

Eddie, The Collegiate Sophomore

Chapter Seven Spring Semester

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On the first day of training for the Spring track season, Dune Buggies pile into the University parking lot. Everyone's Dune Buggy is polished, and looking good for the Spring semester. Eddie even left his MGB at home today, and drove his Dune Buggy. After practice, it's off to work for Eddie and, since the weather is nice, he thought he'd break his new toy in. Bobby B. and Erika, however, forgo the Dune Buggy today, and arrive on their matching BSA Starfire motorcycles.

The locker rooms fill with the usual crowd. The standard talk and chatter rises in the men's locker room. Braden informs everyone, "we're gonna kick ass again this season! Ain't no one stopping us!" Braden gives everyone he sees a high-five, well, except for McCutchen and Dulaney, who seem to steer clear when Braden is energized. Mitchell, Akinmola, and Stone are discussing who is going to win the mile in the divisional meet. Johnson mentions that, now that Mr. Crum is gone, everything is going smoothly over at the high school for Barbara. While everyone misses Barbara, they know she is on the top of the world coaching the high school team.

As everyone begins to walk out to the arena, Mark tells McCutchen, "yo, junior. Your head looks like a freshly picked peach." McCutchen went home over break, and used a different bottle of shampoo, which allowed his hair to begin growing back. His hair is sure to start falling out again shortly. Turning over a new leaf of bravery, McCutchen yells at Mark, "hey! Shut up!" Eddie tells Mark, "now look at what you did. You made him mad." Mitchell, adding to the psychological warfare, adds, "it's only going to get worse. His white matter is disintegrating from the Prickly Sea Spider Bite." Mark comments, "that's right! He's getting demented. I should have been more considerate."

With the team waiting on the bleachers, Mr. Frazier walks into the arena, and is intercepted by Scott McCutchen, Sr., the father of Todd McCutchen. Mr. McCutchen opens the conversation by asking Mr. Frazier, “so, are you the track coach?” Mr. Frazier replies, “I am. And, who are you?” Mr. McCutchen replies, “I’m Scott McCutchen, Senior, Todd’s father. We need to talk.” Knowing that any proposed meeting cannot go anywhere productive, Mr. Frazier tells Mr. McCutchen, “I have a team to coach right now. If you want to set up a meeting with me, please schedule it with the administrative staff.”

Mr. McCutchen tells Mr. Frazier, “apparently, you don’t know who I am.” Mr. Frazier replies, “you’re Scott McCutchen, Senior. You just told me that. My hearing is good, and I have a reasonably good memory.” Mr. McCutchen gets a little hot under the collar, trying to conceal his anger. Apparently, he is not used to being tossed aside and ignored. Mr. McCutchen tells Mr. Frazier, “we need to have a talk, and the sooner the better.” Mr. Frazier emphatically replies, “now is not a good time. As I said, I have a team to coach right now. Apparently, your hearing is not too good, and your memory sucks.” From Mr. Frazier’s perspective, there is no good time to have to deal with a clearly irate alumnus.

Provost Leighton walks into the middle of the discussion, vaguely recognizing today’s visitor. Provost Leighton asks Mr. Frazier, “what’s up?” Mr. Frazier replies, “this gentleman, Mr. Scott McCutchen, Senior, would like to have a meeting with me, but he apparently doesn’t want to schedule it.” Provost Leighton throws out the general question to Mr. Frazier and Mr. McCutchen, “is there anything that I can help with?” Mr. McCutchen, trying to take control of the meeting, replies, “and, just who are you?” Provost Leighton, perceiving Mr. McCutchen’s malice, replies, “I’m Athena, one of the assistant coaches.” Coach Leighton intentionally did not reveal her prestigious title of provost, only to see how the irate Mr. McCutchen treats her. Mr. McCutchen informs Provost Leighton, “we need to have a discussion.”

Dr. Bonamo walks into the arena, joining the other coaches, wondering what the discussion is all about. Mr. Frazier asks Dr. Bonamo to take the team out to the track, and informs him that the track athletes will be running the interval training drill. Mr. Frazier also tells Dr. Bonamo that he and Provost Leighton will be out in a few minutes.

Addressing the team, Mr. Frazier announces, “everyone, please follow Dr. Bonamo out to the track. If you are a field athlete, you will be working with Dr. Bonamo today. If you are a track athlete, please run the interval training drill. And remember, everyone is a sprinter today!” The team gets off of the bleachers, heading out, as Mr. Frazier plans to make his second attempt at disposing of Mr. McCutchen.

Looking at his notes, Mr. McCutchen tells Mr. Frazier, “I want to see Mark Svoboda, or however you pronounce it, Eddie Bogenskaya, or whatever his name is. And, some guy named Braden.” Mr. Frazier, now knowing that Mr. McCutchen’s proposed meeting can provide nothing but comical entertainment, blows his whistle, and yells out, “Eddie, Mark, and Braden! Please see me now!” Eddie, Mark, and Braden, who were on their way out with the team, turn around and walk toward Mr. Frazier. Kathy and Paula join the group, wondering what is up.

Eddie asks Mr. Frazier, “what’s up?” Mr. Frazier explains, “let me introduce to you Mr. Scott McCutchen, Senior. He mentioned that he wants to see you guys.” Mark, hearing the name McCutchen, replies, “well, he’s seen us. Can we go now?” A comment like Mark’s is exactly what Mr. Frazier was hoping for. Hearing Mark’s comment, Provost Leighton turns around, trying not to laugh. Mr. McCutchen tells Mark, “that wasn’t funny.” Eddie corrects Mr. McCutchen, replying, “yeah, actually it was kind of funny.” Kathy adds, “yeah, I agree. It was definitely funny. We can all vote on it, if you want.” Mr. McCutchen quickly realizes that he is in a situation of seven on one. And, Mr. McCutchen is the lone one.

Not wanting to get trapped in the middle of the current exchange of words, Mr. McCutchen tells Mr. Frazier, “first of all, I want these guys to stop harassing Todd. It’s gone far enough.” Mr. Frazier replies, “I haven’t seen any harassment by these guys.” Mr. McCutchen brashly replies, “oh, don’t tell me that you don’t know about it.” Mark tells Eddie, “I guess we’ll have to stop calling him McCutchen.” Eddie replies, “I thought that was his name.”

Not wanting to get into another fruitless discussion, Mr. McCutchen ignores Eddie’s and Mark’s comments, and insists, “the harassment went on all last season, and I want an end put to it. Todd is very stressed out, and I would appreciate it if all the harassment ends. And, if the harassment doesn’t end, I will do everything I can to have these guys removed from the team!” Mr. Frazier bluntly informs Mr. McCutchen, “oh no, you won’t. That you will not do. That’s a dead end street, if I ever saw one.”

Wanting some sympathy from the group, Mr. McCutchen explains, “look. Todd, on occasion, has had some very severe panic attacks. At times, Todd can’t breathe and gets a cardiac arrhythmia from all the stress he’s been under. It would definitely help him if the harassment would stop.” Kathy tells Mr. McCutchen, “that’s a bunch of bullshit. Todd McCutchen doesn’t have a cardiac arrhythmia. And, he can breathe perfectly fine.” Getting hot under the collar, Mr. McCutchen responds, exclaiming, “and, how would you even know? This is exactly the attitude toward Todd that I am talking about!” Kathy explains, “if he had an

arrhythmia, he'd be dead. And, if he can't breathe, he would also be dead. Don't ya think?"

Mr. McCutchen briefly turns around, trying not to lose his cool. Knowing exactly to what Kathy is referring, Paula comments, "well, she does have an excellent point." Quite frustrated, Mr. McCutchen exclaims, "and, just what point does she have?" Kathy explains, "an arrhythmia is, as the prefix 'a-' suggests, the lack of any rhythm. Perhaps you meant to use the term dysrhythmia. The term dysrhythmia refers to irregularities of the heartbeat and disturbances of rate and conduction. And, if someone can't breathe, as you claim, they pretty much die. He may have had difficulty breathing but, I can assure you, he can breathe. This is a university, Mr. McCutchen. We are in the exercise science program. We know what we're talking about. Apparently, you don't." Mr. McCutchen, sensing that he is up against a brick wall and getting nowhere, moves on.

Braden, adding some words of wisdom, interjects, "well, if McCutchen wasn't busting into people's lockers, and planting steroids, maybe his ass wouldn't get so stressed out and his heart wouldn't be all messed up. Maybe his ass should stop smoking pot too." Turning toward Braden, Mr. McCutchen insists, in a matter of fact tone, "that was a setup!" Correcting Mr. McCutchen, Braden exclaims, "yeah, that's right! McCutchen set up Eddie and, when that failed, he tried to set up Mark. All the evidence was there! Who do you think you're shittin'?" Mr. McCutchen exclaims, "that case has been sealed! How do you know about that?" Braden authoritatively yells back, "because I chased Todd McCutchen's fat ass down and arrested his ass! I was the arresting officer! And, now that I'm thinking about it, maybe I should get another search warrant and search his dorm room again." Silence comes over the group, as everyone waits to see who makes the next move.

Mr. McCutchen had no idea that he was talking to a campus police officer. He still has no idea that the assistant track coach is Provost Leighton, perhaps not recognizing her in her track uniform. Mr. McCutchen can't outsmart a group of exercise science majors and he knows it. Exactly what Mr. Frazier was hoping for, the group of five athletes is working over Mr. McCutchen really well, saving Mr. Frazier the trouble.

Mr. McCutchen exclaims, "nevertheless, I want the harassment to stop! And, the agreement was that Todd was to participate in two events." Eddie comments, "let me think. If I remember correctly, McCutchen was expelled from this University. Who did you pay off to get him back in?" Mr. McCutchen tells Eddie, "I don't have to put up with you and your questions!" Eddie replies, "so don't. Just leave right now and everyone will be happy."

Meanwhile, during the heated exchange of words, Provost Leighton steps aside and is laughing hysterically, albeit as quietly as she can. Mr. McCutchen boldly tells Provost Leighton, "I fail to see what is so funny here!" Knowing that this is a totally unproductive meeting, Provost Leighton replies, "well, I can explain it to you, if you'd like. But, you're probably not going to like it." Mr. McCutchen brashly replies, "well?" Provost Leighton explains, "when Axel Braden said, 'maybe his ass should stop smoking pot,' I got this visual of a large joint sticking out of his ass. That's kind of funny." Laughter breaks out, irritating Mr. McCutchen even more. Mr. McCutchen throws his arms in the air, and tells Provost Leighton and those around, "I just can't believe this!"

Trying to move forward, Mr. McCutchen informs Mr. Frazier, "one more thing. I am informed that, last semester, Mark ran Todd over during a relay drill." Mr. Frazier replies, "that was completely Todd's fault. And, so what?" Mr. McCutchen exclaims, "so what? Something should have been done about it!" Mr. Frazier informs Mr. McCutchen, "if Todd was paying attention to what was going on in the lanes, and not drooling over Amanda Drake's ass, the accident would not have occurred! It was completely his fault and, for the record, I am not entertaining your, or anyone else's, opinion on that matter!"

Mr. Frazier finally tells Mr. McCutchen, "look, Todd's performance is not competitive enough for me to put him in any event right now. He needs a lot of work." Mr. McCutchen replies, "then, I suggest you do something about that." Mr. Frazier tells Mr. McCutchen, "I'll do what I can. But, you'd better get something straight. My job is to get this team to win. So, unless he puts in the work and improves, I'm not putting him in. It's that simple. End of discussion." Mr. Frazier walks out to the track, with Provost Leighton and the athletes following him.

Practice goes well for the team for the rest of the week. The team is ready for the first meet, which is coming up shortly. McCutchen is not harassed, and left alone, which McCutchen considers a form of harassment in itself. But, if you plant steroids in another athlete's locker in an attempt to get them thrown out of school, and then get caught, you really can't expect it to be overlooked. If you crash someone's wedding, and make a scene, you can't really expect that to be overlooked either.

A few weeks later, on a Friday, as they are waiting for the team to gather for practice, Provost Leighton, who will be away on business for a week, tells Mr. Frazier, "I really hate that you will have to work all by yourself next week. I really feel bad about it." Mr. Frazier explains, "Athena, when I was coaching high school, I had to tell some of the runners to tie their laces. I had to tell them to wash their uniforms. I had to tell many of them exactly what to do at practice. I've even had to break open their locks because they forgot their combination or lost their key.

Now that they're in college, all I have to do is tell them that they can win." Athena replies, "that's one step above some of the faculty. Some of them stand in front of a class with a coffee stained sweater with buttons missing. And, half of them are back to not tying their shoes again. And, I won't even mention that some of them wear mismatched socks." Mr. Frazier laughs, and replies, "at the high school, there seemed to be an unofficial competition between some of the teachers for the best-dressed award." Kristen Starr, one of the English teachers at the high school, would have been the clear winner of that award.

Seated on the bleachers, the team awaits their instructions for the day. After telling the team good morning, Mr. Frazier announces, "today, we are dragging the training sleds down the sand track. And, today you will be on the clock! Mrs. Owens will be recording your performance, and I will be watching you closely! So, let's get out there and get to work!" The team heads out to the track, knowing that today will be a very difficult workout.

Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier, "that was easy." Mr. Frazier replies, "and, all of their uniforms were clean, and everyone had their shoes tied." Provost Leighton asks, "I'm curious. Why time their performance on the sand track?" Mr. Frazier replies, "so they run faster and work harder. I don't care what their times are on the sand track. But, if they know they're on the clock, then they know they'd better deliver." Provost Leighton gets it. Mr. Frazier not only trains the mind, but uses the mind to the team's and his advantage.

After the day's training session, Mr. Frazier tells the team, "that was a great workout! All of you get the next two days off, but feel free to train on your own." One guy comments, "it's Friday," overheard by Mr. Frazier. Mr. Frazier smiles, and replies, "at least one person got it!" Mr. Frazier tells everyone that, on Monday, the team will be running relay drills. After dragging the training sled on the sand track and running the interval training drill all week, the thought of running relay drills sounds like a vacation.

Monday arrives, and the team has had a nice two-day break. The weather was beautiful over the weekend, which carries over into Monday. This means the relay drill that Mr. Frazier had planned could have been held on the outdoor track. However, Provost Leighton is gone this week, so one man working on a 440-yard track, evaluating relay handoffs, is a bit too much to ask. So today, Mr. Frazier decides to run the relay drill indoors, in the arena.

Once the team is assembled in the arena, Mr. Frazier announces, "today, as promised, we are running relay drills. I expect your best performance today. Do not get the false impression that, if you were on a

relay team over the indoor season, you will retain that position throughout the Spring season! If I have assigned you to an event, I can remove you from that event just as easily! And, if you aspire to run in a relay race, and are not assigned to one, now is your chance to prove yourself! And, you will be on the clock, so I don't want to see anyone slacking off."

Mr. Frazier then explains the protocol, "since I am working by myself this week, there will be only one handoff zone, at the starting line. When you receive the baton, you will run 220 yards, and hand off to the next person in line. We will start out with two batons. I will add a third baton in a while. Okay, everyone on the inside of the track, and line up!" Mr. Frazier tosses one baton to Eddie, and one to McCutchen. McCutchen fails to catch the baton, and picks it up off of the floor, as the team laughs. Mr. Frazier blows his whistle, and yells out, "okay! let's get moving!"

As the drill moves along, Kathy mentions to Paula, "now, I don't want to graduate. I want to keep running track." Paula replies, "yeah, I know what you mean. With Mr. Frazier, and the whole tribe around, track is really a lot of fun again." Before she gets on the track, Kathy tells Paula, "all we need now is for Mr. Zunde to come back to the University." Kathy takes off, and will see Paula again in a few seconds when Kathy hands off to her.

While they are waiting in line, Eddie asks Braden, "so, how's the Dune Buggy running?" Braden replies, "it's running like a charm. I'm teaching Wendy to drive a stick. She's doing good." Eddie tells Braden, "and, the Dune Buggy has a little more power than the Cushman¹ that she used to drive around at the high school." Braden replies, "yeah, I'd say." Eddie gives Braden a fist bump, and tells him, "it's your turn, bro." Braden gets on the track, ready to receive the baton.

Listening to all of the conversations going on is McCutchen, and his newly found friend, Harry Dulaney. McCutchen is still deeply bothered by the camaraderie of the tribe. He is also bothered by the fact that he is not currently assigned to any event. Mr. Frazier is not playing along with some supposed administrative edict of having to assign McCutchen to at least one or two events. The only person at the University who is aware of this edict is Dean Grimsby, to whom Mr. Frazier pays no attention. So, McCutchen will have to perform, and perform consistently, if he is to earn a position in an event.

¹ Cushman: (a corporation) A utility vehicle, larger than a golf cart, used to transport small items.

Halfway through the drill, some of the runners are beginning to fatigue. Many of the experienced runners have to adjust their speed to accommodate some of the newer members of the team. But, this is part of the drill. It is just as important to be versatile as it is to perform well. A decrease in performance toward the end of the drill also alerts Mr. Frazier who may need more work and in which areas.

As Kathy gets on the track, the chief poor performer himself, McCutchen is on the back straightaway. Coming around the curve, McCutchen approaches the transition zone. Kathy takes off, waiting for the hand off. Now at the end of the transition zone with an imminent failed handoff, Kathy slows down, and McCutchen speeds up, forcefully ramming the baton into Kathy's gluteal region. Screaming out in pain, Kathy goes down, catching the attention of everyone in the arena. McCutchen walks off his run, moving away from the crowd.

Mr. Frazier blows his whistle, stopping the drill. Braden exclaims, "oh, shit! Here it comes! Something's coming down! He ain't getting out of here without a major league ass kicking!" Mark exclaims, "yeah, bro! That was his biggest mistake yet!" Johnson exclaims, "he rammed that into her ass really hard!"

Eddie has had enough of McCutchen, and jogs toward McCutchen and Kathy. No one knows whether Eddie is planning on helping Kathy, or planning to take McCutchen apart limb by limb. McCutchen, however, is still walking away, faking disgust by throwing his arms in the air over the poorly executed transition, which he clearly thinks was Kathy's fault.

Kathy stands up, runs toward McCutchen, letting out her primal scream. Kathy lunges toward McCutchen, delivering a well-executed chop block with her shoulder, taking out his right knee and bringing him down hard. Eddie, who was going to see if Kathy is okay, stops and stands with his arms crossed, allowing Kathy the privilege of kicking the shit out of McCutchen all by herself. Kathy pulverizes McCutchen in his face, not relenting in the least bit. Kathy then stands up, giving McCutchen several swift kicks into every imaginable part of his anatomy, yelling out, "you piece of shit," with every blow. Braden slowly walks over, but gets there a bit too late to break up the fight. Kathy has already finished the job, and finished it well.

Closely observing exactly what happened on the track, Mr. Frazier freely allowed Kathy to take care of the situation her own way. Once Kathy has finished off McCutchen, Mr. Frazier blows his whistle again, and yells out, "everyone on the bleachers!" Seeing McCutchen still laying on the track, Mr. Frazier yells out, "that includes you laying on the track! Get up and get on the bleachers! Now!" McCutchen, however, does not move. One of the Timekeepers goes over to aid McCutchen, and yells to Mr.

Frazier, “well, at least he’s still alive!” Kathy yells out, “that’s just too bad!”

Recalling her years in high school, while she is sitting on the bleachers with the tribe, Erika comments, “I thought girls were fragile and delicate, like little flowers. And, boys are rough and tough, like tree trunks.” Paula tells Erika, “she’s fragile, all right. Fragile like a bomb. And, McCutchen is rough and tough, like termite-ridden balsa wood.” Watching as McCutchen is laying on the floor motionless, Erika mentions, “hopefully, he’s out for the rest of the season.”

Mr. Frazier asks Kathy, “are you okay?” Kathy replies, “no! And, I’m not done with that piece of shit yet!” Eddie gives Kathy a hug, helping her over to the bleachers so she can sit down. Kathy has trouble sitting, so Eddie tells Mr. Frazier, “I’m taking her home.” Seeing the seriousness of the situation, Mr. Frazier instructs Eddie, “on the way home, take her by the infirmary. Have her checked out. And, get this documented. Let me know how she’s doing.” Mr. Frazier whispers to Kathy, “and, tell the doctors exactly what happened.” Eddie and Kathy leave, and head to the campus infirmary.

Meanwhile, while Mr. Frazier was speaking with Kathy and Eddie, McCutchen finally comes to. He is helped to the bleachers with the aid of two of the Timekeepers and Braden, a process that takes a few minutes.

Mr. Frazier sternly looks at McCutchen, and exclaims, “what was that supposed to be?” McCutchen does not answer. Mr. Frazier yells out, “answer me! Now! What was that?” Barely able to speak, McCutchen replies, “it was an accident.” Mr. Frazier exclaims, “I saw exactly what happened! That was no accident!” No one dares to say anything while Mr. Frazier is speaking.

Mr. Frazier tells McCutchen, “as of now, you are no longer on this team! Get your ass out of my arena and clean out your locker! And, don’t even think about coming back!” Addressing the rest of the team, Mr. Frazier exclaims, “and, if I ever see any shit like that again from anyone, you are on your own! If you get your ass kicked after ramming a baton into someone’s ass, that’s your own problem! Don’t look to me for sympathy!”

Focusing his attention again on McCutchen, Mr. Frazier tells him, “you’re just lucky that Eddie didn’t kick your ass!” McCutchen, thinking back to last year when Eddie kept repeating, “remember the Chuckie,” realizes that, if Kathy did this to him, what could Eddie have done. But, McCutchen doesn’t realize that he got off really easy today.

Braden whispers to Mark, "I ain't never seen Mr. Frazier this mad before." Mark whispers back, "that's because McCutchen is Jimmy O'Brien, the Chuckie, and Paul Mahoney, all rolled into one." Braden whispers to Mark, "you got that right."

Mark looks over at McCutchen, as he stands up to head to the lockers. McCutchen falls to the floor, prompting Mr. Frazier to yell out, "someone, go out in the hall and call an ambulance, or whatever there is on campus to deal with this kind of shit. And, McCutchen, do not move!" Mark comments, "it looks like McCutchen derailed his own train this time." Paula whispers to Mark, "he's not coming back. Kathy finished him off for good." Mark whispers back, "it looks like she did a really good job of it."

The campus paramedic squad arrives, and takes McCutchen to the campus infirmary. With only a few minutes left to practice, Mr. Frazier tells the team, "tomorrow, we'll be working outside. We will be working on the sand track, and running the interval drill. We'll see you all here tomorrow. Hopefully, everything will go better than it did today." The team breaks for the day, and heads to the locker rooms.

After being checked out at the infirmary, Eddie takes Kathy back to her car. With a circular bruise on her gluteal region, Kathy just doesn't feel like sitting in classrooms for the remainder of the day. So, instead of school and work, Eddie and Kathy plan to spend the afternoon in their pool. Kathy calls Barbara, at the high school, and tells her that she won't be at practice today. And, for the first time, Eddie has to tell Angelo that he won't be in today.

Kathy takes a few days off track practice, but still comes to the practice sessions helping out Mr. Frazier. Mr. Frazier does not want Kathy running until her bruised muscles are fully healed. Running on a damaged muscle presents a problem in the sense that the runner's gait is slightly altered, setting up the possibility of a subsequent injury. Also, muscle injuries require rest to heal in the fastest possible time. Kathy also has been seeing her massage therapist, who uses cross-tissue massage to prevent the formation of any adhesions.

When Kathy chop blocked McCutchen, his knee got severely injured during the takedown. McCutchen was informed by his orthopedic surgeon that he suffered a grade two tear of the medial collateral ligament in his knee, and a severe sprain of his anterior cruciate ligament. McCutchen was informed that grade two tears will likely heal without surgery, but will take an extended time to do so. A neurological examination also revealed that McCutchen suffered a severe concussion, presumably when his head forcefully hit the track during the takedown.

If Mr. Frazier had not cut McCutchen from the team, he would have been out for the rest of the season. Upon hearing the news, Mr. Frazier changed McCutchen's status to injured reserve, only to avoid any potential confrontation with Dean Grimsby.

Thursday, as track practice is getting underway, a surprise visitor arrives. As Mr. Frazier is addressing the team, Dean Grimsby walks in and interrupts Mr. Frazier. Knowing from Provost Leighton that Dean Grimsby is a paper tiger, Mr. Frazier initially ignores him. But, Dean Grimsby, who thinks he is very important, does not like to be ignored. So, the dean announces, "may I interrupt this meeting for a moment?" Mr. Frazier replies, "you just did, so why are you bothering to ask?" There is no good comeback to Mr. Frazier's response, so the dean gets a bit flustered, especially with all the snickering coming from the bench.

Dean Grimsby, getting right to the point, tells Mr. Frazier, "I need to see Katarina Karakova." Mr. Frazier, learning from Mark, replies, "there's no one here by that name. So, please let me get back to my business." Pointing to Kathy sitting on the bench, Dean Grimsby exclaims, "she's sitting right there!" Mr. Frazier informs the dean, "that's Katarina Bogenskaya, not Katarina Karakova. Her name has been officially changed. I'm sure your academic records reflect that. And, if that is who you came here to see, you've now seen her. So, you can leave now." The tribe laughs, clearly seeing that their own sense of humor is now also seen in Mr. Frazier.

Dean Grimsby, ignoring Mr. Frazier, tells Kathy, "I want to see you in my office immediately!" Kathy looks at Eddie, and whispers, "where have I heard that before?" Eddie whispers back, "déjà vu." Kathy just sits on the bench, and does not respond to Dean Grimsby. Repeating himself, the dean exclaims, "did you hear me? I want to see you in my office right now!" Kathy sits back, and still does not respond, frustrating the dean even further. Paula laughs, knowing exactly what Kathy is up to. Mr. Frazier, also knowing that Kathy is up to something, allows the dean to continue making a fool of himself. Mr. Frazier has come to know this group quite well.

Dean Grimsby asks Kathy, "are you just going to sit there and ignore me?" Kathy replies, "I'm not ignoring you." Dean Grimsby yells at Kathy, telling her, "I told you, I want to see you in my office!" Kathy yells back in the same tone, "and, I heard you!" Dean Grimsby exclaims, "then, what are you waiting for?" Kathy tells the dean, "you said that you wanted to see me in your office! You never commanded me to go there! This is a university, Dean Grimsby. Expressing a wish or desire, and issuing a command is two entirely different things. Maybe you should audit a freshman English class. You might actually learn something." Everyone on the bleachers laughs, as Kathy is treating the dean like a five-year-old.

Dean Grimsby then commands Kathy, “okay, have it your way then. Please report to my office immediately!” Kathy stands up, and comments, “finally! Something that you said is marginally understandable. And, by the way, the word ‘then’ is a conjunctive adverb, and should never appear at the end of a sentence. How did you ever pass English class?” Even though English is probably not the track team’s best subject, they all laugh while Kathy is picking apart the dean’s command of the English language.

Kathy whispers to Eddie, “don’t worry about me. I’ll take care of him.” Eddie gives Kathy a kiss, and whispers to her, “it sounds like you already did. But, kick his ass anyway.” Eddie has absolutely no respect for Dean Grimsby, and neither does Kathy. As Kathy walks away, Paula whispers to Mark, “it’s just too bad we’re all going to miss this.”

Kathy heads to the locker room to change. As if he has not been a big enough pain in the ass already, Dean Grimsby asks Kathy, “where do you think you are going?” Kathy boldly replies, “I am changing. I’m not going to sit in your office in my track uniform! Got it?” Dean Grimsby dares not to respond. Kathy heads to the locker room to change. Dean Grimsby returns to his office, clearly understanding that he is going to be in for a very rough ride ahead.

Kathy heads to Dean Grimsby’s office, understanding exactly what today’s agenda is. Knowing that she can go back in time through the portal, and undo anything that has happened, she has chosen to be the shark, and not the shark bait, during Dean Grimsby’s interrogation. Dean Grimsby, as Kathy will find out, already has his case against her well documented, and ready to be presented.

Kathy walks up to the dean’s office, and tells the assistant, “Dean Grimsby told me to come to his office.” The assistant asks, “and, what is your name?” Kathy replies, “Katarina Karakova.” The assistant informs the dean that Kathy has arrived. Kathy is told that the dean is waiting for her, and that she can go right in.

Kathy takes a seat, and waits a few minutes as Dean Grimsby shuffles and sorts a few irrelevant papers, making it appear as if he is doing something very important. Dean Grimsby opens the meeting by verbosely stating, “it is my understanding that you were involved in a physical altercation with another member of the track team on Monday. The other student involved in the altercation is reported to me as being Todd McCutchen. Am I correct in my assessment?” Kathy smiles, and replies, “yes, I was. He started it. I finished it. And, I kicked his ass! Officer Braden would be proud!” Dean Grimsby repeats, “you kicked his ass. I see.” As she plays with her necklace holding her blue stone, Kathy replies, “exactly. I kicked his flimsy ass, and I kicked it good.”

Dean Grimsby tells Kathy, “since you seem so proud of your accomplishment, please describe to me what happened.” Kathy succinctly tells the dean, “McCrutchen intentionally rammed the baton into my ass, so I kicked his little piece of shit ass.” Sitting back in his chair, Dean Grimsby asks Kathy, “do you believe your response was appropriate for something that can be construed as merely an accident?” Kathy replies, “no. It was completely inappropriate. I should have kept going and kicked his ass even more. My mistake. And, by the way, what McCrutchen did was no accident.”

Dean Grimsby, beginning to get angry, asks, “how can you be so sure it wasn’t an accident?” Kathy replies, “for the same reason that steroids just didn’t accidentally show up in Eddie’s locker last year. And, we won’t even bring up Mark’s locker, and how McCrutchen and lug nut got caught red handed. Lug nut, by the way, is Steve Leggett, who you expelled for that act. But, you brushed all that under the carpet. And, besides. You weren’t there, junior. So, how would you know? The whole team saw it. So, cut your bullshit already.” The dean is not used to being spoken to in such a forthright manner.

Dean Grimsby tells Kathy, “I can see that this is going to be a very difficult meeting.” Kathy puts her feet up on the dean’s desk, and replies, “well then, maybe we should just sit back and relax.” Dean Grimsby exclaims, “get your feet off of my desk!” Kathy slowly takes her feet off of the dean’s desk, and tells him, “your move.”

Dean Grimsby angrily tells Kathy, “this is a serious matter. Let me make you aware of the fact that, after you kicked his ass, as you say, Todd McCutchen suffered a serious injury to his knee and may never run again.” Kathy interrupts, and tells the dean, “he never could run to begin with. So, I really don’t see what the problem is.”

Having enough of Kathy’s attitude, Dean Grimsby tells her, “I can see I am getting absolutely nowhere with you, so let me get right to the point.” As Kathy is playing with the necklace housing her blue stone, she replies, “waiting.”

Perceiving Kathy’s sarcasm, the dean continues, “I am placing you on disciplinary probation. During the time that you are on disciplinary probation, you will not be allowed to participate on the track team. You will still be required to attend all of your classes. And, any future incidents like the one that occurred on Monday may lead to your expulsion. And, since you are very close to graduation, I would highly recommend that you make a reasonable effort to behave yourself. Do you understand me?” Kathy replies, “no.”

The dean asks Kathy, “what part of what I said do you not understand?” Kathy tells the dean, in a matter of fact tone, “all of it. To ‘understand’ is a legal term which means to agree with the presented charges. So, in a legal sense, I do not understand you. And, by the way, I will be running in the meet this weekend. And, don’t think for a minute that I forgot that, when you put McCrutchen and lug nut on disciplinary probation, you stated, ‘the administration prefers not to interfere with the Athletic Department’s business.’ That sounds like a double standard to me. Maybe Provost Leighton can help clear that up for you.”

Kathy would be correct. At her University, by rule, disciplinary probation does not prevent an athlete from competing on a sports team. Disciplinary probation is merely one step away from a one-semester suspension. Dean Grimsby, for some reason, seems to think he can make up whatever rules he wants.

Dean Grimsby pauses, and replies, “wow! In all of my academic experience, I have never run into anyone with your attitude.” Kathy replies, “sure you have. You must have totally forgotten all about your meeting with Eddie last year when he made a complete fool out of you.” Dean Grimsby tells Kathy, “that’s it. I’ve had enough of you and your attitude.” Interrupting the dean, Kathy informs him, “I’ve had enough of you too.” Putting her feet back up on the dean’s desk, Kathy adds, “so, I guess we’re even. Your move.”

The dean begins to speak, as Kathy holds the setting housing her blue stone, examining her blue stone carefully. The dean rambles on, displaying his disgust. Following a few minutes of listening to the dean babble, Kathy takes a gamble, goes out on a limb, and tells the dean, “just shut up already. One more peep out of you, and I’ll make your high-level involvement in the organized gambling ring around here public knowledge.” A sudden look of fright comes across the dean’s face.

Suddenly getting extremely angry, the dean blurts out, “what do you know about that?” Realizing that she just busted the dean, Kathy calmly, but sarcastically, replies, “wouldn’t you like to know? So, let’s get something straight. If I’m going down, you’re going down even harder. And, where you’re going, they will rip you a few more holes in places you can only imagine. We took Crum down, and we can take you down too. Got it?” Dean Grimsby turns an eerie shade of white, attesting to his guilt.

Dean Grimsby, knowing that he’s been busted, is listening carefully, trying to learn what Kathy knows. Adding fuel to the fire, Kathy, now taking control of the meeting, firmly tells the dean, “and, for the record, I don’t appreciate competing in a rigged sport! I am sick of you working with McCrutchen to rig the races! That’s why you want that loser on the team. Isn’t it? And, now that Dr. Paxton is gone, you have to make up

shit like, 'the administration would prefer that Todd McCutchen run in at least one, preferably two events,' which is total bullshit. It's you who want McCutchen to run in one or two events. Isn't it? Go ahead and admit it!" Dean Grimsby is silent for a moment, prompting Kathy to use the highly sarcastic innuendo, "waiting." Fifteen more seconds go by, which seems like an hour to Dean Grimsby. As she is playing with her blue stone, Kathy stares at Dean Grimsby, smiles and calmly says, "checkmate. You lose."

Dean Grimsby, clearly knowing that he has been busted, tells Kathy, "okay. I'll make you a deal." Knowing now that she has the upper hand, Kathy interrupts and tells Dean Grimsby, "I already gave you the deal, junior. In case you missed it, I told you, 'one more peep out of you, and I'll make your high-level involvement in the organized gambling ring around here public knowledge.' Now, unless there's anything else we have to discuss, I can think of a million things I'd rather be doing than sit here listening to you and your inane babbling. And, for the record, I am not on disciplinary probation. And, for your information, I will be running in the next meet. If you don't like it, talk to Provost Leighton and Dr. Alexander Karakova. He's the athletic director, as you might just know." Dr. Karakova is perhaps the last person Dean Grimsby would want to have a run in with. And, a run in with Provost Leighton is not exactly high on the dean's list either.

Kathy walks out of Dean Grimsby's office, knowing that the blue stone she is wearing around her neck has superpowers beyond what she ever thought. Suddenly, it becomes very clear to Kathy what has been going on with Dean Grimsby, Dr. Paxton, Todd McCutchen, and his older brother, Scott McCutchen. As she is walking back to the arena, Kathy now wonders whether Leggett was involved with fixing the events as well.

Kathy gets back just in time for the end of practice, and heads out to the track. Mr. Frazier is quite surprised to see her. And, so are Eddie and the rest of the tribe. Kathy walks up to Mr. Frazier and asks, "what did I miss?" Mr. Frazier replies, "the question of the day would be, 'what happened in the dean's office?'" Kathy explains, "he tried to put me on disciplinary probation, which means I wouldn't be allowed to run in the meet this weekend." Mr. Frazier asks, "did you get out of it?" Kathy replies, "oh, heck yeah. You have to hear this one."

As Mr. Frazier is finishing up, Kathy tells him, "I really want to have Officer Hayes, the police officer, to hear this too." Mr. Frazier replies, "now, I'm really interested. Go call him. See if he's available. I'm going to stay around for the meeting." Kathy heads back to the arena, and makes the call. It turns out that Officer Hayes is available, and heads to the University. Kathy tells the dispatcher to have Officer Hayes meet her at the arena.

Mr. Frazier, Kathy, Eddie, Mark, Paula, and Braden wait in the hall outside the locker rooms for Officer Hayes to arrive. Braden is dressed in his uniform, since he is officially on patrol after practice. Mr. Frazier mentions, "I thought I left all these problems behind, at the high school. Apparently, I was wrong." Eddie informs Mr. Frazier, "McCutchen was expelled for planting steroids in Mark's locker last year. They readmitted him because of some so-called technicalities. That guy spells nothing but trouble." Kathy assures Eddie and Mr. Frazier, "he won't be back. Dean Grimsby said he may never run again." Mark comments, "he never could run to begin with." Kathy laughs, and replies, "that's exactly what I told Dean Grimsby! He didn't think it was very funny though."

Officer Hayes walks in, seeing the familiar crowd. Mr. Frazier takes everyone into the arena, where they enter a nicely furnished room usually reserved for the meet officials. After having a brief reunion, and Mr. Frazier bringing Officer Hayes up to date on the altercation between Kathy and McCutchen, everyone takes a seat.

Kathy begins by telling everyone, "today, I almost got put on disciplinary probation for kicking the shit out of McCutchen on Monday. Dean Grimsby told me that I will not be allowed to participate on the track team, but that I still had to go to my classes. And, then he said that any future incidents may lead to my expulsion." Mr. Frazier comments, "it was obvious that he was on the warpath this morning about something." Mark adds, "yeah, I'd say."

Kathy continues, explaining, "so, here's the good part. I told Dean Grimsby, 'one more peep out of you, and I'll make your high-level involvement in the organized gambling ring around here public knowledge.' So, then the dean yells out, 'how do you know about that?' So, I told him, 'wouldn't you like to know?' So, then he got really mad at me, and I told him that I didn't appreciate competing in a rigged sport, and that he wants McCutchen on the team so he can rig the outcomes. Oh, and I told him that he made up this thing that we all keep hearing that 'the administration would prefer that Todd McCutchen run in at least one, preferably two events.'" Mr. Frazier mentions, "I've been hearing that too, but neither I or Provost Leighton can find out where that decree originated."

Officer Hayes, who is frantically taking notes asks, "this McCutchen character. Is he still running erratically?" Mr. Frazier replies, "not during practice as much, but I'm afraid to put him in because in a meet is where he displays poor performance." Officer Hayes then asks Kathy, "this meeting with Dean Grimsby was when? This morning?" Kathy replies, "yeah. About 7:30 a.m., right after practice started."

Kathy continues, “so, after I told him, ‘checkmate,’ Dean Grimsby tells me, ‘I’ll make you a deal.’ So then, I told him that I already gave him the deal, which was, ‘one more peep out of you, and I’ll make your high-level involvement in the organized gambling ring around here public knowledge.’ Then, I told him that, for the record, I am not on disciplinary probation and that I will be running in the next meet. Then, I walked out.”

Officer Hayes asks Kathy, “what made you suspect this Dean Grimsby character is involved in a gambling ring?” Kathy explains, “everything he says and does is exactly like Mr. Crum. Like, when Mr. Crum tried to get Jimmy O’Brien and the Chuckie on the track team, but they weren’t good enough. And so, when Dr. Paxton disappeared, Dean Grimsby did everything he could to keep McCrutchen on the team.” Mr. Frazier tells Officer Hayes, “I can certainly attest to all of that. And, there was also that time Mr. Crum tried to get Paul Mahoney back on the team.” Kathy exclaims, “yeah! I remember that!” Mr. Frazier adds, “Crum, wanting Paul Mahoney back on the team, may have been for the same reason.”

Kathy then mentions, “so, I also keep hearing about how much money McCrutchen’s father gives to the school. Now, I’m wondering if he isn’t making the money by gambling, and betting against the team. And, so get this. I bet that, when Braden was chasing down McCrutchen last year, the other guy was his older brother.” Eddie had suggested that the third person could have been Scott McCutchen, Jr., to Officer Hayes last Summer. But, the case of investigating steroids planted in Mark’s locker is not Officer Hayes’ case. Officer Braden adds, “whoever that other guy was is certainly a lot faster than McCrutchen. I went after the slower guy.”

Officer Hayes asks, “the older McCutchen brother, that’s Scott, Junior? Right?” Kathy replies, “yeah.” Officer Hayes asks Officer Braden, “you guys never did find out who the third guy was, right?” Officer Braden replies, “that’s correct, sir. But, we know that there were three of them. When me and Officer Levy questioned them, they alleged there were only two of them.”

Officer Hayes, who is quite sure that Scott McCutchen, Jr., was the third person, asks Mr. Frazier, “is there any evidence that this Scott McCutchen, Junior character also runs erratically?” Mr. Frazier replies, “I don’t know. That was before I got here. But, there are records of everyone’s performance every time they were timed on the track, both in practice and in competition.” Officer Hayes tells Mr. Frazier, “if you don’t mind, I’d like to get those records.” Mr. Frazier replies, “no problem.”

Officer Hayes then asks Officer Braden, “did you arrest this Todd McCutchen character for assault?” Officer Braden replies, “no. Todd McCutchen has been under surveillance. He’s gonna go and report everything to his father. So, I let it go. I suspect his father is gonna show

up again at the school, and cry about something. McCutchen wasn't looking too good when they took him away. We're sure to hear more about this soon."

Focusing his attention to Officer Hayes, Mr. Frazier adds, "Scott McCutchen, Senior, the father, showed up at practice earlier in the semester. He wanted the harassment of his son stopped." Officer Hayes asks, "is there any evidence that this Todd McCutchen was being harassed by anyone?" Mr. Frazier explains, "no one seems to like the guy for some reason. It's not hard to see how he would think he's being harassed."

Mark replies, "yeah, I've harassed him. I call him McCutchen. I've done that since eighth grade. And, all during high school, I messed with him at the starting line when he ran for Centerville." Officer Hayes comments, "I hardly think that compares to planting steroids in a locker or ramming a baton into someone's ass."

While they are on the subject, Mark also mentions, "and, he crashed my wedding." Officer Hayes interrupts, and asks, "wait a second. Let me get this straight. Todd McCutchen crashed your wedding?" Mark replies, "yeah. Him and that lug nut guy." Clarifying Mark's reference, Paula tells Officer Hayes, "lug nut is Steve Leggett." Officer Hayes asks, "when was the wedding?" Paula replies, "it will be two years this Summer." Officer Braden adds, "when he crashed the wedding, we had McCutchen and Leggett arrested. They were charged with public drunkenness and disorderly conduct." Officer Hayes comments, "this gets better all the time."

Primarily addressing Officer Braden, Officer Hayes advises, "now that the cat is out of the bag, your department will have to keep a close eye on Addison Grimsby. He's probably on the phone right now. And, that was a good move letting McCutchen go, and not placing him under arrest immediately. It will give them all a chance to regroup and plan their next move, which we'll be waiting for."

Mr. Frazier mentions, "on Monday, I told Todd McCutchen that he's cut from the team. But, when I heard his knee was severely injured, I put him on injured reserve. But, he thinks he's been cut. We'll see how hard they work to get him back on the team." Officer Hayes replies, "good. That's even better. The storm will be more fierce."

Mr. Frazier then mentions, "with Paxton gone, McCutchen gone, and Crum in jail, we stand a good chance to win all the gold medals in the Spring divisional meet. I can't wait." Officer Hayes asks, "is the team really that good?" Mr. Frazier replies, "physically, they can do it. In a four-way meet earlier this year, they took all the gold medals. All I have to do is get rid of their doubt." Braden chimes in and energetically exclaims,

“we’re gonna do it! This is gonna be the biggest ass kicking meet of my career!” Mr. Frazier laughs and comments, “I wish everyone was that confident.” Officer Hayes requests of Mr. Frazier and Braden, “keep me informed of the team’s performance. I want to see how the performance changes now that certain people are out of the picture.” Mr. Frazier replies, “we can certainly do that.”

As the meeting winds up, Officer Hayes walks away with more pieces of the puzzle, learning a few things he’s never heard before. Mr. Frazier has gotten rid of McCutchen, hopefully for good this time. Kathy avoids getting put on disciplinary probation, and has Dean Grimsby running scared. At the end of the day, Dean Grimsby wishes he called in sick today. And, Provost Leighton will have an interesting time catching up on the drama when she returns on Monday.

Once everyone else is gone, Eddie asks Kathy, “okay, Katarina Karakova, how did you figure all that out?” Kathy smiles, and replies, “my blue stone. I was holding it when I was in Dean Grimsby’s office. I saw right through all his bullshit, and everything began to make perfect sense.” Eddie asks, “so, with your blue stone, you’re seriously a better bullshit detector?” Kathy exclaims, “that’s right!” Eddie replies, “if that’s one thing that’s different, then who knows what else is different too with your blue stone.”

Eddie asks, “I wonder if the blue stone works for everyone.” Kathy replies, “you know, I don’t know. Maybe I’ll put mine around Paula’s neck for a few minutes, and see what happens.” Eddie replies, “we can put one around Mark’s neck, and tell Mark to tell McCutchen that his brain is liquefying, and see what happens.” Kathy laughs, telling Eddie, “his brain is already mush. And, now I want to go back and find more of these blue stones.” Eddie suggests, “maybe, we can dig some up sometime.” Kathy agrees, telling Eddie, “yeah, we can do that. We definitely have to do that.”

Monday morning, Provost Leighton returns and gets the rundown of the last week from Mr. Frazier before practice. Provost Leighton is glad to see that McCutchen is gone, primarily because he really brought no value to the team. Upon hearing that Dean Grimsby tried to place Kathy on disciplinary probation for defending herself against McCutchen, Provost Leighton assured Mr. Frazier that will not happen. Provost Leighton also assured Mr. Frazier that, if Dean Grimsby pursues the issue, she will just overrule everything he does, and there’s nothing that anyone can do about it.

With the team assembled on the bleachers, Mr. Frazier walks in with Provost Leighton and Dr. Bonamo. Mr. Frazier opens by telling everyone, “that was a great meet this weekend! Every one of you are to be

congratulated! And, everyone's performance is the best it's ever been!" The team cheers, Mr. Frazier grins, and continues, "hopefully, this week we can all get some track and field training in, and skip the wrestling matches. But, I got rid of that problem. So, maybe now we can move forward." The team laughs, knowing that Mr. Frazier is referring to McCutchen. Getting right down to business, Mr. Frazier tells the field athletes to follow Dr. Bonamo outside.

As Mr. Frazier remains inside for a moment and addresses the track athletes, Paula whispers to Kathy, "this is going to sound weird, but there's trouble coming again." Kathy looks around, seeing no immediate trouble, wonders if Paula is not just stressed out. Kathy whispers to Paula, "well, at least the trouble can't be McCutchen, since he'll never run again, so they say." Paula whispers back, "yeah, I know. McCutchen is what Erika would call an easy take down." Mr. Frazier finishes up his brief talk, and the track athletes get up, and head out to the track.

As Kathy and Paula walk through the door, continuing their conversation, someone suddenly grabs Kathy's arm as she exits the building and yanks her aside. Kathy screams, gaining the attention of everyone around. The person tells Kathy, "we need to have a talk." After a very brief struggle, Kathy manages to break away from her attacker, but it doesn't matter. Eddie was not far behind her and, lifting Kathy's adversary into the air, body slams him onto the ground with more force than anyone could imagine.

Eddie walks Kathy aside, joined by the tribe, and asks, "are you okay, sweetie?" Kathy exclaims, "yeah, I'm okay! But, someone else isn't going to be okay in a minute! What was that all about?" Chatter arises among the team, with everyone wondering what just happened. Eddie gives Kathy a hug, not realizing that Kathy's adversary has gotten up, and is headed straight for Kathy again.

Mark intercepts the attacker who, in turn, attacks Mark. The attacker fights Mark, but Mark proceeds to relentlessly mess with him. The attacker tries to strike Mark, but Mark evades his every move, getting a few jabs in.

Braden tells everyone, "stand back! Everybody, please stand back!" Braden is looking for an opening to break up the fight and apprehend the attacker, albeit not moving very quickly to do so.

The attacker tries to head butt Mark, who has now had enough. Mark throws the perpetrator to the ground and grabs him by the ankles and spins him around. Braden, knowing exactly what is coming, steps inside the building for a moment. Everyone else stands clear, as an opening forms in one direction. Mark releases Kathy's attacker, who flies through

the air and is promptly greeted by a group of thorny rose bushes. Seeing the landing, Johnson exclaims, “great shot!”

Hearing the commotion, Mr. Frazier breaks through the crowd, telling Provost Leighton, “not this shit again. I thought this was all over with.” Mr. Frazier, who arrived just in time to see Kathy’s attacker fly through the air, exclaims, “ouch,” seeing the man lying in the middle of the rose bushes. Provost Leighton exclaims, “that must have hurt!” Mr. Frazier tells Provost Leighton, “well, let’s go and try to sort this one out.”

Kathy, recognizing her attacker as Scott McCutchen, Sr., walks over to where he is laying in the bushes, and proceeds to kick him in the ass, exclaiming, “you piece of shit!” No one dares to stop Kathy, not even Mr. Frazier, who now recognizes the attacker.

Braden returns from his locker where he retrieved his handcuffs, walking up as Kathy finishes up kicking the shit out of another member of the McCutchen family. Braden drags Scott McCutchen, Sr., out of the bushes by his feet, and turns him face down on the ground, placing him in handcuffs. Braden announces, “Scott McCutchen, Senior, you are under arrest for assault.” The crowd cheers, as Braden informs Scott McCutchen, Sr. of his rights.

As Braden picks Mr. McCutchen off the ground, he tells Mr. Frazier, “I’m sorry. It looks like I’m gonna miss practice today. I gotta take out the trash.” Mr. Frazier tells Braden, “don’t worry about it. It looks like you’re saving me the problem of dealing with this.” Braden takes McCutchen, Sr. away, who looks like he was on the losing end of a bull fight. And, as Braden takes Mr. McCutchen away, Kathy tells him, “don’t forget to call Richard!”

Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton pull Kathy, Mark, and Eddie aside. Paula, Johnson, and a few others, join them. Mr. Frazier asks, “what was that all about?” Kathy explains, “he grabbed my arm and pulled on it. He said, ‘we need to have a talk.’” Eddie adds, “he wouldn’t let Kathy go, so I picked him up and body slammed him.”

Mr. Frazier asks Mark, “how did you get involved?” Mark explains, “after Eddie body slammed him, he got up and was headed straight on for Kathy again. I intercepted him and tried to block him, and he started to fight with me. So, I was messing with him, trying to keep him away from Kathy. Then, he tried to head butt me, so I thought I’d try him out as a hammer and flung him around. It’s too bad that the bushes got in the way.” Mr. Frazier laughs, and replies, “what’s really too bad is that Dr. Bonamo wasn’t here to see that!”

Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier, “it’s a good thing that Axel Braden was here. This sounds like law enforcement’s problem anyway. So, we’ll just let them deal with it.” Mr. Frazier, glad to hear that, replies, “that’s fine with me. We have work to do. We have the divisional meet coming up soon, and we can’t afford to waste our time on shit like this.” Provost Leighton replies, “I totally agree, George.”

Provost Leighton asks the group, “let me ask this. Who made the first aggressive physical contact?” Kathy replies, “Scott McCrutchen.” A few others back up Kathy, stating that they also saw it. Mark adds, “and, when Eddie stopped him, he started it up again. I had to stop him.” Provost Leighton informs Mr. Frazier, “well, this is not our problem.” Everyone was certainly glad to hear that. The team heads to the track, ready to burn off the excess adrenaline they’ve just acquired.

After practice, as everyone is headed back to the locker rooms, Officer Braden is outside the arena discussing the incident with Officer Hayes, who just arrived. Officer Braden informs Officer Hayes that Scott McCutchen, Sr. is under arrest, in the campus jail, and screaming like a madman. Officer Braden also informs Officer Hayes that he plans to have Scott McCutchen, Sr. transported to the hospital to get checked out, just to get rid of him.

Seeing Officer Hayes, Kathy, Eddie, Mark, and their coaches join the conversation. After a brief hello, Officer Hayes asks, “okay. What happened here?” Kathy explains, “that piece of shit grabbed my arm and said ‘we need to have a talk.’ I broke away from him, and Eddie body slammed him.” Officer Hayes asks, “then, what happened?” Mark explains, “that guy went after Kathy again, so I intercepted him. He started a fight with me, so I messed with him. Then, he tried to head butt me, so I tried him out as a hammer.” Officer Braden adds, “that’s when I stepped in and arrested him.”

Mr. Frazier then informs Officer Hayes, “after Braden arrested Scott McCutchen, Sr., we all went out to the track to practice. I thought I left this kind of nonsense behind at the high school.” Officer Hayes tells Mr. Frazier, “it appears that the nonsense has hit a whole new level.”

Mr. Frazier explains to Officer Hayes, “I can’t have anyone attacking my team. We stand a excellent chance of winning every single gold medal in the upcoming divisional meet, and I can’t afford to have any of my athletes sidelined.” Officer Hayes asks, “so, you still think the team will win every gold medal in the divisional meet?” Mr. Frazier replies, “based upon the team’s performance so far this year, it sure looks that way. We’re planning on it, and that’s the team’s goal.”

Wondering why Scott McCutchen, Senior was even at the University, Officer Hayes asks, “let me ask everyone this. Can anyone tell me why this McCutchen character was even on the campus?” Mr. Frazier explains, “yes. This probably has something to do with his son, Todd McCutchen, ramming a baton into Kathy’s rear end during practice a while back. Kathy kicked the shit out of Todd, and now they’re claiming that Todd will never run again. Apparently, the father had some words to exchange with Kathy. I don’t know what it is with Todd McCutchen. He’s totally incompetent on the track, yet his father and Dean Grimsby, for some reason, want him on the team.”

After obtaining a few statements, Officer Hayes tells Officer Braden, “have this McCutchen character shipped to the county hospital. Inform them that he’s under arrest, and we’ll pick him up when he’s discharged.” Recalling an instance when Paul Mahoney was taken away, Kathy suggests, “are you sure you don’t want him to take the bus² to the booby hatch³?” Officer Hayes laughs, telling Kathy, “at the rate things are going with these McCutchen characters, that might not be a bad idea.” Having gathered all the information he needs, Officer Hayes heads out, and everyone else heads to their next destination.

The day of the Spring divisional meet arrives, and it is unlikely that any of the University’s athletes are in on the gambling operation. Technically on the injured reserve list after Kathy took him out, McCutchen is sitting in the stands today along with his father and older brother. Also in the stands are President Caldwell, Dr. Karakova, Dean Grimsby, and a few other administrators in their special VIP seating area. Former Coach Herndon was invited to sit with the administrators today, and is seated along with them. Today, Provost Leighton is not among the spectators, but rather will be alongside Mr. Frazier and Dr. Bonamo, coaching the team.

The team gathers in the indoor arena before they head out to the stadium. Mr. Frazier confidently walks into the arena, joined by Provost Leighton, Dr. Bonamo, and Officer Richard Hayes. Officer Hayes is present today for two reasons. One is to get a first-hand look at the track team in competition. The second is to see what else he can discover regarding the gambling investigation he has been a part of for two years.

Mr. Frazier gives a brief talk to his team, and begins by announcing, “I hear a rumor that there is a track meet today.” Some of the team members chuckle, but some remain silent. Mr. Frazier continues, “I have

² Bus: Slang term for an ambulance.

³ Booby hatch: Slang term for a mental institution.

some good news for all of you. At the end of last week, Dr. Bonamo, Coach Leighton, Mrs. Owens, and myself had a meeting. We reviewed your individual statistics, the statistics of the relay teams, and the statistics of the competitors that we have obtained from the other meets this year.” Mr. Frazier then raises his voice, exclaiming, “we have the potential, as a team, to take every gold medal out there today in the running events and most of the field events!” The team cheers wildly, ready for victory.

Quoting his favorite Bible verse, Mr. Frazier continues, exclaiming, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you win!’ Mark my word! There is only one winner! Remember, the one and only attribute that will determine your success today in your event is you must attack your opponent with no fear! No fear! Did you get that? No fear! You all have the ability to take home a medal today. Collectively, as a team, we can take home all the gold medals today!”

One of the field athletes comments, “except for the high jump.” Mr. Frazier calmly repeats what he heard, “except for the high jump. I see.” The best the team was hoping for in the high jump was the bronze medal. Looking around at the athletes, Mr. Frazier exclaims, asking, “who here can high jump?” Akinmola pipes up, telling his coach, “me! I can.” Mr. Frazier exclaims, “that’s right! I remember that from when you were in high school! How high can you jump these days?” Akinmola confidently replies, “about seven feet. Sometimes a little more.” Mr. Frazier exclaims, “seven feet! Did everyone hear that? Akinmola can high jump seven feet!” Mr. Frazier turns to Dr. Bonamo, telling him, “Akinmola is high jumping today. Put him on the official roster.” Previously, since Akinmola is part of the distance team, Dr. Paxton would not allow him to high jump.

Mr. Frazier concludes, “we are now going to walk out to the track with great confidence. We have the ability to take all the gold medals, including the high jump! Just remember, you are the greatest! No one is better at your event than you are! Let’s get out there and act like it!” Mr. Frazier, along with the other coaches, walks toward the exit, and the team follows.

On the way to the track, Kathy tells Eddie, “I’m really glad Mr. Frazier is back.” Eddie replies, “yeah, I agree. He sounds a lot more confident than Dr. Braun.” Kathy mentions, “Akinmola sounds really confident too.” Eddie asks, “I wonder what the winning jump in the Winter divisional meet was.” Kathy replies, “somewhere in the upper six-foot range. If he’s jumping anywhere close to seven feet, he’s got a shot at it.” Eddie comments, “Mr. Frazier might just pull it off and win all the gold medals.”

Walking out to the track with the coaching staff is Officer Hayes. Curious about Mr. Frazier's earlier comments, Officer Hayes asks Mr. Frazier, "are you still that confident that you'll take all the gold medals?" Mr. Frazier replies, "yes. They can do it. In the last few weeks, they've been more fired up than ever." Coach Leighton adds, "everyone's performance is the best it's been all year. They've all been working really hard." To Officer Hayes, Mr. Frazier sounds extremely confident. And, why shouldn't he? With several athletes delivering world-class performances, there is no reason why the team cannot take all the gold medals today. Officer Hayes excuses himself, and mentions that he will meet up with the team later.

Arriving at the team bench, Eddie, Mark, and Hoffer stretch and warm up. They will be up first in the 100-yard dash preliminaries. Mr. Frazier privately tells the three sprinters, "it's no secret we'll take the gold and silver in the 100-yard dash. The bronze is up for debate. Do whatever you have to, but get that Nachlobrocklin guy out of the competition. That guy is dangerous. He's mentally unfit to compete." Mark replies, "that should be easy enough. His brain is already shorted out." Mr. Frazier gives his three top notch sprinters a fist bump, telling them, "good luck."

The call is made for the men's 100-yard dash preliminaries. Heading to the starting line, Eddie asks Mark, "what's the plan, bro?" Mark replies, "I don't know yet. I'll figure it out before the final." Already at the starting line, watching carefully as Mark walks up, is Nachlobrocklin, who plans to win this year. Nachlobrocklin has been training hard, and is ready for today's event.

Seeing that Nachlobrocklin is nervously staring at him, Mark looks around at the officials, finding the Head Timekeeper with whom he had a discussion with during the indoor divisional meet earlier this year. Mark walks over to the Head Timekeeper, and asks, "hey, do you remember me?" The Timekeeper replies, "oh, yeah. Last January, during the indoor meet. I remember." Mark points at Nachlobrocklin, telling the Head Timekeeper, "every time I'm up against that crazy guy, he starts something." For effect, Mark waves his hands in the air, telling the Head Timekeeper, "can you guys please keep an eye on him." Pointing directly at Nachlobrocklin again, Mark tells the Head Timekeeper, "he kind of goes psycho without any warning." The Head Timekeeper replies, "I agree. We've seen it all season. We'll definitely keep a close eye on him." Nachlobrocklin is keenly aware that Mark is pointing at him and talking about him.

The Head Timekeeper motions for the Starter to come over. The Starter jogs over, and asks, "what's up?" The Head Timekeeper points to Nachlobrocklin, telling the Starter, "the guy in lane three started something with this guy, who will be in lane five, over the Winter. Please

keep an eye on the guy in lane three. He's mentally unstable." For additional effect, Mark points to Nachlobrocklin, telling the Starter and the Head Timekeeper, "his name is Major Nachlobrocklin. If you accidentally mispronounce his name, he'll act like a shark at feeding time." Nachlobrocklin is now very aware that he is being singled out for some reason. The officials reassure Mark that they'll keep an eye on Nachlobrocklin.

Mark walks over to the starting line with the Starter. During their walk, Mark stares at Nachlobrocklin, who is pacing back and forth, wondering what the problem is. Mark, in the first heat, steps behind his blocks, in lane five. Mark whispers to Eddie, in lane four, "I warned the officials about Nachlobrocklin. He's getting paranoid." Nachlobrocklin is getting increasingly nervous, pacing back and forth. Eddie whispers to Mark, "he was talking to himself the whole time." Mark whispers back, "good. He's about to self destruct."

Eddie then whispers to Mark, "Amazon war cry at the gun. Tell Hoffer." Mark walks over to Hoffer, who is in lane two, and whispers, "Amazon war cry when the gun goes off." As Mark is walking back to his lane, Nachlobrocklin steps up, shoves Mark, and exclaims, "are you talking about me? What's your problem?" Mark intentionally falls to the ground, getting up slowly.

The Head Timekeeper runs over, telling Nachlobrocklin, "you! Calm down." Nachlobrocklin exclaims, "that guy is talking about me! You guys are all talking about me!" The Head Timekeeper again tells Nachlobrocklin, "calm down! Or, I'll have to eject you from the meet!" Seeing the opening, Mark tells Eddie, "I think we have a major problem here," emphasizing the word "major".

Stepping around the officials, Nachlobrocklin lunges toward Mark, intending to take Mark down. Mark quickly steps aside, exclaiming, "get that guy out of here! Every meet he starts something! I'm sick of this shit already!" The officials again tell Nachlobrocklin, "you! Calm down! Control yourself!" As he is frantically pacing back and forth, Nachlobrocklin yells out, "he's messing up my race. He's messing it all up!" Mark tells the Head Timekeeper, "that guy is so full of shit."

Mr. Frazier runs over, wondering what all the commotion is about. Mr. Frazier asks, "what's going on here?" The Head Timekeeper, recognizing Mr. Frazier, explains, "it's the same thing that happened during the last divisional meet." Mr. Frazier calls Mark over, and asks, "what happened this time?" Mark explains, "I just told the officials that Nachlobrocklin, or whatever his name is, always starts something with me, and to keep an eye on him. Then, I whispered to Hoffer, 'Amazon war cry when the gun

goes off.' I guess he thought we were talking about him. That guy's a real mental case."

Mr. Frazier asks the Head Timekeeper, begging, "can you guys please do something about that guy?" The Head Timekeeper tells Mr. Frazier, "we have a problem with him during every meet. I'll give him a warning. Any other instances, and we'll eject him." Mr. Frazier was hoping that the officials would eject Nachlobrocklin from the meet. Mark, however, just learned everything he needs to in order to get Nachlobrocklin ejected.

Nachlobrocklin's coach, Mr. Crumpler, walks over, also wondering what the problem is. Mr. Crumpler asks Nachlobrocklin, "what's the problem this time?" Pointing at Mark, Nachlobrocklin exclaims, "he's messing up my race! He's messing it all up again! And, he's gonna be messing up my name!" Mr. Crumpler tells Nachlobrocklin, "just calm down. We've talked about this. Just focus. Breathe, and focus on the race." Nachlobrocklin, who apparently has had these problems many times before, begins to calm down.

Off to the side, the Head Timekeeper calls a brief meeting, discussing the situation with the Starter, Mr. Frazier, Mr. Crumpler, and Nachlobrocklin. In no uncertain terms, the Head Timekeeper explains to Mr. Crumpler, "we have a problem here. This is not the first time I've had to deal with your runner this year. Any further outbursts, and I will immediately eject your runner from the meet. Am I understood?" Mr. Crumpler replies, "yes, sir. I sincerely apologize for his outburst." The Head Timekeeper turns toward Nachlobrocklin, and asks, "am I understood?" Nachlobrocklin replies, "yeah. But, he's messing up my race!" The Head Timekeeper raises his voice, asking again, "am I understood?" Nachlobrocklin replies, "yeah. Okay. Okay."

After the ten-minute delay, the Starter announces, "on your marks," then announces, "set." The gun is fired, and the runners are out of the blocks. Eddie and Mark take an early lead. Hoffer is right up there with them. Several yards behind Hoffer is Nachlobrocklin, not having his greatest run. At the finish line, Eddie crosses first, followed by Mark. Hoffer, two yards behind Mark, takes third place in this heat. Nachlobrocklin, taking fifth place, is not the least bit happy.

Walking back to the bench, Eddie, Mark, and Hoffer all clearly made the final. They are not so sure about Nachlobrocklin. But, Nachlobrocklin's fuse has been lit, and he will likely detonate sometime during the meet. Hoffer, however, is more confident than ever that he can beat Nachlobrocklin. Eddie's, Mark's, and Hoffer's confidence grows as they sit back on the bench, watching the times delivered in the other heats as they are posted on the electronic scoreboard.

After the preliminary heats of the men's 100-yard dash are finished, the women are up next in that event. At the starting line, Kathy, Paula, and Erika look around for anyone they might know. Seeing very few athletes they recognize, Kathy and Paula, now seniors who own this event, are carefully looked over by their competition.

The runners get behind the blocks, waiting for the first heat to be called. Standing behind Kathy is a girl wearing number 1083, who comes up to her and asks, "are you that girl, Kathy, who always wins?" Kathy replies, "if you're talking about the 100-yard dash, I guess that would be me." Number 1083, who is a freshman, tells Kathy, "I went to Riverdale. My ex boyfriend in high school ran track, and I was there at one of the meets, watching. When I saw you run, I decided that I could run too. I just want to thank you. You've really inspired me." Kathy replies, "you're so welcome. And, good luck!" Number 1083 replies, "thank you. It was so nice to finally meet you!" As the event is about to get underway, Number 1083 gets back into line. Paula tells Kathy, "she was kind of sweet." Kathy replies, "yeah, I know. I hope she does well."

Once everyone is lined up and ready to go, the Starter announces, "on your marks," followed by, "set," as the runners get into the "set" position. The gun is fired and Kathy, Paula, and Erika, as they are leaving the blocks, all let out a primal scream that is heard throughout the stadium. Kathy and Paula quickly claim the lead, with no one remotely behind them. At the finish line, Kathy crosses first, only marginally beating Paula this year. And Erika, finishing right behind Paula, is hopeful that she will own this event next year.

As they are walking back to the team bench, Kathy tells Paula and Erika, "walk a little slower. I want to watch that girl run." The group slows down, as Kathy wonders how competitive Number 1083 is. As the second heat gets behind the blocks, number 1083 is in lane four. The gun is fired, and Number 1083 lets out a primal scream rivaling Kathy's. Running down her lane, Number 1083 is clearly dominating this heat. At the finish line, Number 1083 takes first place in her heat. Looking up at the scoreboard, Kathy mentions, "10.93. Not too bad for a freshman." Kathy then asks, "didn't we hear an Amazon war cry during the Winter divisionals?" Paula replies, "yeah. We did." Kathy mentions, "I bet it was her."

The call is made for the men's 440-yard dash, which Braden has already announced that he will win. Braden heads over to the starting line along with Johnson, both dancing on the way and exclaiming in unison, "gonna kick your ass, and land it in the grass! I'm gonna win, and your head is gonna spin! The gold is mine, and I'm gonna shine!" Braden and Johnson's well-choreographed dance is attracting a lot of attention. If

Braden and Johnson were on the football field, they would be penalized fifteen yards for excessive celebration.

In the stands, President Caldwell tells the group sitting with him, "this is one of my favorite events." Coach Herndon replies, "of all the athletes I've ever coached, Axel Braden is, by far, my favorite. I've liked that guy since the first day I've met him." President Caldwell comments, "he certainly has a great level of confidence." Coach Herndon informs the administrators, "Axel Braden will win this event, and Johnson will take second place." Whether Bull places remains to be seen.

Braden, in the first heat, gets behind the blocks in lane one. With a well-choreographed dance, Braden exclaims, "gonna kick your ass, and land it in the grass! This race I'm gonna win, and then I'm gonna grin! This race is all mine, and I am gonna shine!" Braden then exclaims, "let's get this ass kicking over with!" The Starter, who has heard Braden's rants before, secretly enjoys the show.

The Starter announces, "good luck to all of you. From what I am hearing, some of you may need it. On your marks," followed by, "set." The gun is fired and Braden's ass kicking of the day is underway. Braden quickly claims the lead, but Johnson is not far behind. At the 220-yard mark, Braden, Johnson, and Bull have lost all their competition. Braden approaches the finish line, not slowing in the least. Crossing the finish line with a time of 44.91 seconds, Braden has set another personal record. In this heat, Johnson takes second place, and Bull takes third place.

On the way back to the bench Braden yells out, "I am the greatest ass kicker of all time!" Braden's claim is heard 100 yards away by Mr. Frazier, who smiles, knowing that someone paid attention during his introductory address in January. Returning to the bench, Braden, Johnson, and Bull receive high-fives from their coaches and teammates. Bull, who will be sitting at the edge of his seat during the subsequent heats, is very optimistic about his run.

In the stands, President Caldwell comments to the group sitting with him, "so far, this morning, we've won the gold medal in every event." Dr. Karakova informs President Caldwell, "and, here come two more gold medals. Eddie will win the men's 100-yard dash and, even if I do say so myself, Kathy will win the women's event. Then, they'll be a brief break for lunch." President Caldwell asks Dr. Karakova, "has any team ever won the gold medal in every event?" Dr. Karakova replies, "not that I know of. That's virtually unheard of in a divisional meet."

Right before lunch, the call is made for the 100-yard dash final. Eddie, Mark, and Hoffer head to the starting line. Once again, they are up against Major Nachlobrocklin, who is treading on very thin ice. Eddie asks

Mark, "how are you going to take Nachlobrocklin down? Have you thought of anything yet?" Mark replies, "I don't know. He's pretty riled up. Maybe he'll just self destruct on his own before the race." Eddie whispers to Mark, "I have an idea. I'll tell you when we get to the blocks."

Arriving at the starting blocks early, Mark sees that Nachlobrocklin has been assigned to lane two, suggesting that his time was not among the fastest finalists. Talking with Eddie behind the blocks, Mark and Hoffer start laughing at a joke that Eddie just told, which is part of Eddie's plan to take Nachlobrocklin down. Mark then catches Nachlobrocklin staring at the group out of the corner of his eye, but completely ignores him for now.

Thinking that Mark was laughing at him, Nachlobrocklin becomes unhinged. Swiftly walking up behind Mark, Nachlobrocklin yells out, "why are you laughing at me? What's your problem?" Mark turns around, and Nachlobrocklin violently strikes Mark on the side of his head. Mark returns the favor, delivering a solid left uppercut to Nachlobrocklin's jaw. Nachlobrocklin goes down and, in no time, there are five officials in the area. Knocked out cold, Nachlobrocklin is finally not picking an argument with anyone. Mark tells the Head Timekeeper, "I told you! If he ever touches me, I'm ejecting him from the planet. Today was his lucky day."

The Head Timekeeper pulls Mark aside. The other officials attend to Nachlobrocklin. Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton run up, again wondering what the issue is. Seeing who is lying on the ground, Mr. Frazier, now quite angry, asks, "what happened this time?" The Head Timekeeper explains, "your three athletes were talking together, laughing about something. The guy on the ground came up from behind, yelling, 'why are you laughing at me? What's your problem?' He then struck your runner in the head who, in turn, leveled him." Mr. Frazier, seeing Nachlobrocklin on the ground, exclaims, "get that guy out of here! Every meet he seems to cause this kind of shit!"

The Head Timekeeper asks Mark, "what were you guys laughing about?" Mark replies, "Eddie told us a joke, and we laughed. We weren't laughing at that paranoid asshole." The Head Timekeeper asks, "what was the joke?" Mark replies, "Eddie asked us, 'what's a dentist's favorite hymn?' So, me and Hoffer looked at each other and shrugged our shoulders. We didn't know. So, Eddie told us, 'Crown Him with Many Crowns.' Eddie said he heard that one from Akinmola earlier today." Mr. Frazier, Provost Leighton, and the Head Timekeeper also laugh, understanding why Mark and Hoffer were both laughing.

As Nachlobrocklin's coach, Mr. Crumpler, arrives, the paramedics take Nachlobrocklin away, and the officials have a short meeting. Quite angry, Mr. Crumpler exclaims, "what in the world happened here? Somebody

better have some good answers!” The Head Timekeeper informs Mr. Crumpler, “four officials, and myself, had a very close eye on your guy, Major Nachlobrocklin. Your guy seems to cause a commotion every meet.” Mr. Crumpler impatiently exclaims, “what happened?” The Head Timekeeper replies, “if you’ll calm down, sir, I’ll explain it to you. So, as I was saying, your guy lost it, and attacked another runner. And, I might add, there was absolutely no provocation. So, I’m ejecting him from the meet. And, my decision is final.”

Not happy with the Head Timekeeper’s decision, Mr. Crumpler, pointing to Mark, exclaims, “how about this guy?” The Head Timekeeper explains, “he’ll be running in the final, and any other event he is scheduled for.” Mr. Crumpler exclaims, asking, “you’re not ejecting him?” The Head Timekeeper replies, “no. Your runner started an altercation. He was already given a warning. Even if the other runner didn’t retaliate, I would have still ejected your runner.” Mr. Crumpler throws his hands into the air, mumbles a few obscenities, and walks back to his bench.

The Head Timekeeper tells Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton, “honestly, I don’t know what’s wrong with that guy. I’ve officiated a few meets where he’s been present. There’s always some issue whenever he’s around.” Provost Leighton explains, “there’s something that needs to be understood. All of our athletes in the final are on full scholarship. They’re very valuable to our University and, I might add, we have a lot invested in them. The athlete who got attacked just now is running qualifying times for the Olympics. We simply cannot allow anything to happen to them.” The Head Timekeeper replies, “I can fully understand that.” The Head Timekeeper asks, “is your guy okay to run, or should I delay the final until after the women run?” Mr. Frazier replies, “I’m sure he’s ready. Let’s get this over with.”

Seven of the eight finalists line up, with one being attended elsewhere by the paramedics. The Starter announces, “this is the final for the 100-yard dash. Good luck to all seven of you. On your marks.” The seven finalists get themselves positioned in the blocks. The Starter announces, “set.” The gun is fired and the runners are off. Eddie and Mark are in the lead right out of the blocks. Hoffer is barely a step behind Mark. After twenty-five yards, Eddie and Mark break away, with Hoffer in third place. At 50 yards, Eddie breaks away, taking a slight lead. At the finish line, Eddie wins the gold medal, Mark wins the silver medal, and Hoffer wins the bronze medal. Had Nachlobrocklin been in the race, he would not have placed anyway.

Seeing the times on the scoreboard, Eddie, Mark, and Hoffer exchange high-fives and fist bumps. Eddie’s time of 9.15 seconds, Mark’s time of 9.19 seconds, and Hoffer’s time of 9.28 seconds are all qualifying times for the world stage. With Eddie, Mark, and Hoffer all being sophomores,

no one else in the division stands a chance to place in this event during the next two years. Unless, of course, Eddie's brother John surprises everyone.

In the stands, President Caldwell comments, "that's one more gold medal to the collection." Coach Herndon replies, "and one more on the way." President Caldwell asks Dean Grimsby, "Addison, you've been very quiet. Are you enjoying the meet?" Dean Grimsby replies, "yes, yes. It appears we're doing very well." Dr. Karakova mentions, "we are. Mr. Frazier strongly believes we will win all the gold medals in this meet. And, we're more than halfway there." Dean Grimsby asks, "all the gold medals?" Dr. Karakova replies, "yes. All the gold medals. Quite impressive, isn't it?"

In response to Dr. Karakova's statement, Dean Grimsby begins hyperventilating, and appears to be having a panic attack. Coach Herndon exclaims, "Dean Grimsby! Are you okay?" Trying to calm down, as he is coughing, the dean replies, "yes, yes! I'll be okay. I'm fine." Coach Herndon tells the dean, "you don't look too good. We really should call the paramedics." As he sweats profusely, the dean insists, "that won't be necessary. I'll be fine." Taking a drink of water, the dean finally calms down, but is apparently extremely stressed about something.

Now that the drama of the men's 100-yard dash final is over, the call is made for the women's 100-yard dash final. This is the last time Kathy and Paula will be running this race in their collegiate career. Many of the athletes will be glad to see Kathy and Paula not return next year. But, instead, they will have to deal with Erika and Tessa, as if that will be any better. And, this year, Erika has also made the final. Tessa, who runs during the Winter season is, at the moment, swimming in a swim meet across campus.

Heading to the starting line, Kathy, Paula, and Erika are the top seeds. Joining them in the final is Number 1083, who Kathy met in the preliminaries. Seeing Number 1083 at the starting line, Kathy walks over, and says, "hey! You made it to the final!" Number 1083 replies, "yeah! I wasn't really expecting to make it this year. I'm so happy!" Kathy asks, "what's your name?" Number 1083 replies, "Allison." Kathy tells Allison, "well, it looks like we're about to get started. Good luck!"

The Starter announces, "this is the final for the women's 100-yard dash. Good luck to all of you. On your marks." Once everyone is in place, the Starter announces, "set." The gun is fired, and four Amazon war cries, one of which is Allison's, announces the competition has begun.

At 25 yards, Kathy is in the lead, with Paula right behind her. Erika, in third place, is not willing to give up an inch of her lead to the other

runners. At 50 yards, Kathy and Paula fight it out for the lead. Erika closes in on Paula, but time is running out. As they approach the finish line, Kathy pulls farther ahead of Paula. Wanting to go out with the best time of her life, Kathy gives it all that she has. At the finish line, Kathy takes first place, Paula takes second place, and Erika takes third place. Allison, a freshman, takes fifth place.

At the finish line, Kathy, Paula, and Erika all exchange high-fives and victory hugs. Allison comes over to congratulate Kathy, telling her, “you won! Congratulations!” Kathy asks Allison, “how did you do?” Allison replies, “I got fifth!” Kathy tells her, “that’s great! Next year, that might be second.” Allison asks, “what do you mean?” Kathy explains, “me and Paula are seniors. So is the girl that took fourth. We won’t be back next year. So, next year you might place.” Allison exclaims, “awesome!” Exchanging high-fives, they all head back to their benches.

On the scoreboard, Kathy’s time comes in at 10.49 seconds, surpassing her performance of last year, and setting a new divisional record. Paula’s time is 10.53 seconds, and Erika’s time is 10.67 seconds. From the looks of things, Erika will be the number one seed in this event next year. But, during the indoor track season, Tessa will certainly present a challenge.

Over in the administrative box, President Caldwell mentions, “I’m quite amazed at how good our track team is.” Dr. Karakova replies, “many of the relays are in the afternoon. We’re really strong in those events.” Coach Herndon adds, “George is confident that we’ll take the gold medal in all the relay events. In fact, George told me many times that he wants all the gold medals today. Honestly, our only weakness is the high jump.” Dean Grimsby asks, “we’re not good in the high jump?” Coach Herndon replies, “not exactly. Unless something has changed, we’re probably not going to take that event.” Dean Grimsby sits back and relaxes, glancing over at the field events area.

With a break in the action, the officials can finally get a bite to eat. Dr. Karakova poses the question to those in the administrator’s box, “does anyone have any idea what will happen if the University takes all the gold medals, or close to it?” President Caldwell responds, “that would certainly bring the University a lot of positive attention within the division.” Dr. Karakova replies, “yes, it would. But, if George and his coaching staff pull this off, every high school track athlete who wants to run in college will be applying to our University. We would certainly be on the top of their list. We all know that potential students compete for a place in a college or university. But, we have to remember that our University also competes for the best students. If George pulls this off, we will have first choice at the best athletes.”

President Caldwell quickly surmises, “that would be somewhat analogous to our University getting all the first-round draft picks.” Dr. Karakova replies, “exactly. Whenever a college or university wins a championship, every superstar high school athlete in that sport is seriously looking at that school.” President Caldwell immediately understands why Provost Leighton fought so hard to get George Frazier on the coaching staff at the University.

When the women return to the bench, everyone gives Kathy, Paula, and Erika a high-five. Provost Leighton gives the women a hug, the gesture of which indicates to Dean Grimsby that Kathy is neither on disciplinary probation nor suspended from the track team. Eddie gives Kathy a big victory hug and kiss, knowing that this is her last meet in college competition. Now, with a 30-minute break, the tribe heads to the cafeteria for a light lunch.

After lunch, the call is made for the men’s one-mile run. Today, it’s anybody’s guess whether Mitchell, Stone, or Akinmola will win. This year, Mitchell has no strategical plan. Everyone is on their own. But, even with no plan, each of the three milers knows each other’s strategy and exactly how the others run.

At the starting line, Mitchell and Stone look around, seeing no one who will pose a problem this year. Mitchell, however, notices John McNamara, who used to run for Centerville. Mitchell comments to Stone and Akinmola, “it looks like it’s going to be a three-man race.” Akinmola replies, “it’s going to be a one-man race, my friend. You guys can fight it out for second place.” Stone answers Akinmola’s predication by saying, “I think he might be right. It’ll be a one-man race. Me. I’m going to win.” The Starter tells the runners to get into position. Mitchell, Akinmola, and Stone exchange high-fives, and are ready to battle it out.

The runners are positioned, with Mitchell, the number one seed, assigned to the inside position. Next to Mitchell is Stone. Next to Stone is Akinmola. The Starter announces, “set.” The gun is fired, and the title of the fastest distance man in the division will be decided in less than four minutes. At 50 yards, Stone is in the lead. Mitchell drops in right behind Stone, and Akinmola drops in behind Mitchell. Fresh in the three runner’s minds is Mr. Frazier’s belief that the mile is just a 440-yard dash with a three-quarter mile warm-up.

After the first quarter mile, no positional changes occur among the three front runners, but they are clearly leading and distancing themselves from the other runners. Just past the half-mile mark, Stone expects Mitchell to make a move, but he does not. Instead, surprising everyone, Akinmola passes Mitchell and Stone, assuming the lead. Following closely, Stone drafts off of Akinmola, a position Mitchell dearly

wants. Waiting for an opening, Mitchell is planning to make a move, but, during the third lap, no opportunity comes.

On the last lap, Akinmola steps up his pace. Stone follows suit, continuing to draft off of the six-foot, three-inch tall Akinmola. Mitchell finally makes a move, and attempts to pass Stone. Stone will have nothing to do with it, and passes Akinmola, which he was planning to do sometime soon. Stone assumes the lead, as Mitchell follows closely on Stone's heels. Akinmola, allowing the others to do the work, drops in and drafts off Mitchell. With 100 yards to go, it is a three-way sprint to the finish. Benefitting from drafting off Akinmola, Stone finds a reserve of energy, and pulls ahead. At the finish, Stone takes first place today. Mitchell and Akinmola fight it out for second place but, with a burst of energy at the end, Mitchell beats out Akinmola by less than one second.

With three world class performances, the three milers head back to the team bench. After recovering from his run, Mitchell looks up at the scoreboard, seeing that Stone ran a 3:55.13. Mitchell, disappointed with his time of 3:56.42, knows his performance was not his best. Akinmola came in with a time of 3:57.21, a far better performance than he expected a year ago. And McNamara, who Mitchell has defeated many times in the past, finishes toward the end of the pack.

Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton congratulate the three milers, who receive high-fives from everyone at the bench. Provost Leighton whispers to Stone, "that was the best run of your life. You did great!" Stone replies, "I broke through my barrier. Finally!" Stone, whose performances have been in the four-minute range, now clearly understands that the training afforded by Mr. Frazier is what helped him break through his barrier, as he put it. Akinmola, somewhat ticked off that he did not win, vows to take the gold medal in the high jump event later today. Mr. Frazier advises Akinmola to cool off, recover, and rehydrate before he heads over to the field events area.

Following the mile, the call is made for the men's mile medley relay. Eddie, Mark, Braden, and Johnson, in the first heat, head to the starting line. Mark, the lead off man, gets on the track. Looking around, Mark sees Nachlobrocklin is nowhere in sight. Once the runners are ready and set, the Starter fires the gun. The runners are out of the blocks, and Mark is hopefully off to securing another gold medal.

Watching Mark as he approaches the transition zone, Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier, "it looks like you're on your way to getting your wish." Mr. Frazier asks, "what's that?" Provost Leighton replies, "so far, our team has secured all the gold medals in the track events. And, we're really close in the field events." Mr. Frazier explains, "with this team, half their problem was motivation. Most of them were satisfied with taking fourth

place. I really detest fourth place.” Provost Leighton reassures Mr. Frazier, “it looks like they all detest fourth place now, too.” Eddie receives the baton from Mark, inheriting nearly a four-second lead.

Up against only the clock, Eddie increases the lead, as Braden is exclaiming, “give me that baton! I got asses to kick! Run, run, run! I wanna have some fun!” All fired up today, Braden is anxiously waiting for his leg to begin. Eddie hands off to Braden, and President Caldwell, along with Coach Herndon, move to the edge of their seats.

Both President Caldwell’s and Coach Herndon’s favorite team member, they pay close attention as Braden widens the lead for Johnson, who will be up next. Braden, like Eddie, is running against the clock. President Caldwell asks Dr. Karakova, “let me see if I understand this. We have what, a half dozen athletes running competitive times for the Olympics?” Thinking about the answer, Dr. Karakova replies, “more than that. Our three milers are running world-class performances. There are the four guys on this relay team. And, there are Kathy, Paula, and Erika. And, we certainly can’t leave out Robert Bradshaw in the shot-put, and Eddie in the discus. The rest of the team is also looking very strong today.” Braden hands off to Johnson, who has been handed a significant lead along with the baton.

The administrators sit back and relax, while Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton watch impatiently as Johnson runs the half-mile leg. Unexpectedly, Officer Hayes comes over to the team bench, joining Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton. Officer Hayes asks Mr. Frazier, “so, how’s it going, coach?” Mr. Frazier replies, “great! We’ve won all the gold medals so far. I couldn’t be happier with the team’s performance today.” Officer Hayes asks, “do you still think you’ll win all the gold medals?” Mr. Frazier replies, “if Akinmola can take the high jump, then yes. I think we have a good shot at it.” Officer Hayes asks, “has this Akinmola guy jumped yet?” Mr. Frazier explains, “he ran the mile a little while ago. The high jump competition starts shortly. He’ll be fully recovered by then. I plan to send Akinmola and Eddie over to the field area to check in after the women’s mile medley.” Officer Hayes, who has come to know the team members well, is quite impressed that the team is doing so well.

Johnson crosses the finish line, with the team taking first place in their heat. Johnson, and the rest of the acclaimed 4 by 440 relay team, now also dominating the mile medley relay, head back to the team bench together. Although there are other heats to run, the relay team celebrates yet another victory, winning by quite a significant margin.

Immediately after the men’s mile medley relay, the call is made for the women’s mile medley relay. Kathy, Paula, Erika, and Amber, in the first heat, head to the starting line. Expected to win this event, as they did

over the entire season, the women's mile medley team is ready for the final victory of the year.

With Paula in the blocks and holding the baton, The Starter announces, "on your marks," followed by, "set." The gun is fired, and Paula takes off, letting out a loud Amazon war cry. Assuming the lead in her leg, Paula hands off to Kathy, who also announces the beginning of her leg with an Amazon war cry. Kathy widens the lead and hands off to Erika. Erika, also letting out an Amazon war cry, announces to everyone in the stadium that the University's baton has again changed hands. Running an awesome leg, Erika hands off to Amber. Surprising everyone, Amber also lets out an Amazon war cry, her first in competition. At the end of her first lap, it appears Amber has the race wrapped up, but another runner is gaining on her. As they approach the finish, there is not enough time for the other runner to catch Amber, who takes first place. The relay team members exchange hugs, and head to the team bench, knowing they've again won the gold medal.

While the other mile medley relay heats are underway, Mr. Frazier sends Eddie and Akinmola over to the field area. Eddie and Akinmola check in with the Head Field Judge, who places them into the rotation. The high jump event, which has not yet begun, has been delayed because a few of the runners, including Akinmola, also participate in this event.

Taking a seat next to Bobby B., Eddie asks, "did you win?" Bobby B. laughs, replying, "of course. Cinquegrana and Mendenhall are battling it out for the silver medal. It looks like we swept the event." Eddie asks, "what happened to that other guy that Cinquegrana messed with during the Winter divisional meet?" Bobby B. explains, "you mean the Attaway. He's here, but Cinquegrana is better than him now." Cinquegrana, a junior, has come a long way in the last year.

Dr. Bonamo, the field coach, tells Eddie, "you're up. The best throw today is around 192 feet." Eddie smiles, knowing that he can easily surpass that distance. Stepping up to the discus pad, Eddie looks around, noticing that many people are watching. Going into the wind up, and into the spin, Eddie releases the discus, letting out a primal scream borrowed from the Amazon women. All eyes are on the discus as it takes its time soaring through the air, finally landing right around the 225-foot mark. The Field Judges take the measurement, and Eddie's throw comes in at 226 feet, 8 inches.

Eddie sits around relaxing, and talks to Bobby B. and Akinmola as he is waiting for his next throw. While they are waiting, the high jump event begins. Although he has not participated in this event in competition for a while, Akinmola remains very confident. Eddie reminds Akinmola, "if you take this, we just might win all the gold medals." Akinmola

energetically reminds Eddie, “I hear last Winter, the winner jumped six and a half feet. I can jump seven feet. Do you understand what I am saying, my friend?” Eddie replies, “yeah, bro. You’re saying you already won.”

Akinmola is called for his first jump. Studying the venue carefully, Akinmola looks at the bar as he starts his approach. With a 12-step approach, the six-foot, three-inch Akinmola carefully times his jump. Accelerating rapidly, Akinmola makes the turn as he approaches the bar. Using the technique known as the Fosbury Flop, Akinmola thrusts upward, easily clearing the five-foot, six-inch initial height by more than one foot. Akinmola is now convinced more than ever that he can win the high jump.

Eddie is called to make his second attempt at the discus. Dr. Bonamo has assured Eddie that he has already won, but Eddie is after a personal record in the event. Stepping up to the discus pad, Eddie is completely unaware that he is, again, attracting a lot of attention. Eddie goes into his wind up, and into the spin, releasing the discus with more force than he ever has. The discus soars through the air, again landing past the 225-foot mark. The Field Judges take the measurement, which comes in at 227 feet, 2 inches. Hearing the measurement, Eddie exclaims, “yes,” as he heads back to the bench.

Eddie takes a seat on the bench, where Bobby B. tells him, “that’s not too bad for tossing a Frisbee.” Not missing a beat, Eddie asks, “how far did you throw the softball today?” Bobby B. replies, “69 feet, 10 inches.” Eddie gives Bobby B. a high-five, and exclaims, “wow! Bro! You’re catching up to Erika!” Bobby B’s. throw today represents the best of his career. As they are talking, Eddie hears the call for the 220-yard dash. Telling Dr. Bonamo that his event has been called, Eddie heads to the starting line where he will meet up with Mark and Davida. Dr. Bonamo tells Eddie that he will come and get him if he is required to make another throw.

Eddie, Mark, and Davida meet up at the starting line, where Nachlobrocklin is again conspicuously missing. With no one to mess with to raise his adrenaline levels, Mark tells Eddie, “it’s too bad Nachlobrocklin isn’t here to get me fired up.” Imitating Nachlobrocklin’s tone, Eddie responds, “what you mean? You messing up my name! My name is Eddie! You messing up my race and my name!” The Starter, who is nearby, laughs, secretly happy that he does not have to deal with Nachlobrocklin anymore today.

The Starter announces, “on your marks,” then announcing, “set.” The gun is fired, and Eddie, Mark, and Davida all let out a primal scream, which seems to distract the competition a bit.

A few steps out of the blocks, Eddie and Mark take the lead. Davida, who has improved much over the last year, is in a strong third place. Halfway through the race, Eddie and Mark are head to head. Approaching the finish line, Mark takes a slight lead over Eddie. This time, Mark crosses first, and Eddie takes second place. Not far behind is Davida, taking third place in this heat. It is not likely that anyone in the subsequent heats will beat Davida's time.

While the men's track events move on to the 4 by 110 relay, the bar at the high jump has been raised to six feet, nine inches. Three contestants remain, Akinmola being among them. Over at the expensive seats, Dean Grimsby has his eyes on the high jump. Watching as Akinmola successfully makes the six-foot, nine-inch jump, Dean Grimsby asks, "who is that, over there, high jumping for our University?" Coach Herndon looks over, answering, "that's Adekunle Akinmola. He's one of our star distance runners. He came in third in the mile earlier." Dean Grimsby asks, "is he allowed to run and do the high jump too?" Coach Herndon replies, "of course he is. The coach is allowed to make last-minute substitutions right up to the start of the event."

Substituting a less qualified or more qualified runner at the last minute is exactly what Dr. Paxton was doing when he was rigging the events. By making the last minute substitution, Dr. Paxton was able to change the outcome of the event, invalidating the initial odds, thus paving the way for a large payout.

With one jumper out and two remaining, the bar is raised to six feet, eleven inches. With his eyes glued to the high jump bar, Dean Grimsby watches nervously as Akinmola makes his first attempt at this height. More confident now than before, Akinmola approaches the bar, thrusts upward, clearing the six-foot, eleven-inch bar by a few inches. With no excitement, Dean Grimsby mumbles, "he made it." Coach Herndon exclaims, "he just might take it!"

Number 768, the other remaining high jump competitor, makes his first attempt at this height. Approaching the bar, Number 768 thrusts upward, flies upward toward the bar, taking the bar down to the mat with him. Dean Grimsby asks, "he missed. Does that mean we won?" Coach Herndon replies, "no. He gets three attempts. If he misses his next two, we won. If he makes it, they'll raise the bar." Coach Herndon is, for some reason, somewhat annoyed by Dean Grimsby's questions. Dean Grimsby watches, as Number 768 makes and fails at his second attempt.

With a break in the action, Mr. Frazier jogs over to the field events area, getting an update from Dr. Bonamo. Hoping for good news, Mr. Frazier asks Dr. Bonamo, "what do we got?" Dr. Bonamo succinctly explains, "we swept the shot-put. Eddie won the discus. We took first in

everything so far, and a few second places on top of that. This is 768's last attempt. When he misses, we'll win this event too." Dr. Bonamo sounds very confident that Akinmola has clinched the high jump.

Mr. Frazier and Dr. Bonamo watch, as Number 768 makes his third, and final, attempt at six feet, eleven inches. Approaching the bar, number 768 thrusts upward, and brushes the bar on his way up. The bar falls to the ground, greeting the high jumper at the mat with a silver medal. Akinmola, who takes the gold medal in the high jump, jumps up and down in excitement, receiving high-fives from Mr. Frazier and Dr. Bonamo. With the field events now over, Mr. Frazier, Dr. Bonamo, Akinmola, and the rest of the field team head over to the team bench.

The call is made for the final event of the afternoon, which is the men's 4 by 440 relay, and the entrants head to the starting line. Twelve teams will compete in two heats of six. The first heat brings the higher seeded teams, including Eddie, Mark, Braden, and Johnson, who are assigned to lane one.

Looking around, Mark still sees no sign of Nachlobrocklin. Mark asks the Head Timekeeper, "whatever happened to that crazy guy?" The Head Timekeeper explains, "when he regained consciousness, he started yelling, 'they're all messing up my race,' and 'they're messing up my name.' They had to take him to the hospital. He really lost it." Seizing the moment, Mark tells the Head Timekeeper, "I told you guys that he's psycho." The Head Timekeeper agrees, telling Mark, "believe me. We know." Apparently, Nachlobrocklin has crumbled under the stress he has incurred by not winning.

The lead-off men get behind the blocks, and the Starter announces, "on your marks," followed by, "set." The gun is fired, and the lead-off men are out of the blocks. Eddie gets right on the track and enters the transition zone, knowing that Mark will arrive in 45 seconds or so.

After 100 yards, there is no question that Mark is in the lead. Over in the administrator's box, Dr. Karakova comments, "if we win this event, the University will take first place in every event." Dean Grimsby exclaims, "do you mean, this is the last event?" Dr. Karakova replies, "well, yes. And, I strongly suspect we will win it. This relay team has never lost a race." Dean Grimsby verifies, "and, we won all the gold medals in this meet so far?" President Caldwell proudly replies, "it sure does look that way." As Mark passes the baton to Eddie, Dean Grimsby pays close attention to the race.

While Eddie is running his leg, Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton want to start an early celebration, but they patiently wait until the race is over. Provost Leighton tells Mr. Frazier, "George, back in the Winter, you

mentioned to me that, in the Spring, you want all the gold medals. I remember telling you, 'that's an immense load to put yourself under.' Wow! Was I ever wrong." Mr. Frazier replies, "I knew they could do it. They put in the work. Today, they reap the rewards. And, best of all, they've all learned that they can win." As Eddie hands off to Johnson, Mr. Frazier glances down at his stopwatch and smiles, knowing his team is having a good run.

Braden gets on the track, dancing and exclaiming, "here we go! The final ass kicking of the year! Give me that baton, and let me get it on! Mark, Eddie, Johnson, it looks like we all won! Gonna kick an ass, and land it in the grass!" President Caldwell and Coach Herndon turn their focus from Johnson to Braden, enjoying his pre-performance choreographed rants. Johnson delivers the baton to Braden, and Braden takes off like a wild man.

During Braden's leg, Officer Hayes joins Mr. Frazier and Coach Leighton. Officer Hayes asks Mr. Frazier, "now, let me get this straight, coach. Your team won the gold medal in every event today?" Mr. Frazier smiles, and replies, "in 30 seconds, when Braden crosses that finish line, yes. We will have won all the gold medals."

On his way to the finish line, all eyes are on Braden. With a composite time of 2:59.77, Braden crosses the finish line, sealing today's enormous victory. Seeing Braden take first place, Officer Hayes congratulates Mr. Frazier, Provost Leighton, and Dr. Bonamo. The team begins celebrating an enormous and unprecedented victory.

The end of the meet brings the awards ceremony, which Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton are really looking forward to. At the team bench, a huge celebration ensues, with high-fives, fist bumps, and hugs exchanged by all team members. The Meet Announcer introduces today's officials, and recognizes the coaches and athletes for their participation today. After the administrative announcements are made, the presentation of the awards then begins.

As the awards are being distributed, Captain Gabriel and Detective Garrison come down from the stands and meet up with Officer Hayes. Officer Hayes tells Captain Gabriel, "it sure looks like Erika ran really good today. You must be proud of her." Captain Gabriel replies, "I am. This has been her best meet since she's started running." Detective Garrison mentions, "I really had my doubts that the University would take all the gold medals. But, they did it." Officer Hayes responds, "well, we did have some inside information. Mr. Frazier, Officer Braden, Erika, and a few of the guys were all echoing the same charge. They were all pretty confident."

As Stone steps up to receive his gold medal in the mile, Provost Leighton has to turn away to conceal her tears of happiness. It's not the fact that Stone won is what the provost is happy with. It's his time. Stone's time of 3:55.13 represents not only the best run of his life, but his first competitive run worthy of a place on the world stage.

At the end of the awards ceremony, as the acclaimed 4 by 440 relay team walks toward the podium to receive their gold medals, Mark mentions to the group, "I saw McCrutchen up in the stands with his father and his brother. I wonder what they're doing here." Braden suggests, "the only way McCrutchen won't get his ass kicked is by staying off the track." Eddie points out, "not really, bro. You kicked his ass when he broke into Mark's locker." Braden replies, "oh, yeah! I did! I forgot about that." Eddie also reminds Braden, "and, I think you tossed him into the ocean during Mark's wedding." Braden laughs, and replies, "McCrutchen is always getting his ass kicked! When McCrutchen wakes up in the morning, he probably looks in the mirror and asks himself, 'I wonder how I'm gonna get my ass kicked today.'" The group laughs, but must now behave themselves as they walk up to receive their award. Standing on the first place tier, Eddie, Mark, Johnson, and Braden receive the last gold medal of the meet.

Returning to the team bench, the 4 by 440 relay team is informed by Kathy that everyone is going out for pizza, which is no big surprise. The team poses for a few photographs with the winners' medals draped around their necks.

In between shots, Provost Leighton mentions to Mr. Frazier, "in all my life, I've never seen a track team this good." Mr. Frazier tells Provost Leighton, "you put a lot of work into this team. Today, we see the results." Another photograph is taken, then Provost Leighton asks Mr. Frazier, "what do you mean? They did the work." Mr. Frazier explains, "the women's 4 by 220 relay team won by less than one second. You worked very closely with Karen, Amanda, and a few of the other women to get their handoffs perfected. That was the difference between the gold medal and silver medal in that event today." Provost Leighton is very appreciative that Mr. Frazier notices details, such as the one he just pointed out. Provost Leighton did not see the direct connection between her coaching and the women's 4 by 220 relay team winning the gold medal today. After the photographs, the team heads to the locker rooms to change, and then it's off to the pizzeria.

On the Monday morning following the divisional meet, Mr. Frazier begins addressing his team, telling them, "good morning. They said no one can run a mile faster than four minutes. Yeah, right. And, now that we have a lot of your problems of self doubt taken care of, you men and

women are truly the greatest! You've put in the work, you competed, and you have the medals to prove you are the greatest!"

Mr. Frazier then asks, "do you finally believe me?" The team all cheers, "yes!" Mr. Frazier continues, "I understand that what you accomplished during the divisional meet is unprecedented! Each one of you is to be congratulated for your fine performance during the meet this past weekend!" Revisiting the successes of the divisional meet, Mr. Frazier announces who medaled in which event, emphasizing over and over again that the University's team won all the gold medals.

Mr. Frazier then tells the team, "now, for the news you won't hear from anyone but me." Raising his voice, Mr. Frazier exclaims, "don't think for a split second that the other teams will be sitting on their ass all Summer long! After the divisional meet, they're all going to be training harder and smarter! What do you think their coaches are telling them right now? I can tell you this. It ain't a pretty sight! The other teams are hearing how badly they got their ass kicked! Four of the twelve teams went home empty handed! Seven teams took home a few silver and bronze medals. Not one of the eleven other teams took home a gold medal! So, let me ask you. Do you think the runners on those teams are happy? No! Not at all! Many of the athletes you ran against during the divisional meet are on scholarship. Do you seriously think the school they attend is happy with their performance this weekend? No! Not at all!"

Having everyone's attention, including Provost Leighton and Dr. Bonamo, Mr. Frazier continues, "and, whether you realize it or not, you have scared the crap out of their coaches! Their coaches are afraid of you! Do you think the athletic directors at the other universities are happy with their track coaches' performance? No! Not at all! You can be real sure that there is a lot of finger pointing going on at those schools right now. At some of those other universities, the coach's jobs are now on the line. They could get fired! And, they have you to thank for that!" Mr. Frazier chuckles, and tells the team, "but, that's their problem, not ours."

Mr. Frazier then asks the team, "by a show of hands, how many of you prefer winning as opposed to losing?" Everyone on the team raises their hand, including Provost Leighton and Dr. Bonamo. Mr. Frazier energetically asks the team, "if I asked the other eleven teams in the division the same question, what do you think their answer will be?" Most of the athletes reply, "winning," to which Mr. Frazier replies, "exactly!" Raising his voice even more, Mr. Frazier exclaims, "if they are to win, they'll have to put in more work than you do! And, be assured, they will all be putting in a lot more work before next January. If you want to keep winning, you'll have to put in more work than they plan to do. You have raised the bar, and they plan to meet it. Next year, if you want to be

equally as successful as this year, you will have to raise the bar again!" The team claps and cheers, indicating to the coaching staff that they are ready for the challenge.

Mr. Frazier then tells the team, "I understand from Mrs. Owens that, at the end of the school year, we all try different events, reevaluating our skill set as a team. We will begin that exercise today. If you are a senior, you deserve a break. I'm giving you the day off." The team laughs, knowing that the seniors are done, and are not returning next year. Mr. Frazier continues, "so, over the next week, we will all be running time trials in every event. And, I expect everyone to give it their best. I will know if you're slacking off! Okay! Let's head outside and start working!"

Kathy and Paula work with Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton, as they arrange time trials for the athletes outside of their regular events. Up first will be the 100-meter dash. As everyone gets lined up, Mr. Frazier announces, "you'll all be running the 100-meter dash first. And, you heard me correctly. Next year, all of the events will be measured in meters. There are no more yards and miles. In the 100-meter dash, I want 100 percent effort out of everyone on the distance team. I want to know what your top end is, so I can better know how to improve your performance."

While the time trials are underway, Kathy asks Paula, "have you heard anything about graduate school yet?" Paula replies, "no. Not yet. I thought I would have heard something by now." Kathy suggests, "maybe we should go see Mr. Rosenberg after practice. If I didn't get accepted, I'm going to start applying for a job as a gym teacher." Paula agrees, telling Kathy, "yeah. Let's go and do that after practice."

After a busy morning out on the track, Mr. Frazier blows his whistle, signifying the end of practice. Mr. Frazier instructs the seniors that, if they want to, they can join the team tomorrow for practice, if only to watch or hang out. Dismissing the team, everyone heads to the locker rooms.

As the team approaches the arena, they see Officer Hayes sitting with Detective Garrison, along with a scrubby looking tough guy with two body guards. The officers, sitting on the bench, leave everyone wondering why they are present today. In the past, when an officer was present during practice, an announcement of trouble was on the horizon. Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton head over to greet the officers as the athletes head to the locker rooms. As he is headed to the locker room, Braden is called aside by Officer Hayes, and is asked to join them for a meeting.

Mr. Frazier, Provost Leighton, Braden, and the officers step inside the arena, out of public view. Officer Hayes introduces Mr. Frazier, Provost

Leighton, and Braden to the scrubby looking undercover officer, who goes by the name of Mack. Mack's two body guards, who are also undercover officers, go by the names of Mad Dog and Bad Dog. For security reasons, their real names are never revealed.

Officer Hayes explains to the group, pointing to Mack, "I had this undercover officer place a bet that the University takes all the gold medals in this past weekend's divisional meet." Officer Hayes further explains, "Mack has placed several large bets through agents in the gambling ring in the past. To them, Mack is known as 'the loser'. In the past, the intent was never to win, but to get marked bills into circulation within the gambling organization so we can discover where they end up."

Officer Hayes further explains, "the bet placed was that the University would win all the gold medals in the divisional meet. Since it was a very large and unusual bet, the agent who took the bet had to make a phone call to get the bet approved and to have the odds calculated." Officer Braden asks, "how much was the bet?" Officer Hayes replies, "the bet was thirty-thousand dollars. We used the money we recovered from the county dump, where the remains of Mr. Crum's house were discovered." Braden replies, "wow! That's a lot of money!"

Officer Hayes further explains, "the odds of the University winning the gold medal in every event were calculated to be 250 to 1, which was quite a longshot. The amount of the bet that was placed was thirty-thousand dollars and, with those odds, amounts to a seven-and-a-half-million dollar payout. They never expected to pay that out, especially with Mack's history of placing large bets and never winning. Mack is here today to collect his money, along with his two bodyguards."

Provost Leighton comments, "I think I'm missing something here." Officer Hayes continues, explaining, "you'll understand in a second. We have already arrested the agent who took the bet. Today, we are here to arrest the person who set the odds and approved the bet. That person is Addison Grimsby. We had the phone of the agent tapped ahead of time. Late last week, when the bet was placed, the agent made a phone call to this Addison Grimsby character, right here at the University."

Provost Leighton exclaims, "I fully understand now! Addison Grimsby has a math degree! He's the odds maker!" Officer Hayes replies, "wow! This character has a math degree. Even I'm learning something today." Provost Leighton elaborates, telling the officers, "Dean Grimsby has a Ph.D. in mathematics." Provost Leighton then reveals, "you know, Addison has persistently expressed his disinterest in sports over the years and has maintained that he doesn't care about sports." Officer Hayes replies, "if he gave that impression, it would be to distract any attention that might

be given to him.” Provost Leighton confesses, “he certainly had me fooled.”

Officer Hayes explains, “okay. So, here’s where I need all of your help, especially you, Provost Leighton. We’re moving in to arrest this Addison Grimsby character in a few moments. The way this is going down is that Mack, and his two bodyguards, will escort Grimsby out of the building. They will convince Grimsby to take them to the ringleader which, under the circumstances we have planned, he will be glad to do.”

Speaking to Provost Leighton, Officer Hayes requests, “what I need you to do is make sure that Mack, and his two bodyguards, make it to Grimsby’s office without any interference. How I plan to do that is to get them to your office first, which I understand is right down the hall from Grimsby’s.” Provost Leighton, who always wanted to get rid of Dean Grimsby, replies, “I can certainly help with that.”

Braden asks, “is there any way I can help?” Officer Hayes replies, “certainly. Officer Levy is on duty right now, patrolling the campus. Chief Toledo prefers he continue on patrol, since only one officer is on duty at the moment. So, should Grimsby contact the campus police, we’ll gladly allow it. But, we’ll need you to show up at his office to take the call.” Braden stands tall, and replies, “I’m honored to help, sir.”

Mr. Frazier asks, “is there anything I can do to help?” Officer Hayes explains, “we have this under control. But, I’m sure you’d be glad to watch us take this Grimsby character away. I know what a thorn he’s been in your side. Mack will be wearing a wire. We’ll be recording his conversation with Dean Grimsby. If you’d like, you can listen in with myself and Officer Braden.” Mr. Frazier replies, “I might just do that.”

Officer Hayes continues, “we want to get this over with as quickly as possible. Let me ask this. Can everyone be ready to move, say, in fifteen or twenty minutes?” Provost Leighton replies, “I certainly can.” Braden replies, “I can put on my uniform, and be ready by then.” Officer Hayes, instructing everyone, announces, “okay. Provost Leighton, head to your office and, when a guy named Mack requests to see you, tell the gatekeepers to let him through. Officer Braden, get dressed, and meet me behind the administration building near the picnic tables.” Everyone moves out, ready to take down Dean Grimsby.

Twenty minutes later, everyone is verified, by radio, to be in position. Mack and his two bodyguards enter the administration building. They go up to the top floor, where Provost Leighton’s and Dean Grimsby’s offices are located. Arriving on the floor reserved for the University’s top administrators, Mack tells the secretary, “I’m here to see Provost Leighton. Can you please let her know?” The secretary asks, “and, what is your

name?" Mack replies, "Mack." The secretary, who was forewarned by Provost Leighton that she has an important meeting with someone named Mack, phones Provost Leighton, telling her, "Mack is here to see you, ma'am." Provost Leighton replies, "thank you. I'll be right out."

Provost Leighton walks down the hall and, arriving at the secretary's area, announces, "Mack, it's so good to see you again. Please come on back." Mack, and his two body guards, are escorted by Provost Leighton to her office. After a short discussion, Mack asks, "where exactly is Dean Grimsby's office?" Provost Leighton replies, "it's at the end of the hall, on the left. His name is on the door, which will likely be closed." Foreseeing every possible problem, Mack asks, "does he lock his door?" Provost Leighton replies, "honestly, I don't know." Mack then asks, "does Officer Braden have a master key?" Provost Leighton explains, "all the officers have master keys to every lock on campus." Mack replies, "okay. Good. They're downstairs, right outside."

Once they are ready to move in, Provost Leighton asks Mack, "would it be too much trouble if I knock on his door and tell Dean Grimsby that there is someone here to see him?" Mack replies, "that would be no problem at all. In fact, that would really help." Provost Leighton suspects this is the last time she'll ever see Dean Grimsby on campus. The provost clearly wants Dean Grimsby to wonder for the rest of his life how she allowed Mack, and his two bodyguards, to get to his office.

Provost Leighton knocks on Dean Grimsby's door, who replies, "come in." Opening the door, Provost Leighton announces, "there are three nice gentlemen here to see you, sir." Provost Leighton escorts Mack, and his two bodyguards, into Dean Grimsby's office, and tells them to have a seat. Closing the door, the Provost heads back to her office.

Mack asks Dean Grimsby, "do you know who I am?" Dean Grimsby replies, "no. What's this all about?" Mack replies, "let me introduce myself. My name is Mack. These are my two bodyguards, Mad Dog and Bad Dog." Suddenly getting very worried, Dean Grimsby quietly exclaims, "what is all of this about?" Mack sits back in his seat, putting his feet up on Dean Grimsby's desk, explaining, "let me get right to the point. I placed a bet through Bill Fusco. I'm sure the name rings a bell. I'm here to collect my money." Dean Grimsby suddenly knows what this meeting is all about.

Knowing that he is in very hot water, Dean Grimsby asks, "what bet? You were supposed to collect through Bill!" Mack explains, "I tried. He referred us to you." Trying to get out of the situation, Dean Grimsby suggests, "the best thing for you to do is to meet with Bill." Mack sits back and calmly explains, "you see, that's no longer possible, if you know what I mean. I want my seven-and-a-half-million dollars, and I want it

now.” Dean Grimsby begins to sweat profusely, now knowing exactly what bet was placed, for he, himself, approved the bet and set the odds.

Wiping the sweat from his face with his handkerchief, Dean Grimsby proposes, “it will take some time to obtain that much cash. Is it possible that you come back in a few days?” Mack replies, “no.” Dean Grimsby exclaims in a whisper, “I can’t get that much cash right now! It’s going to take some time!” Mack replies, “you see, you don’t have any time. I said, I want my money now.” Under enormous pressure, Dean Grimsby replies, “let me make a call.” Mack shakes his head, and replies, “no. You see, I’m running this meeting, and we’re doing things my way.” For effect, Mack snaps his fingers, and points to Dean Grimsby’s phone. Mad Dog rips the phone cord out of the wall, and destroys the dean’s telephone, making sure Dean Grimsby has no communication with the outside world.

Dean Grimsby is now extremely worried. Mack explains, “you see, I’m going to give you two choices. The first is you take us to the boss man. The second is you end up like Bill.” Bill Fusco is sitting in a jail cell, but Dean Grimsby errantly came to the conclusion that Bill is dead. Mack asks, “which will it be?” Not having much choice, Dean Grimsby, with a quivering voice, replies, “okay. I’ll tell you where the boss lives.” Mack explains, “no. You misunderstood me. You’re taking me to him right now. Or, you can end up like Bill.” Dean Grimsby writes a note on a piece of paper as he tells Mack, “okay, okay.” Not caring about what the dean is writing, Mack tells the dean, “and, I don’t have all day to listen to your nonsense. So, let’s get going. Now.”

Mack snaps his fingers again, prompting Mad Dog and Bad Dog to stand up. Mack tells Dean Grimsby, who remains seated, “I said, let’s get going. We’re going for a drive.” Very reluctantly, Dean Grimsby stands up, having no choice in the matter. Figuring that he will escape on the way, the dean plans his getaway. Already expecting Dean Grimsby to pull such a stunt, Mack tells the dean, “and, don’t try to pull any funny stuff. If you do, remember, you’ll end up just like Bill Fusco.”

Mack leads the way, followed by Dean Grimsby. Walking closely behind Dean Grimsby on either side is Mad Dog and Bad Dog, who will prevent the dean from escaping should he be daring enough to try.

Provost Leighton, in the hallway speaking with the secretary, watches as Mack escorts Dean Grimsby down the hall. As Dean Grimsby is escorted past Provost Leighton, the provost reminds the dean, “Addison, please remember to be back in time for our meeting at two o’clock.” With a very worried look on his face, Dean Grimsby replies, “sure. I’ll be there,” as he slyly tosses a note on the secretary’s desk, which reads, ‘call the police’. Provost Leighton, however, knows the dean is never returning.

Dean Grimsby, on the other hand, is sure he'll make it back in time for the meeting.

Once Mack escorts the dean farther down the hall, the secretary shows Provost Leighton the note. Provost Leighton tells the secretary, "go ahead and call right now. They'll know what it's all about." The secretary calls the police, as Provost Leighton knows she is giving Officer Braden the opportunity to say goodbye to Dean Grimsby. Once the secretary hangs up, Provost Leighton explains to the secretary what has happened, and instructs her to call the campus police, and have Dean Grimsby's office cleaned out. Anything found in Dean Grimsby's office may constitute evidence against him, and must be handled properly.

Leaving the building, Mack sees Officer Braden approaching the door. For effect, Mack abruptly stops, turns around and, opening his leather vest, exposes his gun so Dean Grimsby can get a good look at it. Mack tells Dean Grimsby, "I told you, no funny stuff. I'd hate for this to get messy, if you know what I mean." Dean Grimsby starts sweating, knowing that Mack means business. But, Mack knows that Officer Braden knows exactly what is going on.

Approaching Dean Grimsby, Officer Braden asks the dean, "did you have someone call us?" Dean Grimsby coughs, and replies, "no, no. Everything's fine. It's been taken care of." Knowing that Dean Grimsby is now in police custody, Officer Braden tells the dean, "you don't look too good. You might want to see a doctor. I'm gonna go inside and check everything out anyway. Have a nice day."

Officer Braden walks inside, as Dean Grimsby is escorted to a black limousine where he will guide Mack's driver to the ringleader. Watching as Dean Grimsby is taken away, Mr. Frazier tells Officer Hayes, "this is like it's right out of a movie." Officer Hayes replies, "the rest of Grimsby's afternoon will be like that too."

While Dean Grimsby is being taken away, Kathy and Paula head to Admissions Director Rosenberg's office. Arriving at the top floor of the administration building, Kathy asks the secretary, "by any chance, is Mr. Rosenberg available?" Recognizing Kathy from her previous meetings with Provost Leighton and Dean Grimsby, the secretary replies, "let me check." As the secretary phones Mr. Rosenberg, Kathy whispers to Paula, "school's almost out. We should have heard something by now." The secretary informs Kathy and Paula, "he'll be right out. You can have a seat, if you'd like."

In a few minutes, Mr. Rosenberg comes out to greet Kathy and Paula, telling them, "good morning. It's good to see you again. Please come on back." Paula tells Mr. Rosenberg, "I've seen you at a lot of the track

meets.” Mr. Rosenberg replies, “I try to come out and support all of our teams whenever I get the chance.” Kathy and Paula follow Mr. Rosenberg to his office, where they have a seat.

Mr. Rosenberg asks, “so, how can I help our star athletes today?” Kathy explains, “we applied to graduate school, but we haven’t heard anything yet. So, we were wondering if we got accepted.” Mr. Rosenberg tells Kathy and Paula, “let me find out the status of your applications. I think I know what’s going on, but let me check. I’ll be right back.” While Mr. Rosenberg is away, Kathy and Paula discuss what Mr. Rosenberg said, wondering whether good or bad news is on the way.

Mr. Rosenberg returns, and explains to Kathy and Paula, “to be honest, we have been overwhelmed with applications to our exercise science and related programs. Hundreds of applicants have a serious interest in running track at our University. I’m sure you both are aware that, because of the overwhelming success of the track team in the past year, many high school athletes are suddenly interested in attending our University. And, we’ve also had a lot of last minute requests for transfers.” Kathy comments, “wow! That sounds like a good problem to have.”

Mr. Rosenberg informs Kathy, “next year, Mr. Frazier, Provost Leighton, and both of you will be reviewing the applicant’s credentials as far as their performance on the track goes. Then, you will be helping to assign the events and with the training next year. And, I suspect you will be attending the high school State invitational meets to scout out new talent for the University.”

Paula asks, “did I miss something here?” Mr. Rosenberg continues, “oh, I’m sorry. It’s my fault. I put the cart before the horse. You both have been accepted to the master’s program.” Kathy gives Paula a high-five, telling Mr. Rosenberg, “thank you! Thank you so much!”

Mr. Rosenberg continues, “Mr. Frazier and Provost Leighton also want to hire you both as assistant coaches and team scouts. Your letter of acceptance was due to go out this week.” Kathy tells Mr. Rosenberg, “that sounds really awesome! Thank you very much!” Mr. Rosenberg adds, “Provost Leighton tells me that you both have been very instrumental in the team’s success this year, both on a personal level, and by bringing exceptional talent to the team.” Kathy and Paula talk a while longer with Mr. Rosenberg, but then have to go to class.

Later that day, after class, Kathy runs into Angela Meadows, who works at the campus radio station. Opening the conversation, Kathy tells Angela, “hey! Remember me?” Angela, clearly remembering Kathy, replies, “yeah! You’re our new DJ! And, your husband is our new tower

guy!” Kathy replies, “that would be me!” Kathy and Angela catch up for a few minutes, when Angela again thanks Kathy for setting up a few interviews in the past with several track team members.

Kathy smiles, and tells Angela, “by the way, I got something new for you.” Angela asks, “what’s that?” Kathy tells her, “let’s get out of the crowd first.” Angela now suspects that Kathy has something really good for her. Kathy and Angela walk to the side of a classroom building where they can have some privacy. Angela has no idea of the scope of what she is about to hear.

Angela asks, “so, you mentioned you have something for me? What’s up?” Kathy replies, “yeah. Get this. Dean Grimsby got arrested this morning.” Quite startled, Angela exclaims, “what? Are you serious?” Kathy replies, “totally serious. Three undercover officers took him away this morning.” Angela replies, “wow! Tell me all about it!” Kathy explains to Angela all about Dean Grimsby’s involvement with the organized gambling ring, and that he was the odds maker. Angela is floored with the information that she is hearing from Kathy.

Angela tells Kathy, “this is some really good stuff! Will you be willing to do an interview about this with me?” Kathy replies, “sure. But, I have someone better who could probably do the interview with you.” Angela asks, “who’s that?” Kathy replies, “Axel Braden. He’s on the track team, and he’s also a campus police officer. I just talked with him.” Angela exclaims, “yeah! Braden’s kick ass Dune Buggy! So, that’s who owns that one.” Kathy replies, “that’s the guy!” Kathy tells Angela, “and, Braden is our best 440 guy on the track team.” Shocked at what she is hearing, Angela exclaims again, “wow! This is really big news!”

Angela tells Kathy, “the bad part about this is that it’s finals week next week. And, everyone will be busy studying. And, over the Summer, this campus is dead. I’m wondering whether we should do this in the Fall when we all get back.” Kathy explains, “Braden will be here all Summer. If you want, you can do it then. But, this just happened today, so I’m sure more information will be coming along soon.”

Angela asks, “I wonder if I can get anything out of the administration.” Kathy points out, “when they arrested Dr. Paxton, the administration’s official statement was that he is on administrative leave. I’m sure that’s going to be their official position with Dean Grimsby too.” Angela sighs, and replies, “yeah. You’re right. They’re not going to say anything.”

Angela then asks, “who is Dr. Paxton?” Kathy replies, “he was the distance coach for the track team. He was distributing performance enhancing drugs, and was involved in the gambling ring.” Angela exclaims, “wow! This is really getting interesting. This could really be

big!” Kathy tells Angela, “it doesn’t stop there. Some of the team members were suspected of fixing the events by running erratic times and bungling handoffs.” Angela exclaims, “seriously? This is some really big stuff!”

With the ten-minute break between classes now long over, Angela has to get to class. Angela tells Kathy, “hey! I’m going to go hunt down Axel Braden. Cover my shift for me at the radio station!” Kathy laughs, telling Angela, “I’m not falling for that one again!” Angela laughs along with Kathy, as they head to class.

At the end of the academic year, the University finds itself with a highly competitive track team, and two new coaches who intend to make it even better next year. Provost Leighton, back in the track circle, is as happy as she can be seeing her son, Darryl Stone, running highly competitive times. The University is down one dean, which doesn’t seem to bother anyone in the administration. The position of Dean of Students is now open, which Provost Leighton hopes to fill by Autumn. With the gambling investigation reopened after Mr. Crum’s trial, Officer Hayes has busted it wide open. And, over at the high school, Barbara continues in Mr. Frazier’s footsteps, having a superb season.