

Matzo-Ballers

by

Adam Herschman

Adam Herschman
836 S. Bedford St. #100
Los Angeles, CA 90035
310-659-0300

FADE IN:

EXT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

SUPER: Highland Park, Chicago, January 1990.

Snow falls on parking lot cars. Sounds of a BASKETBALL BOUNCING, SWEAT DRIPPING and HEARTS BEATING echoes.

CLOSE-UP of announcement board: "6th Grade Championship - Talmud Torah vs. Beth El".

CUT TO:

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

MR. KAPLAN, late 30s, sweats through his "TALMUD TORAH BASKETBALL" hat and giant spectacles.

MR. KAPLAN

Listen up! You're one basket away from being the best sixth grade Jewish basketball team in Highland Park.

Talmud torah teammates, YOUNG ABE KAPLAN, YOUNG JAY GOODMAN, YOUNG ALAN SEGAL and YOUNG LARRY FELDMAN, realize the seriousness of the moment. The scoreboard reads Beth El 28, Talmud Torah 27, with 14 seconds left.

MR. KAPLAN (CONT'D)

And with all your Bar-Mitzvah's fast approaching, if you win this, you'll get more poon then Gene Simmons at a Kiss concert. Now, let's run "Play 1". It's been our bread and butter all year.

YOUNG ABE KAPLAN

It's our only play, dad.

MR. KAPLAN

Shut up son. Just inbound the ball to Alan or Larry. Then look for Jay on the wing for the winning shot. Got it?

YOUNG MOSES EPSTEIN

What should I do Mr. Kaplan?

YOUNG MOSES EPSTEIN, a gutsy kid with a Jew-fro, is the smallest kid on the team.

MR. KAPLAN

(annoyed)

Okay, Moses, you're the most important player on this one because you're the decoy. Keep your man away from the play.

YOUNG MOSES EPSTEIN

Yeah, but coach I've been open all game. I'm clutch city. I'll make it.

MR. KAPLAN

Jesus Christ Epstein! You haven't scored in a game all year.

YOUNG ALAN SEGAL

Or practice.

MR. KAPLAN

Or practice. Just stay far away. Go to Cleveland if you have to. Now, here we go! Let's make history.

BARRY EPSTEIN, one of the few spectators, gives his son a thumbs up as the teams take the floor. He has a PHOTO PIN of his son on his jacket.

The Ref blows his WHISTLE. Abe struggles to inbound the ball, as the Beth El team presses Talmud Torah. Left unguarded, Moses runs down the court.

YOUNG MOSES EPSTEIN

Abe! Abe! I'm open!

Abe looks at his father, and decides to go against his wishes. He throws a baseball pass to Moses.

MR. KAPLAN

Oh crap.

BARRY EPSTEIN

C'mon Moses...

Moses catches it and dribbles down the court.

MR. KAPLAN

Pass it!

Moses looks at his coach and keeps dribbling.

MR. KAPLAN (CONT'D)

Pass the damn ball, Epstein!!!

YOUNG ABE KAPLAN
I'm open!

YOUNG JAY GOODMAN
Pass it!

MOSES
(to himself)
This is going in.

With the clock winding down, Moses shoots but YOUNG ISAAC RUBINOWITZ of Beth El blocks his shot at the buzzer.

FREEZE FRAME of Isaac blocking Moses.

MR. KAPLAN (V.O.)
Moses! Moses!

FADE OUT:

INT. KAPLAN'S DELI - PRESENT DAY

REVEAL black and white framed PHOTO of Isaac blocking Moses. The caption underneath photo reads, ISAAC "JEWISH JORDAN" RUBINOWITZ.

MR. KAPLAN (O.S.)
Moses...

MOSES EPSTEIN, now 25, still short and sporting a Jew-Fro, vigorously tries to rip the photo off the wall.

MR. KAPLAN (CONT'D)
Let go! It's bolted.

Mr. Kaplan, now in his 50s, balder and heavier, but wearing the same glasses he wore in 1990, hands a woman a grocery bag of food.

MR. KAPLAN (CONT'D)
Would you like anything else Mrs. Kline?

She looks in the deli freezer.

MRS. DINNERSTEIN
(quietly)
Yeah, I want some tongue.

MR. KAPLAN
(quietly)
Not here baby...seven o'clock, Motel Six.

MOSES

Isn't time you take this photo down?

Rubinowitz's photo hangs on the "Kaplan Deli Wall-of-Fame" (in lights), dedicated to other Jewish sports legends like Sandy Koufax, Dolph Schayes, Shawn Green...

MR. KAPLAN

No! Isaac Rubinowitz is the greatest player to ever come out of Highland Park. He's a living legend! And we would've beat him, if you passed the damn ball.

MOSES

Yeah, yeah. Can I just get a corn beef sandwich please. Sliced thin, on rye. Pickles. And thousand island.

MR. KAPLAN

Would you like me to throw in a jump shot with that or cole slaw?

MOSES

Cole slaw's fine. Is Abe working today?

MR. KAPLAN

Yeah, it's his punishment for passing you the ball. I don't know why you two still play. Your punishing yourselves. You'll never win the JCC Championship--

The deli door opens and three tough looking Jews enter wearing cheesy, black satin jackets that say "DREIDELS".

MR. KAPLAN (CONT'D)

...as long as the *these* guys are playing. Abe, Moses owes ten dollars.

ABE KAPLAN, now 25, semi-nerdy, limps over to Moses.

MR. KAPLAN (CONT'D)

Gentlemen, what can I get ya?

Mr. Kaplan helps the Dreidels. Moses pays Abe.

MOSES

God damn Dreidels.

ABE

Cool jackets. So are you going to services this week?

MOSES

For what?

ABE

Rosh Hashanah!

MOSES

Rosh Hashanah?

ABE

The Jewish New Year. Moses, how could you not know when Rosh Hashanah is?

MOSES

More importantly how come you're limping?

ABE

I slipped on a pile of gefilte fish.

MOSES

Smear some BenGay on it. We need you healthy this season.

ABE

I'll be ready.

The Dreidels talk it up with Mr. Kaplan.

MOSES

Why does your dad like those assholes?

ABE

He loves winners.

ROSENBERG (V.O.)

Well, well, well, if it isn't Moses Epstein. I mean Loserstein.

GABE ROSENBERG, mid-thirties, dark curly hair plugs and he wears the tightest shorts in the league...every day.

MOSES

Nice shorts, Rosenberg.

ROSENBERG

Old Navy, on sale. So Epstein, since we beat you in the finals last year-

COHEN

Again!

The Dreidels laugh.

ROSENBERG
Good call, Cohen.

COHEN
I got your back, Rosey.

MICHAEL COHEN hi-fives Rosenberg. Cohen is in his early 40s, fat, hairy, wears a high-tech knee brace on his left leg and a gold Star of David in his left ear.

ROSENBERG
With the season around the corner "The Dreidels" want to know if you're down?

MOSES
Like Snoop Dogg and Warren G down?

ROSENBERG
Who? Steckman, what's he talking about?

Dreidels player, DENNIS STECKMAN, mid-thirties, short, bad toupee, whispers to Rosenberg.

ROSENBERG (CONT'D)
No. That's not what I mean. I listen to Motley Crue! Rock and roll, sucker! Now just answer the question. Are you down?

STECKMAN
Yeah, are you down?

Abe nods to Moses, "like yeah, we're down".

MOSES
Yeah, I'm down.

ROSENBERG
That's right you're down! As in, you're GOING down! Down, down to Dreidel Town!

COHEN
You're going down, bitches!

STECKMAN
Pussies!

Rosenberg, Steckman, Cohen laugh and hi-five. Kelly Clarkson's, "Behind these hazel eyes" ringtone blasts.

ROSENBERG
Hang on.

Rosenberg answers it. He wears his BLUE TOOTH earpiece at all times, even during games.

ROSENBERG (CONT'D)
What's up, mom?

MR.KAPLAN
Here's your sandwiches, on the house.

MOSES
On the house?

ABE
Winners.

ROSENBERG
Thanks Mr. Kaplan. Peace out.

They spin in unison.

ROSENBERG (CONT'D)
Dreidel style!

The Dreidels leave.

ABE
I hate those guys.

MOSES
That's why we gotta win it all this year.

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM - NIGHT

QUICK CUTS, FREEZE FRAMES, EDGY GRAPHICS introduce the Highland Park Matzo-Ballers team during practice (ala the movie *Snatch* opening).

First, Moses misses a three foot shot. His Jewish star necklace hangs outside his jersey.

SUPER: "Moses Epstein - 5'6'' power forward"

ALAN SEGAL, now 25, balding with curly hair, average build, shoots a 25-foot shot...

SEGAL
Good!

...the ball flies over the basket.

SUPER: "Alan Segal - 5'7'' shooting guard"

Kaplan wearing protective gear, knee-braces, elbow pads, mouth-guard and goggles, jumps for a rebound but turns his ankle. He holds his ankle in pain--

ABE

Awwwww!

SUPER: "Abe Kaplan - 5'8'' point guard."

JAY GOODMAN, now 25, married, and the best player on the team, makes a basket while talking on his cell phone.

SUPER "Jay Goodman - 5'11'' small forward."

Finally, LARRY FELDMAN, now 27, sloppy, overweight, sporting Rex-Spex athletic goggles and a goatee, takes a variety of hook shots and trick shots.

SUPER "Larry Feldman - 5'7'' center." SEQUENCE ENDS.

JAY

Dammit Feldman! Can't you work on rebounding and defense for once?

FELDMAN

Hell, no! Rebounding and defense don't get you laid. The ladies want someone who can score.

WHISTLE blows. MONTAGE ends.

MOSES

Hold your balls.

Everyone stops shooting and holds their basketballs. Moses has a whistle around his neck.

MOSES (CONT'D)

We have a lot to practice before the first game of the season. I'm installing a new offense. It's top-secret.

JAY

The triangle?

MOSES

No. The pentagon. Now, let's get to work. Larry, what on earth are you doing?

FELDMAN

Holding my balls, coach.

Segal laughs.

SEGAL

Good one Feldman. You're so literal.

FELDMAN

Don't hate the player, hate the game.

Segal and Feldman hi-five.

SEGAL

Holla.

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER HALLWAY - 26 MINUTES LATER

A ball rolls down the hallway. Moses, sweating profusely, chases after it.

SARAH (O.C.)

Moses Epstein?

SARAH HOFFMAN, a beautiful, dark-haired girl, picks up the ball. Moses is shocked to see her.

MOSES

Sarah? Sarah Hoffman? What are you doing here? I thought you lived in Seattle.

SARAH

Not anymore. I just moved back last week. I got this cool job running the JCC after school programs.

MOSES

That's so cool you work here, because I play with my balls here.

Sarah looks at him funny.

MOSES (CONT'D)

I mean I play ball here. Basketball. I'm a good dribbler.

Moses can't help but be in awe of her.

SARAH

I hear the JCC's pretty competitive. So what have you been up to?

MOSES

I'm in the music business now.

SARAH

Really?

MOSES

Yeah, I got my own company. We're growing pretty fast. Bought a camel. Some gum.

SARAH

You look the same. Jew-Fro and all.

MOSES

What?

SARAH

I mean you haven't changed. I still remember studying for that chemistry test with you. You're mom made us cookies. You ate all of them.

MOSES

Sorry. I didn't have lunch that day.

SARAH

I thought you were going to ask me to prom that night.

MOSES

You did?

SARAH

Yeah. I thought that it was so cool you lived in your parents basement.

MOSES

(laughs, then)

Listen, since you work here maybe you can come to our first game Wednesday night.

SARAH

Yeah, maybe. Good to see you Moses.

She hands him the ball. He dribbles down the hall.

MOSES

(smiles)

See you later. Wednesday, maybe.

Moses tries to impress her with his vertical by jumping to hit the "EXIT" sign...which he hits too hard and breaks! The sign hangs by a few wires...SPARKS fly!

INT. EPSTEIN'S KITCHEN - DAY

BARRY EPSTEIN, 53, curly hair, glasses, dorky, hovers over a plate of lox.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Is lox considered sushi?

SHEILA EPSTEIN, 51, overprotective Jewish mother with braces, gets brunch ready.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Don't know. Brunch is ready. Where's Mo?

BARRY EPSTEIN
Home. I'll call him, see if he's coming.

Barry walks by the phone. Opens a door, yells downstairs.

BARRY EPSTEIN (CONT'D)
Dinner!

INT. EPSTEIN'S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

In the dark, silence of his parents basement, Moses watches grainy, video of last year's championship game. He still lives in his parents basement.

MOSES
Coming!

INT. EPSTEIN'S DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Moses walks in, grabs some lox, and starts eating.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Barry I got a call from Dr. Goldfarb's office. They said he's moving to Florida.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Good. He overcharged me \$46 for bifocals.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
I have to find you a new optometrist. Moses, what about going back to school and becoming an optometrist?

MOSES
Mom, I'm not going to be a doctor. I have my own business.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Moses, guess who I bumped into today.

MOSES
Who?

BARRY EPSTEIN
Isaac Rubinowitz.

Moses stops eating.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
The Jewish Jordan?

BARRY EPSTEIN
Yeah. He remembered who I was. Can you believe that. Kid's got a firm handshake.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
What a mensch. I hear he's a very successful stockbroker in New York.

MOSES
He's a thief. I heard he was the reason Frito Lay went bankrupt.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Frito Lay isn't bankrupt.

MOSES
Not yet. Did he say why he was here?

BARRY EPSTEIN
I didn't have a chance to ask him. My back went out. Damn that Murray Fisher! I should have never let him talk me into going to that bull-riding camp.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
He's probably in town for the Jewish Holidays. Which by the way Moses, you are going to services this year.

Moses shakes his head.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Didn't Isaac used to date your friend, what's her name? Sarah something.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Sarah Hoffman! Isaac took her to prom after your son chickened out. Poor Moses was so depressed after that. Remember that Barry?

BARRY EPSTEIN
No. Pass the cream cheese.

MOSES
Speaking of Sarah, I saw her today.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Really?

MOSES
Yeah. She moved back to town and she's
working at the JCC.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
You know if you had a good job like
Isaac, you could take her on a date to
one of those fancy downtown restaurants.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Sheila, leave the boy alone!

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Barry don't start. It's time he grows up!
He has no future.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Honey, what are you talking about? He's
got a great job!

CUT TO:

INT. RAMADA BALLROOM - NIGHT

Fog fills the dancefloor as an audience looks on with
anticipation. "Sammy's Bar-Mitzvah" banner hangs above.

MOSES (O.S.)
He's Captainnnn! Bar-Mitzzz-vahhh! He's
Captainnnn! Bar-Mitzzz-vahhh!

The crowd joins in the chant, "He's Captain Bar-Mitzvah".

Moses walks through the fog, super-hero like in zebra
tights and a cape. "It takes two" kicks in. Moses busts
into a crazy dancing routine. The crowd goes nuts.

He ends the routine in the splits, ripping his tights,
then winces, and rolls over holding his crotch in pain.

EXT. TEMPLE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP of marquis - "Celebrate Rosh Hashanah at Temple
Shalom. Happy New Year."

INT. TEMPLE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE - CONTINUOUS

RABBI SINGER, balding, glasses, leads the sermon.

RABBI SINGER
...which brings me to my favorite part of
Rosh Hashanah. The blowing of the shofar.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
I could listen to Rabbi Singer talk
forever. He's so genuine and insightful.

Moses is not focused on the Rabbi. Instead, Moses gazes
across the pews at the beautiful Sarah Hoffman who sits
with her family. She gives him a smile.

RABBI SINGER
And here to blow the shofar tonight, a
graduate of Harvard Business school, who
decided to give up Wall Street in order
to move back and run Greenberg, Greenberg
and Greenstein. The greatest basketball
player in Highland Park history.

Moses eyes widen.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
Temple Shalom please welcome home, Isaac
Rubinowitz.

ISAAC RUBINOWITZ AKA "The JEWISH JORDAN" walks out from
behind the beama holding a shofar. He's tall, good
looking, wears a yamulke.

MR. KAPLAN
(amazed)
It's the Jewish Jordan.

He winks at a pretty girl.

GIRL
I love you!

MR. KAPLAN
Welcome back!

The temple is elated with his return except for...

ABE
No way.

MOSES

No fucking way.

The Jewish Jordan raises the shofar toward the sky. He bends his knees and blows it perfectly.

EXT. TEMPLE SHALOM PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Moses listens to his parents talk to another couple.

SHEILA EPSTEIN

I didn't know he could blow the shofar.

MOSES

I'll be right back.

Moses walks around the corner to get away from the buzz.

MOSES (CONT'D)

He can blow a shofar, so what? I used to play "Hot Cross Buns" on the recorder.

VOICE (O.S.)

Moses Epstein, right?

MOSES

Yeah.

Moses looks up and sees the Jewish Jordan. He takes a drag from his cigarette and blows it in Moses's face.

JEWISH JORDAN

Sorry I was a dick to you in high school.
Still living with your parents?

MOSES

Good one.

JEWISH JORDAN

Still scared of girls?

MOSES

Just the ones that are real "Goth". You know the ones with the black eye makeup.

LOU RUTMAN, 59, white hair, groggy voice, passes by.

RUTMAN

Welcome back Isaac!

Jewish Jordan hides his cigarette.

JEWISH JORDAN

Thanks, Mr Rutman. Good to be home.

RUTMAN

How's the jumper?

JEWISH JORDAN

I haven't played in awhile. Working a lot. Good to see you.

RUTMAN

You too. Take care.

Rutman leaves. Jewish Jordan takes a puff.

JEWISH JORDAN

What a fag. So Rosenberg told me you've never won the JCC.

MOSES

You talk to Rosenberg?

JEWISH JORDAN

Yeah. He's one of my best friends.

MOSES

Well, we're going to win it all.

JEWISH JORDAN

Look at that ass. I'd like to wear that as a yamulke.

He waves to JACKIE RUTMAN, Lou Rutman's hot daughter.

MOSES

That's Lou Rutman's daughter.

JEWISH JORDAN

I know. If she's as freaky as her mom, it's all good. Three-some!

REVEAL Mrs. Rutman, a MILF, also waving to the Jewish Jordan. He takes another drag, then sticks out his tongue and motions "eating out". Moses sees his crude side.

JEWISH JORDAN (CONT'D)

It may be Rosh Hashanah out here, but it's Tu B'Shevat in my pants. So you think you're gonna win it this year?

MOSES

That's right.

JEWISH JORDAN

Well, I don't think so. I joined the Dreidels. Late.

He flicks his cigarette at Moses' feet and walks over to an elderly lady struggling to walk.

JEWISH JORDAN (CONT'D)

Hi Mrs. Werner. May I help a pretty, young lady like you cross the street?

Moses watches them cross the street. Jewish Jordan looks back at winks at Moses.

MOSES

This is war.

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

The Dreidels, wearing pro-style warm-ups, run into the gym to Technotronic's "Pump up the Jam". The Jewish Jordan runs in last to the roar of the crowd.

FELDMAN

He's bad-ass.

SEGAL

So are those jackets.

ABE

That's what I said. We need jackets.

MOSES

Shut up!

REVEAL name on jersey of Moses' team - The MATZO-BALLERS!

They watch in awe as the Dreidels run the backboard-drill. Jewish Jordan catches the last ball and scores.

The Dreidels even have their own mascot: a Dreidel.

The DOCTOR, JCC League Commissioner, and total stoner, taps Moses on the shoulder. He wears blue scrubs and a hat that says "The Commish".

DOCTOR

Epstein, there's rumors guys are doping.

MOSES

At the JCC?

DOCTOR

Yeah, man.

CLOSE-UP of Dreidel Gabe Rosenberg hitting himself in the face. Rosenberg smiles at them. He has a mouth-guard with "R.I.P." written on it in black marker.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I'm not taking any chances of foul play.
Fred's administering random drug tests.

FRED, the nerdy JCC score-keeper, combs his hair. Doctor and Fred sit together at the scoretable during JCC games.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

So tell your team. And stay away from the
juice. And I'm not talking about
Manishevitz grape.

HORN sounds. Teams meet at center court with hard looks and taunts. Moses notices Sarah in the crowd and waves.

JEWISH JORDAN

Who's that?

MOSES

Sarah.

JEWISH JORDAN

Don't know her.

MOSES

Don't know her? You took her to prom.
It's Sarah Hoffman.

JEWISH JORDAN

That's Sarah Hoffman? She's hotter than I
remember. Probably because I only
remember the top of her head, if you know
what I mean.

Devastated, Moses is paralyzed by the thought. Dreidels win the tip-off and the Jewish Jordan scores.

With the Jewish Jordan's brilliant play and Rosenberg's physical presence, the Dreidels win in a blowout 57-14.

After the game, Steckman and Rosenberg approach Moses.

ROSENBERG

Moses, you almost had a double-double.

STECKMAN
Fouls and turnovers!

Moses goes after Steckman, but he's held back by Feldman.

FELDMAN
It's not worth it, man. Save it for the
playoffs.

MOSES
Up yours Steckman! You've been riding the
Jewish Jordan's jockstrap since high
school.

The Jewish Jordan signs autographs for little kids.

STECKMAN
Bullshit! We bring the heat.

ROSENBERG
Yeah. The scoreboard doesn't lie.

Rosenberg starts flapping his arms and bobbing his head.

STECKMAN
Hey Moses, is that a chicken over there?

MOSES
Where?

ROSENBERG
(squawks)
Score-board!

STECKMAN
Is that thing laying eggs over there?

ROSENBERG
(squawks)
Score-board!

Steckman joins Rosenberg in the chicken dance.

STECKMAN
(squawks)
Scoreboard!

MOSES
Screw you. Blow Steckman. And titty-
finger the Dreidels.

Moses checks the scoreboard 57-14. He walks away pissed.

ROSENBERG AND STECKMAN
(squawks)
Score-board!

EXT. ED'S PANCAKE HOUSE - LATER

Establishing shot of the diner.

INT. ED'S PANCAKE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The mood at the table is somber. DEBBIE, the homely waitress, sets down soup for everyone.

DEBBIE
Five matzo-ball soups.

Feldman stares at her legs when she walks away.

MOSES
I'm not hungry.

JAY
Me either. That game sucked.

FELDMAN
God, I'd like to make intercourse to her.

SEGAL
Make intercourse? Are you a sixth grade sex-ed teacher? Waitress is butt dude. I wouldn't touch her with Kaplan's dick.

ABE
Thanks, bro.

FELDMAN
Are you kidding? I'd do her so fast it would make your head spin.

SEGAL
My head spin? What planet are you from?

JAY
You need to get laid, man.

SEGAL
Burn! Jay's married and he dissed you.

FELDMAN
It's a weird phenomenon, but chicks don't like me. I think J-Date's my only hope.

SEGAL
(upset)
J-Date?

FELDMAN
Or E-Harmony. They match you based on 29
levels of compatibility.

SEGAL
Jesus, Feldman! Look how far you've
fallen!

FELDMAN
Did you just call me Jesus Feldman?

SEGAL
No, I said. Jesus, Feldman, look how far--

ABE
Hey, there's the Jewish Jordan.

Jewish Jordan and Rosenberg sit down next two hot chicks.

SEGAL
He's the perfect Jew. He's smart, on-
time, can dribble with his left hand.

JAY
We're never gonna beat the Dreidels with
the Jewish Jordan on their team.

FELDMAN
Just once, I'd like to win the JCC.

ABE
Me too!

JAY
We need Phil Jackson.

SEGAL
Hey, my grandpa can coach us.

ABE
Dick Cooperman?

SEGAL
He's a JCC legend.

FELDMAN
He's gay, Segal. Really, really, gay.

SEGAL

He got lonely after Bubby died.

ABE

Forget it. Moses is our coach. What should we do, coach?

MOSES

He said she went down on him.

ABE

Who?

MOSES

The Jewish Jordan.

SEGAL

The Jewish Jordan went down on him?

FELDMAN

Yeah, like your grandpa.

MOSES

No, the Jewish Jordan said Sarah performed orally for him. How could she stoop so low.

ABE

Guess there's only one thing you can do.

MOSES

What's that?

ABE

Win the whole fucking thing.

The team nods in agreement.

EXT. FOSTER PARK (SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO) - DAY

A chain link fence encompasses a concrete basketball court with chain nets. A game ends on a made basket. Moses and his crew walk through the chain link door.

MOSES

The only way to get better is to practice against better competition. We got next!

The game stops abruptly, all the playground ballers stare in disbelief at the only white guys around.

MOSES (CONT'D)

Sup dawg?

EXT. GHETTO PLAYGROUND - MOMENTS LATER

Moses and his teammates wait to play next to BERNARD and BOOTSY. They're both tall and muscular, tatooed ballers.

MOSES

So where you from?

BERNARD

The projects.

GUNSHOT goes off in the distance, Moses jumps.

VOICE (O.C.)

Yo, White Chocolate...you're up.

Moses looks at five, tall, in shape, African Americans who are waiting to play them.

MOSES

(to his teammates)

Their legs gotta be tired. They've been balling all day. We can beat these guys.

CUT TO:

GAME - MOMENTS LATER

"Apache" by the Sugar Hill Gang starts this MONTAGE. On the first play, the other team scores on an alley-oop dunk. Eight more blocks and dunks by this team follow in rapid succession. They lead 9-0.

Finally Moses gets the ball...but the guy guarding him, JULIUS RICHARDSON, steals it.

MOSES

Shit!

Julius, 6-foot-3, toothpick skinny, corn-rows, mack daddy cool, takes it the length of the floor, cocks the ball behind his head, and slams it through the hoop!

MOSES (CONT'D)

Sweet Jesus.

Julius smiles showcasing his gold teeth.

MOSES (CONT'D)

We gotta score here or we get skunked.

They pass it around. Moses shoots, but this time it's blocked by Julius knocking Moses down. Bootsy grabs the ball and dunks it for the final score 11-0.

BOOTSY

Game.

But Julius can't take his eyes off the Star of David hanging around Moses's neck.

JAY

I'm outta here.

SEGAL

Me too.

Jay, Segal, Abe and Feldman walk off the court.

Moses lays on the ground looking at the sky when Julius approaches.

JULIUS

Yo, I couldn't help but notice your Jewish Star.

MOSES

Here! Take it!

Moses starts to take off his necklace.

JULIUS

What? No, I don't want it. I just...my name's Julius.

Julius helps Moses up.

MOSES

Like Julius Erving?

JULIUS

Yeah.

MOSES

Holy shit! My name's Moses. Moses Epstein. Like Moses Malone, Dr. J's teammate on the '83 Championship team.

JULIUS

Do you know a Rachel Birnbaum by chance?

MOSES

Club foot, hair-lip, leg braces.

JULIUS

That's my girlfriend, dawg.

MOSES

And one heck of a personality.

JULIUS

I want to propose to her. But she won't marry anyone who ain't Jewish.

MOSES

Uh-huh. Listen, I gotta catch up with my friends, but it was nice to meet you.

Moses walks away.

JULIUS

Wait! What I'm trying to say is I want to convert to Judaism but I don't know any Jews besides Rachel. And I wanted to surprise her. Can you help me?

MOSES

Me?

JULIUS

I believe in fate. And seeing your Jewish Star is like a sign telling me do it. C'mon dawg haven't you ever been in love?

Moses thinks about Sarah.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

I'll do anything.

MOSES

Anything?

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM - NIGHT

The Matzo-Ballers practice.

JAY

Where's our uniforms?

ABE

Dry cleaners.

Moses walks in with Julius.

SEGAL

What the--

ABE

Holy shit?

FELDMAN

Scottie Pippin?

Julius struts in wearing Sean John and diamond studs.

MOSES

Gentleman, I'd like you to meet our new teammate Julius Richardson.

The team's speechless. Julius looks at Abe's jersey.

JULIUS

Matzo-Ballers, huh?

MOSES

Five-time JCC runner-up.

JULIUS

Never won the big one, huh?

MOSES

Not yet.

JULIUS

Now you will.

Julius dribbles between his legs, behind his back...

ABE

Is he any good?

He knocks down shot after shot. The team is in awe.

FELDMAN

Can you dunk it?

Julius takes off...

SEGAL

He's got handles, but is he Jewish?

Julius throws down a windmill slam dunk!

MOSES

He'll be Jewish by playoffs.

INT. K.CROSBY'S DANCEWEAR AND STUDIO - DAY

Moses walks out of the dressing room wearing silver
tights with yellow lightning bolts and a matching top.

SALESMAN

Those look nice.

MOSES

Thanks, my other pair ripped. But I'm
looking for something with a bigger
lightening bolt. I got a gig coming up.

Sarah walks in, but Moses doesn't see her.

SALESMAN

I'll check.

MOSES

And I'm gonna need double stitching in
the rear. And crotch!

Sarah hears this and notices Moses, tights and all.

SARAH

Nice outfit. What's the occasion?

MOSES

Bar Mitzvah.

(fishing)

How did you like the game?

SARAH

Umm...I thought you were good.

MOSES

Oh, like you really came to see me.

SARAH

What do you mean?

MOSES

A couple of the guys in the locker room
said the Jewish Jordan has a third leg.
What have you heard?

SARAH

About what?

MOSES

About why they call him baby's arm.

SARAH

Huh?

MOSES

Just curious, do you know if he wears boxers or briefs?

SARAH

What's wrong with you, Moses?

Moses adjusts his crotch.

MOSES

Nothing. I just thought I should tell you I know for a fact that he hates puppies, ice cream and kids. I love kids--

SARAH

You like kids? I'm directing a play about Yom Kippur. You should come.

MOSES

Cool. I would love to.

INT. RABBINICAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

SECRETARY, forties, wears a "Crazy Horse" sweater, draws a picture of a dreidel with a smiley face.

Moses and Julius, wearing suits, sit in the waiting area. Moses picks up a "Jewish World" and hands it to Julius.

MOSES

That's him.

Julius looks at the PHOTO of the Jewish Jordan under the heading "The Jewish Jordan is back".

MOSES (CONT'D)

Three-time All-State and honorary member of the JCC All-Century team.

JULIUS

Damn.

MOSES

He's the greatest Jewish Basketball player since Ernie Grunfeld.

JULIUS

Who?

SECRETARY

Rabbi Singer will see you now.

INT. RABBI SINGER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

RABBI HOWIE SINGER, early 40s, balding, glasses, welcomes Moses and Julius.

RABBI SINGER

Hello, I'm Rabbi Singer.

JULIUS

Julius Richardson. Nice to meet you.

They shake hands.

RABBI SINGER

You know, Moses was the worst Hebrew school student in Temple Shalom history. He lipsynched his entire Bar Mitzvah.

MOSES

I was nervous.

RABBI SINGER

Now, what can I help you with?

Rabbi Singer sips coffee from his "Temple Shalom" mug.

JULIUS

I want to convert to Judaism. And Moses said this is the place to do it.

RABBI SINGER

Now, that's a serious commitment. Why is that important to you?

JULIUS

I'm in love.

RABBI SINGER

Love. That's a good reason. But being Jewish is more than about being in love.

MOSES

(sarcastic)

It's about guilt, fatty foods, and a terrible athletic gene pool.

RABBI SINGER

He's kidding. Why don't you stop by the Intro to Judaism class Thursday and we'll go from there.

JULIUS

Great.

RABBI SINGER

I'm the teacher, and just to let you know we do have a growing population of African Americans at Temple Shalom.

JULIUS

Is that right?

RABBI SINGER

The Rothstein's adopted an orphan earlier this year. That's his drawing.

Finger painting of an African American kid surrounded by Jewish stars and dreidels. Julius reads the message...

JULIUS

"Shabbat Shalom from Jerome."

RABBI SINGER

So Moses, I heard you had a tough game against the Dreidels.

MOSES

Yeah. But we'll be ready tomorrow for the Kosher Kings.

RABBI SINGER

I'll see you there. It's Jewish Jordan bobblehead night.

MOSES

Huh?

EXT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

The announcement board reads "Jewish Jordan Night: First 25 Fans receive a Jewish Jordan bobblehead."

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Fans play with their bobbleheads.

SEGAL
I don't get the bobblehead craze.

FELDMAN
It's big business.

REVEAL Feldman's bag of bobbleheads.

SEGAL
What the--

FELDMAN
Saul Fishman's paying me thirty bucks a pop. He's got buyers in Tampa.

SAUL FISHMAN, a sleazy guy who shows up randomly at games, takes a swig from a silver flask.

JAY
The Jewish Jordan's not even playing, and he has his own bobblehead night. What kind of morons run this league?

Moses talks privately to the Doctor and Fred.

DOCTOR
So, he'll like be Jewish by playoffs?

MOSES
Yeah.

DOCTOR
Then I don't like see any problem, man. Once he converts, he can play.

MOSES
Great. Thanks.

Moses leaves. Personal checks are spread everywhere.

DOCTOR
Hey man, did Feldman pay?

FRED
Yep.

DOCTOR
What about Segal? He's not marked off.

FRED
He paid cash.

DOCTOR

Oh, right. What did I do with his money?

FRED

Nudey-bar. Two for one dance night.

DOCTOR

Don't worry, man. I'll like get it back.

CUT TO:

GAME - MATZO-BALLERS VS. KOSHER KINGS

The Kings take a big lead as Segal heaves a 25-footer.

SEGAL

Good!

The ball hits Rabbi Singer in the face.

MOSES

Dammit Segal! Stop taking thirty-footers.
Run the offense.

Moses looks up at the scoreboard Kings lead 14-2.

ARNIE RIFKIN, Kings player, guards Feldman.

RIFKIN

Hey Feldman, I heard you're running the
pentagon this season?

FELDMAN

Yeah, so what?

RIFKIN

The Pentagon is for fags.

FELDMAN

So is your mom!

RIFKIN

What?

FELDMAN

Try and stop this move Rifkin! Learned it
at B.J. Armstrong's basketball camp.

Feldman tries to execute a 360-crossover, but it gets
stolen by the Kosher Kings and they score again.

MOSES

Dammit Feldman! Stop dribbling! Defend and rebound. You're our damn center.

Finally Jay scores and gets fouled. As he sizes up his foul shot, everyone starts talking.

ABE

Nice shoes, Rifkin. Those BK's?

Rifkin looks at his British Knights basketball shoes.

RIFKIN

Yeah, got'em on sale at Famous. Hey Moses, is it true you're working Charlie Goldstein's Bar Mitzvah.

MOSES

Yeah, who told you that?

RIFKIN

Dr. Goldfarb.

MOSES

How would he know? He moved to Florida.

Abe takes a puff from his inhaler.

ABE

Hey, isn't Dr. Goldfarb the guy who overcharged your dad \$46 for bifocals?

MOSES

Yep.

Jay stops dribbling and joins the conversation.

JAY

What's the going rate for bifocals these days? My brother needs a pair.

Lou Rutman jumps in. He wears a leg brace and sunglasses.

RUTMAN

I paid \$189 for mine.

SEGAL

You gotta a good guy?

RUTMAN

The best. Dr. Sid Levin outta Evanston.

RAY THE REF, late 40s, balding, noticeable lazy eye, wears two hearing aids, talks with a lisp and slight stutter, blows his WHISTLE.

RAY THE REF
Kingsss ball!

MOSES
What the hell Ray?

RAY THE REF
Your teammate took too long to shoot.
There's a ten second time limit, bub.

MOSES
Bullshit!

Moses kicks the basketball it into the stands.

RAY THE REF
Technical FFF-oul. Number SSS-ix.

FLASH CUTS of the Matzo-Ballers missing more shots and making no look passes that go out of bounds.

Segal gets another open shot...from half court.

SEGAL
Good.

The ball lands caught between the rim and backboard.
Everyone surrounds the hoop, looking up 10-feet high.

JAY
I got it.

Jay jumps but doesn't come close.

RUTMAN
Step back. I'll get it.

Rutman jumps...getting one-inch of air.

ABE
Step aside Lou.

FELDMAN
Kaplan can get it. He's got mad ups.

Abe Kaplan takes a running start, jumps and falls to the ground in pain.

KAPLAN

Owww!

Kaplan rolls on the ground in pain.

JAY

Great. Grant Hill's hurt again.

FELDMAN

I think I heard something pop.

MOSES

I hope it's not his ACL.

SEGAL

Feldman, throw your shoe at it.

Feldman throws his sneaker at the ball. It gets stuck on top of the backboard.

DOCTOR

Concepcion! The ball's stuck! Concepcion!

CONCEPCION (O.S.)

Chinga tu madre.

CONCEPCION, JCC janitor, Latino, 30s, shaved head, struts over as "Cisco Kid" by War plays. He knocks the ball loose with a mop, but can't reach the shoe.

SEGAL

Thanks, Concepcion.

The game continues with Feldman's shoe on the backboard.

JAY

This is going to be a long season.

CLOSE-UP of SCOREBOARD Kings 55, Matzo-Ballers 23.

CUT TO:

AFTER THE GAME - LATER

Moses packs up his gear, dejected from the loss.

FELDMAN

See ya at Ed's.

MOSES
Save me a seat.
(to himself)
We suck.

The Doctor casually hands Rifkin a bag of weed in exchange for cash. Then he walks over to Moses.

THE DOCTOR
Hey Moses.

MOSES
Yeah.

Fred and the Doctor walk up to Moses.

THE DOCTOR
He can play.

MOSES
Who?

THE DOCTOR
Your friend. Next game.

MOSES
Really? I thought you have to be Jewish to play in this league?

THE DOCTOR
I forgot to tell you about this recent rule change. It's like not published yet. But if he's enrolled in conversion classes, he can play.

MOSES
Cool!

THE DOCTOR
I'll just need his dues plus operating costs and penalties for late addition. It's going to be a little more than usual, comprende amigo?

MOSES
Sure. How much?

THE DOCTOR
Forty-one dollars.

FRED
And twelve cents.

INT. ED'S PANCAKE HOUSE - LATER

The Matzo-Ballers mope after the game.

ABE

O and two.

FELDMAN

Nil and dos.

DEBBIE

Here are your free knishes.

SEGAL

What?

DEBBIE

It's a new promotion we have.

She points to the back of the menu.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)

I'll be back to take your order.

SEGAL

(reading the menu)

Follow the Jewish Jordan and enjoy free
Knishes all season long at Ed's. Welcome
back #23.

JEWISH JORDAN (O.S.)

Didn't know you could read Segal.

Jewish Jordan, Rosenberg and Steckman each take a knish.

SEGAL

I can read. Just can't write.

JEWISH JORDAN

Sorry I couldn't make it to my bobblehead
night. I was out with Blair Applebaum.

SEGAL

Thee Blair Applebaum?

JAY

She's hot.

JEWISH JORDAN

Yeah, I tapped that.

FELDMAN

Where?

JEWISH JORDAN

In the ass.

FELDMAN

No I meant, where--

JEWISH JORDAN

In the forest. Who gives a shit. So did you guys win tonight?

FELDMAN

No, we lost.

JEWISH JORDAN

To who?

SEGAL

The Kosher Kings.

The Dreidels laugh.

ROSENBERG

The Kings? Too much Lou Rutman for ya?

FELDMAN

Yeah, he's really improved. He's healthy for the first time in three years, no more diarrhea--

SEGAL

Shut up Feldman.

Three hot girls walk in Ed's.

JEWISH JORDAN

Gotta go, losers. Our dates are here.

Dreidels take the remaining three knishes.

ROSENBERG

Thanks for the knishes, Matzo-Losers!

They leave. Matzo-Ballers are hurt.

JAY

This sucks.

SEGAL

(crying)

Why are they so mean to us?

ABE

Because they know we're not going to make the playoffs.

MOSES (O.S.)

We will with Julius on our team.

Moses stands proudly addressing the troops.

ABE

What are you talking about?

MOSES

The Doctor said he can play next game. Julius is a Matzo-Baller.

They cheer. The Jewish Jordan looks over at the celebration. Matzo-Ballers stop cheering.

SEGAL

Awesome. How did this happen?

MOSES

Don't know. Don't care. But Fred said we should write a thank you note to Peaches at the Shaved Clam.

INT. TEMPLE SHALOM CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julius sits in his first "Introduction to Judaism" class.

RABBI SINGER

Welcome to Intro to Judaism. I'm Rabbi Singer and I have a question.

Rabbi Singer tosses the chalk in the air and catches it.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)

Who is a Jew?

The class shouts out names.

STUDENT 1

Michael Douglas.

STUDENT 2

My accountant.

CHINESE WOMAN

(Chinese accent)

Mike Pearlstein.

RABBI SINGER
Mike Pearlstein? Who's that?

CHINESE WOMAN
My neighbor. He live upstairs.

RABBI SINGER
Okay...but who is a Jew? What makes a person Jewish?

JULIUS
A Jew is one who is born to a Jewish mother or one who converts to Judaism.

RABBI SINGER
Nice work Julius. But what does that mean? Well, one of the responsibilities of becoming a Jew is the idea of making the world a better place. Tikkun Olam.

Rabbi Singer writes "Tikkun Olam" on the chalkboard.

JULIUS
(to himself)
Tikkun Olam.

INT. JCC THEATER - DAY

Moses watches Sarah's students in the play. She smiles and waves to him. He waves back.

Meanwhile, a kid, sitting behind Moses, keeps hitting him in the head with a plastic sword. Moses keeps his cool and takes the punishment. Sarah laughs.

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

Moses and Abe shoot baskets during warmups.

MOSES
I'm in love.

ABE
Does she know that?

MOSES
Not yet.

ABE
Dude, you've liked her since ninth grade. Ask her out already.

MOSES

She's beautiful.

CLOSE-UP of Julius's girlfriend, Rachel Birnbaum's, old yearbook PHOTOS. She has a hair-lip, leg braces, acne...

SEGAL (O.S.)

God, she's ugly.

FELDMAN

I wouldn't change my religion for a girl.

JAY

Feldman, you wouldn't change your underwear for a girl.

FELDMAN

Dude, why are you such a downer lately?

JAY

My wife wants me to quit the team, so I can spend more time with her.

SEGAL

Are you quitting?

JAY

Hell, no. She's not the boss of me.

Jay's cell phone rings.

JAY (CONT'D)

You see I'm not answering it. I'm strong.

The phone rings again, Jay answers it.

JAY (CONT'D)

Hi, honey.

FELDMAN

Put the yearbook away! Here he comes.

IN SUPER SLOW-MO, Julius struts in the gym to Lenny Kravitz's "Straight Cold Playa". Instead of corn rows, his fro is large.

JULIUS

Who we playing?

MOSES

The Menorahs.

JULIUS
Let's light'em up.

Julius dribbles the ball between his legs like a pro.

MOSES
Yo, Abe.

ABE
Yeah.

MOSES
Julius is starting in your place.

ABE
What?

CUT TO:

GAME - MOMENTS LATER

FLASH CUTS of Julius blocking shots, making three's and then going coast to coast and making a reverse layup.

DOCTOR
Holy crapballs. He can really play, man.

MOSES
Way to go J-Rich! Keep firing!

Abe unhappily watches from the bench as Julius lights it up. He dunks it as time runs out! Matzo-Ballers win 46-23. Julius gets mobbed!

SEGAL
That was sick!

ABE
Plain ill.

JAY
You're the first player to ever dunk in this league.

Jay and Julius dap it up.

MOSES
What are you doing for Yom Kippur?

JULIUS
Nada. Rachel's out of town on business.

MOSES

Want to go to services with me?

JULIUS

Cool.

The Doctor walks up to Julius and Moses.

DOCTOR

Nice game, man. But like no more dunking.

The Doctor points to the sign, "No dunking allowed".

JULIUS

Sorry about that.

DOCTOR

No worries. It's just very dangerous. And we don't have insurance.

Feldman tries to dunk the ball, but falls on his ass.

EXT. TEMPLE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE - LATE AFTERNOON

CLOSE-UP of marquis/announcement board - "Celebrate Yom Kippur at Temple Shalom."

SAUL FISHMAN

(scalping tickets)

Who needs tickets? Y.K. tickets. Witness the hottest Day of Atonement in town.

Moses and Julius check out the enormous crowd.

MOSES

Welcome to the Jewish Super Bowl.

JEWISH JORDAN (O.S.)

So this is the Dreidel Stopper, huh?

The Jewish Jordan approaches them with Sarah.

JEWISH JORDAN (CONT'D)

How you doing? I'm Isaac.

JULIUS

Julius.

JEWISH JORDAN

This is Sarah.

SARAH
Nice to meet you.

Moses can't believe Sarah's with the Jewish Jordan.

JEWISH JORDAN
What are you doing here Epstein? It's Yom Kippur. Shouldn't you be recruiting more players. There's a Denny's across the street. Just kidding, good Yontif.

SARAH
(embarrassed)
Good to see you Moses.

MOSES
You too.

JEWISH JORDAN
Oh and Julius, please say hi to Rachel for me. I hear you two are dating. I haven't seen her since high school. Those leg braces were hot. Give her my best.

They walk inside leaving Moses and Julius pissed.

INT. TEMPLE SHALOM SYNAGOGUE - MOMENTS LATER

The CANTOR sings "Alvinu Malkanu". Moses sits by his parents and Julius. Two aisles behind him, Feldman listens to the game through an earpiece.

MOSES
(whispering)
What's the score?

FELDMAN
(whispering)
Bulls down by five.

MOSES
Shit.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Shh. Are you enjoying the service Julius?

JULIUS
Yeah, Rabbi Singer's flossin'.

RABBI SINGER
 ...this is a time to ask God for
 forgiveness. But it's also a time to
 reflect on the past.

Moses looks at Jewish Jordan and Sarah.

MOSES
 I can't believe she's with him.

Sitting next to the Jewish Jordan is Rosenberg and
 Steckman. Rosenberg gives Moses the finger.

JULIUS
 Who's that?

MOSES
 Gabe Rosenberg. He's a professional
 dumbass. With a Ph.D in dickhead.

RABBI SINGER
 As many of you know I lost my father,
 Rabbi Al Singer, two years ago.

Tears begin to well-up in Rabbi Singer's eyes.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
 It's tough for me to talk about my father
 because I miss him so much. He was a
 decorated U.S. Soldier, a friend of the
 community and a great father.

FELDMAN
 (whispering)
 Bulls down by one.

RABBI SINGER
 I learned many lessons from him. As most
 of you know, he was in and out of
 hospitals for the last seven years of his
 life. But the last lesson he taught me
 came minutes before he passed away. We
 were all gathered around his bed. He
 opened up his eyes, looked right at me
 and said--

ROSENBERG (O.S.)
 Let's go Dreidels! Let's go!

Rabbi Singer stops talking.

MOSES
 (whispering to Feldman)
 It's Rosenberg. We gotta represent.

RABBI SINGER
 (very emotional)
 ...then he passed away.

Rabbi Singer starts crying. He gets it back together.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
 I never told anyone this, but I became a
 rabbi because of him. My father taught me
 everything I know. He taught me about
 life. He taught me about death. He taught
 me to forgive. And he taught me--

MOSES AND FELDMAN
 Here we go Matzo-Ballers! Here we go!

Segal, Goodman and Abe Kaplan turn around and smile.

RABBI SINGER
 Without my father around, I had many
 challenges to face, but the biggest was--

Jewish Jordan joins in.

DREIDEL PLAYERS
 D-R-E-I-D-E-L-S! Dreidels, dreidels are
 the best!

Moses, Abe, Julius, Segal, Feldman and Goodman respond...

MATZO-BALLERS
 U-G-L-Y. You ain't got no alibi! You suck
 dick! Your mom's dick! Her big, fat dick.

Lou Rutman stands up!

LOU RUTMAN
 Kosher Kings will win it all! Kosher
 Kings will kick you in your balls!

RABBI SINGER
 Lou, what's gotten into you? All of you?

LOU RUTMAN
 Sorry, Rabbi. It's basketball season.

MOSES (OVERLAPPING)
When I say "Matzo"! You say "Ballers"!

CUT TO:

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM - NIGHT

Players put their hands together in a huddle.

MOSES
Matzo!!!

MATZO-BALLERS
Ballers!!!

MOSES
Alright, I want you guys passing to
Julius every chance you get.

JULIUS
Pass me the rock.

FELDMAN
I knew it! Julius smokes crack.

JULIUS
Feldman, the rock is the basketball.

FELDMAN
Oh.

ABE
Am I starting?

MOSES
No, we need you off the bench. You're our
sixth million dollar man--

ABE
That never plays.

MOSES
We need Julius to shoot as much as
possible if we're gonna beat the Persian
Pimp Daddy's and get into the playoffs.

The Pimp Daddy's, all on cell phones, wear Dolce &
Gabbana sweats, Dior sunglasses, and large Jewish Stars
around their necks. Julius digs their gold chains.

JULIUS
Dope rope, brother.

PERSIAN BALLER 1

Thanks, bro.

Moses stands by Julius at midcourt right before tip-off.

MOSES

I'm serious. Shoot every time.

CUT TO:

MATZO-BALLERS VS. PERSIAN PIMP DADDYS

During MONTAGE the PERSIAN BALLER, dribbles between his legs and talks trash.

PERSIAN BALLER

I'm going to take your ass to the mall cocksucker, all-day...

He makes a move but Julius steals it and scores.

PERSIAN BALLER (CONT'D)

Foul! Traveling! He was traveling, bro!

Matzo-Ballers make a run behind Julius's hot shooting, but the team starts to get frustrated.

SEGAL

Pass it! I'm open.

Julius shoots and scores. Moses claps!

MOSES

Nice play Julius!

JULIUS

(to Segal)

I got ya next time.

SEGAL

(to himself)

Pass the damn ball...

Julius keeps shooting...and scoring...

Scoreboard: Matzo Ballers: 48, Pimp Daddy's: 23

CUT TO:

DREIDELS VS. KOSHER KINGS

The Jewish Jordan and the Dreidels roll past the Kosher Kings while playing down and dirty...

Rosenberg sets a hard pick on Lou Rutman, knocking him out of the game. Rosenberg smiles, flashing his mouth-guard with "R.I.P." written on it.

But Lou's really hurt and not moving. Ambulance HORN blares. The Kings players shake their heads in disdain.

ROSENBERG

What? It was a legal pick.

JEWISH JORDAN

Don't worry about it Rosey. Lou had it coming, he was trash talking all game.

The paramedics carry Lou out.

CUT TO:

MATZO-BALLERS VS. HI-FLYING YIDS

Once again, Julius keeps scoring. Abe sits on the bench.

MOSES

Keep shooting Julius!

Moses runs by Abe after Julius scores.

ABE

When can I play? I've been on the bench the whole half.

MOSES

In a little bit. This unit's rolling, we're up eight, with six minutes left. You can have my spot in a minute.

ABE

You're spot. What about Julius? Bench him for once.

MOSES

Are you nuts? We're winning!

Julius dribbles around, annoying his teammates.

ABE
Pass it! Feldman's open!

FELDMAN
I'm open!

JAY
Pass it!

Julius looks around. Moses shakes his head, "no". Julius, facing a triple team, shoots over them and scores.

ABE
(pissed)
God dammit!

Matzo-Ballers win....Matzo Ballers: 39, Yids: 29.

CUT TO:

DREIDELS VS. OY-VEY FALCONS

The Dreidels shut out a team of old men 42-0.

The Jewish Jordan poses for photos and signs autographs for his adoring fans.

CUT TO:

MATZO-BALLERS VS. PURIM PACERS

Julius continues to dominate as his teammates don't even run up the court anymore. AARON ZISKIN, 32, skinny, Brooklyn accent, and Pacers forward, talks trash to Abe.

ZISKIN
Hey, Kaplan, does he tuck you guys in at night and cuddle with you too?

Ziskin laughs as he runs down the court. Abe's pissed.

ABE
This blows.

Matzo-Ballers win 52-34. Everyone's mad but Moses.

JAY
(on cell phone)
Hi, honey. Yeah we won, whatever.

MOSES

Nice game guys.

Feldman and Segal walk right past him and say nothing.

ABE

Are you going to Ed's?

MOSES

I can't.

ABE

Why?

MOSES

I got plans with Julius.

ABE

Julius?

INT. ED'S PANCAKE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Matzo-Ballers look dejected as Abe goes off.

ABE

This is bullshit. He shoots way too much.

SEGAL

But his shooting percentage is 83%.

ABE

So what? He never passes. I don't even get to play.

JAY

But we're winning.

ABE

Wrong! He's winning. We're not doing shit.

SEGAL

It's not Julius's fault.

ABE

You're right. It's Moses's fault.

SEGAL

It's not fun anymore.

JAY

I agree. This sucks.

Jewish Jordan, Rosenberg and Steckman walk in brazenly.

JEWISH JORDAN
Where's Moses Loserstein?

ABE
He's with Julius.

JEWISH JORDAN
Oh, I see. He left you guys to be with
the Dreidel Stopper.

ROSENBERG
You know, even with LeBron James you're
not going to beat us.

FELDMAN
His name's Julius, dickhead.

ROSENBERG
Up yours.

FELDMAN
Up yours, no backs.

ROSENBERG
Dammit.

JEWISH JORDAN
C'mon Dreidels let's go. I don't feel
like baby-sitting anymore.

ROSENBERG
(to Abe)
Have fun riding the pine deli-boy? Peace
out, Dreidel style.

The Dreidels do their patented "Dreidel spin". Abe stares
at them as they spin away.

SEGAL
Screw this. What should we do?

JAY
Quit.

ABE
No...let's give Moses one more chance.

JAY
What? Of all people, you should be the
most pissed. You're his best friend and
he benched you.

This hits home for Abe.

ABE

At least I didn't get traded?

INT. HOUSE PARTY - SOUTH SIDE - NIGHT

Moses sits next to Julius at a wild house party. Once again, Moses is the only white person.

MOSES

I think we should trade Abe. He's a problem in the locker room. We could get Lou Rutman and a second round pick.

Moses takes a sip from his 40oz. Olde English.

JULIUS

You can't trade him, dawg.

MOSES

You're right. Then someone else has to learn all the plays. Besides Lou's on the DL. Whatever, we can still beat the Jewish Jordan with him.

JULIUS

Why do you care so much? He's just a punk, man.

MOSES

I have my reasons. He's got it all. A jumpshot, a post up game and he's dating Sarah. Since I've known him, I've never beat him at anything. Love, basketball--

JULIUS

Man, you're so focused on him, you don't even realize how great you've got it.

MOSES

How great do I have it?

JULIUS

You were born into the "Chosen people".

MOSES

"Chosen" for what? To be vertically challenged with high blood pressure? What are you talking about "Chosen?"

JULIUS

"Chosen" doesn't mean you're better than anyone else, Moses. "Chosen" means you have a responsibility to make this world a better place. I got to cut off my dick to be like you. I don't think you appreciate that.

(beat)

God's watching over you, Moses.

MOSES

God? Where was God for me in 6th grade? Or in twelfth grade when I shit my pants at Debbie Kline's birthday party? Where was he then? God doesn't care about me.

JULIUS

That's where you're wrong Moses.

MOSES

(slurring)

What do you care? You're only converting so you can marry Rachel?

JULIUS

Maybe, at first, yeah. But I've learned a lot man. Do you even know anything about the person you were named after?

MOSES

Yeah, Moses Malone. He averaged 24 points and 17 rebounds during the 1979 season.

JULIUS

No, not that Moses. The Moses who freed the Israelites out of slavery from the Egyptians. His belief in God was so strong he made the Red Sea part in order to lead his people to freedom.

MOSES

So?

JULIUS

So, we're not so different. You're people were slaves. My people were slaves.

MOSES

When were your people slaves?

JULIUS

Rabbi Singer said God is always watching. In good times and bad. God's there.

(MORE)

JULIUS (CONT'D)
And even if you don't believe in God, God
still believes in you.

Moses stands up.

MOSES
(sarcastic)
Yeah, okay...

He stumbles off.

INT. K.CROSBY'S DANCEWEAR AND STUDIO - DAY

Moses, hung-over from the night before, sports a pair of
pink tights with a giant Lion's head from his waist down.

MOSES
This isn't what I ordered?

SALESMAN
You didn't want the lion's head?

MOSES
No, lightening bolt.

SALESMAN
That's right. Sorry. We've had a lot of
mixups this week. My boss who does the
ordering relapsed this week.

MOSES
From what?

SALESMAN
She was taking ecstasy...in her ass.

CLOSE-UP of OLD LADY at the cash register knitting.

MOSES
Well, I need it right away, and the
matching cape.

Moses sees Sarah walk in.

MOSES (CONT'D)
Hang on.

Moses walks over to her in his pink lion tights.

MOSES (CONT'D)
Hey.

SARAH

(laughs)

Hey. I like this pair. Lion heads are very in right now. Very primal.

MOSES

It's not what I ordered.

SARAH

Listen, I don't know if you're interested, but I'm in a Torah study group. You should stop by.

MOSES

Is that the group your pal, Isaac is in?

SARAH

What do you mean?

MOSES

Nothing. I heard he has to have his pants tailored to give him more space down there. Do you know anything about that?

SARAH

(confused)

No.

(beat)

Well, if you have any time, I'd love for you to check it out. Unless you're not that interested.

MOSES

What are you taking about? I'm tutoring my friend Julius in Judaism. He's coming over for dinner. We're having a Seder.

SARAH

Moses, a Seder happens during Passover. Tonight is Shabbat.

Off Moses's look...

CUT TO:

INT. EPSTEIN'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Epstein family and Julius sit for Shabbat dinner.

GRANDMA, mid-70s wears a gold pant suit, sailor's hat.
GRANDPA, mid 70s, wears a navy blue suit. GREAT GRANDMA, mid 90s, sleeps in her wheelchair.

Julius is dressed in a suit and yarmulke.

MOSES
...you can't play?

JULIUS
No, I can't make it. I have class.

MOSES
Dude, you're going to let this whole conversion thing get in the way of JCC basketball.

JULIUS
C'mon, this is really important to me.

MOSES
Well at least we're far enough ahead in the standings to make the playoffs.

JULIUS
We're in?

MOSES
Yeah, the Menorahs lost last night. So we're automatically in.

BARRY EPSTEIN
How is class going, Julius?

JULIUS
Great. Mr. Epstein. Learning a lot.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Then would you do the honors and light the candles and say the brucha.

Julius stands up.

JULIUS
(singing)
Baruch ata eyedenoh, alehainu melech
halom. Asher kiddiushanu B-mitzvah ta,
vitzivanu la halich ner shel Shabbat!

SHEILA EPSTEIN
What a voice! So what do you do, Julius?

JULIUS
I work for Rachel's dad in sales. That's actually how we met. At work.

BARRY EPSTEIN
You sell waffle makers?

Grandpa FARTS. He points to his wife as if she did it.

JULIUS
We sell a lot of kitchen appliances.

BARRY EPSTEIN
Can you get me a deal on a waffle maker?
I'm in the market.

JULIUS
I'll hook you up.

GRANDMA
(interrupting)
I got to ask...

Grandma takes a sip of red wine. She's a little tipsy.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Since you're converting...are you
circumcised?

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Oh dear!

CLOSE-UP of Barry Epstein making a drinking motion
indicating Grandma's drunk.

JULIUS
Circumcised?

GRANDMA
Does it look like an anteater or an army
helmet.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Mom, pass the potatoes.

Awkward silence. Until Barry smiles.

BARRY EPSTEIN
August 28, 1963.

MOSES
Not now dad.

JULIUS
The March on Washington. The day that
Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I have a
dream speech."

Barry grabs a photo to show Julius.

BARRY EPSTEIN
This is me and my father.

CLOSE-UP of black and white PHOTO of 15-year-old Barry Epstein, major-afro and "Black Power" T-shirt, with his father, SOLOMON, who is holding a map.

JULIUS
(amazed)
You were there, Mr. Epstein?

Barry takes a deep breath.

BARRY EPSTEIN
No. Never made it. Got a flat outside South Bend. But we were there in spirit.

JULIUS
Moses, you have one, cool family.

Just then great grandma wakes up and looks at Julius.

GREAT GRANDMA
Ahhhhhhhhh!

Her electric wheelchair races in fear toward the door.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Grandma come back. He's Jewish...

INT. KAPLAN'S DELI

There's a long lunch line when the Jewish Jordan enters.

MR. KAPLAN
Isaac, you don't have to wait. What do you want?

JEWISH JORDAN
Two Turkey Clubs.

He stands next to a hot chick, JULIE.

JEWISH JORDAN (CONT'D)
Hi, I'm Isaac.

JULIE
Julie.

JEWISH JORDAN

I'm on the wall of fame. Just moved back to town. Excuse me for a moment. Abe!

Jewish Jordan spots Abe working.

ABE

Yeah.

JEWISH JORDAN

Just wanted to let you know that I was talking to some guys on the Pimp Daddy's, and it sounds like Moses has been talking shit about you.

ABE

What?

JEWISH JORDAN

He's told everyone that Julius and him can win the championship without you.

ABE

Moses?

JEWISH JORDAN

Yeah. Plus there's a rumor you're on the trading block.

ABE

No way. They need me.

JEWISH JORDAN

Guess not. The only reason you're winning is because of Julius.

Jewish Jordan writes his name and number down.

MR. KAPLAN

Here's your order. On the house.

Abe hands the Jewish Jordan his order, begrudgingly.

JEWISH JORDAN

Gotta go. Sarah's waiting for me at Torah study group. She wants me. Did you know I banged her older sister in the Temple Coat Room? Keep that one on the DL.

He gives Julie his number.

JEWISH JORDAN
 (whispering)
 Call me.

MR. KAPLAN
 He's smooth, isn't he?

ABE
 Dad, he's an asshole and you know it.

MR. KAPLAN
 Son, when you're a winner, you can be an
 asshole.

INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Jay, a lawyer, watches lesbian porn when his phone rings.

JAY
 What's up Abe? No, I'm not watching
 lesbian porn.
 (beat)
 Really? That's funny because I talked to
 Feldman and Segal and their sick of it
 too. What should we do?

EXT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

Sign reads: "Matzo-Ballers vs. The Torahs 6:30p.m."

CUT TO:

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM - MOMENTS LATER

Moses warms up all by himself.

MOSES
 (to himself)
 Where is everybody?

Moses watches the Torahs practice at the other hoop.

DOCTOR
 The office just gave this to me.

He hands Moses a note.

MOSES
 (reading)
 We quit.
 (MORE)

MOSES (CONT'D)

Sincerely Segal, Goodman, Feldman and Kaplan. P.S. Please ask the Doctor if we can get a refund for the remaining games.

DOCTOR

No refunds, man.

MOSES

What the hell is this?

DOCTOR

It's a letter, man.

MOSES

I don't understand. They quit?

DOCTOR

Looks like you're gonna have to forfeit.

Moses stares down the Torahs ala "Dirty Harry".

CUT TO:

THE GAME - MOMENTS LATER

Moses gets ready for the jump ball against the Torahs.

RAY THE REF

You sure you want to go one on five, bub?

DREW SHAPIRO, Torahs player, brushes by Moses.

SHAPIRO

Yeah, Epstein. Don't be a shmuck! You already made the playoffs.

MOSES

Go to hell Shapiro. Toss the ball, Ray.

Ray throws it up, and Moses loses the jump ball. The Torahs score.

MOSES (CONT'D)

Dammit.

Moses inbounds the ball to himself...WHISTLE BLOWS.

RAY THE REF

Travelling. Torahs ball.

MOSES

Travelling? How am I supposed to throw the ball in?

RAY THE REF
That's your problem, bub.

MOSES
What am I supposed to do?

CUT TO:

THE GAME - SECONDS LATER

Ray confers with the Doctor and Fred. Ray then motions to Concepcion, wearing his janitor outfit, to come over.

RAY THE REF
(to Moses)
He can't shoot, pass or dribble. But he
can inbound the ball.

Concepcion throws a soccer-style, two hand overhead toss toward Moses. But the Torahs steal it and score.

Sarah quietly walks in the gym and sits in the stands.
It's a total rout!

MOSES
Call the foul, Ray! They're all over me!

Moses complains to the Ref, dives for loose balls, but can't seem to get going. Down 18-2, Shapiro pushes Moses down going after a rebound.

DOCTOR
(yelling)
Hey, man. You want me to call it?

MOSES
No!

He gets up, but he's knocked down by DREW SHAPIRO.

SHAPIRO
Stay down dickhead!

MOSES
Your mom's a whore, Shapiro.

SHAPIRO
Alleged! Alleged! You have no proof!

Shapiro kicks Moses back down and walks away laughing.

MOSES
 (to himself)
 Stay calm. Count to ten. One, two--

Moses runs top-speed toward Shapiro...

MOSES (CONT'D)
 Shapiro-o-o-!!!

Moses tackles him. Sarah can't believe it.

MOSES (CONT'D)
 Once I get you in the figure-four
 leglock, it's lights out.

Moses puts Shapiro in the figure-four leglock. The fans
 stand up and start cheering for the smaller Moses.

SHAPIRO
 (whining)
 Stop! Get him off me.

Shapiro's teammates grab hold of Moses, and beat the crap
 out of Moses. Even though Moses tries to fight back.

Shapiro holds his jersey to his bloody lip.

SHAPIRO (CONT'D)
 You'll never win in this league, Epstein!
 Your team left you. You're finished!

Ray the Ref blows his WHISTLE as the Doctor and Fred
 break up the fight and pull Moses away.

MOSES
 Let go! I can take them.

DOCTOR
 It's over, man. It's over.

Sarah's in awe as the crowd chants "Moses, Moses, Moses".

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
 I haven't seen anything this bad since
 the Weinberg Bar Mitzvah of '93.

FRED
 Remember that?

DOCTOR
I was right in the middle of it, man.
Silly string everywhere--

CUT TO:

INT. KAPLAN'S DELI - DAY

Moses, still in uniform, walks in with a swollen lip,
holding a bag of ice to his bruised face.

ABE
Jesus, what happened to your face?

MOSES
What happened to your balls!

Moses holds up the, "We quit," letter.

MOSES (CONT'D)
A letter?

ABE
And we sent you an E-mail.

MOSES
Why did you quit?

ABE
Because you went Bobby Knight on us! You
told Julius to never pass the ball! You
dropped us like we're not. We're all sick
of it!
(beat)
You were going to trade me.

MOSES
Who told you that?

ABE
Jewish Jordan.

MOSES
And you believed him? You've been my best
friend since forever. Do you think I
would trade you?

ABE
I don't know. But you benched me in favor
of your new best friend.

MOSES

So your jealous?

ABE

No. It's just obvious you care more about winning than you do about me, Julius, or any of your friends.

This hits Moses right in the gut.

ABE (CONT'D)

Let me ask you something. Who was there when you fell off your bike and knocked your teeth out?

MOSES

Jay.

ABE

Who was there for you when got sprayed with mace at the Kenny Loggins concert?

MOSES

That was Feldman.

ABE

Who took the heat and got detention when you called Mrs. Cohen a Lesbo?

MOSES

Segal did.

ABE

And who had your back when you called all those drunk Puerto Ricans, Irishmen. That was me.

Moses doesn't know what to say.

ABE (CONT'D)

I know you're big goal in life is to beat the Jewish Jordan. I want to beat him as much as you do, but is it really worth losing your friends?

Moses still can't speak.

ABE (CONT'D)

You'll feel much better when you stop comparing yourself to that two-timing piece of shit.

MOSES

Two-timing?

ABE

Isaac picked dinner up for Sarah and
still got some other chick's number when
he was in here.

Moses looks like he's going to pass out.

ABE (CONT'D)

Are you alright? You look pale. Can I get
you anything?

MOSES

I really don't think I can eat right now.

(beat)

Maybe, just a grilled reuben to go.

(beat)

With some potato salad.

INT. JCC JANITOR'S CLOSET - LATER

Moses, sits on a bucket eating a grilled Reuben sandwich.

MOSES

This is the worst week of my life.

Concepcion smokes a fat joint.

MOSES (CONT'D)

My team quit. My best friend hates me.
And the girl of my dreams is dating my
arch rival.

Concepcion offers the joint to Moses.

MOSES (CONT'D)

No gracias Concepcion, I don't smoke
during the season. You hungry?

Concepcion nods. Moses gives him half of his sandwich.
Moses looks on the wall at Concepcion's time card.

MOSES (CONT'D)

(reading his name)

Concepcion Rodriquezstein. You Jewish?

Concepcion pulls out his "Hai" necklace from his shirt.

MOSES (CONT'D)

In that case, one hit. Just one though...

CUT TO:

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM - MOMENTS LATER

TITLE CARD - THIRTY-TWO MINUTES LATER.

A huge cloud of pot SMOKE appears as Moses emerges from the Janitor's Closet. His eyes are bloodshot.

KID (O.S.)

Hey, Moses! You want to play one on one.

A KID, scrawny with glasses, approaches Moses.

MOSES

No thanks.

KID

C'mon, are you afraid I'm gonna school you Dreidel style?

Moses gives him a fierce look.

MOSES

Shoot for ball, bitch.

KID

You shoot, bitch!

He passes the ball to Moses.

MOSES

Nothing but net!

Stoned, Moses shoots. It lands five feet short.

MOSES (CONT'D)

Your ball.

BASKETBALL MONTAGE of Moses destroying this kid on a lowered, 8-foot hoop. Several kids watch.

Finally, the kid drives strong to the basket...

MOSES (CONT'D)

Ahhhhhhh!

In SLO-MO, Moses goes for the block, but elbows him in the face knocking him down!

KID
(in pain)
Foul-1-1-1!

MOSES
No blood, no foul.

One of the kid's watching from the sidelines yells...

KID 2
He's bleeding.

CUT TO:

INT. HILTON BALLROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE-UP on KID's face, he now has a huge black eye and stitches. A sign reads: "Charlie Goldstein's Bar Mitzvah. Mazel Tov!" REVEAL the KID is Charlie GOLDSTEIN.

The RUBINGER TWINS, two plain looking girls, smile seductively at Segal and Feldman across the table.

Rabbi Singer sits next to Julius.

JULIUS
Thanks for bringing me to the Bar-Mitzvah, Rabbi Singer.

RABBI SINGER
When I heard you were the only one in class who hadn't been to one, I wanted to make sure you experienced it. I remember my Bar Mitzvah. Greatest day of my life.

JULIUS
How so?

RABBI SINGER
I became a man that day, Julius.

Lights dim, fog fills the room. Everyone quiets down.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
I went through a spiritual transformation from a child into an adult in the eyes of God. A Bar-Mitzvah is a very sacred, religious ceremony.

MOSES (O.S.)
(singing)
He's Captainnnn! Bar-Mitzzz-vahhh!

Moses, clearly drunk, emerges from the smoke holding a cocktail, and wearing his new outfit: blue tights with yellow lightening bolts. And a purple, sequin cape.

MOSES (CONT'D)
(singing)
He's Captainnnn! Bar-Mitzzz-vahhh!

The kids sing along, until Moses notices Charlie. He throws his drink which hits the STOP button on the sound system. MUSIC stops, glass SHATTERS!

MOSES (CONT'D)
(drunk)
Before we get started, I got to get something off my chest. Charlie, I want to say I'm sorry about what happened.

CLOSE-UP of Charlie's stitches.

MOSES (CONT'D)
But I do want to clarify for the record, that I was up 9-3 before the paramedics arrived. So I'm still undefeated on the eight-foot hoop. Three and 0.

Reveal that all the players from the Matzo-Ballers and Dreidels are there.

SEGAL
I think he's drunk.

FELDMAN
But Moses never drinks during the season.

SEGAL
Well, he's had a rough week.

MOSES
You're a good looking bunch, especially you Mrs. Guttenberg. Give it up for Steve Guttenberg's mom. Make some noise!

Charlie's parents don't cheer.

MRS. GOLDSTEIN
That's not Steve Guttenberg's mom. Please fire him.

MR. GOLDSTEIN
I can't. I already gave him a deposit.

MOSES

Ladies, now that Charlie's a man in the Jewish religion, you better take a number because he's feeling "Hot, Hot, Hot".

Buster Poindexter's song "Hot, Hot, Hot" plays as the dance floor fills up. Moses mopes.

SARAH

What's wrong with Moses? He's out of it.

ROSENBERG

(drunker than Moses)

He's not out of it. He's shitfaced. One time, I dunked on him--

JEWISH JORDAN

Rosey, you never dunked in your life.

ROSENBERG

Doughnuts. I've dunked donuts, bitch. Can't say I haven't.

JEWISH JORDAN

What have I told you about using that type of language in front of my lady?

SARAH

I'm not "you're lady."

JEWISH JORDAN

I invited you. So tonight you're my lady.

SARAH

Tonight? You mean when you're not hooking up with Jackie Rutman or one of your other Hebrew ho's at Torah study group.

JEWISH JORDAN

Oh, you saw that?

Jackie Rutman waves to the Jewish Jordan. She sits next to her dad, Lou, who has his arm in a sling from the hard pick from Rosenberg. Sarah gets up and leaves.

ROSENBERG

She burned you, man.

JEWISH JORDAN

Shut up. I'll be right back.

He gets up to go after Sarah.

JEWISH JORDAN (CONT'D)

Where's Steckman?

ROSENBERG

Limbo.

Steckman, the only adult competing in the limbo, complains as he watches a teenage girl limbo perfectly.

STECKMAN

She went sideways! That's rookie!

ROSENBERG

That's rookie! Boo!

MOSES

And the winner on disqualification is
Dennis Steckman!

ROSENBERG

Yeah! Good call! Cheaters never prosper!

Moses hands him the trophy of a "girl limboing". Steckman grabs the mic, and pushes the girl he beat, JENNY, aside.

STECKMAN

After coming in second to Jenny at Jordan Lifshitz Bar-Mitzvah, this means a lot to me. But not as much as winning the JCC title which we will do again this year!

ROSENBERG

Go Dreidels!

Steckman turns to Moses.

STECKMAN

Too bad your team is full of quitters
Epstein. You know, you might of had a
chance...of getting your ass kicked.

(beat)

Mazel tov, Charlie.

Steckman drops the mic and runs off with his trophy.

MOSES

Hey Steckman! Don't you ever say anything
bad about my boys again! Those guys got
more heart in their little pinky then you
have in all of China.

Jay and Abe look at each other. None of the Matzo-Ballers can believe what they're hearing.

MOSES (CONT'D)
 (heartfelt)
 If anybody screwed up, it was me. I let
 them down. It's my fault.

Moses tries to gather himself.

MOSES (CONT'D)
 This is a very beautiful party. Sorry I
 messed that up too. You can have your
 deposit back Mr. Goldstein.

Moses runs out of the room.

INT. HILTON HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Moses stumbles down the hallway, still drunk.

JEWISH JORDAN
 Sarah, I'm sorry. Please forgive me.

Moses turns the corner and sees Sarah and the Jewish
 Jordan. The Jewish Jordan looks at Moses...then KISSES
 Sarah. Moses turns and runs the other way.

Sarah KNEES the Jewish Jordan in the balls and leaves.

INT. TEMPLE SHALOM CLASSROOM - DAY

The class is in the middle of "Prayer Aerobics".

CLASS
 (singing and bowing)
 Ba-ruch a-do-donai ha-me-vo-rach--

Rabbi Singer OPENS a can of Diet Coke.

RABBI SINGER
 No, no, no! Like this.

He takes a sip of his soda, then belts out the song.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 Ba-re-chu et A-do-nai hame-vo-rach!

Class is impressed.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
 You gotta hit it! Really hit the "Chus"
 and the "Chachs"!
 (MORE)

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
 (singing)
 Bar-re-chhuuuuuuu!!!! Hame-vo-rachhhhsss!

Class nods.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
 Okay. From the top.

Julius has the best voice in class.

JULIUS
 (singing)
 Ba-ruch a-do-donai ha-me-vo-rach le-o-lam
 va-ed. Aaaa-mennnn!!!

Rabbi Singer takes a sip of his soda.

RABBI SINGER
 Great job with Prayer Aerobics today.
 That was fun. Hey guys, don't worry about
 graduation. All of you will do great.

The class gets up to leave.

RABBI SINGER (CONT'D)
 Yehudah, hold up.

JULIUS
 Yes, Rabbi Singer.

RABBI SINGER
 I just wanted to tell you I'm sorry to
 hear about the team. Is there any chance
 you guys are going to get back together?

JULIUS
 No.

RABBI SINGER
 That's too bad.
 (beat)
 Do you know why our people have survived
 persecution for thousands of years?

JULIUS
 Why's that?

RABBI SINGER
 Because we've always stuck together.

INT. KAPLAN'S DELI - LATER

Julius looks at the PHOTO of Moses getting blocked by the Jewish Jordan on the Wall of Fame.

ABE

Forty-four.

Julius holds up his deli ticket.

JULIUS

Right here.

ABE

What's up, man?

JULIUS

Nothing dawg. Just picking up dinner for me and Rachel. I need a pound of salami and a bundt cake.

ABE

Sure. How's class going?

JULIUS

Cool. My conversion ceremony's this week.

ABE

Congrats. Hey, sorry I didn't call to tell you we were quitting.

JULIUS

Sorry I shot the rock so much.

ABE

You were just listening to Moses.

JULIUS

Yeah, but I could have passed the ball more. It's my fault, too.

ABE

Don't let that Jewish guilt make you feel bad, alright. This one's on the house.

Abe hands Julius his order. Like his father does to JJ.

JULIUS

Thanks, man.

They shake hands.

JULIUS (CONT'D)
Too bad we'll never know.

ABE
Know what?

JULIUS
If we would've beat the Dreidels.

INT. EPSTEIN'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Moses lays in bed under the covers.

SHEILA EPSTEIN (O.S.)
Moses, I brought you you're favorite.

MOSES
Go away!

Sheila puts down the Matzo-Ball soup.

SHEILA EPSTEIN
Oh dear. He hasn't eaten all day. Barry,
what should we do?

BARRY EPSTEIN
Let him be.

They go back upstairs. Moses pokes his head out - he's wearing athletic goggles and a snow hat. He has beard like stubble, bloodshot eyes, just an overall mess.

He pulls out a meat grinder hoagie and takes a bite when on t.v., Moses sees the Jewish Jordan doing a cheesy commercial for Highland Ford. His jaw drops.

JEWISH JORDAN (T.V.)
Just like my game, the Ford Taurus drives beautifully and always knows how to score! So come on down and visit Ira, Saul or Painted Bull. And tell'em the Jewish Jordan sent ya.

COMMERICAL VOICE (O.S.)
Now back to "Jake and the Fatman."

Moses gets out of bed, only wearing his tighty-whiteys.

Basketball Jones, I got a Basketball Jones...

Moses stretches as "Basketball Jones" by Cheech and Chong plays. He has a look of determination in his eyes.

MR. KAPLAN (V.O.)

Isaac Rubinowitz is the greatest player to ever come out of Highland Park. He's a living legend! And we would've beat him, if you passed the damn ball.

After touching his toes, he picks up a basketball and starts dribbling in place...

SARAH (V.O.)

I thought you were going to ask me to prom that night.

I'll go one-on-one against the world... Moses dribbles around his basement as the song builds.

JEWISH JORDAN (V.O.)

That's Sarah Hoffman? She's hotter than I remember. Probably because I only remember the top of her head.

In SLO-MO, he dribbles out of control, knocking over lamps, furniture and of course his Matzo-Ball soup.

ABE (V.O.)

It's just obvious you care more about winning than you do about me, Julius, or any of your friends.

Moses dives for a loose ball across the floor...crashing into the wall. He's hit rock bottom.

"Basketball Jones" fades out.

EXT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

CLOSE-UP of Announcement board: "Playoffs: Matzo-Ballers vs. Kosher Kings. 6:30p.m."

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Moses practices before the game by himself. The Kosher Kings practice at their hoop.

DOCTOR

You look like shit, man.

Moses has a full beard, and looks like he didn't sleep.

MOSES

Let's go! Let's play ball!

DOCTOR

Mo, I can't let you go one on five again.

MOSES

Why not?

DOCTOR

Because you like got into a fight last game. This is a peaceful league, hombre. You have to forfeit.

MOSES

But the winner goes to the Championship. C'mon Doc, let me play. I can beat'em.

DOCTOR

Sorry, Moses. There's always next year.

Moses looks at the JCC Trophy in the case.

MOSES

Yeah...I understand.

Defeated, Moses walks to the bench. Sits down and puts his head in his hands.

ABE (O.S.)

Sorry we're late.

Moses looks up in shock to see Abe, Julius, Feldman, Jay and Segal standing in uniform. Ready to play.

MOSES

What are you doing here?

JULIUS

We're here to slay the Kings.

Moses can't believe it.

MOSES

I've been a total shmuck lately.

ABE

(smiles)

Yeah, but you're not a shmuck all the time. And with us that goes a long way. Besides we want a shot at that championship. So who's starting?

Moses looks at everyone on the team.

MOSES

You.

ABE

Me?

MOSES

Yeah, Abe you're starting. All of you.
I'm starting this one on the bench.

They can't believe Moses benched himself.

JAY

Anything else coach?

Moses notices that Feldman has needles in his neck.

MOSES

Feldman, why do you have acupuncture
needles in your neck?

FELDMAN

Keeps me loose.

SEGAL

That's what I'm talking about.

Segal and Feldman hi-five.

ABE

Let's wipe some Kosher King ass!

Moses smiles.

CUT TO:

GAME - MATZO-BALLERS VS. KOSHER KINGS

HIGHLIGHTS of the Matzo-Ballers playing like well-oiled
machine...Julius is passing and everyone is scoring.

SEGAL

Kosher Kings? More like Kosher Queens!

FELDMAN

Yeah, baby!

Moses cheers for his teammates. And spends most of the
game on the bench. At halftime they lead 38-11.

JULIUS
 (to the team)
 I gotta go.

MOSES
 What?

JULIUS
 I got my Bet Din tonight.

MOSES
 Your what?

JULIUS
 Bet Din. The first step of my conversion.
 I have to face a religious court that
 will ask me questions about Judaism and
 what I've learned.

MOSES
 Well, get out of here then. Good luck.

MATZO-BALLERS
 Good luck.

JULIUS
 You guys can hold the lead, right?

FELDMAN
 Hells yeah! I'm on fire.

JULIUS
 Then "Feed the Fire Feldman".

CUT TO:

SECOND HALF - MATZO-BALLERS VS. KOSHER KINGS

PLAYOFF / CONVERSION MONTAGE BEGINS:

With needles in his neck, Feldman can't miss. He makes
 hook shot after hook shot after hook shot. Debbie leads
 the crowd in cheers of "Feed the Fire Feldman".

FELDMAN
 Feed the fire!

Moses passes to Feldman. He swishes a 3-point hook shot.

CUT TO:

INT. RABBINICAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julius tells his story to 3 RABBIS including Rabbi Singer at the Bet Din (Jewish court).

JULIUS

...my goal as a Jew is simply "Tikkun Olam". Lately I've been thinking one way I could make this world a better place is if I donated my time. So a few days ago, I interviewed with the Boys and Girls Club in my neighborhood, and they said I could help them out once a week.

Rabbi Singer listens.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

I also want to start a family. My girlfriend, Rachel is the love of my life and I'm going to ask her to marry me.

Rabbi Singer smiles.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

And I want to continue with my Jewish studies. So not only will I get married, but I want to have a Bar-Mitzvah too. So, I'll be seeing you guys a lot, I guess...

CUT BACK TO:

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Second half HIGHLIGHTS as Matzo-Ballers crush the Kings 53-27. The team celebrates advancing to the championship.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Moses, Jay, Segal, Abe and Feldman hold a sign up that says: "Cut it out! Mazel Tov on your circumcision!"

A nurse wheels Julius out to large cheers from everyone.

CUT TO:

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

Moses and Abe watch as the Dreidels rout the Persian Pimp Daddy's in the other playoff game. The Jewish Jordan points at Moses.

JEWISH JORDAN
(mouthing the words)
You're next.

CUT TO:

INT. INDOOR POOL - DAY

Lit candles surround the Mikveh (ritual pool) as soothing guitar music plays.

JULIUS
Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melek
Ha'olam, asher Kidshanu b'mitzvotav
v'tzivinu al ha-tvilah.

Julius, naked, dunks himself in the water.

As Julius gets out of the Mikveh, the three Rabbis can't help but stare at his package.

RABBI SINGER
Oh.

RABBI 1
My.

RABBI 2
And that's after circumcision.

END OF PLAYOFF / CONVERSION MONTAGE.

INT. JULIUS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Julius sits with an ice pack on his crotch. His friends are over watching "Fiddler on the Roof" on T.V.

BOOTSY
Yo, you want to go out tonight? Get some drinks.

JULIUS
Can't tonight, it's Shabbat.

BOOTSY

What about tomorrow night?

JULIUS

Can't tomorrow either. We're in the championship.

Julius has an ice pack on his crotch.

BERNARD

(concerned)

So....how does *it* feel?

Bernard grabs his jock. Julius looks down at his.

JULIUS

Like driving an Escalade, after you've been in a Navigator your whole life.

BERNARD

No shit?

JULIUS

Yeah.

BOOTSY

Have you taken your new Escalade out or a test drive yet?

JULIUS

Not yet. But they did a beautiful job.

BOOTSY

You mind if I catch a looksie?

JULIUS

Not at all.

Julius shows Bootsy the job. Bootsy nods in approval.

BOOTSY

Shit. I always wanted an Escalade.

BERNARD

Escalade's are tight, but I'd hate to give up my Navy. Ladies love my ride.

BOOTSY

J-Dawg, you sure you're gonna be ready to play tomorrow night?

JULIUS

Doc gave me something to ease the pain.

EXT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - NIGHT

It's snowing like crazy. People dressed in winter jackets, hats, and moon-boots walk in the JCC doors.

The sign says "JCC Basketball Championship 7:30 p.m. - "Dreidels vs Matzo-Ballers".

INT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM - CONTINUOUS

The scoreboard lights up: Dreidels 00, Matzo-Ballers 00.

Sitting courtside, announcing the game is RABBI CHAIM BERMAN. Think Marv Albert with a beard. He's wearing a suit and radio headset.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

Good evening everyone! KJEW Radio AM 830 is proud to bring you special coverage of the JCC Championship as the Dreidels look to win another title tonight against a gutsy Matzo-Ballers squad. I'm Rabbi Chaim Berman. As many of you know my son used to play ball with Isaac Rubinowitz.

CLOSE-UP of Jewish Jordan practicing with his teammates.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

(CONT'D)

Better known as the Jewish Jordan.

DREIDELS HUDDLE - CONTINUOUS

JEWISH JORDAN

(confident)

Cakewalk city Dreidels. We own these guys. But most importantly, there's a lot of fine poonanny here, so look smooth.

Jewish Jordan waves to a HOTTIE.

STECKMAN

Who's guarding Julius?

JEWISH JORDAN

He's mine!

CUT TO:

MATZO-BALLERS HUDDLE - CONTINUOUS

Julius, now, sports his own Star of David necklace.

ABE

Cool necklace.

JULIUS

Thanks. They call it the "Sammy". It's the exact replica of the one Sammy Davis Jr. used to have. Who's the Matzo-Ball?

CLOSE-UP of Matzo-Ballers mascot, a giant Matzo-Ball holding a spoon, taunting the Dreidel mascot.

FELDMAN

My cousin, Phil.

SEGAL

Great guy.

FELDMAN

Oh yeah, when I told him we needed a mascot, he spent all night making the costume. He was an arts and craft counselor at Camp Herzl.

MOSES

Good work Feldman. Alright, like last game, let's move the ball around to the open shooter. Look for the best shot.

ABE

I don't know Moses. I think Julius should shoot as much as possible.

MOSES

(surprised)

What?

JAY

I agree. Julius is our best player. We can win if we get him the ball.

MOSES

I don't understand.

ABE

Don't you want to win?

MOSES

Yeah.

ABE

Well, so do we. The Dreidels are a different beast. You know that. For us to win, Julius has to take over.

Segal and Feldman nod in agreement.

JULIUS

No! I can't do this on my own. Moses is right. If there's one thing I've learned since I've known you guys, it's that we need to stick together...as a team. We play team ball, or we don't play at all.

The Matzo-Ballers look at each other.

ABE

My bad. You're right.

FELDMAN

"We play team ball or we don't play at all". I like that.

JULIUS

Look for the open man and pass the rock.

MOSES

Let's do it! Matzo-Ballers on three.

In the middle of their cheer, Rosenberg screams...

ROSENBERG (V.O.)

Bullshit! This is bullshit!

Just then, Rosenberg starts to throw a temper-tantrum in front of the Doctor.

He throws his water bottle, headband, and a chair. The chair travels in SLOW-MOTION at the Matzo-Ballers huddle.

MOSES

Feldman watch out!

SEGAL

No-o-o-o-o-o!

WAP! The chair hits Feldman knocking him down. SLOW-MO ends. The Doctor walks over.

DOCTOR

Sorry about that.

MOSES

What the hell happened?

DOCTOR

I had to suspend Rosenberg.

MOSES

For what?

DOCTOR

Roids, man.

Feldman sits up.

FELDMAN

Hemorrhoids.

DOCTOR

No, steroids. He was on the juice. We got the tests an hour ago.

MOSES

Oh shit! Did I fail the drug test too?

DOCTOR

We don't test for drugs. Only roids. I deal weed to half the damn league, man. That would hurt business. I just came over to wish you guys good luck.

BASKETBALL COURT - CONTINUOUS

The starting five for both teams get ready for tip-off. The crowd is electric. Everyone is there...Barry and Sheila Epstein, Mr. Kaplan, Rabbi Singer, Sarah, Jay's wife BETSY, Debbie, Rubinger Twins, Dick Cooperman and his lover JUAN ESTEBAN, Concepcion, Charlie Goldstein, Persian Pimp Daddy's, Saul Fishman, Lou Rutman, Arnie Rifkin, Aaron Ziskin, Drew Shapiro, Bernard, Bootsy, students from Julius' conversion class.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)

You gotta love championship atmosphere!

Dreidels win the tip-off. First half MONTAGE begins.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

The Matzo-Ballers start out man-to-man!

Early on, the Dreidels take control.

JEWISH JORDAN
What's up rookie?

JULIUS
I ain't no rookie.

JEWISH JORDAN
In this league you are.

The Jewish Jordan dribbles left and scores with a left handed scoop shot over Julius. Dreidels lead 6-0.

Feldman inbounds the ball to Julius.

JULIUS
Gimme the ball. It's time to take the Jewish Jordan to shul, dawg.

Julius takes over. He goes on a scoring barrage. He scores basket after basket. Rosenberg cheers his team on, from the bench.

ROSENBERG
Stop him! Somebody stop him!

For the first time the Jewish Jordan is helpless. Julius steals the ball from him and scores. Then, he blocks the Jewish Jordan and scores. Julius can't be stopped.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN
Yes and it counts!

JEWISH JORDAN
(frustrated)
Timeout!

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN
Julius Richardson is putting on a clinic, a basketball clinic. The Jewish Jordan has no answer for the new king of the JCC as the Dreidels lead 16-8.

CUT TO:

BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

The crowd cheers.

MR. KAPLAN
I can't believe they're winning.

BARRY EPSTEIN

Me either. Julius is better then the Jewish Jordan.

RABBI SINGER

Amen.

Lou Rutman, arm still in a sling, and other JCC players can't believe it either. Rifkin eats a caramel apple.

RIFKIN

If this keeps up I'm gonna win some money, right Fishman?

SAUL FISHMAN

Bite me.

RUTMAN

What's the line?

SAUL FISHMAN

Dreidels by nine.

RUTMAN

This is unbelievable.

PERSIAN BALLER 1

Unshitting believable, bro.

During the time-out, PETER BELL, JCC Musical Director, granola-looking, long ponytail, plays the organ.

CUT TO:

MATZO-BALLERS HUDDLE - CONTINUOUS

FELDMAN

Way to go Julius.

JULIUS

Good "D" out there.

MOSES

Keep it up. We got them on the ropes.

CUT TO:

DREIDELS HUDDLE - CONTINUOUS

The Dreidels are exhausted and very frustrated.

STECKMAN

(to Cohen)

Cohen you gotta step up! Help Rubinowitz guard Julius when he drives like that!

COHEN

I can't guard him! And neither can Isaac. No one can! He's too good.

ROSENBERG

God damn, I wish I was playing!

STECKMAN

He's schooling all of us.

COHEN

There's nothing we can do!

The Jewish Jordan stares at the crowd, now chanting for the Matzo-Ballers. He looks at Sarah, Moses, then he looks long and hard at Julius.

JEWISH JORDAN

Yeah, there is.

CUT TO:

BACK TO THE GAME - MOMENTS LATER

Julius continues to score left and right.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

Julius Richardson recently converted to Judaism. Rabbi Singer told me he's one of the best students he ever had. And there's a steal by Richardson!

In SLOW-MOTION, Julius steals the ball from the Jewish Jordan. He runs down the court...

RABBI SINGER

It's look like he's gonna dunk it!

The crowd stands to watch as Julius takes off to dunk it, but the Jewish Jordan jumps and viciously knocks Julius to the ground.

JULIUS

Awwwww!

Julius holds his ankle in pain. The crowd goes silent.

ABE

Oh no.

The Jewish Jordan hi-fives his teammates.

CUT TO:

BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

Bernard and Bootsy stand up and shout!

BERNARD

That's bullshit!

BOOTSY

Charles Oakley type bullshit!

CUT BACK TO:

THE GAME - CONTINUOUS

Matzo-Ballers appeal to Ray the Ref.

FELDMAN

That was a cheap shot, Ray!

MOSES

Eject him!

JEWISH JORDAN

You can't eject me, I went for the ball.

MOSES

Bullshit!

JEWISH JORDAN

Eat me, Epstein. Sarah did.

Moses attacks the Jewish Jordan, and a fight between the two teams breaks out. Moses gets hit in the face.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

Down goes Epstein! Down goes Epstein!

The crowd cheers wildly! Even the mascots fight each other as the Matzo-Ball puts the Dreidel in a headlock.

DOCTOR

Stop! I said Stop, man!

Ray blows his WHISTLE! And with the help of the Doctor and Fred they break up the fight and restore order.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Any more fights or cheap shots and I'll give the damn trophy to the Pimp Daddy's. Am I clear, man?

PERSIAN BALLER (O.S.)

Forfeit bro! Keep fighting Van Damme!

RAY THE REF

Keep it clean.

JEWISH JORDAN

(pointing to Moses)

He started it.

The crowd is silent, as Feldman and Segal help Julius walk off the court. Moses has a bloody nose.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

It does not look good for the Matzo-Ballers as they help their star Julius Richardson off the court with 1:36 left in the first half.

Without Julius, the Dreidels score a few times and the Jewish Jordan makes a three pointer at the halftime buzzer. The Dreidels run into the locker room with the momentum even though they're losing 22-15.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

(CONT'D)

What a shot by the Jewish Jordan to end the half as the Dreidels trail 22-15. As they seem to be back in this ball game! You're listening to KJEW Radio, your new home for JCC Basketball. We'll be right back with the second half and a special halftime presentation as the JCC inducts Dick Cooperman into the Hall of Fame.

CLOSE-UP of Dick Cooperman and his much younger, gay lover, Juan Esteban, holding hands.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The Doctor examines Julius's foot. Everyone's worried. Moses talks privately to the Doctor.

MOSES

How is it?

DOCTOR

Not good. I think it's a sprain, but we won't know until he takes an x-ray. He's done for tonight, sorry Moses.

CUT TO:

HALFTIME CEREMONY - CONTINUOUS

Dick Cooperman stands next to Juan Esteban as he raises his jersey to the rafters.

MR. KAPLAN

It's over. Without Julius, there's no way they can win.

BARRY EPSTEIN

It doesn't look good.

CUT TO:

EXT. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Sarah looks through the glass door and sees Moses standing in the middle of a snow fall. She walks outside.

SARAH

How's he doing?

MOSES

They think he has a sprained ankle. He can't play. You know, for a second out there, I thought we had a chance to win.

SARAH

What are you talking about?

MOSES

We've never beat the Dreidels. You see, I missed this shot in sixth grade and ever since then the Jewish Jordan's had my number. I'll never beat him. Looks like you're dating a winner.

SARAH

There's nothing going on between us. He just kissed me to piss you off.

MOSES

Yeah right.

SARAH

I'm serious. He's an asshole. If you didn't run away like a little baby, you would have seen the part where I kneed him in the balls.

MOSES

Oh, really. When you were down there did it remind you of old times?

SARAH

Moses! I've never touched any part of Isaac's body other than the other night when he kissed me.

MOSES

Even in high school?

SARAH

Yeah.

MOSES

Because he said you--

SARAH

Yeah.

MOSES

Because he said you did.

SARAH

And he also said you were a quitter. But I didn't believe that until now.

He just looks at her.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Stop living in the past and knock down a damn jumpshot!

Off Moses' look...

CUT TO:

BLEACHERS - CONTINUOUS

Peter Bell rocks out to "Dayenu" in the background.

RUTMAN

Oh, so my buddy, Gary--

ZISKIN

I know Gary.

RUTMAN

He was telling me his company transferred some seven-foot-Chinese guy to his office in Skokie. Guy speaks like no English.

ZISKIN

So?

RUTMAN

We need to recruit a ringer for next year, like Epstein.

ZISKIN

No way. I'm not a fan of international players.

RUTMAN

Face it, it's where this league's headed.

CUT TO:

BASKETBALL COURT - MOMENTS LATER

The Dreidels practice shooting before the second half.

STECKMAN

This is going to be a joke.

JEWISH JORDAN

(sarcastic)

Hey don't get so cocky! We still got to worry about Feldman and Segal.

They burst into laughter.

JEWISH JORDAN (CONT'D)

What losers. Let's win this, go home and bang some chicks. God, I'm amazing.

LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The team sits in the locker-room, hanging their heads. Except for Julius who is on crutches.

SEGAL

This sucks. I can't believe we're going to lose again.

ABE

We were so close.

JAY

What are you doing in the off-season?

SEGAL

Drag racing, magician classes. You?

JAY

Remodeling the basement. How's your knee?

ABE

Bad. Feldman, can I borrow some BenGay?

Feldman's body is covered in BenGay.

FELDMAN

Sorry, just ran out. This sucks. Do we have to go back out there?

Moses walks in.

MOSES

What's going on in here?

SEGAL

Just discussing the offseason. What are your plans?

MOSES

Offseason? What the hell are you talking about? There's twenty minutes left, and we're up seven points.

ABE

We can't beat them without Julius.

MOSES

Is that what everyone thinks?

MATZO-BALLERS

Yeah. Uh-huh.

Moses looks at Julius, now on crutches.

MOSES

What do you think?

JULIUS

I think you guys can win.

MOSES

Me too.

SEGAL

You do?

MOSES

Yeah. Segal, remember that time you made three baskets in a row and we started calling you "Oven Mits" because you were too hot to handle.

SEGAL

September 6th, 2002. Oakdale Gym.
Greatest game of my life.

MOSES

Well we need a kick ass game from you if we're gonna win! Keep shooting even you miss. We need some 3-pointers.

SEGAL

You got it!

MOSES

And Feldman, don't let Steckman push you around. With Rosenberg's ejection, you should own the paint against these guys.

FELDMAN

You're right.

MOSES

Besides didn't Steckman steal your fan at tennis camp. And wasn't it hot that week in Milwaukee.

FELDMAN

Scorching hot. Steckman's a dead man!

MOSES

Get every rebound you can. And if the skyhook is there, take it!

FELDMAN

Yes, coach!

Moses walks over to Jay.

MOSES

Before Julius, you were our best player.
We need you to step up and take over.

JAY

What if I don't have it in me?

MOSES

I'll tell your wife what really happened
at your bachelor party in Vegas.

JAY

I promise to play the most inspired game
of my life. Let's do this!

Jay stands up starts hi-fiving his teammates.

MOSES

Abe, you have a history of nagging
injuries, because you've always been
afraid of getting seriously hurt. But
right now, that goes out the window. I
need you to play like Rodman. Am I clear?

Abe nods. He takes off his knee pads, all his protective
gear, and throws it in the trash.

JULIUS

That's what I'm talking about!

MOSES

Bring it in!

They huddle up and put their hands on top of each other.

MOSES (CONT'D)

They may have knocked one of us down, but
there's five of us still standing. Let's box
out and rebound! You're the best friends
I could ever ask for. Matzo-Ballers on
three.

MATZO-BALLERS

One, two, three, Matzo-Ballers!

CUT TO:

BASKETBALL COURT - MOMENTS LATER

RUN-DMC's "Peter Piper" begins the second half basketball
MONTAGE of highlights.

The Matzo-Ballers match the Dreidels basket for basket.

Segal pulls up from 30-feet...

SEGAL

Good.

He scores.

ABE

Holy shit. He made one.

MOSES

Nice shot, Oven Mits!

Abe dives after loose balls. Feldman rebounds like a maniac. Jay matches the Jewish Jordan shot for shot.

JEWISH JORDAN

What's going on?

STECKMAN

I don't know.

JEWISH JORDAN

Get me the ball.

The Jewish Jordan takes over. Scoring at will.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)

A clinic. A basketball clinic. The Jewish Jordan is a one man wrecking crew.

But Moses starts to find his scoring touch as well, including one where he splits the defense and lays it in.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

Go down Moses! The Dreidels defense parted like the Red Sea for this Matzo-Baller. Somebody woke up Epstein as he has just exploded for six straight points. He's had a rough year offensively, but he did lead the league in technical fouls. And when he gets that ten-foot set shot going, he's money.

The Jewish Jordan makes a no-look pass to Steckman who scores. Jay comes back down and makes 3-pointer. Then Abe makes a steal and bounce pass to Feldman for a layup.

JAY

Nice pass baby!

ABE

Chai-five!

Abe and Jay hi-five.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)

Nothing gets a team more fired up than a good bounce pass. Even without their star, the Matzo-Ballers have come out this half playing fundamental, team basketball and they have kept it close.

Jewish Jordan comes back and scores. But then, Segal hits a three, and Jay blocks a shot that leads to a basket.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

(CONT'D)

Just when you thought it was over, the Matzo-Ballers cut the lead to two. The Dreidels can't afford any more mistakes.

The Dreidels inbound the ball but...

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

(CONT'D)

Now, there's a steal by Epstein! Underneath to Kaplan! He lays it in! What a play! The Matzo-Ballers have tied it. Oh, my, this place is going crazy!

MOSES

We have to foul!

ABE

Foul!

The Dreidels inbound the ball this time, but Steckman is immediately fouled.

MOSES

Good job.

Jewish Jordan can't believe it. He looks at the scoreboard. It's tied 53-53 with 9 seconds left.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)

The foul may stop the clock, but the Matzo-Ballers fouled the one guy you don't want to foul, Dennis Steckman.

Steckman steps to the free throw line.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN
(CONT'D)

He's a coach's son. And as we all know, a coach's son makes his free throws. Dennis played two years for his dad, Skip, at Lake Forest Elementary.

RAY THE REF

Two shots.

JEWISH JORDAN

Knock'em down.

Swish! He makes the first one. Dreidels lead 54-53.

JEWISH JORDAN (CONT'D)

Good shot.

SEGAL

Damn.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

First one is good. One more on the way.

Cohen misses the free throw. Jay grabs the rebound.

JAY

Timeout!

STECKMAN

Dammit!

JEWISH JORDAN

Shit.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN

Well, it's all come down to this. Down one point with seven seconds left, the Matzo-Ballers have one shot to dethrone the most dominating team in JCC history.

CUT TO:

DREIDELS BENCH - CONTINUOUS

Inside the Dreidels huddle.

JEWISH JORDAN

Stay man-to-man and crash the boards after the shot. Make sure you know who you're guarding.

STECKMAN

I got Moses.

JEWISH JORDAN

Don't worry about him. He can't handle the pressure.

CUT TO:

MATZO-BALLERS BENCH - CONTINUOUS

The Matzo-Ballers huddle breaks, players take the court.

ABE

Are you sure you want this?

Moses nods with purpose.

CUT TO:

BASKETBALL COURT - SECONDS LATER

The players take the court. The gym is buzzing.

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)

Here we go...

Rabbi Chaim Berman's voice gets drowned out, as the only sounds come from the BALL bouncing and the player's SNEAKERS...as the final play happens in SLOW MOTION...

Segal passes to Moses at the top of the key. The clock ticks down 7, 6, 5...Moses dribbles to his left and beats Steckman...he has a clear path to the hoop. The Jewish Jordan leaves his man to guard Moses.

JEWISH JORDAN

Get him!

Moses rises from the spot he missed from in 6th grade...

SARAH

C'mon Moses...

The Jewish Jordan jumps to block it, but misses. The ball sails toward the hoop...hits off the backboard, THUD! Bounces on the rim, CLANG! And goes in, SWISH!

BUZZER SOUNDS! Matzo-Ballers win 55-54!

RABBI CHAIM BERMAN (V.O.)
 Matzo-Ballers win! Oh my God, the Matzo-Ballers win! Moses Epstein has shocked Highland Park, Peoria, Winnetka, the northern part of downtown and Boca Raton.

The Matzo-Ballers tackle Moses in excitement.

It's pandemonium at the JCC as the crowd rushes on the floor to congratulate the Matzo-Ballers.

Debbie jumps into Feldman's arms and they make out.

The Rubinger Twins start making out with Segal.

Jay's wife Betsy kisses him, then starts yelling at him.

MR. KAPLAN
 Nice game, son. You played with a lot of heart out there. I'm very proud of you.

ABE
 Thanks dad.

They hug. It's a nice father, son moment.

The Doctor, Fred, Dick Cooperman, Juan Esteban and Concepcion stand in circle and light up a fat joint.

Lou Rutman and the other JCC players heckle the Dreidels as they walk off the court.

RUTMAN
 Eat shit Dreidels!

ARNIE RIFKIN
 You suck!

Segal and Feldman congratulate Julius, when all of a sudden a hot girl runs over and kisses Julius.

SEGAL
 Who's that?

JULIUS
 This is my girlfriend.

FELDMAN
 That's Rachel Birnbaum?

SEGAL
 I guess she out grew the leg braces.

RACHEL BIRNBAUM is the Jewish version of Carmen Electra.
Segal and Feldman can't believe it.

Meanwhile the Matzo-Ball mascot continues to beat up the
Dreidel mascot with help from Charlie Goldstein.

Moses also gets mobbed.

RABBI SINGER

What a game! Congratulations!

ARNIE RIFKIN

Thanks Moses! You made me a lot of money!

As Moses gets congratulated, he looks for Sarah.

BARRY EPSTEIN

Great game son. I knew you could do it.

MOSES

Thanks dad.

SHEILA EPSTEIN

I'm so proud of you, honey. Are you
hungry? You look hungry?

Matzo-Ballers cut down the net like in the Final Four.

SAUL FISHMAN

(drunk)

Moses, Saul Fishman. You were the tops
babe. I knew it was going in when you
released it.

Moses continues to look for Sarah.

MOSES

(to himself)

Where is she?

SAUL FISHMAN

Goldfarb and I have started a bobblehead
company and we want to make a limited
edition one of you. What do you say?

BARRY EPSTEIN

Hey Saul, tell that son of a bitch
Goldfarb to go blow himself. He
overcharged me for bifocals.

Moses keeps looking through the masses when...

JEWISH JORDAN (O.C.)

Hey, Moses.

The Jewish Jordan, Rosenberg and Steckman walk over.

MOSES

Yeah.

JEWISH JORDAN

Good game. We should've won. But you guys played pretty well.

MOSES

Thanks.

BOOTSY (O.S.)

Well, if it isn't that punk-ass bitch who injured our boy.

Bernard and Bootsy step in between them.

BERNARD

Do you know what happens to people in our neighborhood who don't play fair?

JEWISH JORDAN

Um...

Bootsy grabs the Jewish Jordan by the shirt. Rosenberg and Steckman run away!

The Doctor and Fred hand the Matzo-Ballers the trophy.

DOCTOR

You guys earned this. Congratulations!

The Matzo-Ballers cheer and hi-five each other.

SEGAL

We did it! Holy shit we did it! I'm going to EuroDisney.

FELDMAN

I'm going to declare early for the draft.

JAY

What draft?

FELDMAN

YMCA basketball draft.

ABE

When does that league start?

In a moment of pure clarity, all by himself, Moses looks up towards God, and gives a Sammy Sosa-like two pumps to his chest...making peace.

SARAH (O.S.)
Nice shot, Epstein.

Moses turns around and sees that Sarah was watching him.

MOSES
Thanks. For the record, I called "bank".

SARAH
Shut up and kiss me.

They kiss as the celebration continues around them.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KAPLAN'S DELI - DAY

Mr. Kaplan takes down Isaac Rubinowitz's photo from the Wall of Fame and puts up another in its place.

Lou Rutman stands next to WANG, a 7-foot Asian-American.

RUTMAN
That's the competition, Wang.

Lou Rutman points to the new photo. Wang nods. He's wearing a Jewish star necklace.

ZOOM IN to a CLOSE-UP of the new photo reveals it's the Matzo-Ballers team photo with JCC trophy in hand.

FADE TO BLACK.