

Pump Fake

Written By:

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ACT 1

INT. HALLWAY

A name tag is slapped on KADEN with his name on it. Zoom out and turn around to him walking in the hallways with his back faced. He walks to the gym door and opens it, and sees the basketball team training. As he walks in, BRAD, holding his basketball, runs up to KADEN.

BRAD

Yo, are you the new kid?

KADEN nods, chewing gum.

BRAD (CONT'D)

(looking at KADEN's name tag)
I'm Brad, and like, I run the team.
You know, I basically like, live in
the gym 24/7. So...your Kaiden?

KADEN

... It's KADEN ...

BRAD

Kaden, Kaiden, same thing.

Close-up of KADEN looking confused, stammering.

BRAD (CONT'D)

So you're the guy coach been talking
about, right?

KADEN

The guy?

BRAD

...Yeah, the guy he's been tryna
recruit from IMG.

Cut to KADEN looking confused.

KADEN

Huh?

BRAD

Kaiden, right? That's coach's new
recruit!

KADEN

Uh... yeah?

BRAD
Great. Coach wants us in the weight room, beef up for the big game, you feel me lil bro?

Close-up of KADEN walking, looking puzzled.

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

KADEN is seated in the interview room chair, in the common room. He fidgets and looks at the camera

KADEN
Dude, I do competitive speed walking.
I've never touched a ball in my life.
(pause) Wait, there was this one time-

CUTAWAY

EXT. THE TRACK

KADEN speed walking on the field when a ball comes flying in and hits him on the head

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

KADEN stares at the floor, rubbing hands, head nodding, eyes darting around.

CUT

INT. WEIGHT ROOM

Team working out in the gym, KADEN walks in with BRAD.

COACH DREON
HEY! I said no more visitors during training, I do NOT (Arms swing in a cross) need a repeat of last time.

BRAD
Chill out coach, chilllllllll. (Ice Trae pose). This the Kaiden kid you were talking about.

COACH DREON
Ah. (Clears throat) Nice to finally
(MORE)

COACH DREON (CONT'D)
meet you Kaiden.

COACH DREON walks up and tries to grip his shoulder, KADEN dodges him.

COACH DREON (CONT'D)
BOYS! Say hi to Mr. Kaiden. He's here
to save this dumpster fire of a team.

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

COACH DREON sits on the interview room chair, grinning to himself.

COACH DREON
I'm telling you, it was a journey to
get this kid to my school. He's a big
name outside the country.

Grabs a trophy off the floor, kisses it.

COACH DREON (CONT'D)
I miss my glory days, back in '98. We
went undefeated and it all resulted to
nothing. It's been all downhill from
then.

Cut to rest of the team crowding around KADEN and glazing him. KADEN looks slightly confused, but is embracing the attention.

COACH DREON (V.O.)
I mean, Brad's decent but the rest of
them? Shoot, I hope they have
something else going on cause they're
getting no offers.

CUT

INT. HALLWAY

SLO-MO

Soundtrack plays in the back

The team is walking in the hallways towards the gym. KADEN is walking in the front, looking around a little bit nervously. BRAD is walking with him, reassuring him and patting him on

4.

the back. Girls giggle and point at KADEN as they walk past.

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

3 girls are sitting in the interview chairs while giggling at each other.

GIRL 1
Wait... he's kinda...

GIRL 2
I kinda wanna go watch the game now

GIRL 3
YES LET'S GO

Girls run out of interview room, giggling

ACT 2

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT

The team is training on the court, taking shots and running plays for the game. KADEN does weird stretches

COACH DREON

Alright bums! Start some layup lines.
You miss you run!

Team begins layup lines, they all go in. KADEN runs holding the ball, and completely airballs his layup.

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

KADEN rubs his face, stares blankly into space.

KADEN

I got NO clue what I'm even doing man.
No cl-

CUT

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT (TRAINING)

COACH DREON

You jetlagged or something?

KADEN (O.S.)

Yeah, yeah. My bad coach...

BRAD watches KADEN suspiciously and walks over to him.

BRAD

You good dawg. Get warm.

BRAD high fives KADEN

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

BRAD sits in the interview chair, arms crossed.

BRAD

There's NO way in hell that this dude
is as good as everyone's saying he is.

BRAD sits and ponders to himself

BRAD (CONT'D)

Until this guy proves to me that he can actually play, I don't think our guy. He's buns

CUT

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT (TRAINING)

COACH DREON

Let's practice some ones. Kaiden, get out there. I wanna see something happen.

2 girls walk onto the sidelines and sit down.

Wide shot of GURT stepping up to guard KADEN and chucking the ball. GURT gets into a defensive stance and KADEN clutches the ball.

Low angle close-up of KADEN's hands shooting with horrid form.

Close-up of GURT's face turning with confusion and shock.

Medium shot of the ball going into the hoop.

Close-up of COACH DREON and BRAD's reactions.

2 girls walk by just in time to see KADEN's shot, and wave to him flirtatiously.

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

BRAD and GURT are sitting on the interview chairs.

GURT

(excited)

Man, I'm telling you, this guy is tough! Did you see that half-court shot!?

BRAD

I don't know man. Anyone can do that once in a while. I still don't think he's better than me.

7.

CUT

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT

Closeup of KADEN celebrating with his team, a big smile on his face.

KADEN
Come on now!

While this is all happening two girls walk by and see KADEN hit the half-court shot and giggle and wave at him. KADEN waves back.

CUT

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

KADEN looks at the camera. His posture a little more upright.

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
What about that half-court shot you made?

KADEN
(laughs)
That was most definitely a fluke. But I can't lie, that was kinda fun. I might actually try this basketball thing out.

CUT

I/E. TRAINING MONTAGE

All over motivational training montage music.

KADEN stands on a basketball court alone, shooting hoops.

KADEN does suicides on his own.

KADEN trains with weights in the gym.

KADEN trains on the track with more speed walking.

He's ready for the final match.

ACT 3

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT

Game Day. The team walks in with menacing music, coach calls for a group huddle. COACH calls KADEN over and brings him to the side

COACH DREON

Kid. This is all about you today. Keep shooting, get warm, and just flow through it man. Play your game, we need you. This all depends on you.

COACH puts the chain over KADEN'S head, pats his shoulder. KADEN looks lost throughout the whole thing.

Team forms 2 lines and KADEN walks in between. He high fives everyone on the way out, handshakes GURT (Shadow boxing handshake), offers one to BRAD but BRAD doesn't high five back.

Tip off. KADEN takes very contested shots because he is getting locked up and bricks every shot.

CROWD

OVER-RATED! OVER-RATED! OVER-RATED!

GURT

Stop being such a ballhog, share the the ball dawg!

BRAD

I been telling y'all bruh! He not that good.

KADEN falls down after a missed shot and stares at the ceiling.

Coach subs him out.

COACH DREON

Kaiden! Get your head in the game!

KADEN

Coach, I trained all of yesterday. It's just none of my shots going in. Why are these people so good.

COACH DREON

Just stay ready. I'm subbing you back
(MORE)

COACH DREON (CONT'D)
in at the 1 minute mark.

GURT
COACH! COACH! BRAD's cramping!

COACH runs onto the court to help BRAD, KADEN sits there.

COACH DREON
Kaiden get in! Now!

KADEN feels nervous to get back into the game at the 1 minute mark. He doesn't feel as confident as he did at the start of the game, but hesitantly speed walks onto court.

BRAD limps off the court, throws a water bottle.

BRAD
No way bruh, how do I get injured. We gotta rely on this bum to win the game.

Opposing team player blocks Kaiden and gets a fast break and scores a layup. Player starts trash talking him. Kaiden feels even less confident in himself.

Game goes on and on the last shot,
Kaiden shoots a prayer

The scoreboard shows 2 seconds left, a
whistle blows.

REFEREE (O.S.)
Foul! 2 shots for Kaden

Voices yell in excitement and anger, as KADEN gets ready to shoot his free throws. KADEN breathes, shoots the first shot, and it airballs. BRAD stares at KADEN in anger, shakes his head.

COACH DREON
FOCUS Kaiden! We just need one!

As KADEN gets the second shot ready, the music swells, shots of people looking excited. KADEN shoots the ball, it bounces around, and it doesn't go in.

The crowd boos.

The opposing team takes the ball and begins dribbling it towards their scoring side. Kaden grabs the ball and runs

with it without dribbling all the way back to his scoring hoop. He takes a massive leap and dunks the ball.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

KADEN holds his new medal and laughs hysterically.