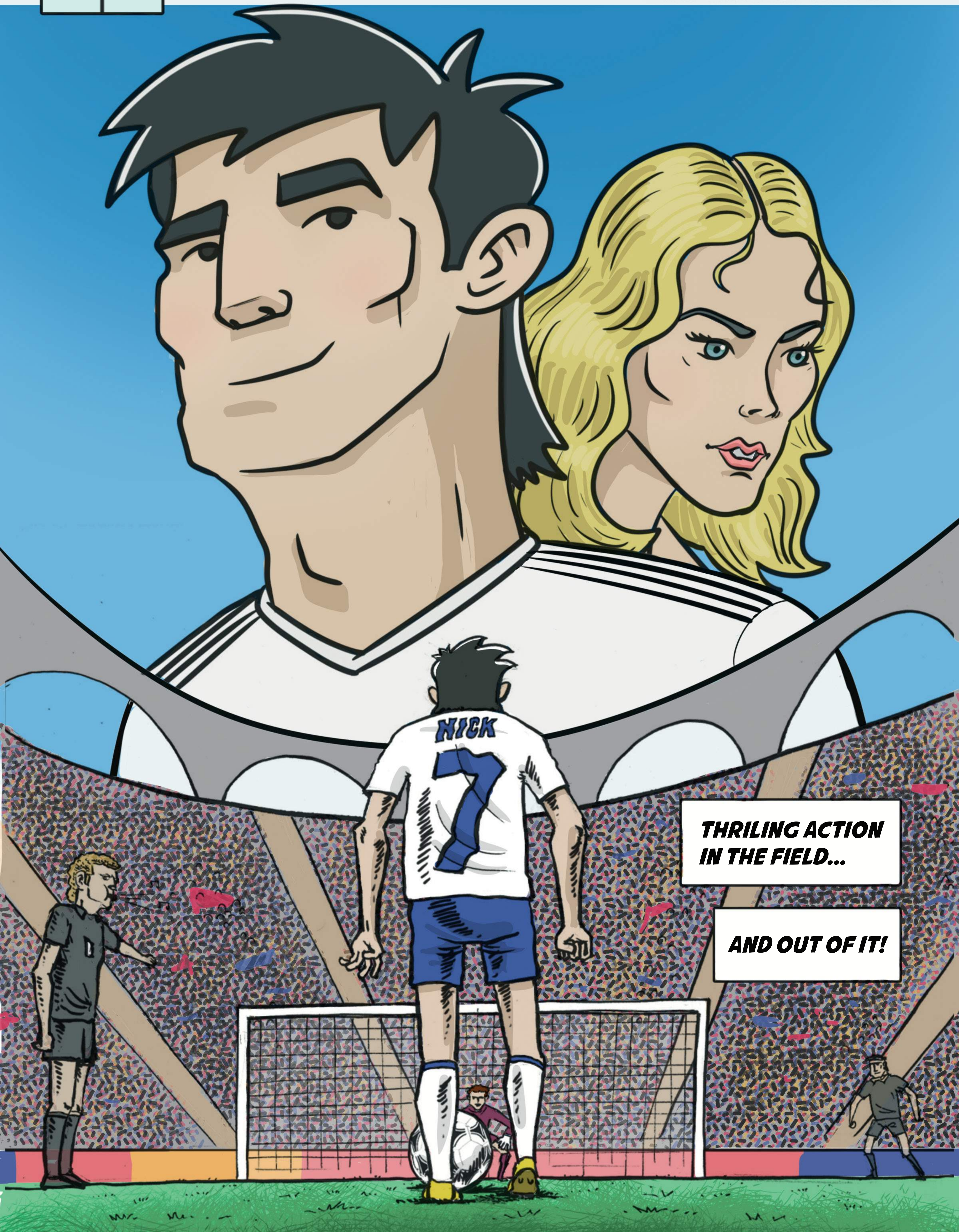


MAS
COMICS

S1 EP.1

TOUCHLINE

A STORY ABOUT FRIENDS AND FOOTBALL



HELLO!

Touchline follows the story of Nick and his friends as they experience the thrilling world of football amidst extraordinary challenges. Set against the backdrop of a world dealing with unexpected problems, the story digs into the complexities of their journey, from the highs of success on the pitch to the lows of personal struggles off the pitch. As the team confronts the adversities brought on by global events, their bonds are tested, and their resilience shines through. Through triumphs and tribulations, Touchline portrays the essence of football as more than simply a game, but a light of hope and unity in the face of dark times.

Comic Arts:
Ali Khalkhali

Story & Production:
Ali Khalkhali
Mousa Khalkhali
Schahryar Fekri

MATCHDAY

BLU vs. BER

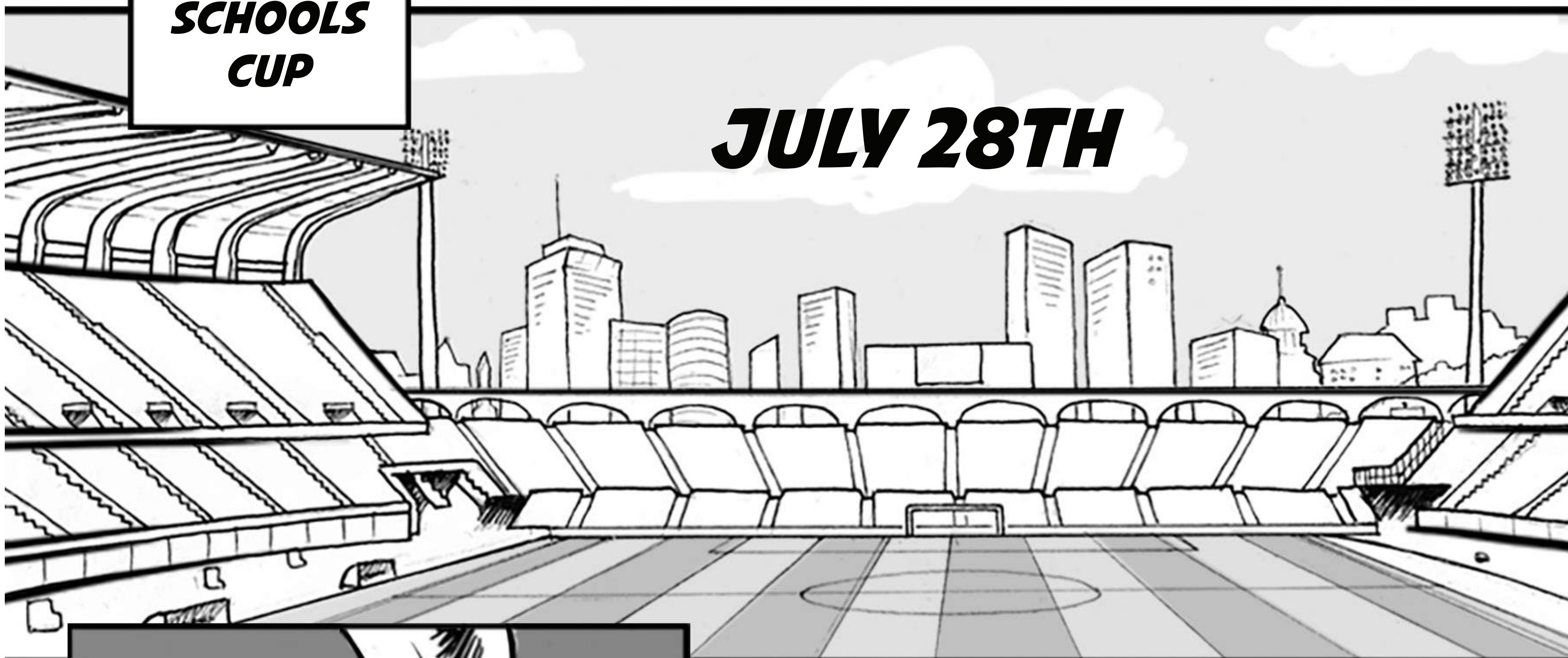
MARKUS SMITH STADIUM

SEMI-FINAL

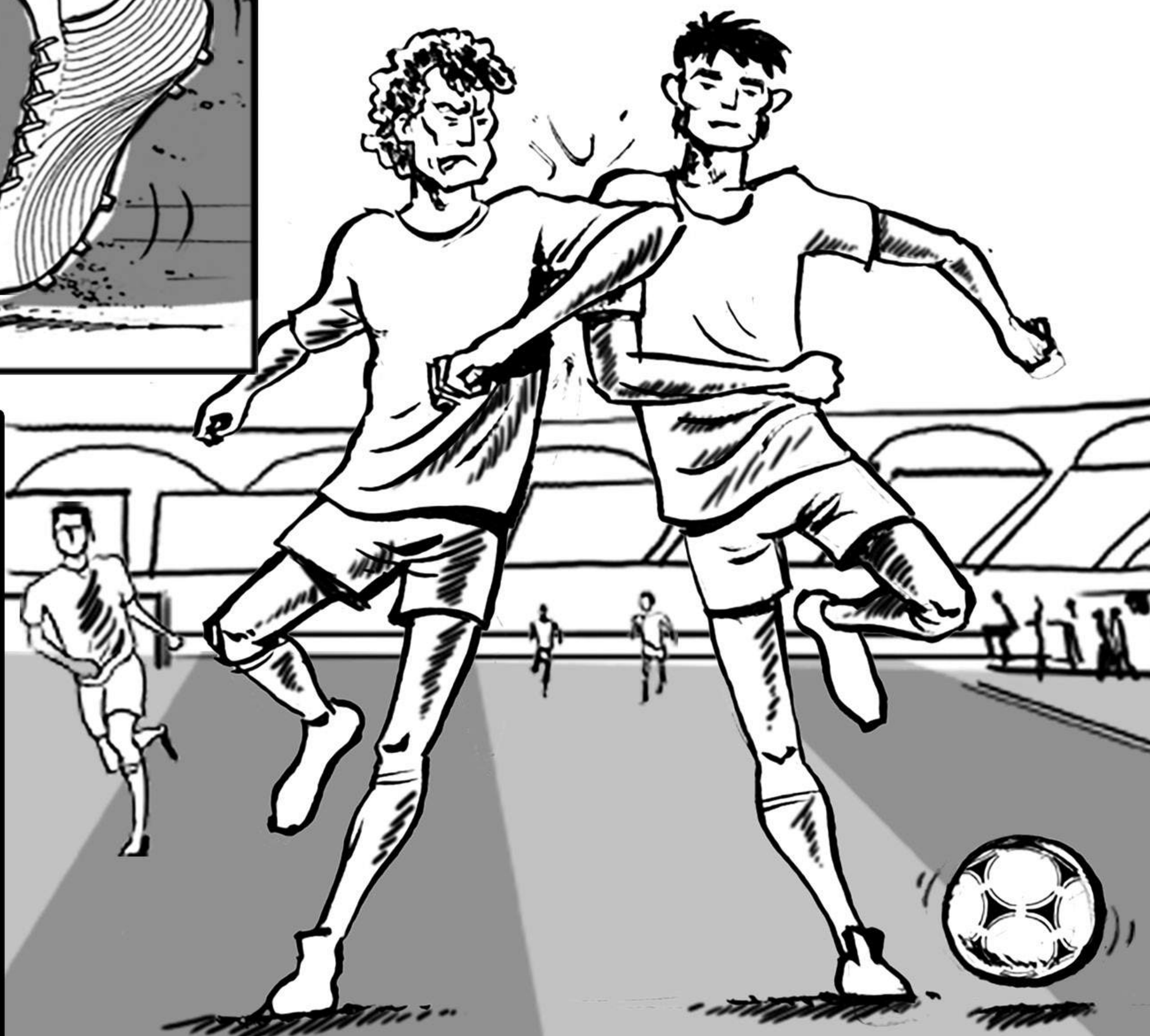
**NATIONAL
SCHOOLS
CUP**

This match is vital for both teams in determining the finalists. It's a make-or-break moment for these rookies, shaping their football futures. No one's here to lose; it's a chance for them to become national wonderkids.

JULY 28TH



Nick, the Blue Lions' captain, is a truly talented player who has poured his heart into leading his team to this point. He's prepared to do whatever it takes to overcome his opponent and secure a spot in the final game.





Nick's speed boost kicks in, letting him past the defender for a brief moment ...

His teammate, Steve, perfectly positioned and signaling for an assist, there's no room for delay.

Steve, famed for his power headers, but currently feels a bit weird.

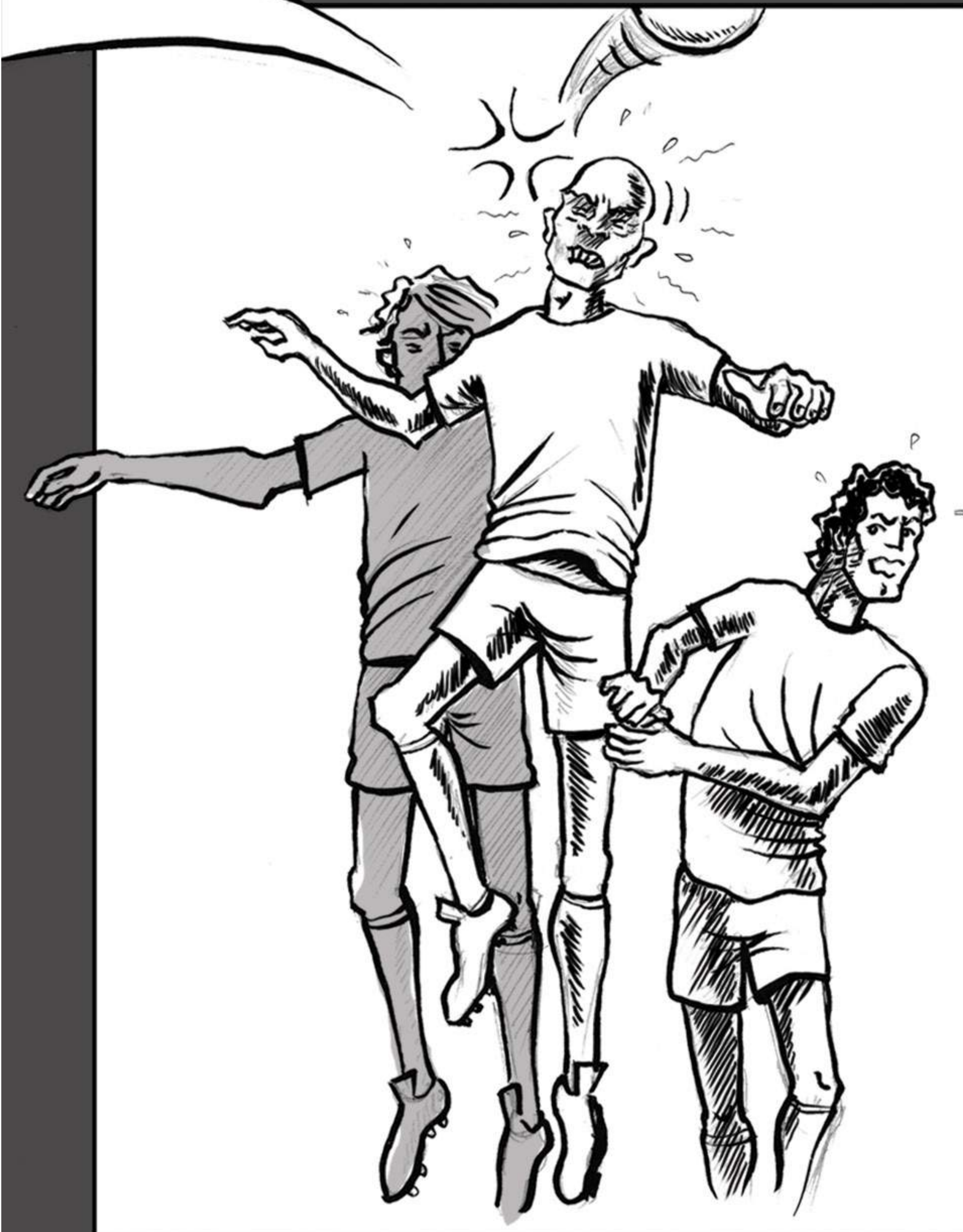


One of Nick's strengths is his ability to center the ball using his weaker foot as effectively as his right foot.

He is truly a five-star passer!

This is called a great cross!!!





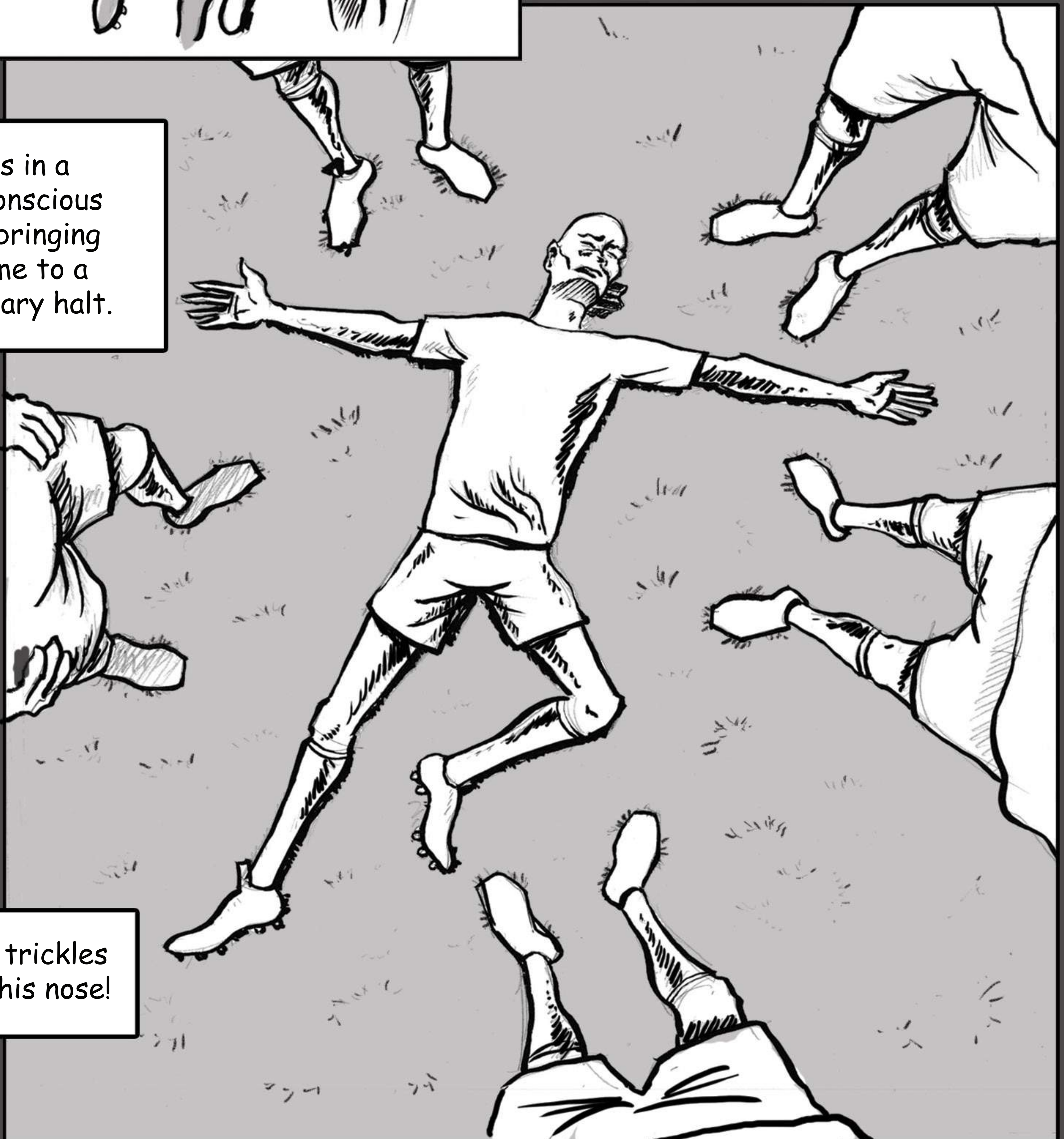
Despite feeling dizzy, Steve leaps for the ball, soaring even higher than all of his opponents.

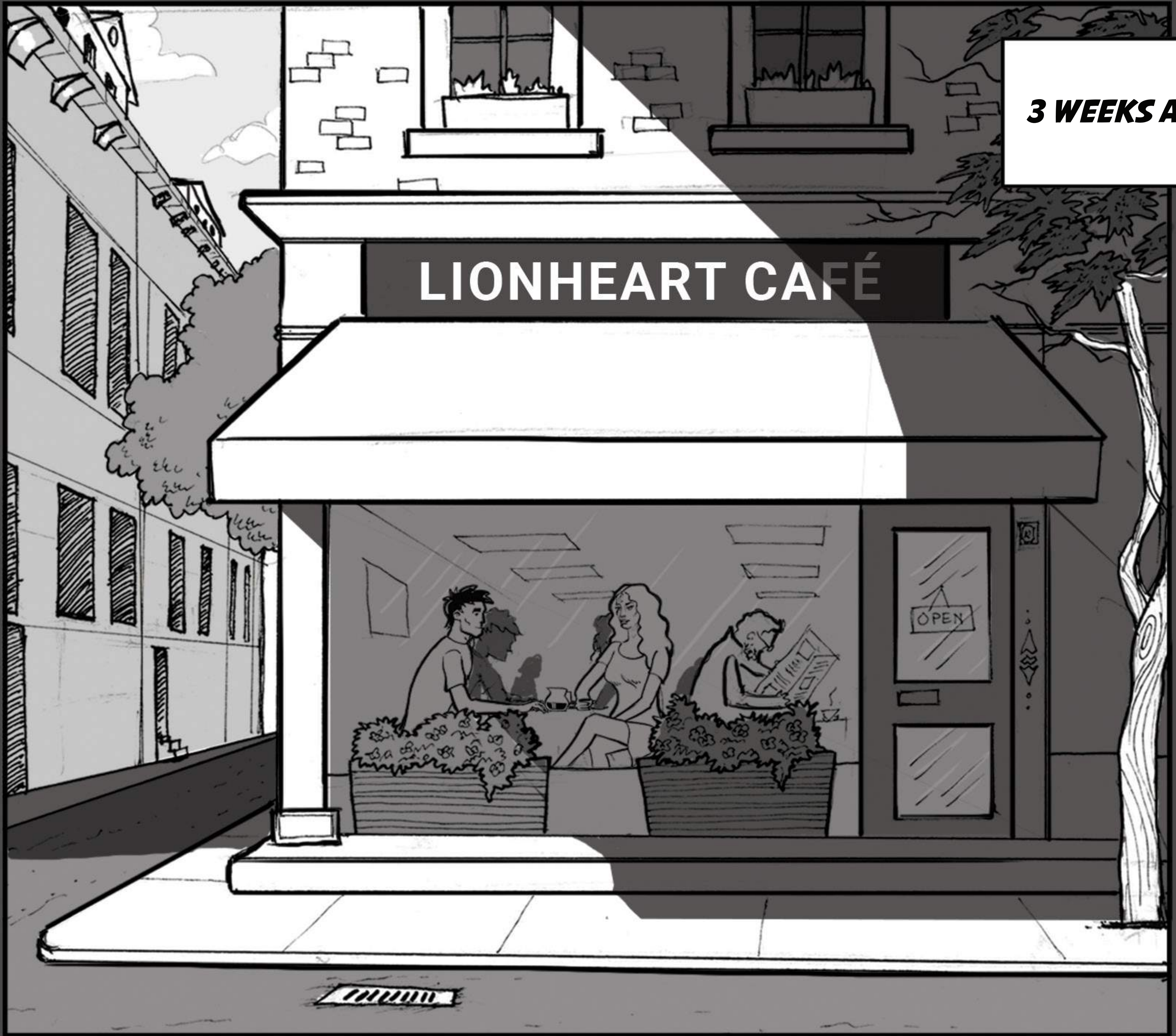
But then, in a bizarre and unusual turn of events, it was the ball that struck Steve's head, not the other way around!

The defenders were the first to sense that something wasn't quite right.

Steve is in a semi-conscious state, bringing the game to a temporary halt.

Blood trickles from his nose!





3 WEEKS AGO



Miss you loads, love! How's life treating you? I know this tourney's a big deal for you. Are you taking care of yourself? And what's the crack with school, Nick?



Sound, sweetheart! School's a breeze, and now it's all about gearing up for the next games. We're on it, aiming for that final spot and bagging the title for sure!



Babe, having you with me, off the pitch, it's everything. it's what makes every victory even sweeter. Lucky to call you mine, Sydney.

Nick, you're my winning goal in life. No matter the match's outcome, we're a league of our own, forever.



ON THE TRAINING FIELD



Mike Collins is an agent, occasionally attending Blue Lions training sessions to assess Nick's performance.

However, it's not just about the training ...

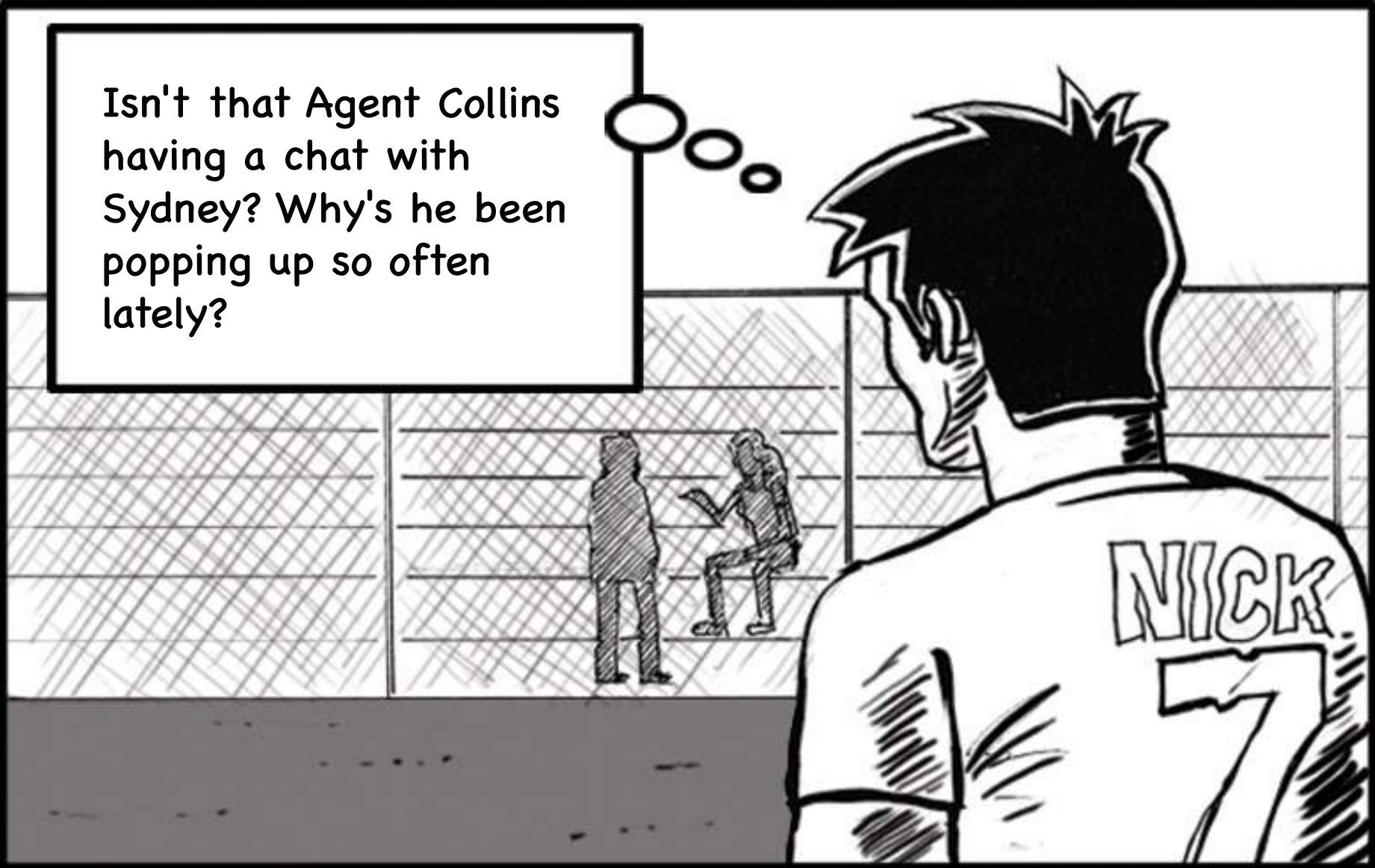
And it's not just Nick he's keen on keeping tabs on.



Oh, look who's here! Now's the good time to catch up with her.



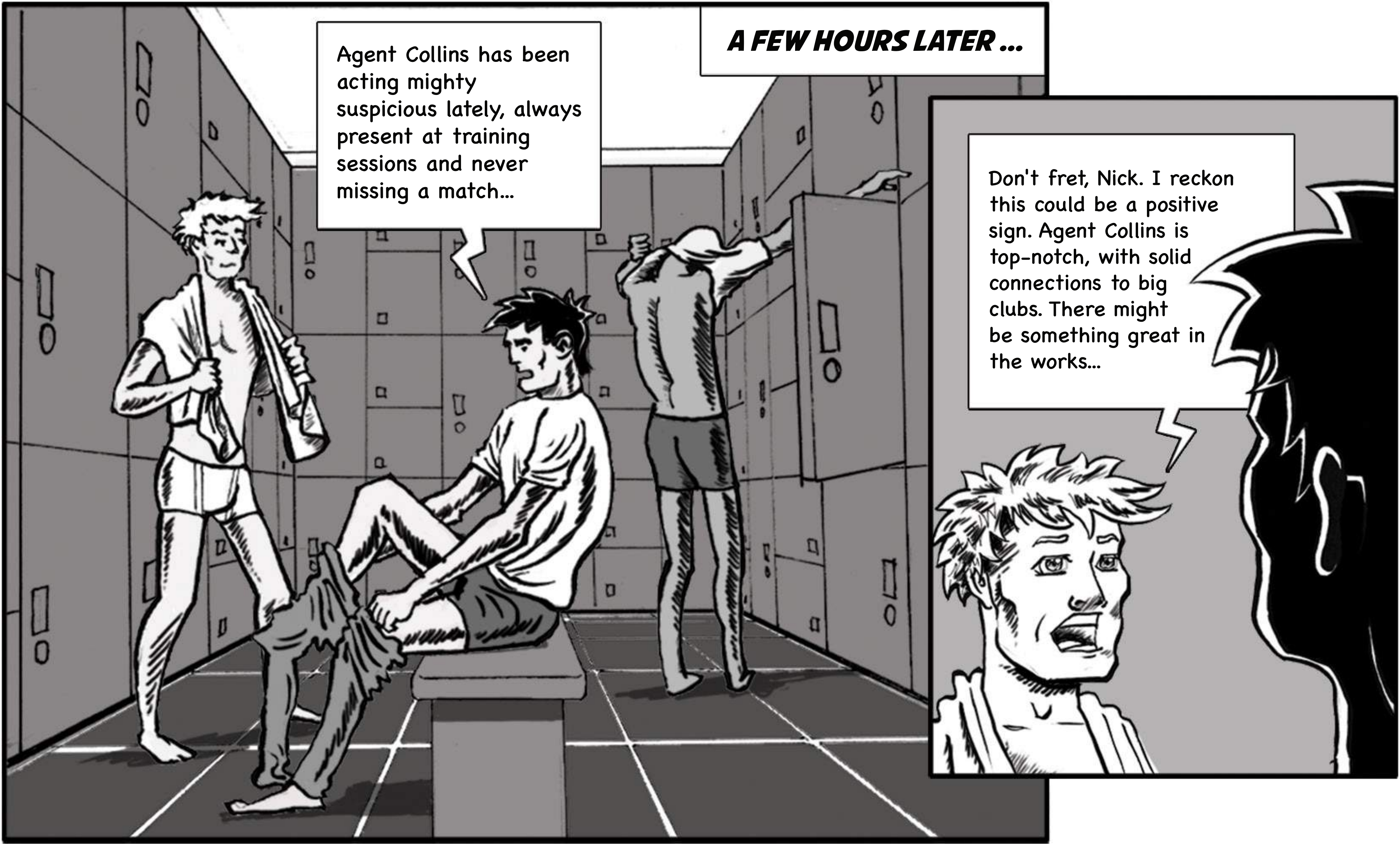
And he always seems to approach her when she's alone. I don't like it one bit; there's definitely something fishy going on...



Isn't that Agent Collins having a chat with Sydney? Why's he been popping up so often lately?

Why does he always seem to be deep in conversation with Sydney? What's the topic of discussion? I don't want to bring it up with Sydney; she might think I'm jealous. Maybe I am, but I can't shake the feeling that they're keeping something from me.

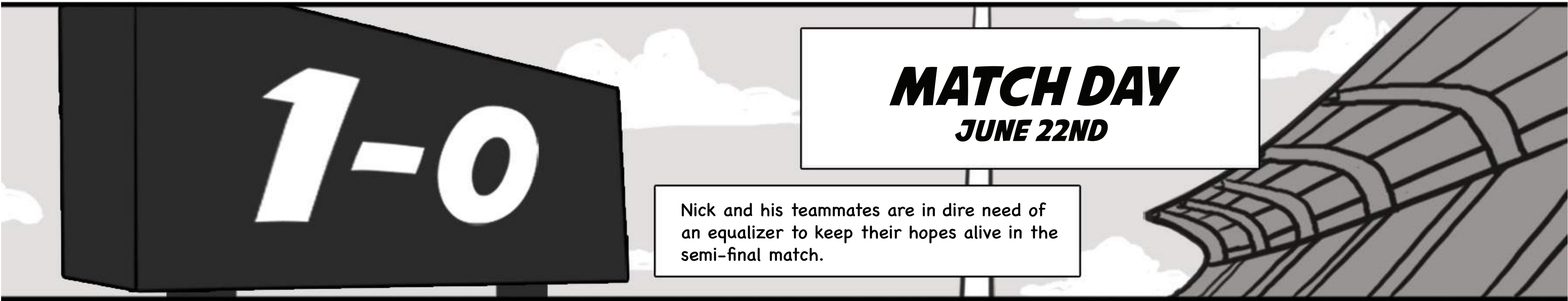




Agent Collins has been acting mighty suspicious lately, always present at training sessions and never missing a match...

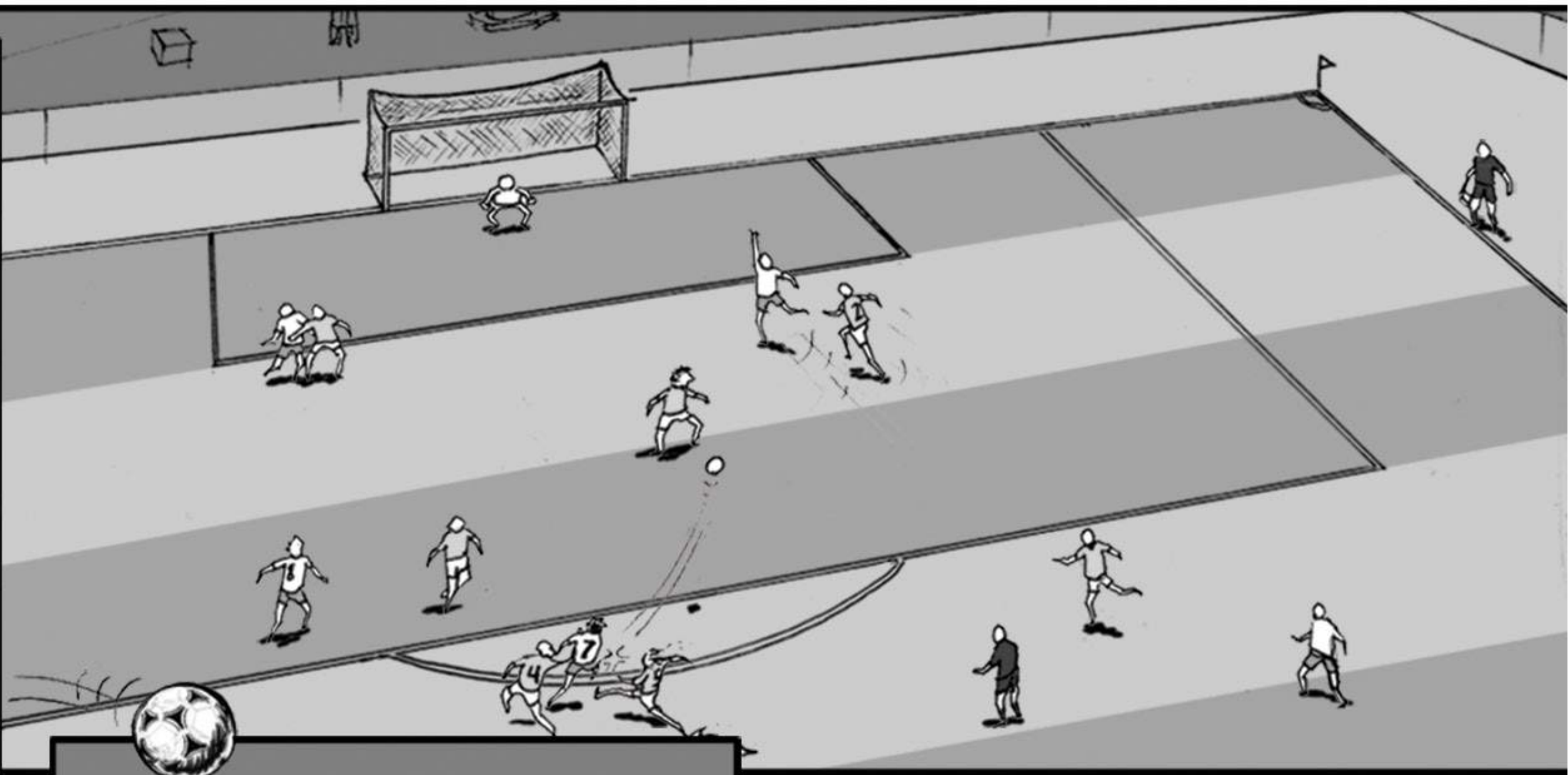
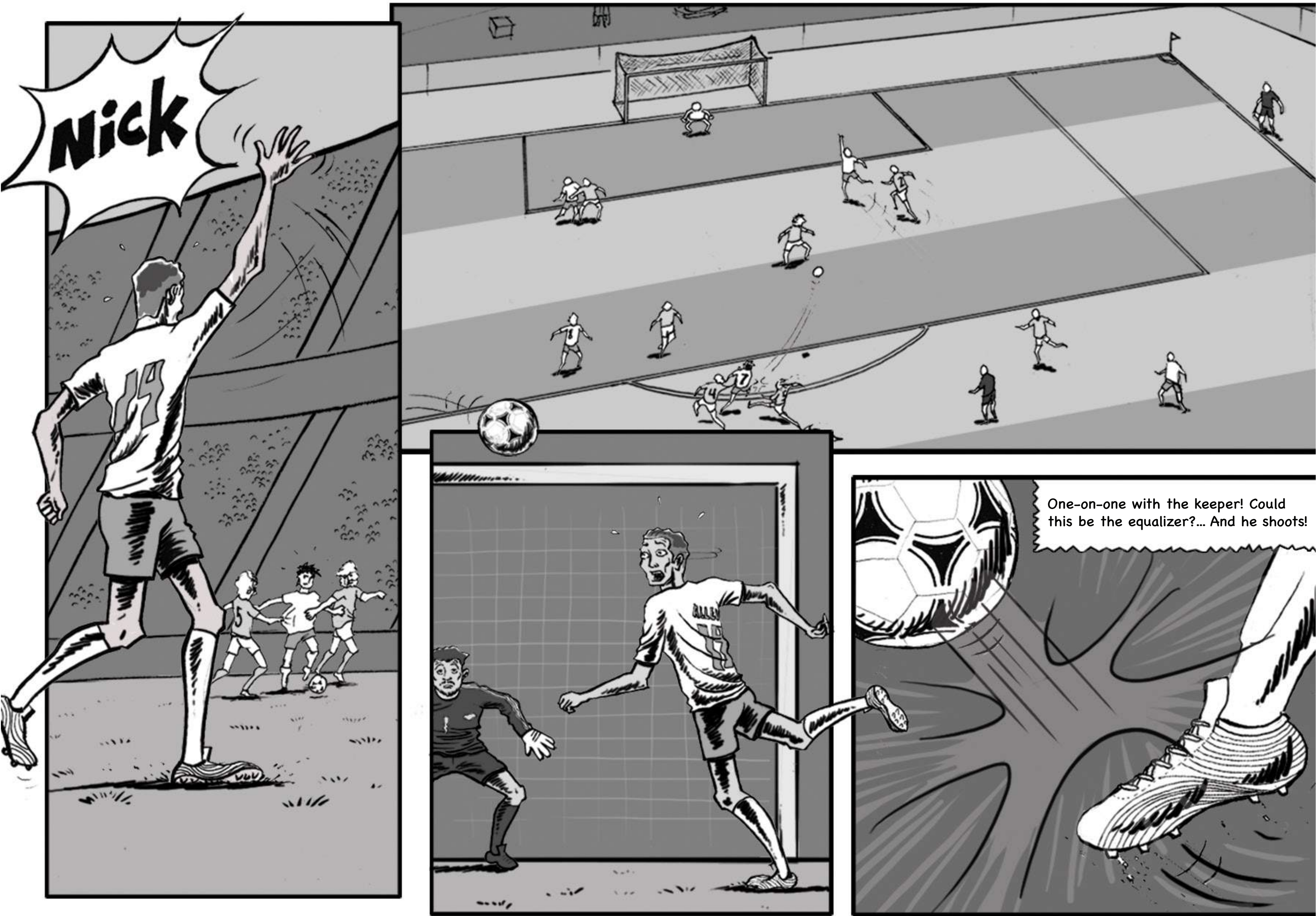
A FEW HOURS LATER ...

Don't fret, Nick. I reckon this could be a positive sign. Agent Collins is top-notch, with solid connections to big clubs. There might be something great in the works...



MATCH DAY
JUNE 22ND

Nick and his teammates are in dire need of an equalizer to keep their hopes alive in the semi-final match.



One-on-one with the keeper! Could this be the equalizer?... And he shoots!

Allen, known for his
outside-of-the-foot
shots ...

So he unleashes
with full power,
dazzling the ball ...

Every keeper's
worst nightmare!

Will this be
the equalizer?



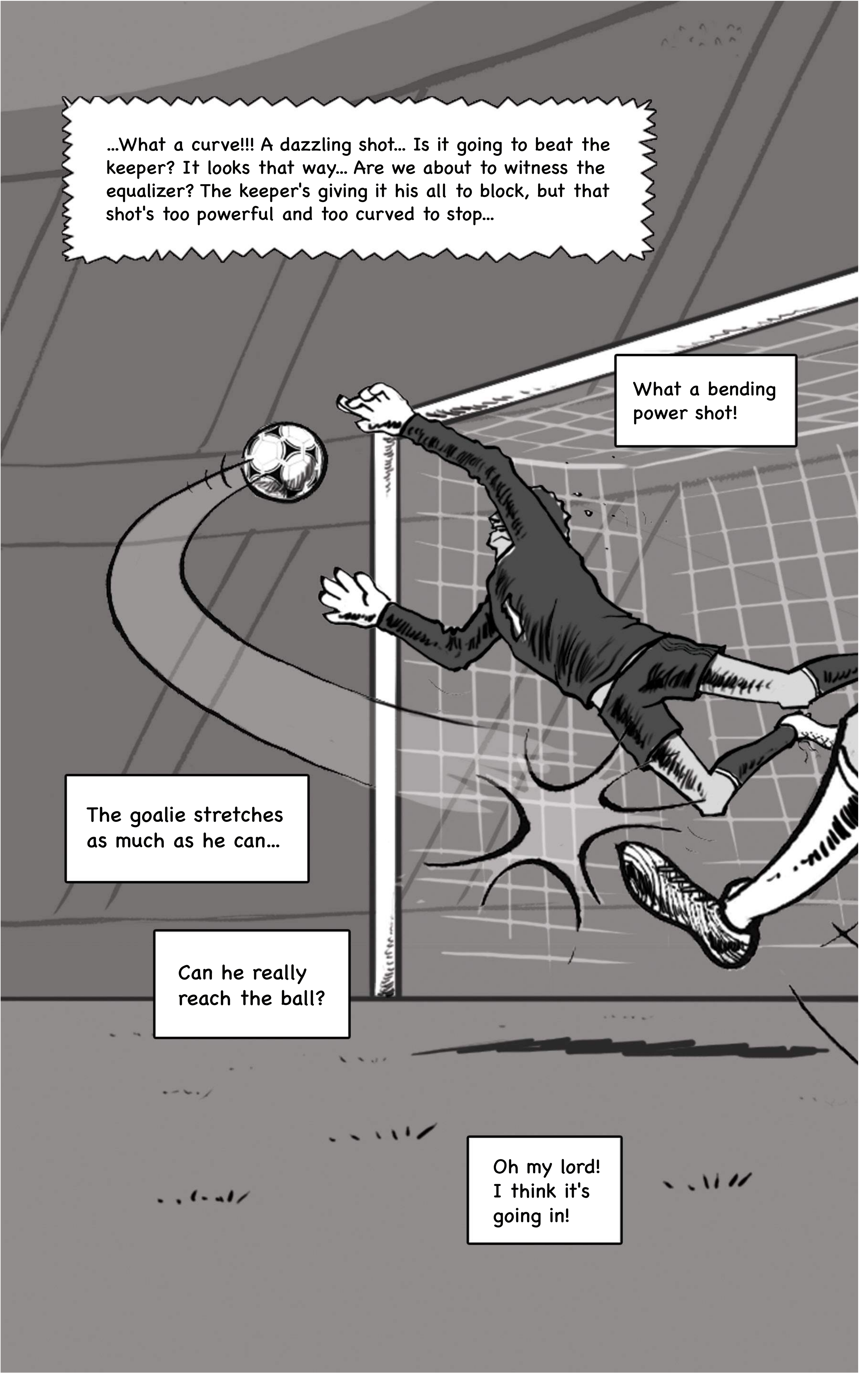
...What a curve!!! A dazzling shot... Is it going to beat the keeper? It looks that way... Are we about to witness the equalizer? The keeper's giving it his all to block, but that shot's too powerful and too curved to stop...

What a bending power shot!

The goalie stretches as much as he can...

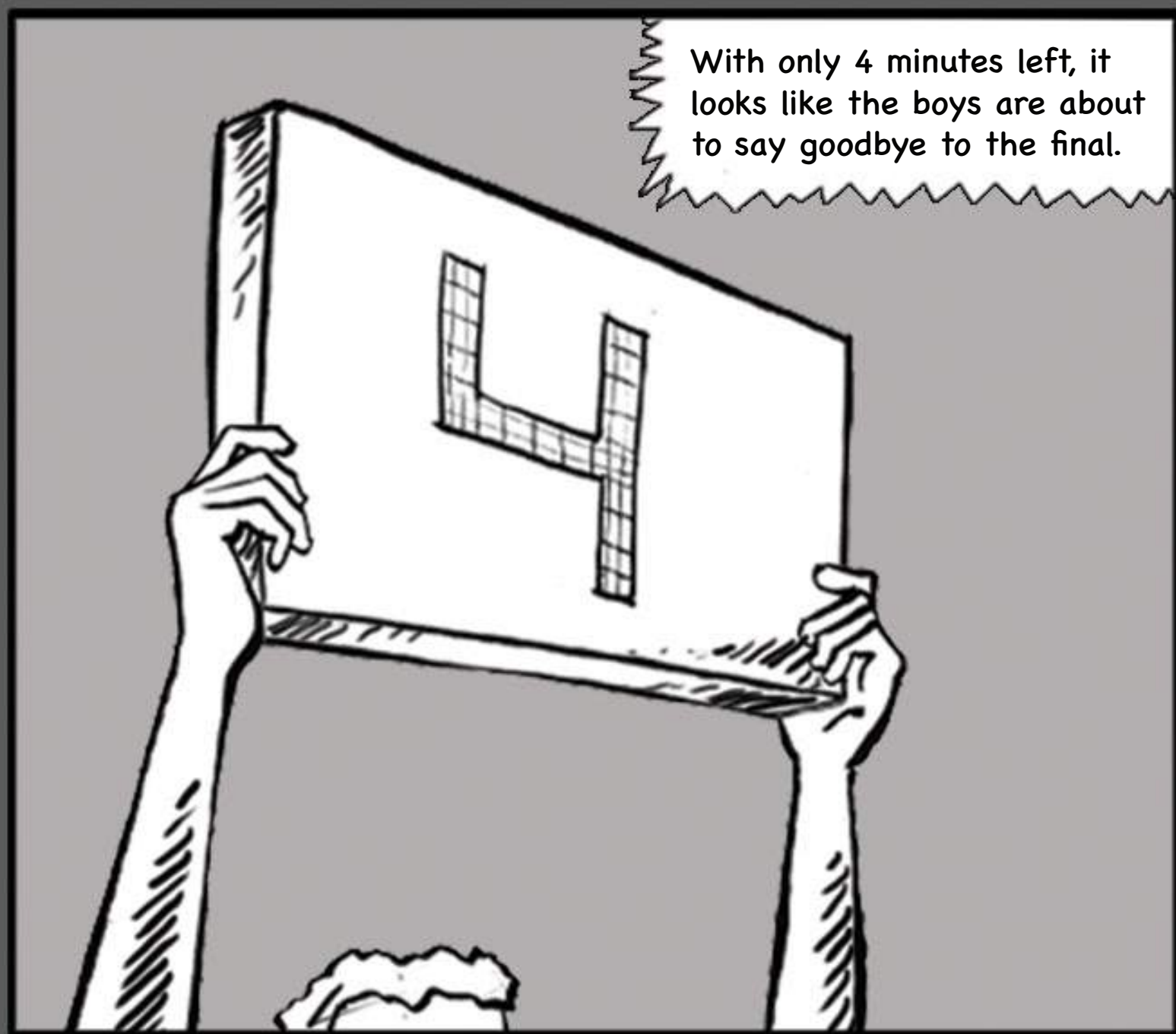
Can he really reach the ball?

Oh my lord!
I think it's going in!





Oh no! Hits the post...
And the chance
slips away!

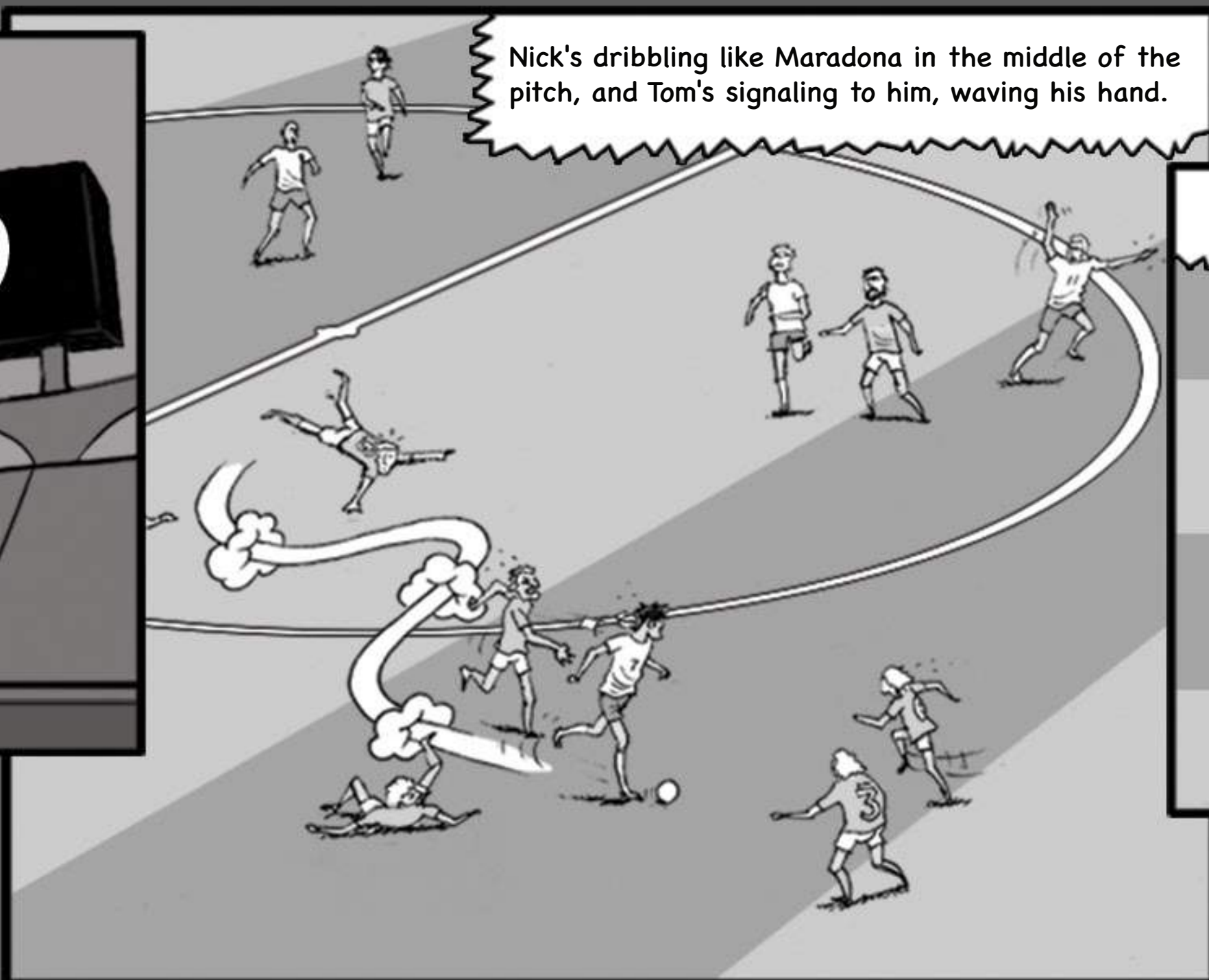


With only 4 minutes left, it
looks like the boys are about
to say goodbye to the final.

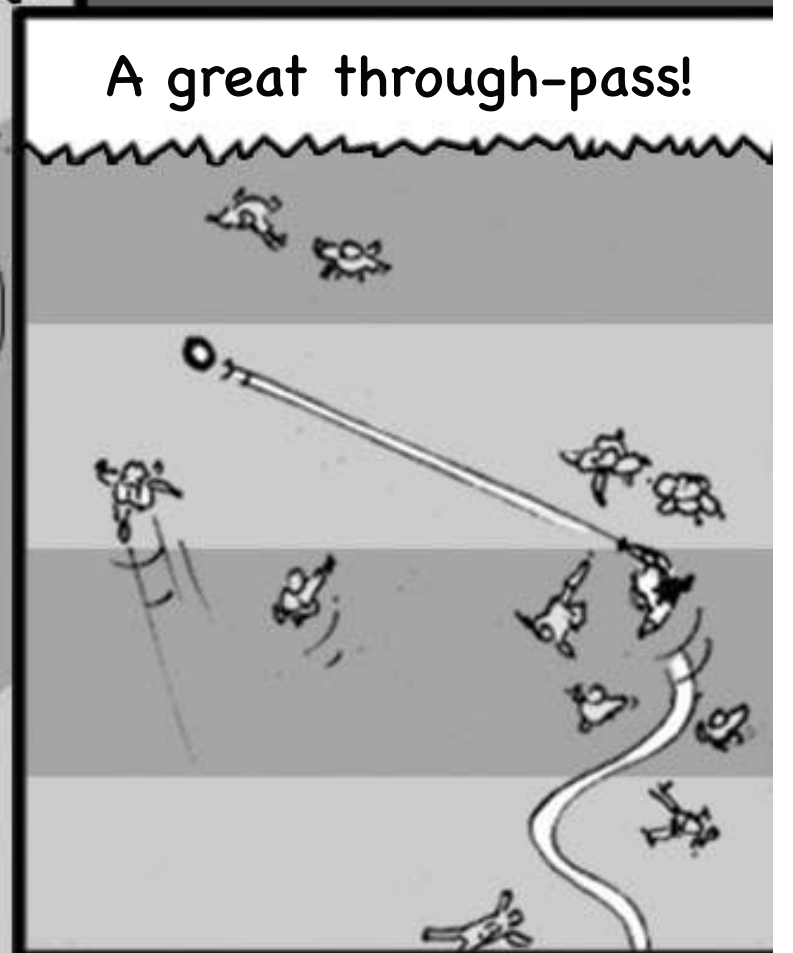


I'll keep them busy.
You better run into
the open space on
the left, draw the
defenders, and I'll
whip in the cross
when the time's
right.

Got it, Nick. I'll make
that through-pass
count, then watch for
the return ball in the
box!



Nick's dribbling like Maradona in the middle of the
pitch, and Tom's signaling to him, waving his hand.



A great through-pass!



The plan's working,
Tom! Just cross the
ball in time!



Tom crosses
the ball
perfectly!

Will Nick
put it
away?



Come on! ...
It's now or never!

What a
delivery...

Nick jumps up for a scissors kick, he was so quick that defenders just couldn't do anything but watch him.

Not sure if it's gonna work, though!



What a move ... a spectacular football parade ...

Everyone is just watching ...

... Including the keeper, frozen in anticipation ...

Are we about to witness the equalizer?

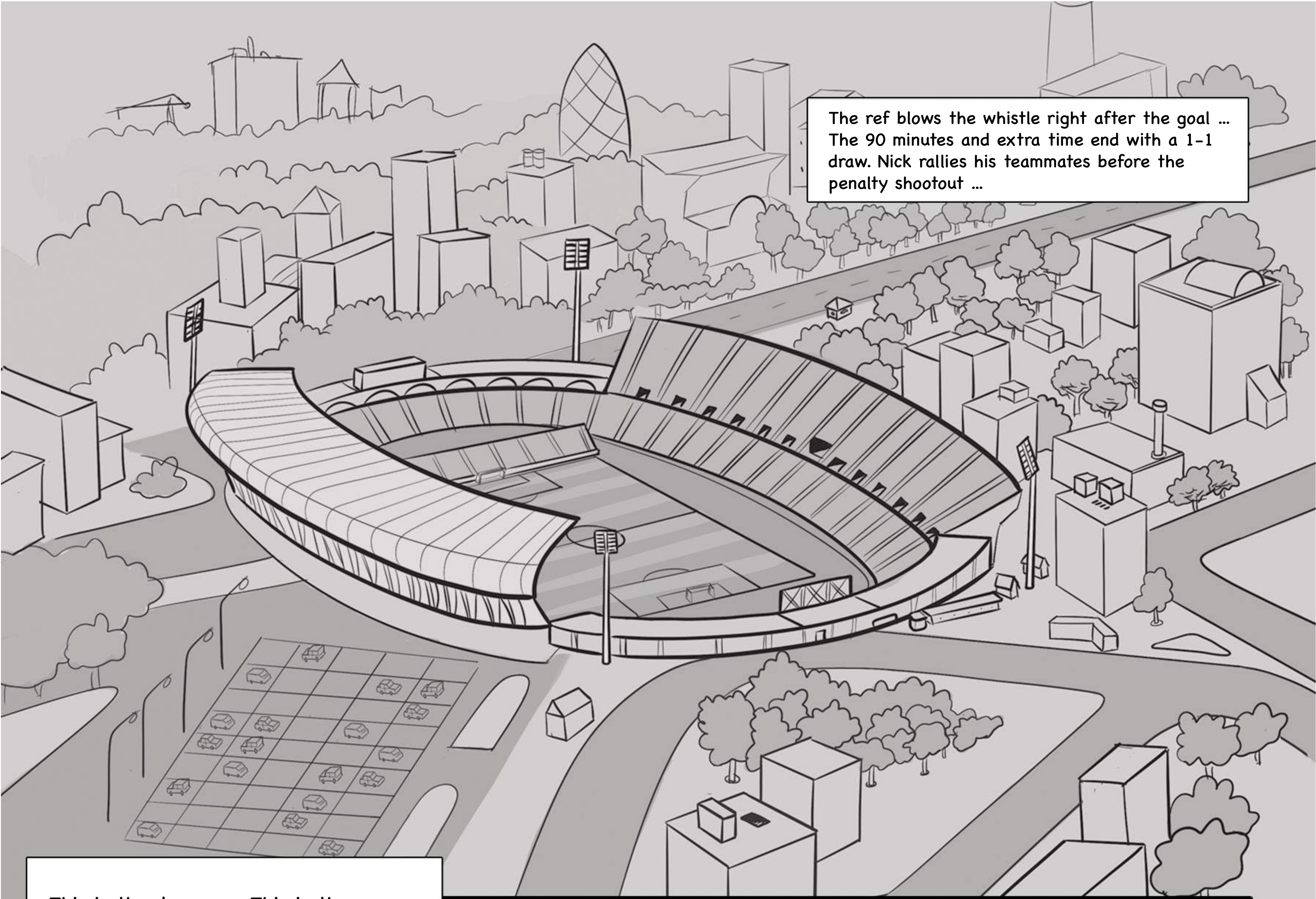


GOOOOAAALLLLL!!

And he hits the ball!

Here's the equalizer and the crowd goes insane!





The ref blows the whistle right after the goal ...
The 90 minutes and extra time end with a 1-1
draw. Nick rallies his teammates before the
penalty shootout ...

This is the day, guys. This is the
moment - the most crucial of our lives
so far. How we perform today will
shape our future path. Let's leave it all
out there on the pitch!

It's up to us, lads. Do
we want to carve out
a life of happiness,
built on the
satisfaction of
success?

Or do we want to live a
life of regret, blaming
ourselves and each
other for this match for
the rest of our days?



Nick is right!

They've got
to make it
happen!

What if they
don't ...



The chance of
continuing their
pro careers
hangs in the
balance!

The Blue Lions are in trouble. They've missed the first two, and the opponents have scored both!

SAVED!

If the opponent scores this one, it's all over. Everything hinges on this third kick... But the keeper miraculously saves it!

Some fans just can't bear to watch!

Opp's	✓	✓	✗	✗	○	○
Nick's	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	○

GOAL!

WHAT A SAVE!

The opponent's team has the upper hand, leading by two kicks, especially after the Blue Lions missed their third. Disappointment is evident in their eyes, but Nick looks resolute, determined to turn the tide!

I'll leave this field with a victory, mates. There's no other choice.

It's absolutely breathtaking!

IT IS WIDE!
WHAT A MISS!!

HITS THE BAR BUT WENT IN!
GOAL!

Now they have another chance to keep their hopes alive, and it's none other than Nick who holds his team's destiny in his hands. If Nick misses the kick, they'll have to bid farewell to the final and all their dreams.

If Nick can't score, they'll have to bid farewell to their final match and cup dreams, and honestly, a lot more hangs in the balance too!



The opponent's keeper starts trash-talking, trying to throw Nick off his game. But Nick's eyes remain focused, unwavering ...

It's the most crucial kick of his life; his entire future career hangs in the balance.

The ref blows his whistle, signaling it's time. Come on, Nick!

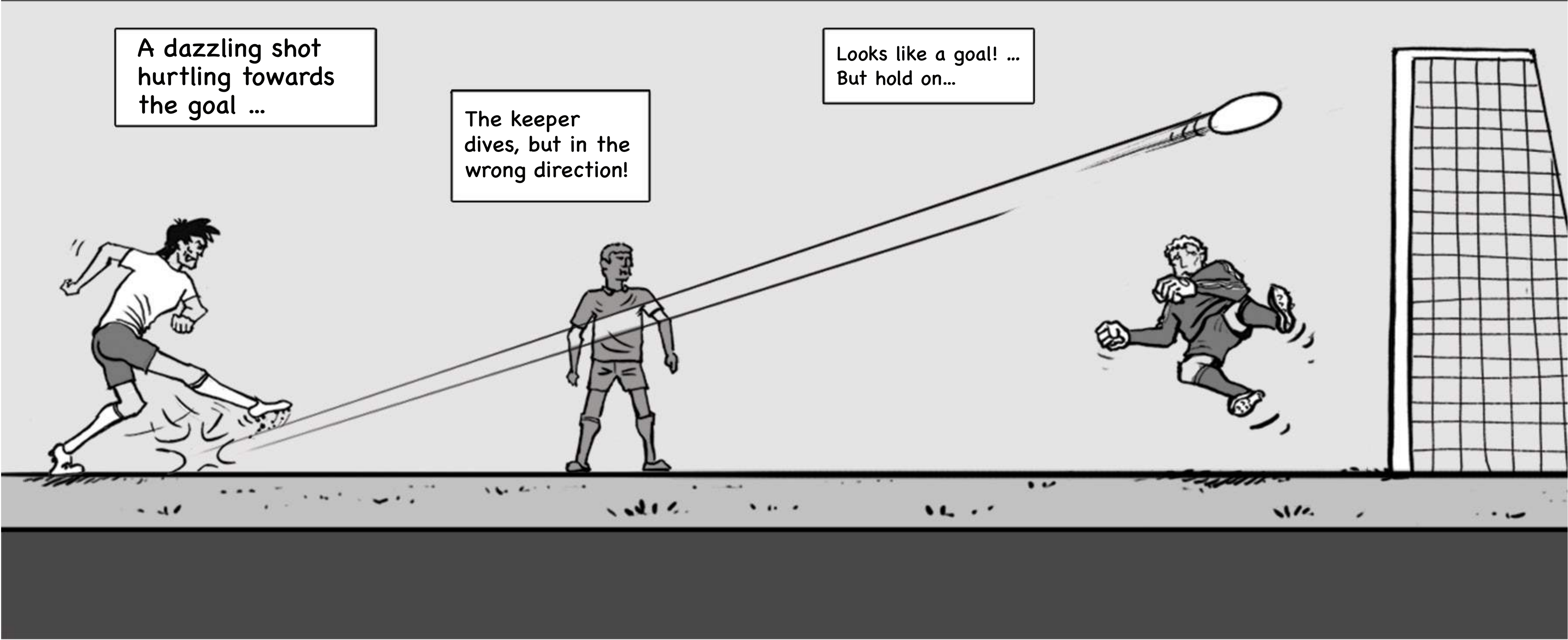
Not just him, but his teammates' futures are on the line too ...

He looks remarkably confident!

Nick strikes the ball ...

He boots it with all his might ...

As if it's the last kick of his life!



A dazzling shot hurtling towards the goal ...

The keeper dives, but in the wrong direction!

Looks like a goal! ... But hold on...



No!!!
Hits the bar ...

He can't believe it! For a split second, we all thought it was in ... But the bar foiled it! The other team is celebrating like mad.

All hopes are dashed now. No final match for Nick and his mates, meaning they'll miss out on the live TV broadcast and the chance to be seen by major clubs ...

As the opponents celebrate, Nick feels the weight of the world on his shoulders ...

And must be thinking to himself ...

"If only we could've converted just one of those countless chances we had during the game ..."



END OF EPISODE 1

TO BE CONTINUED ...

You can email us your feedback, thoughts, and your predictions about what's going to happen in the next episodes.

touchline.comics@gmail.com