

C.S. PACAT JOHANNA THE MAD JOANA LAFUENTE

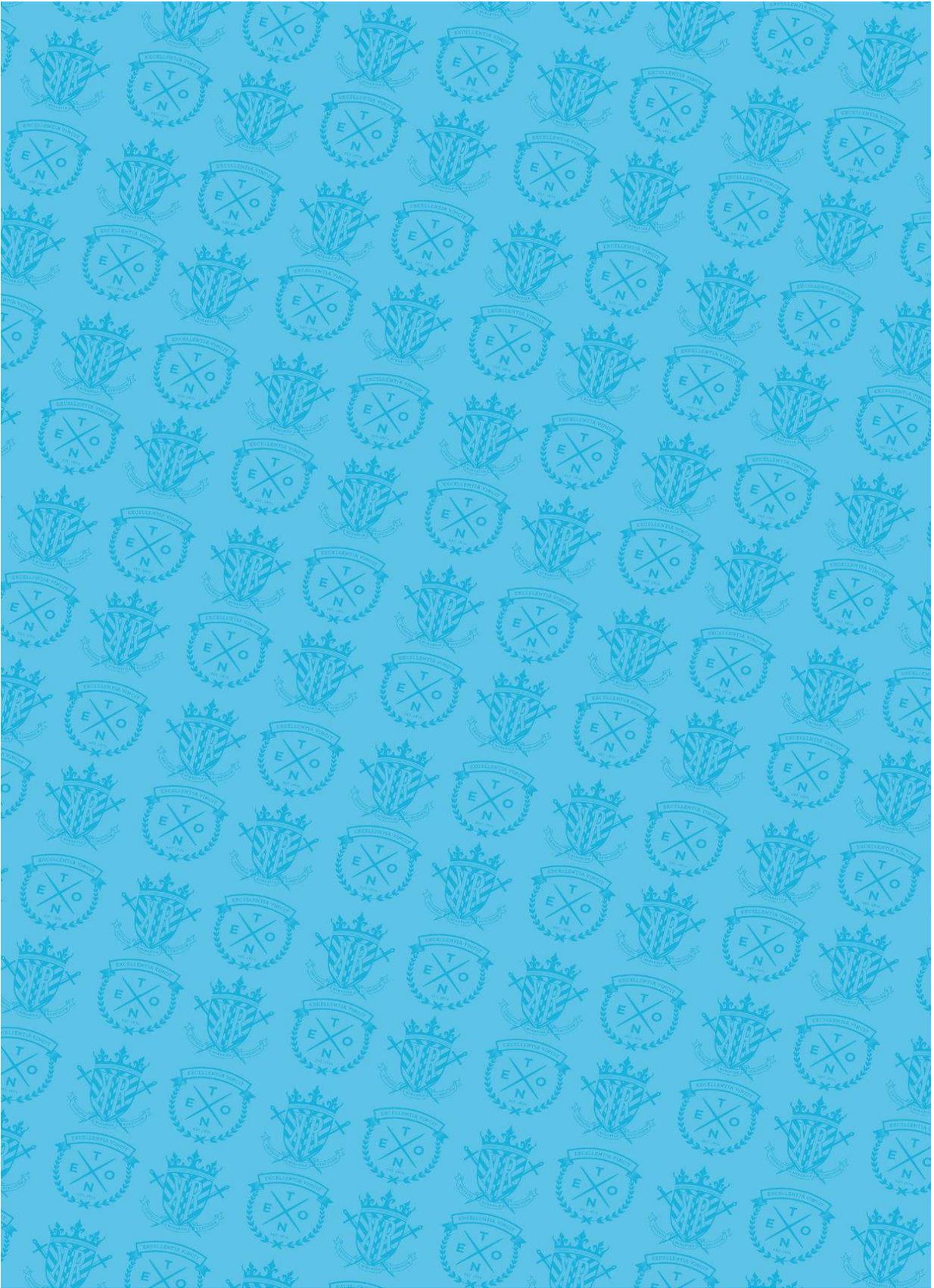
FENCE™

VOLUME FOUR RIVALS

"...combines all the best aspects of sports anime, teen drama and slow burn romance."

—Polygon





C.S. PACAT JOHANNA THE MAD JOANA LAFUENTE

FENCE™

RIVALS

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WRITTEN BY
C.S. PACAT

ILLUSTRATED BY
JOHANNA THE MAD

COLORS BY
JOANA LAFUENTE

LETTERS BY
JIM CAMPBELL
WITH TAYLOR ESPOSITO

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT
PIETER LEEUWENBURGH

SCHOOL LOGO DESIGNS
FAWN LAU

COVER BY
JOHANNA THE MAD

DESIGNERS
JILLIAN CRAB & CHELSEA ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
SOPHIE PHILIPS-ROBERTS

EDITOR
SHANNON WATTERS

CREATED BY
C.S. PACAT & JOHANNA THE MAD

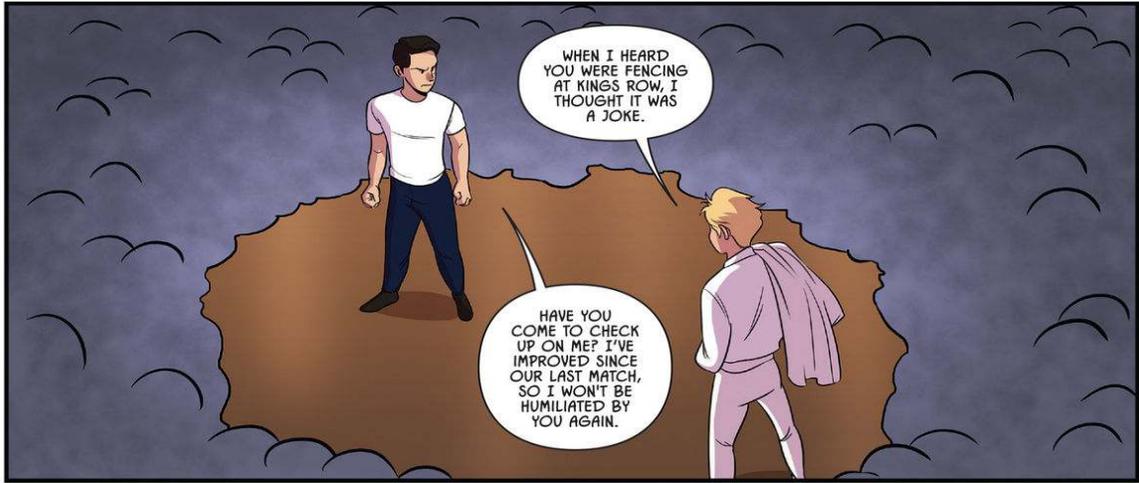
EXCELLENTIA VINCIT

**T
E X O
N**

EST. 1874



CHAPTER
THIRTEEN



WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE FENCING AT KINGS ROW, I THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE.

HAVE YOU COME TO CHECK UP ON ME? I'VE IMPROVED SINCE OUR LAST MATCH, SO I WON'T BE HUMILIATED BY YOU AGAIN.



IT'S JESSE COSTE.

THE ONE WHO BEAT SEIJI AT NATIONALS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?



I WANTED TO SEE YOU, THE WAY WE LEFT THINGS... I HATE FIGHTING WITH YOU.

I'M HERE TO ASK YOU BACK.

YOU MEAN, YOU WANT ME BACK ON YOUR TEAM?



SEIJI, NO ONE PUSHES ME LIKE YOU, AND NO ONE PUSHES YOU LIKE ME.

YOU AND ME, WE'RE THE BEST. WE SHOULD BE FENCING TOGETHER. AT EXTON.

I'VE ALREADY ACCEPTED A PLACE AT KINGS ROW.

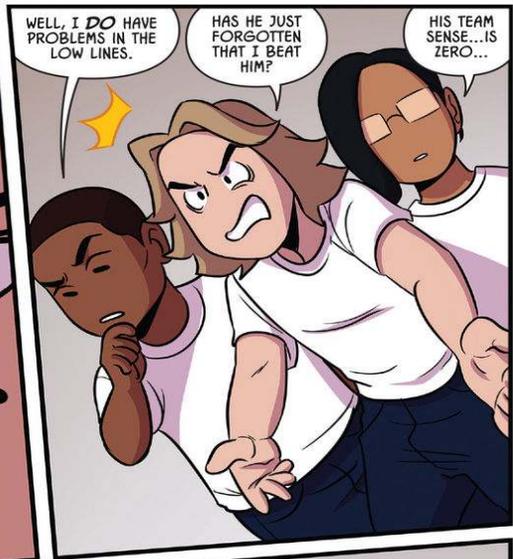
YOU BELONG WITH ME.





IT'S TRUE THAT THE FENCERS HERE ARE THIRD RATE.

EXCEPT HARVARD, WHO FENCES AT A PASSABLE STANDARD ALTHOUGH HE STILL HAS SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS IN THE LOW LINES--



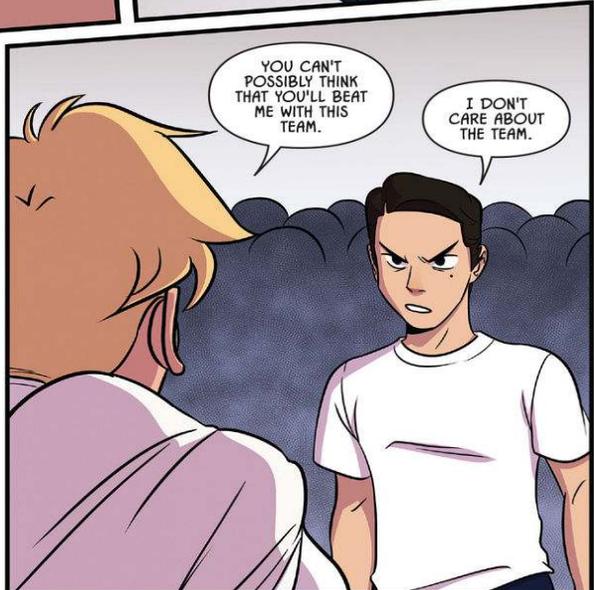
WELL, I *DO* HAVE PROBLEMS IN THE LOW LINES.

HAS HE JUST FORGOTTEN THAT I BEAT HIM?

HIS TEAM SENSE... IS ZERO...



--BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME. THE REASON I'M HERE IS TO **BEAT YOU.**



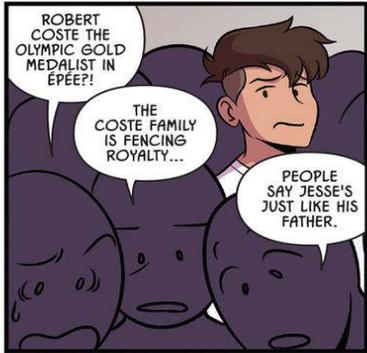
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK THAT YOU'LL BEAT ME WITH THIS TEAM.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE TEAM.



DID HE JUST SAY THAT HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE TEAM?!







DID SEIJI JUST DROP HIS EPEE?!



I'VE NEVER SEEN SEIJI LIKE THIS.

IT'S ONLY A DEMONSTRATION, AND HE'S THIS KEYED UP?



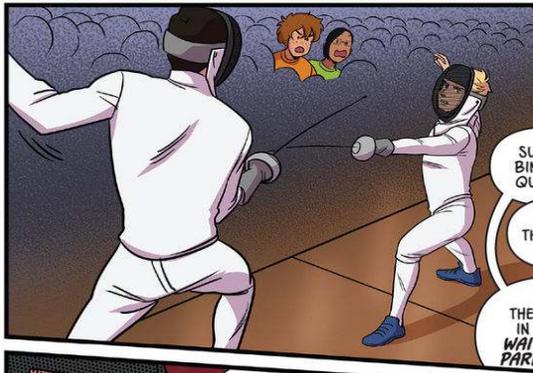
JESSE, I WANT YOU TO TAKE IN SIXTE, THEN BIND TO QUATRE. SEIJI, YOU'LL DO A CEDING PARRY IN QUATRE. JESSE WILL PARRY SIXTE, THEN RIPOSTE IN PRIME TO HIT. GOT IT?



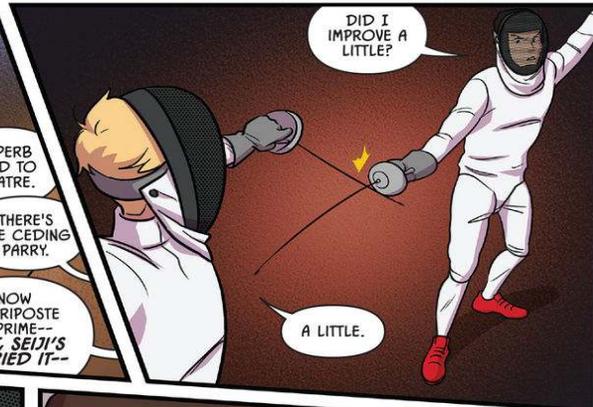
HUH? I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANY OF THOSE WORDS MEAN--



GOT IT.



SUPERB BIND TO QUATRE.
THERE'S THE CEDING PARRY.
NOW THE RIPOSTE IN PRIME--
WAIT, SEIJI'S PARRIED IT--



DID I IMPROVE A LITTLE?

A LITTLE.



BUT YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU'VE SEEN ME FENCE, TOO.

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.

NO MATTER WHO I FENCE, YOU'RE THE ONE I'M THINKING ABOUT. WHAT YOU WOULD DO. HOW YOU WOULD RESPOND TO EACH OF MY MOVES.



JESSE'S FENCING... IT'S INCREDIBLE.

THE ONLY OTHER PERSON THAT I'VE SEEN FENCE LIKE THAT--



--IS SEIJI.

ALL RIGHT, NOW LET'S TRY IT WITH YOUR POSITIONS REVERSED--



PAPARY!



EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A DEMONSTRATION... THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY'RE TESTING EACH OTHER.

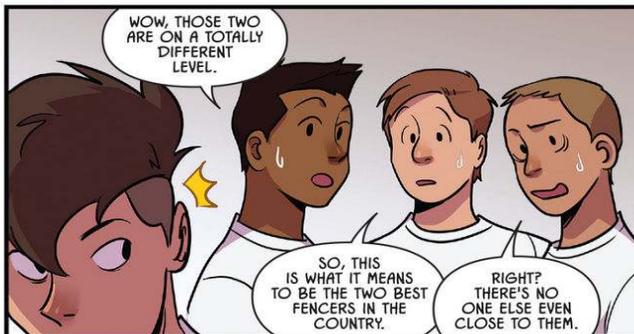
IS THAT WHAT THEY'RE DOING?



JESSE... YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LET THAT LAST HIT THROUGH.



SORRY, COACH!



WOW, THOSE TWO ARE ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL.

SO, THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE TWO BEST FENCERS IN THE COUNTRY.

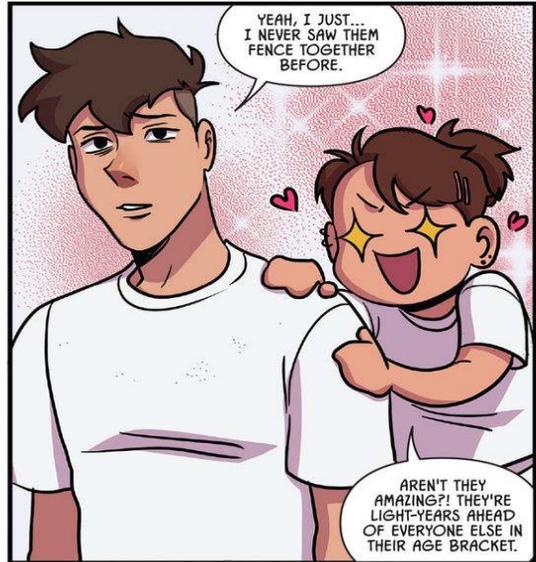
RIGHT? THERE'S NO ONE ELSE EVEN CLOSE TO THEM.



NO ONE ELSE EVEN CLOSE...



NICHOLAS?
ARE YOU
OKAY?

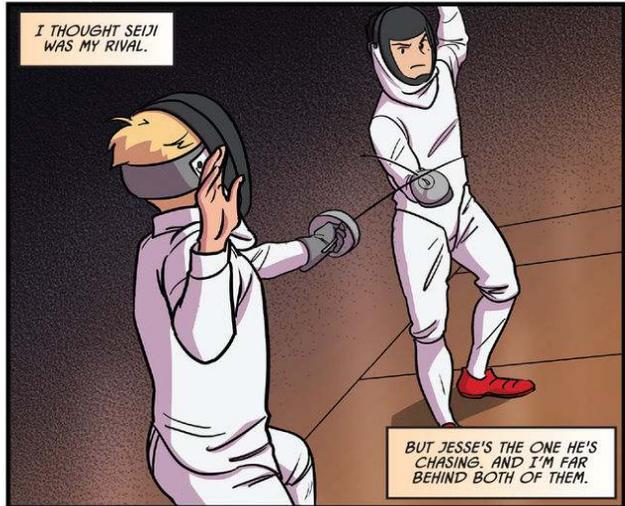


YEAH, I JUST...
I NEVER SAW THEM
FENCE TOGETHER
BEFORE.

AREN'T THEY
AMAZING?! THEY'RE
LIGHT-YEARS AHEAD
OF EVERYONE ELSE IN
THEIR AGE BRACKET.

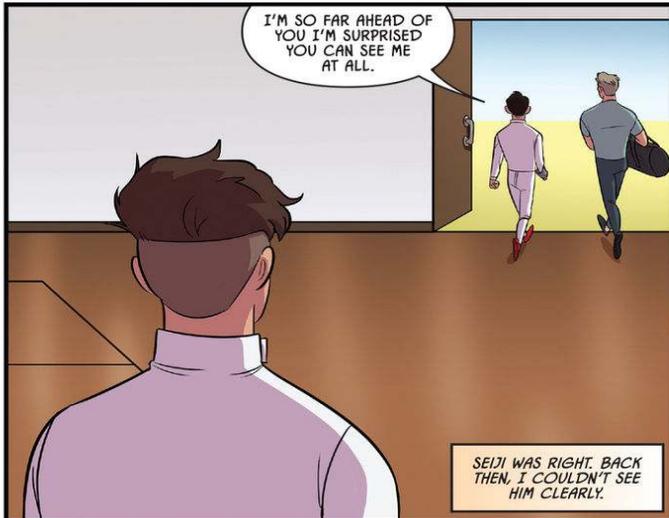


I GUESS
THAT'S WHAT
A LIFETIME OF
TRAINING LOOKS
LIKE.



I THOUGHT SEIJI
WAS MY RIVAL.

BUT JESSE'S THE ONE HE'S
CHASING. AND I'M FAR
BEHIND BOTH OF THEM.



I'M SO FAR AHEAD OF
YOU I'M SURPRISED
YOU CAN SEE ME
AT ALL.

SEIJI WAS RIGHT. BACK
THEN, I COULDN'T SEE
HIM CLEARLY.



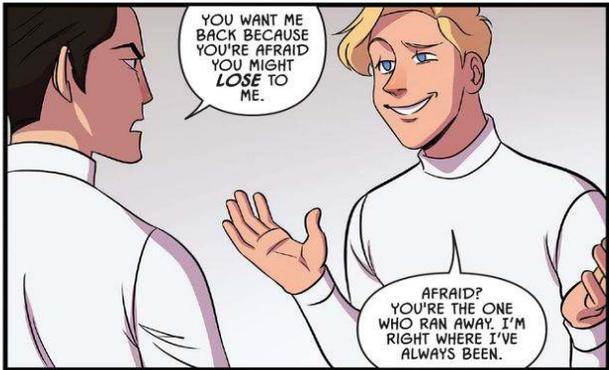
BACK THEN, I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND--



GOOD WORK, BOYS. SHAKE ON IT AND REJOIN THE OTHERS.



SEIJI. TELL ME YOU DIDN'T MISS THIS.



YOU WANT ME BACK BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID YOU MIGHT LOSE TO ME.

AFRAID? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO RAN AWAY. I'M RIGHT WHERE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.



ON TOP.



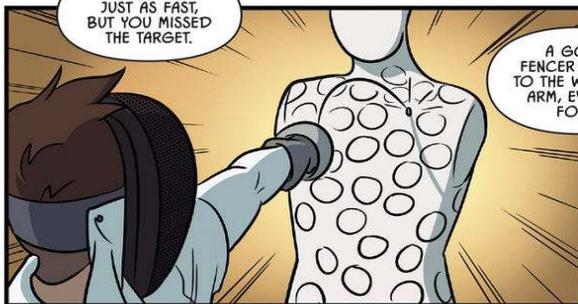


FENCING AT ITS CORE IS TWO THINGS, ATTACK AND DEFENSE.

ATTACK: YOUR BIGGEST WEAKNESS HERE IS YOUR ACCURACY. ONCE IT IMPROVES, YOU'LL INCREASE YOUR HIT RATIO.



YOU REMEMBER HOW QUICKLY SEIJI WAS ABLE TO HIT THE NUMBER ON THE DUMMY DURING THE TRYOUTS?



YOU WERE JUST AS FAST, BUT YOU MISSED THE TARGET.

A GOOD FENCER CAN HIT TO THE WRIST, THE ARM, EVEN THE FOOT.



YOU HAVE THE SPEED AND THE REFLEXES.

ONCE YOUR ACCURACY IMPROVES, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SLIGHTEST OPENING.



ALL RIGHT. THAT'S ATTACK. WHAT ABOUT DEFENSE?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT DEFENSE FOR NOW.



BASICALLY EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR DEFENSE IS TERRIBLE. YOUR PARRIES ARE SOME OF THE WORST I'VE SEEN. YOUR FOOTWORK IS A DISASTER ALSO.

UH...



--TODAY I TAKE
MY FIRST STEP!

THREE,
FOUR, FIVE...**ACK!**
ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR...
ACK! ONE, TWO, THREE,
FOUR, FIVE...





I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT YOU AND JESSE WERE FRIENDS.



WE WERE... SOMETHING.



WHAT'S HE LIKE?



HIS FENCING IS A PERFECT MIX OF INSTINCT AND TECHNIQUE AND HIS SPEED...THE INSTANT YOU HAVE AN OPENING, HE'S THERE. LIKE YOU ARE.

I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO CALL IT QUITS WITH THE, "YOU FENCE LIKE JESSE" STUFF!



FENCING COMES TO HIM NATURALLY, BUT HE WORKS HARD TOO. AND THE PACE HE EVOLVES...YOU HAVE TO GIVE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE JUST TO BARELY KEEP UP WITH HIM.



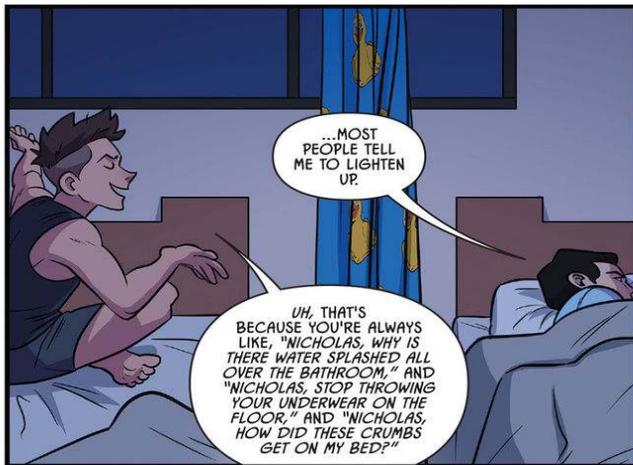
YOU REALLY ADMIRE HIM.

HE'S THE BEST.



BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO FENCE WITH HIM?















TEAM UNIFORMS!

COX



OUR NAMES ARE ON THE BACK!

COX

JUST LIKE AN OLYMPIC UNIFORM!



Oh, ARE THE NEW UNIFORMS HERE?



ACTUALLY... THEY LOOK REALLY GOOD THIS YEAR.

EVEN THE SOCKS ARE COOL?!

SOCKS! THE ONE PLACE ON THE UNIFORM WHERE A FENCER CAN EXPRESS HIS PERSONALITY!



LOOK. EVEN SEIJI'S TRYING HIS OUT.

KATAYAMA



NOT BAD.

AWESOME!



I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THE UNIFORMS, SINCE NOW WE HAVE A MATCH TO PREPARE FOR.

A MATCH? ALREADY?!



THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO BE FENCING AGAINST MLC IN OUR FIRST PRACTICE MATCH OF THE SEASON.



A PRACTICE MATCH!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS SINCE FIFTH GRADE!



IT'S KIND OF FUNNY THAT THE TWO MOST EXCITED FOR THE MATCH ARE THE RESERVES.

THEY DO REALIZE THEY PROBABLY WON'T GET TO FENCE, RIGHT?

LABAO LUNGES FOR THE WIN!

COX PARRIES, AND SCORES!

THEY WILL, SINCE YOU BLOW OFF HALF OUR MATCHES.

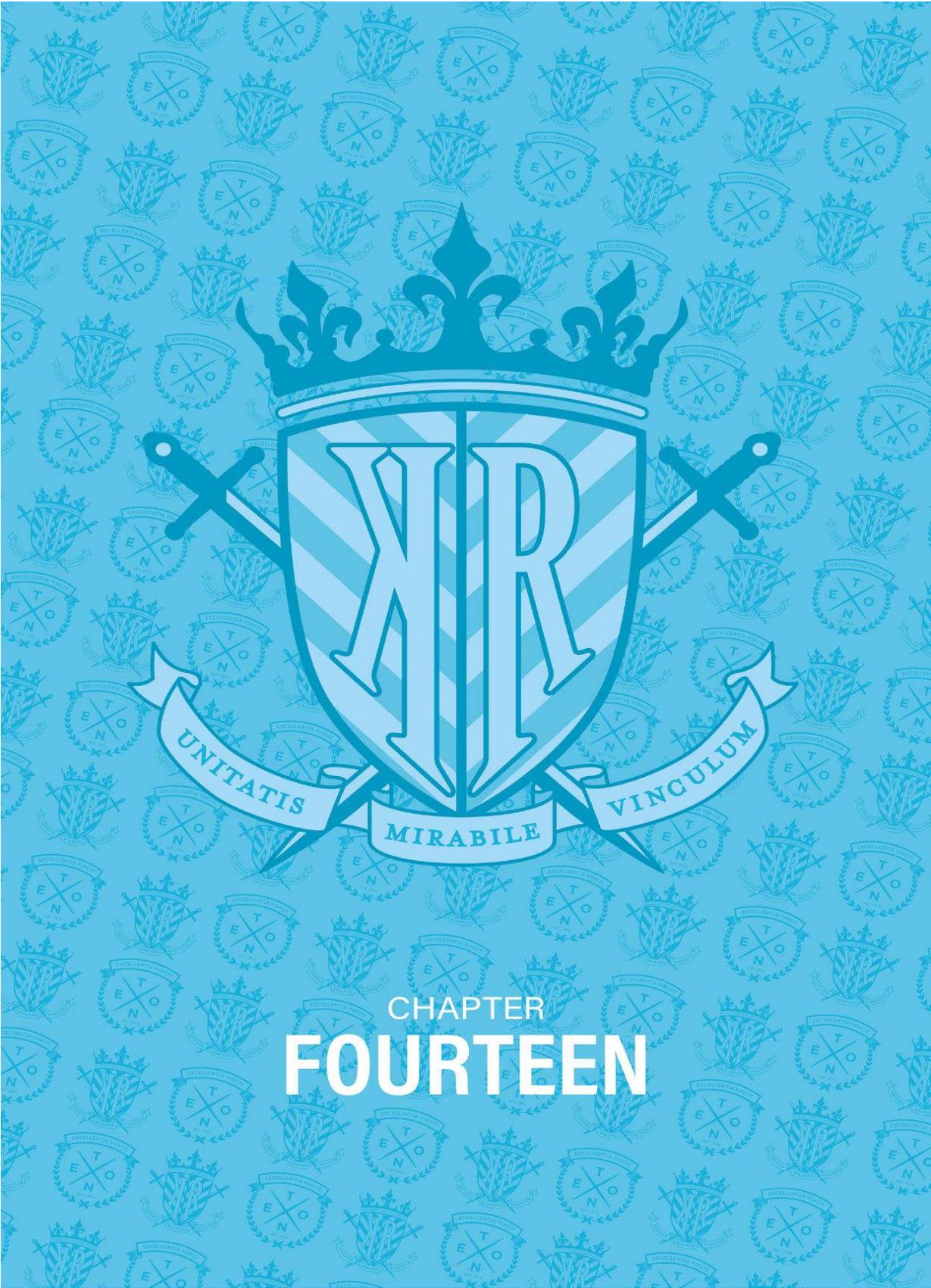


OKAY, BOYS. UP TO NOW, YOU'VE BEEN FENCING INDIVIDUAL MATCHES. IT'S TIME TO SEE HOW YOU FENCE--

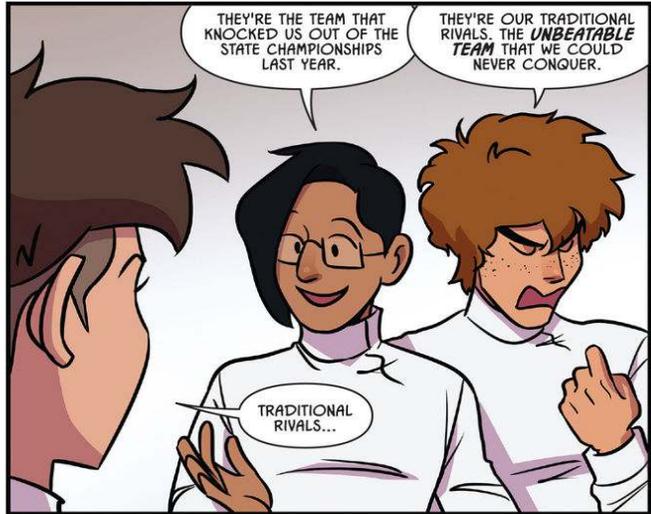


--AS A
TEAM.





CHAPTER
FOURTEEN



EACH OF THE THREE FENCERS ON OUR TEAM MUST FENCE EVERY FENCER ON THE OPPOSING TEAM ONCE, FOR A TOTAL OF NINE BOUTS.

THIS IS A STANDARD MATCH-UP FORM.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE ALREADY PLACED HARVARD AS FIRST FENCER, AIDEN AS SECOND, AND SEIJI AS THIRD.

THESE NINE BOUTS FOLLOW A PREARRANGED PATTERN.

TEAM MATCH SCORESHEET
KINGS ROW versus MLC

Date: / /

President:

Weapon: Foil Epée Sabre

Venue:

Team A:		Team B:	
	Fencer Name		Fencer Name
1	Harvard Lee	4	Andre Anchovy
2	Moi	5	John Meh
3	Another Guy	6	Felicks de Baldo
Reserve	Zero	Reserve	Rez Urve

Fencer	Score	Time	Score
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

SEIJI'S THIRD? I KIND OF THOUGHT HE WOULD BE FIRST, SINCE--

--HE'S THE BEST.

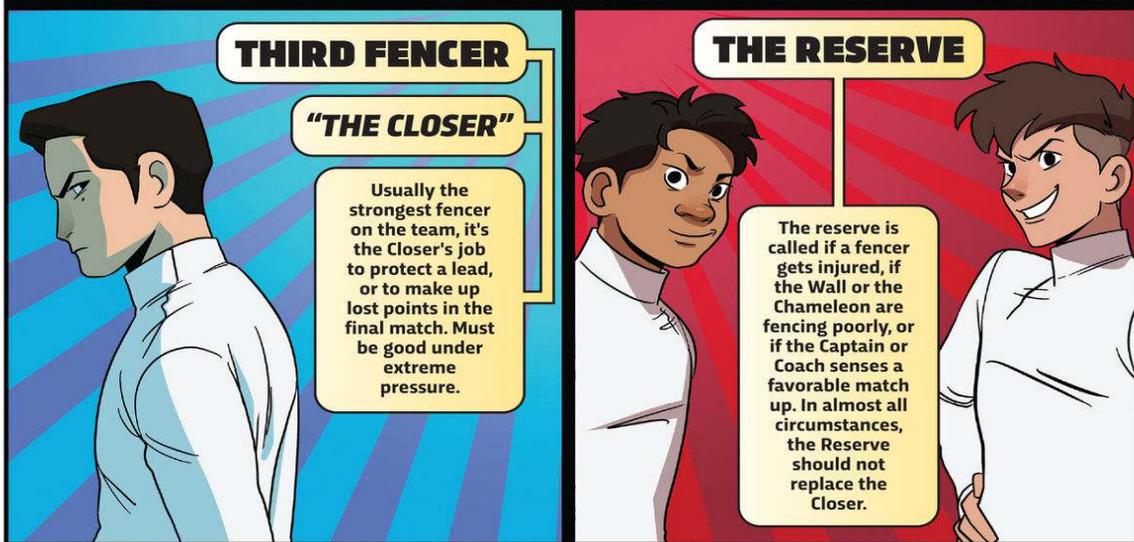
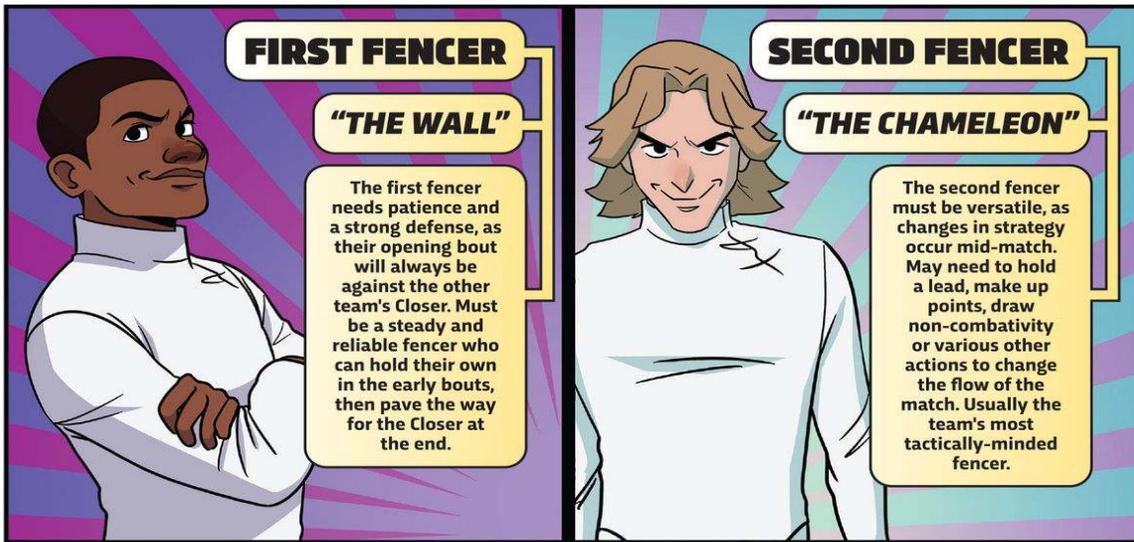
I'M THE WHAT?

NOTHING!

ALTHOUGH STRATEGY CAN VARY FROM MATCH TO MATCH, TEAMS USUALLY PUT THEIR BEST FENCER THIRD.

THE THIRD FENCER IS SOMETIMES CALLED THE CLOSER. THEY FENCE LAST AND FINISH THE MATCH.

AIDEN DID YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM? THESE AREN'T THEIR REAL NAMES!





IN *SABRE*, TEAM MATCHES WILL ALWAYS GO TO 45, BECAUSE OF THE FAST HITS AND DYNAMIC PACE OF THE BOUTS.



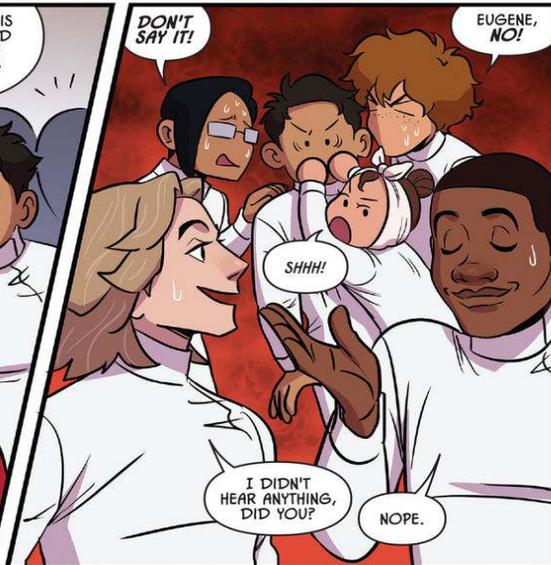
IN *ÉPÉE*, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL TO SEE A FINAL SCORE IN THE MID-TO-LOW 30S.

THE MATCH IS MORE LIKELY TO END WHEN YOU RUN OUT THE CLOCK.



THIS IS BECAUSE *ÉPÉE* IS SLOWER SCORING, AND FUNDAMENTALLY LESS COOL AND EXCITING THAN *SABRE*.

ÉPÉE IS **NOT** LESS--



DON'T SAY IT!

EUGENE, NO!

SHHH!

I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING, DID YOU?

NOPE.



OKAY, BOYS. LET'S GET TO WORK.



I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT THE PRACTICE MATCH!



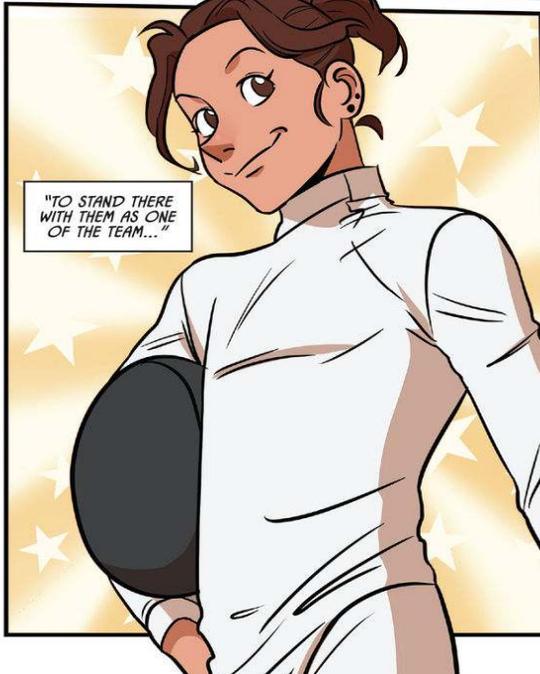
WE CAN'T LET THE TEAM DOWN. WE HAVE TO PLAY OUR PART. GLITTER PEN!



WE'LL GET TO WATCH SEIJI FENCE IN THE KINGS ROW UNIFORM FOR THE FIRST TIME! THE TEAM UNIFORMS ARE SO COOL!



I'D LOVE TO HAVE ONE OF MY OWN SOMEDAY.



"TO STAND THERE WITH THEM AS ONE OF THE TEAM..."

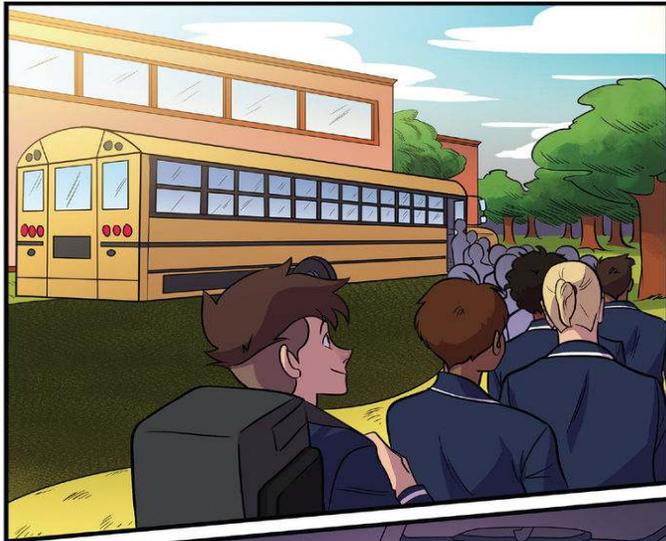


UNTIL YOU DO.

THANKS, DANTE!



LOOKS GREAT! WE'RE READY!







METHODIST LADS COLLEGE (MLC). STUDENTS: 2,371

WHOA, IT'S HUGE! THERE ARE SO MANY STUDENTS!
I GUESS THERE WILL BE A LOT OF PEOPLE WATCHING THE MATCH, HUH?



SO, THIS IS WHAT OUR RIVAL'S GROUNDS LOOK LIKE. WE'VE NEVER FENCED THEM ON THEIR HOME TURF BEFORE. IT'S NOT THAT GREAT OR ANYTHING.
YOU'VE NEVER FENCED HERE BEFORE?



KINGS ROW WAS NEVER GOOD ENOUGH TO BE INVITED TO PRACTICE MATCHES.
WHAT DO YOU THINK MADE MLC INVITE US NOW?
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT--



--IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HIM.



ISN'T THAT SEIJI KATAYAMA? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE? I THOUGHT HE WAS AT EXTON.
SEIJI KATAYAMA IS IN OUR DISTRICT!
KINGS ROW PROBABLY THINK THEY'RE HOT STUFF NOW THEY'VE GOT ONE GOOD FENCER.



HEY, YOU! SEIJI ISN'T THE ONLY GOOD FENCER ON OUR TEAM.



I'M ON THE TEAM, TOO.

OH YEAH, WHAT DO YOU FENCE?

HE'S THE RESERVE.



YEAH, DON'T MESS WITH KINGS ROW! WE ARE COMING FOR YOU!

AND HE'S NOT ON THE TEAM.



KINGS ROW DIDN'T EVEN MAKE THE FINALS LAST YEAR. EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE JUST HIDING BEHIND YOUR STAR FENCER.



IF YOU'RE WATCHING SEIJI, YOU'LL MISS HOW GREAT THE REST OF US ARE.



WE'VE GOT A KILLER CAPTAIN.

AND WAIT TILL YOU SEE EUGENE FENCE.

AHAHA, THIS IS ACTUALLY MY FIRST TEAM MATCH...



YOUR TEAM--



--WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.



SORRY, ENTHUSIASTIC UNDERCLASSMEN!
OKAY, YOU BOYS, THE GYMNASIUM IS THIS WAY.



I WAS KIND OF HOPING TO SEE AIDEN...

YOU LIKE AIDEN?!

I JUST, UM, I JUST THINK HE'S SO GOOD AT FENCING.



RIGHT?!

YOU SHOULD WATCH THE MATCH WITH US!

WE HAVE THIS AIDEN PHOTO ALBUM...



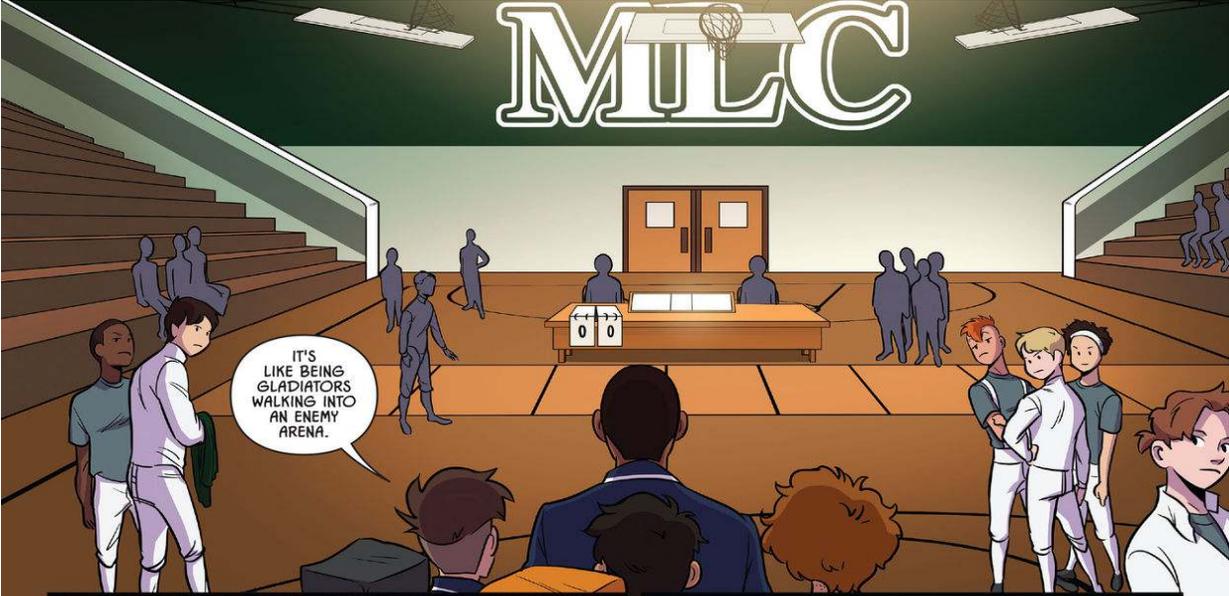
SO, THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. SEIJI KATAYAMA IS ON THE KINGS ROW TEAM.

WE CAN'T GET DEMORALIZED. WE'VE FOUGHT GOOD FENCERS BEFORE. WE STICK TO THE STRATEGY.

TERRENCE AND I AGREE.



REMEMBER, THIS IS A TEAM MATCH. TOGETHER, WE CAN BEAT THEM.



IT'S LIKE BEING GLADIATORS WALKING INTO AN ENEMY ARENA.



IT WAS LIKE THAT LAST YEAR, TOO, AT REGIONALS.

THE FEELING OF WALKING INTO A ROOM FULL OF RIVALS.



BUT THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT IT NOW.



BACK THEN I WAS ALONE.



THIS TIME I'M HERE--

--WITH A TEAM.



IT'S LIKE A REAL TOURNAMENT. LOOK, THERE'S THE JUDGE. HE'S WEARING A SUIT!

YOU'VE BEEN TO A TOURNAMENT BEFORE.

WELL, YEAH, BUT I ONLY GOT TO FENCE ONE MATCH. AGAINST YOU.



YOU WON'T FENCE TODAY EITHER. YOU'LL BE ON THE BENCH.

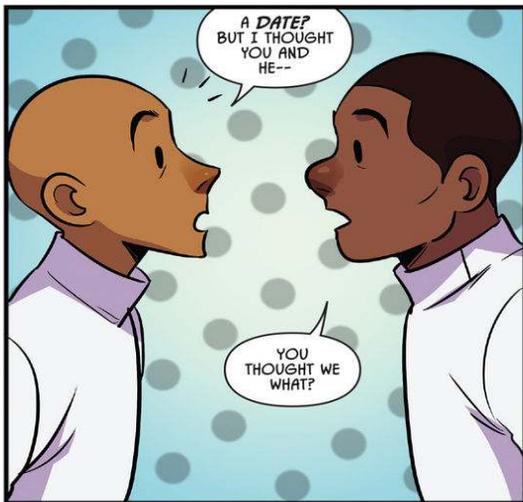
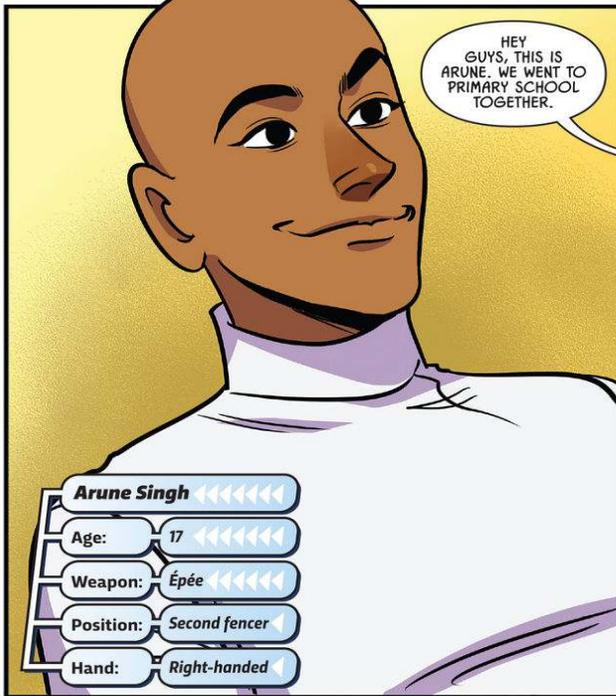
HEY!



BUT EVEN ON THE BENCH, I'M STILL HERE.

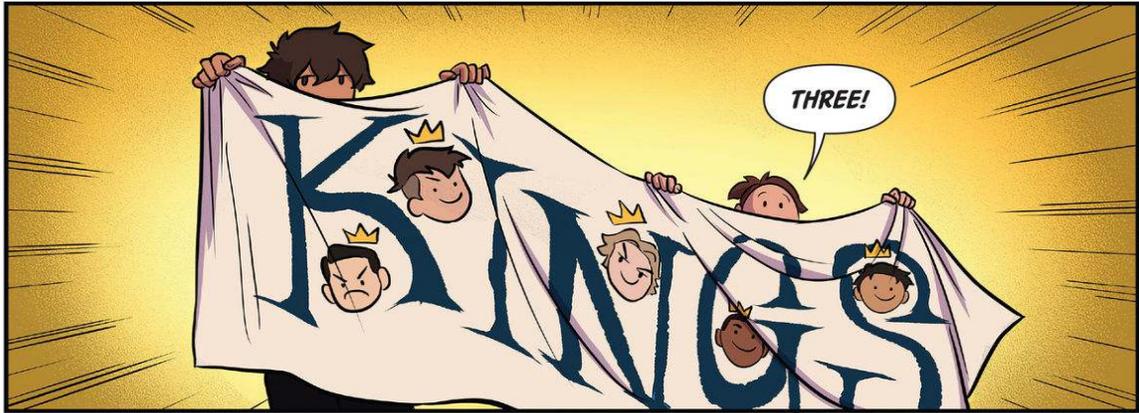


HARVARD!









THREE!



KINGS!

THAT'S MEI SEIJI, LOOK!



THAT'S BOBBY'S TEAM SPIRIT!

AMAZING LIKENESSES.



I GET IT NOW. I GET WHY YOU TRIED OUT FOR THE TEAM FOR YEARS, EUGENE.

EUGENE?



I, UH, DON'T FEEL WELL.



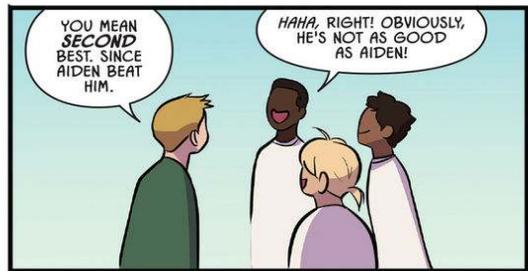
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A "TEAM" IN FENCING.

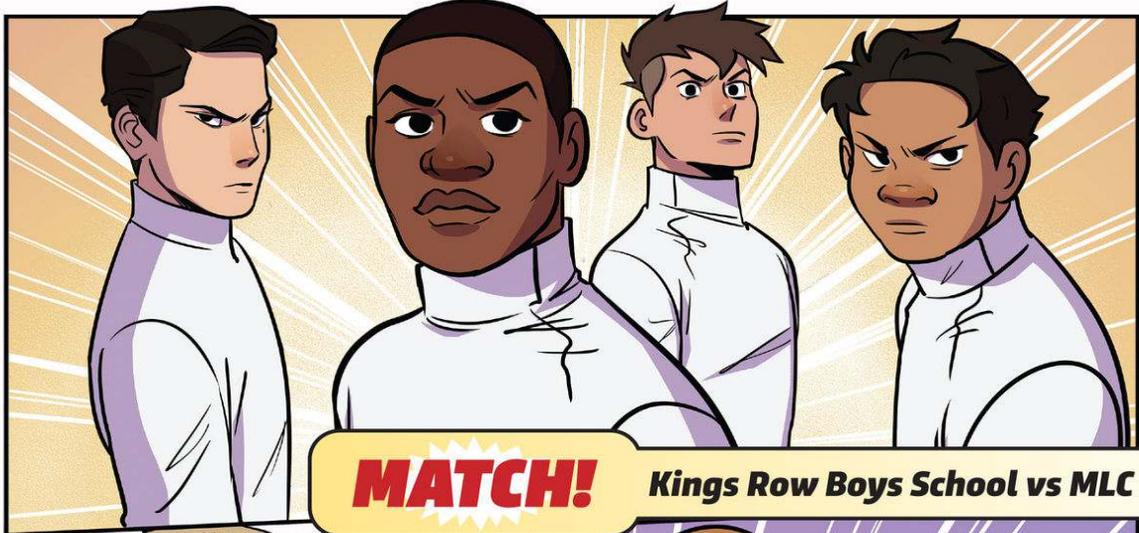


WHAT DO YOU MEAN? OF COURSE, WE'RE A TEAM.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THESE ARE INDIVIDUAL BOUTS.

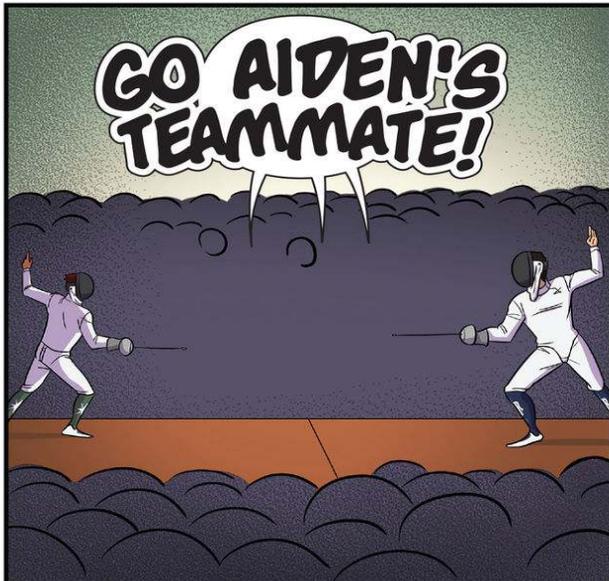
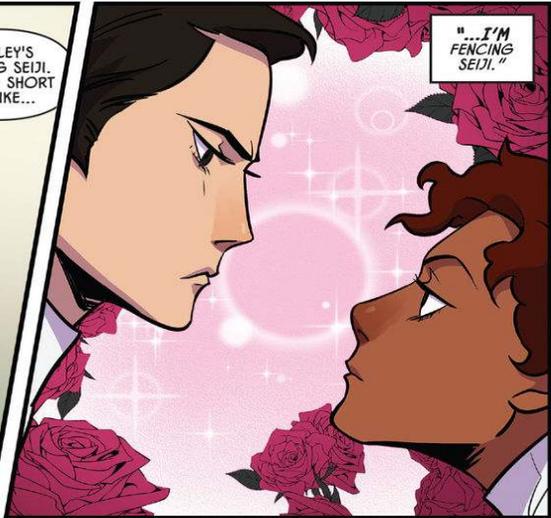
ON THE PISTE, JUST LIKE IN LIFE, YOU'RE ALONE.





Bout 1: Seiji Katayama vs. Hartley Weston







ALLEZ!



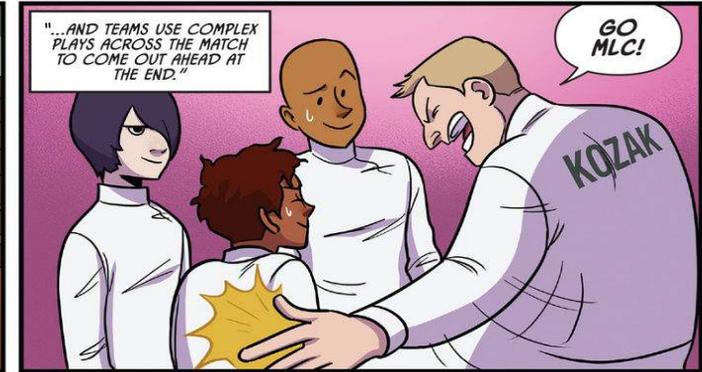
"...IS WRONG."





CHAPTER
FIFTEEN









--IS COUNTING ON ME!

ALLEZ!



TERRENCE IS GOADING HIM TO ATTACK!



AND HARVARD IS FALLING FOR IT!



I JUST HAVE TO HIT HIM--I HAVE TO SCORE--



I DON'T GET IT. HARVARD'S OUR "WALL" RIGHT? ISN'T HE SUPPOSED TO BE FENCING A DEFENSIVE MATCH?

HE'S TRYING TO SCORE TO MAKE UP FOR SEIJI.

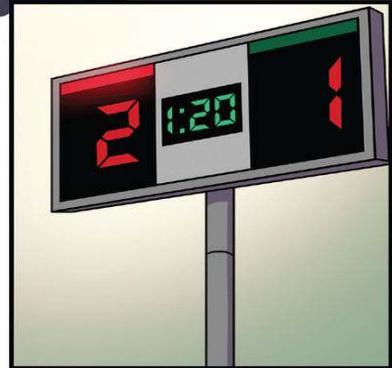


--FOR THE TEAM, THEY'RE RELYING ON ME.



HE THINKS IF HE SCORES, HE'LL TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF THE REST OF THE TEAM.

AND IT SEEMS LIKE--







--SWOOP IN FOR THE KILL.

EUGENE. YOU'RE UP. EUGENE?

Bout 3 of 9: Eugene Labao vs Arune Singh



EUGENE?

RIGHT! YEAH. HAHA. LET'S DO THIS.



EUGENE LOOKS NERVOUS.

WELL, YEAH. HE'S SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE TRYING OUT FOR THE TEAM.



"HE'S JUST BEEN GIVEN HIS BIG SHOT ON A TEAM WITH TWO RESERVES."

"IT'S A MIRACLE HE GOT CALLED AT ALL. SCREW THIS UP, AND HE MIGHT NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO FENCE AGAIN."



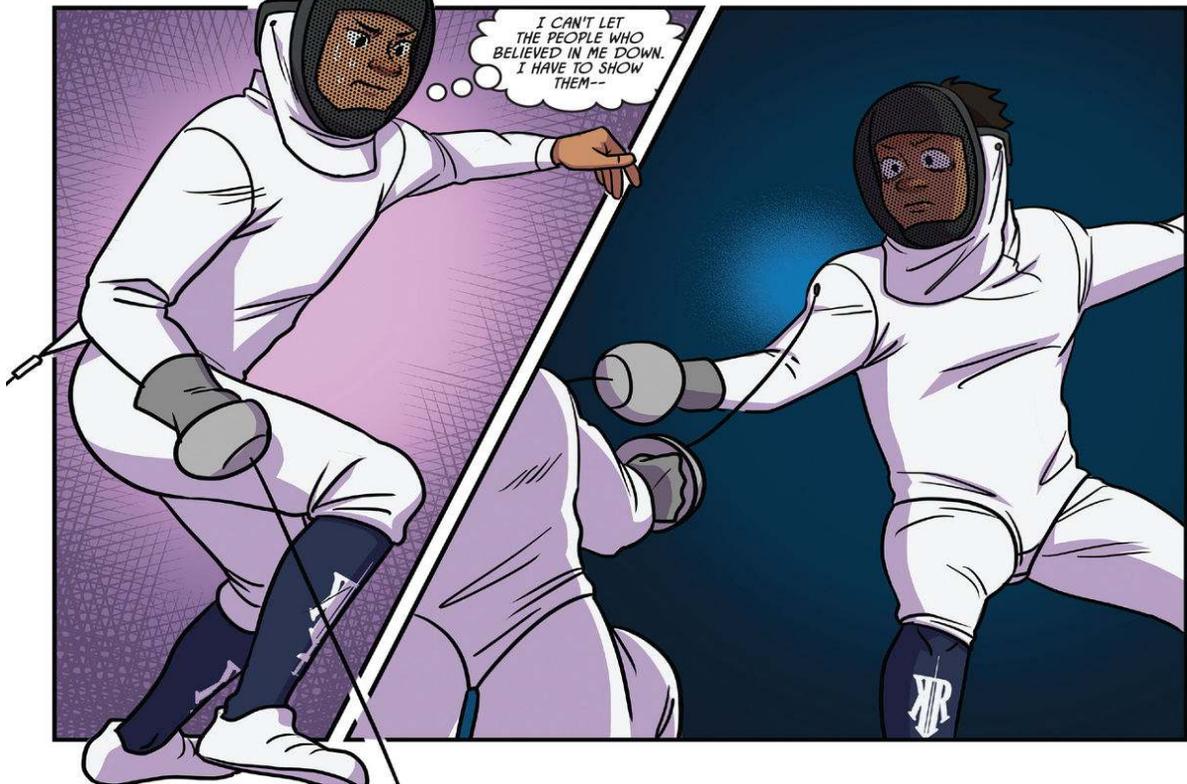
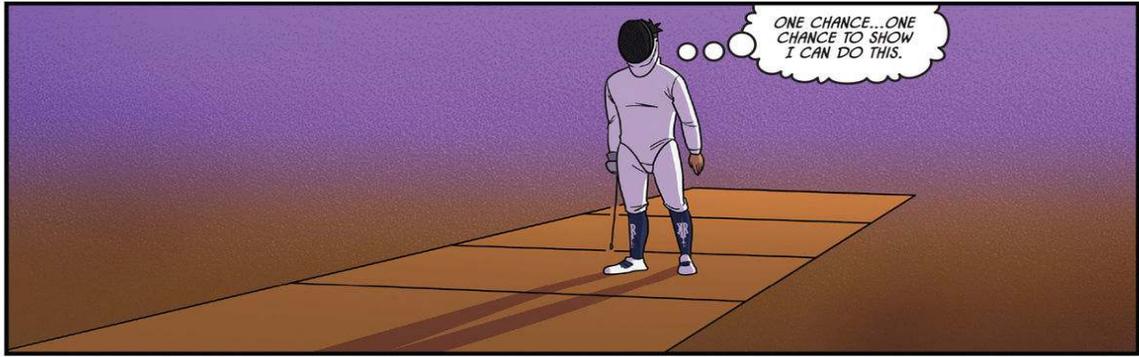
IT'S MAKE OR BREAK TIME, EUGENE. THIS IS THE CHANCE YOU'VE BEEN WORKING FOR YOUR WHOLE LIFE. GET IN THERE AND MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

ONE CHANCE...MAKE OR BREAK...MY WHOLE LIFE...



FATALITY.

HARVARD'S PEP TALKS ARE USUALLY GOOD?!

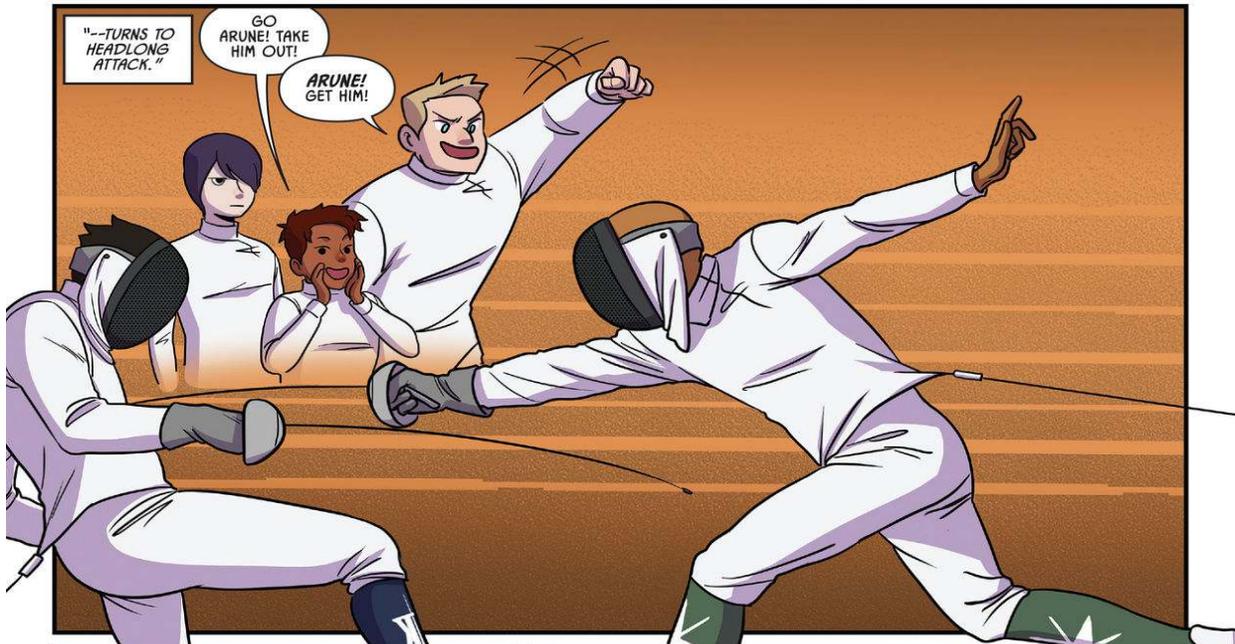




EUGENE...



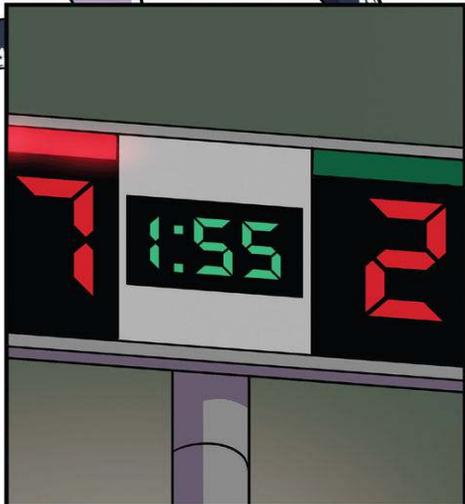
AND JUST LIKE THAT, MLC'S CAUTIOUS DEFENSE--



"--TURNS TO HEADLONG ATTACK."

GO ARUNE! TAKE HIM OUT!

ARUNE! GET HIM!



THEY'RE USING EUGENE TO RUN UP THE SCORE.

THEY PLAYED IT SAFE WITH THE STRONGER FENCERS.

NOW THEY'LL GO ON THE AGGRESSIVE AND TRY TO OPEN UP AS BIG A LEAD AS POSSIBLE, BEFORE THEY'RE FORCED INTO A SECOND ROUND OF DEFENSE AGAINST HARVARD AND SEIJI.



Bout 4 of 9: Harvard Lee vs Hartley Weston



BUT KALLY'S RIGHT, WE CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT TOGETHER.

NO MATTER WHAT WE DO--



GO HARTLEY!

MLC!

MLC!

MLC!

"--WE KEEP SLIPPING IN THE SCORES."



SEIJI'S UP AGAIN...DO YOU THINK HE CAN CLOSE THE GAP?

Bout 5 of 9: Seiji Katayama vs Arune Singh



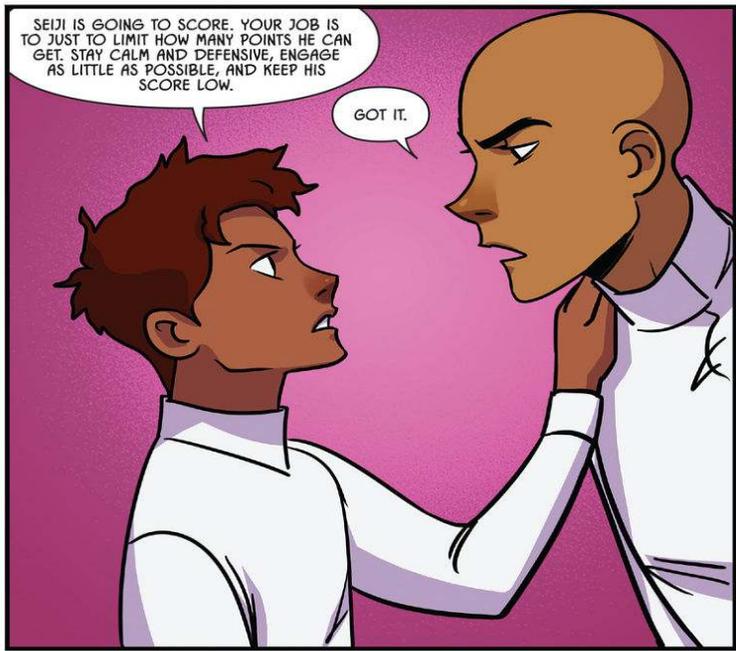
EVEN SEIJI CAN'T CLOSE A TEN-POINT GAP.

ESPECIALLY IF HE FALLS FOR NON-COMBATIVITY AGAIN.

BUT THERE'S A CHANCE, RIGHT? SEIJI'S AMAZING.



SEIJI'S AMAZING, BUT MLC... THEY'RE COMPLETELY PREPARED. IT'S ALMOST LIKE...THEY KNOW US TOO WELL.



SEIJI IS GOING TO SCORE. YOUR JOB IS TO JUST TO LIMIT HOW MANY POINTS HE CAN GET. STAY CALM AND DEFENSIVE, ENGAGE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, AND KEEP HIS SCORE LOW.

GOT IT.



SEIJI SCORED FIVE POINTS THAT BOUT. WHY IS HE SO ANGRY NOW?

HE THINKS HE HAS TO DO IT ALONE.



THEY ALL DO.

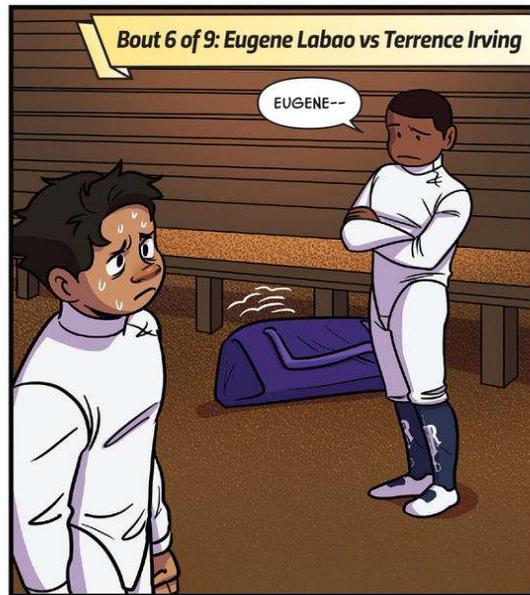
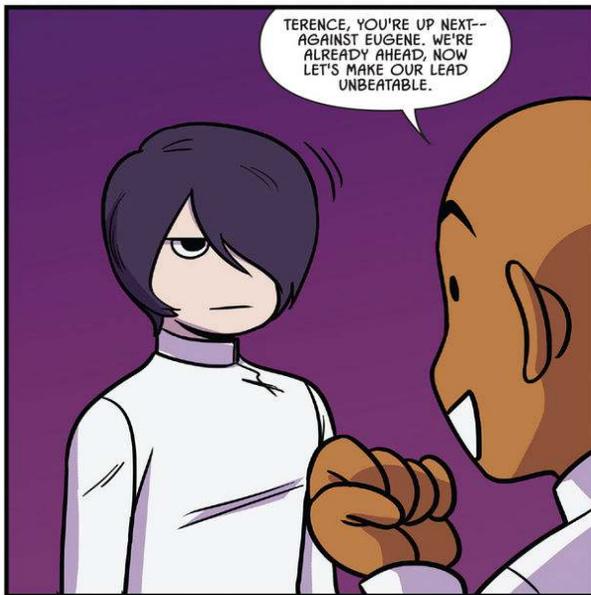
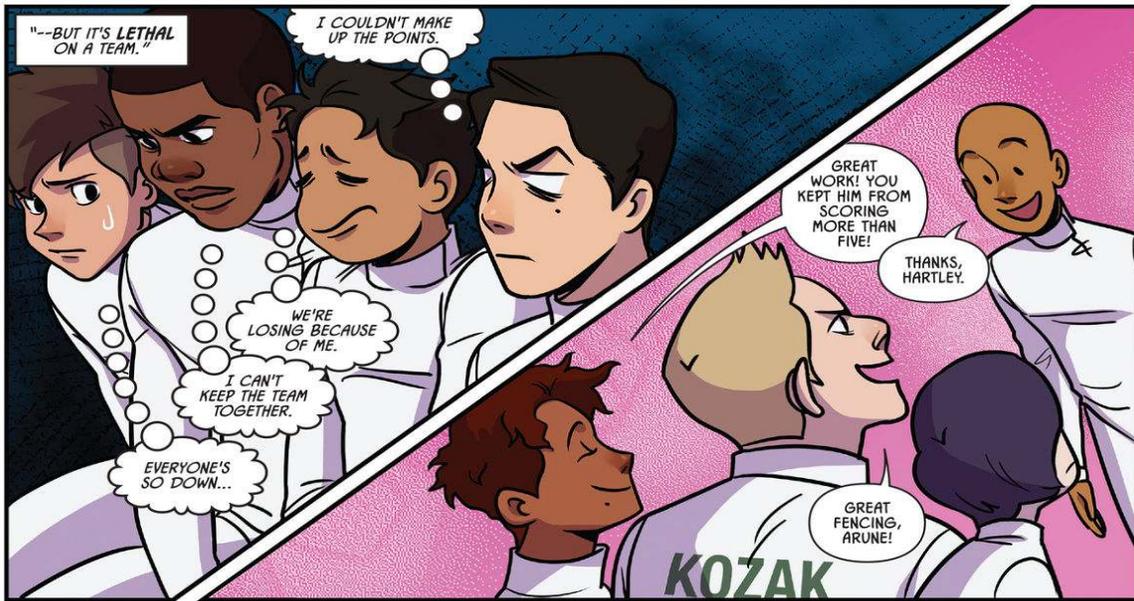
FENCING IS AN INDIVIDUAL COMBAT SPORT.

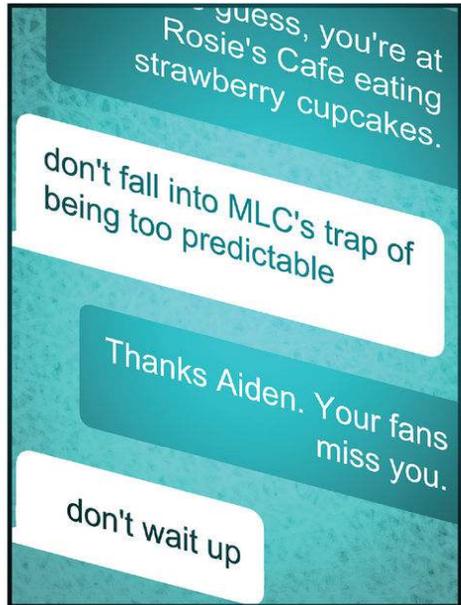
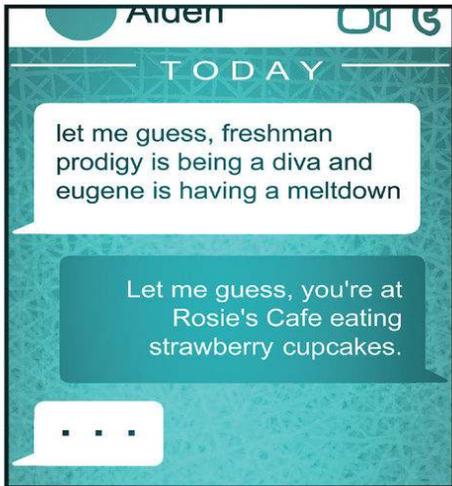


"THE PERSONALITY TYPES THAT IT ATTRACTS ARE OFTEN A POOR FIT WHEN IT COMES TO ASSEMBLING A TEAM."

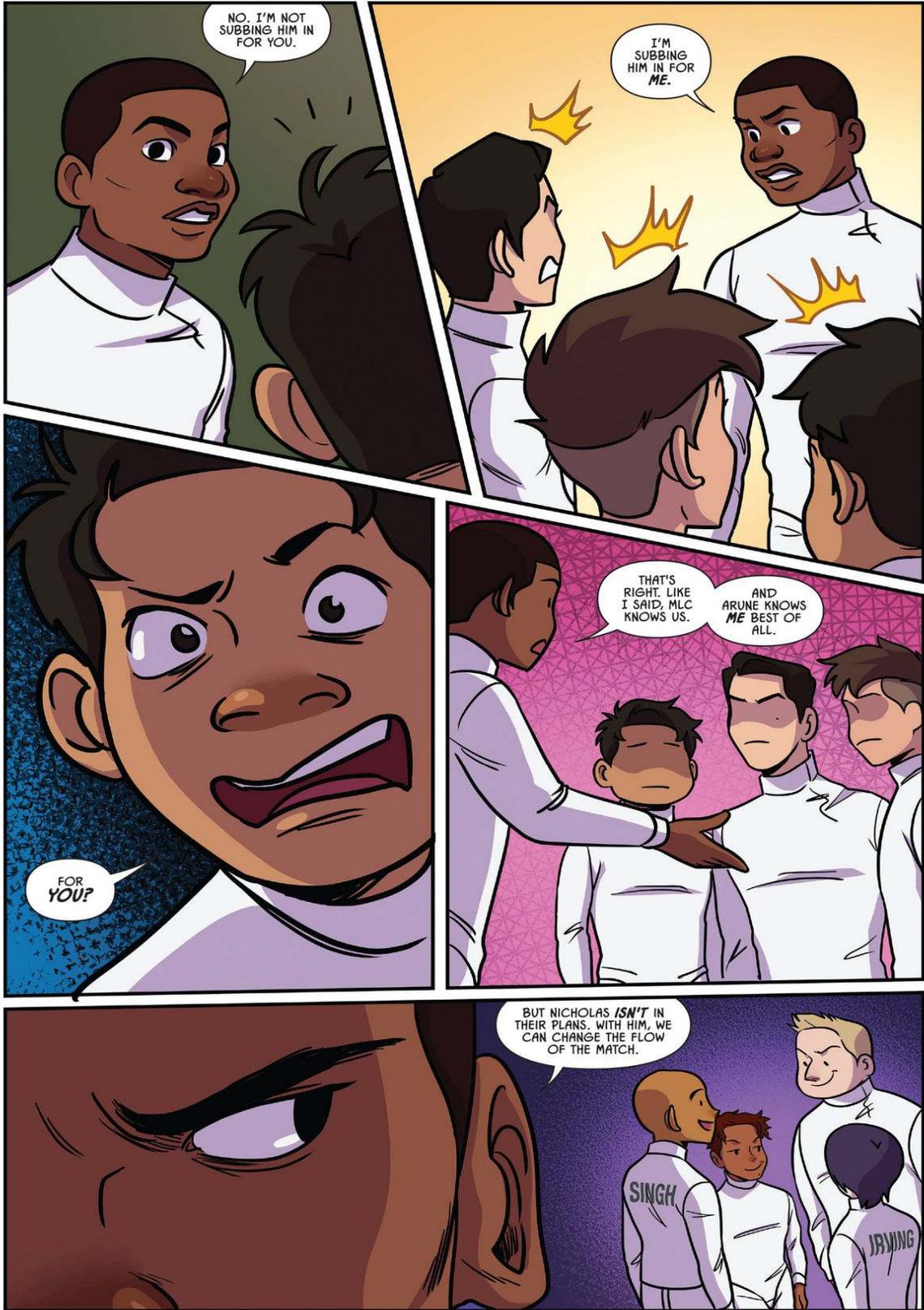


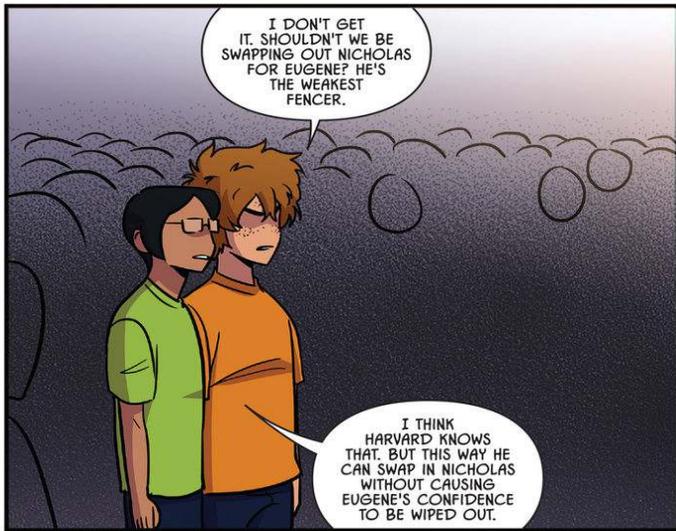
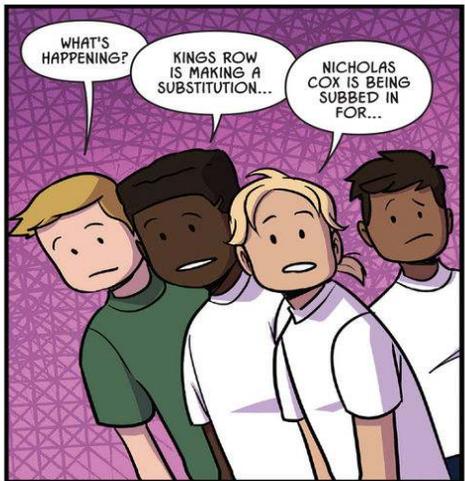
"I'LL WIN ALONE, AND NOTHING WILL STOP ME" IS A GREAT ATTITUDE TO SUCCEED IN INDIVIDUAL MATCHES--

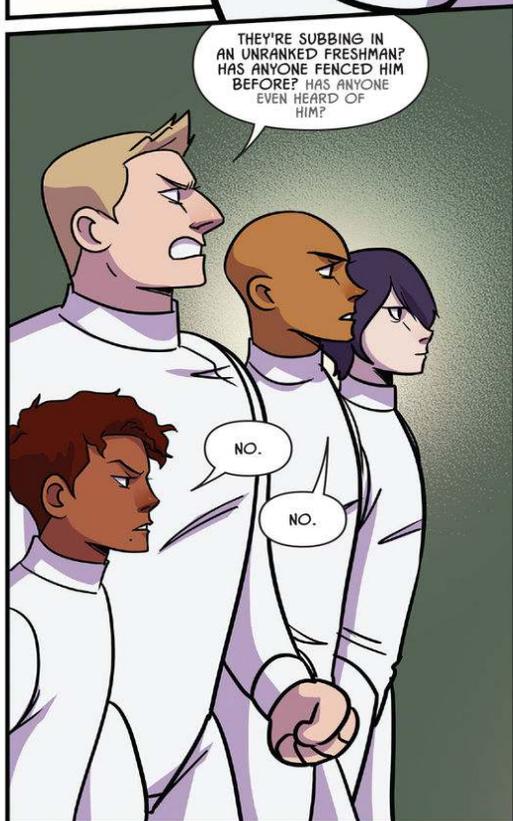
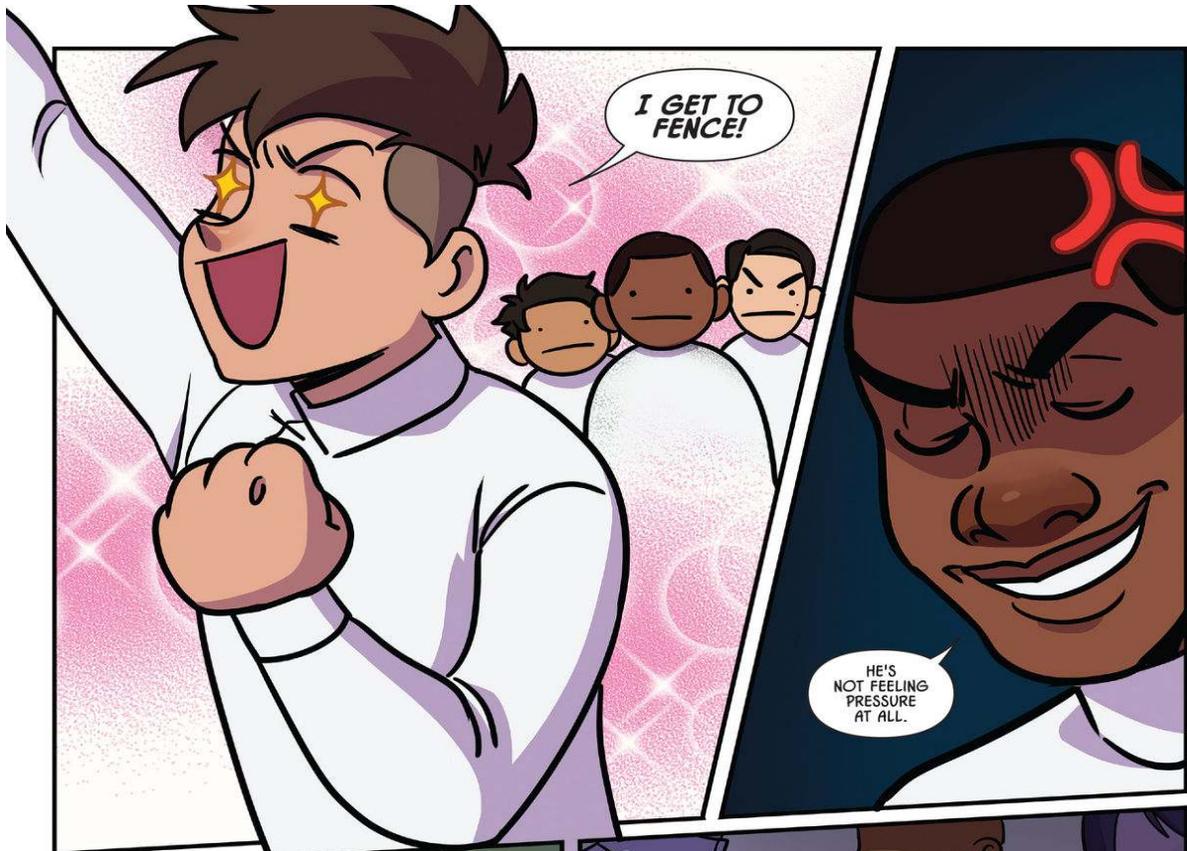












Bout 7 of 9: Nicholas Cox vs Arune Singh









CHAPTER
SIXTEEN





NICHOLAS... HE ATTACKS SO RECKLESSLY, BUT IT'S KIND OF... WORKING?

ARUNE'S STRATEGY IS TO FENCE CAREFULLY AND DEFENSIVELY TO HOLD MLC'S LEAD.

BUT NICHOLAS IS IGNORING THAT AND RUSHING TO ATTACK ANYWAY.

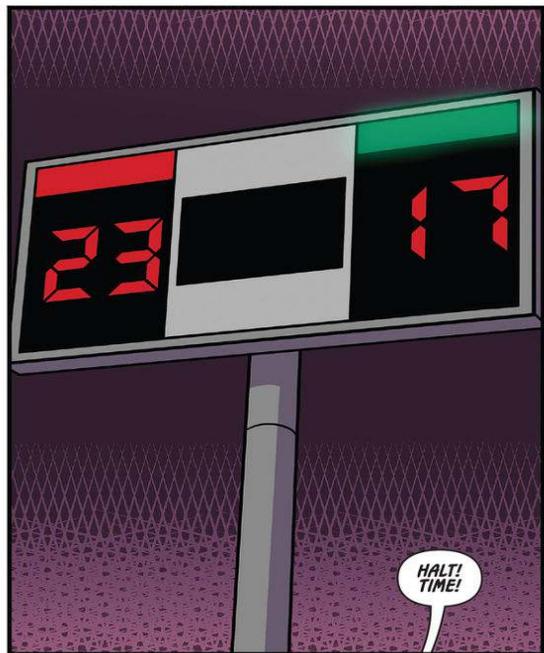
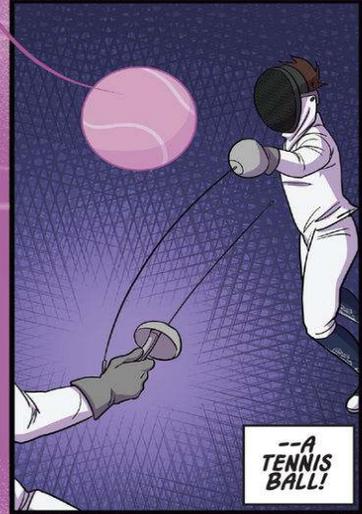
YEAH, MEANWHILE ARUNE IS TOO CAREFUL TO GO FOR HIS OWN ATTACKS.

WHICH IS GOOD BECAUSE NICHOLAS' DEFENSE IS TERRIBLE.

THAT'S HIS THIRD POINT!

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT NICHOLAS IS... TURNING THINGS AROUND?!

GO AIDEN'S TEAMMATE!





HEY, SEIJI! I SCORED SIX POINTS!

I SAW IT.

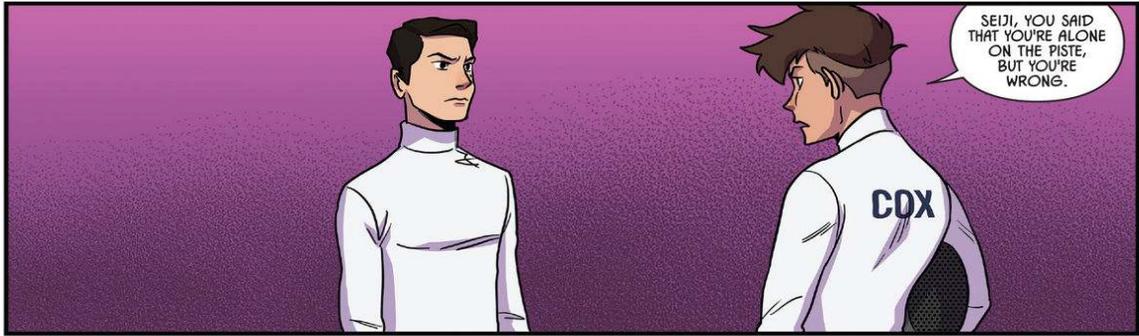


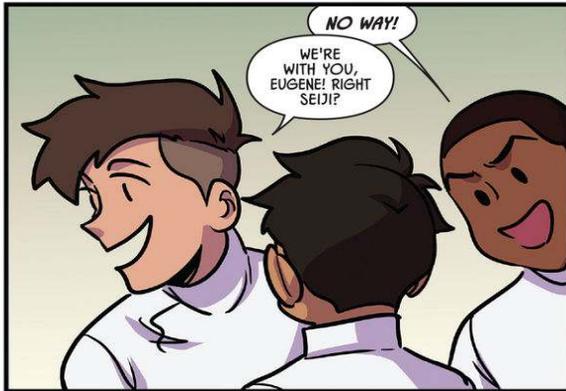
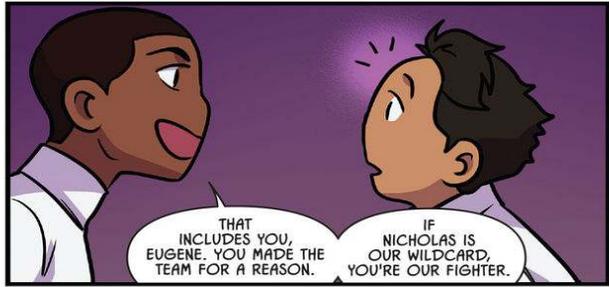
THAT'S MORE THAN YOU SCORED THE WHOLE MATCH!

I SAW IT.



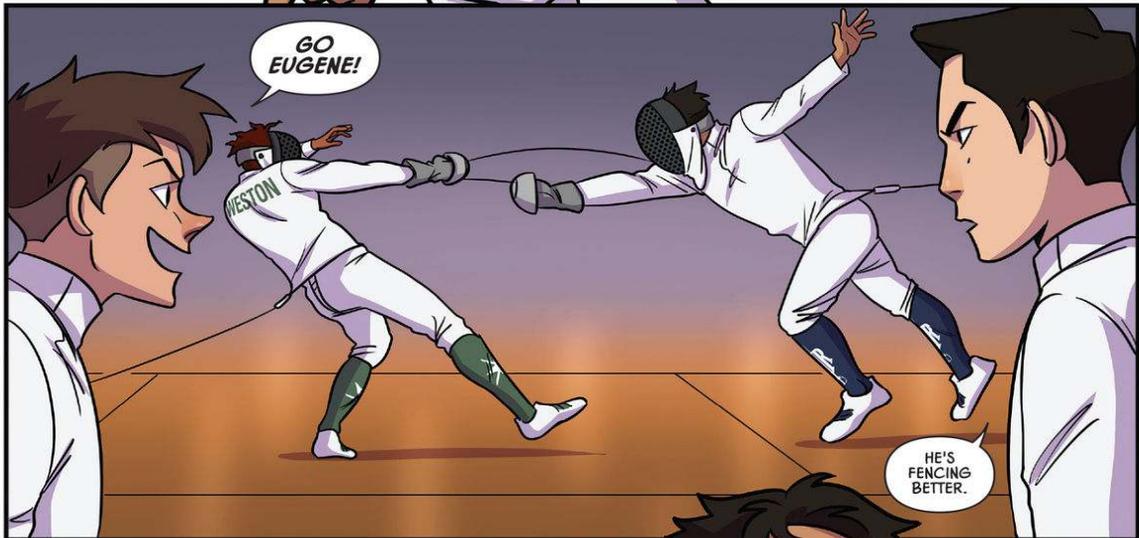
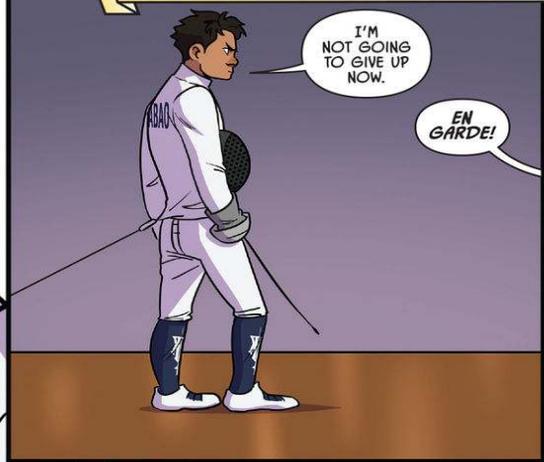
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT BY MYSELF.







Bout 8 of 9: Eugene Labao vs Hartley Weston





--I'M THE CLOSER.

I DON'T GET IT. THEY'VE SHUT HIM DOWN THE WHOLE MATCH. AND NOW--

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF DURING TRYOUTS. HE'S A TACTICAL FENCER WHO WATCHES AND LEARNS.

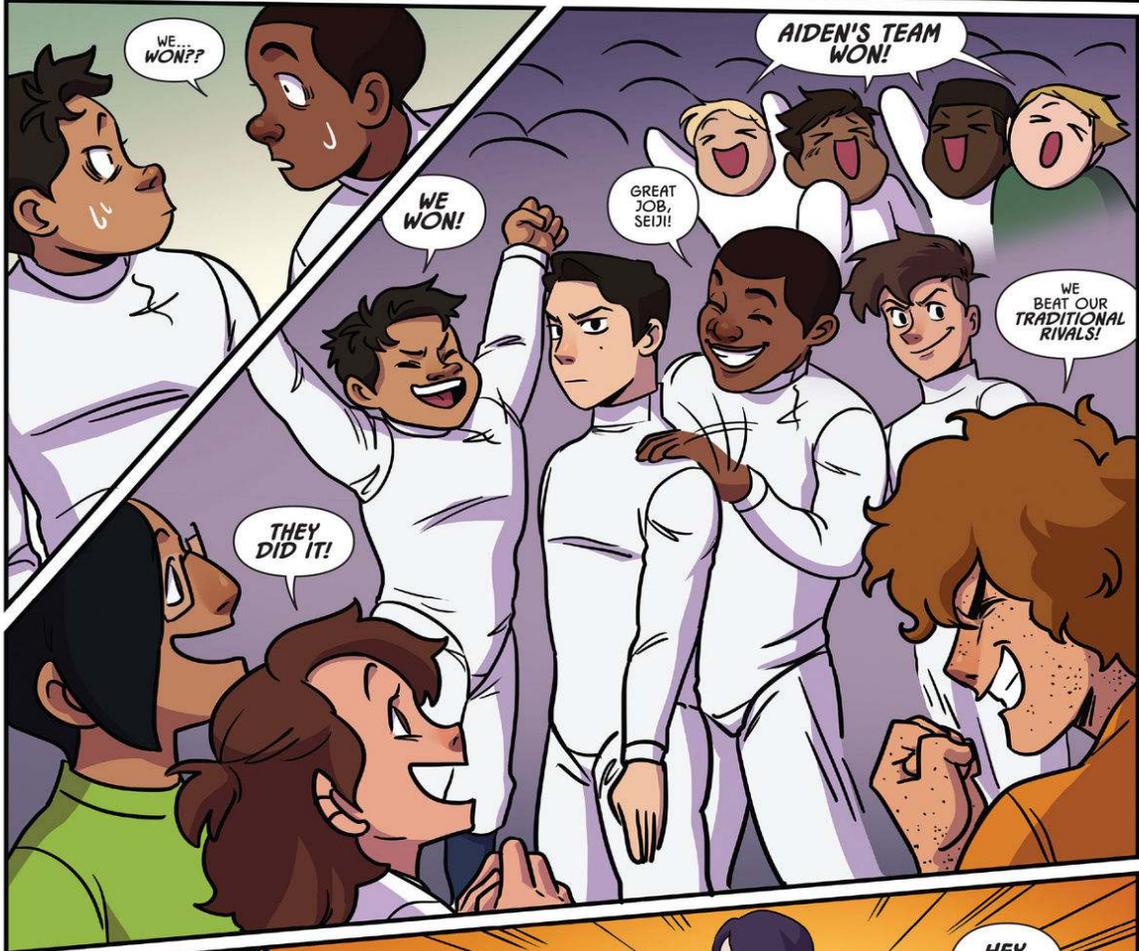
THE SAME TACTIC WON'T WORK ON HIM TWICE.

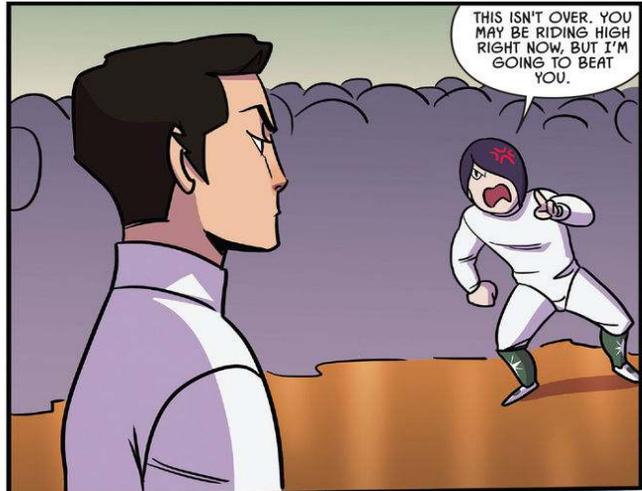


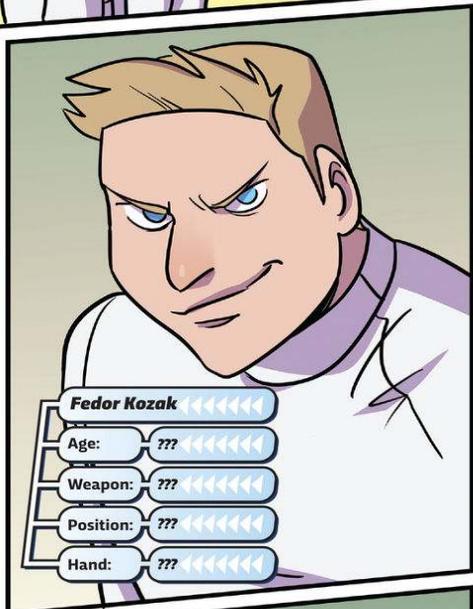
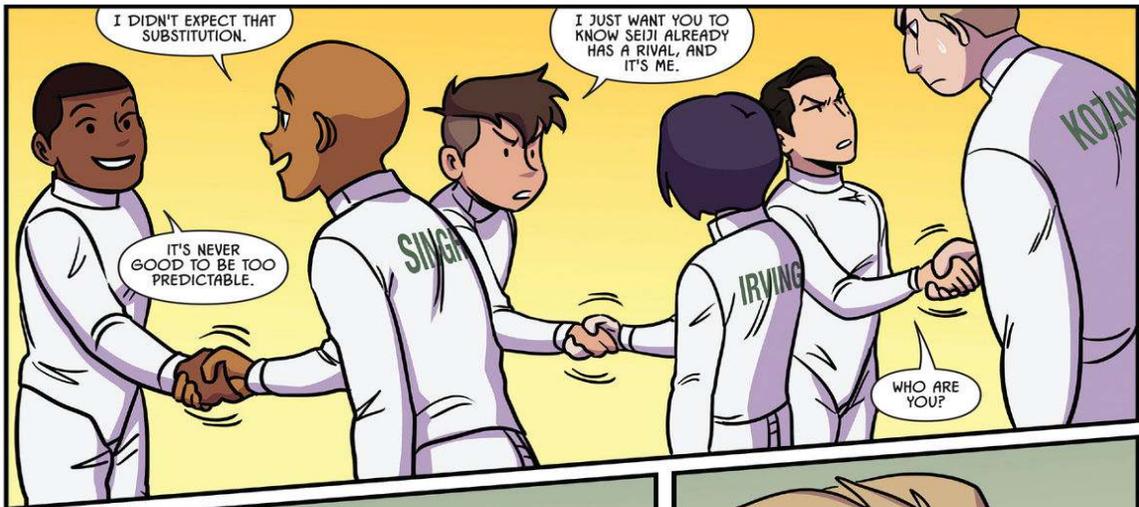


WINNER!

KINGS ROW BOYS SCHOOL

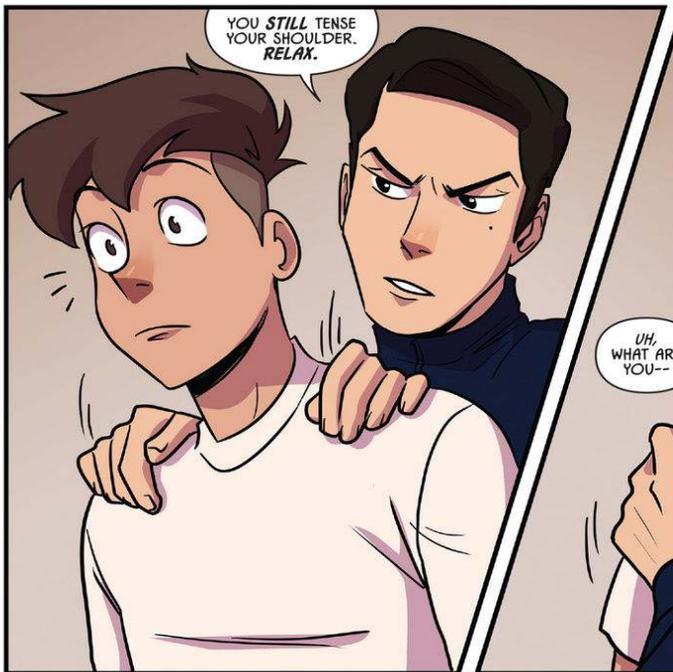


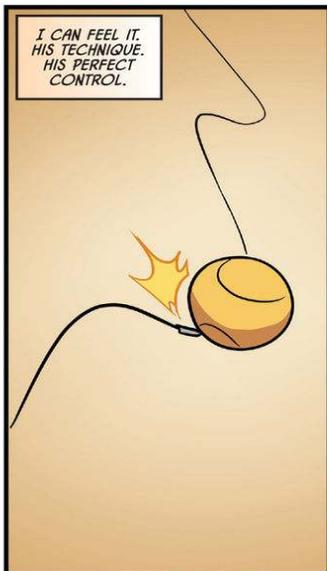






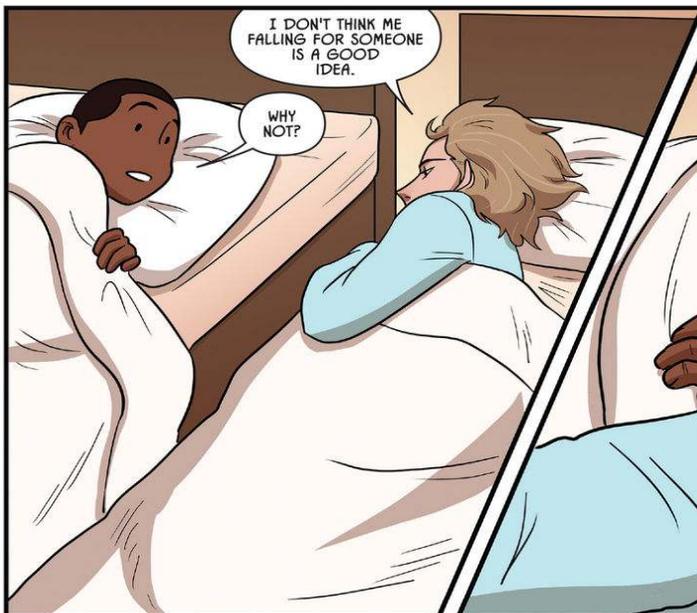
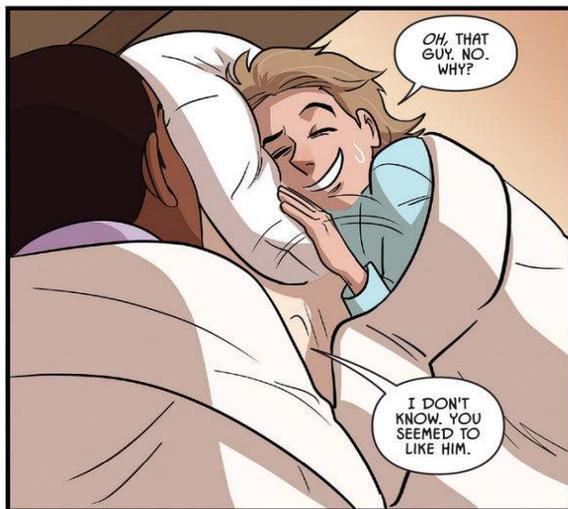
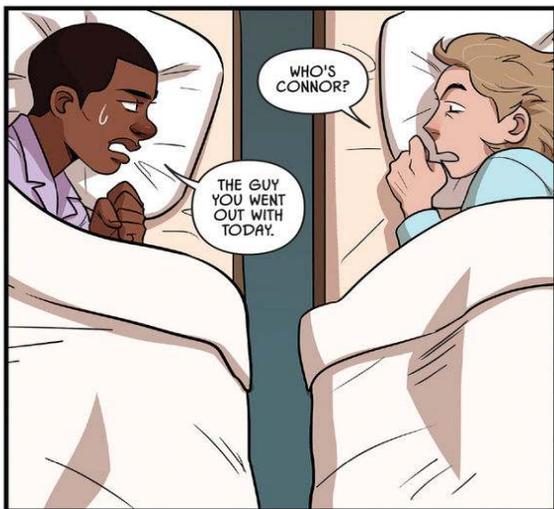


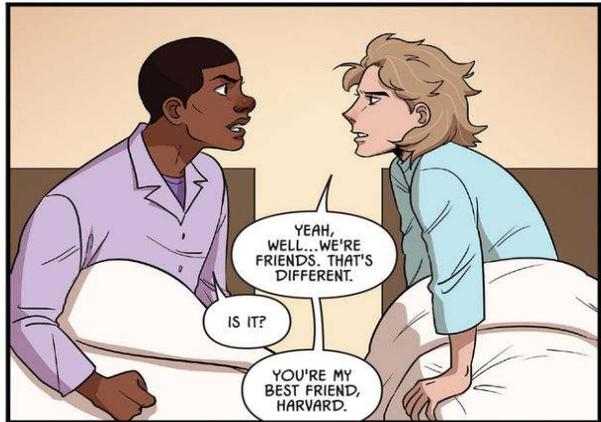


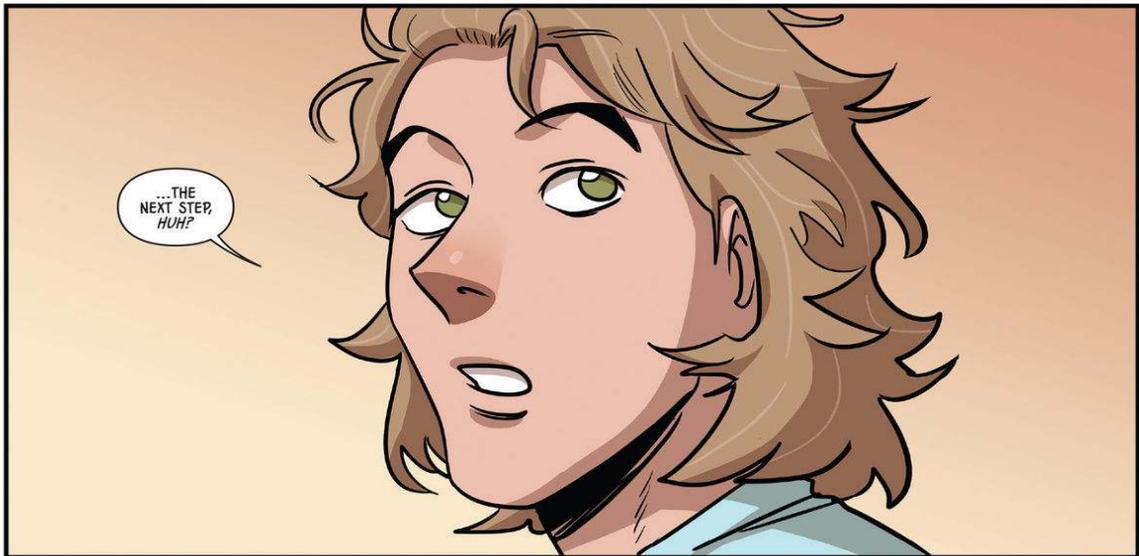
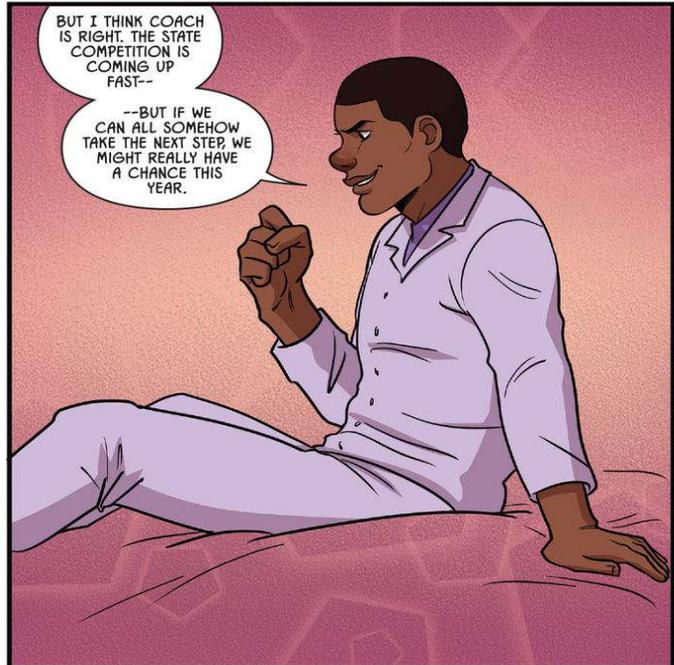




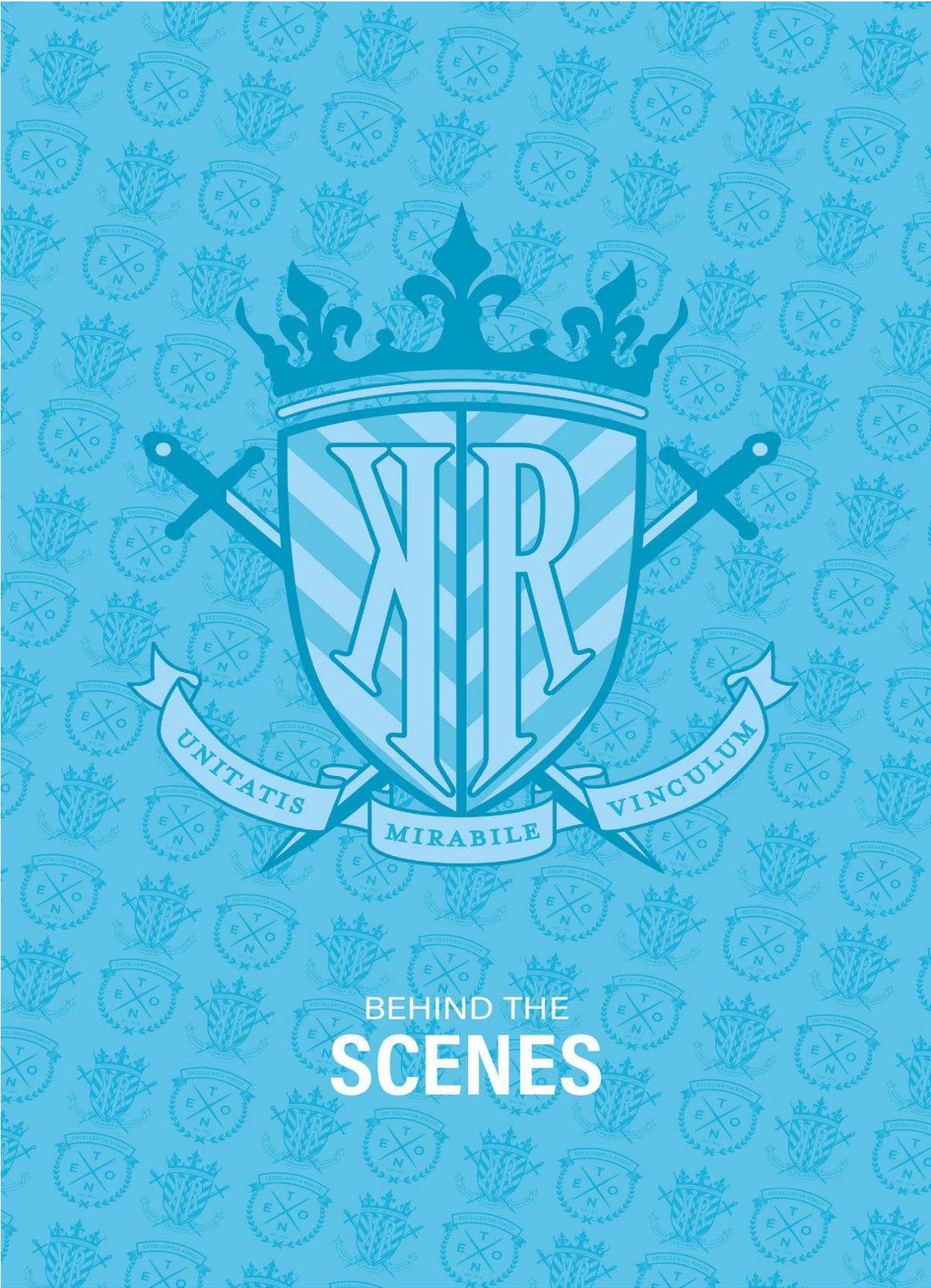




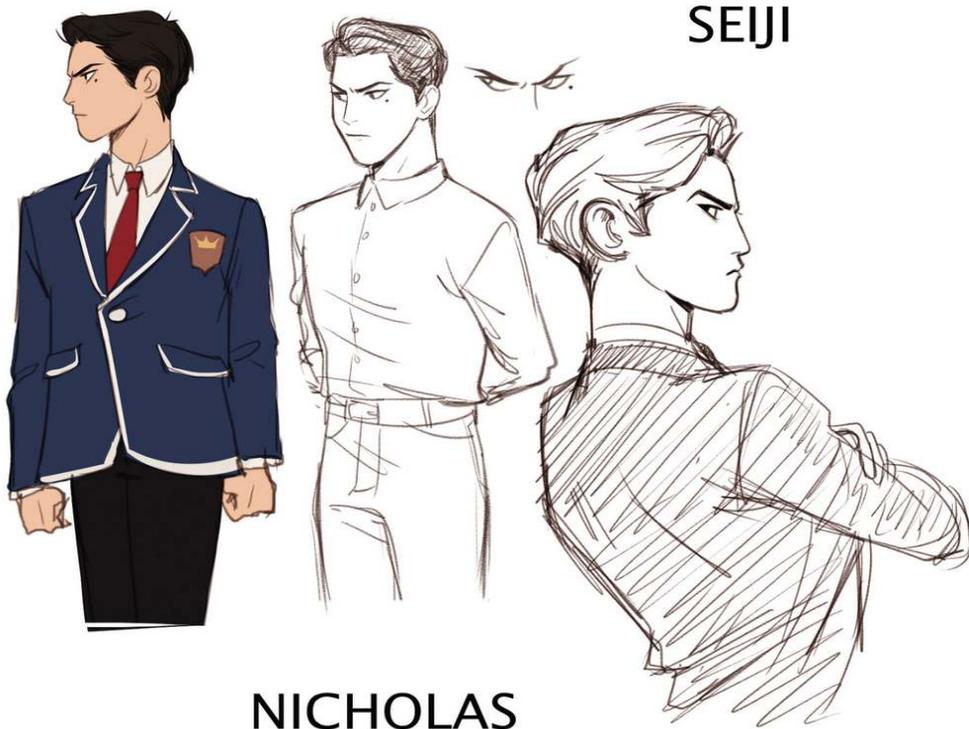








BEHIND THE
SCENES



SEIJI

NICHOLAS



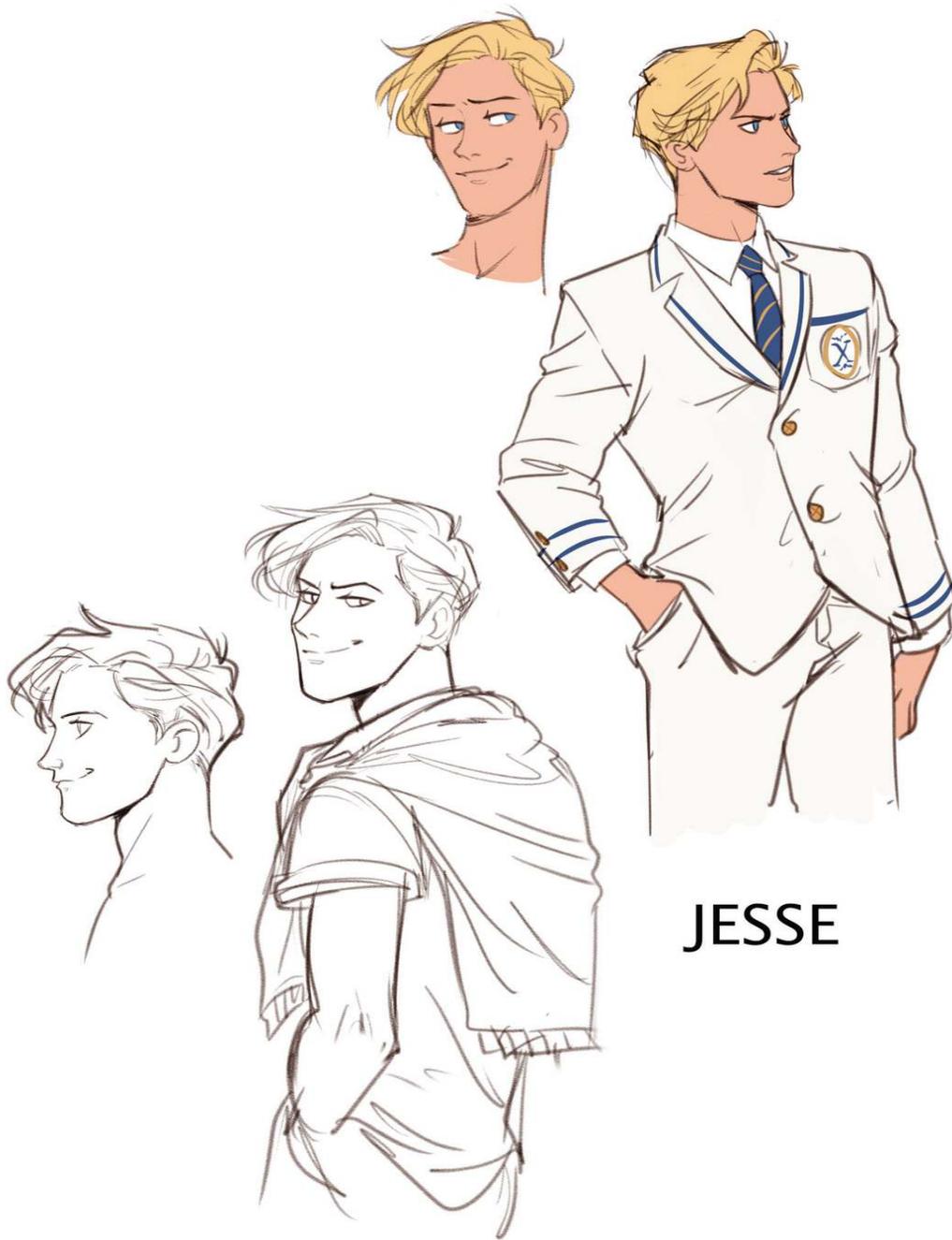


HARVARD



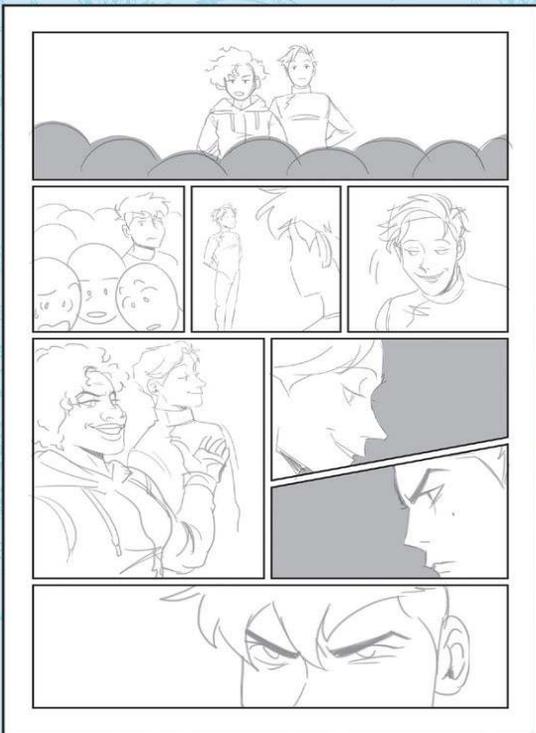
AIDEN



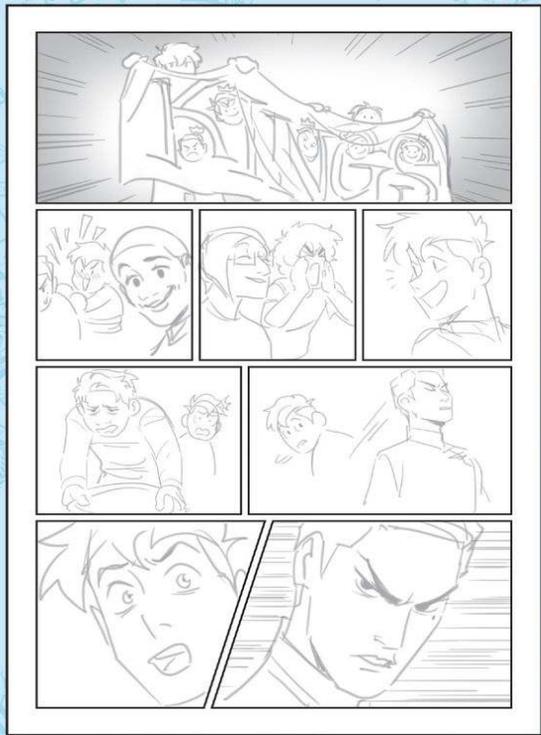


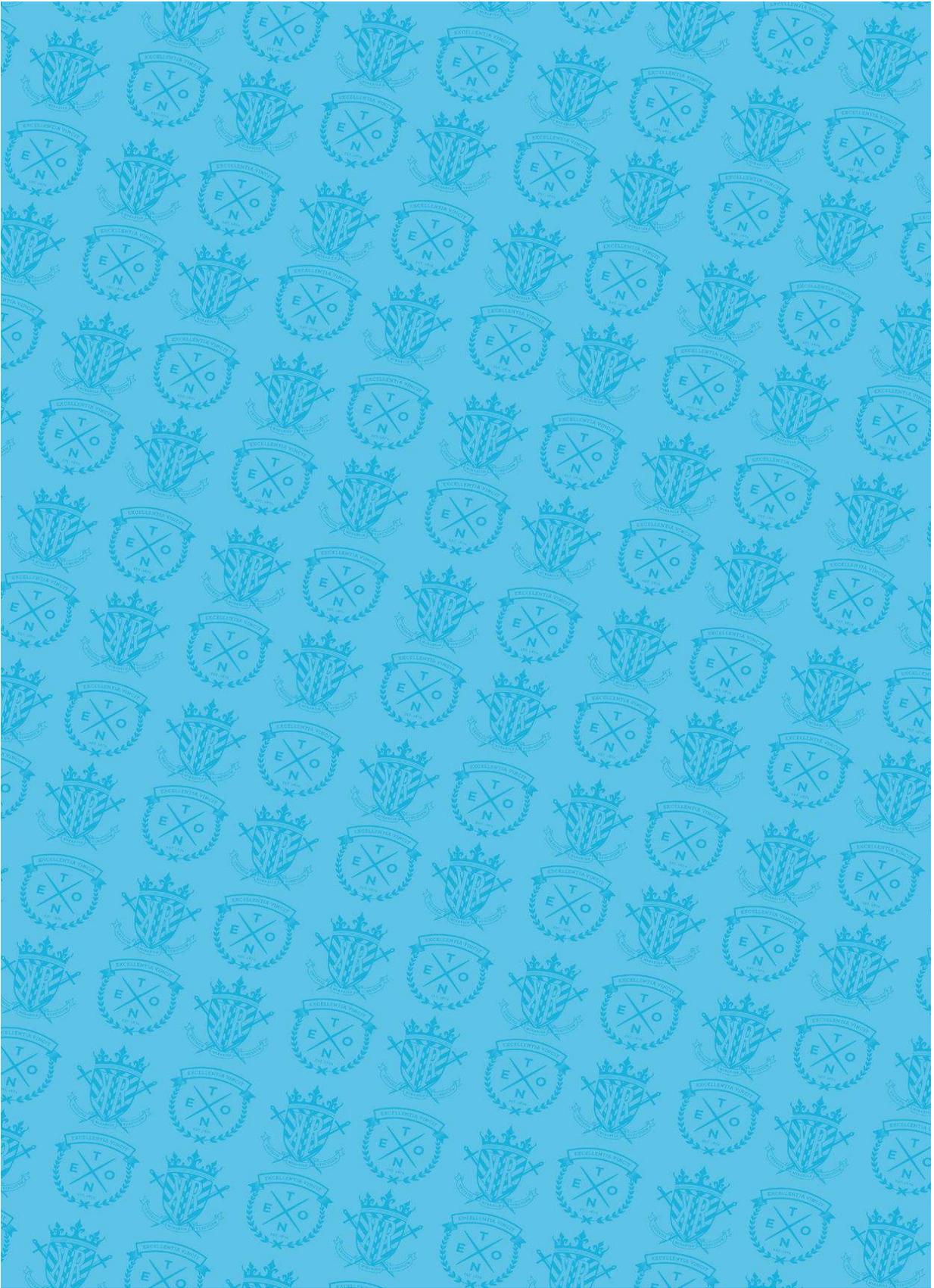
JESSE











Just as Nicholas, Seiji and the fencing team at the prestigious Kings Row private school seem to be coming together, a deadly rival from their past stands in their way once more. MLC is the school that knocked Kings Row out of the State Championships last year—but unless Nicholas and Seiji can learn to work together as a team, their school is doomed once again! And maybe those two can learn to be something more than just teammates...

For the first time, best-selling novelist C.S. Pacat (*Captive Prince*) and popular online sensation Johanna the Mad present the next all-new thrilling chapter in the story of Nicholas Cox's entry into the world of competitive fencing where scoring points is the name of the game—but finding out who you really are is the only way to truly win!



"The series' authentic dialogue makes each character emote harder than the next."

—ComicBook.com

"Fence has the humor and LGBTQ+ diversity of Mackenzi Lee's *Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue*, and will be a hit with teens who enjoy G. Willow Wilson's *Ms. Marvel* and *Spinning* by Tillie Walden."

—YALSA

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