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MY LITTLE PONY 6

"Buckball Season"

Episode 619

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TEASER

SC. 1 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - WEST ORCHARD - DAY

Three pony faces fill the screen in a tight huddle. STARLIGHT GLIMMER is in the middle, APPLEJACK to her left, RAINBOW DASH to her right. Starlight looks bewildered. Applejack and Rainbow Dash, determined.

1 RAINBOW DASH
I'll block their shot. Applejack,
you set up for a spiral power-buck!

2 APPLEJACK
Got it! And all you gotta do,
Starlight, is catch that apple!

3 STARLIGHT
Um... okay?

4 RAINBOW DASH
Ready? Break!

They part, revealing three more ponies in a rival huddle: TWILIGHT SPARKLE, RARITY, and Applejack's cousin, BRAEBURN.

In the background, GRANNY SMITH, BIG MAC and APPLE BLOOM clean up the remnants of an Apple Family gathering.

NOTEWORTHY and a few OTHER APPLEOOSANS help out. He looks up.

5 NOTEWORTHY
Come on, Braeburn, we gotta catch
the train back to Appleoosa!

6 BRAEBURN
Just as soon as I show my cousin,
here, how you play buckball!

7 APPLEJACK
I'd like to see you try!

Applejack and Braeburn move into position on either side of an old apple tree in the center of large marked-off, circular playing field. Together, they count off.

8 APPLEJACK/BRAEBURN
Ready...

Rainbow Dash and Twilight take to the air.

9 APPLEJACK/BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Set...

Rarity levitates an apple basket. So does Starlight. They take up opposite positions on the outside of the circle.

10 APPLEJACK/BRAEBURN (CONT'D)
Buck!

Applejack and Braeburn simultaneously buck the tree. A single apple falls. Applejack gets under it, but before she can kick it, Braeburn gets a hoof on it and bucks it up to Twilight.

She misjudges the pass and the apple ricochets off her flank.

Rainbow Dash swoops in and recovers the apple, kicking it across the field.

11 RAINBOW DASH
Applejack, Go long!

Applejack races around the tree and positions herself under the falling apple. She twists her back legs as she bucks it, and the apple spirals toward Starlight's floating basket.

But just before Starlight can catch it, Braeburn appears and leaps into the air. He hits the apple with a header and it flies into a surprised Rarity's waiting basket.

12 TWILIGHT
Nice catch, Rarity!

Rarity looks down at her manicure.

13 RARITY
Oh. I chipped a hoof!

The players gather under the tree. Braeburn bucks an apple down and casually kicks it to Applejack.

14 BRAEBURN
Don't look so sour, Applejack. You
can't expect to win against...
(points to himself)
Apple-000-sa's official Bucker.

15 APPLEJACK
Official Bucker? But buckball's
such a new sport. Why's Appleoosa
already have a team?

16 BRAEBURN
Probably because we're all so good
at it!

Rainbow Dash and Applejack step up to confront him.

17 RAINBOW DASH
Well, if you're so good, maybe we
should set up an official rematch.
Appleosa versus Ponyville!

18 BRAEBURN
I think Ponyville will need a team
first.

19 RAINBOW DASH
No problem!

20 APPLEJACK
That's right. Shouldn't be too hard
to put together a team good enough
to beat you.

21 BRAEBURN
You sure about that?

Braeburn points to the rest of the ponies: Rarity wraps
bandages her chipped hoof, Starlight and Twilight both try to
levitate the same basket and drop it onto Big Mac's head.

Off Applejack's embarrassed look...

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 2 - INT. SUGARCUBE CORNER - LATER THAT DAY

Applejack and Rainbow Dash are licking their wounds (and a
little ice cream). Rarity and Twilight keep them company.

22 APPLEJACK
All right. If little ol' Appleosa
can put together a buckball team,
there's no reason Ponyville can't
have an even better one.

23 RAINBOW DASH
Well, you're the obvious choice for
Bucker. And I'm clearly the best
Sweeper Ponyville has to offer.

24 APPLEJACK
But there's three ponies on a side.
We still need a unicorn to levitate
the basket and play Keeper.

They both look at Rarity. She raises a massively bandaged hoof.

25 RARITY
Count me out. I'm not going to risk
ruining another hooficure.

They turn to Twilight.

26 TWILIGHT
Sorry, girls, I have to finish my
dissertation on the effects of
light from a waxing gibbous on
moonflowers.

27 APPLEJACK
That's okay. We need the best
player in Ponyville if we're going
to beat Appleoosa.

Applejack misses the insult. Twilight doesn't.

28 TWILIGHT
Thanks a lot.

Pinkie Pie bounces up to the table with Fluttershy.

29 PINKIE PIE
Whatchya doin'?

30 APPLEJACK
We're trying to figure out who
should be on Ponyville's Official
Buckball team.

31 PINKIE PIE
Official WHAT-ball?

32 RAINBOW DASH
Buckball. It's a new sport that's
sweeping Equestria and we only need
one more player to beat Appleoosa.

33 APPLEJACK
A unicorn, actually.

34 FLUTTERSHY
Why don't you hold tryouts? That
way, any unicorn who wants to can
have a chance to join the team.

35 APPLEJACK
That's a great idea. 'Cept nopony
in Ponyville has ever heard of the
game.

36 FLUTTERSHY
We could help spread the word.

37 PINKIE PIE
Yeah! By the time Fluttershy and I
are done, all of Ponyville will
have Buckball fever!

38 RAINBOW DASH
Wow. That'd be totally awesome!

39 PINKIE PIE
I just have one tiny-weenie, little
question. How do you play buckball?

Applejack and Dash share a look.

SC. 3 - EXT. PONYVILLE - THE NEXT DAY

Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy walk through town, which is papered
with Buckball recruiting posters: hand-drawn (by Pinkie Pie)
action poses of Rainbow Dash and Applejack, and a mysterious
silhouette with a horn in place of a Keeper.

40 PINKIE PIE
CALLING ALL UNICORNS! COME TRY OUT
FOR BUCKBALL -- THE SUPEREST,
FUNEST SPORT I JUST FOUND OUT HOW
TO PLAY!

A couple of unicorns walk by, looking confused. They glance
up at a poster and keep walking. Fluttershy softly calls
after them.

41 FLUTTERSHY
Rainbow Dash and Applejack really
need your help.

They don't hear her. Pinkie Pie pastes up another poster.

42 PINKIE PIE
What we need is to drum up a little
excitement.

43 FLUTTERSHY
Okay...

Fluttershy spots SNIPS and SNAILS and approaches them.

44 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Um, hello? We wondered if you'd be
interested in trying out for the
Ponyville buckball team?

Pinkie Pie rolls her eyes.

45 PINKIE PIE
You call that excitement?

She grabs Snips in one arm, Snails in the other.

46 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Don't-cha-wanna-try-out-for-
buckball? Everypony's doing it!

47 SNIPS
What's Buckball?

48 PINKIE PIE
Well, I'll tell ya!

<MUSIC UP> as Pinkie breaks into SONG, delighted at the
chance to share her enthusiasm for the sport. She bounces up
and down around Snips and Snails.

49 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
*There's a game called buckball
And it's really fun to play.
Just kickin' little apples
On a bright and sunny day!*

Fluttershy joins in.

50 FLUTTERSHY
*It takes a lot of practice
But it's really very fun.
A pegasus for flying.
An earth pony to run!*

Pinkie runs across the screen. A small crowd of onlookers
have gathered to watch: a pegasus, an earth pony, and a few
unicorns. Pinkie bounces back in, hopping among the unicorns.

51 PINKIE PIE
*But the most important job of all
Is for the unicorn.
It's all about the magic
That comes straight out of your
horn!*

The unicorns step forward, curious.

52 FLUTTERSHY
*The unicorn must levitate
The basket for the ball.
Because the winning team will be
The one who catches all!*

The crowd's a little larger now, and the unicorns in the front, including Snips and Snails, march in time to Pinkie and Fluttershy's song.

53 PINKIE PIE
*Now those silly Appleosans
Think they're gonna win,
But Ponyville can make a team
To reel the trophy in!*

Fluttershy joins Pinkie to bring it home:

54 FLUTTERSHY/PINKIE PIE
*So come on down tomorrow
And try out for the team!
You know you want to do it
And live your buckball dream!*

<MUSIC OUT> As the song comes to an end, though Pinkie Pie still bounces up and down.

55 PINKIE PIE
C'mon, everypony! Who wants to try
out for the team!?

56 ALL UNICORNS
(shouting)
WE DO!!!

Pinkie turns to Fluttershy with a wide smile.

57 PINKIE PIE
See? Now that's excitement.

SC. 4 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - WEST ORCHARD - NEXT MORNING

Applejack looks over an apple tree.

58 APPLEJACK
This one'll do!

Rainbow Dash flies in and lands next to her.

59 RAINBOW DASH
Looks good! I just hope Pinkie and
Fluttershy convinced at least a few
unicorns to try out.

60 PINKIE PIE (O.S.)
Oh, we brought a few. Actually,
maybe a little bit more than
that...

WHIP PAN to reveal a long line of unicorns stretching off in
the distance.

Applejack's eyes open wide. Rainbow Dash's jaw drops.

61 RAINBOW DASH
Homygosh! This is so awesome! We'll
have our pick of the litter!

62 APPLEJACK
But it's gonna take forever to try
out all these ponies.

Fluttershy steps up.

63 FLUTTERSHY
Maybe we can help. We've been
talking so much about buckball, it
would kind of be fun to actually
play it.

64 PINKIE PIE
<GASP> TOTALLY! And if we play
against you we'll get through all
these ponies in half the time!

Pinkie bounces up and down with glee. Rainbow Dash and
Applejack share a smug look.

65 RAINBOW DASH
You two want to play against us?

66 PINKIE PIE
Plus the ponies trying out, yeah!

67 APPLEJACK
It'll be a pretty one-sided game,
since y'all have never played
before...

68 RAINBOW DASH
And since we're so good...

69 APPLEJACK
But it would speed things up a
mite. Let's do it!

70 PINKIE PIE/FLUTTERSHY
(loud/quiet)
YAAYY!!!/Yay.

Applejack walks up to the front of the line of waiting unicorns.

71 APPLEJACK
Alright, y'all. Thanks for comin'
out today. Let's get started!

The first two unicorns, DONUT JOE and SWEETIE BELL, step up. They each levitate a basket.

Applejack bucks the tree. A single apple falls. She kicks it. As it arcs through the air...

DISSOLVE to a series of OLD TIMEY PHOTOS intercut with present-day action as Applejack explains the game.

72 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Buckball started out as a way for
farmers to practice apple
bucking...

PHOTO: YOUNG GRANNY SMITH stands under an apple tree with one back hoof raised. An apple hangs in the air between her and YOUNG APPLE ROSE, who's using her back legs to push a bushel basket towards Young Granny.

73 APPLEJACK
...while keepin' the crop off the
ground.

CUT back to present-day as Applejack's apple lands in a Donut Joe's levitating basket.

He smiles broadly, then loses his hold and drops the basket. The apple rolls away.

Pinkie Pie bucks the tree and bounces the apple off her head. It goes straight into Sweetie Bell's basket.

74 PINKIE PIE
WHEEEEEEEEEEE!!

Pinkie's enthusiasm is infectious. Sweetie Bell starts bouncing, too, but bounces her apple right out of the basket.

75 RAINBOW DASH
Next!

The two disappointed unicorns head to the back of the line as Starlight and DJ-PON3 step up. Applejack bucks the tree again and kicks the apple. It soars overhead...

76 APPLEJACK
Pretty soon, all that bucking got
turned into a game that everypony
can play...

Rainbow Dash swoops in to catch the pass. She rockets it back to Applejack...

77 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
They added a pegasus position,
Sweeper, to block the apple or pass
it back to the Bucker.

...but Fluttershy is in the way. She shies away from the oncoming apple and blocks it with a light flick of her tail. Applejack looks surprised. Rainbow Dash a little frustrated.

78 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Nicely demonstrated, Fluttershy.

The apple soars lightly to Pinkie Pie, who bucks it to Starlight. She bobbles the basket, but Pinkie Pie's shot circles the rim and falls in.

79 PINKIE PIE
Aww... YEAH!

Pinkie, Fluttershy, and Starlight do a rump-bump, which causes Starlight to fumble the basket. The apple rolls out.

80 FLUTTERSHY
Oh, well...

81 APPLEJACK
Finally, they rounded out the team
with a Unicorn Keeper who tries to
catch as many goals as they can in
their basket.

Applejack bucks down another apple and kicks it up to Dash. Dash shoots it back to AJ who bucks it to DJ-Pon3. DJ-Pon3 levitates the basket in perfect position to catch the apple...

...except that the basket is upside-down. The apple ricochets off the bottom of the basket and back into the air.

Fluttershy catches it in her mouth. She drops it in front of Pinkie Pie, who head-butts it into Starlight's basket.

82 PINKIE PIE/FLUTTERSHY
WEEEE!/Yay.

Applejack stares at Pinkie and Fluttershy a bit put-off.

83 APPLEJACK
And, ah... that's the position
we're looking for today.

The next two unicorns step up. DJ-Pon3 now spins a turntable in the BG. [FADE UP FLASHDANCE-STYLE AUDITION MUSIC] as we start a...

MONTAGE:

A SERIES OF SHOTS as they play the game, putting the Keeper-hopefuls through their paces:

- Applejack lightly bucks an apple to SWEETIE BELL, who runs away scared and drops the basket.

- Fluttershy flies after Sweetie Bell to make sure she's okay, casually bucking the apple back to Pinkie Pie, who dances to DJ-Pon3's beat, nodding her head and kicking her legs forward in Flashdance-style moves. Eyes closed, she kicks apple after apple straight into her basket, having a grand time.

- INTERCUT QUICK SHOTS: Dash, determined, blocks a shot. Fluttershy, joyous, blocks another. Dash smashes a pass intended for Applejack, but a bird flies into its path. Fluttershy zooms in to save the bird and unwittingly redirects the apple to Pinkie Pie who scores again.

- RAPID CUTS: CU of Applejack's hooves kicking apple after apple, followed by each one missing or falling out of various baskets, inexpertly levitated by unicorn hopefuls.

- RAPID CUTS: CU of Pinkie Pie's hooves kicking apple after apple, each one hitting the basket (despite the wobbly, canted, and zig-zagging moves from the newbie unicorns).

END MONTAGE

Sunset. Rainbow Dash and Applejack confer, out of breath.

84 RAINBOW DASH
Is it just me or are Pinkie and
Fluttershy weirdly good at this
game?

Applejack looks over at Pinkie and Fluttershy, still dancing and having a ball. She turns and looks to the unicorns. There's only two left.

85 APPLEJACK
Alright - last two! Snips, Snails,
you're up!

SNIPS joins Applejack and Rainbow Dash. SNAILS legs it over to Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie.

86 SNIPS
(to Snails)
Wow! I get to play with Rainbow
Dash! Bet you wish you were me!

Snails sticks his tongue out at Snips. Applejack bucks the tree. An apple falls. She blasts it up to Rainbow Dash who isn't paying attention. Fluttershy looks on concerned.

87 FLUTTERSHY
Watch out, Rainbow Dash!

Fluttershy flies in, completely focused on "saving" her friend from a direct hit. She snags the apple with her tail, then flips it up between her ears. It glides down her flowing mane and then she whips her hair - now in SUPER SLO-MO - and sends it flying to Pinkie Pie.

Pinkie Pie leaps into the air and takes the apple with a header. The spring in her curly hair causes it to bounce straight up. She catches it in her tail, bounces it again, and sets herself up - in SUPER SLO-MO - for the perfect buck.

The apple blasts toward Snails, leaving a vapor trail in it's wake. Snails floats the basket up, but it's facing the wrong way. He deftly maneuvers it into a 180 degree turn as (at speed) the apple rockets inside so fast it imbeds itself into the bottom of the basket.

The three ponies look inside at the still smoldering goal and celebrate with rump-bumps and a victory dance AS Applejack and Rainbow Dash stare in shock.

SC. 5 - EXT. PONYVILLE - MAIN STREET - THE NEXT MORNING

Applejack and Rainbow Dash walk through town.

88 APPLEJACK
That wasn't our imagination, Dash.
Pinkie and Fluttershy are some of
the best buckball players I've ever
seen.

89 RAINBOW DASH
I know. And they were having more
fun than me at a Wonderbolt's show,
and that's saying something.

90 APPLEJACK
I reckon it's pretty clear what we
gotta do.

The townsfolk watch them. Applejack and Rainbow Dash are oblivious to the whispers and musings, but everypony's dying to hear who made the team. They reach the podium and...

SC. 6 - EXT. PONYVILLE - TOWN SQUARE - DAY

...climb up. Several ponies have gathered to hear the announcement. Dash and AJ share a look. AJ clears her throat.

91 APPLEJACK
Thank you all for coming. We set
out to find a new member for our
buckball team, but it turns out...
We found three. Let's have a round
of applause for the official
Ponyville Buckball team...

WHIP PAN to reveal Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, and Snails standing off to the side.

92 RAINBOW DASH
Snails, Fluttershy, and Pinkie Pie!

Off Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy's shock...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 7 - EXT. PONYVILLE - TOWN SQUARE - RESUME

Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie are in shock. So's the rest of the town.

93 PINKIE PIE
STOP THE PRESSES! And by presses I
mean your mouth because I'm pretty
sure something crazy just came out
of it.

94 FLUTTERSHY
Yes, I think you may have misspoke.

Applejack just smiles and shakes her head.

95 APPLEJACK
I sure didn't. If we're gonna beat
Appleosa, we need the best players
in Ponyville.

96 RAINBOW DASH
And that's YOU!

The townsfolk cheer loudly.

97 TOWNSFOLK
Woo-hoo!/Go Ponyville!/Hooray!

Snails looks stunned. Snips runs up to give him a high-hoof.

98 SNAILS
Holy Pony... I'm on the team!

99 SNIPS
You're like famous now!

100 SNAILS
 (loud, excited)
And we're so gonna kick it on those
Appleosans with our buckball
skills!

<CRICKETS> Everypony looks at Snails, confused. Snips leans
in.

101 SNIPS
 (aside)
We might need to work on your trash
talk a little.

Snips pulls him aside for some coaching as the crowd starts
to disperse. Fluttershy looks to her friends, still in shock.

102 FLUTTERSHY
How could we be on the team? We
weren't really even trying--

103 RAINBOW DASH
--And you waxed our tails!

104 APPLEJACK
You outflew, outbucked, and
outplayed us at every turn!

105 RAINBOW DASH
If anypony is gonna beat Appleosa
it's you!

Pinkie leaps into the air.

106 PINKIE PIE
WHHEEEEEEE!!!!

Fluttershy scuffs the ground with a hoof.

107 FLUTTERSHY
Wow. This is such an honor. I hope
we don't disappoint anypony!

Applejack and Rainbow Dash start to walk away.

108 RAINBOW DASH
I'm sure you'll be awesome, but now
it's time to get down to some
serious practicing.

109 PINKIE PIE
YAAAY! PRACTICE!! Wait -- what?

SC. 8 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - WEST ORCHARD - LATER

WIDE on the apple orchard. Applejack, Pinkie Pie, and Snails are on the ground. Rainbow Dash and Fluttershy in the air.

Applejack and Rainbow Dash wear whistles around their necks.

Applejack blows her whistle as she bucks one apple after another to Pinkie Pie, who kicks the apples in rhythm. Pinkie Pie's eyes are closed and she tilts her head back and forth.

110 PINKIE PIE
(sing-song)
Left foot! Right foot! Left foot!
Right!

Rainbow Dash leads Fluttershy through a series of aerial maneuvers: up and over, then around the tree. And again.

111 RAINBOW DASH
Wow, Fluttershy! I never knew you
were so aerobatic!

112 FLUTTERSHY
(pleased)
Me neither.

Snails raises and lowers the bushel basket. He grunts like a dead lifter while Snips coaches him, too.

113 SNIPS
You need more "OOOO" in your "BOO-
ya."

114 SNAILS
<GRUNTS> Shouldn't I be focusing on
my basket lifts?

115 SNIPS
You can do both!

Behind them, Pinkie bounces across the screen, joyfully
bucking apples left and right.

116 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, Fluttershy. I'm going to try
to pass the apple to Applejack. You
try to block it. AJ, heads up!

She rockets an apple toward Applejack, who, Fluttershy
notices, is still focused on training Pinkie Pie.

117 FLUTTERSHY
Oh, no! Look out, Applejack!

Fluttershy zooms in and tries to shield Applejack from the
hit. She shies away from it herself, turning her rump toward
the apple.

With her tail, she gracefully scoops the apple and gently
redirects it to Pinkie Pie.

118 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Here ya go, Pinkie.

Pinkie Pie looks for Snails, who's still dead-lifting.

119 PINKIE PIE
Oh, Snaaa--iiillls!

She lobbs the apple across the field as his basket is mid-air.
The apple lands squarely in the basket. Snails looks in the
basket, surprised, then...

120 SNAILS
(to Snips)
How do ya like them apples?

121 SNIPS
(still trash talk
coaching)
Not bad. But I'd hit "them" harder.

They continue to show off their skills in a series of QUICK CUTS:

- Fluttershy speeds in to block an apple headed for a nest full of baby birds.

- Pinkie Pie somehow bounces by on her head, kicking apples as she goes.

- Snails lifts, lowers, and zig-zags the basket to catch flying apples.

- Fluttershy spins in front of a bird to block a shot. Then dives in to save a bunny under a bush. Then swoops up to block a nest of squirrels in a tree.

- Pinkie Pie's face enters the screen four times -- once from each corner -- heading an apple each time.

Applejack <BLOWS> her whistle.

122 APPLEJACK
Okay! Bring it in, everypony!

They gather on the sidelines.

123 FLUTTERSHY
This is so much fun!

124 PINKIE PIE
Best. Game! EVER!!

Applejack looks at them.

125 APPLEJACK
All right. Now I know you're having
a good time...

Snails comes over, hounded by Snips, giving him more tips.

126 SNIPS
Less "Yo" and more "Face."

127 SNAILS
In yo FACE!

Dash shoots them a disparaging look.

128 SNIPS
Sorry.

129 APPLEJACK
As I was sayin', I know y'all have
been having fun, but it's time to
get serious.

130 PINKIE PIE
Serious? I thought this was
supposed to be FUN!

131 RAINBOW DASH
Of course it's fun-- when we win!

132 PINKIE PIE
Oh.

Applejack pulls out a playbook. She opens it to a page and
points at it with her hoof.

133 APPLEJACK
This is the standard offense.

Fluttershy looks down at it, concerned.

134 FLUTTERSHY
That looks complicated.

Dash puts her arm around her.

135 RAINBOW DASH
It's totally easy. All you need is
to get just a little bit aggressive.
Come on, I'll show you.

Dash and Fluttershy take to the sky as Applejack and Pinkie
walk toward the center tree and Snips and Snails head back to
the basket.

With everypony in position, AJ bucks an apple skyward.

ON DASH & FLUTTERSHY:

136 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Okay, Fluttershy! Think like a
predator!

Fluttershy tries to block the apple but it whiffs through her
tail and hits Rainbow Dash.

137 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Ow!

138 FLUTTERSHY
Sorry!

The apple bounces toward Pinkie Pie, who's bouncing around herself.

139 APPLEJACK
Pinkie! Quit bouncin' and focus!

140 PINKIE PIE
Wha--?

Pinkie stops as the apple falls toward her. She bobbles it back and forth between her fore-hooves, trying not to drop it. The apple gets more and more out of control and then flies out of her "grasp" and toward Snails.

Snails is concentrating on his trash talk again.

141 SNAILS
 (to himself)
BOO-ya. Boo-YA. Boo--

The apple lands with a <SPLAT> at his feet. No where near the basket. Rainbow Dash blows her whistle.

142 RAINBOW DASH
Hmmm. Let's try that again.

In another series of QUICK CUTS:

- Fluttershy swishes her tail, missing apple after apple.
- Pinkie tries bucking, but keeps stumbling, finally flipping over and knocking one with her hooves.
- Another apple lands at Snails feet, then another, and another, until finally one hits him in the back of the head with a <SPLAT>.

Applejack blows her whistle.

143 APPLEJACK
Maybe we should take a break.

They gather again, but Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie aren't smiling anymore.

144 FLUTTERSHY
I'm so sorry. I just don't know
what's wrong.

145 RAINBOW DASH
It's okay. Everypony get's off of
their game once in a while. That's
what practice is for.

146 APPLEJACK
We have to go see Rarity about your uniforms anyway. Y'all just relax for a bit, and when you're ready, you get right back to it. That's the best way out of a slump.

With that, Applejack and Dash walk off. Fluttershy and Pinkie share a worried look.

SC. 9 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - WEST ORCHARD - LATER

Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie look determined. Snips and Snails are asleep under the tree. Snoring.

147 PINKIE PIE
Okay! I'm sure we'll go right back to being super great!

Pinkie bucks the tree. An apple falls. She kicks it up to Fluttershy with wild abandon. Fluttershy dodges away.

148 FLUTTERSHY
Oh!

The apple hits the ground.

149 PINKIE PIE
Or not. Maybe I'm not being serious enough.

Pinkie Pie smiles, then checks herself. Smiles again. Wipes it away. Then a third time.

150 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Be serious. Be serious. BE SERIOUS!

Her yelling frightens a family of birds in the tree. They all land on Fluttershy's shoulders.

151 FLUTTERSHY
Pinkie! Be serious, not scary.

Pinkie Pie -- serious face in place now -- bucks another apple. It rockets up to Fluttershy.

152 FLUTTERSHY (CONT'D)
Okay. Think like a predator. Um...

She furrows her brow and concentrates. She looks ferocious, but her "predator" face scares the bird family even more. They all fly away as Fluttershy crumbles. The apple flies past her and lands with a <SPLAT>.

Fluttershy lands next to Pinkie Pie, near tears.

153 PINKIE PIE
I don't think this is fun anymore.

They look at each other, dejected.

154 FLUTTERSHY
It really isn't, but what are we
going to do? The whole town's
counting on us to beat Appleoosa.
And we leave tomorrow!

Pinkie takes a deep breath.

155 PINKIE PIE
I'm sure the only thing that
matters is that we do our best. I
bet nopony will even care if we
win.

Fluttershy looks to Pinkie, hopeful.

SC. 10 - EXT. PONYVILLE - TRAIN PLATFORM - THE NEXT MORNING

Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie stand on the train platform,
staring out like ponies caught in the headlights. PULL WIDE
to reveal they are surrounded by CHEERING Ponvillians.

Snails walks up, preening, loving the attention.

A couple of ponies unfurl a yellow BANNER across the train
with Pinkie, Fluttershy, and Snail's faces on it. A
spontaneous chant starts up.

156 TOWNSFOLK
Go Ponyville! Go Ponyville! WIN!
WIN! WIN!

Fluttershy stares at the crowd, eyes wide. Pinkie leans in.

157 PINKIE PIE
Okay. Maybe they'll care a little.

Off their very worried faces...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**SC. 11 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - DAY**

Pinkie and Fluttershy look out the window as the train pulls away from the station. Back on the platform, rabid fans wave banners and cheer them on.

Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy share nervous looks. Applejack catches sight of Pinkie's face.

158 APPLEJACK
What's the matter, Pinkie Pie? You
look like you just found a worm in
your apple.

Pinkie fakes a nervous laugh.

159 PINKIE PIE
Oh, nothing. Ha ha. Just... pre-
game jitters, I guess.

Before Applejack can pursue it, Dash and Snails enter the car, Snips in their wake, still "coaching" Snails.

160 SNIPS
You've got to really *mean* it.

161 SNAILS
Appleoosa? More like Apple-LOOsers!

An old pony looks up from her seat.

162 OLD PONY
Well, I'm from Appleoosa and I do
not appreciate that kind of talk.

Dash turns and looks at Snips and Snails.

163 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. Maybe cool it on the trash
talk. Team Ponyville is all about
good sportsmanship.

Snails looks at Dash, confused.

164 SNAILS
Sportsma-what?

Dash rolls her eyes, then notices Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie's faces.

165 RAINBOW DASH
You two okay?

166 APPLEJACK
We were just talking about pre-game jitters.

167 RAINBOW DASH
Pfft! Please. You're both so good, I wouldn't even worry about it.

168 APPLEJACK
That's right. Besides, all of Ponyville knows you're gonna win.

169 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah! You should spend the whole ride to Appleoosa thinking about all the ponies back home rooting for you. That'll help keep you in the zone.

With that, she gives them both a heartening pat, then heads to the back of the car with Applejack, Snips and Snails.

Fluttershy looks to Pinkie.

170 FLUTTERSHY
I'm not sure what zone Rainbow Dash is talking about, but I'm pretty sure I'm not in it.

171 PINKIE PIE
Me neither. All I can think about is how horribly we've been playing.

172 FLUTTERSHY
And how we're going to loose and disappoint everypony.

Pinkie takes a deep breath.

173 PINKIE PIE
I think we know what we have to do.

SC. 12 - INT. FRIENDSHIP EXPRESS - BACK OF THE CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Pinkie Pie and Fluttershy walk up to Rainbow Dash and Applejack, determined. Rainbow Dash looks them up and down.

174 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, you two are supposed to be
getting in the zone.

175 PINKIE PIE
I don't think that's gonna happen.

176 APPLEJACK
What do you mean? You have to get
focused if you wanna have a good
game.

Pinkie and Fluttershy share a look.

177 FLUTTERSHY
That's just it. We don't want to
play anymore. We think you two
should take our place.

Applejack and Dash share a stunned look.

178 APPLEJACK
Now what in the hay are you talkin'
about?

179 PINKIE PIE
(bursting)
We're TERRIBLE! I can't buck.
Fluttershy can't block.

180 FLUTTERSHY
Or pass.

181 PINKIE PIE
OR. PASS.
(crazy loud)
IT'S A DISASTER!!!

182 APPLEJACK
Don't you two think you might just
be a touch nervous?

183 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. You'll be fine. Just remember
to have fun.

184 PINKIE PIE
Fun? FUN!? THERE'S NOTHING FUN
ABOUT BUCKBALL!!!

185 FLUTTERSHY
Yeah. What could be fun about
letting everypony down?

Applejack and Dash stare at their friends in shock. They share a look.

186 RAINBOW DASH
One sec.

Dash and Applejack huddle for a moment, talking in whispers, then...

187 APPLEJACK
All right. We sure don't want you two to be unhappy.

188 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. We can totally play in your place.

Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie look relieved.

189 APPLEJACK
But on one condition. You two have had a whole ton of practice and we haven't. So, when we get to Appleoosa you gotta play against us.

190 RAINBOW DASH
You know, for practice.

Fluttershy and Pinkie Pie look at each other. Nod.

191 FLUTTERSHY/PINKIE PIE
Deal.

SC. 13 - EXT. APPLEOOSA - PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

It's similar to the field they practiced on in Ponyville, but dustier. The all look up at the tree in the middle.

Applejack bucks the tree and an apple falls. She kicks it up to Dash. Dash sends it back to her, and AJ bucks it into the basket that rests on the ground.

Pinkie and Fluttershy just look over at it, dejected.

192 APPLEJACK
Come on, now. You gotta try at least a little.

193 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. Otherwise Applejack and I will never be ready to play.

Applejack bucks another apple to Dash. This time, Rainbow Dash kicks the apple so hard it <SPLATS> apart. She looks to Fluttershy.

194 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Hee-hee. Um... Any advice?

195 FLUTTERSHY
(tentative)
Maybe less predator and more butterfly.

ON Pinkie and Applejack: Applejack bucks the apple, but it falls short.

196 PINKIE PIE
Try putting a little bounce in your buck, Applejack. Like this.

Pinkie Pie demonstrates her bouncing buck.

197 APPLEJACK
All right. Here goes.

She bounces into a buck that sends the apple rocketing toward Rainbow Dash, but Dash is busy trying to "make like a butterfly."

Fluttershy sees that Rainbow Dash is about to get hit. Like an instant-replay of tryouts, she catches it with her tail, transfers to her mane, and whips it to Pinkie Pie...

...who bounces it off her head, her tail, and bucks the apple so hard it rockets into the basket leaning against the tree, leaving a vapor trail in it's wake.

They all look over at the still smoldering apple, imbedded in the bottom of the basket.

Pinkie and Fluttershy exchange an excited look.

In a SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS:

- Fluttershy speeds in to block an apple headed toward a prairie dog.

- Pinkie Pie bounces through frame on her head, kicking apples as she goes.

- The two of them bounce apples back and forth laughing and having a grand time while Applejack and Dash look on and smile.

Finally they all gather on the sidelines.

198 RAINBOW DASH
Now that's what I'm talking about!

199 APPLEJACK
Looks to me like you two are just
as good as you ever were.

200 FLUTTERSHY
But we weren't even thinking about
it. We were just--

201 PINKIE PIE
--HAVING FUN!!!
(then)
Oh, but we're supposed to be
serious.

202 APPLEJACK
Nope you ain't!

203 RAINBOW DASH
Definitely not!

204 APPLEJACK
We shouldn't have never tried to
make you play our way, because when
you two just play for fun you're
unbeatable.

205 RAINBOW DASH
And win or lose, ponies really only
wanna watch players that love the
game.

Snails runs up, breathless.

206 SNAILS
Sorry I'm so late. I went to look
for that Appleoosan pony from the
train--

207 RAINBOW DASH
Snails, I told you--

208 SNAILS
--to apologize. Snips and I looked
up "sportsmanship" in the
dictionary. I guess we didn't know
you could cheer for your team
without talking bad about the other
one.

The other ponies just stare at him.

209 SNAILS (CONT'D)
Plus I think all that negative
energy was really affecting my
basket work.

Fluttershy and Pinkie share a look.

210 FLUTTERSHY
I guess we all learned something.

211 PINKIE PIE
We sure did!

With that, Pinkie kicks an apple over to Fluttershy who flips
it back to her as Snails levitates his basket up.

CU as Pinkie Pie bucks the apple in SUPER SLO-MO, then...

MATCH CUT TO:

SC. 14 - EXT. APPLEOOSA - RODEO STADIUM - THE NEXT DAY

CU as an "official apple" (now a red ball) soars through the
air off Pinkie Pie's hoof and blasts into Snails's basket.

A <ROAR> from the crowd. The scoreboard (shown as pennants,
not written names) reads: "APPLEOOSA 75 - PONYVILLE 74".

The score changes to 75-75. The clock reads: "00:03".

Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy, and Snails huddle.

212 SNAILS
Wow. These guys are amazing.

213 FLUTTERSHY
They sure are. I think they might
be having almost as much fun as we
are.

214 PINKIE PIE
UNPOSSIBLE!!!

They break and join the Appleoosa team at center field.
Noteworthy (dressed as a ref) throws up the ball.

[PRODUCTION NOTE: We imagine official buckball play starts
more or less like a face off instead of the apple bucking
that starts the backyard variety of the game.]

Braeburn gets to the ball first and kicks it up to
Appleoosa's Sweeper, HELIA.

Helia bucks it back to Braeburn, who's moved into perfect scoring position in front of their Keeper, AMETHYST STAR.

Braeburn nails the pass and sends the ball flying toward the basket. Like a diving falcon, Fluttershy heads toward it...

...and in SUPER SLO-MO, she loop-de-loops in front of the ball, spiralling it around and sending it back to Pinkie Pie, who gives one joyous bounce that sends it straight into Snails's waiting basket. 75-76!

The clock reads "00:00". The buzzer sounds. The crowd cheers!

And our heroes congratulate each other as they get hoisted on the shoulders of the other Ponyvillians. As they're carried off the field, Pinkie turns to Rainbow Dash.

215 PINKIE PIE (CONT'D)
Hey, you were right! Winning is
FUN!!!!

Off Pinkie's HUGE smile...

IRIS OUT

END