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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 9

2, 4, 6, Greaaat

Ep 915

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EXT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - DAY**

TWILIGHT SPARKLE talks a mile a minute as she leads PINKIE PIE and FLUTTERSHY around the side of the school.

1 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I have to admit I was a little shocked when Princess Celestia told me she wanted to start an Scholastic Buckball League, but I was even more surprised that she wanted the first game to be between her school and ours! Apparently, she's a huge sports fan.

2 PINKIE PIE
I always thought Celestia was kind of a jock. Just with reaally wavy hair.

3 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Anyway, we don't have much time...

As they turn a corner Twilight points toward a crew of WORK-PONIES busily constructing a RING OF BLEACHERS around the school's buckball field!

4 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Buckoff is in two weeks! And I want you two to coach the team!

Twilight points to a collection of STUDENTS standing off to the side. Fluttershy starts breathing heavily and Twilight takes her own deep, happy, satisfied breath.

5 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
I know how you feel. Young athletes ready to take the field... You can almost breathe in the excitement--

Twilight turns to see Fluttershy HYPERVENTILATING! Twilight and Pinkie rush to catch the gasping pony as Fluttershy half-faints on the grass!

6 TWILIGHT SPARKLE (CONT'D)
Whoa! You don't have to breathe it in that hard!

7 FLUTTERSHY

It's just the thought of facing Celestia's School of Magic in only two weeks is a little... daunting.

8 PINKIE PIE

Yeah. Is there a smaller school we could play first? Like a mane and tail styling college? Or a scroll-making institute?

9 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Relax, you two. Our team is gonna do just fine.

10 FLUTTERSHY

Um... what makes you so sure?

11 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

Because I have faith in my friends... Who happen to be the best buckball players in Equestria.

12 PINKIE PIE

Oh, yeah.

Pinkie kicks up a nearby ball and juggles it back and forth between her hooves before passing it to Fluttershy who whips it around with her tail, sending it across the field -- right into a basket of other balls. The students all <WHOOOA>, impressed.

13 FLUTTERSHY

I guess that is sort of true.

14 TWILIGHT SPARKLE

I asked Rainbow Dash to help too.
(looking around) But I'm not sure where she--

Suddenly, RAINBOW DASH ZOOMS in over the field (nearly blowing over several work ponies with her jet wash) carrying a huge bag of sports equipment!

15 RAINBOW DASH

Sorry I'm late! But when Twilight said she needed my help with the buckball team, I figured I'd better grab every piece of gear I could get my hooves on!

She drops the bag and all manner of equipment spills out. She picks things up one at a time as she talks.

16 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
So, what do you need? Trainer?
Offensive Coordinator? Referee?

17 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Something even more important.

18 RAINBOW DASH
Awesome! Lay it on me! Whatever
it is, I'll give it 120%!

Dash is so excited she starts spinning with joy in the air!

19 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
I knew I could count on your
enthusiasm. That's why I chose you
to be Captain of the Pep Squad!

Rainbow Dash stops spinning in shock, crashing right into her
pile of equipment. She stares at Twilight in shock.

20 RAINBOW DASH
CHEERLEADING!?!

END TEASER

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SC. 2 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - RESUME

Pinkie and Fluttershy head off to start working with the team
as Twilight turns to go back inside. Dash hurries to follow.

21 RAINBOW DASH
I don't mean to sound ungrateful.
It's just, when you said you wanted
my help with something important, I
thought you meant... something
important.

22 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
The Pep Squad is important.

Rainbow Dash BURSTS OUT LAUGHING, then sees Twilight's
stopped to frown at her and backtracks.

23 RAINBOW DASH
Oh. Well, sure Pep Squad is
toootally important, just to
somepony who isn't me.

24 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
What do you mean?

Dash points to the team out in the field, passing balls back and forth.

25 RAINBOW DASH
I'm more about the ponies playing
in the game, not cheering for it.

Off another sideways glance from Twilight...

26 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I mean, it's great that someponies
only want to cheer, but I don't
know anything about that.

Twilight rolls her eyes and starts off again.

27 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Well, this will be a great
opportunity to find out.

28 RAINBOW DASH
Of course I've seen pep squads
before. On the sidelines. But I'm
not even 100% sure what they do.
I'll probably just mess it up.

Twilight turns and puts her hooves on Dash's shoulders.

29 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Rainbow Dash, I'm 100% sure you'll
be a great Pep Squad Captain.
Besides, I think it'll be good for
you to get outside your comfort
zone.

Off Dash, unconvinced...

SC. 3 - INT. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - HALLWAY - DAY

Dash trudges toward her classroom with a glum expression. She stops outside, takes a breath, and reaches for the door just as SNIPS (decked out in full Pep Squad attire) suddenly appears at her side.

30 SNIPS
Rainbow Dash! Whew! Am I glad to
see you. You are not gonna believe
this pep squad.

31 RAINBOW DASH
What do you mean?

32 SNIPS

Put it this way. We've got two weeks until the big game and we need two years.

Dash's expression drops even further.

33 SNIPS (CONT'D)

But that's all gonna change because you're here to save the day!

34 RAINBOW DASH

Right. But why are you here?

35 SNIPS

What, a pony can't show school spirit?

36 RAINBOW DASH

You don't go to the school.

A beat.

37 SNIPS

I figured if the buckball team does well I can start selling souvenirs full time in Ponyville, so I volunteered to be assistant coach!

Snips proudly indicates several buckball-themed buttons on his Pep Squad shirt. Rainbow Dash sighs.

38 RAINBOW DASH

Let's just get this over with.

SC. 4 - INT. DASH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

As Rainbow Dash and Snips walk into her gymnasium-like classroom, two Earth Pony students, SWIFT MANE and LIGHTHOOF, <GASP> in excitement and scatter.

39 SWIFT MANE

She's here!

40 LIGHTHOOF

Get the lights!

The gym is suddenly shrouded in darkness as a SPOT LIGHT finds the pair of Earth ponies decked out in sequined outfits.

As Dash stares confused, Swift Mane and Lighthoof hop-scotching over one another, getting closer and closer as they CHANT out a rhyme.

41 SWIFT MANE
Over, and over, and over again!

42 LIGHTHOOF
*We wanna dance for each other and
for all of our friends!*

Swift Mane and Lighthoof break out into an CHOREOGRAPHED DANCE ROUTINE, moving in perfect unison, then diving on the ground and thrusting their hooves in the air in front of a shocked Rainbow Dash. Snips turns on the lights.

43 RAINBOW DASH
Oookaay.... Haven't I seen you two
around school before?

They jump up and nod, excitedly.

44 SWIFT MANE
I'm Swift Mane, and this is
Lighthoof!

45 LIGHTHOOF
And we are the lead dancers for
your Pep Squad!

Dash stares, not knowing what to say. Luckily, she spots SMOLDER, OCELLUS, and YONA strolling up.

46 RAINBOW DASH
I didn't know you three would be
here.

Yona, starts jumping up and down with such excitement her mighty stomps shake the floor.

47 YONA
Yona want to cheer and make pony
pyramid!

Ocellus steps up, timid.

48 OCELLUS
And I thought this could be my
chance to make an impression on
everypony, you know, for something
other than changing shape.

Rainbow Dash arches a curious eyebrow at Smolder.

49 RAINBOW DASH
I didn't realize you were into
school spirit, Smolder.

Smolder shrugs like a disaffected teenager who doesn't want to admit she likes something.

50 SMOLDER
I just came with these two. But they're my friends and you're kinda cool, so maybe pep squad will be too.

51 RAINBOW DASH
Don't count on it.

Dash walks past Smolder (not noticing her look of disappointment). Snips joins her in the center of the room.

52 SNIPS
Okay, now that we're all here why don't you tell us the plan?

53 RAINBOW DASH
What do you mean?

54 SNIPS
What should we do? How are you gonna make us into the most awesome pep squad ever?!

55 RAINBOW DASH
Honestly? I have no clue.

The squads' expressions drop.

56 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
I mean, if you guys were an actually buckball team, I'd have plenty of ideas, but I don't know the first thing about Pep Squads.

The squad just stare at her. Snips steps forward.

57 SNIPS
(with a nervous laugh) Hehehe. Good one, coach! But Principal Twilight picked you for the job so, I'm pretty sure you know what you're doing.

58 RAINBOW DASH
Nope. In fact, I bet all of you know way more than me. So, um... why don't you show me what you've got and we'll take it from there?

The squad's expressions shift to hesitant excitement. Yona stomps around in a circle.

59 YONA
Pep Squad can do that!

60 LIGHTHOOF
Yep! All we need is a little music!

She points to Snips. Hesitantly, unsure if it's a good idea, he reaches over and starts a record player.

As soon as the MUSIC starts, Swift Mane and Lighthoof go into the exact same dance routine, but their hopscotching gets thrown by Yona's stomping.

61 SWIFT MANE
Over, and <WHOA>ver, and <WHOA>ver again...

62 LIGHTHOOF
We wanna dance for each other and for all of our fri<AHHH>!

They start the next part of their routine, but keep having to stop and start over, while...

Ocellus hands a scroll to Smolder who looks down at it and rolls her eyes. Ocellus elbows her and she reads...

63 SMOLDER
(Half-hearted cheer) 2, 4, 6, 8...

Ocellus picks it up from there, but mumbles, her head buried in the scroll.

64 OCELLUS
(continuing) ...Friendship School is really great...

As Yona's stomping gets louder, Dash looks to Snips.

65 RAINBOW DASH
What'd she say?

Snips quickly nudges Smolder as Swift Mane and Lighthoof near their big finish. Smolder rolls her eyes again and blows a puff of smoke at them (like a living smoke machine) and at Yona, who bounces toward them excitedly.

The dancers thrust their hooves in the air just as the smoke covers them, Yona, and Ocellus and we hear a loud <CRASH>.

As the smoke clears we see Smolder standing next to rest of the squad, all laid out in a heap.

66 SMOLDER
Well, that was a disaster.

67 SWIFT MANE
It's kind of hard to stick to our choreography when the floor is moving.

68 LIGHTHOOF
Yeah, Yona. Your stomps a little too powerful.

69 YONA
Can we make pony pyramid instead?

Ocellus shuffles through a hoof-ful of scrolls.

70 OCELLUS
Maybe we should figure out which cheers to do first.

71 SMOLDER
(sarcastic) Yeah. Because that'll fix everything.

Snips steps forward, trying to make peace.

72 SNIPS
Come on. Sure there's a few, err-- a lot of problems, but it's nothing Rainbow Dash can't solve. Right?

They all turn to Dash who's made her way over to the window and stares out, thoughtfully.

73 RAINBOW DASH
Trust me. You guys don't have anything to worry about.

74 SMOLDER
We don't?

We follow Rainbow Dash's gaze and see she's looking at Pinkie and Fluttershy working with the buckball team outside.

75 RAINBOW DASH
I mean, it's not like anypony comes to see the cheering. The game is what ponies care about. I'm sure what you just did is totally fine.

The Pep Squad's jaws all drop.

76 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Anyway, looks like you guys got
this. I'm gonna go check out the
real practice!

As Rainbow Dash heads out the door, the Pep Squad members all
look at one another, like, "What just happened!?"

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 5 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - HALLWAY - RESUME

Rainbow Dash trots down the hall toward the front door when
she's suddenly brought up short by a tug from behind. She
looks back, confused to see Snips pulling on her tail.

77 RAINBOW DASH
Um, what are you doing?

78 SNIPS
What are you doing? You're
supposed to be captaining the Pep
Squad.

Dash shakes her tail free, heads back down the hall.

79 RAINBOW DASH
Hey, I watched some pep stuff.
Looks fine to me.

Snips runs in front of Dash and tries pushing her backwards.

80 SNIPS
It's not fine! Do you know what'll
happen if they do what they just
did at the big game?

Rainbow Dash flaps her wings and flies over him.

81 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. Nothing. Their dance-tastic
cheers won't effect the score one
way or the other.

Snips uses unicorn magic to grab her by the hoof, straining
as she struggles against it.

82 SNIPS

Maybe not, <GRUNT> but they'll make fools of themselves in front of a whole stadium. <STRAINING> Somepony needs to get serious about coaching them.

Rainbow Dash stops struggling, thinks for a minute, then grins.

83 RAINBOW DASH

You know, what? You're right. Why don't you do it?

84 SNIPS

Me? But I'm just the assistant coach.

85 RAINBOW DASH

Don't sell yourself short. You'll be great!

With that, Dash flies off leaving Snips, considering...

SC. 6 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - LATER

TIGHT on SNAILS sitting cross-legged and blindfolded.

86 SNAILS

The trick to being a good buckball keeper is to do nothing. Just empty your mind. Be the ball.

PULL WIDE to reveal he's using magic to float above the buckball team gathered around him. GALLUS (who's on the team) looks up at him, confused.

87 GALLUS

Um, balls don't have minds.

88 SNAILS

Exactly.

Across the field, Fluttershy and Pinkie toss a collection of balls at Snails and he levitates a nearby basket up and catches them all, still blindfolded. The team all <GASP>.

89 TEAM

Where's my blindfold? / My turn! /
I wanna do that! / Etc.

ANGLE ON Rainbow Dash looking on from the stands eating popcorn. A disgruntled Smolder steps in front of her, blocking her view.

90 SMOLDER

Why are you watching Snail's weird practice when you're supposed to be practicing with us?

91 RAINBOW DASH

Snail's practice might be weird, but at least it's with the actual team. Besides, isn't Snips supposed to be practicing with you?

92 SMOLDER

Oh, he was.

Smolder steps aside to reveal the rest of the Pep Squad, all of them covered head to toe in Snips' souvenir gear.

93 SWIFT MANE

Do you have any idea how hard it is to dance in this stuff?

94 OCELLUS

Plus all these buttons jingle so much you can't hear my cheers, and I'm struggling to find my voice as it is.

95 RAINBOW DASH

So don't dance or cheer.

They all stare at her, incredulous.

96 YONA

Then what Pep Squad do?

97 RAINBOW DASH

I already told you. It doesn't matter.

98 SMOLDER

Well, maybe it matters to us!

Everyone is surprised by Smolder's outburst. Especially Smolder. She tries to cover.

99 SMOLDER (CONT'D)

Or whatever. You're the captain. You're supposed to come up with stuff for us to do.

Dash looks past the Pep Squad at Snails, still blindfolded, levitating a bucket and catching balls that the buckball team throws at him. She smiles.

100 RAINBOW DASH
Fine. I know exactly what you
should do.

SC. 7 - INT. TWILIGHT'S SCHOOL - DASH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

TIGHT on Lighthoof and Swift Mane.

101 LIGHTHOOF/SWIFT MANE
What do you mean nothing?!

PULL WIDE to reveal Snails, blindfolded again as he floats in front of the pep squad.

102 SNAILS
Just do nothing. Empty your minds.
Be the squad.

103 SMOLDER
We are the squad.

Snails lift his blindfold and looks at them.

104 SNAILS
Oh, yeah.

Off to the side, a disgruntled Snips packs up a trunk of buttons and pennants and pins.

105 SNIPS
At least wearing my souvenirs was
something.

Dash walks up.

106 RAINBOW DASH
Come on, show our guest coach some
respect. All of you close your eyes
and do nothing.

Rainbow Dash watches as Snails uses his unicorn magic to tie blindfolds around Yona, Smolder, Ocellus, Swift Mane and Lighthoof.

107 OCELLUS
I still don't understand how this
will help us get better.

108 YONA
Yona not get it either.

Yona fiddles with her blindfold, and it falls loose enough for her to see Rainbow Dash trying to tip-toe out of the room.

109 YONA (CONT'D)
HEY!

Yona charges over and blocks her path. The angry Pep Squad surrounds Dash in a flash!

110 YONA (CONT'D)
Professor Dash needs to stay and coach.

Rainbow Dash rolls her eyes.

111 RAINBOW DASH
UGH! Why are you guys not getting this? Pep Squad isn't important and even if it was, I don't know anything about it.

Snails floats over, still blindfolded.

112 SNAILS
Well, this is the School of Friendship. If there's something you don't know you can always ask a friend.

Off Dash considering this.

113 RAINBOW DASH
Ask a friend, huh?

SC. 8 - INT./EXT. - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - MONTAGE

In a quick series of shots, Rainbow Dash talks to several of her friends...

1) We see Dash talking with Pinkie Pie near the buckball field. A light seems to go on in Pinkie's eyes. She runs off, then comes back with her cannon and fires a HUGE BLAST of Confetti! Dash nods like, "Makes sense."

2) Dash talks with Rarity outside of her classroom. Suddenly inspired, Rarity dashes into the room and returns with a collection of PURPLE RHINESTONE-STUDED JUMP SUITS. Dash looks at them skeptical but just shrugs like, "Okay."

3) At Sweet Apple Acres Dash stares at APPLEJACK, confused. BIG MAC enters pushing several BALES OF HAY. AJ gestures to the bales, but Dash's confused expression just deepens.

4) TIGHT on Dash as she talks to a pony off-screen.

114 RAINBOW DASH
Basically, the cheers are supposed
to rhyme, so... I didn't know who
else to talk to...

PAN OVER TO REVEAL -- ZECORA who arches an eyebrow at her
like, "Really?" Off Dash's sheepish smile... END MONTAGE

SC. 9 - INT. DASH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Rainbow Dash stands in front of something covered by a large
drop cloth. The squad all stand looking at her, less than
inspired.

115 RAINBOW DASH
Okay, since you guys have been
nagging me non-stop about this pep
stuff for, like, ever--

116 SMOLDER
It has literally been one day.

117 RAINBOW DASH
(plowing forward) --I went around
and figured out everything you
need.

With a flourish she flies up and pulls away the drop cloth to
reveal all the stuff she's collected, haphazardly stacked in
a pile. The squad stare at it confused.

118 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Ta-Da!

Swift Mare and Lighthoof hold up Rarity's outfits with
satisfied nods. Yona eyes Pinkie's party cannon. Smolder
pokes at the bales of hay.

119 SMOLDER
What are we supposed to do with
hay?

120 RAINBOW DASH
Beats me, but Applejack seemed
pretty sure about it. (suddenly
remembering) Oh! I almost forgot.

Dash reaches into the pile and pulls out a book. She tosses
it to Ocellus.

121 OCELLUS
A rhyming dictionary?

122 RAINBOW DASH
Yeah. Zecora was a lot less helpful
then I thought. I pulled that from
the library so you can come up with
cheers.

123 OCELLUS
Thanks?

Dash claps her hooves together.

124 RAINBOW DASH
Okay. Good practice.

With that she turns and starts to head out.

125 SMOLDER
You're just leaving again?

Dash stops and rolls her eyes as she turns back to them,
exasperated.

126 RAINBOW DASH
I just gave you everything you
need. You're welcome, by the way.

127 SWIFT MANE
But we're supposed to perform for
the team tomorrow!

128 RAINBOW DASH
Then it's a good thing I got you
this stuff. You guys are all set!

With that Dash turns and trots out, leaving the team to share
dubious looks. They turn to Snips, still in a huff sitting on
his trunk of souvenirs.

129 SNIPS
Don't look at me.

SC. 10 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY

Pinkie and Fluttershy watch from the sidelines as the
buckball team finishes up their practice.

A Pegasus on defense makes a dazzling spin pass, tossing the
ball to an Earth Pony who bucks it into a bucket perfectly!
Fluttershy flies overhead and blows a whistle.

130 FLUTTERSHY
Good work, everypony. Let's take a
break.

As the team heads to the sidelines, Dash, back in her spot in the stands, whistles and claps.

131 RAINBOW DASH
Looking great out there! WOO-HOO!

Dash rushes over to Fluttershy and Pinkie.

132 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
Wow. This team is really shaping up! Nice job!

133 FLUTTERSHY
Thanks. I'm excited to see what you've been up to.

134 PINKIE PIE
Yeah! I can't wait to see the Pep Squad.

Dash LAUGHS, like Pinkie just told the funniest joke of all time.

135 RAINBOW DASH
(laughing) Right...

She looks up to see Pinkie and Fluttershy staring at her, confused.

But before they can pursue it, the Pep Squad takes the field, obviously nervous. Pinkie Pie cheers, oblivious to their unsettled expressions.

136 PINKIE PIE
WOOOO-HOOOO!!! GO TEAM! This is so exciting!

Fluttershy turns to Dash.

137 FLUTTERSHY
Well, I'm sure you've put in a lot of hard work.

138 RAINBOW DASH
Meh. How much work does pep squad need?

As Pinkie and Fluttershy look at each other, not sure what that means, the Pep Squad get into position-- Lighthoof dragging hay bales onto the field as Yona wheels in the party cannon.

They all look to Snips who nods and starts the MUSIC as Swift Mane and Lighthoof start their EXACT SAME ROUTINE again.

139 SWIFT MANE
Over, and over, and over again!

140 LIGHTHOOF
*We wanna dance for each other and
for all of our friends!*

As before, they hopscotch over each other then jump onto separate hay bales for their freestyle section, while Smolder tosses a few streamers and flatly calls out a chant.

141 SMOLDER
School of Friendship Rah-rah-rah...

She turns to Ocellus, who pages through the rhyming dictionary and haltingly continues...

142 OCELLUS
...Let's win this game and hit the--
(turns a page) spa?

She looks to Smolder who just shakes her head. Meanwhile, Yona stomps along to the music, the cannon tilting down with every hoof-fall.

As the dancing ponies finish their routine, thrusting their hooves into the air, the MUSIC STOPS-- and then stay there, awkwardly frozen for a longish beat.

Snips looks over to Yona, who's still caught up in her own world of stomps.

143 SNIPS
Yona!

Yona looks up and yanks the cord on the party cannon--which is now pointing directly at the squad--BLASTING confetti at the bales of hay which explode as a cloud of hay and confetti settles over the field in a giant mess.

Fluttershy and Pinkie stare in shock.

144 PINKIE PIE
I know I said I couldn't wait to
see the Pep Squad, but I think I
could've waited just a tinsy bit
longer.

From off screen we hear Dash's excited voice.

145 RAINBOW DASH (O.S.)
Oh, yeah! Nice one!

They all turn to look and we PAN OVER to reveal Dash tossing a buckball back and forth with a player on the sidelines. SHE WASN'T EVEN WATCHING!

The player she's tossing with stops and Dash turns to see everypony staring at her.

146 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
What?

Off the utterly demoralized expressions of the pep squad we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 11 - INT. DASH'S CLASSROOM - LATER

Smolder, Swift Mane, Yona, Lighthoof and Ocellus all surround Dash, who tosses a buckball between her hooves.

147 RAINBOW DASH
I don't know what everypony's so upset about.

The students just stare at her.

148 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
So it wasn't great. Cheerleading's never great. That's why everypony gets up to get a snack during it.

Before Dash can finish, Yona bursts into tears and runs from the room. Dash looks after her, confused.

149 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
What is the big deal?

150 SWIFT MANE
If you don't know, there's no point in us trying to explain it to you.

151 LIGHTHOOF
Lead dancers out!

With that Swift Mane and Lighthoof storm from the room in perfect unison. Dash watches them go, more confused than ever.

152 SMOLDER
It's not that we were bad. It's that you didn't try to help us get better.

153 RAINBOW DASH
Didn't try? What are you talking
about? I got you a party cannon!
It's not my fault you couldn't
figure out how to use it right.

Ocellus turns to Dash, red in the face.

154 OCELLUS
(shouts) WELL MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE
SHOWN US!!

With that, she turns and flies out of the room.

155 RAINBOW DASH
Wow. I bet ponies would care about
the cheers if she yelled them like
that all the time.

156 SMOLDER
Why do you keep saying that?

157 RAINBOW DASH
Saying what?

158 SMOLDER
That nopony cares about Pep Squad.

159 RAINBOW DASH
Because they don't.

160 SMOLDER
No. You don't. (points after the
squad) But they do. I bet Professor
Twilight does. And you know what? I
do too!

Rainbow Dash looks at Smolder, surprised.

161 SMOLDER (CONT'D)
I actually got excited when I found
out you were gonna be our coach. I
figured, if anypony can make Pep
Squad awesome it's you.

162 RAINBOW DASH
Me? Why?

163 SMOLDER
Because everything's always awesome
with you. Or "20% Cooler." Or
whatever. You're the most
enthusiastic pony in Equestria--
when it's something you care about.
(MORE)

SMOLDER (CONT'D)

I just wish we were one of those things.

With that she exits, leaving a guilt-ridden Dash in her wake.

SC. 12 - EST. SCHOOL OF FRIENDSHIP - VARIOUS - NEXT MORNING

In a quick series of shots Dash races around the school...

--INT. DORMS - Ocellus, Yona, and Smolder, still sleeping, are suddenly jarred awake as Dash ZIPS into their room and blows a coach's whistle with an loud <TWEEET!>.

164 RAINBOW DASH

Let's go! Squad meeting. ASAP!

She ZIPS out leaving the students to share confused looks.

--INT. EMPTY CLASSROOM - Lighthoof and Swift Mane, aerobicise when their music suddenly stops with a <RECORD SCRATCH>. They look over to see Dash with her hoof on the phonograph.

165 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

Dance ponies. Buckball field. Pronto!

--EXT. SCHOOL - Snips drags his trunk of souvenirs out the front gates and down the road away from the school when Dash ZIPS into frame. In a cloud of dust, Snips looks around to see his trunk is gone! He looks up to see Dash holding it over her head.

166 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)

Come on! I can't whip this squad into shape without an assistant coach!

With that she races off around the side of the school. Off Snips rushing after...

SC. 13 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY

Rainbow Dash paces back and forth, addressing the squad.

167 RAINBOW DASH

Yesterday, a friend helped me realize something. I might never care about cheerleading...

The squad all roll their eyes and GROAN.

168 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
But I do care about all of you,
which I guess means I care about
Pep Squad.

She turns to Smolder with a smile.

169 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And if there's one thing I know for
sure, it's that I can make anything
I care about pretty awesome.

The squad all look to Dash, hopeful.

170 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
So from now on, I'm gonna give this
thing 120% and I expect the same
from you! (to the dancers) We are
gonna dance. (to Ocellus) We are
gonna cheer. (to Yona) We're gonna
make the biggest pony pyramid
Equestria's ever seen!

Dash flies around in a circle as the squad shares excited
looks.

171 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
And when we're done, we're gonna
make sure everypony on that field
is so amped up, they'll forget they
even came to see a game!

172 SNIPS
Maybe we should just get them
excited to cheer for the game.

173 RAINBOW DASH
Yes! That! We are gonna do that!
Now, who's with me?!!!

Off of the squad's exuberant <CHEER> and Dash's smile...

SC. 14 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY - MONTAGE

In a quick, "Eye of the Tiger" style montage, Dash (in full
coach regalia, whistle, cap, etc.) gets her squad into shape.

1) Dash stands in front of Yona, blasting her whistle. With
each BLAST Yona gives a stomp. PULL WIDE to reveal Yona is
flanked by Lighthoof and Swift Mane who shift from dance move
to dance move--totally in sync with Yona's stomps...

2) Smolder flies through screen from the left, then from the right, then up into frame from the bottom and does a loop and a flip. PAN DOWN to see Dash using semaphore stile flags to direct her flight...

3) Dash puts a hoof on Ocellus' shoulder and takes back the rhyming dictionary. The changeling frowns until Dash holds out a MEGAPHONE. Excited, Ocellus' eyes light up and she takes it--just as she and Dash are covered with a BLAST of confetti. PULL WIDE to see an embarrassed Snips struggling with the party cannon.

Off the whole squad laughing we...

FADE TO:

SC. 15 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - DAY

As CHEERING pony spectators look on, a spirited game of buckball takes place.

CLOSE on a UNICORN with a GLOWING METAL BAND around her horn as she bucks a ball toward... A SECOND UNICORN who has been outfitted with MAGICAL WINGS (like Rarity's butterfly wings from ep. 116). The flying unicorn whips the ball across the field-- but Gallus intercepts it, whipping it back and into the School of Friendship's goal!

As the spectators <CHEER>, we see Twilight and CELESTIA sitting in the stands.

174 PRINCESS CELESTIA
I realize the game of buckball
traditionally requires an earth
pony, a pegasus, and a unicorn, but
I appreciate you allowing my
students to compete.

175 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Of course! And the wings and
magical dampening ring you made
seem to be working really well.

176 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Indeed. Though not as well as your
team. (then, with a sudden,
unexpectedly aggressive cheer) Come
on School of Magic!

Off Twilight's slightly shocked, sideways glance at her former mentor...

ANGLE ON: Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, and Rainbow Dash nervously watching the game from the sidelines, their eyes darting back and forth as they follow the ball around the field.

177 FLUTTERSHY
Oh! This suspense is horrible.
It's the most nervous I've ever
been. And that's saying something.

178 RAINBOW DASH
(Biting her hooves) I know how you
feel.

179 PINKIE PIE
Don't worry! Celestia's team might
be tough, but we can still win this
thing!

180 RAINBOW DASH
What? Oh, yeah. Totally. But I
wasn't talking about the game...

A LOUD BUZZER suddenly sounds and startles Dash out of her skin as she starts to freak out.

181 ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
*And that's the end of the first
half!*

182 RAINBOW DASH
<AGHHHH> Okay! Here we go! Come on,
come on, come on...

183 PINKIE PIE
Gee-whiz, Rainbow Dash, it's just
half-time.

184 RAINBOW DASH
Sorry! Can't talk right now!

With that she flies off to get a better view of the field.
Fluttershy turns to Pinkie.

185 FLUTTERSHY
Do you think Dash being nervous is
a good thing?

186 PINKIE PIE
Let's hope so.

Silence stretches out across the field for an endless moment.

Then MUSIC (think: Europe's "The Final Countdown") begins to
play as the PEP SQUAD takes the field!

First: Yona gets the attention of the crowd by STOMPING her way to center field in perfect time to the beat.

Then: Swift Mane and Lighthoof follow, hop-scotch/dancing as they make their way to mid-field. The crowd starts to clap along.

187 SWIFT MANE
(chanting) *Over, and over, and over
again...*

188 LIGHTHOOF
*We'll cheer for our team till the
very end.*

Then: The crowd looks up, amazed as Smolder does a flyby over the stands, dropping streamers along the way and laying a line of SMOKE through which...

Ocellus comes cartwheeling onto the field! Bold, energized, finally the yell leader of her dreams, she raises her megaphone, her voice and confidence amplified tenfold.

189 OCELLUS
*Everypony in the crowd, if you're
feeling hip / When I say "Friend,"
you say "Ship!" Friend!*

190 CROWD
Ship!

191 OCELLUS
Friend!

192 CROWD
Ship!

As the crowd continues a steady chant of "Friendship! Friendship!" Ocellus continues her cheer, Yona stomping along, the dance ponies freestyling in sync, and Smolder circling overhead.

193 OCELLUS
*Welcome everypony to the halftime
show / We're the Friendship Squad
and we're ready to go...*

Lighthoof and Swift Mane break off and return, pushing hay bales in on either side of Yona. As Ocellus keeps going, they *
cartwheel onto the bales, then hop onto Yona's shoulders
joining hooves.

194 OCELLUS (CONT'D)
*We're here to cheer and get you all
excited / And if you'd like to join
in then you're all invited--*

Ocellus flies up as she continues...

195 OCELLUS (CONT'D)
*It's a simple cheer, so don't chime
in late...*

She lands on the dance ponies forming the last part of a inverted pyramid.

196 WHOLE PEP SQUAD
It goes 2 - 4 - 6 - Great!

Just as the squad shouts the final word, Smolder flies directly over them, wings fully extended, and blasts A BALL OF DRAGON FIRE!

And the crowd loses it's mind!! Everypony is overwhelmed with excitement!!

ANGLE ON: Pinkie and Fluttershy staring in utter shock. Dash comes zooming in behind them, nearly bursting but trying to play it cool.

197 RAINBOW DASH
Not bad, right?

198 FLUTTERSHY / PINKIE
They - were - awesome!

Rainbow Dash smiles, beside herself with pride.

199 RAINBOW DASH
Well, they have a pretty decent
coach.

*

SMASH CUT TO:

SC. 16 - EXT. BUCKBALL FIELD - LATER

CLOSE ON a buckball flying into a basket as THE FINAL BUZZER sounds! PULL WIDE to see the unicorns of the School of Magic jumping and flipping as they celebrate off the field.

*

200 ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
*And that's the game. School of
Magic 5, School of Friendship 4!*

ANGLE ON: Pinkie and Fluttershy consoling their team as they make their way off the field.

201 FLUTTERSHY
Nice work everyone. You can't win
them all.

202 PINKIE PIE
Sometimes that's just how the
cupcake crumbles.

The team SIGHS as Rainbow Dash comes soaring in - overflowing
with enthusiasm!

203 RAINBOW DASH
You guys were amazing!

Pinkie, Fluttershy and the team all look up confused, but
Dash flies right past them and over to her Pep Squad.

204 RAINBOW DASH (CONT'D)
It was flawless! I can't think of
any way that could've gone better!

205 SMOLDER
We could have won the game.

206 RAINBOW DASH
Pfft! The game was just a sideshow.
You guys were the main event!

207 PRINCESS CELESTIA (O.S.)
I'm glad to see such good
sportsponyship on display. Your pep
squad was an inspiration.

Dash whips around to see Twilight and Celestia walking up.
Dash smiles.

208 RAINBOW DASH
Don't I know it.

209 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
Wow, it's almost like you were the
perfect pony to coach Pep Squad
after all!

Dash gives Twilight a side-eye.

210 RAINBOW DASH
You know, you might have just
explained why from the beginning.

211 SMOLDER
(agreeing) It kinda would have
saved us all a lot of trouble.

Twilight blushes as they all give her a look. She turns to Dash, sheepish.

212 TWILIGHT SPARKLE
But then you wouldn't have had the
chance to learn such a valuable
friendship lesson?

Celestia looks down at Twilight and cocks an eyebrow.

*

213 PRINCESS CELESTIA
Honestly, Twilight, having ponies
realize the lesson they are
learning while they learn it is my
thing.

Off Twilight's slightly embarrassed look, everypony laughs as we...

FADE OUT

END