

KICK IT!

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM - NIGHT

The stands of the Azteca stadium in Mexico City are packed with boisterous fans. It is the Junior National Championship game, 1999, and the Cowboys are beating the Rockets 3-1 in the second half.

SIMON FUENTES drills the ball between two COWBOY MIDFIELDERS at the center line and charges through them, blasting them to the ground and catching up to his breakaway ball with animal agility.

THE CROWD CHEERS AND STANDS.

A quick-footed COWBOY DEFENDER barrels toward Simon. With the finesse of a dancer, Simon flicks the ball behind his back and up over his head, spinning out of the defenders path and catching his floating ball in stride.

THE CROWD ERUPTS!

TWO DEFENDERS CHARGE SIMON.

Simon's thin quick-footed teammate VASQUEZ is wide open with a clear shot. He flails his arms and calls to Simon.

Simon smirks at Vasquez, then spins out of the way of the two defenders.

It's Simon vs. the COWBOY GOALIE. The goalie comes out from the net to meet him, and Simon winds up to blast the ball. The goalie dives right in front of him hoping to catch it, but Simon stops short. The goalie lands on the ground safely out of Simon's way and he taps the ball gently into the net.

The crowd is electric, Simon's teammates cheer. Simon laughs at the goalie on the ground. One more goal ties the game with less than two minutes on the clock.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - NIGHT

COACH CARERA huddles his team, The Rockets, on the sideline.

COACH CARERA

This moment is going to define the rest of your lives. Are you winners?

THE ROCKETS

YES!

COACH CARERA

Then go win!

As the boys run, Coach Carera grabs the jerseys of "FUENTES" and "VASQUEZ", keeping them back. Coach brings his face in close to them.

COACH CARERA (CONT'D)

You boys are the best I've got.
One of you is going to be the hero,
and one of you is going to let me
down. So who do you want to be?

Coach pushes them onto the field.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM - NIGHT

The Cowboys kick off from the center and a ROCKETS DEFENDER quickly steals the ball. As he makes his way toward the center line, Simon comes up alongside him and snatches the ball from his own teammate.

ROCKETS DEFENDER

What the hell!

Simon charges across the midfield line and toward the goal. He is surrounded by Cowboy players. Vasquez screams for him, he is wide open at the corner of the net, a sure goal. Simon tries to break through the defenders but the ball is stolen. Vasquez is frustrated.

Simon chases the ball back to the other side of the field where his teammate intercepts it. He snatches it again, and his teammates start to yell at him. The clock is winding down, :30 seconds.

Simon breaks away from the midfielders, he's across the center racing toward the goal. The crowd is screaming his name. The goal is within his reach, his adrenaline surges and he can see with perfect clarity where he will score. He pulls his leg back. The goalie's eyes raise in fear. His leg comes down, about to connect with the ball, a deadly strike.

CRACK!

Vasquez collides with Simon. The two flop to the ground and the ball sails wide of the net. As the clock runs out, Simon reels in pain on the grass holding his leg. The Rockets have lost.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Present Day.

A truck reading "WATER DELIVERY" pulls up outside of an office building. Simon Fuentes hops out, reading a clipboard. He opens the back of the truck. Across the street a spastic man with coke-bottle glasses, CURLY, flails his arms outside of "Curly's Electronics and Hot Dogs Kiosk."

CURLY
SIMON! SIMON FUENTES!

Simon ignores him, and carries two full water jugs into the building.

INT. CLIENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Simon plops the two jugs in front of the reception desk, and a RECEPTIONIST meets him.

RECEPTIONIST
Oh Simon...did you get my messages?

A bulky WATER DELIVERY MAN passes through the reception area carrying empty water jugs.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, but we don't need your delivery this week.

SIMON
Ok I'll bring them next week.

RECEPTIONIST
We don't need your delivery...ever.

SIMON
I don't understand, I've been your water guy for five years.

RECEPTIONIST
Simon you're always late.

SIMON
I'm not always late.

RECEPTIONIST
Your prices are too high.

SIMON
Well you're cheap!

RECEPTIONIST
I don't know what to tell you.

SIMON

I'll cut the prices and I'll double
the deliveries.

RECEPTIONIST

No.

SIMON

I don't understand-

RECEPTIONIST

Simon we just don't like you.

Simon grabs two handfuls of candy from the desk and stuffs his pockets. He takes a few pens, grabs his water jugs, and storms out.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

He opens a hatch in the truck to put the empties in, and a whole truck load of water jugs roll out and clatter one by one on the street. People on the street giggle, Simon looks at them defeated, as Curly pops his head in from behind the truck door.

CURLY

SIMON FUENTES! It's me, Curly! You
know, Curly's Electronics?

Curly squats down and sings his theme song, apparently from a radio commercial.

CURLY (CONT'D)

You want electronics, you love some
hot dogs, CURLY'S Electronics, and
hot dogs store!

SIMON

You're the guy that asks for my
autograph every week.

Curly slowly hides a pen and photo of Simon as a young player in his back pocket.

CURLY

No , no, I want to buy some water.

SIMON

You want water?

CURLY

Oh yeah, I love water, water's
great.

Simon pulls out his clipboard.

SIMON

Will you take two jugs a week?

Curly is unsure, but he won't let down his soccer hero.

CURLY

Yeah, yeah I can definitely use
more water all the time.

Simon stacks two jugs into Curly's arms.

SIMON

It's forty bucks.

CURLY

Oh yeah, sure, of course.

Curly awkwardly digs in his pocket and hands Simon two crumpled bills.

CURLY (CONT'D)

Hey do you wanna hang out?

INT./EXT. WATER DELIVERY TRUCK - DAY

Simon drives through the small village where he lives.

A GROUP OF CHILDREN play soccer on a tattered old field. As he drives past they yell to him and run alongside the van.

CHILDREN

Simon! Come play with us!

SIMON

I HATE SOCCER!

Simon swerves and runs over their soccer ball, popping it. "You want electronics, you love some hot dogs, Curly's electronics and hot dogs store!" blares over his radio.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Tossing his keys on the table, Simon checks his fridge. He has some beers, a shriveled tomato, questionable leftovers, and some old milk.

Simon plops to the couch with a pack of crackers and flicks on the TV.

A NEWS ANCHOR is interviewing Vasquez on television.

EXT. ROCKET'S FIELD - DAY

The Rockets run practice drills behind a news interview. Their field is well kept, they have expensive equipment and lots of coaches.

NEWS ANCHOR

You caught a lot of criticism two years ago for stepping down from the national team right at the height of your career, do you regret that decision?

VASQUEZ

Look newslady, can I call you newslady?

NEWS ANCHOR

My name is Pamela, but.

VASQUEZ

When I left I knew that I was the best in the world. I mean, who was better than Vasquez? Renaldo? Messi? Pele? I wanted to be remembered as the best ever.

NEWS ANCHOR

This time last year the whole country thought you were crazy. Some say that you were over the hill in your career and your stats were slipping.

VASQUEZ

I dominated the world as a player, and I knew it was time to dominate as a coach.

NEWS ANCHOR

Now you are defending your championship title with the Rockets, but some people are concerned with your rigid coaching style and the attitude of your players.

VASQUEZ

Listen newslady, the Rockets slaughter their opponents. We are the best in the world and I challenge anyone to do battle.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon shuts the TV off angrily.

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

EXT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Simon opens the front door to find a portly, suited man holding a duffle bag and an overstuffed file folder of papers.

SOCIAL WORKER

Simon Fuentes?

Simon nods. As the SOCIAL WORKER rifles through his papers, mumbling, Simon notices a stern-faced boy sitting inside the dusty passenger van in his driveway.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

Mr. Fuentes I'm sorry to drop in like this, I have some troubling news concerning your mother-

Simon cuts him off.

SIMON

I haven't seen my mother in twenty five years.

SOCIAL WORKER

I'm afraid she's passed away.

Simon is unmoved by the news.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

I'm very sorry for your loss Mr. Fuentes.

Simon turns to walk inside.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

Mr. Fuentes. I'm required to inform you that guardianship of your brother will now legally pass to you as his only living relative.

SIMON

Brother?

SOCIAL WORKER

(brandishing a document)
Your mother was Eva Aritzta?

SIMON

Yes.

SOCIAL WORKER

That-

The social worker points to the boy in the car.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

Is Peterson Aritzta. He's twelve years old.

The social worker sighs.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

Look I'll level with you. This bag, this file, and this book-

The social worker holds up a tattered scrap book.

SOCIAL WORKER (CONT'D)

-are all this kid has left. I'm required to ask you to take him, but you don't have to.

SIMON

What happens if I don't?

SOCIAL WORKER

I drop him off at a placement house and they find a group home for him.

SIMON

An orphanage?

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Peterson sits at the small kitchen table in Simon's tiny house. Simon stares at him from across the room.

SIMON

Do you eat?

Peterson shrugs. Simon reaches into his pocket and hands Peterson the crumpled money that Curly gave him.

SIMON (CONT'D)

There's a market up the road. Just get whatever you eat.

He tosses the money to Peterson.

SIMON (CONT'D)
When you get back we'll figure out
where you're going.

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - DAY

Peterson walks down the long dusty village road. As he rounds a bend, he sees four boys, JAIME, VICTOR, MIGUEL, and a CRONY kicking a tattered soccer ball around. The tallest of the three, Miguel, spots Peterson as he passes.

MIGUEL
Who are you?

Peterson ignores him and walks past.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Hey!

Peterson continues to walk.

WHACK. The ball smacks him in the back of the head and he whips around. Miguel is close behind him as the other boys laugh.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
I said who are you?

Peterson turns again to leave and Miguel grabs his arm, whipping him around. Peterson yanks away but Miguel holds tightly to his shirt.

Peterson reaches to shove his arm away and the money that he was clutching falls to the ground.

Miguel shoves him and quickly scoops up the money, running away into a field. Peterson chases after the boys a bit, but he doesn't want to get lost. He gives up.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

The bells ring as Peterson slinks into the grocery store. The shop owner, MR. SANTA MARIA eyes him from behind the counter.

Peterson walks to the back of the store and finds a small bag of bread. He looks around and slips it under his shirt. While he's at it, he grabs some peanut butter and hides it down his pants.

He keeps his head down and walks swiftly out the door.

EXT. GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT - DAY

In the parking lot, a few yards from safety, the grocery store door swings open and the shop owner screams.

MR. SANTA MARIA
HEY! GET BACK HERE!

Peterson books it up the road.

A police officer who was sipping a coffee in the parking lot drops his drink and runs to his car.

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - DAY

Running down the road, Peterson spots Miguel and his friends playing soccer. He steels his face and barrels toward him, tackling him to the ground.

Peterson starts pounding his fists on Miguel in a whirl of dust, when a cop siren whoops and the boys all stop.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Peterson sits alone, head hung, on a bench at the front of a small stone court room. YVETTE ESPERANZA, rushes into the court room muttering to herself. She is carrying a stack of papers that she can't keep a handle of, and she litters papers up the aisle.

YVETTE
Your honor I'm Yvette Esperanza,
I'm the social worker assigned to
Peterson's case. I haven't even had
a chance to meet him, he literally
just got here-

JUDGE
And he's already causing trouble.

The Judge notices Simon as he enters the room.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
Simon Fuentes, my old soccer hero.

Simon nods.

YVETTE

Your honor I'm asking you to dismiss this and allow Peterson to come with me, I just need a chance to get to know him.

The judge ignores her.

JUDGE

(to Simon)

I remember the 1992 Rockets team, you guys didn't lose a single game!

He turns to Yvette.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Did you know that Simon holds the all time record for goals scored in a Junior National Championship? 4 GOALS!

YVETTE

Everybody knows Simon Fuentes. I've been assigned to your brother's placement case.

JUDGE

It seems your brother can't stay out of trouble.

YVETTE

How did this happen? Why was he out on his own if he just got here?

The judge reads from the file folder.

JUDGE

Several run-ins with police in Mexico City...fighting, vandalism...It's not good.

SIMON

(to Yvette)

I don't even know what he did...

JUDGE

It seems he robbed the grocery store, fled from Police, and engaged a fight with three boys from town.

SIMON
(to Peterson)
You did all that in twenty minutes?

YVETTE
This shouldn't have happened-

SIMON
We just met!

JUDGE
I think what's best for the
community is that Peterson be sent
to a juvenile corrections facility-

YVETTE
Your honor this boy has been
through enough. He is Mr. Fuentes'
responsibility and-

SIMON
(speaking low)
Judge, if that's what you think is
best, then I understand.

YVETTE
Mr. Fuentes are you aware that the
guardian of a child who goes to
detention accrues his fines? It's
going to cost you at least \$1,500
in fees-

SIMON
WHAT?

JUDGE
I'm willing to withhold punishment
on a condition. It's clear that
Peterson needs structure in his
life. The kind of structure that
you find on the soccer field.

SIMON
Yes sir, I'll give him some
structure.

JUDGE
I want him to play soccer.

SIMON
No problem sir, I'll make him play
soccer.

JUDGE

Well he needs the discipline of a team, but there is no team around here.

SIMON

I'll take him to the city.

JUDGE

You'll coach a team. Here in the village

SIMON

I can't do that...

JUDGE

In that case, I sentence Peterson to one year in Juvenile corrective custody. We are looking at a charge of criminal mischief, that carries a \$600 fine, a charge of burglary, that carries a \$1,000 fine, a charge of fleeing the scene of a crime, that carries a \$400 fine, and a charge of disorderly conduct, which carries a \$300 fine. Oh, and you have to buy the peanut butter and bread from Mr. Santa Maria-

The old grocer stands in the back of the court room, holding a flattened loaf of bread and shaking his fist.

And a fine of \$1,500 to remand custody of Peterson back to the state. These fines are all due today, you can pay at the window in the back.

The judge starts to swing his gavel.

SIMON

Wait, your honor, I don't have that kind of money!

JUDGE

Well, it looks like you're coaching soccer.

The judge slams his gavel down

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

A scrawny kid wearing a three pieced suit, SUIT KID, stands on a crate looking through the window of the courthouse.

Excited, he hops off of the crate and takes off down the dirt road.

EXT. CARNE'S MEAT STAND - DAY

A ROBUST FAMILY is working loudly at a meat stand on the side of a busy village road. They have large ham hocks spinning on roasting sticks, sausages hanging from the rafters of their outdoor kiosk, and ribs hanging from hooks. CARNE, a young chubby kid steals a piece of bacon from a pile that his mother is cooking and she slaps his hand.

Suit Kid runs up to Carne and whispers in his ear. Excited, the two boys take off, as Carne's dad yells after him.

EXT. POLICE SHOOTING RANGE - DAY

Police trainees are target shooting with bows and arrows. The commanding officer's son, CROSS EYES, a small kid with large coke bottle glasses and a lazy eye, is looking down the line of an arrow that he has firmly pulled back. He is concentrated and ready. The other archers let their arrows fly and hit the target in the dead center.

Cross Eyes, the last to shoot, lets his arrow fly and it goes wildly high, bouncing off of the cement barrier wall, ricocheting off of a tree branch, bouncing off the tin roof of the shooting range and sticking into the ground square between his fathers feet.

Carne and Suit Kid run up and yell to Cross Eyes who drops his bow and bolts.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

THE TRIPLETS, three identical triplets, are goofing off in a field. They are seeing if they can stand on each others shoulders, one on top of the other, so that they are three kids tall. Just as they reach their pinnacle, a three kid stack, Carne, Suit Kid, and Cross Eyes run past and yell to them.

THUD! The boys fall into a huddle. They hop up, unscathed, and chase the other boys.

EXT. HAND'S HOUSE - DAY

Outside of a small house on the side of the road another young boy, HANDS, pushes a tattered soccerball through is yard using his hands.

THE BOYS RUN PAST.

Hands sees them and darts after them.

INT. SHORT STUFF'S ROOM - DAY

In his soccer-themed bedroom, SHORT STUFF sits with his two older brothers. His brothers are abnormally large, and short stuff is a little person. The three play FIFA on a playstation, Short Stuff is clearly winning.

THE GROUP OF BOYS RUN PAST THE WINDOW.

Short Stuff notices the commotion. He drops his controller and runs for his door.

EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

Simon storms down the road and Peterson follows behind. Yvette hustles to catch up to Simon.

YVETTE

Hey!

She pats Peterson on the head as she passes.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

I want to help you.

SIMON

Then take this kid.

YVETTE

I want to help you with soccer. I can set up a scrimmage.

SIMON

I'm not doing that.

Awkward silence.

YVETTE

You don't remember me do you. I grew up at Sister's of Charity...You grew up at-

SIMON

I don't remember you.

YVETTE

Look you don't have much of a choice here. I'll have a team at the Village Field on Saturday morning...eleven.

SIMON

I don't even have a team...

YVETTE

I don't think you're going to have a problem with that.

As they reach Simon's house a large group of boys stands on his lawn.

EXT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

YVETTE

Good luck coach.

Yvette leaves.

Simon looks over the kids.

SIMON

What do you want?

SUIT KID

We want to play soccer.

SIMON

Then go play.

The kids don't move.

SHORT STUFF

(pointing at Peterson)
Who's that?

Simon looks at Peterson.

SIMON

That's my...he's Peterson. He's new. Ok if you want to play come to the field on Saturday at eleven.

Simon walks to the door.

CARNE
What do we wear?

SIMON
Wear matching colors.

THE TRIPLETS
What color?

He slams his door.

RANDOM KID (O.S.)
Hey, you owe me a soccer ball!

INT. VILLAGE BAR - NIGHT

Simon is drinking by himself in a local hooligan bar. A man, CHILI'S DAD is talking loudly to his friend. A young boy, CHILI, stands against a wall with a GROUP OF HOOLIGANS around him.

CHILI'S DAD
Why do you think we call him Chili?
Cause he's red hot! He can block
anything!

He laughs loudly and throws a ketchup bottle over Chili's head. Chili jumps up and snags it.

The hooligans cheer.

CHILI'S DAD (CONT'D)
Nothing gets past my boy. He was
supposed to be the goalie for the
Rocket's but that damn Vasquez cut
him. He worked him so hard that he
broke his arm, then he has the
nerve to cut him? He's still the
best goalie in the country!

Chili's Dad throws three pool balls and Chili snags all of them out of the air with his good hand. The hooligans cheer again.

The BARTENDER slides Simon another drink, he notices that Simon is listening to CHILI'S DAD.

BARTENDER
Vasquez must run his team like the
military.

Simon nods.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Kids breaking arms, getting hurt,
crying. That's not what soccer
should be. But I guess when you
want to be the best-

Chili's Dad flings a stack of plates that go in all
directions. Chili leaps and catches all the plates in one
Stack.

Simon watches as the hooligans hoist Chili, holding his stack
of plates.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Simon plops his keys on the table. The TV is humming and
Peterson is asleep on the couch.

He notices Peterson's scrapbook on the table and opens it.
There is a picture of his mother holding a baby Peterson on
the first page, with doodles and arrows around it.

Peterson stirs and Simon closes the book fast.

SIMON

We're gonna go to the field
tomorrow.

Peterson doesn't respond.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Did you get some food.

Nothing.

Simon glances over the couch to see Peterson asleep in the
glowing TV light.

Simon grabs a blanket from an armchair and spreads it over
his brother.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SCRIMMAGE - DAY

Saturday morning, the kids from Simon's lawn gather at the
village field. They are all wearing different colors, Suit
Kid is still wearing a 3 piece suit.

Simon appears holding a lawn chair with Peterson in tow.

SUDDENLY ACROSS THE FIELD

A sea of pure white jerseys emerges.

An all girls team struts onto the field expertly juggling soccer balls and eyeing up their opponents fiercely. They are followed by two brutish nuns and Yvette, happy to see the kids on the field.

Peterson shakes his head and plops to the grass. Simon sets his chair up next to Peterson and sits.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/ANNOUNCERS TABLE - DAY

A ridiculous mini-van covered with speakers and electronics pulls up, way too fast, blaring mariachi dance music. Curly jumps out of the van and sets up a folding table with a scorecard and audio mixer.

CURLY

Check, check. Alright everyone welcome to the first scrimmage of the season, I'm Curly and with me as always is my trusty van, the vroom vroom with the boom boom, the DubJet!

Curly hits a button and his van beeps a loud salutation. There are a few scattered villagers on the sidelines, disinterested in Curly.

CURLY (CONT'D)

This games is brought to you by "Curly's Electronics and Hot Dogs Store," your source for TVs, radios, game consoles and hot dogs!

Curly notices Simon on the sidelines.

CURLY (CONT'D)

OH. MY. GOSH. LADIES AND GENTLEMAN WE HAVE SIMON FUENTES HERE TODAY! Simon Fuentes, all star, all national, Mexico's Golden Leg, the best junior player we've ever had! And he sells me water now!

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE

PETERSON

Do you know him?

SIMON

I wish I didn't.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/ANNOUNCERS TABLE - DAY

CURLY

Today we've got the girls from
Nuestros Pequenos
Hermanos...they're mean, they're
tough, they're one player with 48
legs!

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

The girls are running drills perfectly in sync. They juggle balls between each other, head butt them back, and fire balls into the net.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/ANNOUNCERS TABLE - DAY

CURLY

And we have our home team, the
defenders, the newest team on the
block..The...

Curly puts his hand over the mic and yells to Simon.

CURLY (CONT'D)

What's your team's name?

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE - DAY

Simon shrugs.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/ANNOUNCERS TABLE - DAY

CURLY

Well they don't have a name but
they sure do have....

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The boys stand there looking around. The triplets are laying down, Carne is roasting shish ka bobs, hands is pushing the ball around with his hands. A triplet lets out a loud squeaky fart.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/ANNOUNCERS TABLE - DAY

CURLY

...A coach that sells me water!

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD - DAY

A WHISTLE BLOWS.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The game starts and the girls team barrels over the boys.

The villagers on the sidelines crack up laughing at the spectacle.

CURLY (O.S.)

Well the village team is off to a rough start...

Hands runs from a ball that rolls right in front of him.

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

We've got "Hands" here, I'm not sure that this kid knows how the game works but he sure is good with those hands.

Suit Kid gets pelted in the chest with a ball and flies backward.

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

Oooo! The kid in the suit takes one in the chest! Better luck next time "Suit Kid."

The girls are scoring over and over, showing no mercy.

Carne sits on the grass eating a corn dog.

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

We're seeing some interesting defensive techniques from "Carne" here...You're looking good out there Carne, keep it up.

The triplets try to play goalie but run into each other, another loud fart is let out.

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

Well I'm not sure that you can have three goalies, but "The Triplets" are pretty much one person and about half of a soccer player.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE - DAY

Simon is dozing off in his chair. Peterson shakes his head at the comical display.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/ANNOUNCERS TABLE

CURLY

I'm wondering if coach Fuentes will
send in this new mystery player
before this game gets any worse!
I'm having a hard time keeping
score here but I believe it's 17-0.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The girls hammer goal after goal into the net until finally,

A WHISTLE BLOWS.

The game is over.

The kids fall on the ground defeated.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE - DAY

Yvette storms up to Simon and snatches the sunglasses from his face, startling him.

YVETTE

What was that?

SIMON

Hey!

YVETTE

You're supposed to coach them, and
Peterson is supposed to play.

SIMON

Nobody could coach them...

YVETTE

Well it's my responsibility to
report back to the judge, and it's
YOUR responsibility to coach.

SIMON

I was here.

YVETTE

Not good enough! You need to run practices, get a schedule, set up games...

Curly runs up.

CURLY

Simon! YES! Simon Fuentes coaching junior soccer, this is perfect!

SIMON

I'm not coaching.

YVETTE

You ARE!

CURLY

You are?

SIMON

Well I am, but...

CURLY

GREAT! I'm gonna help with everything..anything you ask, anything you need.

YVETTE

See you have an assistant coach.

CURLY

WOAH, ME! Curly? Assistant coach Curly, YES! When is our first practice?

Curly and Yvette stare at Simon intently.

With serious reservations, Simon gives.

SIMON

Monday evening.

Curly yells to the team on the field.

CURLY

YOU HEAR THAT TEAM, PRACTICE IS MONDAY EVENING! YOU BETTER BE READY TO DIG DEEP AND EAT SOME DIRT!

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

From their backs, the boys all give a slow weary thumbs up.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Simon walks in from work to find Peterson rummaging through a pile of his things in a kitchen drawer.

SIMON

What the hell are you doing?

Peterson is stopped in his tracks.

PETERSON

I'm sorry I was looking for a-

SIMON

Put that stuff back.

There are old soccer photos, awards, and trading cards with Simon's face on them.

Peterson lifts up a team photo from the 1999 Rockets.

PETERSON

This is Coach Carera. Like, the coach of the National League. You know him?

Simon grabs the photo.

SIMON

An old friend. Well we were friends, I'm sure he doesn't remember me now.

Peterson picks up a trading card. It's a photo of Simon with a funny haircut, it reads "The Golden Leg." Peterson giggles.

PETERSON

I'm sure he couldn't forget "The Golden Leg."

Simon snatches his stuff and shoves back in the drawer.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

The first day of practice, the boys stand in a line looking blankly at a disinterested Simon.

SIMON

Let's run some passing drills.

No one moves.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Here, you start us off.

He kicks a ball to Hands. Startled, hands jumps out of the way of the ball that rolls behind him.

SUIT KID
Coach, what's a passing drill?

SIMON
Don't call me coach. It's Simon.
Can someone show Suit Kid a passing drill?

No one moves.

SIMON (CONT'D)
You, Cross Eyes, throw me the ball.

Simon points at Cross Eyes who picks up the ball and tosses it, it sails wildly in the wrong direction.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Ok you, you, you, and you are on one team, the rest of you on another. Just play a game.

The boys spread out and begin to play a lazy game. Peterson sits pulling blades of grass and watching.

Each player has a unique disability.

The triplets play a game of tag as the ball rolls past them. Whenever the ball comes toward Hands, he squats down and stops it with his hands. As the other boys run back and forth across the field, Short Stuff is always twenty paces behind the rest. Cross Eyes consistently misses the ball while trying to strike a goal.

Curly pulls up in his van, blaring his horn. He cheers on the team vigorously, despite their shortcomings, as he approaches Simon.

CURLY
Woo, looking good coach!

SIMON
Don't call me that.

In the distance, a mini van pulls up and Miguel gets out angrily. A WOMAN gets out of the drivers seat and urges him down the sloping hill to join the team. After what appears to be a short argument, the woman wins and Miguel walks defeated toward the field.

CURLY

That's Miguel, he's real good. HEY
MIGUEL! Are you joining the team?

Miguel shrugs and sits on the sideline opposite Peterson.
The boys glare at each other.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD/SIDELINE - EVENING

A car pulls up and out hops Yvette. She strolls up to Curly
who is taking vigorous notes on a clipboard.

YVETTE

How's it going Assistant Coach?

CURLY

From what I can see, our best
player is the Suit Kid until we get
Miguel out on the field.

YVETTE

What games are on the schedule?

CURLY

Well, after the scrimmage this week-

He rifles through his papers.

CURLY (CONT'D)

We have none.

YVETTE

I just heard from a very good
source that a slot opened in the
national league, they're looking
for a team south of the city.

CURLY

We're a team south of the city!

YVETTE

I could call a friend about it, but
I wanted to talk to Coach first.

Yvette nods to Simon from across the field.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - EVENING

Simon acknowledges her and turns to Peterson, who is sitting
cross-legged on the grass.

SIMON
Yvette is here, go play.

PETERSON
I don't want to.

Simon grabs him by the shoulder and tosses him up onto the field.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - EVENING

The boys are finding it impossible to master a passing drill. In his frustration, Simon opens a bag of soccer balls and starts throwing them at the kids on the field.

Simon points at Miguel.

SIMON
Kid! If you're on the team get on the field!

He throws a ball at him. Miguel gets up and walks away.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Everyone dribble, up and down the pitch. GO!

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD

Curly grabs his whistle and blows hard.

CURLY
You heard coach, GO GO GO!

SIMON (O.S.)
DON'T CALL ME THAT!

YVETTE
They're going to need uniforms.

CURLY
They're gonna need a better field.

YVETTE
They're going to need a name.

CURLY
Something fierce.

The boys dribble up the field lazily.

CURLY (CONT'D)
I've got it!

EXT. CURLY'S ELECTRONICS KIOSK - DAY - MONTAGE

BEGIN MONTAGE

Yvette talks on the phone, Curly fills a calendar in with dates of games.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY - MONTAGE

With the help of LOCAL MEN, Curly erects two sets of wooden bleachers near the shabby village field.

INT./EXT. SIMON'S VAN/VILLAGE ROAD - DAY

As Simon drives down a dusty road, he sees Miguel playing soccer by himself. He is bouncing the ball off of a free standing wall near a demolished building. He has great footwork and accuracy.

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - DAY - MONTAGE

Yvette speaks happily with an OLD WOMAN standing next to a hut. She hands her ten large bolts of gold and white fabric.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY - MONTAGE

Curly and the local men level the pitch at the local field and spread new grass seed.

Curly pays Simon for dozens of water jugs, and he hooks them to an elaborately crafted hose and sprinkler system that waters the field.

INT. WOMAN'S HUT - DAY - MONTAGE

A GROUP OF VILLAGERS measure the players one-by-one with a measuring tape.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY - MONTAGE

Curly paints white lines on the field as a LOCAL MAN patches holes on the net.

END MONTAGE

INT. ROCKETS TRAINING FACILITY/OFFICE - DAY

Vasquez slams the phone down in his fancy Rockets office. The walls are covered with trophies and pictures of himself in various uniforms and with celebrities.

The Rockets sniveling assistant coach, THE WEASEL, is rubbing lotion his hands on a couch in the corner.

VASQUEZ

You will never believe who is back in soccer.

THE WEASEL

Pele?

VASQUEZ

Pele's like a hundred you idiot! It's my old friend, Simon Vasquez.

THE WEASEL

The Golden Leg? The best player in Junior National History?

VASQUEZ

HE WAS NOT! Simon Fuentes gets all the credit for the work that I did, he would be nothing without me.

THE WEASEL

Who is he playing for? The National Team? International? Premiere League? MLS?

VASQUEZ

NO! He's coaching. In MY league.

THE WEASEL

He's coaching in the Junior League?

VASQUEZ

It's perfect! Finally a chance to prove who is the best at Junior National Soccer.

THE WEASEL

The news will eat it up.

VASQUEZ

Exactly. There's nothing better than being in the press.

EXT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DUSK

Yvette knocks on Simon's door with a box and a stack of paperwork. Simon answers.

YVETTE
I've got a surprise coach.

SIMON
You're taking over the team?

YVETTE
Even better. You're taking the team
to the junior national league!

SIMON
What?

YVETTE
Curly and I set it all up, I've got
uniforms and registration papers.
You've just got to sign.

SIMON
No way, not a chance.

YVETTE
We worked really hard to get this
for you.

SIMON
I don't want it.

YVETTE
Well what about the kids, you saw
how badly they want to be a part of
a team.

SIMON
You saw how badly they played. It's
embarrassing.

YVETTE
Is this about Vasquez?

SIMON
What? No. Don't act like you know
me.

YVETTE
I do know you.

Yvette shoves the box into his hands.

YVETTE (CONT'D)
I know you're not really this
selfish. I'll see you on the
field, coach.

Simon slams his door.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Peterson has heard the conversation, he glares at Simon.

SIMON
What do you know?

PETERSON
I know you used to love soccer.

Peterson holds up a picture from a side table. Simon posed
proudly on a soccer ball next to Vasquez.

SIMON
Used to.

PETERSON
I don't want this team either, but
at least I'm not the one that's
going to ruin it for everyone else.

Peterson drops the picture on the table and leaves.

Simon drops the box. He thumbs the old photo. In defeat, he
quickly signs the registration forms.

He tears open the box and lifts out a gold and white shirt
with "00" on the back.

SIMON
You're kidding me.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 1 - DAY

SUIT KID
The Sloths?

The team stands in a semi-circle around Curly and Simon, who
is holding a uniform up.

Bright red letters spell out "SLOTHS" on the front.

CURLY

That's right, we're ferocious and quick. Deadly fast with lightning feet and razor sharp teeth-

SHORT STUFF

Sloths?

CURLY

Yeah, sloths. The jungle creature...

INSERT - A YOUTUBE VIDEO OF SLOTHS MAKING CUTE NOISES PLAYS ON A CELL PHONE

CURLY (CONT'D)

NO! NO! NO!

The Sloths laugh.

SIMON

So what positions do you all want?

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 1 - CONTINUOUS

The Sloths take the field in their new hand-made uniforms. Carne takes his place at the net as the team's new goalie, Peterson as the forward.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 1 - CONTINUOUS

A SOCCER FAN WOMAN and a YOUNG SOCCER FAN with a limp approach Simon.

SOCCER FAN WOMAN

Mr. Fuentes? My son is wondering if he can get an autograph.

Simon takes a paper and pen from the boy.

SOCCER FAN WOMAN (CONT'D)

He is worried that he will never play soccer because of his injury, I told him that you went through something very similar.

Simon kneels down next to the boy.

SIMON

Soccer's not everything.

A WHISTLE BLOWS.

Peterson still seems disinterested with the game, but as BLUES PLAYER 1 passes him with the ball, he expertly steals it. He dances up the field dodging BLUES DEFENDERS with ease. When he reaches the goal box he lazily floats the ball over the BLUES GOALIE'S head and into the net.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 1 - CONTINUOUS

In his Sloths jersey, Curly jumps up and down screaming.

Simon is baffled by Peterson's moves.

In a far corner under a bleacher the Weasel, The Rockets assistant coach, is in a horrible disguise videotaping the boys playing.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 1 - CONTINUOUS

Carne is at goalie and he's struggling. He dives for balls that are wide of the net, and he lays down to block most of them.

It's 2:2 with two minutes to go. Carne throws the ball to Suit Kid who begins to dribble up the field. Just past midfield, Peterson steals the ball from his teammate and drills one into the corner of the net. The team wins. The Sloths cheer, but Suit Kid is left staring at Peterson.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 1 - CONTINUOUS

After the game, the boys huddle around Simon and Curly. Yvette stands by watching them.

SIMON

Great first effort. Peterson, you need to learn how to play as a teammate.

PETERSON

I won that game.

SIMON

You scored three goals, Carne saved twenty, Suit Kid brought the ball down the field for you, and everyone contributed. Ball hogging has no place on this team.

PETERSON

This team sucks!

SIMON

You're a poor teammate.

CURLY

Well the important thing is that everyone had fun. Did everyone have fun?

The boys look around at each other. They didn't.

SIMON

The important thing is that we won this time, but it won't always work like this. I'll see you boys at practice.

The boys scatter as Yvette catches Simon's eye.

YVETTE

I think you accidentally just coached them.

Simon turns to leave.

THUNK! Yvette kicks a ball into Simon's back. She backpedals onto the field that is now clear of people.

SIMON

Very funny.

Simon kicks the ball back to her, and she starts to dribble lightly.

YVETTE

Come on coach, let's see what you've got.

SIMON

Nope.

YVETTE

Are you too chicken? Don't want to get beat by a girl?

She kicks the ball to Simon and he slowly brings it onto the field.

SIMON

If you don't play you can't lose.

Simon passes the ball to her.

YVETTE
Looks like you're already in the
game.

She passes it back.

SIMON
You're a professional caseworker,
right? What do you think I should
do about Peterson?

YVETTE
Well you can start by being his
coach. That might help you to
learn how to be his brother.

Yvette runs up and steals the ball.

SIMON
Oh you've got moves?

YVETTE
I'm no Simon Fuentes.

SIMON
Nice.

Simon chases her and steals the ball back.

YVETTE
Oh, he's still got it!

Simon kicks the ball lightly toward a goal, she runs and intercepts it. She dribbles softly toward him, and he crosses to tend the goal.

YVETTE (CONT'D)
I'm here to help you through the
transition. The best thing you can
do right now is try to connect with
Peterson. I think soccer is a
great place to start...even though
you stink at it.

She wails the ball right past him into the net.

SIMON
OOOOH!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/FROM A DISTANCE - CONTINUOUS

Peterson watches them from under a set of bleachers, he smiles.

INT. ROCKETS TRAINING FACILITY - DAY

A large GROUP OF ROCKETS is gathered around a projector screen. The Weasle is playing the tape of The Sloths. The video cuts between horrible plays and Simon shaking his head on the sidelines.

RICARDO

Oh my God they're awful!

VICTOR

This has to be a joke!

The boys are all cracking up. Vasquez is watching from a dark corner smiling.

EXT. DEMOLISHED BUILDING - DAY

Driving past, Simon spots Miguel kicking a ball against the freestanding wall. He parks his van and walks over. Miguel ignores him, and continues to kick the ball against the wall.

On one kick, the ball bounces Simon's way, and he quickly boots it back against the wall, toward Miguel.

Miguel stops the ball and stares at Simon for a second. He bounces again to Simon who kicks it back. They begin going back and forth, without letting the ball hit the ground, and both begin to laugh.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

The second practice. Simon is attempting to run a 3v1 variation drill, a game in which the attackers try to knock a ball off of a cone and the defender protects it. The triplets are the attackers, and Carne is the defender. One of the triplets boots the ball all the way across the field.

SIMON

No, guys you're supposed to aim for the ball, hit the BALL!

The three boys run in, trampling Carne, and all slap the ball on the cone. Despite himself, Simon laughs.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Who here can dribble the ball?

Three boys raise their hands.

From over a hill, Miguel comes trotting to the practice and Simon nods to him.

SIMON (CONT'D)
 You boys know Miguel? He's going
 to play goalie for us.

The boys cheer.

CARNE
 Oh thank you God.

Peterson glares at him.

SIMON
 We're going to start with some
 basics, and play a little "Simon
 Says." That means you do exactly
 what I say, when I say it. Simon
 says pick a partner.

The boys partner up.

SIMON (CONT'D)
 Simon says get a ball and pass it
 back and forth, while running up
 and down the field. Suit Kid and
 Peterson, show them how.

The boys follow Peterson and Suit Kid, they are slowly
 improving.

A FAINT SOUND BEGINS TO INTERRUPT THE PRACTICE.

"Hey-ya ho, ho, hum." It's a tribal war song, in rhythm to
 the pounding of many feet.

CRESTING THE HILL COMES VASQUEZ, LEADING HIS TEAM THE ROCKETS
 IN A SYNCHRONIZED JOG.

THE ROCKETS
 HEYA, HO, HO, HUM!

They near the soccer field and stop short in front of Vasquez
 on the sideline.

VASQUEZ
 SIMON! I heard you were back but I
 had to see it!

The Rockets are a team of bruisers.

SIMON
 This is a closed practice.

VASQUEZ

I wanted you to meet my team before our game tomorrow. This is my captain, Ricardo. Reminds me a lot of you when you were his age. He's the best in the country.

RICARDO, a handsome snob, eyes up Peterson who stands behind Simon.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

This is my star goalie, Victor.

Victor steps forward, tall and built. Peterson recognizes him as one of Miguel's friend. Someone from the Rockets pelts a ball at him and he snags it out of the air with one large hand.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

I'm sure you all know Jaime from your town.

Jaime steps forward. He is one of the boys who fought with Miguel against Peterson. Miguel puts his head down.

A pair of ROCKET TWINS are staring menacingly at the triplets, who toe the turf awkwardly.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

And this one, we just call The Giant.

THE GIANT steps forward. He is a towering hulk. He points at Short Stuff, smiling. Short Stuff faints.

SIMON

I'm trying to run practice here.

VASQUEZ

Ok boys let's go. See you tomorrow Sloths.

A few Rockets chuckle. They begin their march away from the field, "Hey-ya ho, ho, hum." Ricardo winks at Peterson. As he passes a ball on the sideline, he gracefully chips it up in the air. It sails all the way to the other side of the field and into the net.

As Jaime passes Miguel he slams shoulders with him.

JAIME

I guess you weren't good enough for a real soccer team?

CURLY

Did you see The Giant? He's like 5
kids stacked on top of each other!
The best we could do is stack 3!

Curly points at the triplets.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD/GAME 2 - DAY

The game against the Rockets is a well under way, and it's a debacle. Peterson is out-foot-worked by Ricardo who continues to steal the ball from him. Short Stuff continues to run between The Giants legs. Miguel keeps getting scored on.

Vasquez chuckles on the sideline.

Curly stomps his feet and yells at the ref, while Simon sits in a lawn chair with his head slumped on his hand.

The Rockets begin to toy with the Sloths. Ricardo and Jaime pass the ball back and forth in front of their own goal while Cross-Eyes tries to catch it. Finally they stop the ball in front of Jaime and let Cross-Eyes take a shot. He runs to it swinging his hardest, but he misses the ball and falls on his butt. The Rockets laugh.

Jaime shoves Miguel over and over.

The twins dribble circles around the triplets.

Peterson sneaks up and wails the ball, but Victor is quick. He dives and deflects, the Sloths remain scoreless.

From near the bleachers, Chili is watching the game.

The Sloths fall to the Rockets 11-0.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 2 - AFTER

The boys sit on the sideline defeated. Simon rises from his chair.

SIMON

How do you guys feel?

The boys can't speak.

SIMON (CONT'D)

You won the first game because you were lucky. You lost this game because you're a bad team.

Simon walks off, leaving the team on the field.

Miguel starts to leave.

PETERSON

Hotshot goalie.

MIGUEL

Yeah, how many points did you score striker?

PETERSON

I'd score on you.

Miguel shoves Peterson.

CROSS EYES

STOP GUYS!

MIGUEL

I'd like to see you tend goal!

Suit kid jumps between them just before Peterson takes a swing.

SUIT KID

Settle it on the field!

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - SUNSET

Peterson starts in the goal. Miguel rolls a ball to midfield.

SHORT STUFF BLOWS A WHISTLE.

Miguel powers up the field, dribbling hard. He fires the ball toward the net.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Curly and Simon play darts at a local bar.

CURLY

There are sixteen teams in the league. We are one and one, The Rockets are undefeated and they are definitely the team to beat.

(MORE)

CURLY (CONT'D)

I think if we could keep a solid fifty-fifty record we could make it to playoffs.

SIMON

You mean the Sloths...in the playoffs?

CURLY

Yup, then we would have to set our sights on the Rockets.

SIMON

Curly, these kids don't have a fifty-fifty chance of tying their shoelaces. There is no way they can make it to finals, they won't even last half the season.

CURLY

You've got to believe.

SIMON

There's nothing to believe in!
They're awful!

Curly has had enough of Simon's attitude. He throws a dart wildly and it sticks into a farmers hat.

CURLY

No you're awful! A coach is supposed to be a role model. They don't stand a chance if you don't give them one!

Curly throws another dart and it smashes a glass at the bar.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - NIGHT

The boys continue to shoot into the evening and the lights turn on on the field. The other boys dwindle until only Miguel and Peterson remain.

MIGUEL

You'll never get it past me.

Peterson shoots and Miguel blocks it.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

You're a ball hog. If I was playing your team I would keep my eyes you.

Peterson blasts it past Miguel and scores.

PETERSON

You don't make the stop because you don't come out to meet me. If you close in the distance between us I have less options.

In their competitive standoff, the boys start to teach and learn from each other.

MIGUEL

You should look the opposite direction you're shooting, I can always tell where you're going to aim.

Peterson looks up and left but kicks the ball right, scoring a goal.

PETERSON

You dive too much.

MIGUEL

Your footwork stinks.

PETERSON

Your throwing stinks.

Miguel comes out to meet Peterson, dribbling the ball.

MIGUEL

You can't steal the ball.

Peterson chases Miguel down to the other end of the field trying to steal the ball. The ball keeps changing possession. At the other end of the field Peterson runs into the goal box and Miguel shoots. Peterson dives and Miguel takes a huge shot into the corner of the net, falling down. On their backs the boys begin to laugh.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

As Simon breaks a rack at the pool table, Yvette walks in.

YVETTE

Pretty rough game ha coach?

SIMON

That's an understatement.

YVETTE

The Rockets are the best in the country, maybe the world. And they've got Vasquez.

SIMON

And the Sloths may be the worst in the world. And they've got me, a deadbeat.

YVETTE

You have more to offer them than you know. And you've got something with your team that Vasquez doesn't.

SIMON

What's that?

YVETTE

Family.

A song kicks on the jukebox.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

This is my jam! Come on let's dance.

Curly is holding a dart at the ready.

CURLY

YES!

He flails wildly, throwing the dart and it ricochets off of the floor, the wall, then goes through a window.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Mr. Santa Maria is driving his Oldsmobile slowly past the bar when a dart flies out and pops his tire.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Curly dances like a lunatic. Yvette laughs and drags Simon to the dance floor.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAWN

As the Sloths trudge to the field in the dawn light, Peterson and Miguel are already on the field juggling the ball back and forth.

MIGUEL

Suit Kid!

Miguel punts the ball into the air in his direction, and Suit Kid bounces it back to Peterson who continues to juggle.

PETERSON

Short Stuff!

Peterson pops the ball to Short Stuff and he bounces it off of his head to Miguel.

MIGUEL

Carne!

Carne gets into the huddle and juggles with the boys.

CARNE

Eyes!

He pops it to Cross Eyes. Cross Eyes misses the ball but finds it on the ground and kicks it to Hands.

CROSS EYES

Hands!

Hands bounces the ball like a volleyball.

HANDS

Triplets!

The triplets juggle the ball between the three of them.

The boys are having fun as Simon gets to the field. He approaches the circle and the fun dies down. The boys fan out quietly.

SIMON

How do you guys feel about that last game? Not good, right? I forgot to tell you something very important. Losing is just as important as winning. If you didn't lose then you wouldn't really know what it feels like to win. Do you guys want to win?

"Yeah" the team fires back, out of sync.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Simon says: let's play soccer.

Quickly, Simon rushes Peterson and steals the ball from him. He starts toward the goal. The boys stand dumbfounded.

SIMON (CONT'D)

No goalie, free shot!

Miguel bolts to his net and the other boys fall in step. Simon is enjoying himself and the team plays a fun game of soccer.

INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE - DAY

Simon picks up a pair of cleats and examines them as Peterson looks in the mirror at a pair that he's wearing.

SIMON

These things have come a long way
since I wore them.

He glances at Peterson.

SIMON (CONT'D)

How do you like those?

Peterson shrugs.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I think you're gonna be lightning
fast.

Peterson chuckles.

PETERSON

Are you sure it's ok?

INT. SPORTING GOODS STORE/REGISTER - CONTINUOUS

CACHING! Simon grabs the bag with the cleats and they step out onto the street.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL PLAZA - DAY

Simon and Peterson walk in front of a strip of stores, passing a soda back and forth.

PETERSON

I've never had anything new before.

SIMON

That's not true.

Peterson passes the soda to him.

PETERSON

Huh?

SIMON
You have a new brother.

PETERSON
Yeah but not really.

SIMON
What we're not brothers?

PETERSON
No, it's just that we were always
brothers, technically.

Simon passes the soda back, thinking.

SIMON
I guess so.

PETERSON
You don't want a brother.

SIMON
I was surprised is all.

PETERSON
I wasn't. Mom talked about you all
the time.

SIMON
She did? Did she say why she
abandoned me?

PETERSON
No.

SIMON
Surprised she remembered me. As a
mother she was useless. She
abandoned me and now she's left you
alone.

PETERSON
Don't talk about her like that.

The two approach Simon's van.

SIMON
She ruined my life.

PETERSON
You don't know anything about her.

SIMON
I know that she was useless.

PETERSON

SHUT UP!

Peterson throws the shoes at Simon and hops into the back of the van, slamming the door.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 3 - NIGHT

Large lights shine down on a well manicured soccer field.

THUMP. Peterson passes the ball to Suit Kid who is on a breakaway. He dribbles up the pitch and lines up for a shot, just as a RANGER DEFENDER steals the ball.

The Ranger boots the ball all the way across mid-field where a RANGER FORWARD tramples over Cross-Eyes and scores on Miguel.

The Sloths are frustrated. The game is 4-2 Rangers, with only minutes left.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 3 - NIGHT

The Sloths huddle around Simon. He draws on a white clipboard.

SIMON

Miguel will kick off to Carne, they haven't covered you all day. Carne you pass it to Short Stuff while Peterson and Suit Kid run up the right sideline. Short Stuff get it to Suit kid, Suit Kid to Peterson, Peterson go for a goal. Got that?

The boys look at each other, confused.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 3 - NIGHT

Miguel kicks it to Carne, but the defenders close in. Carne, terrified by the LARGE RANGERS barrelling in, passes the ball to Hands. Hands runs from the ball. The triplets get to the ball and kick it toward Suit Kid but it goes out of bounds.

The Rangers throw the ball in and blaze a trail toward the goal. Miguel is losing confidence as the whole team closes in.

Just as the ball leaves the Rangers foot, Peterson swoops in and steals it. He dances around the Rangers and breaks away toward their goal.

Peterson kicks the ball into the top corner of the net. Goal!

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 3 - NIGHT

With two minutes left, Simon calls a time-out and gathers the team in a huddle.

SIMON

Ok, here's the new game plan.

He writes on the whiteboard: "Give the ball to Peterson."

The team looks at Peterson who seems confused, but he nods.

CROSS EYES

(whispering to Short
Stuff)

What did it say?

SHORT STUFF

Give the ball to Peterson.

CROSS EYES

That makes sense.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 3 - NIGHT

Suit Kid gets the ball as the Rangers kick it in and he passes to Peterson. Peterson dribbles up the field, then passes back to Suit Kid.

The ball is stolen.

Suit Kid looks at Simon, shrugging.

Peterson follows the ball up the field and steals it back. He dribbles all the way to the Rangers goal then passes it to Cross Eyes. The ball flies out of bounds.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 3 - NIGHT

SIMON

(to Peterson)

What are you doing?

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 3- NIGHT

The Rangers take a shot on Miguel and he saves it. He throws it out to Peterson who dribbles up the field. At the last minute, he passes to Suit Kid who fires it into the net.

The Sloths cheer, the game is tied up.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 3 - NIGHT

Simon drops his clipboard.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 3 - NIGHT

The clock is winding down. A Circle of RANGERS PLAYERS are playing keep away with the triplets in the center. As the ball crosses, the triplets slide on the ground in unison and the ball flies out of the circle and right to Peterson.

Peterson charges the net and punts the ball.

SWOOSH. The ball hits the net as the time runs out.

The Sloths cheer.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/SIDELINE/GAME 3 - NIGHT

The boys run to the sideline.

SIMON
(to Peterson)
You don't listen.

PETERSON
What?

SIMON
Why should I coach you if you don't
want to listen?

Simon storms off. The boys toe the ground with their cleats.

Peterson rips his Sloths jersey off and whips it to the ground.

Miguel grabs the white board from the ground and scribbles:
"You can't read," showing it to Peterson.

MIGUEL
What do you think of this?

Peterson shrugs.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Would this be a good play?

PETERSON

Whatever.

Peterson runs away.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peterson lays alone in a dark corner thumbing through his scrapbook. He draws a heart next to a picture of his mother.

SIMON

She was really pretty.

Startled, Peterson slams the book shut. Simon has been watching him from the doorway.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I kept this my whole life, hoping
I'd see her again.

Simon lifts up an old photo of his mother when she was young.

SIMON (CONT'D)

It's for you.

Peterson stands and takes it. He starts to cry.

Simon scoops him into an awkward embrace. Peterson lets go for a moment, caught in his brothers hug.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I shouldn't have said those things.

Peterson pushes away from him.

PETERSON

Yeah, but you did.

He grabs his scrapbook and runs out the door, slamming it.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - MORNING

The boys file in for practice.

Curly whips his car in and jogs to the boys.

CURLY

Where's coach and Peterson?

The boys shrug.

CURLY (CONT'D)
Alright. Well, lets do some
kicking.

Curly kicks a ball as hard as he can, it hits Suit Kid in the chest and sends him flying backward.

CURLY (CONT'D)
WOAH!

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

Curly has the boys standing in a line. He fires soccer balls at them with a golf club, the boys try to block the balls.

CURLY
DON'T USE YOUR HANDS!

INT. YVETTE'S OFFICE - DAY

Simon knocks at the door of Yvette's office. Her walls are covered with photos of children, and there is a heavy stack of paperwork on her desk.

YVETTE
Simon, hey, what brings you here?

SIMON
I was wondering if you wanted to
grab lunch.

Yvette lifts a brown bag.

YVETTE
Any reason?

SIMON
It's Peterson.

YVETTE
Is he alright?

SIMON
Yeah. I'm just not really sure
about this soccer thing.

YVETTE
He's great at it, what's the
problem?

SIMON
I don't think I can coach him.

YVETTE

You have a 2-1 record, and I've seen that team. You're a great coach.

SIMON

It's not so much the soccer, really. I'm just not sure that I want this.

YVETTE

Want what?

Simon sits down across from her.

SIMON

I can't take care of him.

YVETTE

You're his only family.

SIMON

I had no family until last week, and my life was just fine.

YVETTE

Look I can't force you to do this. I have to look out for Peterson's best interest, and if you won't take care of him I will.

Yvette rifles around in her desk.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

Here is the paperwork to remand custody of Peterson to the state.

She tosses it to him.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

Come on we're getting lunch.

She walks out of the room, without looking at Simon.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

But Simon, before you sign that you should understand what you're letting go. Just take until the end of the season.

INT./EXT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

THUD, THUD, THUD. Peterson opens the door. Miguel is carrying a box of comic books and soccer magazines stacked to his neck.

PETERSON
What is this?

MIGUEL
School.

Miguel pushes through the door.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Miguel plops the box down and the magazines spill all over the floor.

MIGUEL
So what do you want?

He rifles through them.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Avengers, Superman, Flash?

PETERSON
I don't want anything.

MIGUEL
You can't read, right?

PETERSON
What?

MIGUEL
It's cool. I don't care.

PETERSON
I can read.

MIGUEL
What does this say?

He holds up a "Soccer World" magazine.

PETERSON
I don't want your help.

MIGUEL
Avengers are my favorite.

Miguel picks up a comic and throws it at Peterson.

EXT. VILLAGE SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The boys sit on the field picking grass.

Curly tries to rouse them to play a game. He kicks the ball to the twins but it rolls between them.

Carne is sitting on a cooler.

CURLY

Think fast!

Curly kicks a ball at him. It blasts him in the chest and he flies backward to the ground.

CURLY (CONT'D)

Sorry!

EXT. CITY - DAY

Simon and Yvette walk through an alley of food trucks carrying small plates of carnitas.

YVETTE

You grew up at NPH right?

SIMON

You have my file?

YVETTE

No I remember you. I was at Sisters of Charity.

SIMON

You were in a home?

YVETTE

Of course you wouldn't remember me. You were the big soccer star.

SIMON

Should I remember you?

YVETTE

Our schools went on a field trip together to the museum in Mexico City.

SIMON

I remember that trip!

YVETTE

Do you remember the girl sitting
next to you on the bus?

Simon coughs up his food.

SIMON

No. No way. You're pigtails?

YVETTE

Wow I didn't know I was that
forgettable.

SIMON

I can't believe this!

As they turn a corner there is some commotion on the street.

A TV CAMERAMAN is filming Vasquez, who is signing autographs
for SCHOOLKIDS.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Oh no.

VASQUEZ

Simon! Tough loss the other day
buddy.

(to cameraman)

Get this guy, this is Simon
Fuentes, former soccer star turned
coach!

Vasquez notices Yvette.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

Yvette! How are you?

SIMON

You know him?

VASQUEZ

Yeah it's been like two weeks, you
don't call anymore? We should get
together! Gotta run you two, doing
a TV thing tonight. Go easy on him,
he's got a bum leg!

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

MIGUEL

BAM! Thor smashes Loki with his
hammer.

PETERSON
Why is he beating up his brother?

MIGUEL
You have to know the backstory.
They are both Gods but they want
different things. Thor wants peace
and prosperity in Asgaard and Loki
wants to dominate the universe.
What's this word?

PETERSON
(sounding it out)
Clash.

MIGUEL
So you never went to school?

PETERSON
Didn't have money.

MIGUEL
What did you do?

PETERSON
I did different stuff for people.
Helped my mom.

MIGUEL
Do you want to go to school?

Peterson shrugs.

PETERSON
I'm too behind.

MIGUEL
That's why we've got this.

He holds up a comic.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
HULK SMASH!

Miguel thrashes a pile of magazines.

PETERSON
I said I don't want to go!

MIGUEL
Ok chill man. What's this word?

PETERSON
I don't know.

MIGUEL
Sound it out.

He points to a word, "KICK."

PETERSON
No.

MIGUEL
Come on, you know this word.

PETERSON
I SAID NO!

Peterson storms away.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

The team lazily kicks soccer balls around on the field.
Curly runs, weaving through the boys.

CURLY
C'mon GO! GO! GO! KICK IT!

The boys look at each other and can't help but laugh.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD/GAME 4 - DAY

Sloth's are clearly out-matched as players from the Bombers trample them.

The team plays lazily. Peterson kicks the ball out of bounds. Suit kid lets a ball roll right through his legs. Simon is frustrated on the sideline.

SIMON
Come on!

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD/GAME 4/SIDELINE - DAY

The boys are sitting on the sideline. They have lost.

SIMON
You were different people last week. Suit kid you weren't trying. Triplets, you guys were on another planet. Do you guys even want to be here?

No one wants to answer.

SIMON (CONT'D)
I don't know why I bother!

The crowd of boys parts as Short Stuff pushes his way through to the front.

SHORT STUFF
You don't bother!

Simon whips around.

SHORT STUFF (CONT'D)
Where were you at practice? Where were you Peterson, Miguel? We all want to be here, but we don't have a coach!

SIMON
Do you all feel this way?

The boys toe the ground and nod.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Ok. Everyone keep your weekend free. Curly and I will pick you up at 5:30 AM tomorrow.

EXT. CAMPING LODGE - DAY

Curly's van pulls up in front of a luxurious lake cabin. The doors slide open and Sloths pile out and run to the cabin, calling beds and rooms.

Simon steps out onto a large porch and blows a whistle.

SIMON
Don't get too comfortable.
Everyone drop your bags by the door and follow Curly to the field!

FROM THE DISTANCE - a car pulls up, spraying dust.

The car whips up to the cabin and out steps Chili.

Chili's Dad, driving the car, waves to Simon and pulls away.

SUIT KID
It's Chili! Guys it's Chili!

SIMON
You boys know Chili?

HANDS

He's the best goalie in our town!

The boys run and huddle around Chili who is smiling.

PETERSON

(to Miguel)

Looks like you'll get a chance out
of the goalie prison.

SIMON

If it's alright with everyone, he's
going to be joining the Sloths.

The boys cheer.

EXT. FIELD IN THE WOODS/SIDELINE - DAY

The boys stand in line on a large patchy pitch in the middle
of the woods.

SIMON

What we have boys, is a gang of
weaknesses. Short Stuff, what's
your weakness?

SHORT STUFF

My height?

SIMON

WRONG! It's how you're using your
height. Carne, what's your
weakness?

CARNE

My weight?

SIMON

WRONG! It's how you're using it!
Cross Eyes, what's your weakness?

CROSS EYES

My eyes?

SIMON

Actually that may be true. The
point is we have a gang of
weaknesses that we need to turn
into strengths. When you find your
strength in your weakness, you can
truly become great. Let's go!

Simon begins to run along the sideline.

CURLY
YOU HEARD THE MAN, GO GO GO!

The boys run after Simon.

EXT. FIELD IN THE WOODS - DAY

BEGIN MONTAGE

SIMON
Simon says you have to face your
fears on the field. If you can
overcome your fears nothing can
stop you.

Curly kicks several balls at Hands, who can't help but stop them all with his palms. Simon takes Hands and pulls a jersey over his head. He pulls out a large roll of duct tape and spins it around Hands until his arms are locked tight. The rest of the boys kick balls at him, forcing him to dance around. He eventually kicks them back.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Simon says you have to hustle.
HUSTLE!

Curly releases a large pack of dogs that begin to chase Carne down the field.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Simon says be delicate and graceful
with the ball. Be a dancer!

The boys dribble eggs down the field. The keep breaking for some, for others its a slow game.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Simon says put all your power into
your legs.

The boys kick medicine balls and stub their toes. They try to dribble them, but they are incredibly heavy.

Cross eyes continues to miss as he aims for a non-moving soccer ball.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Simon says work together!

The boys dribble a large hamster ball with Curly inside of it, he gets slosed around. He works against them as they try to get him into the goal.

CURLY

Curly says you need to learn the
ways of the SLOTH!

Curly takes over the drills and his exercises turn to hot-dog fights, dog-piles, super-soakers, slip and slides, and mayhem. He teaches them to dress, walk, dance like him. The kids tie his shoe laces together and fill his back pockets with hot-dogs, and he gets attacked by actual dogs.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Simon stands on dock while the boys sit in canoes, back to back.

SIMON

Working on a team is about
understanding your teammates; how
they play, their strengths and
weaknesses. The first team to the
other side of the lake gets out of
running drills tonight. GO!

The boys paddle hard, and spin in circles paddling against one another.

Carne doesn't paddle and his partner splashes, but their boat doesn't move.

Peterson is in a boat with Hands.

HANDS

Work backwards!

PETERSON

What?

HANDS

Just work backwards, I'll go
forward!

EXT. FIELD IN THE WOODS - DAY

SIMON

To win, you have to work as a
single unit.

As Simon speaks, Curly is sneaking behind the boys and tying their shoelaces together.

Simon punts a ball.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Go get it team!

They all fall flat together.

THE BOYS GRADUALLY MASTER THE EXERCISES.

They dribble eggs gracefully, they push medicine balls up the field. Hands is dribbling and receiving passes. They push Curly's hamster ball into the net. Carne has trained the dogs and runs with them.

EXT. FIELD IN THE WOODS/GOAL - DAY

Curly hangs upside-down by his legs on the goal, like a bat. He is upside down, face to face with Chili.

CURLY
If you want to play like a Sloth,
you have to BE a sloth. Here I'll
show you- pass me that banana.

Chili hands him a banana from the ground. Curly starts moving very slowly, eating it.

CURLY (CONT'D)
I call this move "The Majestic
Sloth," you have to channel the
spirit of the animal. Ok, now try
to make a goal.

Chili lines a ball up and boots it. It smacks Curly in the face and he does a back flip, landing flat on his stomach.

CURLY (CONT'D)
Good, well, you understand.

CHILI
I don't think I do.

CURLY
(yelling)
YOU'RE A SLOTH NOW!

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Peterson and Hands paddle reverse of each other, laughing. They are far ahead of the pack and they pull up on shore, cheering. They've won!

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Kids are goofing around while roasting hot dogs over a campfire. Side conversations are taking place, and they are laughing, singing songs, enjoying each others company. Simon watches Peterson making better friends with his teammates, emerging as a leader.

CARNE
 MORE HOT DOGS! BRING ME MORE HOT
 DOGS!

Carne is roasting 30 hot dogs on a crazy roasting stick. The boys laugh.

CURLY
 Hot dogs?

He reaches in his pockets and pulls out lots of loose hot dogs.

CURLY (CONT'D)
 (to Cross Eyes)
 Give these to Carne.

Cross Eyes tosses a hand full of hot dogs and they slap three different boys in the face.

Peterson approaches Miguel in a corner.

PETERSON
 Hey.

Miguel glances up. He mashes a s'more together.

PETERSON (CONT'D)
 Hulk smash?

Miguel giggles.

PETERSON (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry for the other day. I
 want to learn, I just get mad
 because I'm so behind.

MIGUEL
 You're not behind on the field.
 You're really good.

PETERSON
 Better than you?

MIGUEL
 No way.

PETERSON

Well we're gonna see now!

Peterson notices Simon at the other end of the campfire. He darkens. Miguel is reading a comic book.

MIGUEL

You remember Thor and Loki?

Peterson nods.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Well there's one main reason why they are always in battle.

PETERSON

Why?

MIGUEL

Cause they're brothers.

The fire swells really high, the boys yell.

Curly is pouring lighter fluid on the fire.

CURLY

I've got this under control!

EXT. WOODS - MORNING

Simon runs alongside Peterson, making him dribble a ball.

SIMON

It seems like you've got something against me.

PETERSON

No.

SIMON

I wish we could start over.

He reaches to shake Peterson's hand.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I'm Simon, your older brother. I'm a lonely washed up water salesman whose dreams all died when I was a little older than you.

Peterson smiles weakly and keeps dribbling.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Look I know that you have a lot going on, but life doesn't have to be this hard.

PETERSON

Ok. Hi, I'm Peterson. I have no friends, no family, and I'm stupid.

SIMON

First of all don't ever put yourself down. There are plenty of people in life to do that for you. Second, you have the team.

PETERSON

You hate the team, why should I like them?

SIMON

I don't hate the team. I hate that I can't have what the team has, the excitement of taking the field and playing. I lost all of that. But I'm finding it again. If you open up you might find it yourself.

Simon steals the ball, flips it over his head and juggles it.

PETERSON

Show me how to do that.

As they pass the cabin Yvette sees them from the deck, after showing up to check in. She watches them play together as they pass in the distance, before she leaves.

Suit Kid runs up the trail.

SUIT KID

COME LOOK! Eyes is doing it!

EXT. FIELD IN THE WOODS - CONTINUOUS

Simon and Peterson barrel up to the field.

Cross Eyes is wearing a large custom pair of coke bottle glasses. The glasses have a large piece of cardboard taped directly up the middle, separating the vision of his two eyes.

He glares at the ball in front of the net with a determined grimace.

THUNK.

Cross Eyes drills it into the corner of the net. His glasses fall to the ground as the boys cheer and surround him. Simon reaches to high five, and Cross Eyes misses terribly.

EXT. FIELD IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

The boys are running hard drills back and forth. They have progressed as a team, they can pass, shoot, and score.

Curly ties their shoelaces again and the boys manage to run up the field together.

Simon blows his whistle and the boys take a knee.

SIMON

This is a yellow card. It's a warning that you've broken a rule of the game. I'm giving myself one. I wasn't acting like your coach, and I'm sorry. If you need to call someone out, you give them a yellow card and tell them why.

Carne stands up and takes the yellow card.

CARNE

I'm giving one to myself, because I can try harder.

TRIPLET 1

I'm giving one to us, because we need to pay attention.

MIGUEL

For me, because I didn't want to play with you guys. And because I couldn't see who my real friends were.

He glances at Peterson.

CURLY

For me because I left the shower on in the cabin.

Curly turns and bolts away.

Peterson stands up, lowering his head, and walks slowly to take the yellow card.

PETERSON

I'm sorry. I didn't know the meaning of friendship, and I've been a jerk. I'm sorry.

The boys all rise into a huddle around Peterson. Miguel begins beating his chest and stomping his foot.

MIGUEL

We're more than friends. We're a team.

The boys beat their chest with Miguel.

SIMON

Who are we?

TEAM

SLOTHS!

SIMON

I don't care what happens this season. Just know that when you play with your whole heart, I promise you can never lose. LEGS IN!

They all put a leg in the huddle, stomping.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 5-10 - DAY

BEGIN MONTAGE

The legs stomp into game 5, where the Sloths use their newfound skills to wallop The Rays.

Cross Eyes scores a goal, Carne outruns his opponents.

They beat the Bucks in similar fashion.

GRAPHICS SUPER: SLOTHS 4, RAYS 2

CURLY (V.O.)

The Sloths move up to the fifth seed with their victory over the Rays and the Bucks.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

The Rockets dominate a team. They are flawless and ruthless. They are not afraid to hurt players if that's what it comes to.

Ricardo slide tackles a small boy. The Giant clotheslines TWO KIDS at once and gets a red card.

CURLY (V.O.)

The Rockets continue to prove they are the best team in the world. They are taking names and putting whole teams in body bags.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

CONTINUE MONTAGE.

Miguel helps Peterson to write a letter.

Peterson folds it nicely, puts it in an envelope, and puts it in the mail.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

CONTINUE MONTAGE

The Sloths beat three more teams.

The triplets juggle the ball between them and dance up the field.

Suit Kid scores from mid field with a huge punt.

Peterson and Miguel have quick footwork and wail balls into the net.

CURLY (V.O)

With their defeat of the Bulldogs, the Sloths advance to fourth place.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/OFFICE - DAY

Coach Carera is sitting at his desk in his office above the national league Pitch. He opens Peterson's letter and smiles.

EXT. VILLAGE HUT - DAY

Some LOCAL WOMEN are celebrating the Sloth's victories by making homemade Sloth tees.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

The crowd for Sloth games grows. Villagers come in droves wearing Sloth gear, holding up signs, and cheering.

Yvette oversees a group of WORKERS who erect the bleachers to double the size.

INT. CURLY'S VAN - DAY

Curly has wires hanging all over his shaggy, decked out van. He uses a saw to carve a huge hole in the ceiling, where he erects a massive speaker stack with a satellite dish on top.

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

Curly announces the game through his van speakers. They are blaring, so loud that villagers hold their ears.

CURLY

And with that, the Sloths have solidified their third place slot in the league with their victory over The Armadillos!

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/OFFICE - DAY

Simon walks into a large windowed office overlooking the national league pitch.

Coach Carera stands up from his desk, happy to see Simon. He greets him as an old friend.

COACH CARERA

Simon! It's been years my man, how are you?

SIMON

I'm well coach. I was surprised that you reached out.

Coach Carera picks up a newspaper and flings it at Simon. He snags it out of the air.

COACH CARERA

You didn't think you could get back
in the game without me knowing, did
you?

Simon looks at the paper and sees a photo of himself smiling
on the Sloths sidelines. The headline reads "Fuentes Back in
the Game?"

SIMON

No coach, it's not like that.

COACH CARERA

Well it's what I've been waiting
for a long time. I called you in to
talk about the future.

EXT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

The Sloths are walking down the road in front of Peterson's
house kicking a ball and laughing. Peterson runs up to the
door.

PETERSON

Catch you later.

The boys all holler goodbyes.

INT. SIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

PETERSON

Hello?

No one is home.

Peterson opens the drawer with Simon's old photos and looks
at them smiling. Under a large photo of Simon and Vasquez,
Peterson finds the paperwork that Yvette gave to Simon.

Peterson sinks. He wells up with tears, realizing what the
paper is.

EXT. PIZZA PARTY - NIGHT

A top pops off of a Coca-Cola bottle and the liquid fizzes
over.

The Sloths and their families talk happily and raucously at
picnic tables outside.

Curly chats with Suit Kid's Dad, SUIT MAN.

CURLY

It's complex but we still have a shot at the title. We need to beat the Sharks in the Semi Finals, but we need the Falcons to beat the Cougars in order for us to advance.

SIMON

Alright everyone listen up! It's been a wild couple of weeks, and I just want to thank you guys. Sloths, you've given all you have out on the field and you've made me proud. The journey isn't over yet, we've got semi-finals-

The room cheers.

SIMON (CONT'D)

It's not going to be easy, but we've gotta keep having fun and playing like we have been.

Yvette walks up to the front of the room near Simon.

YVETTE

Ok boys, we've been so happy with your performance that Curly and I got together to get you a little present.

Curly lifts up a large cardboard box.

Simon's phone rings. He looks at it and excuses himself just as the boys crowd around the box. Yvette and Peterson notice that he leaves quickly.

The box is taped shut.

CURLY

Cross Eyes, toss me that knife.

THE SLOTHS

NOOO!

Cross Eyes throws a knife that sails wildly to the side. Mr. Santa Maria is standing in the corner, and the knife pins his hat to the wall.

Curly rips open the box.

CURLY

Nevermind!

THE SLOTHS
WOAH! YEAH! THESE ARE KILLER!

The boys pull fresh new gold uniforms out of the box. They have a ferocious looking sloth on the front.

CURLY
They're the most fierce jungle animal known to man. The Ferocious Sloths!

EXT. OUTSIDE OF PIZZA PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Simon is finishing up his phone call as Yvette steps out of the party carrying a shirt.

SIMON
Sure thing, I'll see you there.

Simon hangs up and celebrates privately.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Yes!

YVETTE
(surprising Simon)
Good news?

SIMON
Great news. That was Coach Carera. He wants me to line coach for the national team.

YVETTE
Oh my God, Simon that's amazing!

SIMON
I know! I start next Friday, we're playing in Brazil!

YVETTE
What about the championship?

SIMON
Well the Sloths will have to win tomorrow in order to play next Friday.

YVETTE
And what if they win?

SIMON

They've come this far, but every good run has to end. The Sharks are crazy good, second best in the league. I think the Sloths season ends tomorrow.

YVETTE

That's a horrible attitude.

SIMON

I'm a realist.

YVETTE

You're a jerk. What about Peterson?

SIMON

Well we would have to talk about that-

YVETTE

I can't believe you. I thought you were good, but maybe you're just selfish. Good luck with your first game, coach.

Yvette throws the shirt at him and storms out. He looks down at the back of the Sloths jersey. It reads "Coach Fuentes."

EXT. PIZZA PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Simon comes back in to a cheery crowd of Sloths, who yell for him.

THE SLOTHS

Sweet shirt, coach! Coach, coach, coach!

SIMON

Alright guys, get some sleep. Tomorrow we play some real soccer.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM - MORNING

Curly's van pulls up in front of the Azteca national stadium, and the Sloths pile out. The boys are in awe of it's size, they run to the entrance gate.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/PITCH - MORNING

The boys flood the field, elated.

Simon blows the whistle.

SIMON

Curly is going to run practice today. No horsing around, this is the most important game yet.

FAMOUS SOCCER PLAYERS walk onto the field.

FAMOUS PLAYER 1

Woah, Simon when did you get back on the field.

FAMOUS PLAYER 2

Good to see you man!

MIGUEL

(whispering to Peterson)
That's FAMOUS PLAYER 1 and 2!
Mexico's top striker and goalie!

SIMON

Hey guys, this is my team the Sloths. Sloths these are my old pals. Hey do you guys want to run some drills?

FAMOUS PLAYER 1

Practice makes perfect, let's do it!

The Sloths are astounded that Simon knows these players, and that they get to warm up with them.

Famous Player 1 kicks a ball to Peterson and the boys all fall in step, passing the ball back and forth.

The kids start to practice and Simon slips away.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/OFFICE - DAY

Simon enters Coach Carera's office to find the coach chatting with Vasquez.

COACH CARERA

Simon! I never thought I'd get you boys in the same room again.

SIMON

What is this?

COACH CARERA

This is burying the hatchet.

VASQUEZ

I didn't know he was doing this.

COACH CARERA

Look the bottom line is that I want you both to come work for me, but it won't happen unless I know that the past is in the past.

VASQUEZ

I can't speak for Simon but I hold no ill feelings.

COACH CARERA

Good! Simon?

SIMON

What do you want me to say?

COACH CARERA

I want you to get it on the table. Is there anything you want to say to Vasquez?

SIMON

No.

COACH CARERA

Good. We are flying out for Brazil next weekend, I expect to see you both at the airport.

SIMON

Coach, the finals for the junior national league are next week.

Vasquez breaks into laughter.

VASQUEZ

The Sloths in the finals? HA!

COACH CARERA

Well you have a choice to make. This is the big leagues, you won't have time for that kind of thing.

VASQUEZ

It's no problem coach. The Rocket's are my job now, but I want a promotion. I'll be there.

Simon stares hard at an old picture of him and Vasquez on the coaches wall.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

A sign in a ritzy hotel lobby reads "Welcome JNL semi-finalists!"

The Sloths enter the hotel, amazed at its size. They carry duffle bags and trash bags with their things, dragging them across the floor as the Rockets enter in their clean matching track suits. Hotel staff follow the Rockets carrying their luggage.

ROCKETS DEFENDER

BAHA! IT'S THE SLOTHS!

RICARDO

Hey Sloths, are you here to cheer for us?

CARNE

We're here to play!

RICARDO

You're here to lose. You know you guys are a joke, right?

VICTOR

You're only in the league because people feel bad for you.

RICARDO

I kinda hope you guys win, I would love to crush you again.

Jaime looks at Miguel and laughs.

JAIME

You're still hanging on? You should have left these losers a long time ago.

The Rockets crack up and leave the Sloths in the lobby.

SHORT STUFF
Are we really a joke?

MIGUEL
No, that kid is a jerk.

Peterson wanders away from the group.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY/FOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Peterson stares into a fountain filled with coins. Vasquez moseys up next to him.

VASQUEZ
You're Peterson, right?

Peterson nods.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)
You're Simon's brother. The best player on the Sloths. You remind me of him.

PETERSON
I don't think we're that much alike.

VASQUEZ
You're both great at soccer. You must be so excited for him.

PETERSON
For Simon?

VASQUEZ
Yeah, big coach for the national team. He didn't tell you? Well I don't mean to ruin the surprise, but he's leaving the Sloth's this week for Brazil. Hopefully he doesn't quit this team like he quit ours.

PETERSON
He didn't quit, he got hurt.

VASQUEZ
Well yeah he got hurt, but he didn't have to stop playing. Lots of people come back from injuries. Ya know, you should be playing for a real team. Give me a call and maybe I can help you out.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY/CONCIERGE DESK - NIGHT

Simon and Curly check into the hotel.

CONCIERGE

Here are all of your keys, the rooms are on the thirty fifth floor.

SIMON

Thanks.

CURLY

So why are you dressed so fancy coach?

SIMON

I had a meeting with Coach Carera.

CURLY

THE Coach Carera? ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? Why wasn't I invited? I'm even wearing my dress cloths today!

Curly points at his button down wolf-printed shirt and shiny metallic pants.

SIMON

Well it was a job interview really.

CURLY

You're going to coach the National Team?

SIMON

I think so.

CURLY

THAT'S AMAZING! CONGRATS!

Curly turns to where the Sloths are gathered.

CURLY (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Hey guys, did you hear?

SIMON

Curly, no! The team can't know.

CURLY

What, why?

SIMON

I have to leave this week.

CURLY
You're leaving the Sloths?

EXT. HOTEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Yvette is walking toward the entrance of the hotel when Vasquez walks out.

VASQUEZ
Yvette! How's the Sloth's biggest cheerleader?

YVETTE
Hey Vasquez. Ready for the game tomorrow?

VASQUEZ
It's really not a contest.

YVETTE
You're too sure of your team.

VASQUEZ
I'm sure of myself.

YVETTE
I never got a chance to thank you in person, for helping the Sloths get in the league.

VASQUEZ
Anything for my old friend Simon.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY/CONCIERGE DESK - NIGHT

SIMON
I've got a once in a lifetime chance here.

CURLY
Well so do the Sloths! Except it's once in all of our lives, not just yours.

SIMON
I have to make the right choice for me.

CURLY
Yeah you do coach. I just hope you know which choice it is.

Curly slinks away.

Simon notices Yvette and Vasquez outside the hotel.

EXT. HOTEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Yvette and Vasquez share a long hug.

YVETTE

He's really a good guy.

VASQUEZ

You don't have to tell me, Simon and I were the best of friends. I just hope he's treating you right.

YVETTE

Oh we're not- no Simon and I are just-

VASQUEZ

Call it what you want, cheerleader.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY/FOUNTAIN - CONTINUOUS

Curly spots The Weasel by the fountain filming a group of sloths who are hackie-sacking in the corner.

THE WEASEL

The tall skinny one they call Suit Kid has decent footwork, but nothing to worry about.

Curly jumps and throws his face in front of the camera, screaming.

THE WEASEL SHRIEKS AND FALLS INTO THE FOUNTAIN.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY/ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Simon heads to the elevator and presses the button. As the door opens, Vasquez spots him and catches him.

VASQUEZ

Simon, hey! Crazy meeting with Carera, huh?

Simon grunts in what could be agreement or denial. The elevator bell dings and the men both get on.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

35. So what are you gonna do?

SIMON

Why do you care?

VASQUEZ

We could be teammates again.

SIMON

We might work together.

VASQUEZ

Yeah but it would be headline news-
Vasquez and Fuentes playing
together after all these years.

SIMON

We wouldn't be playing.

VASQUEZ

You' get what I'm saying. Look I'm
not trying to sway you from The
Sloths, you just have to understand
how big of a deal this is. For both
of us.

SIMON

It benefits you.

VASQUEZ

It benefits us, we are old friends.

SIMON

Oh drop the act man, you know I
hate you. You don't want to be
teammates again you want me to piss
off so that you can swoop in and
take something else from my life-

VASQUEZ

Take from you? I was the only
reason you were ANYTHING! Somehow
they all remember you, "The Golden
Leg."

SIMON

I could have been more if you
didn't end my career.

VASQUEZ

Maybe I DID end your career, just
like I'm going to end your season
and your PATHETIC TEAM!

SIMON
There it is, there's the real
Vasquez.

VASQUEZ
You act like everything that went
wrong for you was my fault.

SIMON
Because it was-

The door opens and Vasquez steps off.

VASQUEZ
You keep telling yourself that and
you're sure to believe it.

There is a long pause before the door begins to close. The two men stand staring at each other. At the last minute Simon reaches his hand and stops the elevator from closing.

SIMON
I'm on this floor.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Simon enters his hotel room livid from his fight with Vasquez. Peterson is sitting on the bed waiting for him.

PETERSON
Are you leaving us?

SIMON
What do you mean?

PETERSON
Vasquez told me.

SIMON
Vasquez, God! I'm going to kill
him.

PETERSON
Don't blame him, you're the one
running away.

SIMON
I'm not running away, I have the
chance of a lifetime. You should
be happy for me!

PETERSON
Happy for you? What about the team?

SIMON

You guys will be fine, you have
Curly.

PETERSON

What's about me?

SIMON

It's something we have to talk
about.

PETERSON

All you care about is yourself.
Vasquez was right, you're quitting
the team just like you quit on your
dreams.

SIMON

What did Vasquez tell you?

PETERSON

And worst of all you're dumping me
back on the street! I saw the
papers, Simon.

SIMON

Peterson-

Peterson pulls a yellow card out of his back pocket.

PETERSON

No! A few weeks ago I thought that
I had no one left in the world. I
don't care about losing a coach, I
just didn't want to lose my
brother.

He tosses the yellow card on the bed and runs out. Next to
the yellow card lays Peterson's scrap book, open to a page in
the back.

Simon lifts it and flips through. The scrapbook is filled
with pictures of him as a young player. Peterson has
idolized him all along.

In the back of the book Simon finds the paperwork to remand
Peterson back to the state.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 11/ELIMINATION DAY - DAY

CURLY (V.O.)

The Sloths have a tough match-up today, but even if they win it's not over yet. They need the Sharks to lose their match in order to advance to the playoff game.

The game is 1-1.

Suit Kid is covered by two defenders, and can't receive a pass.

The triplets try to pass to each other but the ball is stolen.

A FORWARD for the Sharks barrels up the field, passes it to a TEAMMATE who kicks it in the top corner of the net, just out of Chili's reach. 2-1.

Simon calls a time out.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 11/ELIMINATION DAY/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

SIMON

The normal tricks aren't working guys. What do you want to do?

MIGUEL

Give the ball to Peterson.

The boys all agree.

SIMON

Ok Peterson, it's your show. Everyone else, try to block for him.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 11/ELIMINATION DAY - CONTINUOUS

The ball is placed center field and Suit Kid kicks off to Peterson.

The Triplets run in front of him, side to side, and he dribbles behind them.

Peterson dodges a defender, kicks the ball through the legs of another and catches up to it.

The SHARKS GOALIE is trying to see behind the line of Sloths, they are blocking his vision of the ball. The Sloths part and Peterson shoots through the gap with fancy footwork. He hammers a goal into the net. Tie game!

The crowd erupts.

Curly is broadcasting live from his van that is pulled up to the sideline.

CURLY
PETERSON DOES IT! HE TIES UP THE
GAME WITH TWO MINUTES LEFT!

The defending team kicks off and immediately the triplets intercept the ball. They juggle it from head-to-head between each other. They butt the ball to Short Stuff who kicks it to Carne. Carne passes to Peterson who dodges a defender and takes it up the field.

The clock is down to :30 seconds.

Peterson drives toward the goal. At the last minute he passes to Miguel.

CURLY (CONT'D)
Miguel takes the shot - HE SCORES!
SLOTHS WIN! SLOTHS WIN! SLOTHS WIN!

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - DAY

Villagers huddled around the radio cheer.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD/GAME 11/ELIMINATION DAY - CONTINUOUS

The Sloths gather in the center of the field and cheer.

Peterson notices Yvette on the sideline approaching Simon. She is not celebrating.

Yvette whispers in Simon's ear and his smile fades and shoulders slump.

Simon trots onto the field and the boys huddle around him cheering.

SIMON
Guys, guys, guys. The Cougars won.
We don't advance.

The Sloth's slump. They are defeated.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry guys.

PETERSON

You're not sorry, you're happy that we lost.

SIMON

Peterson-

PETERSON

You don't care!

(to the Sloths)

He was going to leave us anyway, he got a big job with the National league.

MIGUEL

Is that true coach?

SIMON

I was going to tell you guys. Look I'm proud of you for making it this far.

CARNE

Did you think that we could make it all the way?

SIMON

Maybe.

The Sloths start to walk away from Simon.

TRIPLET 2

Thanks for everything coach.

Yvette runs onto the field.

SIMON

Look I need to figure out what's going on with Peterson. I leave on Monday.

YVETTE

So you're taking off?

SIMON

Yes.

YVETTE

Your brother needs you right now.

SIMON

My brother needs parents. I'm not
his father.

Yvette's face drops as she stares behind Simon.

Simon turns to see Peterson, tears in his eyes. He turns and runs.

YVETTE

Peterson!

Yvette runs after him.

EXT. VILLAGE/MEAT STAND - DAY

BEGIN MONTAGE - BOYS GO BACK TO THEIR NORMAL LIVES

Carne serves a customer a large meat skewer.

INT. SHORT STUFF'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Short Stuff plays video games with his brothers. He doesn't share their enthusiasm.

EXT. SHOOTING RANGE - CONTINUOUS

Cross Eyes watches as the police trainees shoot at targets.

INT. SUIT FAMILY'S SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Suit Kid measures a man who is being tailored for a suit.

INT. COURTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The Judge thumbs through papers as Yvette speaks with him. Peterson sits alone on a long bench.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

Simon, suited in his national team track suit, throws a ball out onto the field where the team is running a drill. He notices something on the ground, and reaches to pick up a yellow card.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. VILLAGE/SIDE OF THE ROAD/CURLY'S VAN - DAY

Curly is arguing with Mr. Santa Maria, still holding his crushed loaf of bread.

CURLY

See you know NOTHING about soccer if you think Chelsea is better than Real Madrid! I swear- I could kick you. I SHOULD kick you. Let's go to the field right now, I will whoop you for saying that!

Curly's van starts blaring a song and lighting up all over. He picks up a car phone from inside the sliding door.

CURLY (CONT'D)

Curly's Custom Electronics and Hot Dogs. Uh-huh-

Curly's face drops.

CURLY (CONT'D)

What do you mean? WHAT!? YES!

Curly slams the phone. He grabs Mr. Santa Maria and dances.

CURLY (CONT'D)

THE SHARKS ARE DISQUALIFIED!

He hops into his van and peels away.

MR. SANTA MARIA

Huh?

EXT. VILLAGE/MEAT STAND - DAY

Carne serves a jumbo turkey leg to a man on a moto-taxi. Behind him an old radio blurps out an announcement between mariachi songs.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

We have been following the hugely popular junior national championship here on KME90, and we just got word of a major twist of events. It turns out that a player from The Sharks was actually TWENTY FIVE years old.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

Haha how did they even get away with that?

RADIO ANNOUNCER

I have no idea, but this would mean that the underdog team, The Sloths are back in the championship.

Carne drops the meat and runs down the road.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

If the Sharks were gonna have a hard game against The Rockets, the Sloths are going to be devoured.

INT. ROCKET'S TRAINING FACILITY - DAY

The Rockets team runs intense drills in their state of the art indoor gym. They are flipping large tractor tires, running on treadmills with EKG machines attached to their bodies, and blasting soccer balls directly into targets.

Ricardo sees on a huge flat screen that The Sloths are in the championship.

RICARDO

Hey guys, we can stop practicing!
We are playing The Sloths!

The whole team erupts with laughter.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Yvette talks with the judge.

YVETTE

I know it's unorthodox, but I believe Simon will come around.

JUDGE

Yvette you're overstepping your bounds. I can't give you custody of Peterson. You've done all that you could.

YVETTE

Your Honor he is a good kid. He has a chance at life here.

JUDGE

Not with his brother on the road. We have to act in the boys best interest.

INT./EXT. SHORT STUFF'S ROOM - DAY

Carne runs up to Short Stuff's window.

CARNE

We're back in! We're back in!

Short Stuff hops up and runs.

INT. SUIT FAMILY'S SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Carne and Short Stuff run into Suit Family's shop. Suit Kid is holding up trousers on a large man. He looks up and sees the two boys and drops what he's doing. As he runs out, the trousers fall to the man's ankles and he hollers.

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The triplets, Cross Eyes, and a host of other kids join the boys as they run down the dirt road, kicking up a cloud of dust behind them.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - DAY

Simon stands staring at the yellowcard. The famous soccer player from earlier approaches him.

FAMOUS PLAYER 1

Hey Simon, congrats man.

SIMON

For what?

FAMOUS PLAYER 1

Your Sloths...They're back in the finals. Crazy, right? I think I played college ball with the guy that was on the Cougars!

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

As Yvette pleads with the judge, Curly's crazy horn blares through the window.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Curly whips his van up in front of the courthouse and pulls down a CB radio. Over his loudspeakers he announces.

CURLY

Peterson Fuentes. Get your butt in
this van immediately!

INT. COURTHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Peterson's head pops up.

CURLY (O.S.)

WE HAVE A CHAMPIONSHIP TO WIN!

The judge hops out of his seat.

JUDGE

THE SLOTHS ARE BACK IN!

The two bailiffs high five and jump up and down. They stop suddenly, realizing their place.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Yvette, we'll deal with this after
the game.

He slams his gavel down.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/CHAMPIONSHIP - DAY

Hoads of fans crowd the gates at the national stadium.

INT. BROADCASTER'S BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

Two sports broadcasters face the camera with the backdrop of the national stadium behind them.

BROADCASTER 1

It's been a wild turn of events to
see the Sloths back in the game
here today. This is what the fans
wanted to see, a true David and
Goliath story.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

The Rockets run warm up drills on the sidelines. They are regimented and precise, running in step together, passing balls as they juggle others.

BROADCASTER 2 (V.O.)
 Exactly, except in this case David
 is blindfolded and Goliath is like
 a super robot Goliath that
 basically can't be beaten.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

The Sloths slowly and timidly walk out of the tunnel and onto
 the field.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/PITCH - CONTINUOUS

The crowd roars. The Sloths look so small on the field, with
 a milling stadium around them.

BROADCASTER 1
 Well there is no doubt that the
 Sloths are the underdog here.
 Perhaps the real story is old
 teammates Simon Fuentes and Vasquez
 facing off as rival coaches.

BROADCASTER 2
 Well that would be the story but
 neither coach has been seen on or
 off the field today.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Simon sits in an empty row of airport chairs. Across the
 corridor is the national team. He is alone. A television
 plays the live broadcast from the national stadium.

ON SCREEN: Curly tries to help the Sloths warm up. He is
 doing very deep lunges and flamboyant stretches. He throws
 soccer balls at the boys.

Vasquez approaches and plops down next to Simon.

VASQUEZ
 Off to Brazil! I can't believe
 you're here man. I mean, I knew
 that I would be coaching like this
 one day, but I never thought you
 would.

Vasquez catches a view of Curly on the television screen.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)
 Is he a crazy person?

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - DAY

Curly is violently kicking a large bag of balls.

CURLY

Come on everybody, work your legs
out!

The Sloths spirits are down. The boys seem timid, and aren't into the practice.

SUIT KID

(to Peterson)

Is Simon gonna come?

Yvette is on the sideline with the boys, and she swoops in to answer.

YVETTE

Guys you can't think about Simon right now. You've got to think about how hard you worked to get here and how much fun you had, you've got to go out there and play!

TRIPLET 3

We can't win.

Triplet 2 punches him, Triplet 1 punches Triplet 2.

MIGUEL

Simon bailed, who cares? We have a game to play!

EXT. AIRPORT LANDING STRIP - CONTINUOUS

Simon totes his luggage across the tarmac toward a large jet, behind the rest of the National team.

Coach Carerra catches up to him.

COACH CARERA

Big day for your team, huh?

SIMON

This is my team coach.

COACH CARERA

Yeah I guess you're right.

The two men hand their luggage to an ATTENDANT.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Simon sits down at the front of the plane. Coach Carera settles in next to him.

COACH CARERA
So your brother is on The Sloths,
right?

SIMON
He's the forward.

COACH CARERA
Just like his big brother. So you
don't want to be there at all?

SIMON
This is my dream.

Coach Carera reaches into his jacket and pulls out a letter.

COACH CARERA
It's your brother's dream too.

He hands the folded, wrinkled paper to Simon. Vasquez plops down next to Simon as he begins to read.

VASQUEZ
Off to the majors for the first
time, eh Simon?

COACH CARERA
(to Simon)
Today one of you is going to be a
hero and one of you is going to let
me down.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/FIELD/CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - SUNSET

The Sloths are stretching on their sideline as a line of Rockets jog toward them.

RICARDO
Hey Peterson, I heard your brother
ditched you guys for a better team-

THE GIANT
I think you should all pack up and
leave before you get too
embarrassed.

The Giant points at Short Stuff and gestures as if he is crushing his throat.

JAIME

You guys are going to poop your pants national television!

CARNE

No we're gonna poop YOUR pants.

The Rockets crack up laughing and continue to jog.

RICARDO

You should have quit like your coach.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/CENTER FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Peterson and Ricardo stand at center field facing each other.

REFEREE

Ok boys this is a big game, but we want everyone to stay safe. No rough housing, let's have a clean game. Shake hands and lets go.

Peterson reaches out. Ricardo quickly grabs his wrist, shaking it violently. He whispers through clenched teeth.

RICARDO

You're dead.

The Rockets look hungry, pumped up, and eager. They stomp their feet, hop up and down, and breathe violently. This is battle for them.

The Sloths are timid and nervous. Suit Kid shifts from foot to foot and does the sign of the cross. Hands rubs his fingers together nervously. Carne reaches into his shorts and pull out some beef jerky that he gnaws anxiously.

The referee blows his whistle. (is there a coin toss or do they run for the ball?)

LIKE A STAMPEDE the Rockets hurdle toward the Sloths. Ricardo snags the ball immediately and they drive the field.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

And like that the Junior National Championship Game is underway.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
 Still no sign of the coaches for
 either team here today.

Sloths are run over left and right. It is not a contest.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
 This game is off to a brutal start
 here.

The Triplets run toward Ricardo together, but the Giant
 crashes through them sending them all flying.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
 I think this is what everyone
 expected. You have a dominating
 team like the Rockets, powerful
 hard hitting players, and then you
 have...well, Sloths.

With masterful footwork, Ricardo dodges Sloths and dances the
 ball to the goal.

He charges toward Carne who hunkers down, terrified.

THWACK, SWOOSH! He hammers it past Chili.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
 GOAL! RICARDO!

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
 That could be the fastest goal in
 any soccer game EVER.

Miguel screams at Carne who was far away from the action.

MIGUEL
 What are you doing!? Help us out!

Peterson dribbles up the field.

AT CENTER FIELD HE PASSES HARD TO SUIT KID.

The ball rolls right past Suit Kid who is looking somewhere
 else.

PETERSON
 Come on!

A ROCKET MID-FIELDER snags the ball. Short Stuff comes at
 him and dives. He stops the ball but the mid fielder trips
 over him.

WHISTLE BLOWS.

The ref holds up a yellow card.

REFEREE
Illegal slide tackle.

Peterson slaps his leg in frustration.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
The Sloths can't afford infractions
like that when they are already
playing at such a low level.

THE BALL IS KICKED IN.

It sails over the Sloths heads to the other side of the field
where The Giant and Jaime are waiting.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
We've seen this from The Rockets
all year- they spread the field and
you just don't know where that ball
is going to end up!

Jaime dribbles behind the Giant. The Giant runs so fiercely
that the Sloths don't even approach him. Peterson tries to
snag the ball as they approach the goal, but Jaime passes it
through the Giants legs. Triplet 3 turns and runs from The
Giant.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
I would not want to be on the
receiving end of that leg.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
That kid has the legs of a horse.
He could literally end your life
with one pop.

The Giant stops the ball and stares at Chili.

HE REELS BACK AND MURDERS IT.

CHILI LEAPS.

The ball smacks Chili in the chest. His whole body is thrown
backward and he rips through the net from the force of The
Giant's kick.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
OOOOO!

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
That's two goals for the Rockets in
the span of five minutes.
(MORE)

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2 (CONT'D)
 Let's hope this pace doesn't keep
 up for the Sloth's sake.

The Giant cracks up laughing.

Chili stands rubbing his chest.

Curly calls a time out on the sideline.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

The boys huddle around.

CURLY
 Ok boys I think we need a game plan
 here.

PETERSON
 Yeah like don't suck.

CURLY
 We just need to readjust.

CHILI
 I need you guys to try, I don't
 know if I can block their shots.

TRIPLET 2
 We ARE trying.

CHILI
 TRY HARDER!

CURLY
 HEY HEY! Here's what we're going to
 do. Get Peterson the ball and try
 blocking for him like we practiced.

SUIT KID
 You can't block these guys, they're
 massive!

PETERSON
 Stop being such a baby!

SUIT KID
 Shut up Peterson!

All of the Sloths start arguing.

CURLY
 HEY GUYS! LISTEN.

They ignore Curly and scatter back onto the field.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Chili tosses out to Miguel.

He dribbles up the sideline and Suit Kid falls in ahead of him. Suit Kid deflects one defender, but he is running too slow for Miguel.

Peterson shoves Suit Kid out of the way to let Miguel around him.

SUIT KID

Hey!

Miguel passes to Peterson, who runs toward the goal and takes his shot.

Ricardo is there. Before the ball gets near the goal he deflects it right to Jaime.

Jaime passes up to the mid fielder. He lobs it in the air over the Sloth heads and finds a ROCKET PLAYER right near the goal.

THUNK. Another Rocket goal.

BEGIN MONTAGE.

The Rockets score goal after goal.

THWACK! SWOOSH! PLUNK!

6-0 Rockets.

INT. AZTECA STADIUM/LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLANK!

Miguel slams his fist on a locker.

MIGUEL

You guys aren't doing ANYTHING out there!

SUIT KID

What do you want us to do?

TRIPLET 1

(to triplet 2)

You keep getting in my way!

TRIPLET 3
 (to triplet 1)
 You keep getting in MY way.

TRIPLET 2
 You're BOTH in my way!

CARNE
 Let's just go home now guys. I
 don't want to go back out there.

SHORT STUFF
 Shut up Carne!

CROSS EYES
 You shut up!

The boys all start arguing.

PETERSON
 STOP!

They all shut up.

PETERSON (CONT'D)
 Look at us. This isn't the Sloths!
 Since when did we care so much
 about winning?

CARNE
 Since we got to the championship.

PETERSON
 So what, the game isn't supposed to
 be fun anymore?

MIGUEL
 It's not fun when you're getting
 crushed.

PETERSON
 Why not? Do you guys remember our
 first game? Carne you were sitting
 down on the field! Hands, you
 couldn't even touch the ball! And
 me? I was a jerk.

Peterson pulls a yellow card from his pocket.

PETERSON (CONT'D)
 But look how far we've come. And
 who cares about winning? Who cares
 about the stupid Rockets? We are
 Sloths. Sloths don't quit.

(MORE)

PETERSON (CONT'D)

Sloths don't run. Even when they are the worst team in the whole country, the Sloths play on.

Out of sight, Simon enters the locker room and listens to Peterson.

PETERSON (CONT'D)

The Sloths have fun, because they are better than winning and losing. Sloths are just happy to take the field together as a team. As friends.

He looks at Miguel.

Cross Eyes notices Simon in the corner of the room.

CROSS EYES

Coach!

Simon enters the room, and the boys gasp.

He walks up to Peterson and takes the yellow card.

SIMON

This is mine.

He pulls out the letter Peterson wrote and begins to read.

SIMON (CONT'D)

"Dear Coach Carera, My brother Simon is the coach of the Sloths. We might have been the worst team in the history of soccer if it wasn't for him. When we were lost, he showed us the way. When we were down, he lifted us up. I believe in Simon, he has changed my life." Do you all feel this way?

The boys nod.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I made a huge mistake. A mistake I've made many times before. When the best things in life were happening around me, I was focused on myself and I was missing out. I was a lonely, sad person, and the Sloths gave me something to love again.

(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

I love this team, but not because we won all those games, not because we've come so far, not because everyone in the country is cheering for us-it's because the Sloths made soccer fun again. I don't want to see your last moments on the field stolen away because the other team is winning, that's not the Sloths I know. I'm sorry for leaving you guys but I came here to have fun. Why did you come here?

CARNE

To play soccer.

SIMON

Then play like Sloths. When you play with your whole heart, I promise you will never lose.

PETERSON

But we lost you. Where were you when we needed you?

SIMON

I wasn't playing with my whole heart.

Simon moves in real close and huddles with the triplets, who stand in the center of the locker room, riddled with slumped over Sloths.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I didn't want to coach you boys. I wanted nothing to do with you. I thought that I had hit rock bottom when I met you all. Now I see.

Three Sloths stand up and join the triplets in the huddle.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I didn't even know I was lonely until you showed up.

Four more Sloths join their huddle.

SIMON (CONT'D)

You guys were the best thing to ever happen to me.

Curly runs up and wraps his arms around the huddle.

CURLY

I love you stupid Sloths!

Yvette is watching from the corner of the room.

Simon stands tall over the huddle and looks Peterson in the eyes.

SIMON

I found my family.

Miguel and the rest of the Sloths join the huddle as Peterson watches from the back of the room.

Curly is weeping.

CURLY

You're killing me, you're killing
me coach!

Peterson slowly walks toward the huddle and it separates. He stands in the middle with Simon. He reaches out and takes the Yellow card from Simon and slowly puts it back in his pocket.

PETERSON

So what do we do coach?

SIMON

Simon says...

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/FIELD/CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - NIGHT

The second half.

The Sloths pour onto the field screaming bloody murder.

Across the field, The Rockets crack up laughing at their vigor.

AT CENTER FIELD, THE REF BLOWS THE WHISTLE.

The Sloths kick off.

Jaime steals the ball immediately and heads toward the goal. He reels back to kick, Chili looks stunned.

AS THE BALL SPEEDS THROUGH THE AIR, CROSS-EYES PULLS HIS SHOE OFF AND WHIPS IT AT THE BALL.

The shoe hits the ball and deflects it at the last second.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

You know that was very creative,
and I'm not even sure if that's
illegal.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

The refs seem confused about it but
I think they are going to allow it,
that was perfect aim by the player
listed here as Cross Eyes.

Cross Eyes pumps his arm.

CROSS EYES

Yessss.

The other Sloths crack up laughing.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

CURLY

Well that was creative.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The Rockets kick the ball out and Peterson swoops in and
steals it.

HE'S ON A BREAKAWAY!

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Peterson Fuentes on a break-away,
he could put the Sloths on the map
here.

Peterson boots it into the corner of the net, and the crowd
erupts.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

Goal, Sloths! That's a great shot
but they are gonna need five more
to close this gap.

Ricardo boots the ball from center field up toward the Rocket
Forward, but Miguel gets there faster. He kicks the ball
back to the Rockets side and Peterson catches up with it.

Peterson jukes a DEFENDER and slams another ball. The goalie
jumps the wrong way. GOAL!

RADIO ANNOUNCER
GOAL! SLOTHS! Peterson may have just set a new world record for fastest back to back goals!

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
I haven't seen plays like that since his brother. This kid is something special. The Sloths are responding here in the second half.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
Peterson may be on his way to beating his brother's record of most goals in a Junior National Championship. He just needs two more to tie!

The Rocket twins get the ball from the goalie and drive up the field, passing back and forth. The triplets surround them a triangle and run with them. They try to pass it out of their huddle, but the triplets pass it back to them. They try again but they deflect it and pass it back to them. The rocket twins are very confused.

They continue to ping pong the ball back to the twins, who can't seem to get out of the triplet circle.

ROCKET TWIN 1
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Out of frustration, the twins stop the ball and stomps away.

RICARDO
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

They triple high five and begin to juggle the ball between each other all the way up the field. As soon as any defender reaches the triplet with the ball he bounces it to a free triplet.

At the goal they all converge and all kick at the ball at the same time. The goalie is so confused that he simply stands put.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
GOOOOAL!

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
The Sloths have cut that lead in half, this is still a long climb but they are only down by 3.

Ricardo takes the ball and runs fiercely up the field. The Giant runs in front of him, tossing Sloths out of the way.

The Giant sees Short Stuff and grins. He barrels toward him.

Short Stuff grits his teeth. He runs full speed and slides just as The Giant reaches him. He slides right between The Giants legs, steals the ball, and knocks down Ricardo.

Short Stuff stops the ball and turns around as the Giant runs toward him. He cocks back and kicks the ball as hard as he can.

THE BALL WAILS THE GIANT'S FACE.

The Giant does a full back-flip and lands on his stomach.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

CURLY

Ooooo little guy has a LEG!

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The ref blows his whistle and gives Short Stuff a yellow card.

The Sloths cheer and laugh as The Giant pulls himself up and walks to the sideline, holding his stomach.

Ricardo kicks the ball in and Jaime takes it. He is up against Miguel.

JAIME

What are you gonna do loser? You think you stupid Sloths can beat the best team in the country?

MIGUEL

I know that I can beat you. So yes!

Miguel slides and hits the ball right to Cross Eyes.

Cross Eyes bounces it to Peterson.

Peterson drives the field, and at the last minute stops the ball short and keeps running.

Suit Kid is right behind him following, he lasers the ball right into the goalies chest, it bounces, hits the pole, and goes in.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
JUST LIKE THAT! ANOTHER GOAL FOR
THE SLOTHS!

RADIO ANNOUNCER
I cannot believe what I'm seeing.
The team that looked like the worst
in history is gaining ground on The
Rockets, who are undeniably the
best team in history.

Ricardo is stomping he is so mad. He takes the ball up the field. Peterson swoops in and steals it.

As Peterson drives toward the Rocket's goal, Ricardo full speed slide tackles him. Peterson flies into the air.

THE WHISTLE BLOWS.

Yellow card for the Ricardo.

Peterson is slow to get up. Ricardo leans over as if he is going to help him. He grabs his hand and pulls him close.

RICH KID
Stay down there orphan.

He shoves him back down while the ref isn't looking. The crowd yells and boos.

Suit Kid kicks in to Peterson, who takes it up the field.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
I don't know that I've ever seen
this, it looks like the Sloths
goalie is coming down the field.
The Sloth's net is wide open!

CHILI
PETERSON!

Peterson sees Chili on the other side of the field. He laughs.

PETERSON
What are you doing on our side?

CHILI
Give me a shot!

Peterson lobs the ball over to him. Chili has some fancy footwork but he is totally covered. He passes it to Miguel, Miguel passes to Peterson just as the Ricardo comes barreling toward him.

In a stretched out moment, Peterson looks over at Simon on the sideline. He pulls out the special move that Simon taught him in the woods. He flips the ball behind himself, over his head, spins out of Ricardo's way and sends him toppling to the ground, and wheel kicks the ball before it hits the ground.

GOAL!

The crowd erupts and the Sloths cheer around Peterson.

While Chili runs back to his net, his cleat comes untied. Ricardo kicks off and drives the field.

Chili notices his cleat and runs to the side of the net to tie it.

Ricardo sees his opening and takes a shot from a mile away, a huge lob.

The ball takes a long bounce and rolls toward the goal. Chili doesn't see it as it approaches the net. At the last second, Carne does a bellyflop in front of the ball and stops it from going in.

The Sloths cheer!

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Well there is under two minutes to play here and the Sloths still need one to tie it up.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

FIVE unanswered points, I've never seen anything like this in my whole career!

The Rocket Forward kicks the ball out to Ricardo. As he approaches the net, all the Sloths form one long line in front of it.

He kicks it hard on the ground and Peterson stops it.

The Sloths begin to run as one unit, as they did in their training. As they go they shuffle the ball between each other. One Sloth will fall off the end of the line and dribble behind the others, then they will change dribblers and fall back in line.

They run in unison up the field as the Rockets all backpedal in front of them, confused.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

There's only about thirty seconds
left to this game, it all comes
down to this folks.

The Rocket's goalie is so confused, looking for the ball.

As the line approaches, it parts up the middle and Short
Stuff emerges with the ball. He fakes a kick and the goalie
flinches.

The whole stadium holds their breath.

Short Stuff laughs and kicks it lazily into the corner of the
net, just as the clock runs out.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

THEY'VE DONE IT! THE SLOTHS TIE THE
GAME!

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

SIMON

YES!

CURLY

WOOO!

Yvette jumps up and down clapping.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/FIELD - IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

At center field, Peterson and Miguel stand facing Ricardo,
The Giant, and Jaime.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Now because of junior league
regulations, in the event of a tie
the game must go right to a sudden
death shoot out.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

That's right, each team picks three
shooters, whoever scores the most
wins. In the event of a tie, the
team picks another shooter.

At the Sloth's goal, Chili gets ready for The Giants kick.
It comes fast and hard. Chili tips the ball with his hand
but it stings his fingers and goes into the goal.

The Rockets cheer as Chili shakes his hand.

Suit Kid is up for the Sloths. He looks nervous. He rushes forward and kicks wide, the ball hits the pole and bounces back.

The Rockets laugh, but the Sloths greet Suit Kid on the sideline.

PETERSON

Good try man.

Jaime leans forward and sprints toward the ball. He tries to play tricky, but Chili is watching his every move. He fakes left and shoots right. Chili hops up and catches it.

Miguel hustles across the field.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Miguel started the Sloth's season as a goalie, but I think they made a great move picking up Chili, because this Miguel can play!

Miguel kicks it sharply into the top right of the net. Goal!

The crowd cheers. It's 1-1.

Ricardo kicks for The Rockets. He dribbles up a bit, jukes and fakes Chili out. Chili jumps left as he shoots right and scores.

Peterson runs out to the field. The stadium is holding its breath.

RICARDO

DON'T CHOKE!

Peterson looks at Simon who is smiling.

Peterson takes the ball with fancy footwork. He kicks hard and true, dead center of the net, and the goalie misses.

The Sloths and crowd cheer.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

And with that Peterson Aritza has tied his brother's record for most goals in a championship! Now both teams can send whoever they want to kick. I imagine it will be Peterson again, he is clearly the Sloth's best player.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

No surprise that the captain of the
Rockets is coming out for them.

Ricardo walks out to the field.

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/SIDELINE - CONTINUOUS

The Sloths all begin to crack up hysterically, pointing at
the field.

CURLY

YES! YAAAAAS! IT'S THE MAJESTIC
SLOTH!

EXT. AZTECA STADIUM/FIELD - CONTINUOUS

Ricardo looks over at the goal, confused.

Chili is hanging upside down from the goal, gently swinging.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2 (V.O.)

I've seen some interesting things
in my day but this one takes the
cake.

Ricardo dribbles up and fakes the kick, but Chili is relaxed.
Ricardo shoots low, but Chili stretches and bats it away. No
goal!

Peterson comes out onto the field. He runs up to the ball
and stops short without touching it. The stadium is quiet,
and everyone is confused.

Peterson turns and runs out to the sideline. Hands is
sitting on the bench where he has been for most of the game.
Peterson whispers to him. He looks scared but he gets up.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

I'm not sure what Peterson is
thinking here. Seems like the
Sloths are sending out their bench-
warmer, a kid called...Hands?

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2

This kid has barely touched the
ball all season. I don't know what
they are thinking here.

The Sloths are all smiling and nodding on the sideline as
Hands approaches the ball. He slowly and carefully dribbles
it.

The Rockets crack up on the sideline.

RICARDO
Are you kidding me?

Hands stops short with the ball in front of the goal box. He swings at it with his leg but misses the ball completely.

The goalie and Rockets crack up laughing. He swings and misses again.

Again the goalie laughs, and turns to his team.

ROCKETS GOALIE
Do you see this?!

He swings and misses yet again and the goalie keels over laughing.

Hands is chuckling. The Sloths on the sideline are all laughing. Hands gently taps the ball to the left as the goalie stands to talk to his team.

Ricardo's face drops.

RICARDO
HE-

The goalie turns and dives. His hands just tip the ball as it rolls into the goal.

SLOTHS WIN!

RADIO ANNOUNCER
SLOTHS WIN! SLOTHS WIN!

The Sloths rush the field and hoist Hands up cheering.

RADIO ANNOUNCER 2
I can NOT believe this! This is
about the wildest game I've ever
seen.

Ricardo throws a tantrum on the sideline, flipping a table with drinks on it and stomping his feet.

The Sloths surround Peterson and hug him, jumping up and down.

Curly jumps up and down, screaming like a maniac in a high pitched voice.

Simon sees Yvette on the field and runs to her.

SIMON

Yvette, I'm sorry I was a fool.

YVETTE

Be quiet you fool.

Yvette grabs him and kisses him.

The kids run up and dump jugs of water on them.

Curly dumps a jug of water on himself.

Simon finds Peterson and gives him the biggest hug that he's ever had.

MATCH CUT TO:
TILT UP TO SKY

EXT. VILLAGE FIELD - DAY

MATCH CUT TO:
TILT DOWN SKY

GFX SUPER: NEXT SEASON.

The next season, Simon is coaching a new team of Sloths.

The village field and uniforms have been updated. The team has made money on sponsorships, which is visible on the huge billboards around the field depicting Sloths drinking energy drinks and eating cereal.

Yvette watches happily from the sideline.

SIMON

Now some of you are returning from last year, and a lot of you are new faces. We've lost some of our best players to traveling teams, but that doesn't matter.

A photo of Miguel and Peterson in matching uniforms with a team around them hangs on the bleachers.

SIMON (CONT'D)

What matters to me is that you play with your whole heart, no matter what. I want to have a good season. Let's get to work.

Curly flies up in his van, blaring his horn, decked out with new speakers. He runs up to the practice with a live Sloth hanging around his neck.

CURLY

Sorry I'm late coach, I had an
errand to run.

SIMON

Is that-

CURLY

I was thinking he could play goalie
but you'll have to ask him.

Simon nods. The boys stare at each other. One boy begins to
crack a smile as if he is going to crack up laughing.

CUT TO: BLACK