



WRITTEN BY
C.S. Pacat

ILLUSTRATED BY
Johanna the Mad

COLORS BY
Joana LaFuente

LETTERS BY
Jim Campbell

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT
Pieter Leeuwenburgh

SCHOOL LOGO DESIGNS
Fawn Lau

COVER BY
Johanna the Mad

SERIES DESIGNER
Marie Krupina

COLLECTION DESIGNER
Kara Leopard

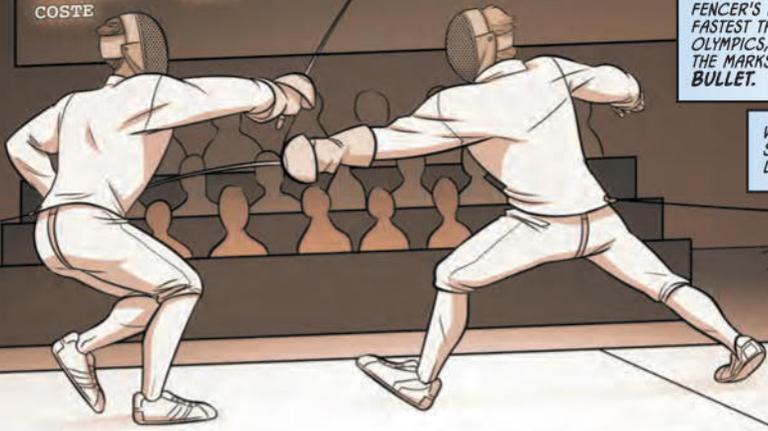
EDITORS
Shannon Watters & Dafna Pleban

CREATED BY
C.S. Pacat & Johanna the Mad

FISCHER	55	BOISAGGO	USA	4
RIBOUD				
PUSCH				
BELLONE	194	COSTE		
POFFET				
BORRMANN				
COSTE				

THEY SAY THE TIP OF A FENCER'S BLADE IS THE FASTEST THING AT THE OLYMPICS, OTHER THAN THE MARKSMAN'S BULLET.

WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES, IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A BLUR.



THAT'S HOW QUICKLY YOU CAN WIN OR LOSE.

August 8, 1984

ROBERT COSTE WINS GOLD FOR USA

—OLYMPIC VICTORY IN LA—
 Robert Coste beat out Boisaggo 4-10 in a historic final, winning USA's first ever Olympic gold in épée.
 No other American fencer has scored a gold at the Olympics besides Post, who won a 1904 victory in singlesstick, a now discontinued event.
 Wednesday's win continues an impressive win streak for the 21-year-old Coste, who came to the event as the reigning world champion after winning the title at World Championships in Vienna.



IN AN INSTANT.





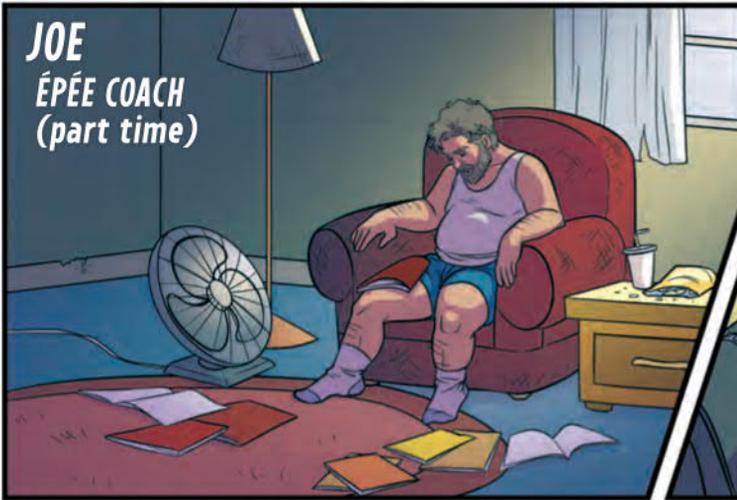
NICHOLAS COX.

I DON'T HAVE YOU ON THE LIST.

I WAS A LATE ENTRY.



WHERE'S YOUR COACH?



JOE
ÉPÉE COACH
(part time)



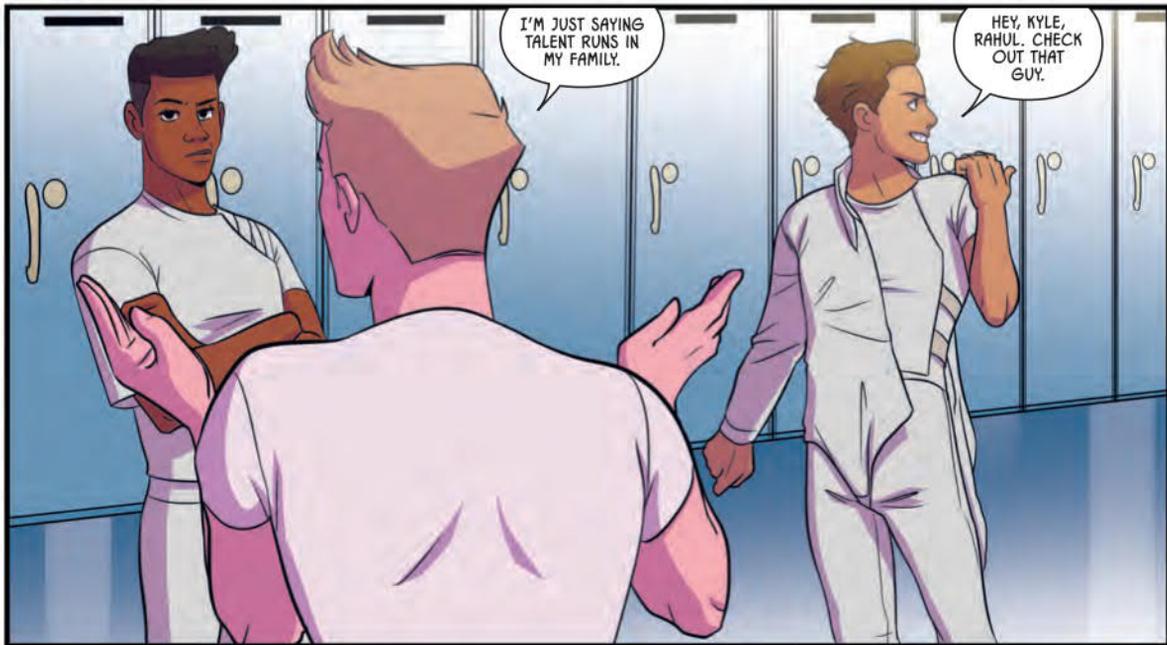
HE STAYED HOME.

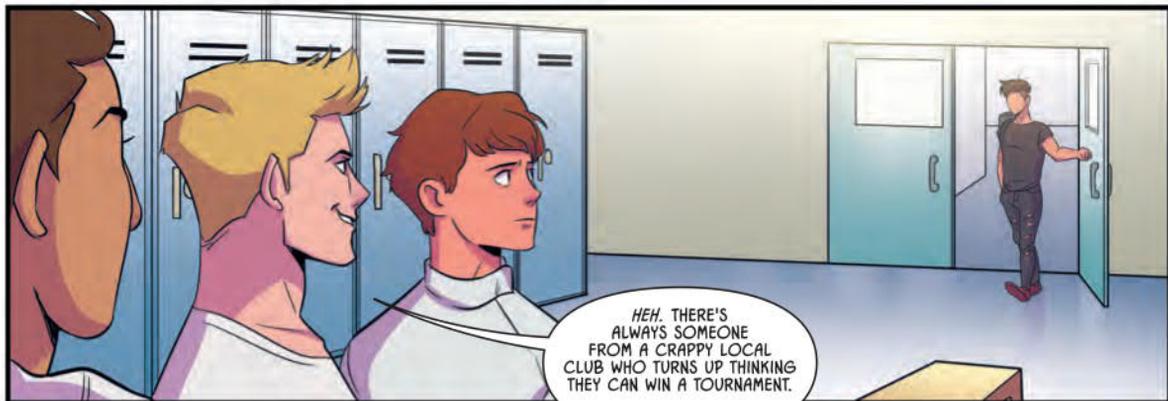


HERE IT IS. NICHOLAS COX, UNDER-16S INDIVIDUAL EPEE--



--YOU'RE UP AGAINST SEIJI KATAYAMA IN YOUR FIRST ELIMINATION ROUND?

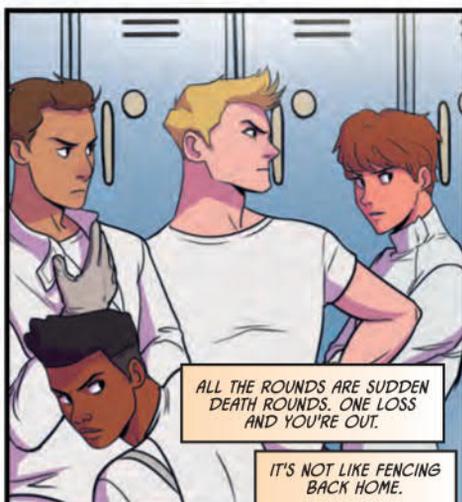




HEH. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE FROM A CRAPPY LOCAL CLUB WHO TURNS UP THINKING THEY CAN WIN A TOURNAMENT.



MY FIRST MEET. DISTRICT ONE, INDIVIDUAL EPEE.



ALL THE ROUNDS ARE SUDDEN DEATH ROUNDS. ONE LOSS AND YOU'RE OUT.

IT'S NOT LIKE FENCING BACK HOME.



IT'S A ROOM FULL OF RIVALS, LOOKING FOR WEAKNESS.



THEY DON'T KNOW ME, AND I DON'T KNOW THEM.



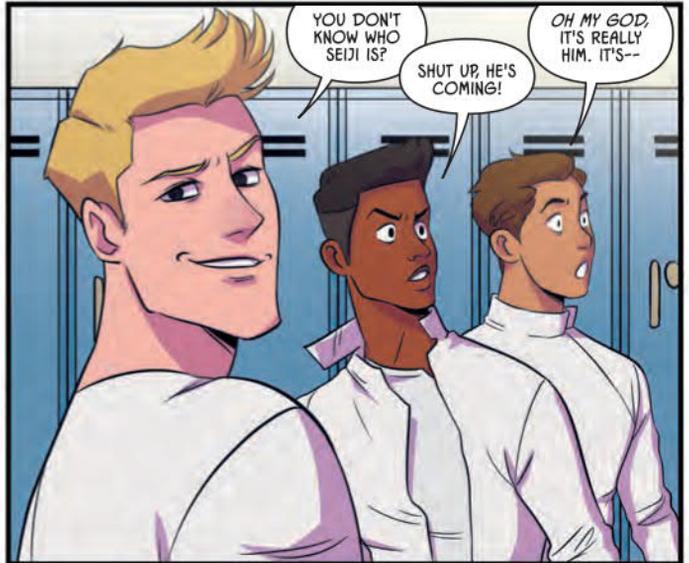
BUT I KNOW ONE THING.

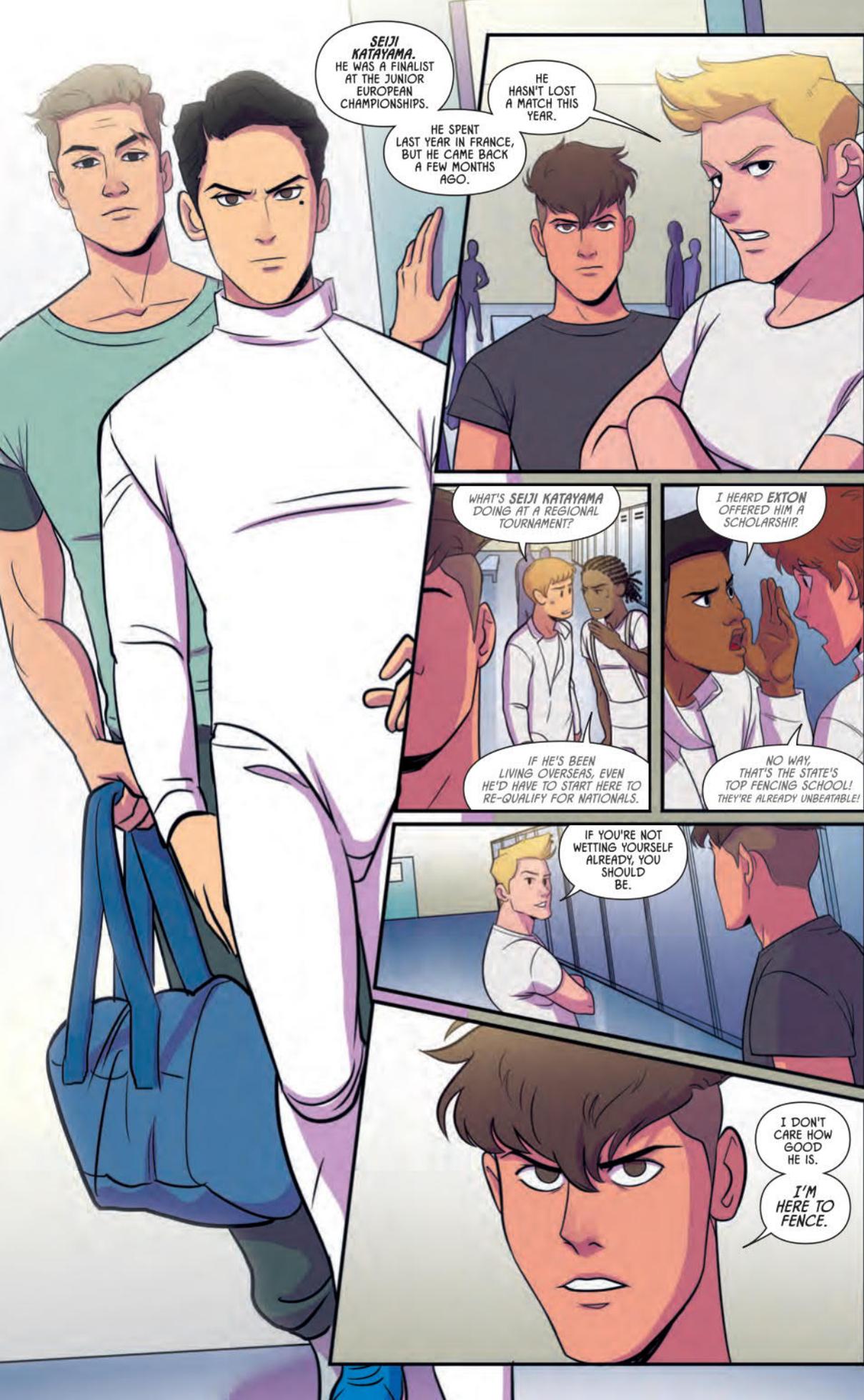


I KNOW I CAN FENCE.



THOSE SHOES LOOK LIKE THEY CAME FROM GOODWILL.





SEIJI KATAYAMA.
HE WAS A FINALIST
AT THE JUNIOR
EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIPS.

HE SPENT
LAST YEAR IN FRANCE,
BUT HE CAME BACK
A FEW MONTHS
AGO.

HE
HASN'T LOST
A MATCH THIS
YEAR.

WHAT'S SEIJI KATAYAMA
DOING AT A REGIONAL
TOURNAMENT?

I HEARD EXTON
OFFERED HIM A
SCHOLARSHIP.

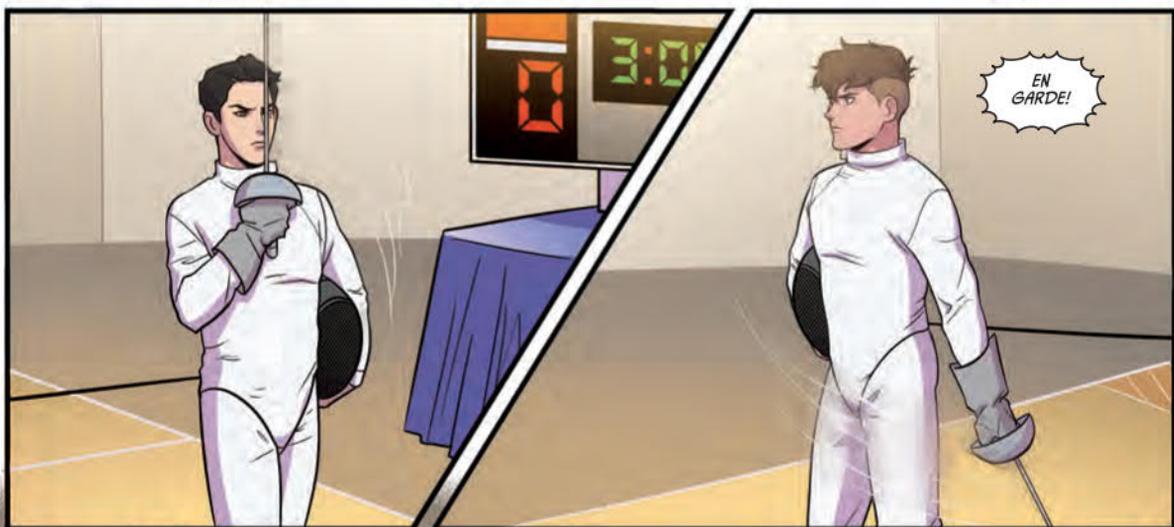
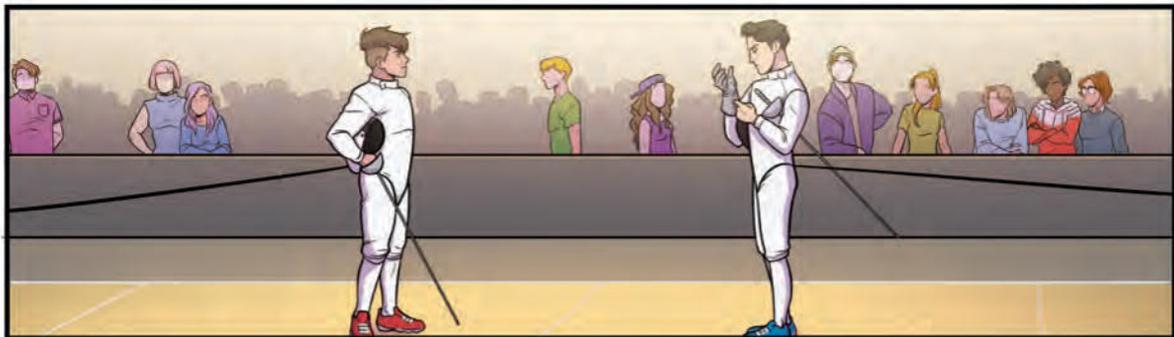
IF HE'S BEEN
LIVING OVERSEAS, EVEN
HE'D HAVE TO START HERE TO
RE-QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS.

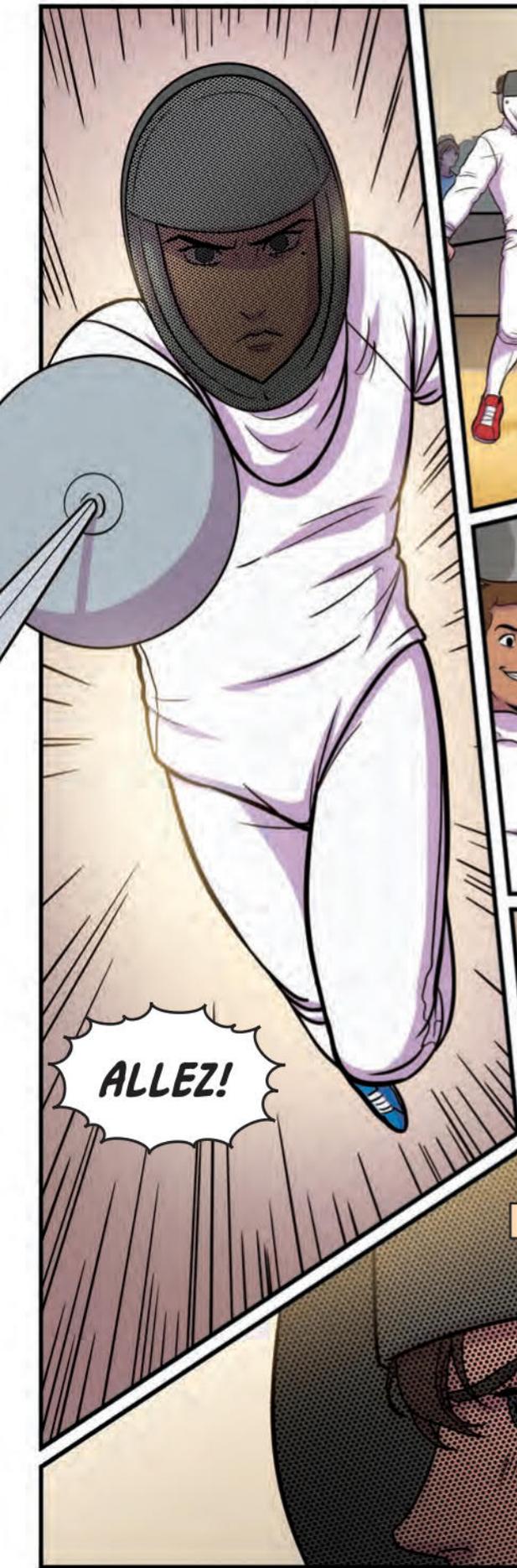
NO WAY,
THAT'S THE STATE'S
TOP FENCING SCHOOL!
THEY'RE ALREADY UNBEATABLE!

IF YOU'RE NOT
WETTING YOURSELF
ALREADY, YOU
SHOULD
BE.

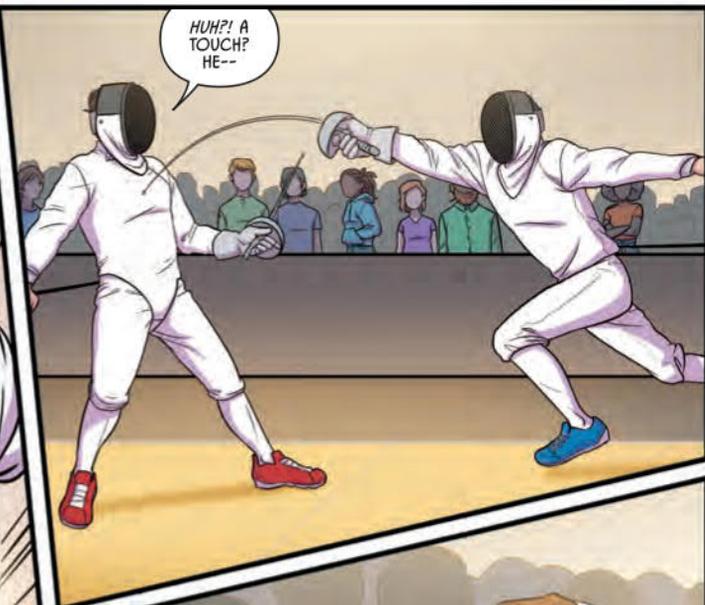
I DON'T
CARE HOW
GOOD
HE IS.

I'M
HERE TO
FENCE.





HUH?! A TOUCH? HE--



RIGHT PAST HIS GUARD!



THAT FLÈCHE--





