

THE CHAMPION'S NEW SPORT

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A large crowd surrounds two large, muscular men as they do push-ups. One of the men is barely breaking a sweat. This man is PAULY (30s). The other man's arms are trembling. This man is EZEKIEL (30s).

Halfway through a push-up, Ezekiel collapses. Pauly slowly gets off the ground, as if this was no challenge. Ezekiel pounds the ground, sobbing. The REFEREE takes Pauly's right arm and lifts it.

REFEREE

The standing champion for the past seven years, Pauly "The Python" Briggs!

Now that Pauly is standing, we notice how large his arms are compared to his thin, stick like legs. On Pauly's right arm, there is a heart shaped tattoo that reads "I love my Arms".

Ezekiel lifts his head up from the floor.

EZEKIEL

You'll pay for this, Pauly!

PAULY

In your dreams, Ezekiel.

A NEWS REPORTER with her camera rush over to Pauly.

NEWS REPORTER

Pauly! Pauly! You are officially the first person to be the push-up champion of the world seven years in a row. What are you going to do now?

PAULY

I actually have to go to jail.

NEWS REPORTER

What?

PAULY

Yeah, animal abuse. For having these sick pythons!

Pauly flexes his arms for the audience. Everyone cheers. From the crowd, a woman comes running towards Pauly. She's dressed in jogging attire. This is JULIE (27).

Julie runs and jumps into Pauly's arms. His legs wobble a bit when holding her. He sets her down, and gives a quick kiss.

JULIE

I swear, you're basically walking on your arms at this point. Work on your legs.

PAULY

Leg day is for chumps, Julie.

NEWS REPORTER

Look at the love birds! Julie, you're still training for the big jogging tournament next February, right?

JULIE

Yeah, I'm hoping to be an inspiration for all the little girls out there that want to jog.

PAULY

Enough about Julie and her legs. Legs are weak. Legs are what I eat when I go to KFC.

NEWS REPORTER

Okay, okay, One last question for Pauly. Rumor is that Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of Mario and Zelda, is working on making a video game with you as the lead character, tell us about that.

BARRY (70s) bursts through the crowd. He grabs Pauly by his massive arm.

BARRY

Pauly refuses to answer these rumors.

Barry pulls Pauly away from the crowd.

PAULY

Come on, Coach. Let me brag to the audience a bit.

BARRY

I'm not gonna have your big mouth ruin this deal for us. Miyamoto told us that if you tell anyone that you're the face of Arms 2, he's cutting us out!

Barry pulls Pauly towards a limousine. Pauly pulls his arm free from Barry, and stops.

PAULY
I'm not leaving, Coach. I'm gonna
go see my fans.

Pauly turns around to walk away.

BARRY
Pauly! Get your muscular ass back
here!

Pauly walks towards the crowd, but out from the crowd a MASKED MAN comes sprinting out with a pump shotgun.

BANG! The shotgun blasts at Pauly. His right arm is hit, and goes flying off his body. Pauly falls onto his skinny knees.

BANG! The gun hits again. Pauly's left arm goes flying off of him. The Masked Man grabs both arms and runs from the scene. The crowd is too focused on Pauly to notice.

Pauly falls, face down, on the ground. Ambulance sirens are heard in the background.

INT. HOSPITAL BED - DAY

Pauly slowly opens his eyes. His head is wrapped with blood soaked bandages. His eyes are swollen.

Pauly looks to the left and notices a protein shake. He attempts to grab it, but he notices his right arm is missing. He looks at his left, and it is also gone.

PAULY
Doctor! Doctor!

Tears are falling down Pauly's face. He is hyperventilating.

DOCTOR (50s) sprints in.

DOCTOR
Pauly, are you okay?

PAULY
Where are my arms, bro?

The Doctor rubs his eyes.

DOCTOR

There's never an easy way to say this, but your pythons were sick Pauly, too sick. So sick, that we had to put your pythons to sleep.

PAULY

What the fuck are you talking about?

DOCTOR

Pauly, your arms were shot off and stolen.

PAULY

But, you have to have some old ones hanging around, right? I can take some weak arms and make them huge in a year or two.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry, but you can never do a push-up again.

Pauly is sobbing on the bed. The Doctor pats his shoulder.

INT. HOSPITAL BED - NIGHT

Pauly lays in bed, watching television. On the TV is a commercial for a Snuggie, the blanket with sleeves. Pauly sobs harder watching this.

KNOCK KNOCK. Barry walks into the room with a bouquet of flowers. A smile grows across Pauly's face.

PAULY

Barry! I'm so glad to see you.

Barry gives a forced smile.

BARRY

I brought these for you.

Barry sets the flowers down on the table across from him.

PAULY

Okay, Coach. What's the game plan?

BARRY

Pauly, you have no arms.

PAULY

You said it yourself, winners never give up. How are we gonna bring me back to the top of the push-up game? Robot arms? Mannequin arms? What you got?

BARRY

I need to talk to you. I only coach champions. After we lost the Miyamoto deal, I realized that you can never be a champion again. I'm sorry buddy, but I can't be your coach anymore.

Pauly is shocked.

PAULY

No, Coach, you don't need to do this.

BARRY

Please, call me Barry.

Barry slowly exits the room as Pauly sobs.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Julie rolls Pauly out of the hospital on a wheelchair. Julie helps Pauly get up from the wheelchair, but he shoves her off. He attempts to get off by himself, but Julie has to help him.

PAULY

I hate this.

JULIE

Look on the bright side, you kicked that nail biting habit of yours.

PAULY

Do you know what the worst part is? I'm not champion of anything anymore. I used to rule the push-up world, now I'm nothing. I'm nothing without my arms.

Julie pulls out a flyer from her purse.

JULIE

I was planning on waiting until we got home, but I should show you this now.

Julie flips the flyer so that Pauly can read it. The flyer says "Enter in the 2018 Squatting Tournament. First prize gets \$10,000".

PAULY

Squatting? I can't do that. I never worked on my legs before in my life.

Julie grabs Pauly by the shoulders.

JULIE

Pauly, I'm a jogger. All I work on are my legs. The tournament isn't for another month, we can do this. I can train you.

Pauly lifts his chin up.

MONTAGE

- Julie and Pauly jog through the park. Pauly is far behind, panting and covered in sweat. Pauly trips and starts rolling down a hill, unable to stop. Julie chases after him.

- Pauly squats, but he falls backwards. Julie lifts him up and shows him the correct form to do a squat.

- Julie and Pauly jog through the park. Pauly isn't too far away from Julie, but he is still covered in sweat.

- Pauly does a back flip. Julie claps.

- Julie and Pauly are jogging right next to each other in the park. Julie attempts to give a high-five, but quickly remembers.

- Pauly just won against an opponent in a squatting tournament.

INT. BEACH - DAY

Pauly's legs are strong, muscular, and as big as a tree. Pauly has a number pinned to his shirt, and a headband on. He is doing some stretches. Julie squirts water in his mouth.

PAULY

I'm ready, Coach.

JULIE

Win this, and we go to the championship.

Pauly walks onto a wrestling matt. Across from him is a young, skinny man. The Referee walks between them.

REFEREE

I want a good clean match, got it?

They both nod their heads.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Squat!

Pauly is going fast and low on his squats. The skinny man isn't going nearly as low.

JULIE

You got this, Pauly!

Pauly stays at a consistent speed, as the skinny man slows down. Finally, The skinny man falls back. Pauly jumps with glee.

PAULY

I did it, Coach!

Pauly stops celebrating. A figure approaches him. It's Ezekiel in a white tanktop and sweat pants, and behind him is Barry. Ezekiel has a smug look on his face.

EZEKIEL

Well, look who it is.

PAULY

What are you doing here, Ezekiel. Didn't think you would want to show your face after I beat you at the push-up tournament.

EZEKIEL

Push-up tournaments are old news. I do squats now, that's what got me that new Shigeru Miyamoto deal.

PAULY

What?

EZEKIEL

Yeah, turns out they want to make a game about me, the future squatting champion.

PAULY

You think just because you took my coach and took my video game deal, you can beat me?

(MORE)

PAULY (CONT'D)

I beat you once already, a second time will be easy.

Ezekiel laughs. He gets real close to Pauly.

EZEKIEL

This time, I have something you don't have.

Ezekiel gives Pauly a slight shove, knocking him to the ground.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

Arms. They give me balance.

Ezekiel laughs and gives Barry a high five as they stroll out.

INT. BEACH - DAY

Similar to the push-up tournament, there is a stage where a large crowd around it. Pauly gets up on the stage. Julie massaging his shoulders. Ezekiel walks onto the wrestling matt, still wearing sweatpants. Pauly gets on.

PAULY

Those sweatpants aren't regulation, Ezekiel.

Ezekiel laughs. He pulls down the sweat pants, revealing that his legs are arms! Not just any arms, Pauly squints and notices the same "I love my Arms" tattoo.

PAULY (CONT'D)

My pythons! You stole them!

EZEKIEL

It was me, Pauly! It was me all along! I shot your arms off and took them! Now they are my legs! If you want to beat me, Pauly, you're gonna have to beat your arms!

Pauly starts to sweat. He runs back to Julie.

PAULY

I can't do this, Julie. I worked so hard on those arms, no one could beat them.

JULIE

It wasn't the arms that won all those matches Pauly, it was you.

She points to his chest.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You thought your arms were the biggest muscle you had, but it was your heart.

Pauly nods. He walks back to the wrestling matt. The Referee goes between Pauly and Ezekiel.

REFEREE

In the squatting championship, the rules are different. The clock will be set for a minute, whoever can do the most squats in the minute wins. A countdown will be kept behind the opponents, got it?

They both nod. A timer that reads "1:00" and two scoreboards are behind Pauly and Ezekiel.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

I want a good clean match.

The Referee puts his hand up and swipes it down!

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Squat!

Pauly starts fast and low, in perfect formation, but Ezekiel is even faster and lower. Each squat goes lower and lower. Pauly and Ezekiel are going so fast, it's hard to tell who's got more squats. Ezekiel is at half squat when he hears-

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Time!

Pauly and Ezekiel look up at the board. Ezekiel's score reads "69".

EZEKIEL

Beat that, chump!

Pauly's score flashes on the board. "72".

Ezekiel's jaw drops. Pauly jumps into Julie's arms. Confetti rains down. Ezekiel runs to Barry.

EZEKIEL (CONT'D)

This is your fault, old man! I'm gonna use my toes to strangle you!

CLICK! Two police officers click handcuffs on Ezekiel's wrist and ankles.

OFFICER
You're under arrest for armed
robbery of arms.

Pauly and Julie watch Ezekiel get arrested and laugh. The Officer walks over to them, still holding Ezekiel in handcuffs.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Hey, Pauly! Now that we found your
arms, we could reattach them for
you.

Pauly and Julie look at each other.

PAULY
No thanks, Officer. I have some
legs I need to train.

Pauly and Julie stride off into the sunset.

FADE OUT: