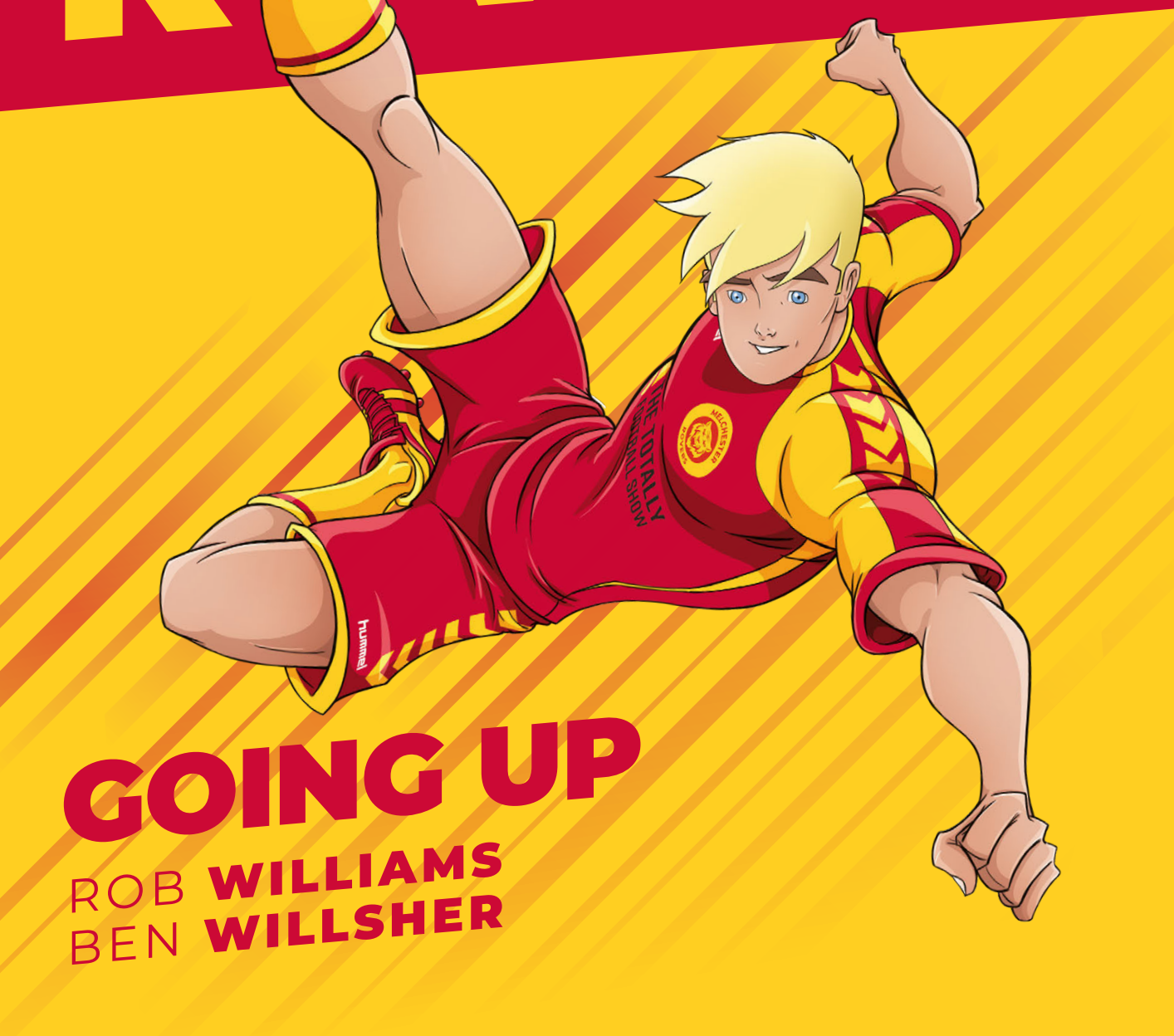
ROY OF THE ROVERS®



GOING UP

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ROY OF THE ROVERS®

GOING UP

ROB WILLIAMS BEN WILLSHER

BOOK THREE

GOING UP

Script
ROB WILLIAMS

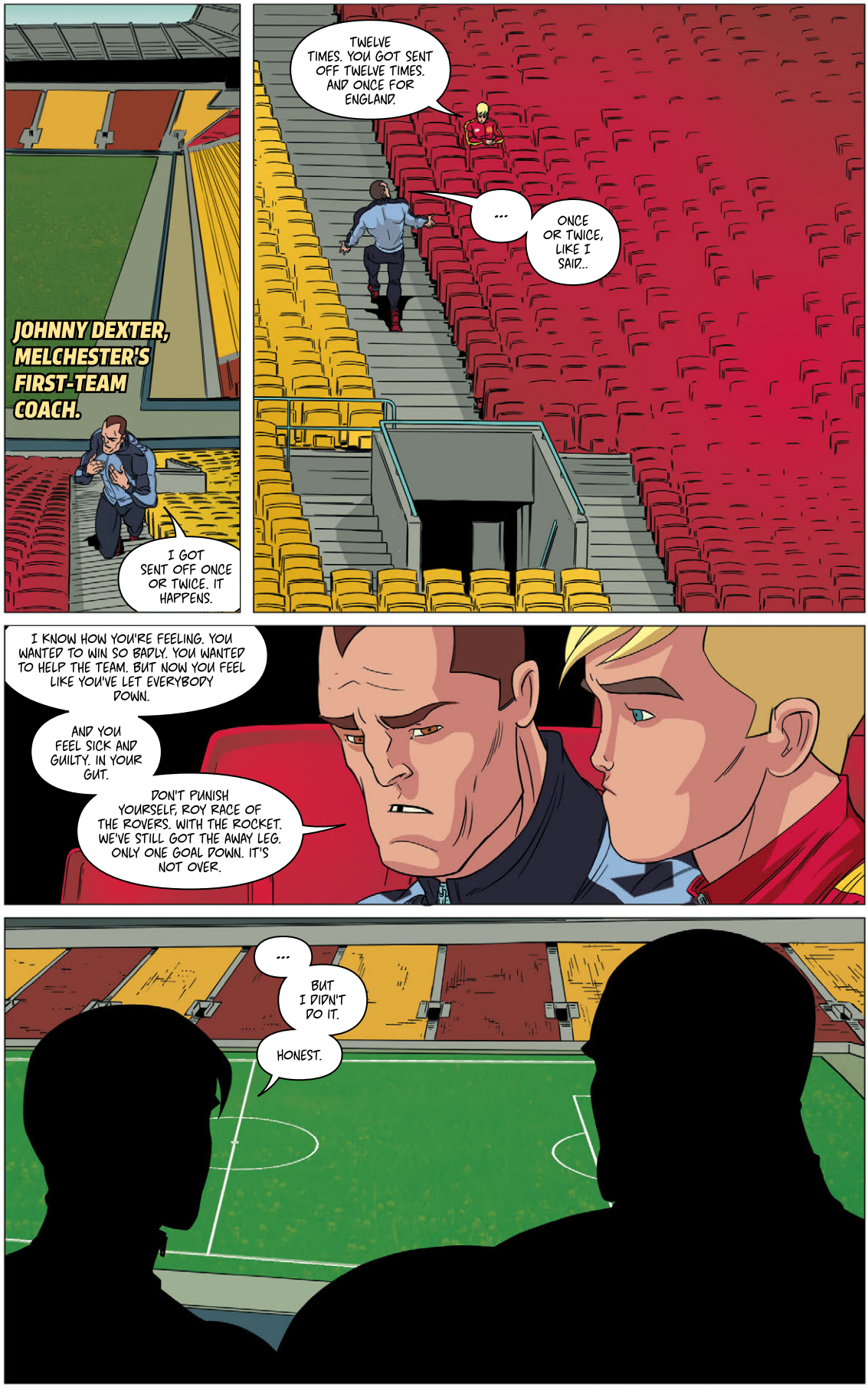
Art
BEN WILLSHER

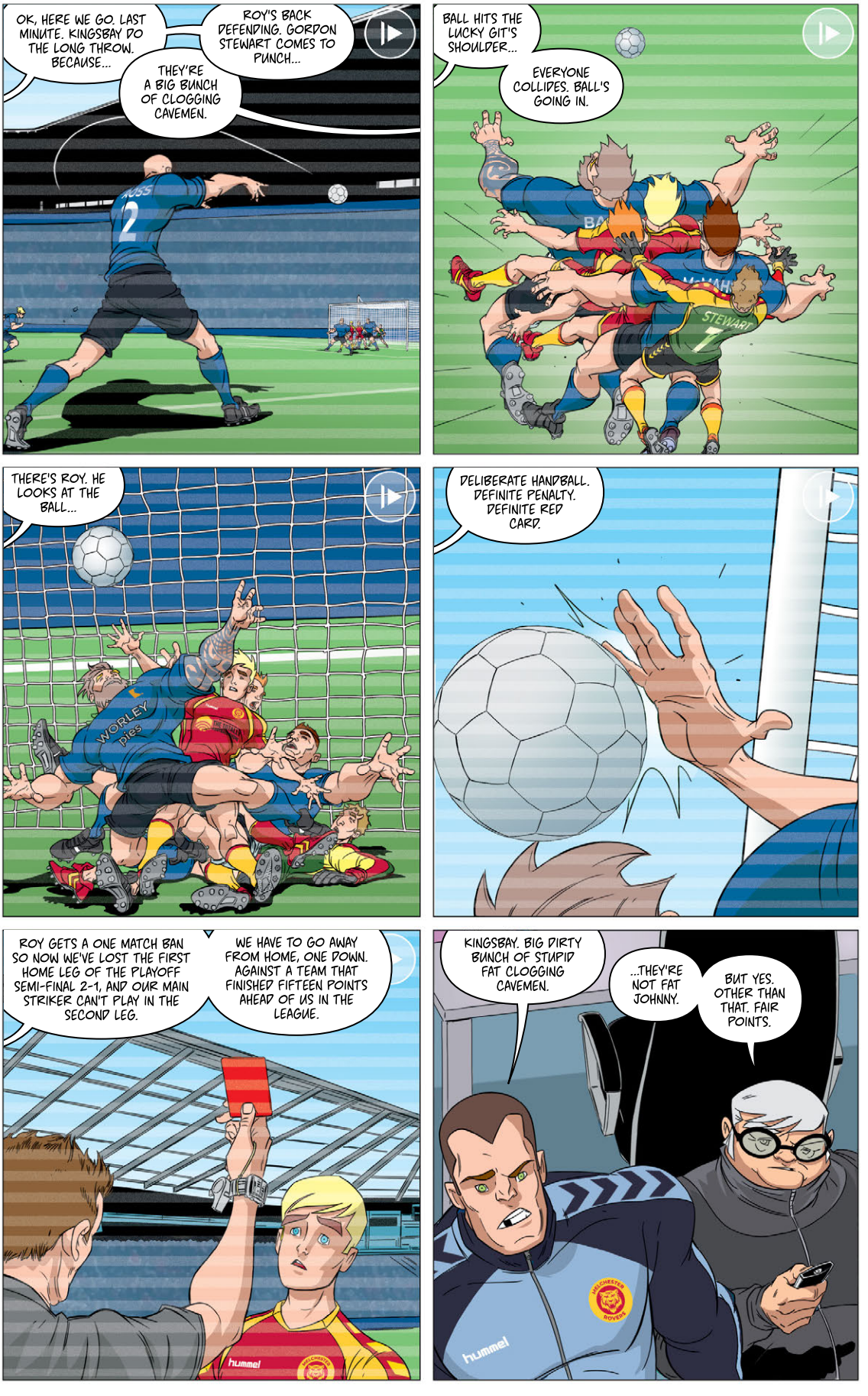
Letters
JIM CAMPBELL

Colours
JOHN CHARLES & **GUILHERME LINDEMBERG MENDES**

ROY RACE, JUST AFTER THE FIRST LEG OF THE PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL...
...EXTREMELY FRUSTRATED.
I DIDN'T DO IT!
hummel
MELCHESTER ROVERS
...COURSE YOU DIDN'T, LOVE.
...YEAH...
...
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU DID IT.
WHY WOULD I HAND THE BALL OFF THE LINE IN THE LAST MINUTE AND GET SENT OFF, ROCKY?
DUH! TO STOP THEM SCORING AND BEATING YOU!
WHICH THEY DID! FROM THE PENALTY! SO YOU LOST AND NOW YOU'RE BANNED FROM THE SECOND LEG, YOU NUMPTY!
WE KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED ROY BUT TRY NOT TO BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF. IT'S... IT'S JUST AN INSTINCTIVE THING TO JUST...
INSTINCTIVE?

FFION... YOU...
YOU THINK I DID IT?
WE SAW THE TV REPLAY...
...
OH ROY.
ROY. BECKY GOFF, MELCHESTER LEADER. CAN I GET A QUICK QUOTE ABOUT YOUR RED CARD?
NO. I'M...
JUST SAY I'M GUTTED. THAT'S ALL.
IDIOT.
FFION, LOVE, HE'LL CALM DOWN. DO FORGIVE HIM.
HE'S DISAPPOINTED, IS ALL.
WE'RE ALL DISAPPOINTED, MRS RACE.
THERE'S STILL THE SECOND LEG, FFION.
NOT FOR ROY THERE'S NOT.


JOHNNY DEXTER, MELCHESTER'S FIRST-TEAM COACH.
I GOT SENT OFF ONCE OR TWICE. IT HAPPENS.
TWELVE TIMES. YOU GOT SENT OFF TWELVE TIMES. AND ONCE FOR ENGLAND.
...
ONCE OR TWICE, LIKE I SAID...
I KNOW HOW YOU'RE FEELING. YOU WANTED TO WIN SO BADLY. YOU WANTED TO HELP THE TEAM. BUT NOW YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE LET EVERYBODY DOWN.
AND YOU FEEL SICK AND GUILTY. IN YOUR GUT.
DON'T PUNISH YOURSELF, ROY RACE OF THE ROVERS. WITH THE ROCKET. WE'VE STILL GOT THE AWAY LEG. ONLY ONE GOAL DOWN. IT'S NOT OVER.
...
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT.
HONEST.

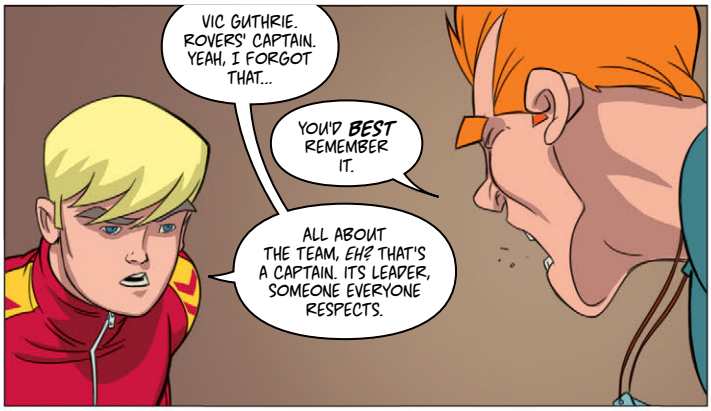

OK, HERE WE GO. LAST MINUTE. KINGSBAY DO THE LONG THROW. BECAUSE...
ROY'S BACK DEFENDING. GORDON STEWART COMES TO PUNCH...
THEY'RE A BIG BUNCH OF CLOGGING CAVEMEN.
BALL HITS THE LUCKY GIT'S SHOULDER...
EVERYONE COLLIDES. BALL'S GOING IN.
THERE'S ROY. HE LOOKS AT THE BALL...
DELIBERATE HANDBALL. DEFINITE PENALTY. DEFINITE RED CARD.
ROY GETS A ONE MATCH BAN SO NOW WE'VE LOST THE FIRST HOME LEG OF THE PLAYOFF SEMI-FINAL 2-1, AND OUR MAIN STRIKER CAN'T PLAY IN THE SECOND LEG.
WE HAVE TO GO AWAY FROM HOME, ONE DOWN. AGAINST A TEAM THAT FINISHED FIFTEEN POINTS AHEAD OF US IN THE LEAGUE.
KINGSBAY. BIG DIRTY BUNCH OF STUPID FAT CLOGGING CAVEMEN.
...THEY'RE NOT FAT JOHNNY.
BUT YES. OTHER THAN THAT. FAIR POINTS.

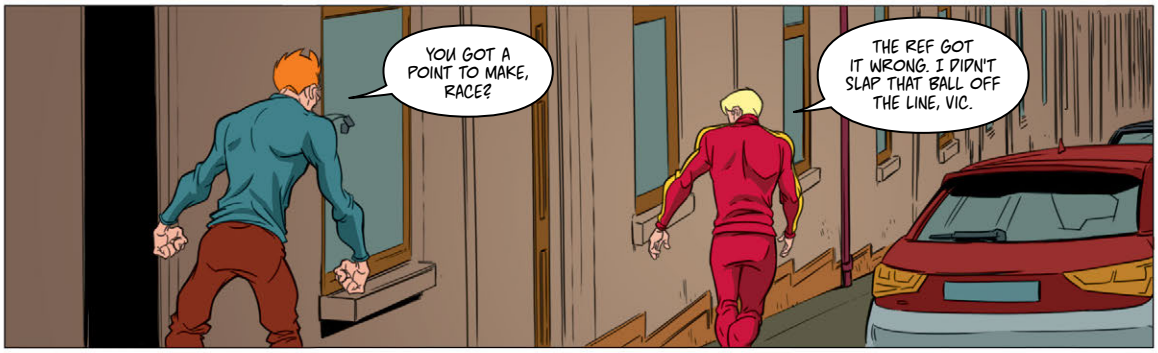
KEVIN 'MIGHTY' MOUSE. MELCHESTER'S MANAGER.
YOU'RE STARTING THE SECOND LEG, SON.
UP FRONT.
ME, GAFFER...?
I...
ARE YOU SURE I CAN...
PATRICK NOLAN. RESERVE STRIKER.
REALLY?
I HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN YOU, PATRICK. WE ALL DO.
YOU'RE A GOOD LITTLE PLAYER, SON. YOU JUST NEED TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
AND MAYBE GROW TWO FEET IN HEIGHT...
NOT WRONG, PACO. KINGSBAY ARE GIANTS. THEY'LL EAT PATRICK ALIVE UNLESS HE FRONTS UP.
HE'LL BE ALRIGHT, BLACKIE. WE'LL GET HIM READY. WE'VE GOT A FEW DAYS.
HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, ROY.
OR WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

72 HOURS BEFORE THE SECOND LEG OF THE PLAY-OFF SEMI.
FFION'S HOUSE.
AND VIC GUTHRIE'S.
OH... UH....
IS FFION IN?

...
I SAID IS...
I HEARD YOU, RACE. NOT DEAF, AM I?
WELL, IS SHE?

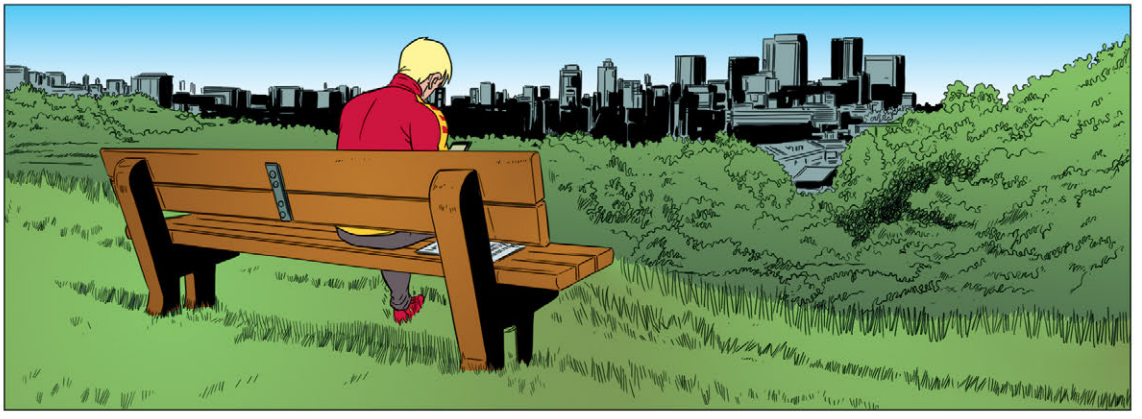
NO. OUT. SOMEWHERE. I DON'T LIKE THIS... YOU BEING 'FRIENDS' WITH MY SISTER, RACE.
I DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL.
AS MELCHESTER'S CAPTAIN I THINK I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO, I DUNNO, ORDER YOU TO STOP DOING IT. OR SOMETHING.


VIC GUTHRIE. ROVERS' CAPTAIN. YEAH, I FORGOT THAT...
YOU'D BEST REMEMBER IT.
ALL ABOUT THE TEAM, EH? THAT'S A CAPTAIN. ITS LEADER, SOMEONE EVERYONE RESPECTS.


YOU GOT A POINT TO MAKE, RACE?
THE REF GOT IT WRONG. I DIDN'T SLAP THAT BALL OFF THE LINE, VIC.

I WONDER WHO DID?

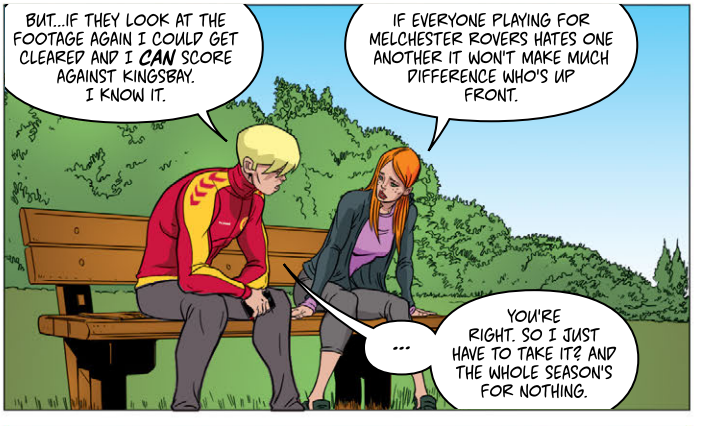
48 HOURS BEFORE THE SECOND LEG OF THE PLAY-OFF SEMI.
AHHHHHHH!
SKIED IT!
I'M ALL FOR BEING SUPPORTIVE, GAFFER, BUT YOUNG PATRICK NEEDS BARN DOOR GLASSES ADJUSTMENT IF YOU ASK ME.
HIS MOVEMENT'S GREAT...HE'S SKILFUL. JUST NEEDS SOME CONFIDENCE.
CAN'T HIT A COW'S BACKSIDE WITH A TEASPOON AT THE MOMENT THOUGH, CAN HE? AND WE'VE GOT TO SCORE TWO AT KINGSBAY DUE TO AWAY GOALS. OR OUR SEASON'S OVER.
WE NEED GOALS.
THAT'S IT...I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
ROY?
YOU OK?
NO.
THE REFEREE SENT OFF THE WRONG PLAYER. NO ONE WILL LISTEN TO ME.
SO MAYBE THE PRESS WILL...



MELCHESTER LEADER
KINGSBAY "ALREADY PLANNING FOR PLAYOFF FINAL."

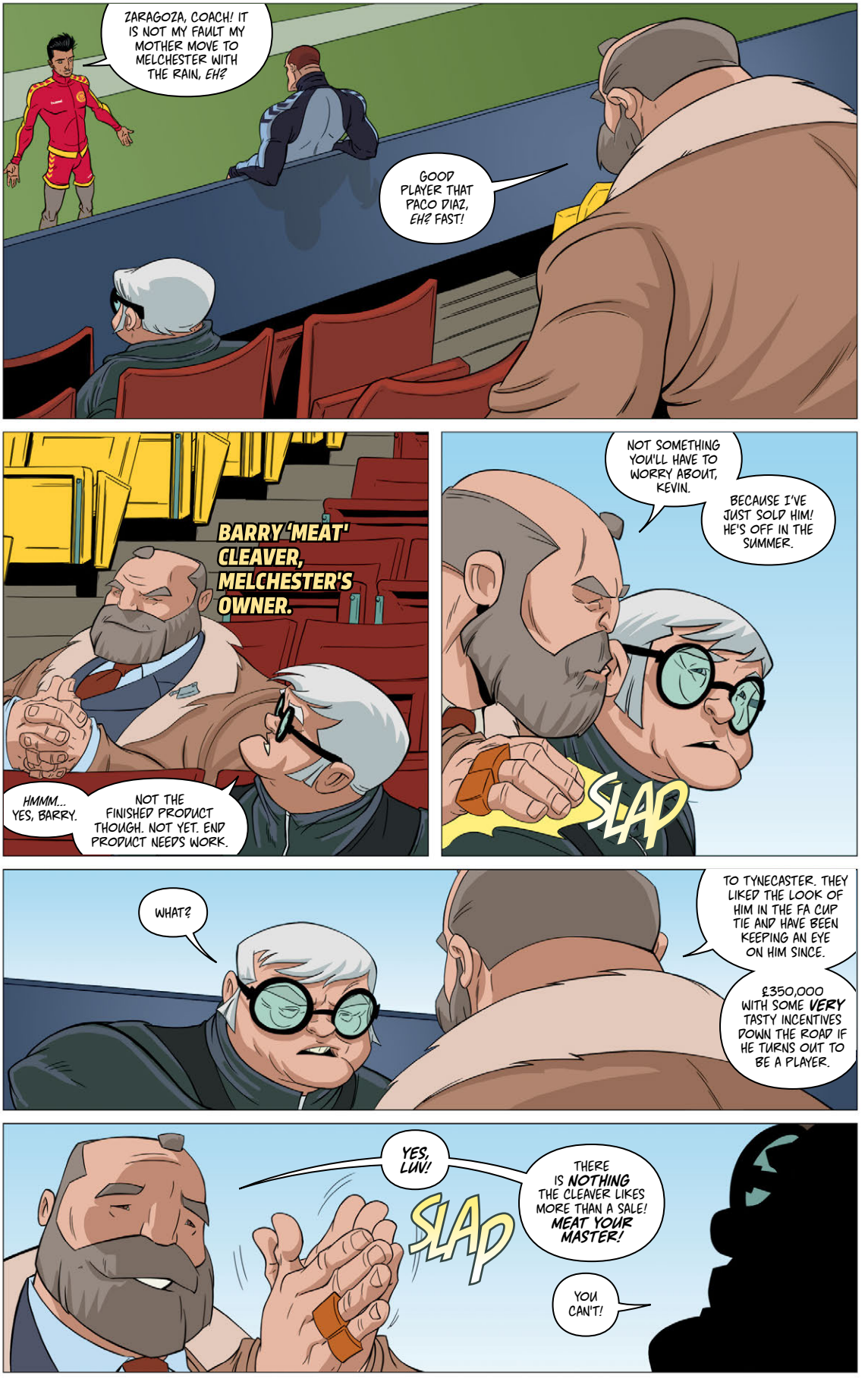
DON'T.
Becky Goff
MELCHESTER LEADER

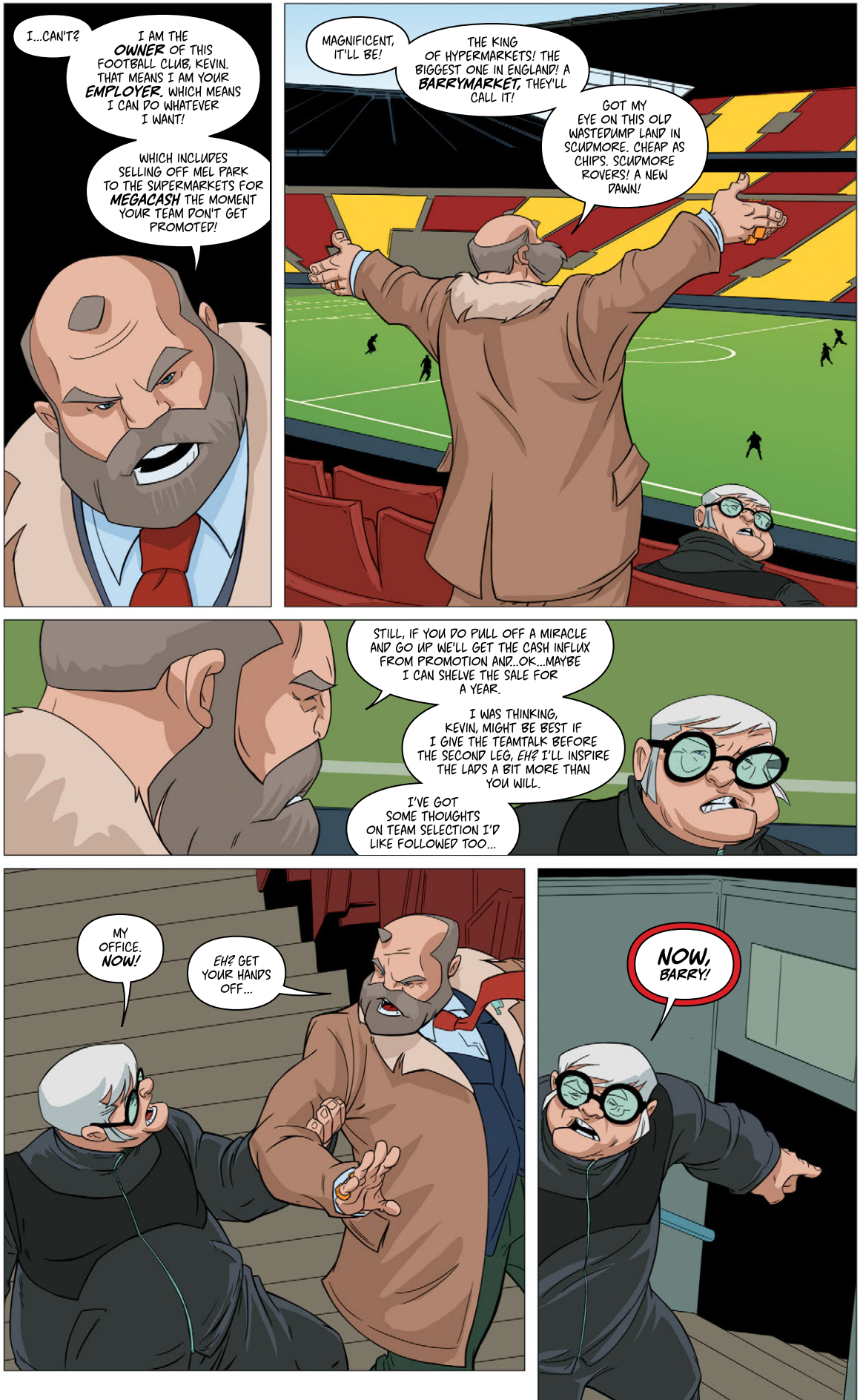
DON'T WHAT?
BLACKIE TOLD ME YOU WERE GOING TO TELL THE PRESS HOW YOU DIDN'T DO IT AND WERE GOING TO NAME THE PERSON THAT DID.
I KNOW HOW FRUSTRATED YOU ARE BUT IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL JUST PULL THE WHOLE TEAM APART.

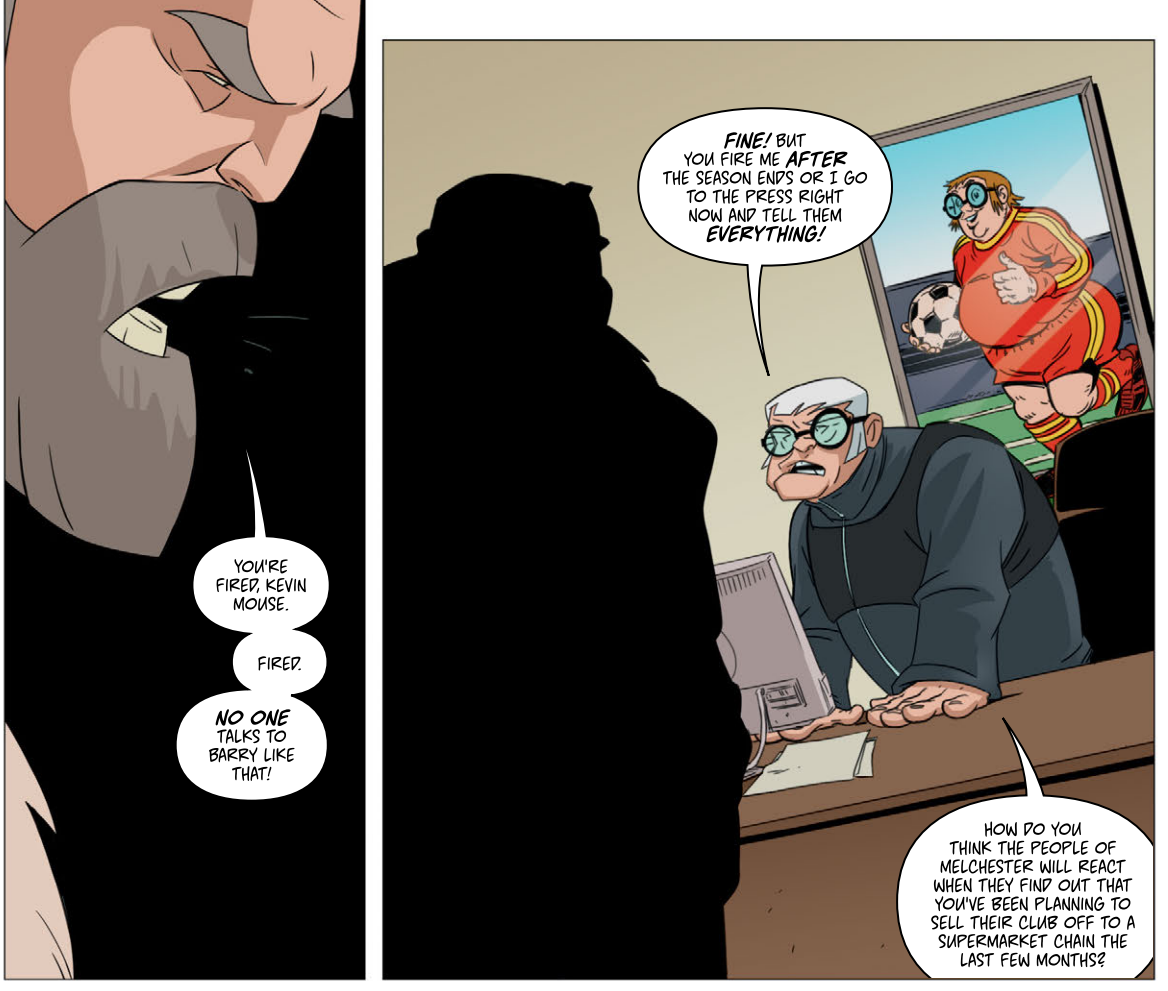

BUT...IF THEY LOOK AT THE FOOTAGE AGAIN I COULD GET CLEARED AND I CAN SCORE AGAINST KINGSBAY. I KNOW IT.
IF EVERYONE PLAYING FOR MELCHESTER ROVERS HATES ONE ANOTHER IT WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHO'S UP FRONT.
...
YOU'RE RIGHT. SO I JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT? AND THE WHOLE SEASON'S FOR NOTHING.

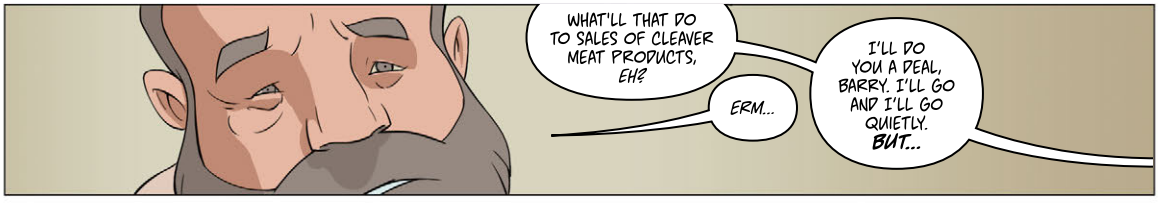
NOT FOR NOTHING.
IT'S OK.
I'M SORRY I WAS OFF.

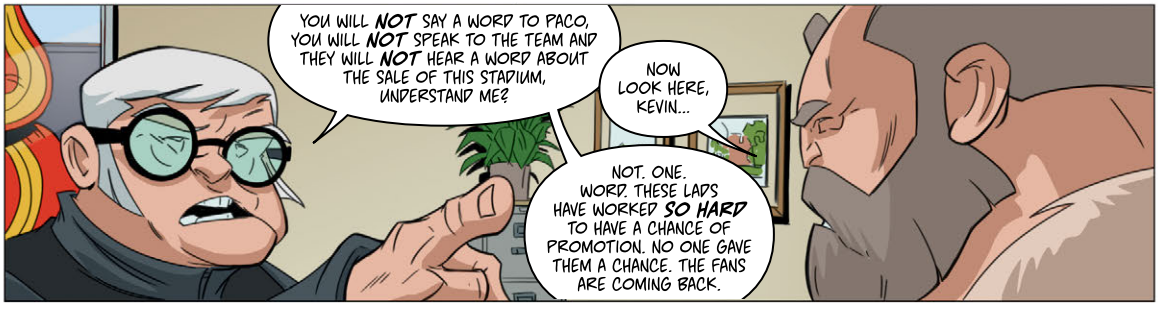
WHAT TYPE OF FOOTBALLER DO YOU WANT TO BE?
I DUNNO...
A GOOD ONE?
"THEN BE A GOOD ONE."
=HUFF=
TACKLE HIM, THEN!
HOW?
...AH...
OOF! UNLUCKY PACO!
BRILLIANT RUN, LAD! YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T BORN WITHIN THE GREATER MELCHESTER AREA?

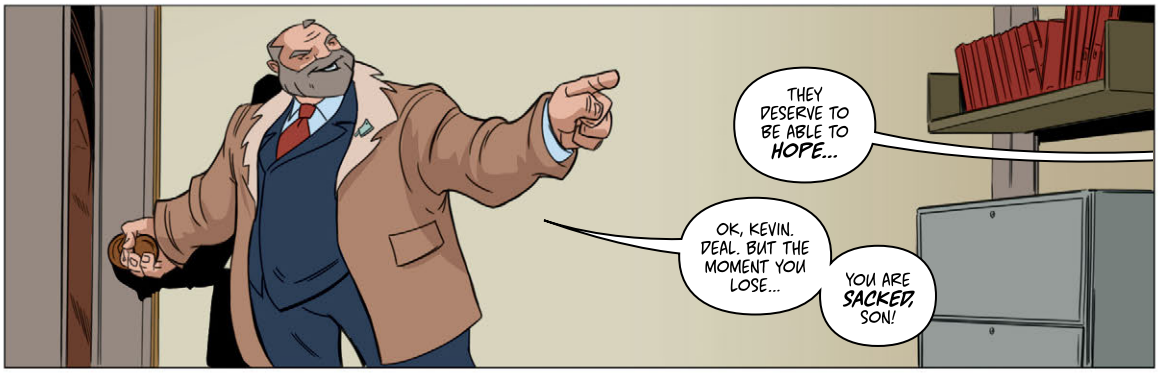

ZARAGOZA, COACH! IT IS NOT MY FAULT MY MOTHER MOVE TO MELCHESTER WITH THE RAIN, EH?
GOOD PLAYER THAT PACO DIAZ, EH? FAST!
BARRY 'MEAT' CLEAVER, MELCHESTER'S OWNER.
HMMM... YES, BARRY.
NOT THE FINISHED PRODUCT THOUGH. NOT YET. END PRODUCT NEEDS WORK.
NOT SOMETHING YOU'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT, KEVIN.
BECAUSE I'VE JUST SOLD HIM! HE'S OFF IN THE SUMMER.
SLAP
WHAT?
TO TYNECASTER. THEY LIKED THE LOOK OF HIM IN THE FA CUP TIE AND HAVE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM SINCE.
£350,000 WITH SOME VERY TASTY INCENTIVES DOWN THE ROAD IF HE TURNS OUT TO BE A PLAYER.
YES, LUV!
SLAP
THERE IS NOTHING THE CLEAVER LIKES MORE THAN A SALE! MEAT YOUR MASTER!
YOU CAN'T!


I...CAN'T?
I AM THE OWNER OF THIS FOOTBALL CLUB, KEVIN. THAT MEANS I AM YOUR EMPLOYER. WHICH MEANS I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT!
WHICH INCLUDES SELLING OFF MEL PARK TO THE SUPERMARKETS FOR MEGACASH THE MOMENT YOUR TEAM DON'T GET PROMOTED!
MAGNIFICENT, IT'LL BE!
THE KING OF HYPERMARKETS! THE BIGGEST ONE IN ENGLAND! A BARRYMARKET, THEY'LL CALL IT!
GOT MY EYE ON THIS OLD WASTEDUMP LAND IN SCUDMORE. CHEAP AS CHIPS. SCUDMORE ROVERS! A NEW DAWN!
STILL, IF YOU DO PULL OFF A MIRACLE AND GO UP WE'LL GET THE CASH INFLUX FROM PROMOTION AND...OK...MAYBE I CAN SHELVE THE SALE FOR A YEAR.
I WAS THINKING, KEVIN, MIGHT BE BEST IF I GIVE THE TEAMTALK BEFORE THE SECOND LEG, EH? I'LL INSPIRE THE LADS A BIT MORE THAN YOU WILL.
I'VE GOT SOME THOUGHTS ON TEAM SELECTION I'D LIKE FOLLOWED TOO...
MY OFFICE. NOW!
EH? GET YOUR HANDS OFF...
NOW, BARRY!

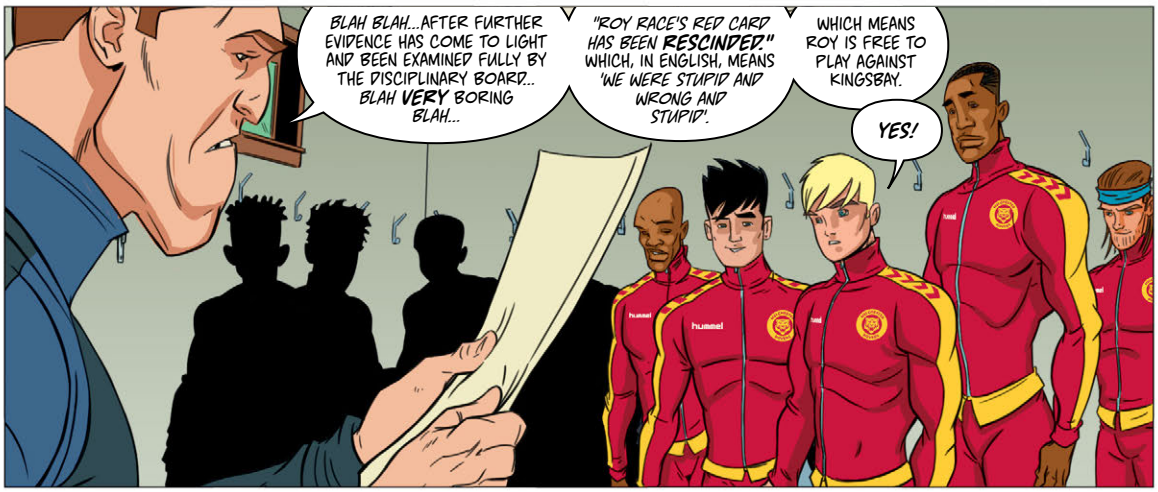

YOU'RE FIRED, KEVIN MOUSE.
FIRED.
NO ONE TALKS TO BARRY LIKE THAT!
FINE! BUT YOU FIRE ME AFTER THE SEASON ENDS OR I GO TO THE PRESS RIGHT NOW AND TELL THEM EVERYTHING!
HOW DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE OF MELCHESTER WILL REACT WHEN THEY FIND OUT THAT YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING TO SELL THEIR CLUB OFF TO A SUPERMARKET CHAIN THE LAST FEW MONTHS?


WHAT'LL THAT DO TO SALES OF CLEAVER MEAT PRODUCTS, EH?
ERM...
I'LL DO YOU A DEAL, BARRY. I'LL GO AND I'LL GO QUIETLY. BUT...

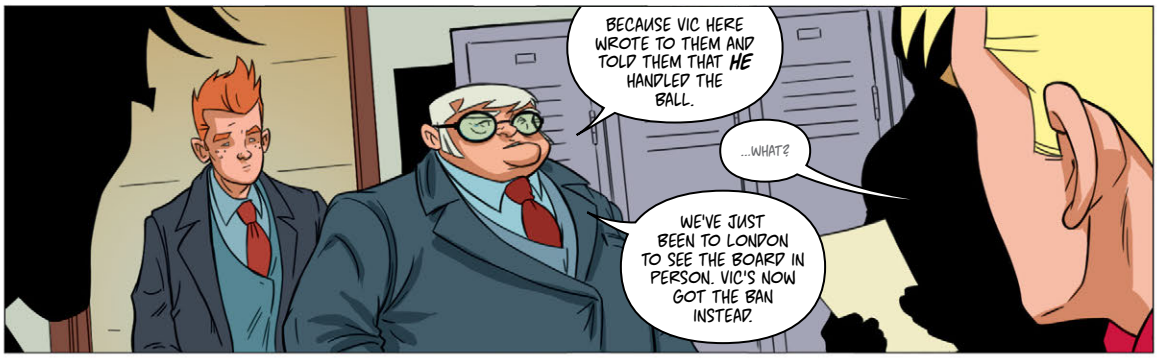

YOU WILL NOT SAY A WORD TO PACO, YOU WILL NOT SPEAK TO THE TEAM AND THEY WILL NOT HEAR A WORD ABOUT THE SALE OF THIS STADIUM, UNDERSTAND ME?
NOW LOOK HERE, KEVIN...
NOT. ONE. WORD. THESE LADS HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO HAVE A CHANCE OF PROMOTION. NO ONE GAVE THEM A CHANCE. THE FANS ARE COMING BACK.


THEY DESERVE TO BE ABLE TO HOPE...
OK, KEVIN. DEAL. BUT THE MOMENT YOU LOSE...
YOU ARE SACKED, SON!

WE WON'T LOSE THEN! WE'LL GET PROMOTED, BARRY!
SLAM
YOU WAIT AND SEE!
...
WE'LL WIN ON SATURDAY.
...WE HAVE TO.
...
EVERYTHING ALRIGHT, MOUSE?
FINE, JOHNNY.
LET'S WORK ON ATTACKING CORNERS, SHALL WE?
24 HOURS BEFORE THE GAME.
YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH...
...
SAY THAT AGAIN!


BLAH BLAH...AFTER FURTHER EVIDENCE HAS COME TO LIGHT AND BEEN EXAMINED FULLY BY THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD.. BLAH VERY BORING BLAH...
"ROY RACE'S RED CARD HAS BEEN RESCINDED." WHICH, IN ENGLISH, MEANS 'WE WERE STUPID AND WRONG AND STUPID'.
WHICH MEANS ROY IS FREE TO PLAY AGAINST KINGSBAY.
YES!

HA! YOU'VE GOT A GUARDIAN ANGEL, MATE.
FATE, ROY! BOUND TO SCORE NOW, EH? HAVE TO!
BUT, WHY DID THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS?


BECAUSE VIC HERE WROTE TO THEM AND TOLD THEM THAT HE HANDLED THE BALL.
...WHAT?
WE'VE JUST BEEN TO LONDON TO SEE THE BOARD IN PERSON. VIC'S NOW GOT THE BAN INSTEAD.

WHAT?
WHY?

BECAUSE I'M MELCHESTER'S CAPTAIN.
ALL ABOUT THE TEAM, EH?

AND WELCOME TO BAY HILL, HOME TO KINGSBAY, WHO HOST THIS SECOND LEG OF THE DIVISION 2 PLAYOFFS SEMI-FINAL.
KINGSBAY COME INTO THE GAME EXTREMELY CONFIDENT OF PROGRESSING TO THE PLAYOFF FINAL HAVING WON THE AWAY LEG 2-1.
WORLEY plcs
BAY HILL STAD
IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE YOUNGSTERS OF MELCHESTER CAN COPE WITH KINGSBAY'S PHYSICAL PRESENCE.
GONNA CRUSH YER...
BAILEY
9
BZZZZZ
Good luck, my friend. I will be watching.
WHO...IS... THIS?
hummel
MELCHESTER ROVERS
TAP TAP TAP TAP
Good luck, my friend. I will be watching.
who is this?
Hugo.
BZZZZZ

SICK...
AND WE'RE UNDERWAY HERE AT KINGSBAY. THE PLAYOFF FINAL AWAITS THE WINNER AND A CHANCE TO WIN PROMOTION TO DIVISION ONE!
FOR THE LOSER, THE SEASON ENDS HERE
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ROY AND BLACKIE UP TOP TOGETHER? WE'VE GOT TO SCORE TWO HERE.
NO, BLACKIE DROPPING INTO MIDFIELD. STAY SOLID EARLY. BE PATIENT.
SECOND MINUTE HERE AND THE KINGSBAY MIDFIELDER McMAHON IS RUNNING RIGHT AT MELCHESTER'S MIDFIELD.
THEY'RE TAKING THE DIRECT ROUTE, EARLY.
WORLEY pies
SOMEONE TACKLE HIM!
CENTRE OF MIDFIELD...
EXACTLY WHERE I'D BE...

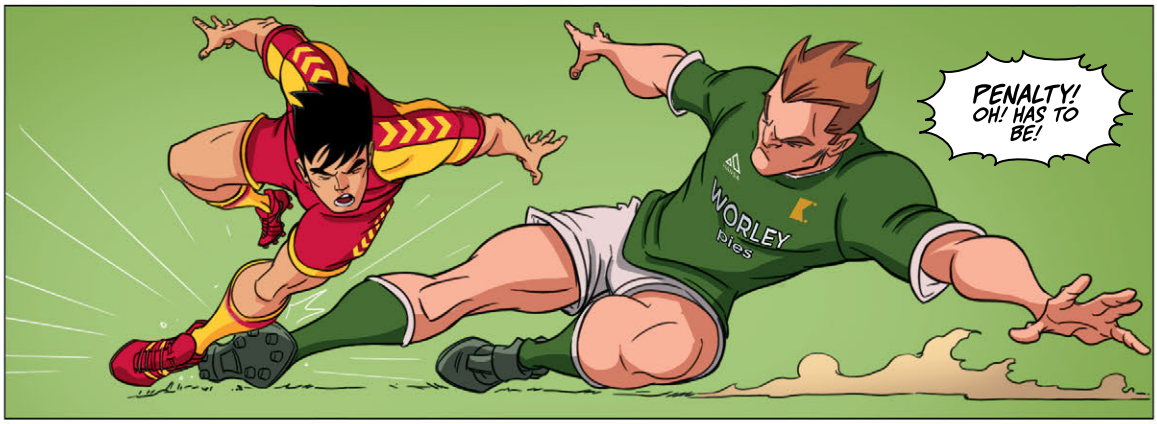
McMAHON HITS ONE!
DEFLECTION!
IT'S IN! WHAT A START FOR KINGSBAY!
AND THAT'S A 3-1 AGGREGATE LEAD!
...GREAT.
WHERE'S OUR PROTECTION? HE RAN RIGHT THROUGH YOU. OI, MIDFIELD! I SAID..
ALRIGHT, LOFTY. CALM DOWN. WE'LL SORT IT OUT. PLENTY OF TIME LEFT.
PEAK 4
BULL 4
GOD'S HOLY PANDA, THEY WERE HALF-ASLEEP AND NOW THEY'RE ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER.
VERNON AND PACO ARE GOING TO HAVE TO TUCK IN TO HELP MIDFIELD OR WE'LL GET OVERRUN. THE FULL-BACKS, DUNCAN AND ASIF, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE THE WIDTH.
YOU WANT TO CHANGE IT SO EARLY?

VERNON! VERNON! PACO! TUCK INTO MIDFIELD!
TIGHTER!
...HE'S NOT...
VERNON!!!
GAFFER'S GONNA BLOW A FUSE.
I THINK YOU'D BETTER TUCK IN, VERNON.
RICE
OOF..
OUT OF IT, TODDLER.
...REF!
PLAY ON! PLAY ON!
KINGSBAY COME FORWARD AGAIN!
IT'S A GOOD THROUGH BALLLL...
COLE
10
McCLAY
3
4
Gola

BRAVE SAVE BY GORDON STEWART, MELCHESTER'S SCOTTISH GOALIE.
BUT HE'S TAKEN A HEAVY KNOCK THERE.
YOU OK, GORDON?
YEAH... I...
=SPIT=
I'M ALRIGHT. CAUGHT ME ON THE CHIN IS ALL. I'M GOOD.
UNINTENTIONAL THAT, BOYS. HE WAS REACHING FOR THE BALL. BUT I'M GIVING A YELLOW FOR THE CONTACT.
AND THAT'S THE FIRST YELLOW OF THE SEMI, FOR KINGSBAY STRIKER COLE.
BOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!
DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, PACO...
BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
SI.
AND NOW MELCHESTER ARE STARTING TO LOSE THEIR HEADS. THAT'S A FOUL BY RACE...
NO, HE GOT THE BALL! THE REFEREE IS WAVING PLAY ON...

JEFF
6
PACO DIAZ ON THE RUN... OH! GREAT DRIBBLE.

DIAZ SQUARES IT TO GRAY...


PENALTY! OH! HAS TO BE!
WORLEY
pies

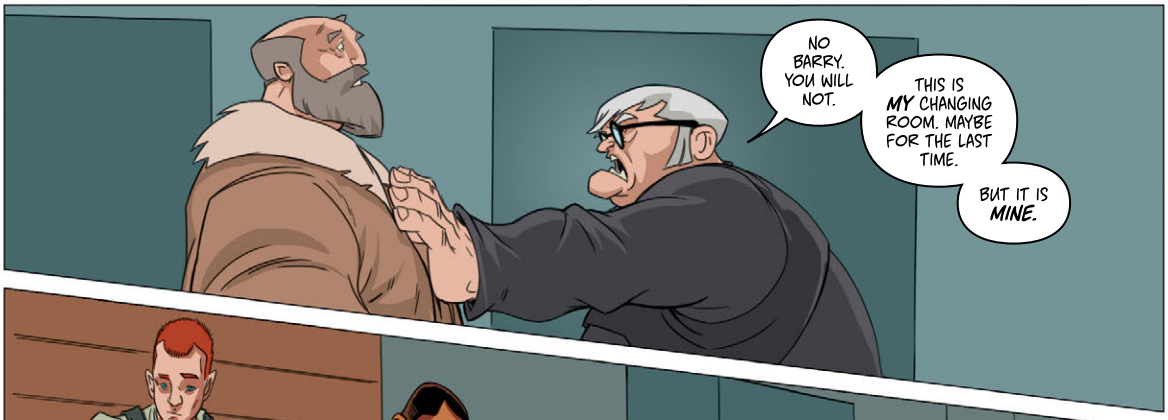
HE TOOK THE BALL FIRST. CORNER KICK!
YOU ARE JOKING, REF!
HE NEAR BROKE HIS ANKLE.
CORNER. KICK.

YOU GOING TO BE ABLE TO CARRY ON, BLACKIE?
I...YEAH... I'LL BE OK.
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT.

DIAZ TAKES THE CORNER FOR MELCHESTER.
RACE FLICKS IT ON....LOFTY PEAK MEETS IT!
BULLET HEADER! AND ROVERS ARE LEVEL ON THE NIGHT! IT'S 1-1 HERE!
BUT KINGSBAY STILL LEAD 3-2 ON AGGREGATE.
COME ON... ONE MORE AND WE'RE LEVEL ON AGGREGATE.
COME ON!
HA. THE CENTRE HALF...WITH THE HEAD! YES! THAT CORNER MOVE WORKED PERFECTLY, MOUSE! WE ARE GENIUSES! YES!
GONE QUIET NOW, HAVEN'T THEY, THE CROWD?.
JUST BEFORE HALF-TIME. HOW'S BLACKIE?
NOT GOOD. I'M NOT SURE HE CAN PLAY ON.
I CAN PLAY ON! I'M PLAYING ON!
SHUSH YOU.

AND IT'S HALF-TIME HERE!
NOT SO COCKY NOW ARE THEY, VERNON?
NO ROY, THEY ARE NOT. ONE MIGHT EVEN SAY THEY LOOK A BIT... WORRIED?
SHADDUP YOU TWO.
BAILEY
9
hummel
THE TOTALLY FOOTBALL SHOW

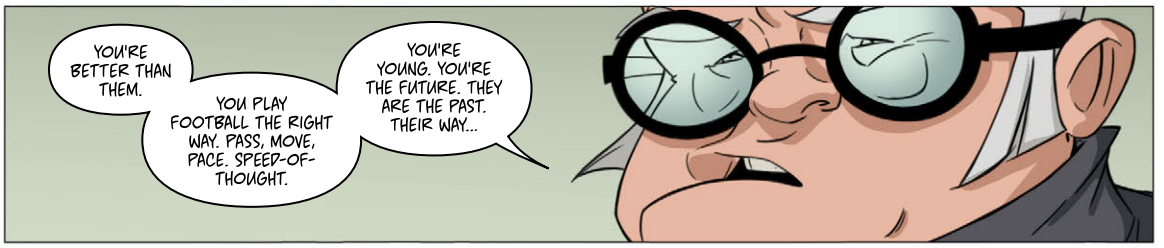
RIGHT! TIME FOR THE CLEAVER TO INSPIRE THEM, I THINK.
OUT OF THE WAY KEVIN! I WILL GIVE THE TEAMTALK HERE!


NO BARRY. YOU WILL NOT.
THIS IS MY CHANGING ROOM. MAYBE FOR THE LAST TIME.
BUT IT IS MINE.

ENJOY YOUR LAST EVER TEAMTALK, KEVIN.
WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THIS SECOND HALF YOU ARE FINISHED HERE.
I'M NOT WAITING! I'VE GOT SOMEONE ALREADY LINED UP, LAD. GOING TO ANNOUNCE HIM NEXT WEEK.

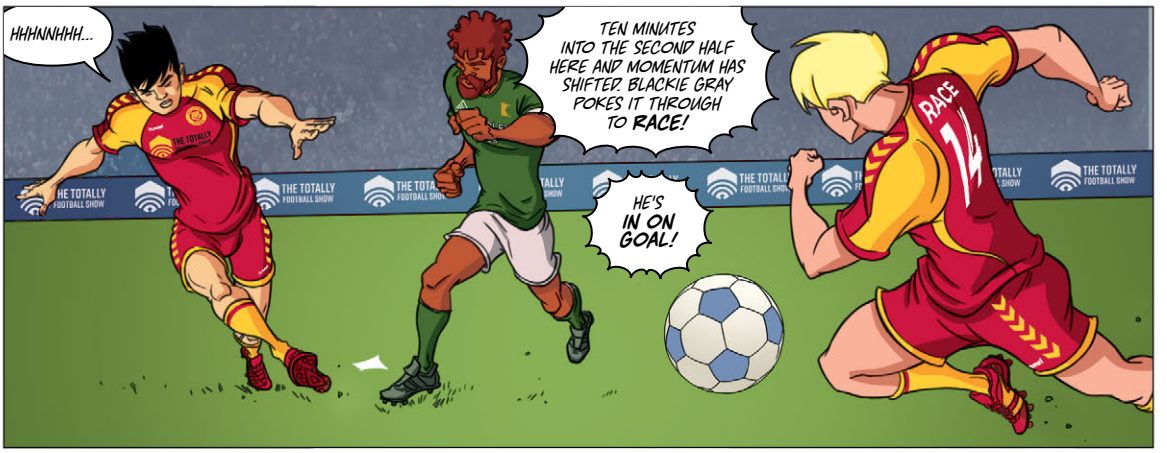
YOUR DAYS AT MELCHESTER ARE DONE.

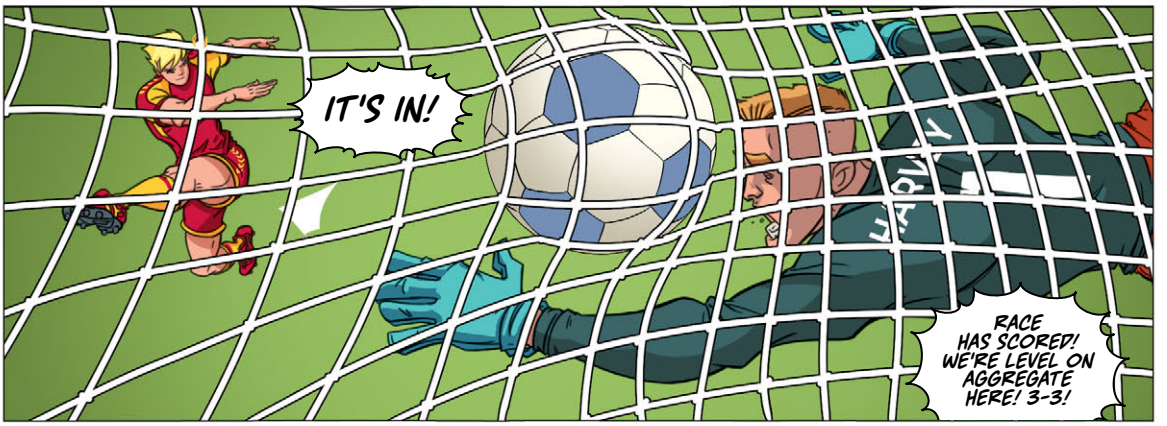
...
WIN, LAD'S.


YOU'RE BETTER THAN THEM.
YOU PLAY FOOTBALL THE RIGHT WAY. PASS, MOVE, PACE. SPEED-OF-THOUGHT.
YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU'RE THE FUTURE. THEY ARE THE PAST. THEIR WAY...

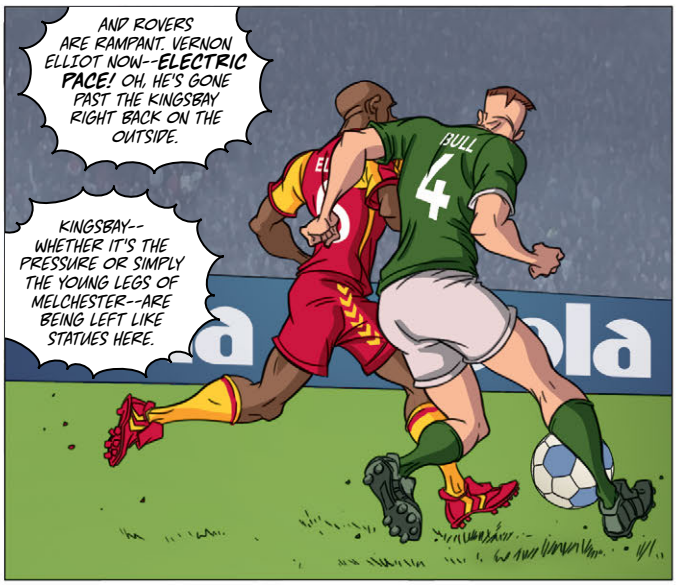
YOU ARE MELCHESTER ROVERS.
AND YOU ARE GOING TO DO SUCH GREAT THINGS.

WIN.


HHHNNHHH...
TEN MINUTES INTO THE SECOND HALF HERE AND MOMENTUM HAS SHIFTED. BLACKIE GRAY POKES IT THROUGH TO RACE!
HE'S IN ON GOAL!
RACE
14
THE TOTALLY FOOTBALL SHOW


IT'S IN!
RACE HAS SCORED! WE'RE LEVEL ON AGGREGATE HERE! 3-3!

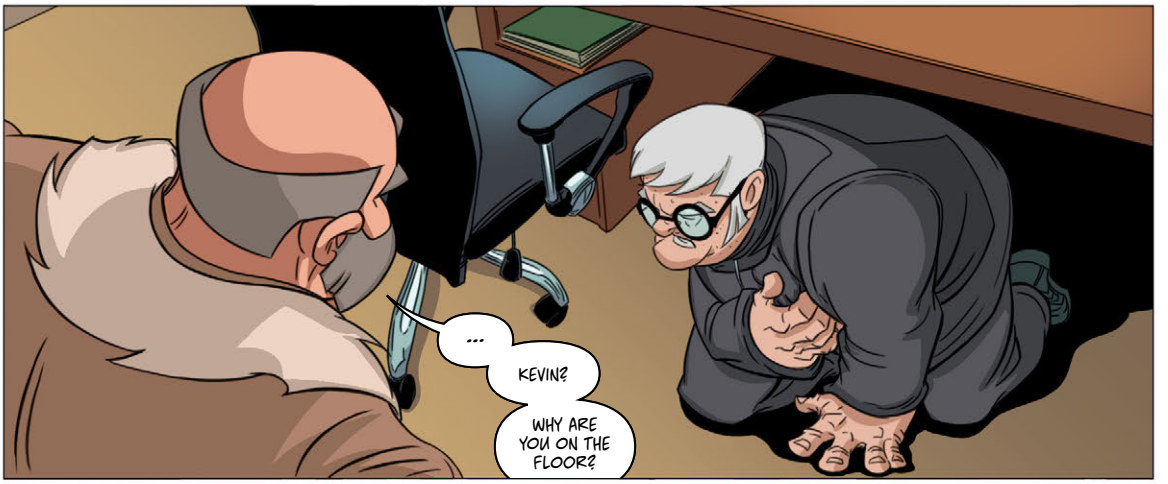
GET INNNNNNNN!
YESSSSSSSSSS!


AND ROVERS ARE RAMPANT. VERNON ELLIOT NOW--ELECTRIC PACE! OH, HE'S GONE PAST THE KINGSBAY RIGHT BACK ON THE OUTSIDE.
KINGSBAY--WHETHER IT'S THE PRESSURE OR SIMPLY THE YOUNG LEGS OF MELCHESTER--ARE BEING LEFT LIKE STATUES HERE.
BULL
4

ELLIOT SQUARES IT... HARD!
ELLIOT
6

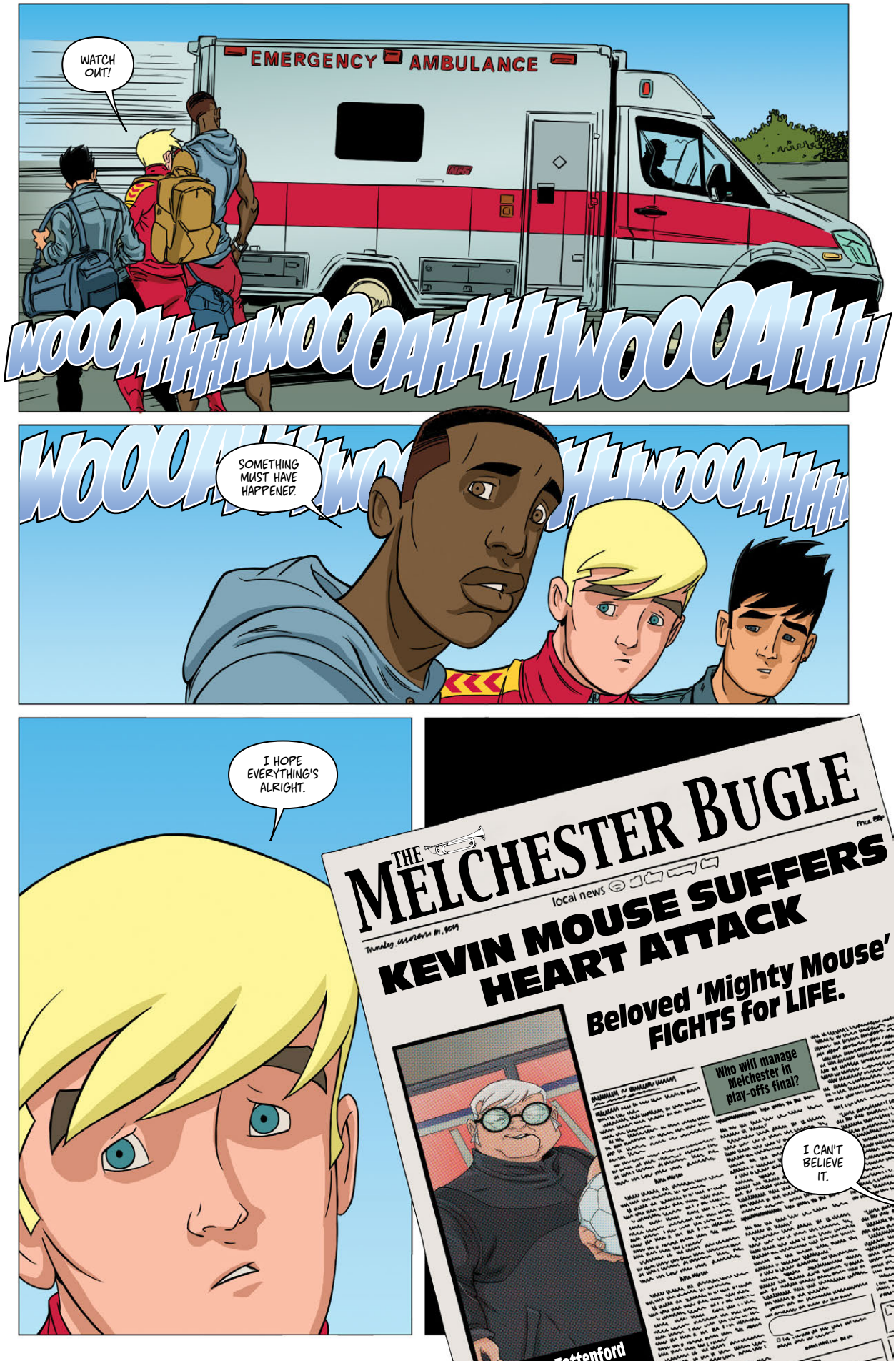
OH! IT'S CLEARED EVERYONE! BUT...
IT COMES TO DIAZZZZZZZ!
WHAT A GOAL!
WHAT A GOAL BY PACO DIAZ!
WORLEY pies
YESSSSSSS PACO! GET IN!
ROVERS HAVE TURNED THIS AROUND WITH THEIR PACE. IT'S 3-1 ON THE NIGHT, 4-3 ON AGGREGATE!
AND THANKS TO THE AWAY GOALS RULE, KINGSBAY HAVE TO SCORE TWICE NOW AND THERE'S ONLY FIFTEEN MINUTES LEFT!
FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER.
AND THAT'S IT!
ROVERS HAVE DONE IT!
MELCHESTER ARE GOING TO THE NATIONAL STADIUM FOR THAT PLAYOFF FINAL!

RIGHT, MOUSE!
NOW YOU ARE FIRED. HA! CLEAR YOUR THINGS AND GET OUT! WADDYA THINK OF...


...
KEVIN?
WHY ARE YOU ON THE FLOOR?

...WE WON, BARRY.
...
THE BOYS WON.

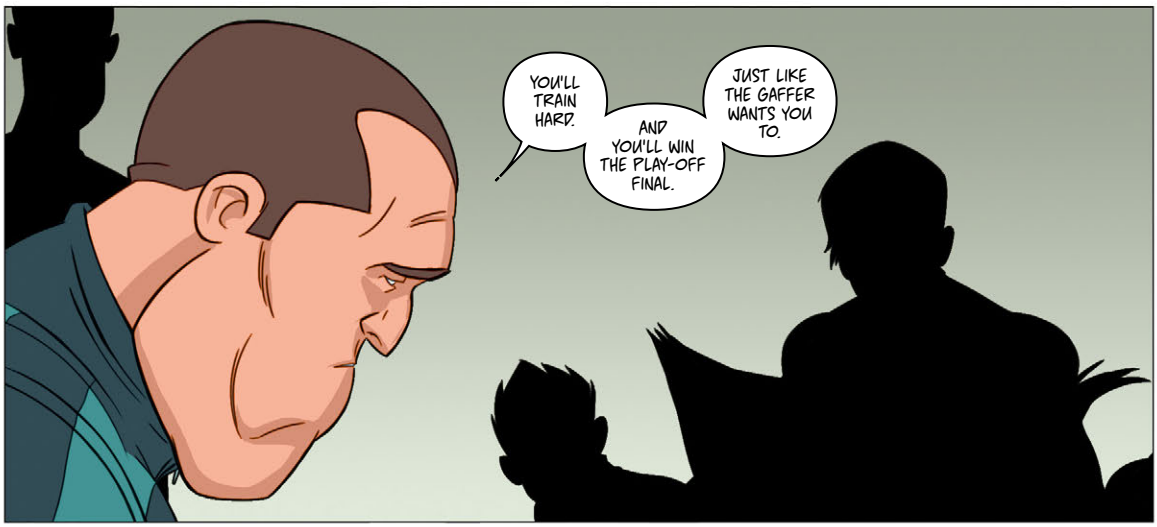
THE NATIONAL STADIUM...THE PLAYOFFS FINAL. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
NO.
YEAH... NO...NO, I CAN'T...
YOU RECKON CLEAVER WILL BUY US SUITS...?
WOOOAHHHHWOOOAHHHH


WATCH OUT!
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE
WOOOAHHHHWOOOAHHHHWOOOAHHH
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED.
I HOPE EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT.
THE MELCHESTER BUGLE
local news
KEVIN MOUSE SUFFERS HEART ATTACK
Beloved 'Mighty Mouse' FIGHTS for LIFE.
Who will manage Melchester in play-offs final?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

WE...WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING. WE...
WHAT CAN WE DO?
MANCHESTER REGAL
Gola

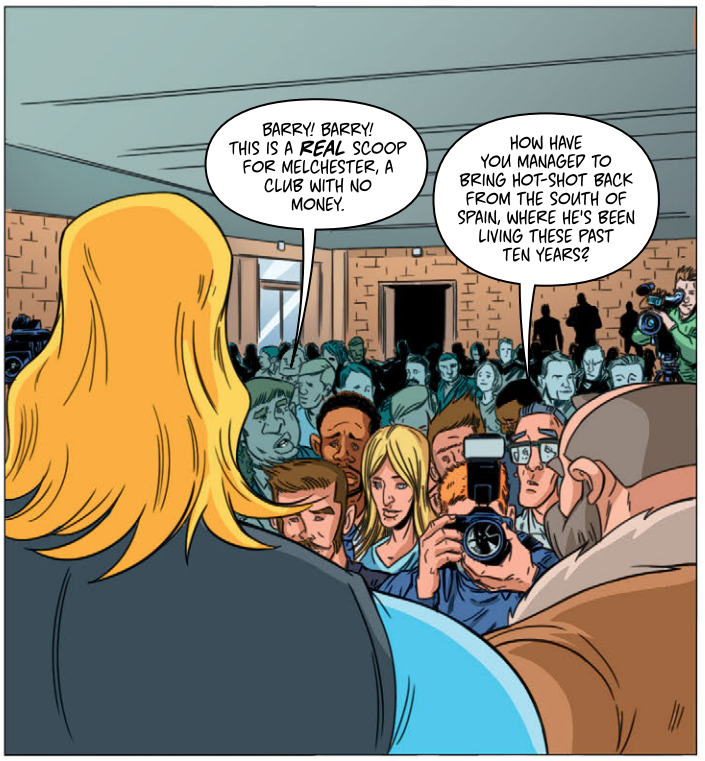
NOTHING.
WE'RE KIDS.
hummel

WE COULD SEND FLOWERS OR SOMETHING. I MEAN...I DUNNO...
WE COULD VISIT. WE SHOULD GO VISIT.
ARE WE ALLOWED TO?
hummel

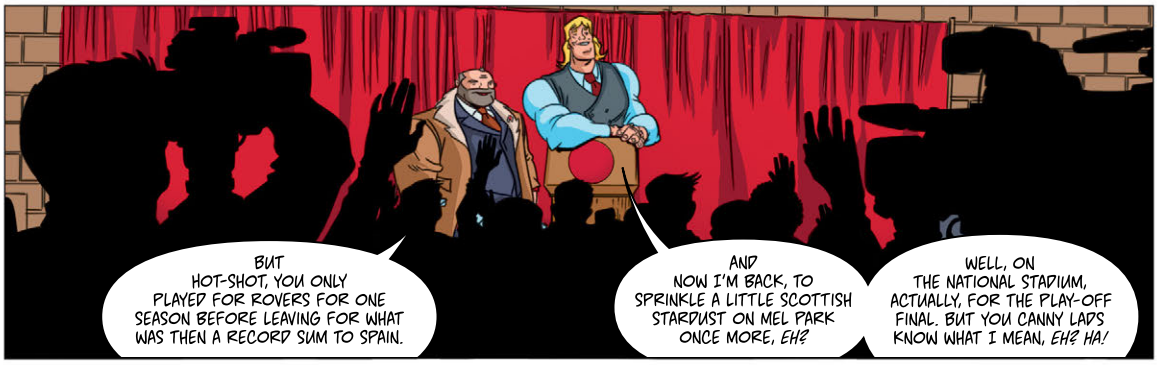

YOU'LL TRAIN HARD.
AND YOU'LL WIN THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.
JUST LIKE THE GAFFER WANTS YOU TO.

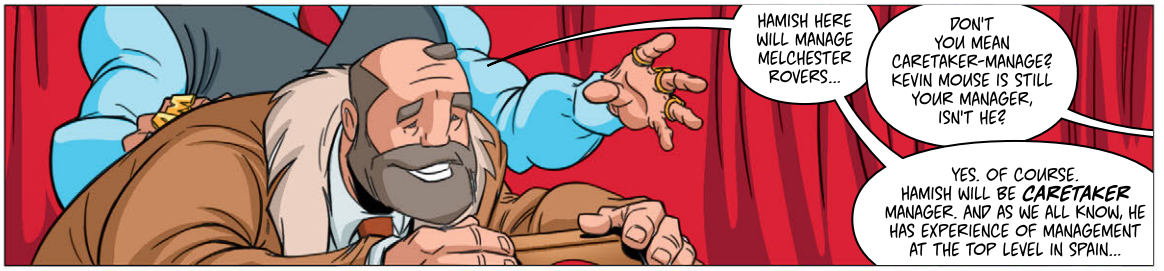
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM, JOHNNY?
IS MIGHTY MOUSE OK?
ARE YOU THE MANAGER NOW?
...
KEVIN MOUSE IS YOUR MANAGER, LAD.
OUR MANAGER.
I DIDN'T...
I DIDN'T MEAN...IT'S JUST... WE'VE GOT THE PLAYOFFS FINAL IN A WEEK AND..
IT'S OK, GORDON. WE KNOW. JOHNNY'LL BE THE CARETAKER UNTIL...
NO, HE WON'T.
THIS IS A BIG GAME, LADS. A HUGE GAME!
AND YOU LADS DESERVE A HUGE MANAGER.
AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT BARRY CLEAVER HAS DELIVERED.
THE WAY HE ALSO DELIVERS THE FINEST MEAT CUTS TO YOUR SUPERMARKET!

SIX DAYS BEFORE THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MEET MELCHESTER'S CARETAKER MANAGER... WELCOME BACK CLUB LEGEND...
HOT-SHOT HAMISH!
HULLO.
MELCHESTER ROVERS
HAM


BARRY! BARRY! THIS IS A REAL SCOOP FOR MELCHESTER, A CLUB WITH NO MONEY.
HOW HAVE YOU MANAGED TO BRING HOT-SHOT BACK FROM THE SOUTH OF SPAIN, WHERE HE'S BEEN LIVING THESE PAST TEN YEARS?

I'LL ANSWER THAT IF I MAY, BARRY.
MELCHESTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN MY HEART AND BARRY HERE IS A VERY GOOD, CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE, YE KEN? HE TOLD ME THE CLUB NEEDED ME AND, WELL...
I HAD TO COME BACK.

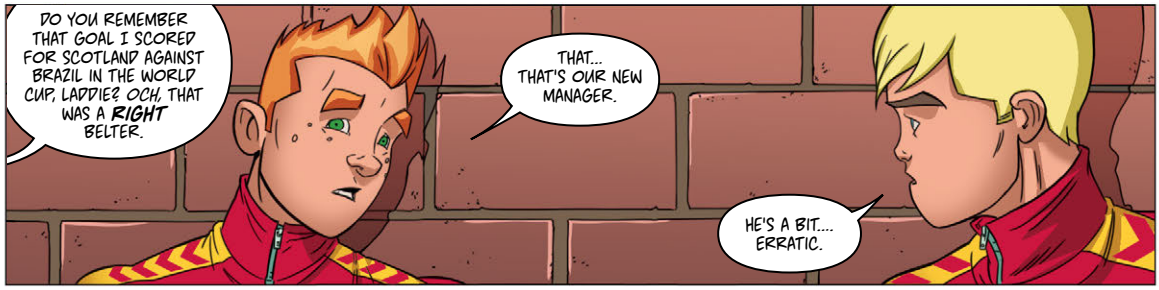

BUT HOT-SHOT, YOU ONLY PLAYED FOR ROVERS FOR ONE SEASON BEFORE LEAVING FOR WHAT WAS THEN A RECORD SUM TO SPAIN.
AND NOW I'M BACK, TO SPRINKLE A LITTLE SCOTTISH STARDUST ON MEL PARK ONCE MORE, EH?
WELL, ON THE NATIONAL STADIUM, ACTUALLY, FOR THE PLAY-OFF FINAL. BUT YOU CANNY LADS KNOW WHAT I MEAN, EH? HA!

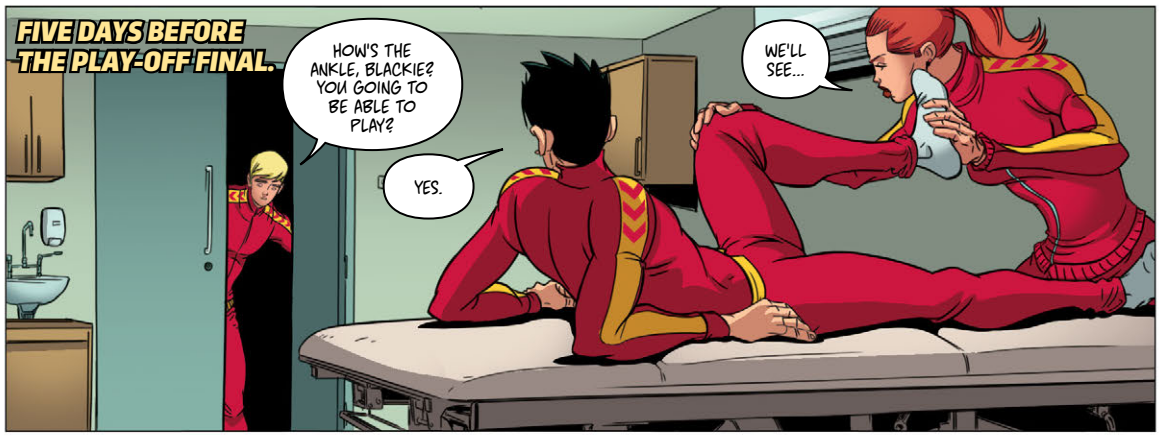

HAMISH HERE WILL MANAGE MELCHESTER ROVERS...
DON'T YOU MEAN CARETAKER-MANAGE? KEVIN MOUSE IS STILL YOUR MANAGER, ISN'T HE?
YES. OF COURSE. HAMISH WILL BE CARETAKER MANAGER. AND AS WE ALL KNOW, HE HAS EXPERIENCE OF MANAGEMENT AT THE TOP LEVEL IN SPAIN...

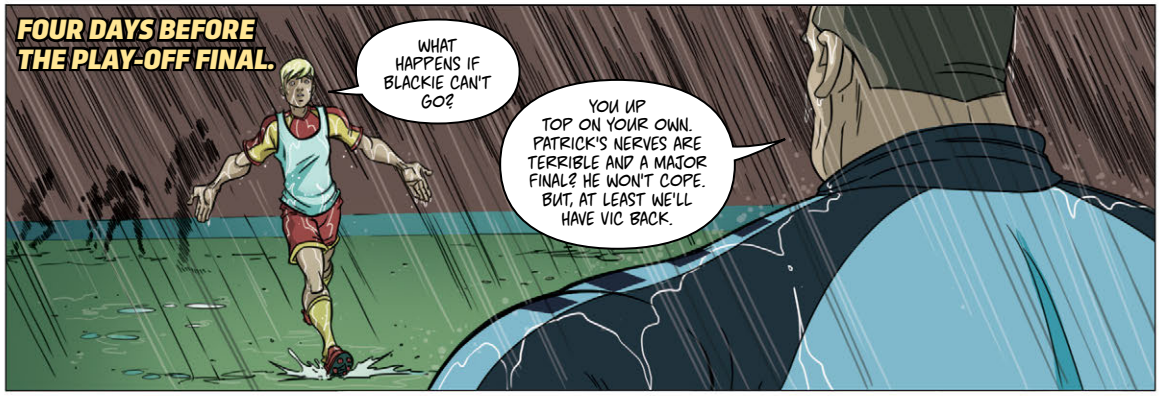
LASTED FIVE GAMES AT REAL BEFORE BEING SACKED. FOR BEING TACTICALLY CLUELESS. LOST FOUR. DREW ONE. AND THEY CONCEDED FIVE HIS LAST GAME.
YOU'RE NOT A FAN THEN?
I AM NOT, ROY RACE, OF THE ROVERS WITH THE ROCKET, NO.

I PLAYED WITH HAMISH AT ROVERS. HE WAS BRILLIANT BUT HE KNEW IT. NEVER LISTENED TO ANYONE. HE LEFT FOR THE MONEY AND THE FAME AND THAT'S WHAT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT.
ONLY OUT FOR HIMSELF. AND THE MOMENT HE WENT, THE WHOLE CLUB...EVERYONE JUST WANTED THE CASH. OTHERS FOLLOWED... BUT HE STARTED THE ROT.
AND BESIDES...
"IF HE'S A FRIEND OF CLEAVER'S I DON'T TRUST HIM."
HAMISH! HAMISH! WHAT ABOUT RUMOURS OF YOU BEING BANKRUPT AND THE SPANISH COURTS WANTING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT UNPAID TAX?
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE BACK?
THANK YOU LADS AND LADIES! THANK YOU! NO FURTHER QUESTIONS!
HAM
ISH
HOLD ON A MINUTE, BARRY.
I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING.
HOW DARE YOU...
...I WAS A WORLD-CLASS FOOTBALLER, YOU KNOW. WORLD CLASS.
COME ON, HAMISH! FOR GOODNESS SAKE.
TWENTY-FIVE GOALS FOR SCOTLAND! TWENTY OF THEM ABSOLUTE BELTERS! HOW MANY DID YOU SCORE FOR SCOTLAND, EH PAL?
HE'S...
...WHAT'S HAPPENING? IS HE...
IS HE CRYING?

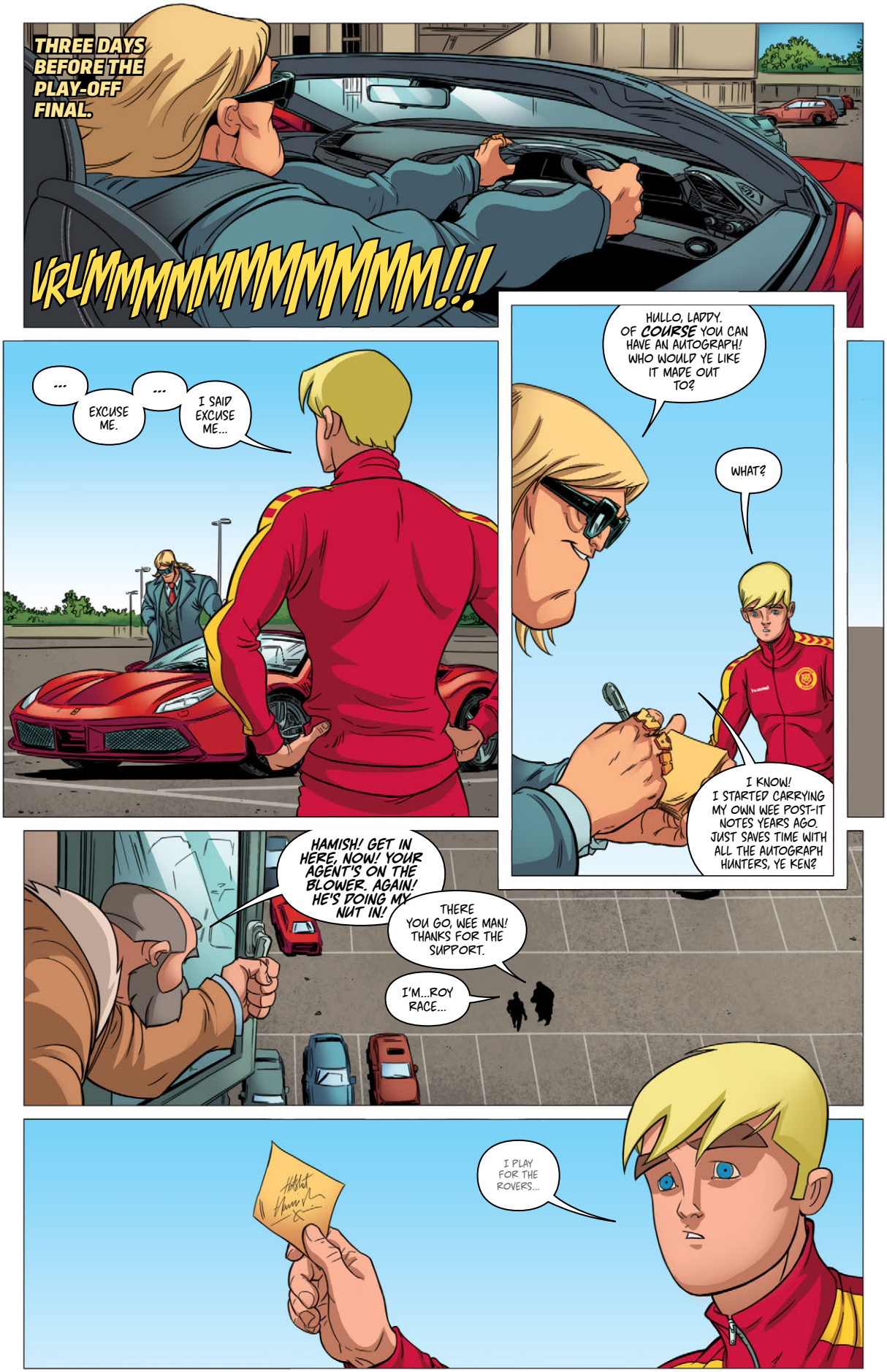
I AM HOT-SHOT HAMISH, YOU KNOW!
HOT. SHOT. HAMISH.


DO YOU REMEMBER THAT GOAL I SCORED FOR SCOTLAND AGAINST BRAZIL IN THE WORLD CUP, LADDIE? OCH, THAT WAS A RIGHT BELTER.
THAT... THAT'S OUR NEW MANAGER.
HE'S A BIT.... ERRATIC.


FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.
HOW'S THE ANKLE, BLACKIE? YOU GOING TO BE ABLE TO PLAY?
YES.
WE'LL SEE...


FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.
WHAT HAPPENS IF BLACKIE CAN'T GO?
YOU UP TOP ON YOUR OWN. PATRICK'S NERVES ARE TERRIBLE AND A MAJOR FINAL? HE WON'T COPE. BUT, AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE VIC BACK.

OUR MANAGER HAVE AN OPINION ON THAT?
NO IDEA, SON.
NONE.

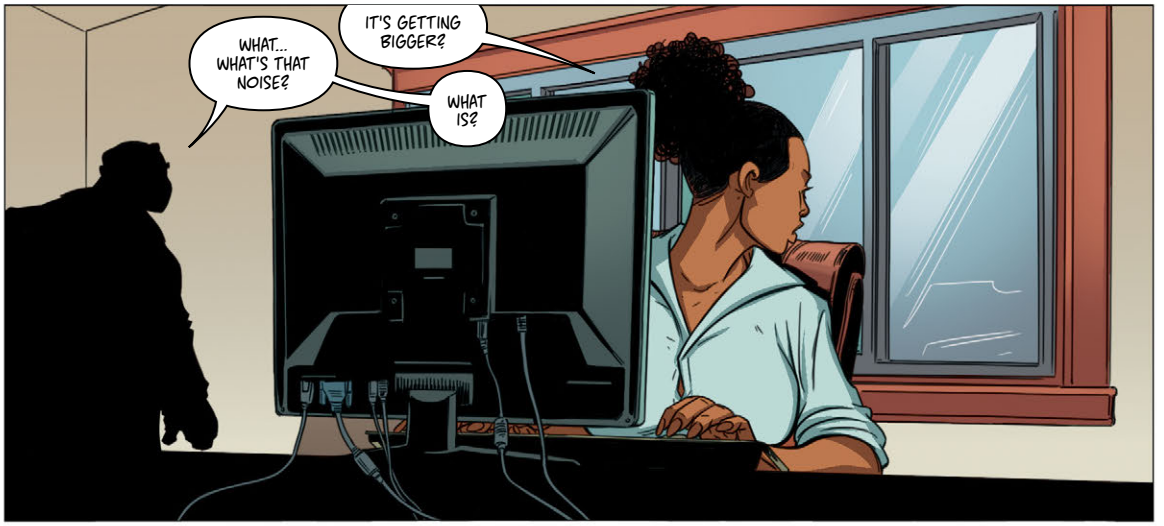

THREE DAYS BEFORE THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.
VRUMMMMMMMMMMMM!!!
...
EXCUSE ME.
...
I SAID EXCUSE ME...
HULLO, LADDY. OF COURSE YOU CAN HAVE AN AUTOGRAPH! WHO WOULD YE LIKE IT MADE OUT TO?
WHAT?
I KNOW! I STARTED CARRYING MY OWN WEE POST-IT NOTES YEARS AGO. JUST SAVES TIME WITH ALL THE AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS, YE KEN?
HAMISH! GET IN HERE, NOW! YOUR AGENT'S ON THE BLOWER. AGAIN! HE'S DOING MY NUT IN!
THERE YOU GO, WEE MAN! THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT.
I'M...ROY RACE...
I PLAY FOR THE ROVERS...

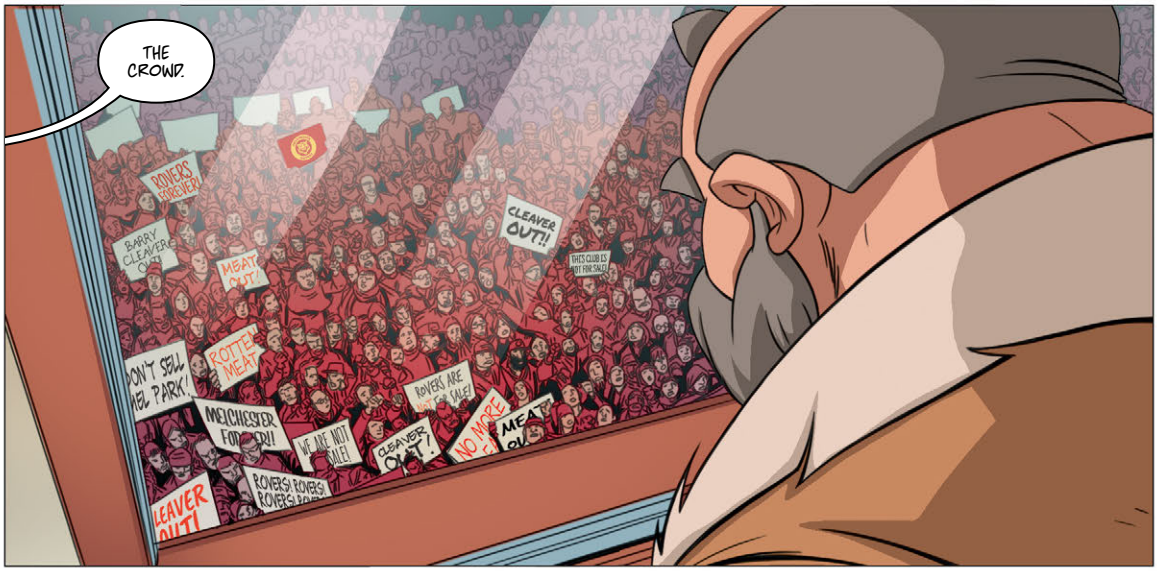
TWO DAYS BEFORE THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.
...IS HE OK?
YEAH. THEY THINK.
THEY'VE OPERATED AND PUT IN SOMETHING CALLED A 'STENT'. I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. BUT THE DOCTORS SAY HE SHOULD BE GOOD.
HAS HIS FAMILY COME TO VISIT?
I DON'T KNOW IF HE HAS ANY. HIS LIFE WAS THE CLUB. IS THE CLUB.
I'M GOING TO GET BACK TO MEL PARK. TRAINING. MAKE SURE HAMISH HASN'T, I DUNNO, DECIDED TO NOT PLAY A GOALIE ON SATURDAY OR SOMETHING.
JOHNNY?
JUST SIT WITH HIM, YOU TWO.
UH...
HE'S ON PAIN MEDICATION. BUT I SUPPOSE HE CAN HEAR US. TELL HIM ABOUT THE TEAM.
...OK.
ALRIGHT, GAFFER? THE BOYS ALL SAY HI. TRAINING'S GOING WELL. JOHNNY HAS US DOING NON-STOP DRILLS. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS?
...UM.
PACO'S FREEKICKS ARE GETTING EVEN MORE DEADLY. HE'S BEEN PRACTICING.
...PACO.

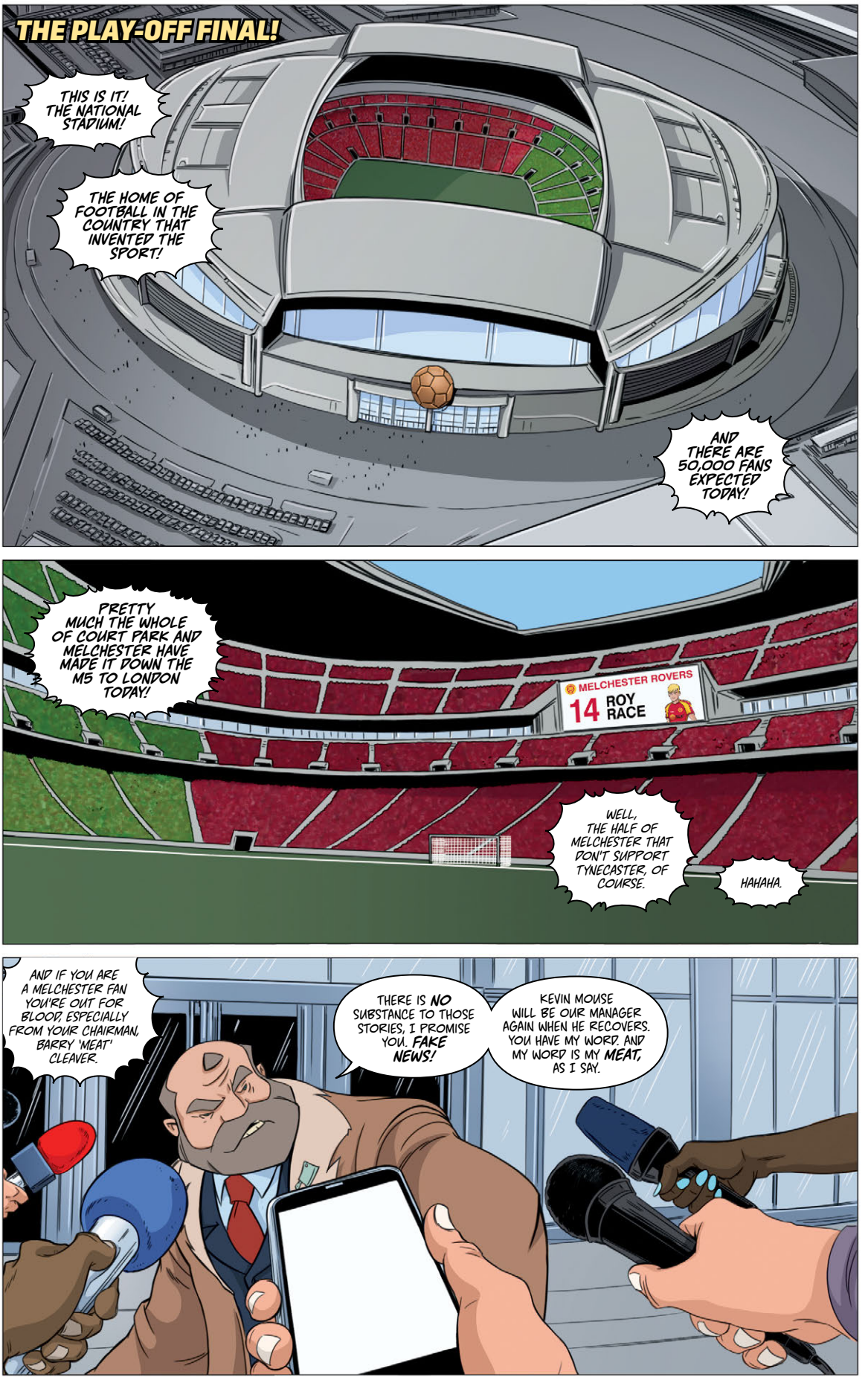
CLEAVER... GOING TO SELL PACO TO TYNECASTER. GOING TO SELL MEL PARK.
GOT TO WIN.
GOT TO GET PROMOTED.
I THINK HE NEEDS HIS REST, LUVS.
DO YOU THINK IT'S TRUE?
THAT... MAKES SENSE. BUT...IF IT IS. WHAT DO WE DO?
AND THAT'S WHY MOUSE HAD THE HEART ATTACK?
GIVE ME YOUR PHONE!
WHY?
BECKY GOFF
MELCHESTER LEADER
CALL
BARRY CLEAVER DESERVES A SHOCK.

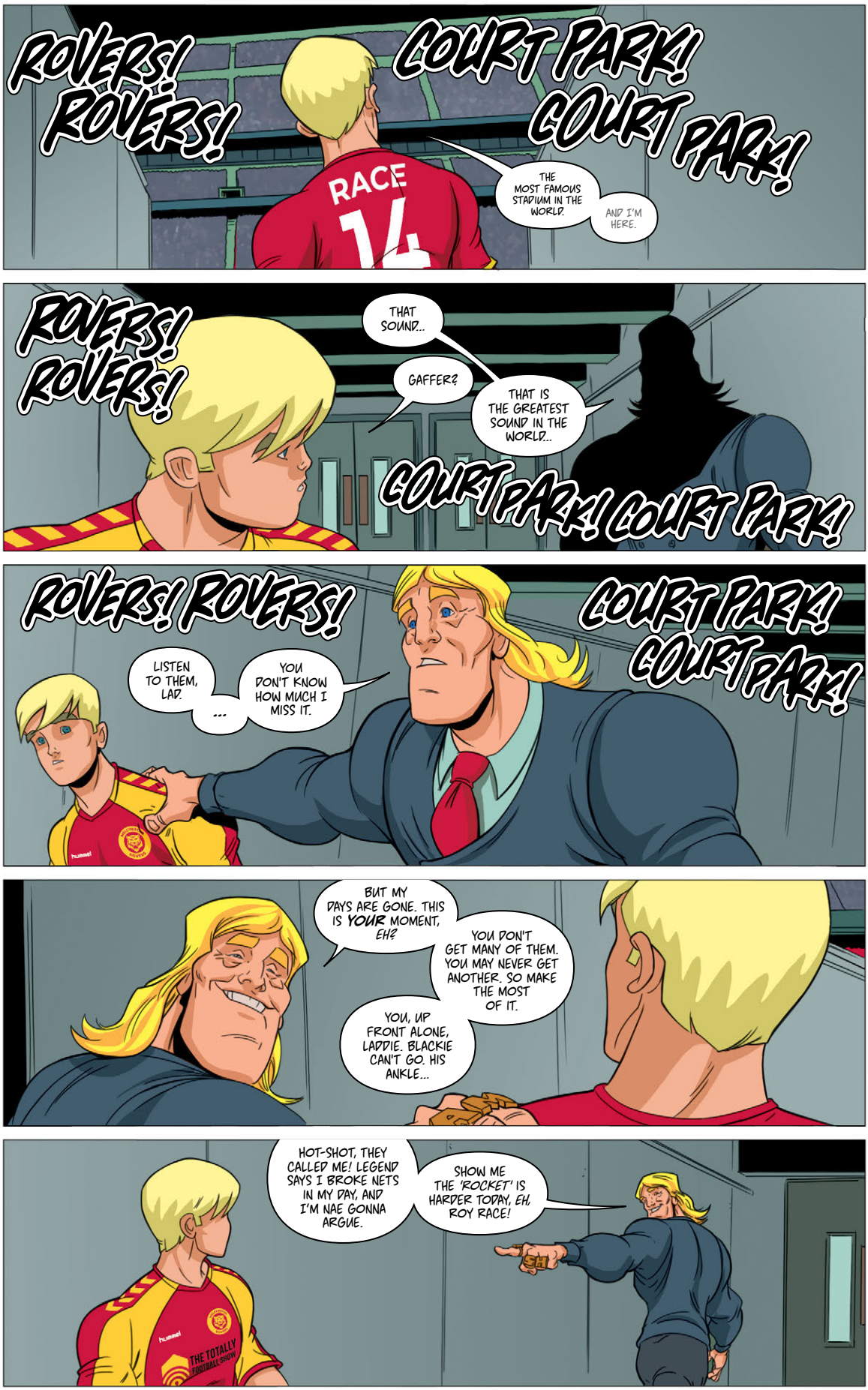
THE
MELCHESTER LEADER
CLEAVER PLANS TO SELL ROVERS TO SUPERMARKET CHAIN!
WAS GOING TO SACK MOUSE!
WHAT?

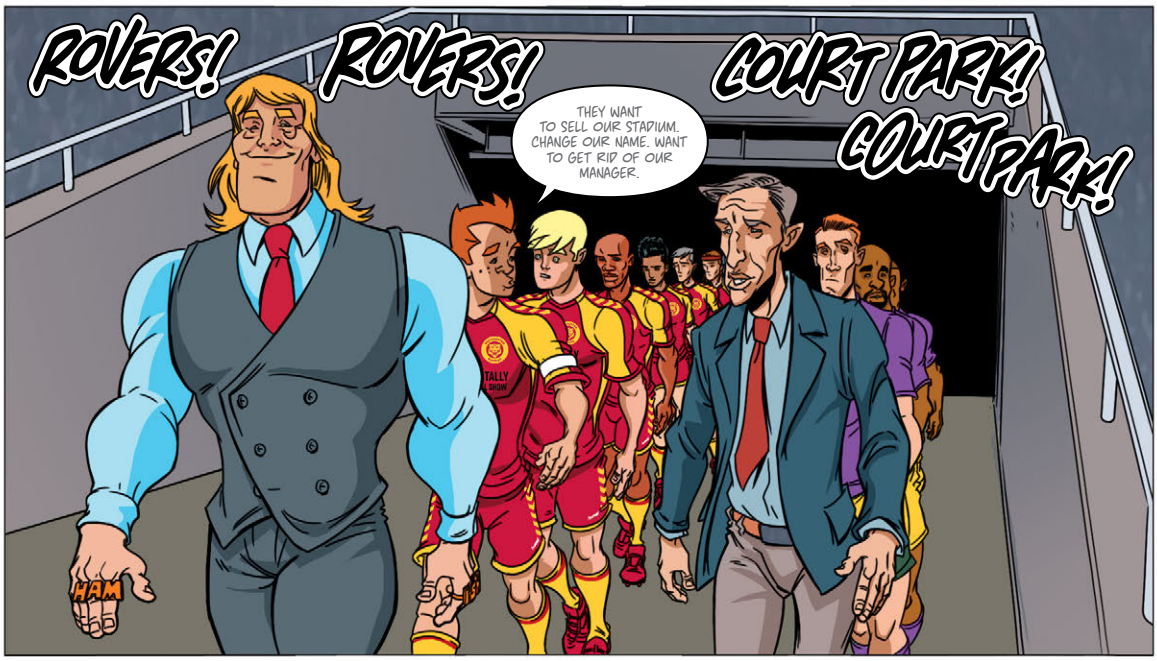
WHAT?


WHAT... WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
IT'S GETTING BIGGER?
WHAT IS?


THE CROWD.
ROVERS FOREVER!
BARRY CLEAVER OUT!
MEAT OUT!
ROTTEN MEAT
WE ARE NOT SALE!
ROVERS ARE NOT FOR SALE!
CLEAVER OUT!!
THIS CLUB IS NOT FOR SALE!
NO MORE


THE PLAY-OFF FINAL!
THIS IS IT! THE NATIONAL STADIUM!
THE HOME OF FOOTBALL IN THE COUNTRY THAT INVENTED THE SPORT!
AND THERE ARE 50,000 FANS EXPECTED TODAY!
PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE OF COURT PARK AND MELCHESTER HAVE MADE IT DOWN THE M5 TO LONDON TODAY!
MELCHESTER ROVERS
14 ROY RACE
WELL, THE HALF OF MELCHESTER THAT DON'T SUPPORT TYNECASTER, OF COURSE.
HAHAHA.
AND IF YOU ARE A MELCHESTER FAN YOU'RE OUT FOR BLOOD, ESPECIALLY FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN, BARRY 'MEAT' CLEAVER.
THERE IS NO SUBSTANCE TO THOSE STORIES, I PROMISE YOU. FAKE NEWS!
KEVIN MOUSE WILL BE OUR MANAGER AGAIN WHEN HE RECOVERS. YOU HAVE MY WORD. AND MY WORD IS MY MEAT, AS I SAY.


ROVERS! ROVERS!
COURT PARK! COURT PARK!
RACE 14
THE MOST FAMOUS STADIUM IN THE WORLD.
AND I'M HERE.
ROVERS! ROVERS!
THAT SOUND...
GAFFER?
THAT IS THE GREATEST SOUND IN THE WORLD...
COURT PARK! COURT PARK!
ROVERS! ROVERS!
COURT PARK! COURT PARK!
LISTEN TO THEM, LAD.
...
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I MISS IT.
BUT MY DAYS ARE GONE. THIS IS YOUR MOMENT, EH?
YOU DON'T GET MANY OF THEM. YOU MAY NEVER GET ANOTHER. SO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
YOU, UP FRONT ALONE, LADDIE. BLACKIE CAN'T GO. HIS ANKLE...
HOT-SHOT, THEY CALLED ME! LEGEND SAYS I BROKE NETS IN MY DAY, AND I'M NAE GONNA ARGUE.
SHOW ME THE 'ROCKET' IS HARDER TODAY, EH, ROY RACE!
THE TOTALLY FOOTBALL SHOW

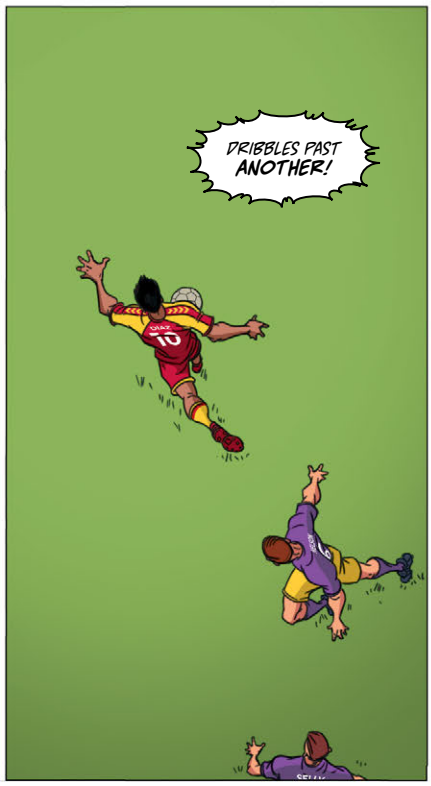

ROVERS!
ROVERS!
COURT PARK!
COURT PARK!
THEY WANT TO SELL OUR STADIUM. CHANGE OUR NAME. WANT TO GET RID OF OUR MANAGER.
HAM

WE DON'T LET THEM.
THE TOTA

AND WE'RE UNDERWAY HERE FOR THE DIVISION 2 PLAY-OFF FINAL.
Gola
REBELLION
Gola
REBELLION
COURT PARK, WHO SO NEARLY ACHIEVED AUTOMATIC PROMOTION--JUST MISSING OUT ON GOAL DIFFERENCE--VERSES MELCHESTER ROVERS.
MELCHESTER ENJOYED A LATE RUN TO THE PLAY-OFF PLACES PLAYING SOME SPARKLING FOOTBALL. BUT IS TODAY TOO SOON FOR THEIR YOUNGSTERS?

EARLY SKIRMISHES HERE. VIC GUTHRIE, ROVERS' CAPTAIN, BACK AFTER SUSPENSION, HEADS IT ON.

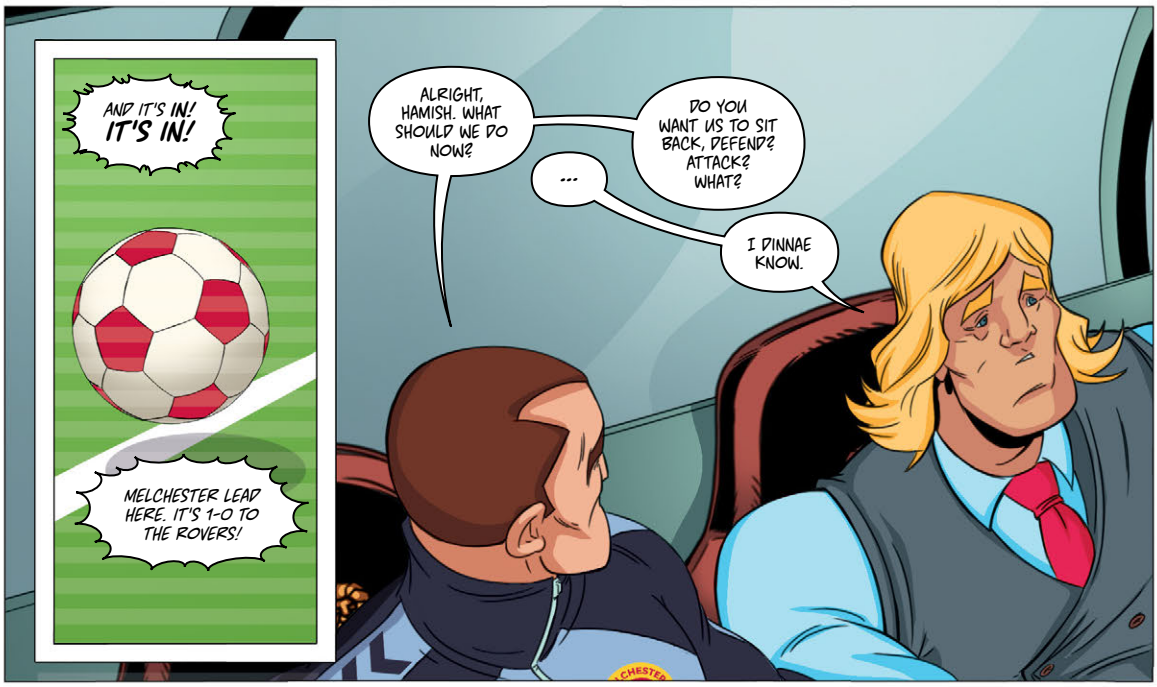
DIAZ NOW! DANGEROUS YOUNG SPANIARD.
GOES PAST ONE.
BESTCO
hummel

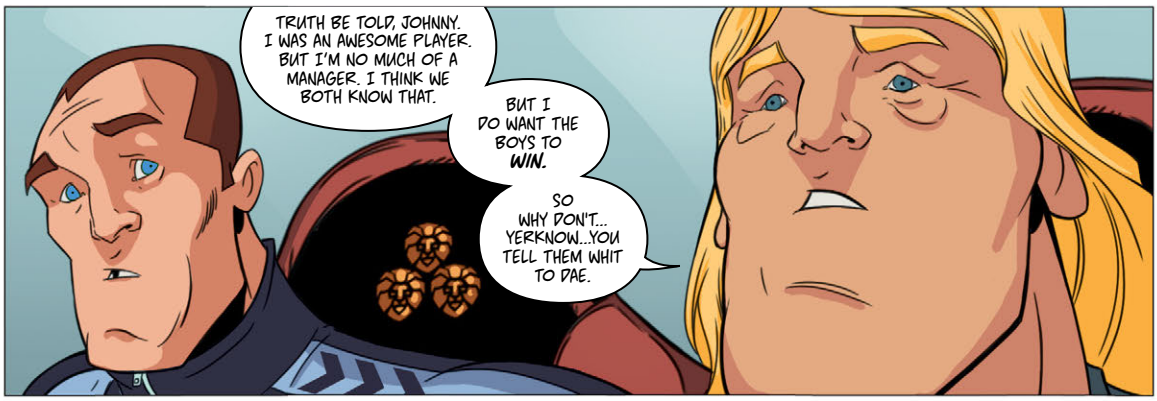

DRIBBLES PAST ANOTHER!

DIAZ IS GOING ON HIS OWN!
HE'S GOING TO SHOOT!
DIAZ
10
BESTCO
hummel

NO...
HE'S FAKED THEM ALL!
PULLS IT BACK!
Gola
1

RACE...
THE ROCKET!
OH, WHAT A HIT!
DID IT GO IN, THOUGH? IT BOUNCED DOWN AND HIT THE LINE...
THE MELCHESTER PLAYERS ARE CELEBRATING. THE COURT PARK PLAYERS ARE CARRYING ON.
DID THE SHOT CROSS THE LINE?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
HAS HE GIVEN IT? HE HAS, HASN'T HE?
I DON'T THINK HE HAS.
AND THE REF'S TAKING THIS TO VAR. THE VIDEO REFEREE.
WHAT A SIGN OF THE CHANGING TIMES THIS IS.


AND IT'S IN! IT'S IN!
MELCHESTER LEAD HERE. IT'S 1-0 TO THE ROVERS!
ALRIGHT, HAMISH. WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
DO YOU WANT US TO SIT BACK, DEFEND? ATTACK? WHAT?
...
I DINNAE KNOW.


TRUTH BE TOLD, JOHNNY. I WAS AN AWESOME PLAYER. BUT I'M NO MUCH OF A MANAGER. I THINK WE BOTH KNOW THAT.
BUT I DO WANT THE BOYS TO WIN.
SO WHY DON'T... YERKNOW...YOU TELL THEM WHIT TO DAE.

BUT CLEAVER...?
OCH MAN, CLEAVER'S A BIG HEIDTHABA'. WE BOTH KNOW THAT.
A WHAT?
GAWAN, JOHNNY. TELL THEM WHIT TO DAE! WHILE I SIT HERE AND INSPIRE THEM BY..Y'KNOW, LOOKING AMAZING.

DUNCAN! ASIF! STAY BACK! DON'T GET CAUGHT!
GUTHRIE! GUTHRIE! SIT! SIT!
THAT'S IT, DEXTER. MANAGER AND ASSISTANT MANAGER EXACTLY AS THEY SHOULD BE.

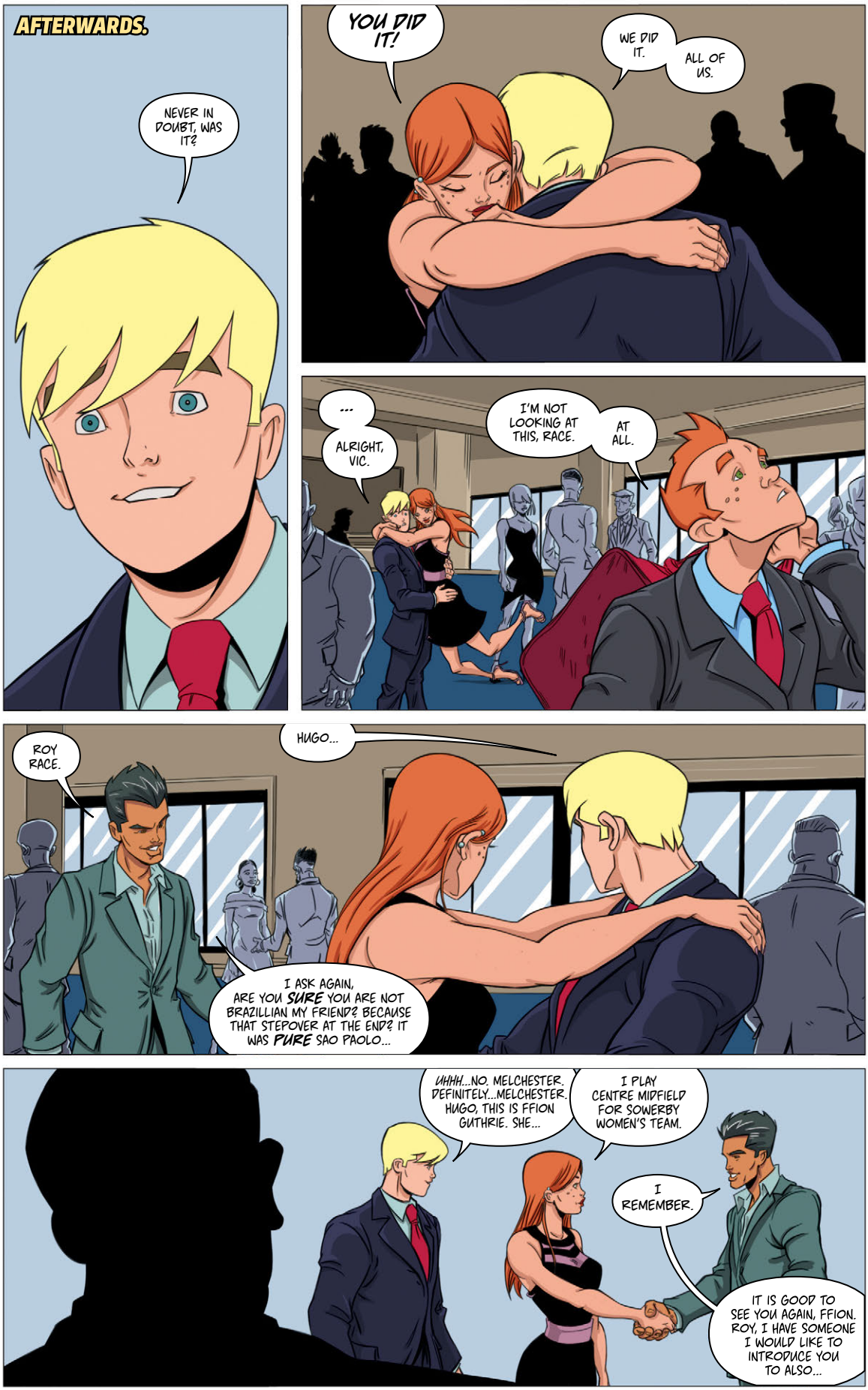
OOF.
ROVERS, WITH JUST ONE UP FRONT, ARE FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE BALL STICK.
AND YOU CAN SEE WHAT A TIDY FOOTBALLING OUTFIT COURT PARK ARE...
JENKINS LOOKS TO THE FAR POST.
THE TOTALLY FOOTBALL SHOW
THAT'S A TANTALISING CROSS!
IT'S THE EQUALIZER! MORRISON COULDN'T MISS!
1-1 HERE! AND ALL THE MOMENTUM IS WITH COURT PARK WITH HALF-TIME APPROACHING.
YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED.
I DON'T THINK I REALISED HOW MUCH OF THE DONKEY WORK BLACKIE WAS DOING FOR ME. YOU GET BATTERED AS A LONE STRIKER.

HALF-TIME!
ATTACK THEM! THAT'S WHIT I SAE LADS! CHUCK ON ANOTHER STRIKER OR TWO AND GO FIR THEM!
DEATH OR GLORY, EH?
BZZZZZZ
MIGHTY MOUSE
Stick Patrick on for heaven's sake!
AMAZINGLY, HAMISH, I AGREE WITH YOU.
AND SO DOES MIGHTY MOUSE, LADS.
AY?
PATRICK. YOU'RE ON, SON.
COURT PARK!
WOW.
COURT PARK!
MELCHESTER! MELCHESTER!
NAVID
AND THE SECOND HALF'S UNDERWAY HERE BUT THE DIRECTION OF THIS GAME HASN'T CHANGED.
COURT PARK ARE RAMPANT HERE.
NAVID IS IN ON GOALLLL...

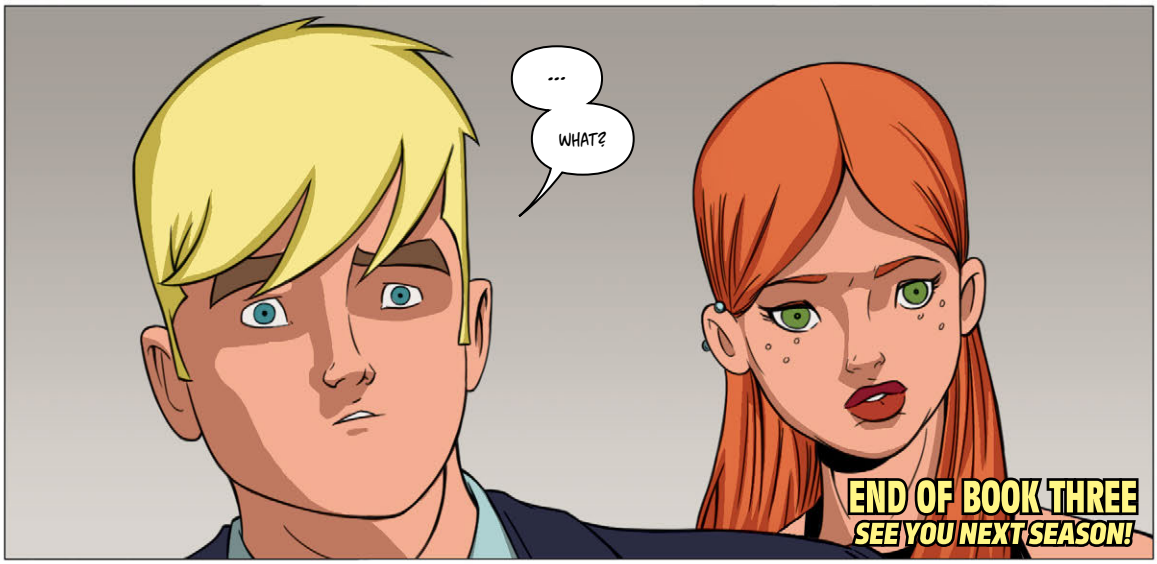
OH! BRILLIANT SAVE BY GORDON STEWART!
FIVE MINUTES LEFT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAN?
I CANNAE LOOK!
YOU'RE OUR MANAGER! OUR CARETAKER MANAGER BUT OUR MANAGER NONETHE...
OH NO. THEY'RE IN AGAIN.
AND NAVID HAS CAUGHT THE ROVERS ON THE BREAK AGAIN.
GO ON, COURT PARK...
MAKE BARRY A MINT.
WHAT A BLOCK BY LOFTY PEAK!
A DEFINITE GOAL SAVED.

LOFTY PLAYS IT WIDE TO THE LEFT BACK ASIF MIRZA, WHO'S BEEN COVERING SO MUCH GROUND UP AND DOWN THE FIELD.
THAT'S ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF THESE YOUNG MELCHESTER LADS. SO MUCH ENERGY.
MIRZA TO GUTHRIE WHO... OH, THAT'S A NICE BACKHEEL TO FREE VERNON ELLIOT.
VERNON ELLIOT NOW. CUTS INSIDE. RUNNING TOWARDS THE D!
PLAYS IT TO ROY RACCCCCEEE...
...HE'S...
RACE HAS MISSED IT COMPLETELY! NO...
HE STEPPED OVER THE BALL...

PATRICK NOLAN IS THEEEEEEERRE!!
NOLAN
11
ROVERS HAVE WON IT! SURELY!
THE TOTALLY FOOTBALL SHOW
MELCHESTER... INCREDIBLE!
PATRICKKKKKK!!
AFTER ALL THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS SEASON... MELCHESTER ROVERS ARE GOING TO BE PROMOTED TO LEAGUE ONE!
"ALL ABOUT THE TEAM, EH?"
...YEAH...
BRILLIANT.


AFTERWARDS.
NEVER IN DOUBT, WAS IT?
YOU DID IT!
WE DID IT.
ALL OF US.
...
ALRIGHT, VIC.
I'M NOT LOOKING AT THIS, RACE.
AT ALL.
ROY RACE.
HUGO...
I ASK AGAIN, ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE NOT BRAZILLIAN MY FRIEND? BECAUSE THAT STEPOVER AT THE END? IT WAS PURE SAO PAOLO...
UHHH...NO. MELCHESTER. DEFINITELY...MELCHESTER. HUGO, THIS IS FFION GUTHRIE. SHE...
I PLAY CENTRE MIDFIELD FOR SOWERBY WOMEN'S TEAM.
I REMEMBER.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FFION. ROY, I HAVE SOMEONE I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ALSO...

I WANT YOU TO MEET JULIO GARCIA.
I CALL HIM 'BOSS'. HE IS MANAGER OF TYNECASTER.
PERHAPS, SOON, YOU TOO WILL CALL ME 'BOSS', ROY RACE.
I HAVE JUST TOLD YOUR OWNER I WANT YOU TO COME PLAY FOR ME IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE. WITH TYNECASTER.


...
WHAT?
END OF BOOK THREE
SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!

MELCHESTER

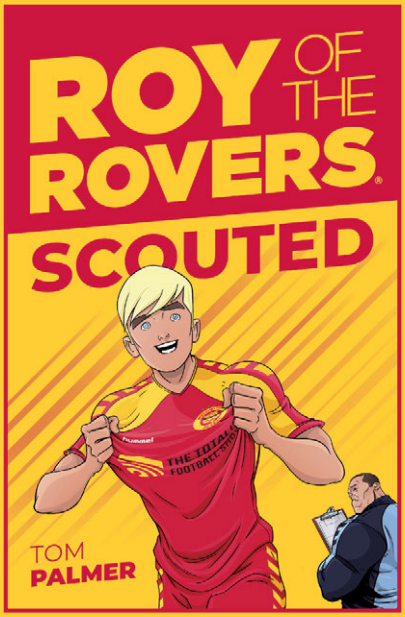
ROVERS

ROY OF THE ROVERS®

THE FIRST SEASON

Keep track of every new ***Roy of the Rovers*** book here!
Don't forget to tick the boxes as you read each one.

FICTION

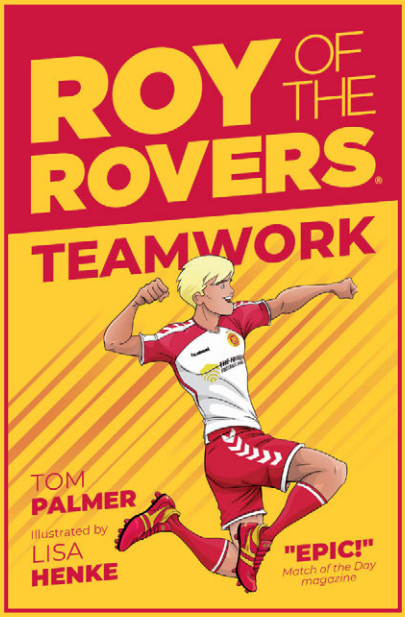


BOOK 1
SCOUTED

Author: Tom Palmer
Out: October 2018
ISBN: 978-1-78108-698-8

Roy Race is the most talented striker in Melchester – but is he good enough to catch the eye of the Melchester Rovers scouts?

READ? ☐



BOOK 2
TEAMWORK

Author: Tom Palmer
Out: February 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-707-7

Life gets tricky for Roy as he adjusts to life in the spotlight. Fortune and glory await, but can Roy juggle football, fame and family?

READ? ☐

BOOK 3
PLAY-OFFS

Author: Tom Palmer
Out: May 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-722-0

Crunch time for Rovers: the end of the season is here, the club is in deep trouble, and it's down to Roy to bring a bit of hope back to the Melchester faithful.

READ? ☐

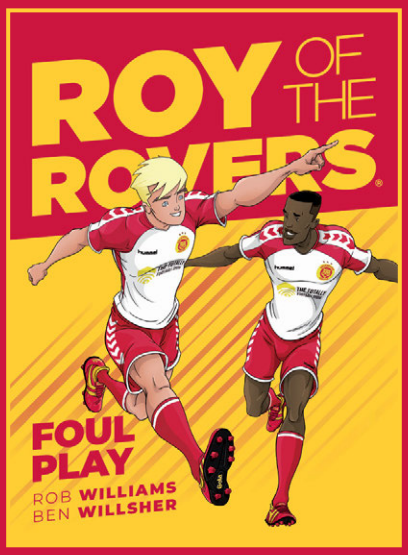
GRAPHIC NOVELS

BOOK 1
KICK-OFF

Writer: Rob Williams
Artist: Ben Willsher
Out: November 2018
ISBN: 978-1-78108-652-0

Roy Race is 16, talented, and desperate to make it as a footballer. But is he good enough for Melchester Rovers? Now's the time to prove if he's got what it takes to become Roy of the Rovers.

READ? ☐

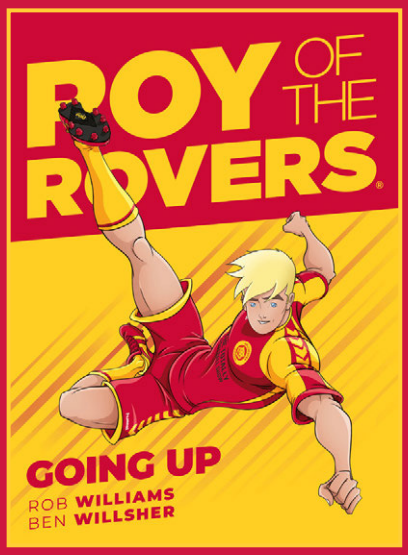


BOOK 2
FOUL PLAY

Writer: Rob Williams
Artist: Ben Willsher
Out: March 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-669-8

Roy picks up an injury that puts him on the sidelines, and suddenly there's competition for his place as a brand new - and brilliant - striker is brought in by the management...

READ? ☐



BOOK 3
GOING UP

Writer: Rob Williams
Artist: Ben Willsher
Out: June 2019
ISBN: 978-1-78108-673-5

Roy and the team have battled through a tough season, but have they got enough left to get promoted? Or will they fall at the final hurdle and see the club sold by its greedy owner?

READ? ☐

PLAYER INTERVIEW

Introduce yourself

Patrick Nolan – striker.

Do you have a nickname?

Not really...the lads call me Pat or Patty.

Who was your favourite team growing up?

Ballybunion Wanderers. They were the first Irish league team that I played for. At one stage I was a lot more into playing hurling, but then the Wanderers came calling and I never looked back.

Who is the best player that you have played with?

Roy and Paco are both fantastic. Those boys are a different level, like. Hopefully, I can learn enough from them both, especially Roy. Who needs Hugo when you have the Racey!

Who is the best player that you have played against?

Wow – that's a hard one! I can't think of his name right now, but one of the Kingsbay centre-backs is tough to play against. He's not necessarily the most skillful player, but he's built like a barn and very intimidating!

Do you have a pre-match routine?

I try and hide from Vic. He does this thing where he comes up to you and screams in your face...it's weird man!

What's your advice to young players?

Don't be afraid to learn what you can from the players around you.

What's your favourite social media network and why?

I'm not much of a techy fella - Facebook is the only thing that I go on regularly.

PLAYER **INTERVIEW**

Introduce yourself

Vic Guthrie – midfielder and captain for Melchester Rovers

Do you have a nickname?

Captain Fantastic! The welsh Wizard! Okay, so the players don't call me either of these names, but I wouldn't discourage them if they did!

Who was your favourite team growing up?

My grandfather played for Neath United, so I was very fond of them. One of my earliest memories is of Melchester playing Weston Villa in the cup final. After that I was Melchester Rovers all the way!

Who is the best player that you have played with?

As captain, I shouldn't really say. Ask me again in twenty years when I've retired! I'll give you the answer from my super-deluxe villa in the Bahamas!

Who is the best player that you have played against?

I don't look at individual players in that way. The opposition are the opposition – the eleven men facing you on the pitch. The best team that I've played against so far is Tynecaster.

Do you have a pre-match routine?

I control the music in the dressing room. It's always something loud to get the lads in the mood. Then I go around to each player and get right up in their face and scream! Gets their blood pumping. It's the same ritual Johnny Dexter used to have back in his playing days.

What's your advice to young players?

Give nothing less than 100% every time you get onto the pitch. If you have the talent and you do that, you'll make it. If not, get out of the way!

What's your favourite social media network and why?

Tumblr. I have a lot of my greatest tackles edited together on my blog.

THE RACE IS ON!

After a tumultuous season, Melchester Rovers have turned their fortunes around and promotion is within reach. But going up isn't a foregone conclusion, and there's a crisis looming...

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