Distribution:

Production:
Devon Cody
Sarah Wall
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
Jim Miller
Ashley Irving-Scott

The HUB:
Nikki Reed
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Patrick Callan

Hasbro Studios:
Stephen Davis
Michael Vogel
Brian Lenard
Kathy Page
Robert Fewkes
Sophia Hussain

Hasbro Brand:
Mark Wiesenhahn
Donna Tobin

MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Equestria Games"
Episode 424
Written by: Dave Polsky

Polish V3: March 14, 2013

Polish V2: March 6, 2013

Polish draft: February 27, 2013

2nd draft: February 13, 2013

1st draft: January 23, 2013

Outline: December 18, 2012

Premise: November 16, 2012

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. EQUESTRIA - DAY

OPEN ON a TRAIN pulled across the Equestria landscape. Following as it wends its way past a mountain, we REVEAL THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE SKYLINE on the horizon.

INT. TRAIN CAR - SAME TIME

RAINBOW DASH peers out the window, then steels herself.

1 RAINBOW DASH 1
There it is. This just got real.

Dash, in the front row of seats, rises and turns to face the MANY ROWS OF OTHER PONIES seated in the car, all of whom are engaged in their pockets of conversation and excited hubbub.

2 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 2
Listen up gang, we're almost there so I've got a few things to say.

ANGLE ON APPLEBLOOM, in a row of seats with SCOOTALOO, SWEETIE BELLE and SPIKE, suddenly leaping to her feet.

3 APPLEBLOOM 3
Oh no! We forgot the hoop! How are we going to do our thing without the hoop?!

4 SCOOTALOO 4
Shh! Rainbow Dash is talking.

5 APPLEBLOOM 5
But I left the hoop back in Ponyville!

6 SPIKE 6
Don't worry. Packed an extra. Got ya covered. Who's the dragon?

Scootloo and Sweetie Belle high-hoof Spike while a blushing Applebloom sits back down.

ANGLE BACK ON Rainbow Dash.

7 RAINBOW DASH 7
First off, who here besides me thinks this is the best Equestria Games delegation in Ponyville history?

8 ALL THE PONIES 8
<cheers>

9 RAINBOW DASH 9
That's the spirit! And no matter what your sport is we all gotta give it our all, because we've all got a genuine shot at Ponyville gold!

10 ALL THE PONIES 10
<cheers>

11 RAINBOW DASH 11
Wiiiiith the possible exception of Bulk Biceps, Fluttershy and me.

ANGLE ON the shrugs of FLUTTERSHY and BULK BICEPS.

12 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 12
I mean, we're good and all, but we're up against the Wonderbolts in the aerial relay, so gold's kind of a stretch, let's not kid ourselves.

ANGLE ON Scootaloo jumping up from her seat.

13 SCOOTALOO 13
Don't feel bad, Rainbow Dash. We have absolutely no shot at winning gold, either!

14 RAINBOW DASH 14
That's because you're carrying the flag for Ponyville in the opening ceremony. It's a non-competitive event. There are no winners.

15 SCOOTALOO 15
Winners or not, we still have the chance to be awesome!

16 RAINBOW DASH 16
That's the spirit. You hear that everypony? Winners or not, we all still have the chance to be awesome!

17 ALL THE PONIES 17
<cheers>

18 RAINBOW DASH 18
But uh... let's still try to win lots and lots of stuff too, okay.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER.

ACT ONE

EXT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE TRAIN STATION - LATER

The platform teems with criss-crossing activity as ponies disembark the recently-arrived train. Amidst all the commotion, PINKIE PIE approaches Rainbow Dash.

19 PINKIE PIE 19
Dash, you'll be glad to know I'm keeping careful count of all the medals won so far at the Games. And hooboy, is it a nail-biter.

20 RAINBOW DASH 20
What are you talking about? The Games haven't even started. Nopony's won anything.

21 PINKIE PIE 21
Which means it's a twelve way tie! I tell you what, sports fans, you cannot make this stuff up.
(hyperventilating)
Don't. Think. I. Can. Take. The. Excitement! Hold me.

Then, as Dash reluctantly comforts overwrought Pinkie, some SERVANT CRYSTAL PONIES approach.

22 SERVANT CRYSTAL PONY #1 22
There's the one. Returned to our empire at last. What an honor.
(officious hoof clap)
Prepare the royal reception!

The other SERVANT CRYSTAL PONIES produce a SEDAN CHAIR.

23 RAINBOW DASH 23
Aw, no need for all the fuss. I'm just a regular ol' pony deep down. But if you insist...

Dash flies into the chair, and they DUMP HER OUT.

24 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D) 24
Oof. Ouch.

25 SERVANT CRYSTAL PONY #1 25
A thousand pardons. But this is not for you.

ANGLE ON Spike with the CMCs, standing before a cart PILED HIGH WITH BAGS FULL OF GEAR, seemingly unaware of the CROWD OF ADMIRING CRYSTAL PONIES slowly gathering around them.

26 SPIKE 26
It's all in there, gang. Hoop. Streamers. Scooter. Leave it to Spike, world champion gear carrier, for all your gear carrying needs.

27 SWEETIE BELLE 27
(re: gathered onlookers)
Um... why are all these ponies staring at us?

28 SPIKE 28
They must know a quality packing job when they see one.

29 APPLEBLOOM 29
And the Ponyville flag? You sure? And what about the flagpole?

30 SPIKE 30
In with the portable ramp.

31 SCOOTALOO 31
Give it a rest, Applebloom.

32 SPIKE 32
Aw she's just nervous, that's all. Perfectly understandable. You'll have a stadium packed with thousands upon thousands upon thousands of ponies from all over Equestria watching your every move. Who wouldn't be nervous?

33 APPLEBLOOM 33
This isn't helping.

34 SPIKE 34
Tell you what I do when I'm under pressure. Like packing your stuff for example. That's a lot of responsibility! What if I forgot the hoop?

35 APPLEBLOOM 35
You forgot the hoop?!?

Scootaloo ELBOWS Applebloom.

36 SPIKE 36
Whenever I'm afraid I'll forget something and I start to panic, I have a simple trick: I count to ten, and by the time I'm done I've calmed myself enough to get the job done right every time. Easy peasy cider squeezy. And nothing's more important than a job well done.

Suddenly, the Servant Crystal Ponies LIFT SPIKE into the sedan chair and RACE OFF WITH HIM.

37 SPIKE (CONT'D) 37
Hey - put me down!

38 SCOOTALOO 38
What's going on??

39 APPLEBLOOM 39
Help! Somepony stole Spike!

Spike stands up in the sedan chair as it speeds along.

Spikes POV: Bags and CMCs receding into the distance.

40 SPIKE 40
Must. Protect. Bags.

Spike LEAPS off the back of the chair, but LOSES HIS BALANCE in midair and FACE PLANTS on the ground.

41 SPIKE (CONT'D) 41
Oof.

Spike looks up and, to his surprise, sees PRINCESS TWILIGHT and PRINCESS CADANCE looking down at him.

42 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 42
Spike! Are you all right?

43 SPIKE 43
(groaning)
Mostly....

The Servant Crystal Ponies THROW THEMSELVES TO GROUND.

44 SERVANT CRYSTAL PONY #1 44
A thousand pardons, O Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious.

45 SPIKE 45
Huh? Whothewhatnow?

46 CADANCE 46
(to Servants)
Thanks for bringing Spike to us.
(then)
It's okay, Spike. We'll have our hoofponies go back for your bags.

47 SPIKE 47
Can they hang back a sec and tell me what's going on first?

INT. CADANCE'S CRYSTAL PALACE - LATER

Spike LOUNGES on a luxurious couch while Crystal Pony Royal Attendants wait on him hand and foot - one feeding him JEWELS - while Princess Twilight, Princess Cadance and SHINING ARMOR look on.

48 SPIKE 48
So the ponies here think I'm some kind of hero, huh?
(then)
More of the green ones, please. I like the green ones.

49 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 49
Last time you were here you got the Crystal Heart to Princess Cadance in time to save this entire empire from destruction... soooooo that kind of makes you a hero.

50 CADANCE 50
You are known throughout my empire as Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious.

51 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 51
You're a big shot here, Spike. Isn't that awesome? See that? That's you.

Spike sees a GIANT CRYSTAL STATUE depicting his heroics.

52 SPIKE 52
(a la Funny Girl)
Hello, gorgeous.

53 CADANCE 53
This is why we all hope you'd do us the honor of lighting the torch at the Opening Ceremony. You'd be the very first dragon in the history of the Equestria Games to do so.

54 SPIKE 54
Of course I'll do it!
(then)
And. Bonus. I can do it with my fire breath. No matches or magic for this dragon.

55 CADENCE 55
I'm thrilled you've agreed, Spike. Everypony is going to be so excited to see you out there.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER

Anticipation fills the air as the ponies in the Opening Ceremony procession stand together awaiting their cue. The Ponyville contingent of the group includes the CMCs, Rainbow Dash, Flutershy and Bulk Biceps. *

The stadiums seats are filled to capacity. Shining Armor steps forward to address the group.

56 SHINING ARMOR 56
Places for the procession, everypony. Two minutes!

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

PINKIE PIE, APPLEJACK and RARITY sit together. Rarity uses magic to hold up her operal glasses.

57 APPLEJACK 57
That's so exciting about Spike, but does anypony see him yet?

58 RARITY 58
I see Dash and Fluttershy!

59 PINKIE PIE 59
(waving toward below)
Over here! Look over here! Here we are, sitting over here! Hi!

60 APPLEJACK 60
I don't think they can hear you, Pinkie.

61 PINKIE PIE 61
A little louder, maybe?

INT. STADIUM - SAME TIME

Dash, Fluttershy and CMCs await their cue as the tiny fleck of Pinkie inaudibly jumps up and down in the b.g.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS

Celestia and Luna sit together, presiding over the Games. Celestia occupies the center seat. A step below them Twilight and Cadance and other Very Important Ponies take their seats.

INT. STADIUM - CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

MS. HARSHWINNY leads Spike along. *

62 MS. HARSHWHINNY 62
As head of the Equestria Games it *
is my duty to see that everything *
goes as it should. *

62A SPIKE 62A *
I understand, Ms. Harshwhinny. *

62B MS. HARSHWHINNY 62B *
And you're quite certain you also *
understand exactly what you are *
supposed to do? *

63 SPIKE 63
I stand where you tell me until you *
give me the signal. Then I walk
over and light the torch.

64 MS. HARSHWHINNY 64
Couldn't be simpler.

Then...

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

... as they step out onto the open...

65 SPIKE 65
I guess you're right. Easy peasy
cider squeeeeeehoooyawawaaaaa...

The spectacle of the thousands and thousands of cheering ponies in the stadium hits him with a blast of cold terror.

CLOSE ON Ms. Harshwhinny still walking.

She turns to see Spike still stands frozen in the same spot.

66 MS. HARSHWHINNY 66
Spike? You coming?

67 SPIKE 67
(still fear stricken)
I'd like to but um, but my legs don't seem to want to move where I tell them to.

Ms. Harshwhinny strides back toward him.

68 MS. HARSHWHINNY 68
(under breath)
Honestly, as if I didn't already have a million things to do.
(then, exasperated)
Would somepony help him walk?

A pair of Crystal Ponies, nudge a frozen Spike along, his feet dragging.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - LATER

Rarity, Applejack and Pinkie Pie watch the PROCESSION wend around the track, then SPOT THE CMCs readying themselves.

69 RARITY 69
Oooh, come on little sisters...

70 APPLEJACK 70
Don'tblowitdon'tblowit.

71 SHINING ARMOR (O.S.) 71
Now please welcome the delegation from Ponyville!

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

[PRODUCTION NOTE: The routine the CMCs perform here is the same one they prepped in Episode 405 "Flight to the Finish".]

Scootaloo BURSTS through a paper circle in a hoop as streamers shoot out, the Ponyville flag unfurled behind her, attached to a pole on her scooter. She sticks the landing and then joins the others, striking a pose.

72 THE CMCS 72
PONYVILLE - FOREVER! YAY!

73 CROWD 73
<roaring approval>

ANGLE ON Ms. Harshwinny with a slack-jawed Spike beside her.

74 MS. HARSHWHINNY 74
Enjoying the spectacle, Mr. Spike?

But Spike's not facing the procession, he's facing the crowd.

75 SPIKE 75
(eyes glazed)
So many thousands of ponies. All watching. Thousands upon thousands-

76 MS. HARSHWHINNY 76
Okay, it's time.

She stomps her right hoof twice. No response from Spike. She continues to do the two-time hoof stomp through the following:

77 MS. HARSHWHINNY (CONT'D) 77
This is the signal.
(no response)
I'm giving you the signal now.
(then, sharp)
Spike!

78 SPIKE 78
(snapping out of it)
Okay legs, do your thing.

He FORCES HIMSELF TO WALK toward the torch.

79 SPIKE (CONT'D) 79
Walk over and light it. Walk over and light it. Easy peasy. Cider squeezy. Easy peasy.

He stands before the torch, with the eyes of an entire stadium full of ponies fixed upon him. Spike attempts to breathe fire... and has a COUGHING FIT.

80 SPIKE (CONT'D) 80
Okay. Just a little nervous. Hard to breathe fire when your nervous.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Princesses Twilight and Cadance lean forward in their seats.

81 CADANCE 81
What's wrong?

82 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 82
This is not going great.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Spike tries again. More COUGHING.

83 SPIKE 83
Come on, Spike. Calm yourself. Count to ten. One, two... okay... the next number is... okay I know this... the next number... One, two...
(then, gazing into stands)
... three... thousand... fourteen thousand... twenty thousand...

An EERIE SILENCE FALL OVER THE CROWD waiting for Spike to act as he stares back at them, frozen and entranced.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Cadance turns to Twilight quizzically.

84 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 84
Equestria, we have a problem.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE.

ACT TWO

EXT. STADIUM - FIELD - CONTINUOUS

All eyes on Spike. He tries again. Another coughing fit.

85 SPIKE 85
Oh no. Tell me this isn’t happening.

86 MS. HARSHWHINNY 86
(wound pretty tight)
Mr. Spike, would you light the torch already?

87 SPIKE 87
I don’t know what it is, but I just don’t have the stuff today. Did you bring a match?

88 MS. HARSHWHINNY 88
(wound tighter)
You're a *fire-breathing dragon.*
Why would I bring a match??

89 SPIKE 89
(hoarse)
Then some cough drops, maybe?
(off her look)
Nevermind. I'll keep trying.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Nearly everpony's on the edge of their seat sweating bullets.

90 CADANCE 90
(to room)
Somepony go down and help him!

Twilight sees PONIES RACE FROM THE ROOM. Then, fretting for Spike, she discreetly tips her horn down at the field and FIRES IT UP. It RIPPLES with magic...

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Spike stares in futility at the still-unlit torch.

91 SPIKE 91
Come on! Light! Light!

Then suddenly... the torch BURST INTO FLAMES. The crowd ERUPTS, overjoyed. Ms. Harshwhinny, nearly collapsing with relief, steps over to congratulate the mystified Spike.

92 MS. HARSHWHINNY 92
H-how'd you do that?

93 SPIKE 93
I'm... not sure....

94 MS. HARSHWHINNY 94
(shrugs and exits)
Ah well, better late than never.

ANGLE ON Shining Armor addressing all vast assembly.

95 SHINING ARMOR 95
Let the Games begin!!

96 THE CROWD 96
<deafening roar>

BACK ON Spike still at the torch, scratching his head.

EXT. STADIUM - LATER

Rarity, Applejack and Rainbow Dash stand waiting. Then...

97 RARITY 97
There are our little superstars!

Sweetie Belle, Applebloom and Scootaloo come racing over. Each gets a warm greeting from their respective “sister.”

98 RARITY (CONT'D) 98
You were fabulous!

99 APPLEJACK 99
Made me sit up proud like a cornstalk in August.

100 RAINBOW DASH 100
Ya done good, squirt.

Twilight approaches.

101 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 101
You three really were wonderful. But does anypony know what was going on with Spike?

102 APPLEJACK 102
He sure seemed to be havin’ a tough time of it there for a spell.

103 RARITY 103
He put things right in time, though.

104 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 104
Actually, it was me. I didn’t want him to be embarrassed by ponies rushing down to help him in front of the crowd, so I cast a secret spell to light it for him.

105 RARITY 105
Oh dear. Have you told him?

106 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 106
No, but he might have figured it out on his own.

107 APPLEJACK 107
You gotta tell him just in case.

108 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 108
I know. I'm just afraid of how he'll take it. I know what pride he takes in a job well done.

109 RAINBOW DASH 109
Psst. Here he comes now. Act casual.
(strikes casual pose)
'Sup.

ANGLE ON a dazed Spike approaching.

110 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 110
Spike! There you are. Is everything okay?

111 SPIKE 111
I guess, I dunno. The weirdest thing happened down there.

112 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 112
Yeah, about that. I -

113 SPIKE 113
I mean, there I was, trying to light the torch, with the whole world watching, and feeling like the hugest failure ever. And then the thing just lit. It was amazing!

114 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 114
Oh whew. I was afraid you'd be upset.

115 SPIKE 115
Upset?? Are you kidding, why would I be upset to discover I can light fire WITH MY MIND?!?

The ponies exchange bewildered glances.

116 ALL THE PONIES 116
Huh???

117 CRYSTAL PONY #1 (V.O.) 117
Look, it's the Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious!

Some CRYSTAL PONIES approach.

118 CRYSTAL PONY #2 118
Can we get your autograph?

119 SPIKE 119
Sure!

120 CRYSTAL PONY #1 120
How you saved our empire last time you were here was really amazing.

121 SPIKE 121
You know what else is amazing? Watch this!

Spike STRAINS over the autograph he just signed to light it with his mind. The Crystal Ponies look on, confused.

122 SPIKE (CONT'D) 122
Gonna light this autograph on fire with my mind.

He STRAINS again for another awkward beat.

123 SPIKE (CONT'D) 123
Don’t worry. Once it bursts into flames through brainpower I’ll sign another one for you. Promise.

He STRAINS some more.

124 SPIKE (CONT'D) 124
<effortful grunting>

ANGLE ON Applejack, Dash, Rarity, Twilight and the CMCs.

125 APPLEJACK 125
You better tell him. Now.

126 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 126
Spike, may I have a word with you a moment?

127 SPIKE 127
Sure. Here you go.
(handing over autograph)
Better be careful with that. Might burst into flames later. Delayed reaction.

The befuddled Crystal Ponies take the autograph and walk off.

128 SPIKE (CONT'D) 128
Hey Twi, what is it? Hold on, give me a second.

He puts his hands to his temples like a soothsayer.

129 SPIKE (CONT'D) 129
If I can set fire to stuff with my mind, mindreading must be just around the corner, and I predict that you are about to ask me... to set fire to something WITH MY MIND.

130 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 130
No. Because you can't, Spike.

131 SPIKE 131
Oh really? So how do explain what happened down there in front of thousands and thousands -

132 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 132
I did it, Spike. I saw you were having trouble so I cast a spell to do it for you.

133 SPIKE 133
(sinking)
... in front of thousands and thousands...

134 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 134
I'm sorry, Spike. I just couldn't stand to see you stuck like that. You understand, don't you?

135 SPIKE 135
I - I - I need to be alone right now.

He walks off.

136 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 136
Spike?

He keeps right on walking. The ponies all droop.

Meanwhile, ANOTHER CRYSTAL PONY approaches Spike.

137 CRYSTAL PONY #3 137
Oh Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious. Can I get your autograph?

138 SPIKE 138
Sorry. You should probably ask somebody special instead.

He gives the pony a sad smile and keeps right on walking.

139 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 139
Spike, come back. You were great out there.

140 SPIKE 140
No, you were.
(to CMCs)
And you were.
(to Dash and Fluttershy)
And you will be.
(then)
But not me.

141 RAINBOW DASH 141
Dude! You rescued a whole empire!!

142 SPIKE 142
All I did was carry a crystal heart from one place to another, like carrying a bag, which just happens to be the one thing I'm good at. Carrying bags.

The ponies look on as Spike mopes away.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER

The Ponyville aerial relay team of Rainbow Dash, Fluttershy and Bulk Biceps takes its place amidst an ELABORATE ARRAY OF * HOOPS, ready to race. The other teams preparing for the start include the WONDERBOLTS - SOARIN', FLEETFOOT and SPITFIRE. Shining Armor steps forward to address the crowd.

143 SHINING ARMOR 143
Our next event: the aerial relay!

INT. STADIUM CORRIDOR - SAME TIME

Rarity, Applejack and Pinkie Pie enter with the other fans.

144 APPLEJACK 144
That's Dash and Fluttershy!

145 PINKIE PIE 145
Oh no, we can't be late for that!

Rarity gets led away by SECURITY to a detaining area.

146 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 146
Step right over here, miss.
Unicorns will no longer be admitted without a disabling spell. To prevent cheating.

147 RARITY 147
But I'm afraid I haven't time for this, my good man. My dear dear friends are about to race.

148 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 148
Oh, so you think you're special?

149 RARITY 149
Is... that a trick question?

SECURITY gestures for Rarity to pass through a contraption similar to an airport metal detector. As she does so, it bathes her in a purple light.

150 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 150
And make sure you don't even try casting a spell or we'll know it.

151 RARITY 151
Oh really? How?

Rarity FIRES UP HER HORN, which causes it to emit a THUNDEROUS AIR HORN BLAST.

152 RARITY (CONT'D) 152
(blushing)
Oh. Like that.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - A LITTLE LATER

The ponies cheer as Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy and Bulk * Biceps give the Wonderbolts a run for their money down below. *

153 PINKIE PIE 153
If Ponyville medals here we'll have 8 medals so far, putting us tied for the lead with Cloudsdale... unless Cloudsdale medals here, too. Which they will, probably...

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Ponyville and Cloudsdale are NECK AND NECK. The race is working its way to a THRILLING FINISH.

ANGLE ON Ms. Harshwhinny busy keeping thing organized behing the scenes, while Spike bends over A RAILING IN THE STANDS above to get her attention.

154 SPIKE 154
(calling down)
Ms. Harshwhinny, I know you're really busy but -

155 MS. HARSHWHINNY 155
You got that right. What is it?

156 SPIKE 156
Maybe there's something else I can do for the Games, you know, something really worthy of the Crystal Empire's admiration?

157 MS. HARSHWHINNY 157
What are you talking about? You lit the torch for the whole thing!

158 SPIKE 158
Well, actually, that wasn't really -

159 MS. HARSHWHINNY 159
And that wasn't "worthy" enough for you? For ponies' sake! Next thing you know you'll be asking to put on a rock concert!
(then)
Pssht. Celebrities.

160 SPIKE 160
Wait... that's it!

Brightening, he RUNS OFF. Meanwhile...

ANGLE ON the end of the race. The Wonderbolts finish first, with the Ponyville anchor Rainbow Dash just behind.

161 RARITY/APPLEJACK/PINKIE PIE 161
Second place./ We got silver!/ Yay!

INT. STADIUM CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Spike heads for the field but gets stopped by SECURITY.

162 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 162
Halt. Only authorized personnel past this point.

163 SPIKE 163
(bluffing haughtiness)
What? Don't you know who I am?

164 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 164
(realizing)
Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious. A thousand pardons.

He lets Spike pass.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Shining Armor stands before the medal podium, where the aerial relay teams have received their medals.

165 SHINING ARMOR 165
Congratulations to all our medalists. And now, the anthem of -

Spike rushes up in front of Shining Armor.

166 SPIKE 166
And I shall do the honor of singing all the words!

167 SHINING ARMOR 167
Spike? What are you doing?

168 SPIKE 168
(to Dash)
You know how they always just play the music?
(to crowd)
Well I know all the words to our anthem and will sing them for you now, loud and proud, to the enjoyment of all!

169 CROWD 169
<cheers and applause>

170 SPIKE 170
Maestro, music please!

The MUSIC BEGINS PLAYING. Spike seems confused.

171 SPIKE (CONT'D) 171
Wait, this isn’t the Ponyville anthem.

172 SHINING ARMOR 172
They only play the anthem for the winners. The Wonderbolts are from Cloudsdale!

173 SPIKE 173
But... but I don’t know the words to the Cloudsdale anthem. I’ve never even heard it!

174 CRYSTAL PONY IN CROWD 174
Sing for us, O Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious!

175 CROWD 175
<enthusiastic agreement walla>

176 SPIKE 176
(mouth going dry)
But of course.

177 SHINING ARMOR 177
And um... now the Cloudsdale anthem, as sung by... Spike.

The music PLAYS ON. Spike clears his throat. Then...

178 SPIKE 178
(whispering)
Where do I come in?

179 SHINING ARMOR 179
(whispering)
About two measures ago.

180 SPIKE 180
(leaps into song)
Oh we're the Wonderbolts! And we're super fast! And we're from Clouds-dale which is a part of Equestria that we like best and we're proud and we're fast and we like Clouds-dale because it has nice trees and we love it... and isn't this song over yet because I really wish it was.
(music still going)
Over.
(music still going)
Now.
(waits till it ends, then)
Now.

Dead silence.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Princesses Twilight and Cadance look on in DUMBFOUNDED SHOCK.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

Ms. Harshwhinny looks on in DUMBFOUNDED SHOCK.

INT. STADIUM - MEDAL PODIUM - SAME TIME

Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy look on in DUMBFOUNDED SHOCK.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

The rest of the Mane 6 and the CMCs look on in shock. Then...

REVEAL Pinkie Pie's face LIGHTING UP.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Pinkie's voice echoes in the stadium's vast silence as Spike slowly dies inside.

181 PINKIE PIE 181
(far far away)
NAILED IT!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO.

ACT THREE

INT. LODGING - DAY

The CMCs get ready to leave while Spike pulls out a suitcase.

182 APPLEBLOOM 182
Spike, you coming?

183 SPIKE 183
Nah, I got this stuff to pack up.

184 SCOOTALOO 184
But you've been moping in here for almost the entire Games.

185 SWEETIE BELLE 185
And tonight's the closing ceremony.

186 SPIKE 186
Which means we leave tomorrow. Ergo the packing.

EXT. STADIUM - DUSK

The SUN SETS over the horizon, the sky darkens.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Celestia and Luna ceremonially change places, with Luna now occupying the center chair.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Shining Armor once again addresses the crowd.

187 SHINING ARMOR 187
And so the Games conclude as they always to do with the Ice Archery finals. Ice archers, take your places!

188 CROWD 188
<thundering cheer>

Several UNICORNS, PEGASI, and EARTH PONIES take their places on one side of the field. On the opposite side stands an array of SPINNING ARCHERY TARGETS.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

The rest of the Mane 6 sit with the CMCs, looking on as PAGEANTRY OF THE ICE ARCHERY COMPETITION UNFOLDS BELOW.

189 APPLEJACK 189
Too bad Ponyville doesn't have any ice archers competing. We got no one to root for.

190 PINKIE PIE 190
It's okay. Ponyville has 37 medals and Cloudsdale 36, so looks like we'll be medal champs of the Games anyway! Wheeee!

191 RAINBOW DASH 191
But Cloudsdale has two ice archery finalists down there right now. If they both medal, Cloudsdale wins the medal count.

192 PINKIE PIE 192
So you're saying it all comes down to this one event?!

193 APPLEJACK 193
Pretty much.

194 PINKIE PIE 194
Ohmygoshohmygoshohmygosh--

Twilight approaches. Pinkie Pie abruptly stops freaking out.

195 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) 195
Twilight! Come take this extra seat next to me and freak out over the medal count. I'll show you how.
(then)
Ohmygoshohmygoshohmygosh--

196 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 196
Actually I was looking for Spike.
Have you seen him?

197 APPLEBLOOM 197
He wouldn’t come.

198 SWEETIE BELLE 198
We tried everything we could think
of to talk him into it.

199 SCOOTALOO 199
But he wouldn’t listen.

200 PINKIE PIE 200
You can have his extra seat though.

Twilight rushes off.

201 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D) 201
Twi?

INT. LODGING - A LITTLE LATER

Lounging on a sofa, Spike entertains himself by blowing gusts of air at a quill feather, keeping it suspended in mid-air.

202 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (O.S.) 202
Spike? You here?

Spike LEAPS TO HIS FEET and yanks clothes out of bags.

203 SPIKE 203
Uh, yeah. I’m super busy.

Twilight enters the just as Spike starts repacking the clothes strewn around him that he just pulled out.

204 SPIKE (CONT'D) 204
Look at all this packing left to
do. Crazy, right?

205 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 205
No more hiding out. You’re coming
with me. Now.

206 SPIKE 206
Okay fine. I’ll come.

Then, pulling out SUNGLASSES and a WIDE-BRIMMED HAT.

207 SPIKE (CONT'D) 207
Can I at least wear these?

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - A LITTLE LATER

An intense Ice Archery competition is underway. Determined participants use SILVER BOWS to fire SILVER ICE ARROWS at their TARGETS. Arrows that miss strike the wall behind the targets, harmlessly creating a slick patch of ice on the part of the wall they've struck.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

Dash acquaints the CMCs with some of the game's finer points.

208 RAINBOW DASH 208
Those aren't your average arrows. They freeze whatever part of the target they hit. Whoever encases their *entire* target in ice first wins.
(then)
Keep your eye on Number 7 from Cloudsdale. He's the favorite.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Number 7 from Cloudsdale is well ahead of the competition. More than half of his target has been struck by the ice arrows and is covered in a layer of ice. Glancing over, he sees the COMPETITOR next to him making gains. Number 7 REACTS and FIRES more and more ARROWS, faster and faster.

EXT. STADIUM - SAME TIME

Twilight and Spike approach the entrance to the stands together, with Spike doing his best to be incognito in his sunglasses, hat, and JACKET WITH THE COLLAR UP.

209 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 209
Honestly Spike, I don't see why you're being so hard on yourself.

210 SPIKE 210
I let everypony down. Twice! You never let anypony down so you have no idea what that's like.

211 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 211
Are you kidding? I've totally let ponies down. That's not the point. The torch got lit, the all the aerial relay teams got their medals. No harm no foul.

212 SPIKE 212
(re: corridor entrance)
Can we at least watch from inside there? I'm not sure I'm ready to face crowds in the stands just yet.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Number 7 from Cloudsdale is ON THE VERGE OF WINNING but, glancing over, he sees the Pony Next to Him is ON THE VERGE OF WINNING, TOO. Firing her arrows even faster at the target.

Number 7 increases his speed, but in his haste LOSES HIS FOOTING, still FIRING HIS ARROWS.

213 CROWD 213
<gasps>

He STUMBLES BACKWARDS and FALLS, and an ICE ARROW GOES SKYWARD.

ANGLE ON a CLOUD OVERHEAD STRUCK BY THE ARROW.

CLOSE ON the CLOUD QUICKLY CRYSTALLIZING.

ANGLE ON the ponies in the STANDS DIRECTLY BELOW the RAPIDLY SOLIDIFYING CLOUD scrambling to get out from under it.

214 CROWD (CONT'D) 214
<panicked screams>

PAN ACROSS the stands as DETERMINED UNICORNS RISE IN UNISON.

ANGLE ON Shining Armor ANTICIPATING THE MISTAKE.

215 SHINING ARMOR 215
NO!!

The unicorn attendees FIRE MAGIC at the CLOUD, but it's THWARTED BY THE DISABLING SPELL. The SIMULTANEOUS AIRHORN BLASTS ROCK THE ENTIRE STADIUM.

INT. STADIUM - BOX SEATS - SAME TIME

Celestia and Luna let LOOSE A MAGIC BLAST OF THEIR OWN, but RUBBLE SHAKEN LOOSE FROM ABOVE BY THE 1000s of DISABLING SPELL BLASTS blocks them inside.

They proceed to fire MAGIC AT THE RUBBLE to free themselves and RESTORE A LINE OF SIGHT toward the cloud.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

The cloud, now completely solid, is kept from CRASHING TO THE GROUND by DOZENS OF PEGASI - including Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy - STRUGGLING to keep it aloft.

216 RAINBOW DASH 216
Steer it toward the field! Away from the crowds!

217 FLUTTERSHY 217
We can't hold on much longer!

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Shining Armor is an island of calm among the panic.

218 SHINING ARMOR 218
(to the ice archers)
Somepony fire heat!

219 ICE ARCHER #1 219
We're only enabled for ice.

220 SHINING ARMOR 220
Those pegasi could get crushed under that weight. Somepony cut the disabling spell!

221 CRYSTAL PONY SECURITY GUARD 221
There isn't time!

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy still struggling, but losing ground.

222 RAINBOW DASH 222
Descending... too... fast...

223 SPIKE (O.S.) 223
Dash! Fluttershy! MOVE!!!

Dash and Fluttershy look down, then SCOOT AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, creating a space that suddenly FILLS WITH FIRE.

WIDEN TO REVEAL Spike FIRING A RAGING TORRENT OF FIRE unlike any he's fired before, RAPIDLY MELTING THE ICE CLOUD.

Another INCREDIBLE BLAST.

Then ANOTHER.

As their load becomes bearable, the Pegasi EASE what's left of the cloud to the ground, while Spike steps out from under the CASCADING MELT to FIRE ONE LAST BLAST to finish it off.

Rainbow Dash approaches Spike. She's speechless.

224 RAINBOW DASH 224
Spike... you... that...

225 SPIKE 225
What?

226 CROWD 226
<erupts with joy>

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - LATER

Spike steps up into the stands, and gets mobbed by the rest of the Mane 6 and the CMCs.

227 ALL THE PONIES 227
<ebullient congratulations walla>

Spike accepts it all wordlessly as Cadance arrives.

228 CADANCE 228
I just wanted to thank you personally for saving that unicorn, and the Games, O Great and Honorable Spike the Brave and Glorious. You must be very proud.

229 SPIKE 229
I guess.

230 ALL THE PONIES 230
You guess????

231 SPIKE 231
I just saw what needed to be done and reacted. It just so happens I can breathe fire... if any of you could do that you'd have done the same.

232 APPLEJACK 232
Forgive me for being blunt, but you're not makin' a lick of sense.

233 ALL THE PONIES 233
<general agreement>

234 SPIKE 234
(shrugs)
It's just how I feel.

235 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 235
Wait a second. I think I get it. I finally understand.

All eyes on her.

236 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) 236
You keep saying you let everypony down. And we all keep saying you didn't. But now I know we're all wrong. You know who was disappointed in you, Spike?
(a beat)
You. You were disappointed in you.

Spike lowers his eyes.

237 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D) 237
And only you can make it right with you again. What would that take Spike?

Spike shrugs, his expression heavy and sad.

238 SPIKE 238
I don't know. Can you turn back time? Cuz I'd sure like a do-over on that Opening Ceremony.

239 CADENCE 239
We can't turn back time. But as Princess of the host empire, it's my duty to set off the fireworks at the Closing Ceremonies tonight.
(then)
Would you do me and the Equestria Games and the entire Crystal Empire the great honor of lighting fireworks in my place at the Closing Ceremonies tonight?

Spike looks unsure.

240 TWILIGHT SPARKLE 240
Come on, Spike. You've saved the Crystal Empire. Twice. I think you can light some fireworks.

241 SPIKE 241
I guess I have to at least give it a shot.

His friends <AD-LIB AGREEMENT>.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - LATER THAT NIGHT

Shining Armor oversees the raising of the top three MEDAL COUNT FLAGS. The center flag raised highest is Ponyville's.

INT. STADIUM - STANDS - SAME TIME

JUBILATION among Pinkie Pie and the other ponies.

242 PINKIE PIE 242
We did it! Ponyville won the medal count! And only by one medal.

243 RAINBOW DASH 243
Hmm. Wonder which medal that was?

Dash and Fluttershy flash their Aerial SILVERS.

244 RAINBOW DASH/FLUTTERSHY 244
(in unison)
Bam!

ANGLE ON Applejack and Applebloom.

245 APPLEJACK 245
How's it feel to have opened the best Equestria Games in Ponyville history, squirt?

246 APPLEBLOOM 246
Probably as good as it feels to close them.

INT. STADIUM - FIELD - SAME TIME

Spike stands amidst the pageantry next to Ms. Harshwhinny.

247 MS. HARSHWHINNY 247
Okay, it's time.

Spike takes a deep breath.

248 SPIKE 248
You can do this.

Spike strides right up to a row of fireworks and BREATHES as small blast of fire to LIGHT EACH FUSE one by one, through...

249 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 249
You know, it's weird... no matter how many times others tell you you're great, all the praise in the world means nothing if you don't feel it inside.

The fireworks begin LAUNCHING ONE-BY-ONE, through...

250 SPIKE (V.O.) (CONT'D) 250
And when you care about doing things well, you can become your own toughest critic. Sometimes, to feel good about yourself, you've got to let go of the past. That way, when the time comes to let your greatness fly... *

Spike stares amidst the explosive staccato at the SPECTACULAR DISPLAY overhead, the subtle reflections of color shifting on his beaming face. *

251 SPIKE (CONT'D) 251 *
...You'll be able to light up the whole sky. *

FADE OUT.

END.