

MARTHA COX

Psst, Gabriella... Taylor needs you up in the lab right away.

(gives her the thumbs up)

Hip-hop hooray!

GABRIELLA

I'll see you later, Troy. Nice to meet you, Coach Bolton.

COACH BOLTON

(sternly)

Goodbye.

(Gabriella makes a hasty exit with Martha. Troy faces Coach Bolton.)

Scene
3

Start

TROY

Detention was my fault, not hers.

COACH BOLTON

You haven't missed practice in three years. That girl turns up and you're late twice.

TROY

"That girl" is named Gabriella, and she's very nice.

COACH BOLTON

Helping you miss practice doesn't make her "very nice." Not in my book. Or your team's.

TROY

She's not a problem, she's just a girl.

COACH BOLTON

But you're not just "a guy." You're the team leader, what you do affects not only this team, but the entire school. Without you completely focused, we won't win the game Friday. And championship games don't come along every day... they're something special.

TROY

A lot of things are special.

COACH BOLTON

You blow this chance, you'll regret it the rest of your life.

TROY

(finally deciding to go there)

You mean, like you?

COACH BOLTON

(stung but hiding it)

You're a playmaker, Bolton, not a singer.

TROY

Did you ever think maybe I could be both? And my name is Troy, Dad, not Bolton!

(Troy heads for the locker room. Coach Bolton watches him, at a complete loss with his son.)

End

SCENE 5: LOCKER ROOM / LAB — WEDNESDAY, 4:00 PM

#30 — *Counting on You*

Jocks, Brainiacs

(Lights up on a split stage. Troy and Gabriella run into the locker room and lab, respectively. The Jocks and Brainiacs are waiting for them.)

TROY, GABRIELLA

Sorry I'm late.

CHAD

Not good enough, Captain.

TAYLOR

Not good enough, Gabriella.

JOCKS, BRAINIACS

Get'cha head in the game!

CHAD

THERE'S A CHOICE THAT YOU HAVE TO MAKE

TAYLOR

AND IT'S PRETTY PLAIN TO SEE

ZEKE

YOU'RE EITHER OUT OR IN

MARTHA COX

YOU EITHER LOSE OR WIN

JOCKS, BRAINIACS

ARE YOU GONNA TURN YOUR BACK ON HISTORY?

TAYLOR

ON THE LEGEND THAT YOU'RE A PART OF?

CHAD

ON THE JOB THAT YOU WERE BORN TO DO?