

Start

**SCENE 10: BASKETBALL COURT –
LATER THAT WEEK, AFTERNOON**

(TROY shoots some hoops, waiting for the Redhawks to pick him up for practice. GABRIELLA runs in, steals the ball from TROY, takes a shot. There's something on her mind, but she's playing cool, working hard to maintain her smile.)

GABRIELLA

Nice jacket. University of Albuquerque?

TROY

It's a gift from Sharpay's dad. He fixed it so I could practice with the college guys today.

GABRIELLA

(smiling)

Wow! Go Redhawks! Go Sharpay's dad!

(GABRIELLA passes the ball to TROY.)

TROY

I'll be back right after practice, then we can go to a movie or something. Promise.

GABRIELLA

We have the staff baseball game today. You promised to play, remember?

TROY

Is that today?

GABRIELLA

You promised to have dinner with me last night, too.

TROY

Uhm, I'm really sorry – I had to rehearse. I'm just trying to get that scholarship, you know?

GABRIELLA

Troy, you'll get that scholarship because you deserve it, not because you sing with Sharpay.

(CHAD and ZEKE enter, ready to shoot some hoops. They keep things cool, trying to figure out where Troy's head is at.)

CHAD

Well, look who it is.

GABRIELLA

Aren't you guys going to practice with the Redhawks?

CHAD, ZEKE

Redhawks?

TROY

(trying to shush GABRIELLA, too late)

Gab, no, it's just me.

(to CHAD, ZEKE; awkwardly)

Uhm, you know, I mean Sharpay's dad set it up.

CHAD

Did you ask if we could come?

TROY

Well, I mean, he asked me, not us.

CHAD

And...

TROY

And what would you do, turn him down?

CHAD

No, but I'd ask if my teammates could play, too!

ZEKE

You said we were going to shoot some hoop before the baseball game, Cap.

CHAD

Zeke, man, that was so like yesterday. You know...

(stealing the ball from TROY)

... when we were all on the same team.

TROY

Just trying to follow my dream, bro.

CHAD

We all have dreams, "bro."

TROY

Great. So make them happen.

(We hear a car horn offstage.)

REDHAWK PLAYER (V.O.)

Hey Troy, come on! The guys are waiting.

(CHAD and TROY share a look: CHAD feels betrayed.)

CHAD

Those your new pals?

TROY

I gotta go.

ZEKE

(trying to cheer up CHAD)

Don't let him pop your soufflé, dude. Come on.

(CHAD and ZEKE exit.)

GABRIELLA

(trying to help)

Troy—

(The car horn honks again.)

TROY

I'm gonna be late. Bye.

(TROY runs off.)

GABRIELLA

(giving TROY a sad, tiny wave)

Bye.

(RYAN enters looking depressed.)

RYAN

Hey, Gabriella.

GABRIELLA

Hey, Ryan. Sorry about "Humuhumu." I really liked it.

RYAN

It's just a dumb old talent show, but Sharpay acts like it's *American Idol*.

GABRIELLA

Hey, why don't you come to the staff baseball game with me?

RYAN

Thanks, but I'm not an employee. I wasn't invited.

GABRIELLA

I just invited you. Come on!

(GABRIELLA grabs RYAN's hand and runs off with him.)

stop

SCENE 11: BASEBALL DIAMOND – FIVE MINUTES LATER

(CHAD, ZEKE, TAYLOR, MARTHA COX, JACK SCOTT and some other WILDCATS warm up for the employee baseball game. A dark cloud hangs over their heads; there is no joy in Mudville tonight!)

MARTHA COX

There's no way can we beat the Groundskeepers without our Captain.

JACK SCOTT

I can't believe Troy and Kelsi sold out to Sharpay.

ZEKE

We are like so totally creamed corn, dudes.

CHAD

Yo, a little team spirit! We're all in this together, right?