAYER 4

Are we almost done with this, because we have a really good card game going on backstage.

COACH MORRISON

You ever seen the Mighty Ducks?

LULU

The hockey team?

COACH MORRISON

The Disney movie. That was later turned into a hockey team because the world is strange and horrible. No – let me tell you about the Mighty Ducks. No one believed in them. They were a ragtag band of misfits, not unlike the kids in Bad News Bears, The Replacements, Suicide Squad, Little Giants, The Mighty Ducks 2 and the Mighty Ducks 3. Whenever they got on the ice, people threw garbage cans at them. Filled with garbage. Set them on fire first. Most of the kids on the team were set on fire at some point. Fell through the ice. Attacked by giant squids. But you know what? They took off their skates and they stabbed those squids in the eyes and the won the dang game.

COACH WEEBLY

I didn't realize that movie was so violent.

COACH MORRISON

All movies are violent when you watch them the right way. So it's time for you to deal with adversity.

LULU

I can do it.

COACH MORRISON

And remember: I've seen a lot of people try before. None of them have ever succeeded. Squad!

PLAYER 1

What?

COACH MORRISON

I want you not to believe in Lulu here and see how she does with a free throw.

LULU

There's no basket.

COACH MORRISON

If that stops you, then you don't deserve to be on this team.

(COACH WEEBLY blows her whistle.)

(LULU takes the fake basketball.)
(The players take up positions around her.)

PLAYER 1

Miss it! You're going to miss!

PLAYER 2

You're terrible! You're not a good player at all!

PLAYER 3

I am not your friend!

PLAYER 4
You're not real! You don't exist! I don't believe in you at all!

PLAYER 3
I don't think that's what she means by not believing in you.

PLAYER 4
You're an imaginary creature like a unicorn!

PLAYER 1
Unicorns are real!

PLAYER 4
Unicorns are not real!

PLAYER 1
There have been skeletons!

PLAYER 4
Those are fakes!

PLAYER 1
OH SO YOU'RE AN EXPERT IN UNICORN SKELETONS!?

PLAYER 4
THERE ARE NO EXPERTS IN UNICORN SKELETONS BECAUSE UNICORNS DON'T EXIST!

LULU
QUIET!!!
(Everyone is quiet.)
(LULU shoots. Everyone watches the ball hit the ground.)

COACH MORRISON
And you missed.

LULU
There's no basket!

COACH MORRISON
A real player wouldn't let that stop her.

LULU
How can I make a shot if there's no basket!?

COACH MORRISON
If you put your mind to it, there's always a basket.

COACH WEEBLY
That's deep.

LULU
Arrrgh.
(LULU storms off.)

COACH WEEBLY
Next!

8. Terry

(TERRY enters.)

TERRY
Hi my name's Terry, I'm here to try out for the team.

COACH MORRISON
Are you?

COACH WEEBLY
I'll handle this one. Terry, is it?

TERRY
Yes?

COACH WEEBLY
Tell me an inspirational story about your background. Are you playing for your Nanna?

TERRY
My Nanna lives in Vegas.

COACH WEEBLY
You've only got six weeks to live. Two days after we win the championship you die in the Hospital.

TERRY
I'm pretty healthy, actually.

COACH WEEBLY
But could you arrange it? Like, contract a disease or something? It would really help us out.

TERRY

I could go outside in the cold with my hair wet.

COACH WEEBLY

Awesome. Do that. Ooh. What if you died during the season and provided inspiration for the rest of the team?

TERRY

Are you sure this is necessary? I'm just trying out for the team.

COACH WEEBLY

You're trying out for life.

TERRY

But don't we play other teams?

COACH WEEBLY

All of life is playing other teams. You think about that.

TERRY

I don't get it. This is a basketball team, right?

COACH WEEBLY

This is a life team.

COACH MORRISON

Thank you Coach Weebly, I'll handle it. Terry. Look at me.

TERRY

Yes, sir?

COACH MORRISON

My eyes are up here Terry.

TERRY

What?

COACH MORRISON

I've seen a lot of inspirational sports movies and I know one thing. The team better at moving in slow motion wins the game. Every time. You ever see Chariots of Fire?

TERRY

No.

COACH MORRISON

It has nothing to do with fire, that's a really confusing title. But what it does have is slow-motion. These guys race in slow motion the entire movie. The whole movie is like seventeen

hours long because they are moving like this the entire time. And this one guy, when he wins, he just starts making crazy faces –

(COACH MORRISON starts making crazy faces like the guy in Chariots of Fire)

Because that makes him move every-so-slightly faster. Squad!

(The Players enter.)

We're doing an end of the game scenario. Terry here is going to try the game winning shot.

(COACH MORRISON hands him a balloon that looks like a basketball.)

And we're doing it… in slow-motion.

PLAYER 2

Yes!

COACH WEEBLY

We're gonna need some dramatic music for this, aren't we?

COACH MORRISON

Oh I think we are.

COACH WEEBLY

All right.

(She blows her whistle.)
(The love theme from Titanic plays.)
(Everyone looks confused.)

COACH WEEBLY

Just go with it!

(TERRY starts moving in slow motion with the ball, passing through defenders.)
(She fakes one out in slow motion – PLAYER 3 makes a crazy face and dives slowly to the ground.)

(TERRY approaches PLAYER 2, who is really, really into this slow motion thing.)
(Perhaps they dance a little bit to the music. It's really weird.)

(Finally, TERRY releases the basketball balloon.)*
*(*if the balloon is filled with helium, this becomes really fun.)*

(They watch it.)

COACH MORRISON

Cut!

(The music stops. He turns to COACH WEEBLY.)

What was that music?

COACH WEEBLY

This music?

(It starts up again from where it stopped.)

(COACH WEEBLY gets into it, lip synching, approaching COACH MORRISON.)

TERRY

Should we be watching this?

COACH WEEBLY

You guys can take a break.

COACH MORRISON

Stop!

(The music stops.)

We've got a job to do. Terry. You didn't make it. Not dramatic enough.

TERRY

But I tried!

COACH MORRISON

Good. Get out of here.

TERRY

This is ridiculous!

(He storms off.)

COACH WEEBLY

Next!

9. Miley

(MILEY enters.)

MILEY

Hi there I'm –

COACH MORRISON

All right look. We've got one space on this team. You're the last person we're seeing. Squad!

(The PLAYERS enter.)

Time to make this count with the greatest sports movie of all time.

MILEY

I'm Miley, by the way, just in case you were wondering.

COACH MORRISON

Who you are is not important. What is important is whether or not you can be the most inspirational basketball player ever.

MILEY

Probably.

COACH MORRISON

Have you ever seen… Space Jam? There's a guy named Michael Jordan*

**feel free to substitute LeBron James here, since he's also making a Space Jam movie.*

And he's facing off against a group of mutant cartoons fueled by nuclear reactors on their backs. They don't obey the laws of physics, they smell bad, and they've kidnapped his girlfriend. Not only that, but they've opened a portal to a demonic netherworld where the legions of undead are about to invade earth, destroy humanity, and force us to watch Here Comes Honey Boo Boo. Michael Jordan has one shot. And he has to use every inspirational sports cliché in the book.

MILEY

You mean?

COACH MORRISON

That's right. I want to see you be a physically inadequate loose cannon dog that nobody believes in moving in slow motion with an injury while giving an inspirational speech about your dramatic backstory

COACH WEEBLY

Go!

(COACH WEEBLY blows the whistle.)

(MILEY takes the dog mask and puts it on.)

MILEY

All right guys listen up! No one out there thinks a Chihuahua with three legs can win the championship. They've given up on us. Just like my father gave up on me when I was a puppy – he left with some other snaggle-toothed stray and never talked to my mom again – she raised us, all six of us, we slept in the same crate. But that whole time I've been waiting for this moment, the moment when I could prove that I could play basketball. It's my only way out of the ghetto. This is for you, Trey. I miss you, brother. Some day I'll see you in heaven. So say it once more. Loud and clear. Closed eyes. Tight buttocks.

PLAYERS

CAN'T LOSE.

End of Excerpt.
To purchase this play, visit www.concordtheatricals.com