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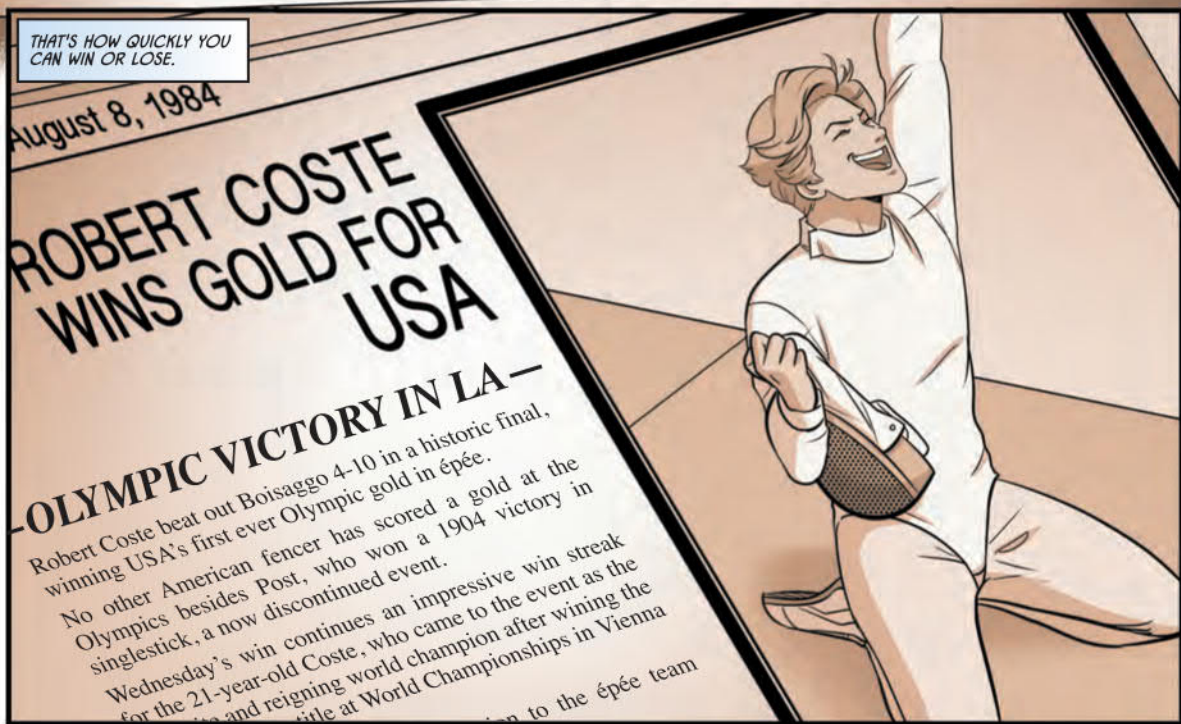
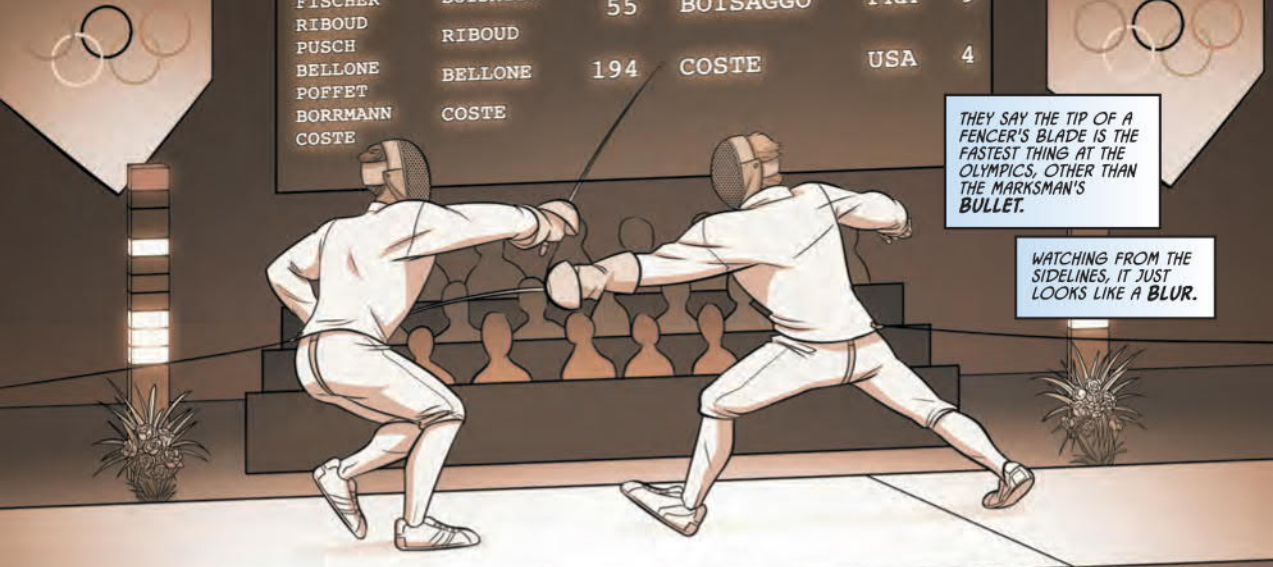
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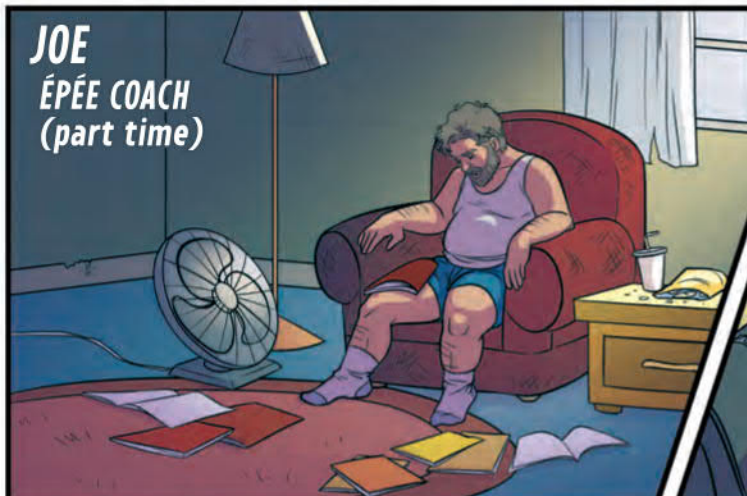
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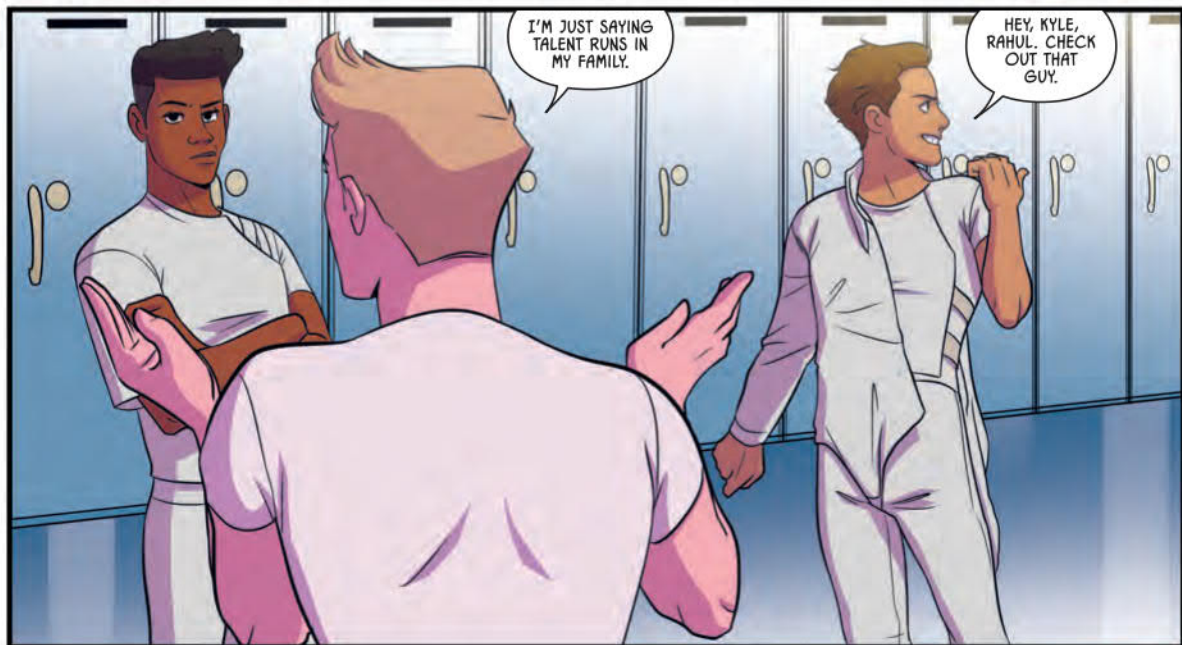
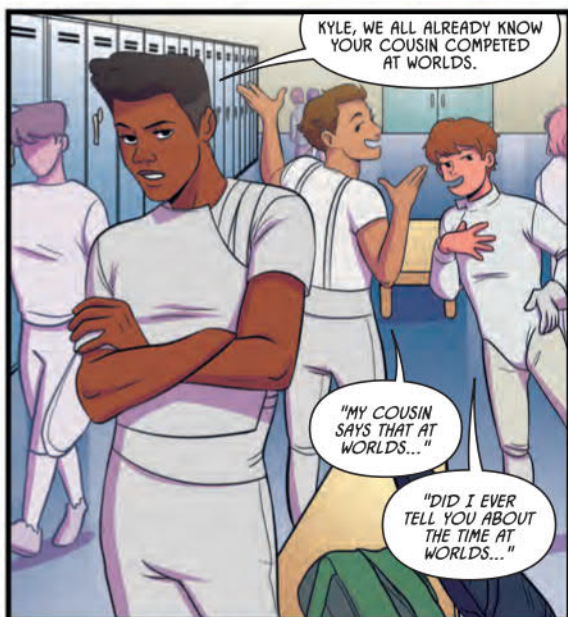
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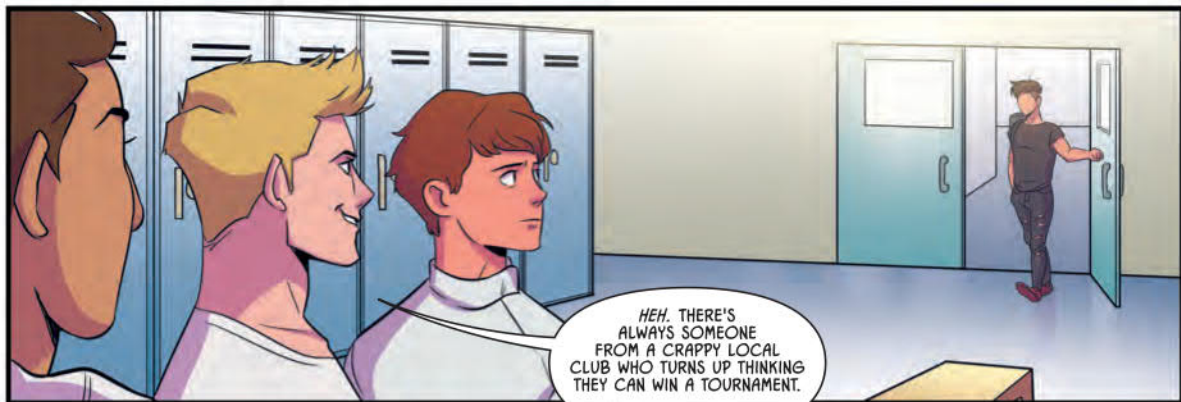
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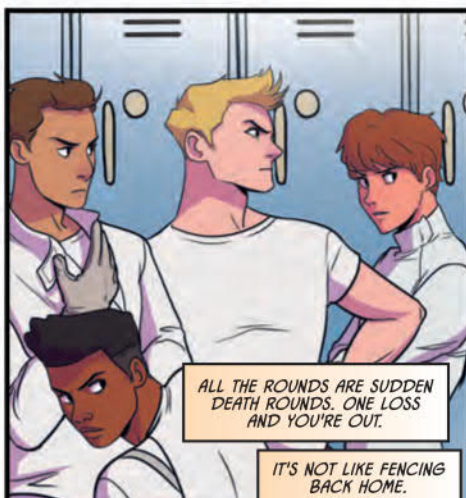




HEH. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE FROM A CRAPPY LOCAL CLUB WHO TURNS UP THINKING THEY CAN WIN A TOURNAMENT.



MY FIRST MEET. DISTRICT ONE, INDIVIDUAL EPEE.

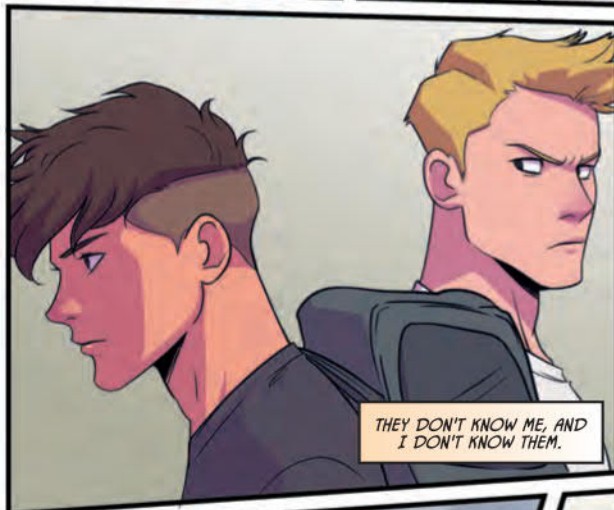


ALL THE ROUNDS ARE SUDDEN DEATH ROUNDS. ONE LOSS AND YOU'RE OUT.

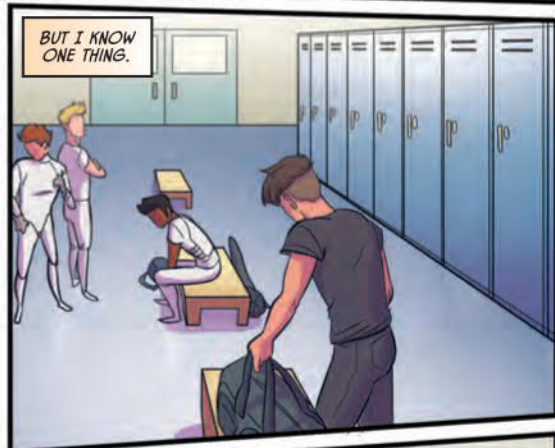
IT'S NOT LIKE FENCING BACK HOME.



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



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



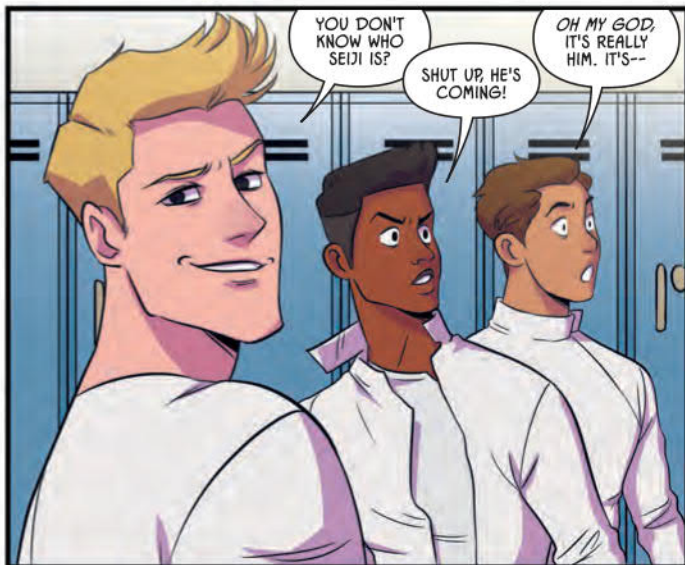
BUT I KNOW ONE THING.

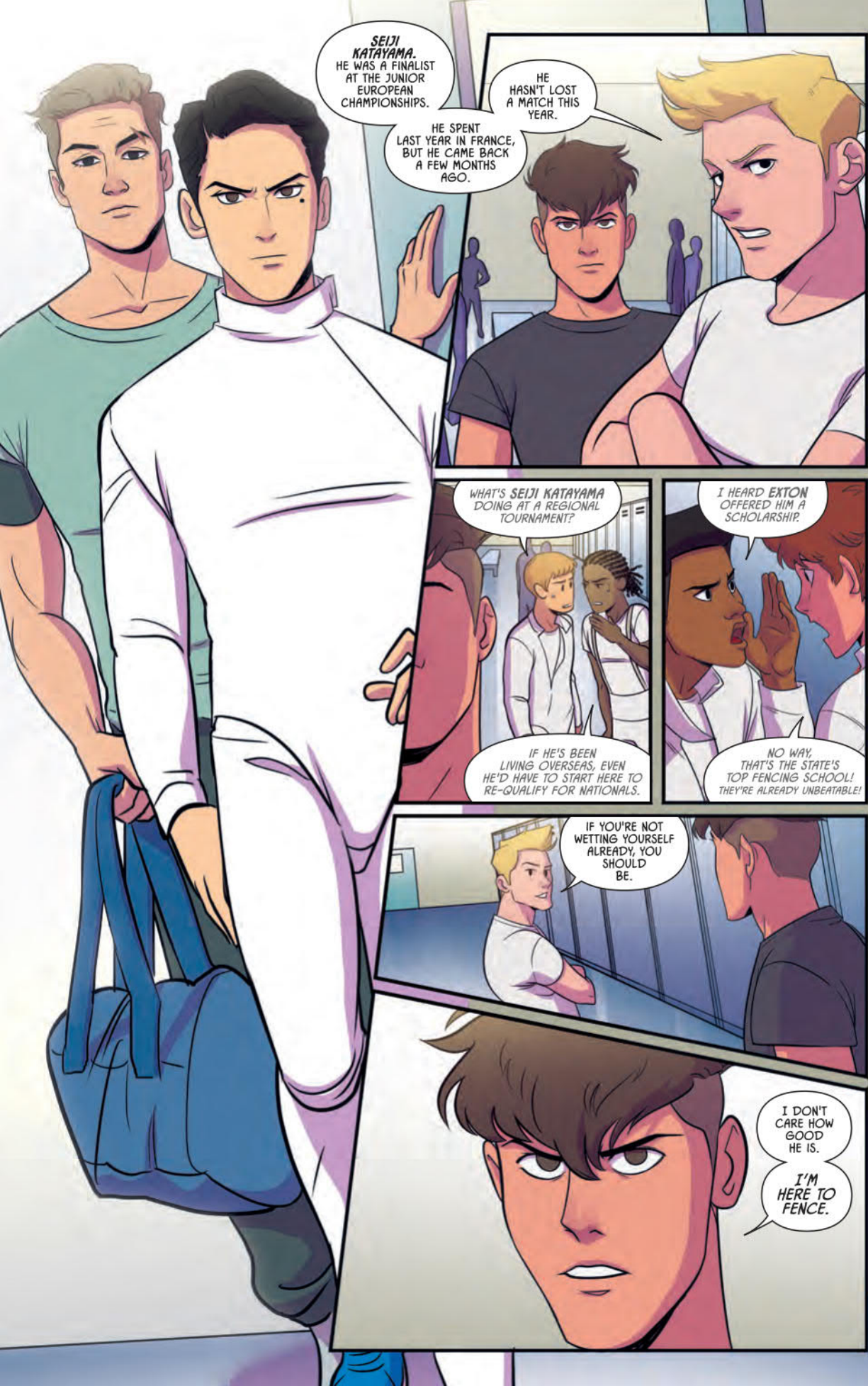


I KNOW I CAN FENCE.



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?

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

I HEARD EXTON
OFFERED HIM A
SCHOLARSHIP.

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.

