Distribution:

Production:
Devon Cody
Meghan McCarthy
Jayson Thiessen
Ashley Irving-Scott

The HUB:
Donna Ebbs
Carin Davis
Tegan Molloy
Laurence Braun
Patrick Callan

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

Hasbro Brand:
Mark Wiesenhahn
Matt Mattus
Valerie Jurries
Donna Tobin

MY LITTLE PONY IV
"Flight to the Finish"
Episode 405
Written by: Ed Valentine

Polish v2: August 15, 2012

Polish: August 9, 2012

2nd draft: August 3, 2012

1st draft: July 24, 2012

Outline: June 19, 20112

Premise: May 4, 2012

ACT I

TEASER:

1) EXT. PONYVILLE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

2) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

APPLE BLOOM and SWEETIE BELLE trot off to school, with SCOOTALOO scootering along next to them (NOTE: Scootaloo always wears a helmet in any scenes where she's riding her scooter.) As they go, Sweetie Belle sings a little song.

1 SWEETIE BELLE
(singing)
School school school - we love school! School school school - we love school! Yeahhhhhhh....

2 SCOOTALOO
Love that song, Sweetie Belle!

3 SWEETIE BELLE
Why, thank you! And really, can you think of anything else in the world better than going to school?

4 DIAMOND TIARA (O.S.)
Like, a thousand million things...

The Mean Girls, DIAMOND TIARA and SILVER SPOON, trot up.

5 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Shopping, for one. Or getting your hooves buffed at the spa.

6 SILVER SPOON
School is a boredom factory: the same old same old day after day.

3) INT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

MISS CHEERILEE is at the front of the room, excited. The Crusaders, the Mean Girls, and other kids (SNIPS, SNAILS, TWIST, etc.) are at their desks, listening with anticipation.

7 MISS CHERRILEE
Today won't be the same old same old! We have two special guests with a very special announcement.
(MORE)

MISS CHERRILEE (CONT'D)
Everypony, welcome the Head of the Equestria Games, Ms. Harshwhinny.

MS. HARSHWHINNY, the Head of Games, comes forward.

8 MS. HARSHWHINNY
Thank you. Ponies, my announcement <u>is</u> very very serious! Now I'm sure you all know about the Equestria Games, where ponies from all over the land compete for glory in various athletic pursuits? Well, now you littlest ones will have the chance to compete for a weighty responsibility of your very own -

9 RAINBOW DASH (O.S.)
Oh, c'mon! Tell 'em the fun part!

Rainbow Dash flies in.

10 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Someponies here are gonna get to carry the Ponyville flag in the Opening Ceremony! In short: PA-CHOW!

She does a back-flip. The KIDS <OOH!> and <AAH!>.

11 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
That's right! All you gotta do is show Miss Harshwhinny the coolest, most spectacular, most rockin' routine and you're goin' to the Games! So, who's gonna be the lucky ponies?

ON: three shots of hopeful-looking ponies in the class:

12 DIAMOND TIARA / SILVER SPOON
It's got to be me.

13 TWIST
Maybe it's me?

14 SCOOTALOO
Maybe it's us!

ON SNIPS and SNAILS

SNIPS AND SNAILS
Maybe it's us!

The entire class looks over at Snips and Snails - are they serious?

SNIPS
Hey! It could happen! *

END TEASER

MAIN TITLE

ACT I

4) INT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Resume in the schoolroom. Rainbow Dash is super excited:

16 RAINBOW DASH
So the winning team gets to carry the Ponyville flag at the Equestria Games! Oh, you are gonna LOVE this!

17 MS. HARSHWHINNY
Ms. Dash, a moment please.

RAINBOW DASH
You got it!

Rainbow Dash follows Ms. Harshwhinny as she ducks behind a free-standing chalkboard.

MS. HARSHWHINNY
(whispering)
Will you please curb your overenthusiastic outbursts! Professionalism, Ms. Dash! Professionalism, always! Never forget: the eyes of all of Equestria will be on you!

18 RAINBOW DASH
On me?

Ms. Harshwhinny emerges from behind the chalkboard with a more reserved Rainbow Dash.

19 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(to the students)
Now, then, let me be clear on the rules.

At the chalkboard, Ms. Harshwhinny points to a diagram of ponies cantering with flags in perfect form. Above, a clump of numbers shows the complicated scoring system.

20 MS. HARSHWHINNY (CONT'D)
You ponies will form teams. Each team will create their own flag-carrying routine. Everypony will be judged on grace, style, and originality. There's a most complicated scoring system, which I will elaborate upon now...

21 RAINBOW DASH
Aw, Get to the nitty gritty later. Tell 'em the important stuff: who's the coach? Fine, I'll tell 'em:

She whips out a ballcap that says "COACH."

22 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
That's right: ME! And you know why I'm qualified to coach you? Guess who carried the Cloudsdale flag in the Games when <u>she</u> was a little filly? Yeah, you know it: ME!

DISSOLVE TO:

5) FLASHBACK - EXT. STADIUM - DAY

A stadium, packed with ponies at a Games' Opening Ceremony.

23 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)
I'll never forget it. And neither will anyone who was there!

A YOUNG RAINBOW DASH (who does not have her Cutie Mark) rockets into the air above the crowd, carrying the Cloudsdale flag in her teeth.

24 RAINBOW DASH
I burst into the stadium... spreading my wings, the flag flapping in the breeze!

She twirls the flag expertly. <WILD APPLAUSE>.

25 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Yeah, I'm not shy to say it: I did tricks with that flag the likes of which no pony saw before, and no pony's ever seen again!

She twirls the flag fast. There's an hot white <EXPLOSION!>.

DISSOLVE TO:

6) RESUME REALITY - INT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Rainbow Dash twirls the classroom Ponyville flag, lost in her flashback. Scootaloo nudges the other Crusaders.

26 SCOOTALOO
Now I know we're gonna win! Rainbow Dash and I are besties!

Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom share a skeptical look.

27 APPLE BLOOM
Um - "Besties"?

28 SWEETIE BELLE
Isn't that a little bit of a stretch?

Ms. Harshwhinny snatches the flag from Rainbow Dash, who tumbles to the ground.

29 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(calmly)
Ms. Dash. I must insist: if you want to keep your job as coach of these ponies, you must maintain a professional attitude and keep your emotions in check!
(in her face:)
Am I making myself absolutely, 100% crystal clear?

30 RAINBOW DASH
(to herself in V.O.)
Whoa. Don't call this one Ms. Harshwhinny for nothing.
(then, out loud)
Yes, Ms. Harshwhinny. You know, professionalism is my middle name. Rainbow "Professionalism" Dash.

31 SCOOTALOO
(whispered to her friends)
Her middle name is Professionalism? I can't believe I didn't know that.

33 MS. HARSHWHINNY
Hmph! Well, IF she can keep herself together, in three days' time, Ms. Dash will accompany anypony competing to the Crystal Empire where you will demonstrate your routines for me and the other judges. Who will judge you very professionally, I assure you!

34 RAINBOW DASH
Ahem! Yes, quite, quite correct! In the meantime, get ready to train - and train hard! Because I know this Opening Ceremony is the single most important thing that will ever happen in your young lives...

35 SCOOTALOO
It is, it is!

36 RAINBOW DASH
And I know my fame there sets a seriously high bar...

37 SCOOTALOO
It does, it does!

38 RAINBOW DASH
But I know you're up to the challenge!

39 SCOOTALOO
I AM! I AM!

40 RAINBOW DASH
And so am I! WA-WAHOOOO-

She starts to do a somersault - but is stopped by Harshwhinney's frosty look.

41 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(calmer)
AHEM! Meet me after school tomorrow at 15-hundred hours, sharp, and *
show me your flag-carrying skills - I. Am. Outta here! Professionally! See how professionally?

She flies out, calmly. Ms. Harshwhinny sighs, then turns her attention back to the little ponies.

42 MS. HARSHWHINNY
Ponies, the most important thing is this: your routine needs to show what your town means to you. So do Ponyville proud! Work hard. Be bold. Wow me. That is all.

She canters away, head held high.

43 MISS CHERRILEE
All right, class. Now, the rest of the day may be spent planning your routines!

The Ponies call <WHOO HOO! YAY!> as they rush out.

7) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

The Crusaders rush outdoors and confer.

44 SCOOTALOO
Crusaders, more than anything I want to follow in the hoofsteps of my idol, mentor, and - yes: bestie, Rainbow Dash. So whaddaya say we come up with the perfect routine and win this thing?!?!

45 APPLE BLOOM
Why, hooves and saddles, I'd say that's rootin' tootin' terrific!

46 SWEETIE BELLE
But there's one problem! I bet everypony in class is planning to compete. How are we gonna do the best routine of them all?

47 SCOOTALOO
Listen: <u>somepony</u> in our class is gonna carry that flag - so it might as well be us! Crusaders, are you in, or are you in? Cuz I'M in.

She puts a hoof into the middle of the circle.

48 APPLE BLOOM
Me too!

49 SWEETIE BELLE
Me three!

They put their hoofs in as well.

50 SCOOTALOO
So listen up. The winning routine needs to show what's important about Ponyville, right?

51 APPLE BLOOM / SWEETIE BELLE
Right!

52 SCOOTALOO
So what's special about Ponyville - the scooter paths?

53 APPLE BLOOM
The apple orchards?

54 SWEETIE BELLE
Casual Fridays?

55 SCOOTALOO
No! Well, yes, but it's more than that.
(thinking)
It's...It's...

She looks at her friends who eagerly wait for her to continue.

SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
I've got it! It's a place where different kinds of ponies live together as friends -

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle nod enthusiastically.

56 APPLE BLOOM
Earth Ponies, like me!

57 SWEETIE BELLE
Unicorns, like me!

58 SCOOTALOO
And Pegasusss - Pegasusus - PegaSI, like me! So somehow we gotta figure out a way to show that in our act.

59 SWEETIE BELLE
But how? We're gonna need a plan -

60 APPLE BLOOM
And a lotta hard work -

61 SCOOTALOO
And a whole bunch of practice. But take it from me: the Cutie Mark Crusaders have the talent, the drive, and the guts to come up with a routine like nopony else. And do you know why?

62 APPLE BLOOM / SWEETIE BELLE
WHY?

63 SCOOTALOO
We may just be little ponies - but we have hearts as strong as the strongest horses!

MUSIC UP as Scootaloo begins to sing a SONG:

64 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
We're the toughest little ponies in town! Got the moves, got the mojo. / Ain't no harder-working ponies around / And we work as a trio, not solo!

65 APPLE BLOOM
We don't win by getting stuck in a rut

66 SWEETIE BELLE
Or by gobbling down macaroni.

67 SCOOTALOO
We win by trusting in the brain and the gut -
Cuz we've got hearts strong...
as horses!

68 ALL THREE CRUSADERS
We've got hearts strong as horses,
And we're playing to win
In a last minute gallop to glory!
We know we can conquer
any challenge we're in -
We're winners
with hearts strong as horses!

8) MONTAGE - EXT. - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - PONYVILLE - CONTINUOUS

Underneath the song: a montage of the ponies as they get themselves in shape, prize-fighter style:

Apple Bloom spars with GRANNY SMITH - who holds her own!

69 APPLE BLOOM
We get going when the going gets tough -

Sweetie Belle does pushups. SPIKE sitting on her back. Sweetie Belle leaps up suddenly, and Spike goes flying.

70 SWEETIE BELLE
Kinda short, but so what?
Undefeated - YEAH!

Ponies leap over hurdles. Scootaloo zooms past them on her scooter, and her speed blows them over.

71 SCOOTALOO
We know our very best is never enough -
And we hydrate when we're overheated!

She takes a swig from a water bottle and zooms off.

One by one, CLOSE ON the Cutie Mark Crusader: determined, confident, and focused!

72 ALL THREE CRUSADERS
We've got hearts strong as horses,
And we're playing to win
In a last minute gallop to glory!
We know we can conquer
any challenge we're in -
We're winners
with hearts strong as horses!

They race up the steps of a town building, just like "Rocky."

73 ALL THREE CRUSADERS (CONT'D)
We've got hearts strong as horses,
And we're playing to win
In a last minute gallop to glory!
We know we can conquer
any challenge we're in -
We're winners
with hearts strong as horses!
We're winners
with hearts strong as horses
YEAH!

END SONG

Together, they strike a triumphant pose with Scootaloo on the bottom, standing tall, with the other two Crusaders perched on her raised front hooves.

An ironic <SLOW CLAP> from O.S.

Widen to reveal Silver Spoon and Diamond Tiara, standing off to the side watching.

74 DIAMOND TIARA
Well, if that's the best you've got, we're going to win for sure!

Silver Spoon slyly flicks Scootaloo's nose with her tail.

75 SCOOTALOO
Ahh-Ahhh-AHCHOOO!

As she sneezes, the Crusaders fall in a heap.

76 ALL THREE CRUSADERS
OOF! / OW! / UGH!

The Mean Girls saunter past the heap of Crusaders. The Crusaders leap up and dust themselves off.

77 SILVER SPOON
We already have the most divine routine planned.

78 DIAMOND TIARA
It's absolutely sure to crush everyone else. And I mean CRUSH!

79 SCOOTALOO
(singing poorly)
But we're winners, and we have heaaaarts...

80 SILVER SPOON
Sure, but you know what you don't have?

81 DIAMOND TIARA / SILVER SPOON
YOUR CUTIE MARKS!
(pointing and laughing)
Blank Flanks! Blank Flanks!

82 APPLE BLOOM
So what if we don't have our Cutie Marks yet? What does that have to do with flag-carrying?

83 SILVER SPOON
But having Cutie-Mark-less ponies represent Ponyville would be unthinkable!

84 DIAMOND TIARA
And we, of course, already HAVE our Cutie Marks. So we know who's going to be in the winner's circle.

85 SILVER SPOON
Wait: who?

86 DIAMOND TIARA
Us! Haven't you been listening?

87 SILVER SPOON
Oh, right: Us!

They laugh nastily. Scootaloo gets right in their faces.

88 SCOOTALOO
Listen you two: Cutie Marks or no Cutie Marks, you'll see: the Crusaders are going to carry that flag at the Games.

89 SILVER SPOON
May the best ponies win!
(to Diamond Tiara)
We're the best ponies, right?

Diamond Tiara nods, vigorously, and stomps a hoof.

90 SCOOTALOO
May the best ponies win. GAME ON!

Out on Scootaloo's determined look. A STING OF MUSIC.

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

9) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

ON: Rainbow Dash, wearing her "COACH" cap.

91 RAINBOW DASH
Show me what you got, Cutie Mark Crusaders: And make it good.

Widen to show the athletic field, and a makeshift stage with a patched-up curtain. Behind it, The Crusaders bustle about.

92 SCOOTALOO
(head through the curtain)
Don’t worry, we will!
(to Apple Bloom, O.S.)
Ow, that’s my hoof!

93 APPLE BLOOM (O.S.)
Gosh, I’m sorry!

94 RAINBOW DASH
How’s the routine coming?

95 APPLE BLOOM
(head through the curtain)
Good.
(then, uncertain)
We think.

96 RAINBOW DASH
I hope you’re ready.

97 SWEETIE BELLE
(head through the curtain)
Me too! Now, this is just a little something we threw together. It’s not perfect yet - not even close -

98 APPLE BLOOM
Now, imagine we’re in the stadium, but please be kind...

99 RAINBOW DASH
JUST DO THE ROUTINE ALREADY!

100 ALL THREE CRUSADERS
OKAY, OKAY!

Rainbow Dash does a hoofpalm to the face. Off to one side, the Mean Girls rise from their hiding place behind a bush.

101 DIAMOND TIARA
Let’s watch the Cutie Mark GOOF-saders do their sad little routine.

102 SILVER SPOON
There’s only one way to say it: they’re gonna be a hot mess.

They <SNICKER> and duck down, peering over the bush.

CLOSE ON: Apple Bloom's hoof hitting a switch, switching on some lamps. Multi-colored spotlights snap on.

CLOSE ON: Sweetie Belle's hoof hitting a chord on a little toy organ. It plays a surprisingly loud <DRAMATIC PRELUDE>.

CLOSE ON: Scootaloo speaking into a megaphone. Her voice is amplified, as if she were announcing a Monster Truck rally.

103 SCOOTALOO (O.S.)
(amplified, reverberating)
Since the dawn of recorded time, in one town of amazing amazingness... three types of ponies coexist - and live together as friends!

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle trot onstage, making elaborate circles and doing jazz hoofs in synch. Attached to their hooves are different colored streamers that they are gradually weaving together as they crisscross each other.

104 APPLE BLOOM
We are Earth Ponies...

105 SWEETIE BELLE
We are Unicorns...

Scootaloo scooters in, weaving in and out between them with her own streamers. (NOTE: When doing the routine, Scootaloo wears hoof-pads and a helmet with safety goggles.)

106 SCOOTALOO
We are Pegasi!

Scootaloo scooters O.S. as Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle make a dramatic drum beating sound with their hooves, like the theme to 2001:

107 APPLE BLOOM / SWEETIE BELLE
Bumm... Bummm.... Bummm - BA BUM!
BUM bum, BUM bum, BUM bum...
(continuing under)

108 SCOOTALOO (O.S.)
And the town where friendship reigns is our home... and that home has a name...

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle each lift up one side of a giant circular hoop to reveal that they have woven together a picture of the Ponyville flag. Music and "drumbeats" increase intensity.

109 SCOOTALOO (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Now welcome to the stadium the flag
of the place we love best...

As klieg lights sweep across the scene, Scootaloo suddenly rockets through the hoop on her scooter, breaking through the paper flag in the middle of it. <WHAM!> Multicolored streamers burst from the edges of the hoop as Scootaloo does an amazing loop-de-loop to the pounding music, with the Ponyville flag flapping on a pole at the back of the scooter. She rides to join the other two at the front as the organ blares a <FANFARE>. An unseen chorus hits a triumphal note.

110 CHORUS (O.S.)
AAAAAAAAAAAH!

111 ALL THREE CRUSADERS
PONYVILLE - FOREVER! YAY!

All three Crusaders strike a triumphant pose.

Rainbow Dash's mouth drops open. The Mean Girls are behind the bush, equally amazed. The Crusaders race to Rainbow Dash.

112 SCOOTALOO
It's kind of a work in progress.
So, what'd you think?

Rainbow Dash shakes with excitement. *

113 RAINBOW DASH *
That. Was. AMA-- (amazing) *
(then in V.O) *
Wait. Hold on now. Gotta stay calm, *
cool, and collected.

114 SCOOTALOO
Oh no - didn't you like it?

115 RAINBOW DASH
(to the ponies, calmly)
To give a calm, clear analysis...
(suddenly overexcited)
Wait: you whipped that act together
just yesterday? That... is...
(to herself in V.O.)
Professionalism, Dash: Keep those
emotions in check.
(calmly to the girls:)
Overall it was kinda sorta...
(She's sweating now. V.O.)
These kids remind me of someone,
but who? Oh, yeah: ME!
(to the girls)
(MORE)

RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Overall, it was...
(the ponies lean in:)
Hang on one second.

Unable to control herself, she flies behind the schoolhouse where alone, she busts out how she really feels:

116 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
That... was... AWESOME!

WHOOSH! She flies back to the trio. Falsely cool:

117 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Overall it was okay. Keep working hard, who knows? You might have a shot. Gotta go. AAH!

ZING! She's off in a blur.

118 APPLE BLOOM
Do you think she liked it?

119 SWEETIE BELLE
I'm not really sure.

120 SCOOTALOO
You heard her: if we keep working hard we might have a shot. So let's keep working! Trot to it, ponies!

ON: the Mean Girls as they pop out of the bush.

121 DIAMOND TIARA
Did you SEE that? I can't believe I'm saying this: they could win!

122 SILVER SPOON
But how can we stop them? We already called them Blank Flanks.

123 DIAMOND TIARA
Then we need to find a new way to get under their skin.

She peers at the Crusaders one by one: Apple Bloom sets the hoop, Sweetie Belle practices her steps, and Scootaloo fixes the wheel while her little wings flap behind her. A <SOUND LIKE THE 'PSYCHO' THEME>. PUSH IN ON: Diamond Tiara as she has an idea. ON: Scootaloo's little wings flapping. CLOSER ON: Diamond Tiara, smile spreading. CLOSER ON: Scootaloo's wings. CLOSER ON: Diamond Tiara, with Scootaloo's flapping wings reflected in her eyes. Her eyes narrow.

124 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Or maybe, get under their WINGS.

She whispers to Silver Spoon, who smiles. They trot over.

125 DIAMOND TIARA (CONT'D)
Girls, we just wanted to say your act is quite impressive!

126 SWEETIE BELLE
Wait - what?

127 APPLE BLOOM
Gosh, I never thought I'd hear you say that. Um... thanks?

128 SILVER SPOON
Oh, but of course! As a matter of fact, we think you're very brave.

129 SCOOTALOO
Brave? Why?

130 DIAMOND TIARA
Isn't it obvious? It is to us. In fact, it's obvious to everypony. You're showing all three types of ponyville ponies, yet you have a Pegasus Pony -

131 DIAMOND TIARA / SILVER SPOON
- *who can't even fly!*

132 APPLE BLOOM
What in tarnation does that have to do with anything?

133 SILVER SPOON
I'd say not being able to fly has everything to do with everything, doesn't it?

134 DIAMOND TIARA
I mean, a Pegasus pony - at your age? You should have been flying long ago!

135 SCOOTALOO
Okay, I can't fly yet. So what if my wings can't get me off the ground?

136 DIAMOND TIARA
Your career as a flag carrier isn't getting off the ground, either.

137 SCOOTALOO
What do you mean?

138 SILVER SPOON
Ms. Harshwhinny will never pick a Pegasus pony who can't fly to represent Ponyville in front of the whole world!

139 SWEETIE BELLE
Waitasecond - Miss Harshwinny never said anything about that!

140 APPLE BLOOM
Don't listen to them, Scootaloo!

141 SILVER SPOON
She didn't have to! I would've thought that was obvious.

142 DIAMOND TIARA
Well, have fun practicing anyway. Even if your routine will never - how shall I say? "Take off."

The Mean Girls trot off. As they go, they hoofbump with glee.

143 APPLE BLOOM
Aw, they don't know what they're talking about.

144 SWEETIE BELLE
Don't listen to them, Scootaloo.
(noting Scootaloo's look)
Scootaloo? You ok?

Scootaloo looks over to see some of her classmates practicing their routines. Another PEGASUS is doing some aerial moves.

145 SCOOTALOO
You know what? This routine isn't working how it is. We've gotta rethink my part in the whole thing.

146 SWEETIE BELLE
WHAT?

147 APPLE BLOOM
For apples' sake, why?

148 SCOOTALOO
If we want to win, I'm gonna have to fly.

Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom share a look.

149 SWEETIE BELLE
But Scootaloo: is that even possible?

150 APPLE BLOOM
And by tomorrow?

151 SCOOTALOO
Maybe I just haven't tried hard enough. Maybe I can fly if I work twice as hard. See?

She flaps a little - and hovers a bit - and falls.

152 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Oof! Maybe three times as hard.

153 APPLE BLOOM
Golly, I don't know, Scootaloo. I don't think that's the problem.

154 SCOOTALOO
Well I know this for sure: flying is the only way we're gonna win. So it's back to practice!

She tries to fly off but can't. Hops on her scooter instead.

155 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
I'll just work four times as hard.

156 SWEETIE BELLE
Is this a good idea?

157 APPLE BLOOM
Probably not.

10) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - ATHLETIC FIELD - LATER

By the sun, it's late afternoon. The ponies are droopy.

158 SCOOTALOO
Guys, guys, guys - try it again.

159 APPLE BLOOM
But we've been rehearsing all the livelong day! We're getting tired.

160 SWEETIE BELLE
We've been working really hard.

161 SCOOTALOO
Fine. We'll skip to my big impressive flying entrance. So you've done the do-si-do to the left, then the right, and there's the hoop. Then I come in, and...

She takes a running start. Then launches herself into the air and wiggles her wings and...

162 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
WHOA WHOA WHOA!

She lands with a thump.

163 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
I'm alright. Not quite what I had in mind... We'll just - oof - try that part again...

She lifts up, and hovers haltingly. Then stops, and hops on her scooter. As she scooters off.

164 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
I'll just work five times as hard.

Apple Bloom whispers to Sweetie Belle:

165 APPLE BLOOM
I liked our routine the way it was!

166 SWEETIE BELLE
Me TOO! But all she cares about now is flying.

167 APPLE BLOOM
Let's keep at it. Maybe we'll be ok?

Scootaloo's in place on the stage.

168 SCOOTALOO
Okay, ready. Don't worry - I'll be flyin' high tomorrow at our final run-through for Rainbow Dash. I'm gonna get this, you'll see!

She GRUNTS and flaps, but cannot fly.

11) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - ATHLETIC FIELD - DAY

Rainbow Dash, in her COACH cap, in front of the stage.

169 RAINBOW DA
Okay, Cutie Mark Crusaders, this is your final run before you show it at the stadium tomorrow. So make it good!
(getting excited)
And if it's anything like what I saw yesterday, I know you're absolutely, positively, gonna...
(calms down)
...have a lot of fun. Okay, go!

She <BLOWS A WHISTLE>. On the stage, the routine begins. Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle enter, they are exhausted and it is clearly interfering with their ability to do their best.

170 SCOOTALOO
(into megaphone)
Ponyville! The home of - um...

171 APPLE BLOOM / SWEETIE BELLE
Friendship!

172 SCOOTALOO
Friendship, right! There are four - no, three kinds of ponies...

173 APPLE BLOOM
BUM bum BUM bum...
(yawns)
Ooops, sorry!

174 SWEETIE BELLE
Left! LEFT!

175 APPLE BLOOM
I'm sorry! I'm just tired. And then I dip, and then we turn... BUM bum BUM bum...

176 SWEETIE BELLE
Turn <u>then</u> dip. BUM bum BUM bum...

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle struggle to heft up the hoop. The Ponyville flag centerpiece of the hoop falls out, revealing Scootaloo hovering just an inch off the ground for only an instant.

178 SCOOTALOO
Ta-da! Impressive, right?

Rainbow Dash's mouth drops open. The Crusaders trot over.

179 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
So? What'd you think?

180 RAINBOW DASH (V.O.)
(interior monologue)
Ugh. That was, like, the worst thing I've ever seen! Whoa. Whoa. Take it down a notch.
(out loud)
Well, um. That's. Y'know. Good and all - always great to try out different options, I guess...

181 SCOOTALOO
It's a bold choice. Is it working?

182 RAINBOW DASH *
Well, just a thought - maybe possibly you might wanna go back to, say, the first version of the act, which was, I don't know, what's the word? Better.

Two other ponies trot up carrying practice flags.

185 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Just do the routine as it was. Don't mess with success, right? Seriously. Now I need to go coach these other ponies.
(then)
And don't forget we've gotta catch the early train for the Crystal Empire. See you in the morning!

She flies off. Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon saunter by.

186 APPLE BLOOM
You know something, Scootaloo? I kinda agree with Rainbow Dash. I liked the routine how it was.

187 SWEETIE BELLE
Same here! And Rainbow Dash said...

188 DIAMOND TIARA
If you ask me, I think Rainbow Dash just doesn't want to hurt your feelings. She knows that as long as you can't fly, you have no chance!

189 SILVER SPOON
In any case, keep practicing. It's really "taking flight"!

Then they trot off, with sly winks at each other.

190 APPLE BLOOM
Aw, who cares what they think?

191 SCOOTALOO
What are we gonna do? We're competing tomorrow I still can't fly, unless -
(stops short)
WAIT! I've got it!

12) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - ATHLETIC FIELD - AFTERNOON

CLOSE ON: Scootaloo aloft in the air, wings flapping.

192 SCOOTALOO
I'm flying! I'm flying!

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Scootaloo dangles from a rope strung through a pulley on a crossbeam. Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle hoist her up, pulling on either end of the rope with their teeth. They GRUNT: this is hard!

(NOTE: Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle both speak with the rope between their gritted teeth until noted below.)

193 APPLE BLOOM
No! To the left, Sweetie Belle.

Sweetie Belle pulls to the left.

194 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
No, your *other* left.

195 SWEETIE BELLE
You're not the boss of me.

196 APPLE BLOOM
You're not the boss of me!

197 SCOOTALOO
No one's the boss of anyone else!

198 SWEETIE BELLE
You'd never know it.

199 SCOOTALOO
What's that supposed to mean?

200 SWEETIE BELLE
You know very well!

201 SCOOTALOO
Do not!

202 SWEETIE BELLE
Then I'm not going to tell you!

Here, Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom yell at each other, both dropping the rope.

203 APPLE BLOOM
Why are we fighting?

204 SWEETIE BELLE
I HAVE NO IDEA!!!

205 SCOOTALOO (O.S.)
(from above)
Whoa whoa whoa.....!

Scootaloo falls and lands on the other Crusaders. They all go flying, and the crossbeam <SNAPS> in two.

206 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
This is a disaster! We gotta rebuild this rig - and quick!

207 SWEETIE BELLE
I'm just too tired. I can't keep going.

208 APPLE BLOOM
Me too! I'm tired, I'm hungry - and now I hate this routine! It feels like it's all about you now.

209 SWEETIE BELLE
She's right. It's like you don't even need us anymore.

210 SCOOTALOO
Of COURSE I need you. Without you two, how am I gonna fly?

211 APPLE BLOOM
UGH! Do you listen to yourself? Oh, forget it. I'm going home to get some sleep.

She lopes off, annoyed and tired.

212 SCOOTALOO
So? Are you gonna leave me too?

213 SWEETIE BELLE
(sighing)
We've gotta catch the early train to the Crystal Empire. I better get some rest. See you in the morning, Scootaloo

Sweetie Belle goes off. Alone, Scootaloo takes a deep breath, and gives a <GRUNT> of effort as she flaps her wings.

214 SCOOTALOO
(to herself)
Come on. Do it for Ponyville. Just gotta try 20 times as hard.

She hovers about a foot, unsteadily...

13) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - ATHLETIC FIELD - LATER

The sun's going down. She hovers even lower.

215 SCOOTALOO
Thirty - times - as hard.

14) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - ATHLETIC FIELD - STILL LATER

Night. The moon's in the sky. She hovers lower still.

216 SCOOTALOO
Just - a little - harder...

15) EXT. PONYVILLE - SCHOOL - ATHLETIC FIELD - NIGHT

<CRICKETS.> Darkest night. The moon's travelled across the sky. Weary, Scootaloo drags her hooves on the ground.

217 SCOOTALOO
I can't fly. I just... can't! So what am I gonna do now?

16) EXT. PONYVILLE - STATION - DAY

<DING DING!> A CONDUCTOR rings a bell.

218 CONDUCTOR
Crystal Empire! All aboard!

Widen to show Ponyville Station, with ponies boarding the train. <EXCITED HUBBUB>. In the crowd, Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle look around desperately.

219 SWEETIE BELLE
Scootaloo? Where IS she?

220 APPLE BLOOM
She better get here soon - this here train is about to leave!

221 SCOOTALOO (O.S.)
Here I am.

Scootaloo is on her scooter, looking tired and dejected.

222 APPLE BLOOM
There you are! We were scared you were going to miss the train -

223 SCOOTALOO
I - I'm not going.

224 APPLE BLOOM / SWEETIE BELLE
WHAT?

225 SCOOTALOO
I'm the weak link. If I go and fall, flop, or do anything but fly, I'm gonna blow it for you two.

226 SWEETIE BELLE
But that's not true, Scootaloo! Come on...

227 APPLE BLOOM
You know what, Sweetie Belle? Forget it. If she's gonna quit, we don't want her and we don't need her. Just stay home, Scootaloo.

228 SCOOTALOO
That's what I'm trying to do!

229 SWEETIE BELLE
I can't believe you're quitting on us! I can't believe it!

230 SCOOTALOO
But you're better off without me!

231 APPLE BLOOM
Then fine, we WILL be. Fine!

232 SCOOTALOO
FINE!

233 SWEETIE BELLE
(discouraged)
Fine.

234 CONDUCTOR
All aboard!

235 SCOOTALOO
Have fun at the Stadium.

She turns and scooters away as the other two board the train. <TOOT> of a train whistle as the train starts to move. Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle stick their heads through the window, watching Scootaloo go off as the train gains speed.

Rainbow Dash flies from the sky.

236 RAINBOW DASH
How's my favorite routine going today? Yeah, I said it: my favorite! OOH I just can't keep it in. I want you to win so bad! "BumBUM, bumBUM". Then Scootaloo does that KAPOW! through the hoop!

237 APPLE BLOOM
Well, there ain't gonna be a Scootaloo KAPOW thing.

238 SWEETIE BELLE
Or even a Scootaloo at all! She's staying home.

239 RAINBOW DASH
She's WHAT? Has she gone totally loco? We need all three of you together to win! We gotta get Scootaloo back - and fast!

Rainbow Dash flies trough the train till she spots a red ripcord: the emergency brake. She pulls the cord with her teeth.

The train <SHRIEKS> and sparks, as it slams to a stop!

SLAM TO BLACK.

END OF ACT II 17

ACT III

17) EXT. TRAIN TRACKS TO THE CRYSTAL EMPIRE - DAY 18

The train slides as it <SCREECHES TO A HALT> on the tracks.

18) INT. TRAIN 19 **CONTINUOUS**

Inside the car, Rainbow Dash addresses the Crusaders, while the other ponies lie in a (safe but comical) heap.

240 RAINBOW DASH
Now what's this about Scootaloo not being on the train?

241 APPLE BLOOM
Well... she got it in her head that the only way to represent Ponyville was by flying in our routine. When she couldn't do it, she told us she was quitting our team.

244 RAINBOW DASH
And then you tried to stop her from doing that, right?

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle shift, a little embarrassed.

245 SWEETIE BELLE
Well, actually we kinda told her -

246 APPLE BLOOM
- that we didn't want a quitter.

247 RAINBOW DASH
Hang on: are you NUTS? You're a team and a team never leaves a friend behind. Come on!

She flies out the door. Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle follow. <TOOT TOOT!> As the train <CHUGS> past them, Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon stick their heads out the window, laughing nastily:

248 DIAMOND TIARA
Sorry you can't make it! We'll take a picture for you from the winners' circle.

Outside by the train tracks:

249 SWEETIE BELLE
I do not like them, one bit. Rainbow Dash: where are we going?

250 RAINBOW DASH
Back to Ponyville. To find Scootaloo and get her back in the routine.

Rainbow Dash starts flying. The two Crusaders gallop along below her, next to the train tracks.

251 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(aloud to herself)
That is, if we can even get there in time. Put on some speed, girls!

19) INT. - PONYVILLE - SCOOTALOO'S BEDROOM - A LITTLE LATER

At home in her bedroom, a dejected Scootaloo takes down old Equestria Games posters from her walls.

252 SCOOTALOO
Guess I don't need these any more.

She moves to throw them in the trash and trips over her scooter.

253 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Ugh! Dumb old scooter.

She throws it out the window.

254 RAINBOW DASH (O.S.)
Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Throwing away your SCOOTER?

ON: Rainbow Dash hovering outside Scootaloo's window and holding the discarded scooter.

255 SCOOTALOO
Rainbow Dash?

256 RAINBOW DASH
Yup. But not just me...

STRAINING, Sweetie Belle and Apple Bloom struggle to climb into view in the window, as well.

257 SCOOTALOO
I don't want to see them. And what are they doing here, anyway? They're supposed to be on the train!

258 APPLE BLOOM
Well, we're not. We're not going.

259 SWEETIE BELLE
Not without YOU, Scootaloo.

260 SCOOTALOO
They don't need me. They said so.

261 RAINBOW DASH
Whatever anypony said before, hear what I'm saying now. All that's important is that you three stick together. Everypony is important, and this team needs all three of you - flying or no flying!

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle nod in agreement.

262 APPLE BLOOM
It's true. We do need you!

263 SWEETIE BELLE
After all, teammates don't leave each other behind.

264 RAINBOW DASH
Someone kinda reallllly smart must've told you that. Yup: ME!

Rainbow Dash dashes out of the window and flies back in through Scootaloo's door.

265 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
What got into you, Scootaloo? You were so excited to compete.

266 SCOOTALOO
(getting teary)
I didn't want to ruin their chance to win just because I couldn't fly.

267 RAINBOW DASH
And who said you had to?

268 SCOOTALOO
But flying's what Pegasus ponies are supposed to do! YOU flew when you carried the flag in the Games.

269 RAINBOW DASH
But that was me, Scootaloo! You're you! And it just doesn't matter if you can fly or not!
(then)
Your routine was amazing 'cause it represented exactly what makes Ponyville special.
(then)
You do still know what that is, right?

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle join them in the room.

270 SWEETIE BELLE
We do. Friendship.

271 APPLE BLOOM
Three kinds of ponies living together as friends, just like us! Earth Ponies...

272 SWEETIE BELLE
Unicorns...

273 SCOOTALOO
And Pegasi. But Rainbow Dash...
(lip quivering)
What if - what if my wings never grow? What if I never fly?

274 RAINBOW DASH
Listen, Scootaloo: maybe you'll fly someday... or maybe you won't. You're all kinds of awesome anyway.

275 APPLE BLOOM
We love you the way you are this very minute: not the way you could be.

276 SWEETIE BELLE
In fact, we think you're perfect right now. So what do you say? Will you come with us to the Crystal Empire and win this thing?

277 SCOOTALOO
Well...

MUSIC UP: SLOWLY AT FIRST.

278 RAINBOW DASH
Who's the toughest little pony in town?
Full of drive, full of moxie.

279 SWEETIE BELLE
There's no *harder-working pony around. And we're a team!*

280 APPLE BLOOM
Workin' trio, not solo.

A little faster, Scootaloo joins in, speaking at first.

281 SCOOTALOO
I never won by getting stuck in a rut -

282 RAINBOW DASH
That's right!

283 SCOOTALOO
Or by cheating, or playing the phony.

284 APPLE BLOOM / SWEETIE BELLE
You always win 'cuz of your brain and your gut -

CLOSE ON: Scootaloo: a familiar fire again in her eye.

285 SCOOTALOO
And I'm a proud Pegasus Pony!
(spoken:)
So let's get to the Crystal Empire.
And let's do the routine as it was.
And let's WIN THIS THING!

286 SWEETIE BELLE
But waitasecond: no way we can get from Ponyville all the way to the Crystal Empire in time.

287 APPLE BLOOM
Shoot, nopony could! Not even Big Mac. But there's not another train till tomorrow!

288 SCOOTALOO (O.S.)
HEY GUYS...

WHIP TO: Scootaloo, with her scooter, two skis and a rope.

289 SCOOTALOO (CONT'D)
Just leave it to me.

A dramatic DRUMROLL! STINGS OF MUSIC!

20) EXT. - PONYVILLE - SCOOTALOO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rainbow Dash flies out of Scootaloo's house...

Followed by Scootaloo herself, who bursts out of the house on her scooter, towing the other two Crusaders behind her on skis via the rope! (All three are wearing helmets and safety goggles. Scootaloo also wears her hoof-pads.)

21) MONTAGE - EXT. - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - PONYVILLE , LANDSCAPE - AND CRYSTAL EMPIRE - CONTINUOUS

A brief montage as the ponies race against time, speeding through Ponyville across the landscape to the Crystal Empire.

290 RAINBOW DASH / ALL THREE CRUSADERS
We've got hearts strong as horses,
And we're playing to win
In a last minute gallop to glory!
We know we can conquer
any challenge we're in -
We're winners
with hearts strong as horses!

Scootaloo hits a series of small moguls, towing the other girls behind her. They take the jumps easily.

Rainbow Dash flies above.

291 RAINBOW DASH
What a kid! She reminds me of
someone fantastic. Oh, yeah: ME!

Scootaloo's becoming increasingly confident: she's got her mojo back in a big, big way.

292 RAINBOW DASH / ALL THREE CRUSADERS
We've got hearts strong as horses,
And we're playing to win
In a last minute gallop to glory!
We know we can conquer
any challenge we're in -
We're winners
with hearts strong as horses!

ON: Scootaloo heading towards CAM, the girls behind her. Their eyes widen.

Then we see what they see: a steep hill - and they're heading right for it!

Scootaloo bears down, fiercer and even more determined!

293 SCOOTALOO
I got this.

And CAM goes close in on her as she hits the moguls and launches into an amazing slow motion, Evel Knieval-style loop de loop, as there's a...

MATCH CUT TO:

22) INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - STADIUM - LATER

We're suddenly watching the finale of the Crusaders' routine. Scootaloo bursts through the paper circle in the hoop as streamers shoot out. The Ponyville flag streams behind her in the breeze, attached on a pole to her scooter. She rides to join the other Crusaders as the organ blares a <FANFARE>.

294 ALL THREE CRUSADERS
PONYVILLE - FOREVER! YAY!

All three Crusaders strike a triumphant pose together.

All over the stadium, ponies in the stands leap to their hooves, <STOMPING> wildly and <CHEERING> like mad.

ON: Rainbow Dash hovering over the stands! She pumps her hoof in the air like a fist pump.

ON: Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon off on the sidelines, in prissy ballet outfits and toe shoes. Their mouths drop open.

On a little podium, Ms. Harshwhinny speaks into a megaphone.

295 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(amplified, reverb)
It's unanimous: in the Equestria Games, the Ponyville Flag will be carried by...

ON: The Crusaders, nervously biting their hooves. ON: Miss Cheerilee, nervously biting her hooves. ON: Rainbow Dash floating above her, eyes crazy wide, shaking, sweating, and nervously biting her own hooves.

296 MS. HARSHWHINNY (CONT'D)
...the "The Cutie Mark Crusaders"!

297 ALL THREE CRUSADERS
WHOO-HOO!

Even <MORE WILD CHEERING.> Rainbow Dash and Miss Cheerilee hi-five. Below, Diamond Tiara and Silver Spoon slink out fuming.

23) INT. CRYSTAL EMPIRE - STADIUM WINNER'S CIRCLE - LATER

As at the end of the Kentucky Derby, there's a winner's circle. This one is in the shape of a horseshoe.

Ms. Harshwhinny places victory rose wreaths around the necks of the Crusaders. They're surrounded by the other victors from other towns in Equestria, carrying their own flags.

298 MS. HARSHWHINNY
For you... And you... and YOU!

299 APPLE BLOOM
Earth Ponies...

300 SWEETIE BELLE
Unicorns...

301 SCOOTALOO
Friends forever, with proud Pegasi, even ones with teeny tiny wings.
(then)
And now we get to do this in the Equestria Games? I cannot WAIT!

302 RAINBOW DASH (O.S.)
Ahem!

They look up. Rainbow Dash hovers above them.

303 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
(calmly)
Look, what you three did was... acceptable.

304 MS. HARSHWHINNY
(super excited)
Acceptable? Acceptable?! Why it was totally, stupendously the single most amazing thing I have ever, ever seen!

RAINBOW DASH
Contain your excitement, Ms. Harshwhinny. Remember, professionalism. *

MS. HARSHWHINNY
Yes, well, I...

Ms. Harshwhinny blushes then makes a quick exit to avoid further embarrassment. Rainbow Dash grins.

306 SCOOTALOO
You know what this means, right?

307 APPLE BLOOM
What?

308 SCOOTALOO
We pull this off at the Equestria Games, we are totally gonna get Cutie Marks in Flag Carrying.

Apple Bloom and Sweetie Belle <AD-LIB AGREEMENT>. Rainbow Dash shakes her head in disbelief as we...

FADE OUT.

END.