

#2223

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"The Game You Learn From Your Father"

by

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#2223

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

Rev. 12/30/84

"The Game You Learn From Your Father"

CAST

MILTON C. HARDCASTLE
MARK McCORMICK

DUKE McQUIRE
BILL BAUER
CLERK
COP #1
PARAMEDIC
SHEILA PARKS
JULIE CHAI
SPORTSCASTER
BARTENDER
COACH HARMSON
NICK FARREL
DONALD FARREL
TEAMMATE
BETTY
CHUCK FOSTER
RON CEY
TEENAGE BOY
NEWSCASTER
COP #2
BILL DAVIS
ANNOUNCER
FATHER
SON

"The Game You Learn From Your Father"

SETS

EXTERIORS

GULL'S WAY
LOS ANGELES
GROCERY MART
VARIOUS CAR CHASES
SAN QUENTIN PRISON (STOCK)
/PRISON GATES
MICKEY'S BAR & GRILL
OFFICE BUILDING
LASALLE PARK
/BASEBALL DIAMOND

HIGHWAY
BASEBALL STADIUM
/BASEBALL FIELD
/PARKING LOT
/BULL PEN
/MOUND
TALL BUILDING DOWNTOWN L.A.

INTERIORS

GULL'S WAY
/HARDCASTLE'S DEN

GROCERY MART
SQUAD CAR

AMBULANCE
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM
/SET OF DOORS
/SURGERY ROOM
MICKEY'S BAR
BASEBALL STADIUM
RECEPTION AREA IN OFFICE BLDG.
FOSTER'S OFFICE
PICKUP TRUCK
LOCKER ROOM
OPEN HOOD
NICK FARREL'S HOUSE

"The Game You Learn From Your Father"ACT ONE

FADE IN

1 EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT 1

Somewhere on the east side, and this neighborhood is not a nice one. Boarded windows and steel grates cover most of the store fronts and an occasional street-hype slips anonymously through the night. Then:

2 ANGLE - BILL BAUER 2

He rounds a corner with both of his hands jammed into the pocket of a wornout greatcoat. Bauer is about thirty-four years old, and if we look beyond his stringy hair and pockmarked face, we can see that he was once a handsome young man... As he walks past CAMERA we also notice that he limps quite severely, dragging his right leg along the pavement.

CUT TO

3 CLOSE ON - A CASH REGISTER 3

It rings open, change is made and a six-pack of beer is stuffed into a brown paper bag.

4 WIDEN ANGLE - INT. GROCERY MART - NIGHT 4

Bauer thumps through the magazine rack as a man exits with the six-pack of beer. The clerk is a short man with tattooed forearms and, as he turns back to his portable TV that sits on the counter, Bauer walks up to him.

BAUER

Bag'a chips and a soda.

The clerk tosses Bauer a bag of chips.

CLERK

Soda's in the cooler back there.

CONTINUED

4

CONTINUED

4

Bauer makes a turn toward the back of the store then wheels around to the clerk and jams a gun in his chest.

BAUER

Okay, Pop! Don't move!

Bauer punches open the cash register and grabs a handful of cash.

BAUER

You got more, huh? Any more?!

The clerk shakes his head and Bauer backs off. Then, just as he turns for the door the clerk pulls a pistol out from under the counter and pumps off three or four rounds.

5

EXT. GROCERY MART - NIGHT

5

Bauer smashes through the plate-glass door and stumbles out into the night, shot and bleeding from a hole in his chest. We can hear sirens screaming toward us from somewhere off in the distance as Bauer struggles and then falls to the ground.

6

thru
11

OMITTED

6

thru
11

SMASH CUT TO

12 CLOSE ON - A SET OF DOORS - INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT 12

as they blow into CAMERA and Bauer is wheeled in on a stretcher. He's in bad shape and the nurses and doctors try to work on him as they wheel him toward O.R. ... But, he's kicking and fighting.

BAUER

No! No one is touching me until I see Hardcastle. Judge Hardcastle, ... I gotta talk to him....

DOCTOR

We're losing pulse here, gimme some adrenalin. *

Bauer kicks away the syringe and:

BAUER

Don't give me nothing, I wanna talk to Hardcastle!

He is wheeled into O.R. and:

TIME CUT

12A RESUME - SET OF DOORS 12A

And again they blow into CAMERA and Hardcastle enters. He moves quickly toward two cops that are standing guard outside of the O.R. room.

HARDCASTLE

He's in there?

Before either one of them can answer, Hardcastle blows through the doors.

13 INT. SURGERY - NIGHT 13

Bill Bauer is strapped to an operating table and a doctor named SHEILA PARKS is taking readings off of a medical computer that is, among other things, monitoring Bauer's heartbeat. She moves to Hardcastle.

HARDCASTLE

How is he?

CONTINUED

PARKS

Not good. He won't let us touch him until he talks to you. I think he knows he's gonna die and he keeps saying he wants to make some kind of statement.

Hardcastle moves up to the operating table and Bauer looks up to him, breathing through a hose in his nose.

HARDCASTLE

Hi, Billy.

Hardcastle reaches for Bauer's hand, he squeezes it. Bauer squeezes back.

HARDCASTLE

You wanna talk to me?

Bauer nods and then shoots a look to Doctor Parks and a nurse.

HARDCASTLE

Give us a little time, huh?

PARKS

He doesn't have any time.

Bauer coughs and kicks at his tubes.

BAUER

Get'em outta here, Judge. Please.

Hardcastle shoots a look to Parks.

PARKS

Five minutes.

Doctor Parks and the nurse leave as Hardcastle pulls a chair up next to Bauer.

HARDCASTLE

You gotta let'em help you, Billy.

CONTINUED

BAUER

(shrugs)

Why? I've been dying for a long time, Judge. Now,

(coughs)

I wanna do something that's good. Gotta turn something around.

HARDCASTLE

You'll have time to do that.

BAUER

(shakes his head)

You sent up a best friend of mine for murder one and armed robbery about ten years ago. Duke McQuire, remember?

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, you used to play ball together back at Southern State. You want me to get him a message?

BAUER

I want you to let him out of prison.

(coughs)

He didn't do it. I did.... Duke wasn't even there.

We can see that this hits Hardcastle like a freight train.

BAUER

You gotta believe me... I pulled to the trigger on that. Me, Judge. It was me.

HARDCASTLE

Duke was your buddy, Bill. Why would you do that?

BAUER

'Cause he was driving when that crash ruined my career. Got me crippled, Judge...

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

That was an accident, Billy.
Duke was a friend.

BAUER

I know...

(coughs)

But I hated Duke enough to set
him up for murder... I was
paid twenty-five grand to do it.

HARDCASTLE

By who? Who paid you, Billy?

Bauer shakes his head.

BAUER

Just tell Duke I'm sorry.

And it looks like Bauer falls off to sleep... Then, the
"beeping" line goes flat on the heart monitor.

HARDCASTLE

I'll tell him.

and we:

CUT TO

CLOSE ON - A WHITE RECTANGLE

in the shape of a strike zone and painted on a cinder
brick wall. Then, a baseball flashes over CAMERA and
drills this rectangle, dead center. After a beat, another
ball whips over CAMERA and again smacks against the cinder
bricks like it was shot out of a cannon.

REVERSE ANGLE - DUKE McQUIRE

In mid-stretch of a baseball pitcher's windup. McQuire
is fluid, strong and smooth as he snaps off a fast ball
and a second later we can hear it smack against the cinder
bricks. He picks up a rosin bag and as CAMERA MOVES IN
we can see that McQuire is dressed in prison blues, but

CONTINUED

15

CONTINUED

15

he's still a handsome and clean cut thirty-three year old. He winds up again with the grace of an athlete who has thrown a million pitches, and we get the feeling he has.

P.A. SYSTEM (OVER)

Duke McQuire report to the warden's office. Duke McQuire report to the warden's office.

There is a beat as Duke reacts to the P.A. and then he hurls another perfect pitch at his cinder brick batter and on the "smack" he clenches his fist and jerks his throwing arm.

McQUIRE

OOOUUUUTTTTT!!!

He walks off through the prison yard, past inmates and barbed wire, as we:

CUT TO

16
and
17

OMITTED

16
and
17

18

CLOSE ON - NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

18

it reads:

"Star Pitcher Gets Life In Prison"

There is a picture of Duke McQuire from ten years ago. He wears a baseball uniform and holds a trophy.

- 19 WIDEN ANGLE TO INCLUDE - HARDCASTLE 19
He is sitting at a makeshift desk in the cellar of Gull's Way. It is late and maybe he yawns and then continues to pore over McQuire's file.
- 20 OMITTED 20
and
21 21
- 22 REVERSE ANGLE - ON HARDCASTLE'S BACK 22
and we are SHOOTING OVER THE SHOULDER of whoever it is that came down from upstairs. He moves toward the judge:
- 23 RESUME - HARDCASTLE 23
as a cup of coffee is put down right in front of him and he jumps back, startled.
- HARDCASTLE
Hey!
- 24 WIDEN TO INCLUDE - McCORMICK 24
dressed in a robe and smiling.
- HARDCASTLE
What are you doing...?
You scared the hell out of me!
- McCORMICK
Sorry... Thought you might want some coffee.

CONTINUED

24

CONTINUED

24

Hardcastle regards the cup of coffee.

*

HARDCASTLE

Thanks... I didn't mean to yell at you, Mark. It's just, I don't know.

MCCORMICK

C'mon Judge, it's three in the morning, why don't you give it a rest.

HARDCASTLE

I can't...

McCormick picks up one of the newspaper clippings.

HARDCASTLE

(Re: clipping)

It's a real award winner, isn't it...

25

INSERT - CLIPPING

25

and this one reads:

"Duke McQuire Goes 0 for 1 On Appeal"
Sentenced To Life Without Parole

26

RESUME SCENE

26

MCCORMICK

It wasn't your fault, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

When an innocent man goes to jail for ten years, it's somebody's fault, Mark. I was the judge sitting on McQuire's case. I sent him to prison.

*

CONTINUED

26

CONTINUED

26

McCORMICK

You didn't convict him, Judge.
The jury did.

HARDCASTLE

Maybe. But, if Duke McQuire
was innocent, I should have
pounded on his case until
something bounced out. I
didn't.

McCORMICK

So, nobody's perfect... You did
the best you could. C'mon, get
some sleep.

HARDCASTLE

I'm not tired.

Hardcastle yawns.

HARDCASTLE

Y'know, according to my notes
here, during McQuire's trial,
I refused to hear some testimony
presented by McQuire's defense
attorney...

McCORMICK

Why wouldn't you hear it?

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Maybe I was trying to give Duke's lawyer a little lesson in courtroom etiquette... He was a young kid right outta law school and y'know, old Hardcase has to go by the book, play the rules, don't bend them, 'cause they might break.

McCORMICK

I don't believe that, Judge. You're not that way now, and I doubt you ever were...

HARDCASTLE

Well, I must'a been back then 'cause I didn't hear the evidence. Ya'see, Duke McQuire's lawyer had a witness from outta state. He was a major league scout... Instead of bringing him all the way into L.A. he had the testimony typed up and was going to read it to the jury...

(Beat)

But, he forgot to have it notarized by another judge. You gotta do that when a witness doesn't appear in person.

McCORMICK

Well, couldn't McQuire's lawyer have gone back to his witness and re-state the testimony? That would have been grounds for an appeal.

HARDCASTLE

Absolutely.

We can see that Hardcastle is real upset.

HARDCASTLE

Trouble was, two weeks after McQuire's conviction, that baseball scout from outta state died of a heart attack.

(Beat)

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE (cont'd)

Without his testimony, there was no grounds for appeal and Duke went off to spend the rest of his life in prison.

MCCORMICK

Did you ever find out what the testimony was?

HARDCASTLE

(wry)

Of course not. I'm a good judge, kiddo. By the book.

(Beat)

I never heard it and Duke went to prison.

*

*

and we:

CUT TO

27

EXT. SAN QUENTIN PRISON - STOCK - DAY

27

Cement walls and watch towers.

28

ANGLE - PRISON GATES

28

as they open and Duke McQuire walks through them and into the free world. He looks to be wearing the same clothes he wore going in ten years ago. A kind of dated collegiate outfit, maybe a letter sweater and chinos. He also carries a small overnight bag, and looped through the grip is a well worn baseball mitt...as he looks up, we can see a mixture of surprise and confusion on his face. Off this look:

29

REVERSE - ANGLE

29

and we can see maybe fifteen newspaper reporters, TV action cameras and journalists swarm toward McQuire. Newspaper vans and TV camera trucks are parked in the b.g. and one of the TV reporters takes a position in front of a video camera and snaps on her mike. Her name is JULIE CHAI.

CHAI

I'm Julie Chai coming to you live from San Quentin State Penitentiary where just moments ago former Southern State College baseball star Duke McQuire was released after serving ten years for first degree murder... A crime, apparently, that Duke McQuire did not commit.

(to McQuire)

Mister McQuire, could you make a statement please?

MATCH CUT TO

30

CLOSE ON - TV SCREEN

30

as Hardcastle watches from his den and we can see McQuire move up next to Julie Chai on the TV.

MCQUIRE

That depends on whether anyone is gonna listen to me this time.

CHAI

You sound bitter.

MCQUIRE

Bitter? I just spent ten years of my life in prison for a crime I did not commit. I don't think "bitter" covers what I feel... Hatred is more like it.

Hardcastle reacts. This isn't easy for him.

CONTINUED

30

CONTINUED

30

McQUIRE

And I'd just like to ask
District Attorney Peterson,
my jury, and Judge
Hardcastle just how they're
gonna give me back ten years
of my life.

McCormick enters the den and stands next to Hardcastle,
watching the TV.

CHAI

One more thing, Duke. What
about your baseball career?

McQUIRE

I'm thirty-three years old,
lady. What do you want
from me.

McCormick clicks off the TV set. There is a beat.

McCORMICK

C'mon, let me take you out
and buy you a beer? There's
a great little place right
by the pier.

CONTINUED

Hardcastle doesn't answer.

MCCORMICK

Maybe get something to eat
and then go catch a movie.

HARDCASTLE

Y'know, when Duke McQuire
was a junior at Southern
State, he went nineteen and
two. Some folks thought he
was going to be the best
pitcher in the major leagues
since Sandy Koufax.

MCCORMICK

It's not your fault, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Had a sinker that you couldn't
hit with a canoe paddle.

MCCORMICK

Judge....

Hardcastle shoots McCormick a look.

HARDCASTLE

Whatt'a ya think ten years
of a life like that is
worth, kiddo?

MCCORMICK

I don't know, Judge.
Probably alot.

CONTINUED

30

CONTINUED - 3

30

HARDCASTLE

It's worth everything, Mark.

(Beat)

Everything he never got a chance to do...

and we:

CUT TO

31

EXT. MICKEY'S BAR AND GRILL - NIGHT

31

This is one of those sports lounges in downtown L.A.

VOICE (OVER)

Twenty-two year old Stu Besch appears ready to sign a mega-bucks deal...

CUT TO

32

CLOSE ON - A TELEVISION SET

32

as the SPORTSCASTER continues:

SPORTSCASTER

....with an American league team very soon. Besch, thirteen and five in college ball last spring had the best...

*

33

PULL BACK TO INCLUDE - BAR

33

and we see Duke McQuire sitting at the bar and drinking. He is alone except for the bartender. They both watch TV.

SPORTSCASTER

(continuing)

collegiate record since Duke McQuire. McQuire, coincidentally, was released from San Quentin today after serving ten years for a murder he did not commit.

*

CONTINUED

33

CONTINUED

33

and the bartender turns off the TV.

BARTENDER

You believe that? Poor kid
gets his life ruined for
something he didn't even do.

McQuire finishes his drink.

BARTENDER

What was his name? MaGoon,
MaQuin?

McQUIRE

McQuire, Duke McQuire.

BARTENDER

(shakes his head)

Don't remember him... Any good?

McQuire puts a couple of bucks on the bar.

McQUIRE

I can't remember.

McQuire leaves and we:

CUT TO

34

EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

34

Hardcastle and McCormick are stripping out some brush
from along the front drive. It should be clear that
they have been working for hours and Hardcastle rides
his rake like a man possessed, working off his guilt.

MCCORMICK

(checks his watch)

You wanna maybe slow down for
a couple of minutes here, Judge.
We've been going at it since
seven o'clock this morning.

Hardcastle just keeps on working: pulling shrubs, etc.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

I'll go grab us a couple'a
beers. Whatta'ya say?

HARDCASTLE

If you can't keep up, kiddo,
take a break. Wouldn't want
you to get a heatstroke.

MCCORMICK

I wasn't worried about me, Judge.
(Beat)
Look, take it easy. Killin'
yourself out here isn't going
to help Duke McQuire.

HARDCASTLE

This has nothing to do with
McQuire. I've been wanting
to clean this out for months...
Y'know, if you'd do your chores
around here, I wouldn't have to
work this hard.

There is a beat and we can see that Hardcastle is taking it
out on McCormick a little.

MCCORMICK

You're not gonna make me feel
bad about this, Judge.

(Beat)

What? You figure if you work
yourself to exhaustion, you might
be able to get some sleep tonight?

HARDCASTLE

I'm sleeping fine... Now, you
wanna go and grab the wheelbarrel
for another load?

MCCORMICK

If you're sleepin' fine, how
come you were out shooting baskets
at three o'clock this morning.

HARDCASTLE

That isn't any of your business,
McCormick.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

No... I guess it isn't.

McCormick starts to walk off and Hardcastle throws down his rake.

HARDCASTLE

Hey Mark, look, I'm kind'a taking it out on you...
I'm sorry...

MCCORMICK

I know you are, Judge...
(smiles)
Hey look, anyone who tries to walk on water all the time, is gonna get his pants wet once in a while.

Hardcastle smiles.

HARDCASTLE

Boy, I'm gonna treasure that little bit of philosophy...

35 ANGLE - DUKE McQUIRE

35

as he walks up the driveway of Gull's Way... He looks like he hasn't slept in days.

36 RESUME - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

36

McCORMICK

Look, be mad at the system... Work to change it, but beating yourself about it isn't gonna help... It isn't gonna give Duke McQuire back the pound of time he spent inside.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah I know, that's the worst part.

37 ANGLE TO INCLUDE - McQUIRE

37

as he steps toward Hardcastle and McCormick.

McQUIRE

Ah, cut it out guys, you're gonna make me cry.

Hardcastle and McCormick react to McQuire.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Duke.

McQUIRE

Judge...

There is a beat.

HARDCASTLE

What can I do for you?

On that, McQuire pulls out a pistol and points it directly at Hardcastle.

McQUIRE

You can tell me who paid Billy Bauer to frame me for murder...

Hardcastle doesn't answer and just stares at the pistol...> McQuire pulls back the hammer.

McQUIRE

I've already done the time, Judge. I got no problem with doing the crime.

And we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

38

EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

38

McQuire still holds his pistol on Hardcastle and McCormick looks on.

McQUIRE

What did Billy tell you, Judge.
Who was it?

HARDCASTLE

I don't know.

McQUIRE

That's not the right answer.

and it looks like McQuire is gonna pull the trigger and McCormick makes a slight move. McQuire turns and aims: shaky. *

McQUIRE

Careful, I'm not as accurate as I used to be... Kind'a like my pitching game. Right, Judge? *

HARDCASTLE

Bauer died before he could tell me. All I know is that he was paid twenty-five grand to frame you.

McQUIRE

Twenty-five grand...when I was supposed to sign with the Angels, my bonus was gonna be ten times that...but, I went to prison instead...

HARDCASTLE

I'm really sorry about that, Duke.

McQUIRE

(to McCormick)

You think he is?

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

Yeah, I do.

McQUIRE

Yeah, well I'm sorry, too. Real sorry...I think my dad's real sorry, but he hasn't sobered up since I was convicted. And, y'know, I hear my mom was real sorry, but I don't know for sure because she died of cancer when I was in prison. My kid sister's sorry...and so's the girl I was supposed to marry...I hear she's got three kids now.

(beat)

So, ya'see, Judge. Your "sorry" don't count much by comparison.

McCORMICK

So, killing him will square that?

McQUIRE

(shrugs)

Well, the way I figure it, the state owes me one class "A" felony, so if I pull the trigger on the judge here, it makes us even.

McQuire hesitates as he struggles to pull the trigger and McCormick sweeps his rake toward him, catching McQuire in the face with a spray of dirt. We play this fistfight as Hardcastle wrestles the gun away from McQuire and finally his knees just buckle and he starts to cry.

McQUIRE

I don't know what to do...

There is a beat and McCormick picks up McQuire's pistol and hands it to Hardcastle.

McCORMICK

Cover him, I'll call the cops.

CONTINUED

38

CONTINUED - 2

38

Hardcastle checks the chamber of the pistol and we can see that it's empty.

HARDCASTLE

No, don't... It wasn't loaded.

Hardcastle shoots a look to McQuire.

HARDCASTLE

Pretty stupid to pull down on a man with an empty gun, Duke.

McQuire doesn't answer and Hardcastle walks to him, helping him up.

HARDCASTLE

If you came over here to scare me, you did. But it's not gonna make this any easier on either of us.

MCQUIRE

It wasn't fair, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

I know...

(Beat)

Lemme fix you something to eat.

CUT TO

39

CLOSE ON - CATCHER'S MITT

39

Just as a fastball smacks into the deep leather pocket with the sound of a gunshot. Then, WIDEN TO INCLUDE:

40

INT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

40

And on the mound is NICKY FARREL. He is about Duke McQuire's age, but not nearly as fit or good looking. We can see a bit of a bulge hanging over this belt and one gets the feeling that this spring training might be his last. He winds up again and throws hard... Coach Harmson stands off by the dugout and holds a RADAR-GUN on Nicky's fastball.

HARMSON (cont'd)

(calls out)

That's it, guys. Tomorrow
seven a.m.

Harmsen walks off toward the dugout and Nick Farrel's
FATHER, DONALD FARREL, approaches him. Farrel wears
baseball pants and a team jacket that is marked -
ASSISTANT PITCHING COACH.

FARREL

What kind'a heat my boy throwing
out there today, Coach?

HARMSON

It's early yet...

FARREL

It might be early, but I gotta
tell you considering how the
rest of the staff looks, Nick
could be a starter this season.

HARMSON

Forget it Farrel...

FARREL

Hey, I've been working with
these guys, I know.

HARMSON

I don't want you working with
anyone... Look, because'a the
deal we signed with your son...
We gotta keep you on staff. But,
that doesn't mean you get to do
anything but look and listen.

FARREL

I'm the assistant pitching coach,
Harmsen. I got a contract.

HARMSON

You're nothin' but a pilot fish,
Farrel. And if you didn't hand-
cuff yourself to Nicky, you couldn't
get a job coaching a softball team...

CONTINUED

42

CONTINUED - 2

42

FARREL

Keep Nick outta this...

HARMSON

If he doesn't get his fastball
working, I will.Harmson hands Farrel the radar-gun and walks off.
Farrel looks down at the radar-gun's readout.

43

INSERT - RADAR-GUN

43

it reads seventy-four miles an hour.

44

RESUME - SCENE

44

Nicky walks toward his dad and heads for the dugout.
We can see that Nicky is well liked by his fellow
teammates.

FARREL

Awful early to quit practicing,
guys. Anybody for a little
pepper?

CONTINUED

Everyone on the team ignores Farrel, including his son.

FARREL

You don't win the pennant, without
working for it, fellas.

(beat)

C'mon, let's go...I'll hit some
flys to the outfield.

Everybody continues to ignore him.

FARREL

Whatta we got, a bunch'a Nancys
on this team...?

NICK

C'mon, Dad...

Farrel stops his son by just pointing a finger at him.

FARREL

Nick-O, hey!

(to group)

What? He's the only guy with
what it takes to make the pennant? *

NICK

We're tired...

FARREL

You don't think Gehrig got tired?

NICK

But --

FARREL

There's no "buts" in baseball.

(beat)

Get your mitt.

We can see that Nicky feels like an embarrassed child.

NICK

Dad, look, it's late.

FARREL

Get your mitt.

Farrel walks off toward home plate and snatches a catcher's
mitt outta the rack by the dugout.

CONTINUED

FARREL

C'mon, gimme the high smoke,
Nicky kid.

There is a beat and then Nicky goes out after his dad.

NICK

Dad, Coach Harmson says I'm supposed
to be soaking my shoulder.

FARREL

Remember who got to the majors,
Nicky. Now, c'mon...

(re: radar-gun)

You're eight miles'n hour off'a
last year.

(winds up)

I think you got to step up and
out, y'know a little higher when
you lead that foot.

Nicky is both embarrassed and pissed as one of his team-
mates sticks his head out of the dugout and calls out to
Nicky.

TEAMMATE

Hey, Farrel, you comin' or what?

FARREL

No, he's not.

NICK

Dad, we can do this tomorrow. I've
made plans, you know that.

FARREL

And I told you I don't want you
seeing that guy, Nicky. At this
stage'a your career you don't need
a scandal.

NICK

Scandal? Duke didn't do anything.
That's why they let him out.

FARREL

Who knows why they let him out...?
That boy's been trouble ever since
(MORE)

FARREL (cont'd)
he was in little league. I coached
him, Nick-O. I know.

NICK
Duke McQuire's not a boy, Dad...
he's a man, and he's a friend'a
mine. I want to see him.

FARREL
When it cools off, he keeps his
nose clean. Maybe...

NICK
Dad, please?

There is a beat as these two guys look at each other. We
can see that Nick is very frustrated: he's been going
through this for years.

FARREL
You start hanging out with an
ex-con, pretty soon someone sees
you throwing dice in Atlantic
City and bam! The commissioner
kicks you outta the game.

NICK
I'm just gonna meet him for a beer.

Farrel tosses Nicky a ball.

FARREL
Hey, Nick...who's your best pal?
Huh? Who?

There is no answer and Farrel playfully cuffs Nick in
the head.

NICK
Do you have any idea how
embarrassing this is for me?
I'm thirty-four hears old, dad.

FARREL
Yeah? And who wiped your nose Nick?
Who bowed and scraped to get you into
this game, huh? I sold my house for
you, gave up my job... I had a life
once, son... I could'a just let you
forget about the game like a lotta
other dads, but I didn't. I gave up my
life so you could spend yours wearing
a major league uniform.

CONTINUED

NICK

I know, all right. I'm sorry.
But, would you take it easy?

FARREL

Easy don't make it, Nick-O.
Never does....

(smiles)

Who's your clean-up batter,
Nick-O?

Nick shuffles uncomfortable.

CONTINUED

44

CONTINUED - 5

44*

NICK

You are...

FARREL

And who knows what's best for the Farrel team?

NICK

You do...

FARREL

I can't hear you?

NICK

You do.

FARREL

All right, Nick-O kid.

He puts his arm around his son and walks him to the mound.

FARREL

See, dad's not just your own personal pitching coach, Nick-O...he's your business manager, and he's your best pal...now, watch the way you dip that hip when you're stepping onto your fastball, Nick-O.

Nicky nods and we:

CUT TO

45

EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

45

It is a clear and calm day out on the California coast.

46

INT. HARDCASTLE'S DEN - DAY

46

McQuire and Hardcastle exchange looks as McCormick watches from across the room.

McQUIRE

I was in prison for ten years, two months and six days...and the only way I kept my sanity was because I knew that one day someone would find out I was innocent.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

And when they did, you went
looking to blow someone away.

McQUIRE

(shrugs)

Every time I read the sports page
I saw some young kid living the
life I was supposed to live...
enough of that'll make anyone
crazy.

HARDCASTLE

Duke's right, Mark. It's a tragedy.
He could'a been a champion.

MCCORMICK

Hey, excuse me. But, champions
aren't something you become 'cause
all the pieces fall into place. *

McQUIRE

That's real easy to say for a guy
who got all the breaks...lives here,
drives a hot car.

McCormick laughs and shoots a look at Hardcastle.
Hardcastle side-steps the issue. *

HARDCASTLE

How's the arm, Duke?

CONTINUED

46

CONTINUED - 2

46

McQUIRE

For a guy my age, not bad.

HARDCASTLE

It's better'n "not bad". You went fourteen and 0 in the prison league last year.

We can see that McQuire is surprised that Hardcastle knows his prison stats.

HARDCASTLE

And the year before that you went nine and three...and before that, ten and five...

McQUIRE

How the hell do you know my stats?

McCORMICK

The Judge spends a lotta time in the basement collating three by five cards, and updating his notes on who's where in the big house. It's kind'a like a hobby.

Hardcastle ignores.

HARDCASTLE

You're still one heck of a pitcher, Duke.

McQUIRE

Maybe against guys who steal cars and hold up gas stations, yeah. But, so what?

HARDCASTLE

So maybe we can find a way to get you back into the game.

CONTINUED

McQUIRE

Look, guys. Thanks, but there's not a pro team in either league that would take a look at a guy my age. And I don't have time to start down in the minors.

Hardcastle looks to McQuire: serious.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, maybe you're right.

(paces)

Y'know, for a minute there, I thought you might wanna see if you ever really had it... But, I guess it's a lot easier to go for the sympathy.

McQUIRE

What the hell do you want me to do?

HARDCASTLE

I want you to pick up what you've got left and see if you can make it work.

McQUIRE

Try to make the majors?

HARDCASTLE

Exactly...

MCCORMICK

It's a great idea, Judge...But, how?

HARDCASTLE

When I was an attorney about twenty-five years ago, I handled Chuck Foster's divorce for his third wife...saved him a fortune on alimony.

McQUIRE

Chuck Foster, the owner of the California Stars, that Chuck Foster?

CONTINUED

46

CONTINUED - 4

46

Hardcastle winks.

MCCORMICK

No offense, Judge. But, baseball is big business now...I mean, you don't get a try-out because twenty-five years ago you kept Chuck Foster's wife from getting half'a the silver-ware.

HARDCASTLE

(getting excited)

All we need is to get our foot in the door and Duke here'll do the rest.

MCCORMICK

Judge, you're not gonna get your foot in the door without what, today, has become the most important thing in sports...

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, talent...and Duke has a ton of it. *

MCCORMICK

What we need is a media event, Judge. *

HARDCASTLE

"Talent" is the media event. *

Hardcastle goes to his desk drawer, opens it and flips McCormick a baseball. *

HARDCASTLE

You warm up our boy here.

(beat)

I'll get you your shot, Duke.
Chuck Foster and I are old pals.

On that:

CUT TO

47

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

47

This is one of those brand new jobs in West L.A.

CONTINUED

47 CONTINUED MAN'S VOICE (OVER) 47
Who?

48 INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY 48

This is Foster Enterprises and we can see baseball pennants and bats, gloves and other baseball memorabilia hanging on the walls. A pretty receptionist named BETTY is speaking into an intercom and Hardcastle is a little embarrassed.

BETTY
Hardcastle, Mister Foster.
H-A-R-D-C-

Hardcastle leans toward the intercom.

HARDCASTLE
Hey, Chuck, c'mon, it's me...
Milt. Milt Hardcastle.

49 INTERCUT - INT. FOSTER'S OFFICE - DAY 49

The plush office of a major league baseball owner. CHUCK FOSTER sits behind a large desk and speaks into his intercom: he is maybe fifty-five, well dressed and powerful.

FOSTER
Milt?

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)
M-I-L-T.

FOSTER
Betty, would you pick up please.

50 RESUME - HARDCASTLE AND BETTY 50
as Betty picks up the telephone.

51 RESUME - FOSTER 51

FOSTER
(on telephone)
Do I know this guy?

CONTINUED

51

CONTINUED

51

BETTY

He says you do.

FOSTER

What does he want?

BETTY

Guess...he's got a hot prospect.
A kid with a great arm, hot bat
and a big glove.

FOSTER

How do these guys find me?

52

ANGLE - HARDCASTLE

52

He has just stepped through the door and into Foster's office.

HARDCASTLE

You found me, Chuck. Under legal
aid in the yellow pages back in
sixty-one. You and Jan were call-
ing it quits and you wanted me to
keep it from getting ugly...

After a beat, Foster recognizes Hardcastle.

FOSTER

Milt?

HARDCASTLE

And if you remember, I sawed
the whole knot and you got to
keep the colored TV? *

FOSTER

(smiles)

I do now...how are you?

HARDCASTLE

I've been better.

(beat)

I have to talk to you.

FOSTER

About what?

And we:

CUT TO

53

CLOSE ON - SPORTS PAGE

53

and we can see that one of the small headlines reads:

"FORMER SOUTHERN STATE STAR RELEASED FROM PRISON"

54

PULL BACK TO INCLUDE - EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

54

McCormick and McQuire are sitting out on the back porch and McQUIRE pores over the sports page.

McQUIRE

Don't you love this... Ten years ago when I was sent up, I was a page one story for three weeks... I get out, not guilty, and I'm on the back page with the wig ads.

MCCORMICK

Maybe we can change that...

(Re: Paper)

This might be what I'm looking for.

He hands his part of the article over to McQuire.

McQUIRE

Ron Cey of the Chicago Cubs to sign autographs at Lasalle Park for charity drive.

(Beat)

The Penguin's big star, he gets to do that kind'a thing.

MCCORMICK

He also led the Cubs in home runs last year.

McCormick flips through a phone book and then stops at a number, reaching for the telephone.

McQUIRE

What does that have to do with me?

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Nothing yet.
(into telephone)
Yeah, Channel Eight News?
Sports desk, please.

MCQUIRE

What are you doing? I don't
want to get into any more
trouble.

MCCORMICK

Trust me on this one, Duke.
(into telephone)
Yeah, ah, this is Jake Thomas
from United Press... Thought
you fellas on the Sports desk
might be interested in a heck
of a comeback scoop going on
out at Lasalle Park this
afternoon.

McCormick covers the telephone.

MCCORMICK

Some guys run bases...and some
guys run cons. Relax.
(into telephone)
Yeah, I'd bring a film crew,
it's gonna be big. Nah, believe
me, you won't be sorry.

And we:

CUT TO

55 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

55

We can see that Hardcastle's pickup truck is still
parked out in front.

56 INT. FOSTER'S OFFICE - DAY

56

Foster sits at his desk.

CONTINUED

FOSTER

I'm really sorry, Milt. I mean, baseball is very big business now and I can't just plug in some guy for a tryout on a favor...

HARDCASTLE

Doesn't this qualify as a special case?

FOSTER

There's a lotta ex-cons around, Milt.

HARDCASTLE

But this one wasn't guilty. I told you that.

FOSTER

Ya'see, the way it works, Milt, is this way. I have a whole system of farm clubs, coaches and scouts who feed talent into my team... Now, if I throw that system out the window just to give a chance to some guy no one even remembers, half the guys I promised a tryout to will jump to another league.

CONTINUED

56

CONTINUED - 2

56

HARDCASTLE

Just a couple of pitches, Chuck.

FOSTER

I can't. Maybe if he generates a little heat and we can get some press outta it, okay. But, until then, he's a nobody...and I'm in the star business.

And we:

CUT TO

57

EXT. LASALLE PARK - ON RON CEY

57

He is dressed in his Cubs uniform and signs autographs in a throng of baseball fans and kids, etc. We can see newspaper and TV trucks in the b.g. back where the Coyote is parked. A BANNER is strung across a couple of trees... It reads:

RON CEY IN PERSON FOR THE
JACOPSON FOUNDATION

A microphone has been set up and a MAN named BILL DAVIS speaks to the crowd...

58

ANGLE - McCORMICK AND McQUIRE

58

as they watch and listen. McCormick holds a baseball and glove, McQuire has a baseball cap pulled down over his ears and wears sunglasses. It's real hard to see who he is.

*

DAVIS

Any other questions for Ron Cey?

A teenage boy raises his hand.

TEENAGE BOY

Ron, hi.....I'm Dwight Herman from Amherst...what is the most important thing for a third baseman to remember in a double play situation?

CONTINUED

58

CONTINUED

58

CEY

Well, your priority is always to make at least one out... Even if that means advancing the lead runner.

59

ANGLE - McCORMICK AND McQUIRE

59

McQUIRE

This isn't gonna work.

McCORMICK

Trust me.

CEY (OVER)

Any other questions?

McCormick shoots his hand into the sky.

60

WIDEN ANGLE

60

as Cey nods to McCormick.

CEY

Yes...

McCORMICK

Hi, Ron... Mark McCormick from Malibu... Look, ah, how hard is it to make the majors? I mean really, are you guys that good?

CEY

Well, I don't know. But you figure there's only about six hundred guys in the majors. And with little league and double A, triple A, the Atlantic leagues, there's thousands of guys trying out for the majors all over the world. The competition is very stiff.

McCORMICK

So, in other words, to make it you have to be very talented?

CONTINUED

60

CONTINUED

60

CEY

I would say so, yes.

McCORMICK

Well, what about some guy, let's say my age... y'know, he's kept himself in shape, played a little in college. Has a little talent, what are his chances of making the bigs?

CEY

Are you thinking of trying out?

The crowd laughs.

McCORMICK

No. Just a question.

CEY

I don't think he'd have a chance. Every player in the pros has been playing organized baseball since he was a kid.

*

McCORMICK

No exceptions? You're sure?

CEY

Positive.

McCORMICK

Well then, in the interest of your charity here, Ron. Here's a rather sporting proposition. I have five grand that I'm willing to put up straight across the board that says my friend here, who played a little in college ten years ago, can strike you out with only three pitches.

CEY

Ah, look, that's not what I'm here for....

CONTINUED

60

CONTINUED - 2

60

The crowd cheers Cey on.

*

McCORMICK

*

Well, if you don't think you
can hit him, Ron?

and we:

And we:

CUT TO

61

ANGLE - A BASEBALL DIAMOND IN THE PARK

61

McQuire is on the mound and Cey is swinging his bat in
the batters box... McCormick is walking up toward the mound.

*

62

ANGLE - NEWSCASTER

62

as his video crew tapes this deal.

NEWSCASTER

(to his crew)

Let's roll this so we can get it
on the six o'clock sports...
I'm runnin' through it once.

(into camera)

... We're out here at Lasalle
Park where, in the name of just
good clean fun and charity,
Ron Cey has been challenged
by--

63

ANGLE - McCORMICK AND McQUIRE

63

McQuire eyes Cey.

*

McQUIRE

You could'a at least give me a
couple of more pitches...
That's Ron Cey.

*

*

CONTINUED

McCORMICK

Three pitches, Duke. That's
what makes it an event.

McQUIRE

Great.

(Beat)

I hope you have five grand in
your pocket.

McCORMICK

Nope.

McQUIRE

Oh, terrific, what do we do if
he hits me outta the park?

McCORMICK

Run...

(looks to Cey)

C'mon Duke, he's just a guy that
used to play catch with his dad
just like you did.

McCormick rubs up the ball and flips it to McQuire: walking
toward Cey and standing behind the plate like an Umpire.

McCORMICK

Three strikes for five grand...

(smiles)

Okay, Plaaaayyyy Baaaallllll!

McQuire winds up and hurls a fastball right down the pipe.
Cey swings and drills it deep into left...McCormick al-
most shits and watches as the ball slowly starts to fade
foul and he sighs, relieved.

McCORMICK

Foullllll Baaaallllll! Striiikkkee

Onnnnnneeeeeeee!

(Beat)

All right, Duker-kid, no batter
up there, no batter, kid!

Cey shoots McCormick a look and shuts him up. McQuire
hurls another pitch and Cey whiffs hard.

CONTINUED

#2223

42.
(X)

Rev. 12/30/84

McCORMICK
Striikkkeeee Twooooo!

And on the third pitch, Cey swings hard as he goes
down on one knee and nearly twists himself in half.

McCORMICK
Oouuuutttt!!!!

And as the press swarms toward the mound, Cey turns
to McCormick.

CEY
Who is he?

McCORMICK
Just a guy my age who used to
play a little in college, Ron.

and we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

65 EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT 65

A nice upper middle class bungalow in the Valley.

SPORTSCASTER (V.O.)

A good old fashioned hussle was
put on Chicago Cubs Star Ron Cey
during a charity fund raiser at
Lasalle Park this afternoon... *

CUT TO

66 CLOSE ON - TV SET 66

And we can see the Sportscaster with the footage from
the park.

SPORTSCASTER

Former Southern State Star Duke
McQuire signaled his return to
the major leagues by striking
out the National League slugger
with only three pitches...

67 REVERSE ANGLE - FARREL 67

sitting and watching the television set... We can see
that he's not happy.

SPORTSCASTER (V.O.)

McQuire, released from prison
three days ago after serving
time for a murder he did not
commit--

and:

CUT TO

68 ANOTHER TV SET 68

as the Sportscaster continues.

CONTINUED

68

CONTINUED

68

SPORTSCASTER

-- is apparently trying to get
another chance at the baseball
fame he once so well deserved.

*

*

The TV is clicked off and:

69

REVERSE ANGLE - CHUCK FOSTER

69

as he sits at his desk in his office. He picks up the
telephone.

FOSTER

(into telephone)

Yes, Betty? Get met Milt
Hardcastle please.

and we:

DISSOLVE TO

70

EXT. HIGHWAY - MORNING

70

Hardcastle's pickup streaks past CAMERA and:

71

OMITTED

*71

72 EXT. DODGER STADIUM (OR WHATEVER STADIUM WE GET) - DAY 72

Hardcastle's truck pulls in and:

CUT TO

72A EXT. STADIUM PARKING LOT - DAY 72A

as they get out of the truck and walk toward the stadium. McQuire carries a handbag with Hardcastle's name on it and he packs in his glove, spikes, etc.

McQUIRE

(Re: handbag)

Thanks for letting me use your bag.

HARDCASTLE

I used to carry my basket ball stuff in it... It's good luck.

McQUIRE

(Re: stadium)

Y'know, if you didn't lean on your old pal, Chuck Foster, I'd have to buy a ticket just to get into this place.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, well... That stunt McCormick pulled with you and Ron Cey out in the park might'a had a little to do with it, too.

McCORMICK

A "little" to do with it, Judge? C'mon, I mean give me some credit for putting together one absolutely first class con...

HARDCASTLE

Just because it worked doesn't mean it was right... And how did you plan on coming up with the five grand if Ron Cey would'a hit Duke here?

CONTINUED

72A

CONTINUED

72A

McCORMICK

That question is post facto your honor. My client did strike out Ron Cey and fulfilled specific performance.

HARDCASTLE

(to McQuire)

Can you believe I live with this guy?

McCORMICK

You wanna roll the five grand on whether my boy here makes the team?

HARDCASTLE

Gimme a break....

and we:

CUT TO

73

INT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY

73

A light practice is in session and we can see ball players playing catch, hitting balls and etc.

74

ANGLE - COACH HARMSON AND FARREL

74

as they walk across the field.

FARREL

I think we have to fight Foster on this one, Harmson. The integrity of the game is at stake here. McQuire is an ex-con...

HARMSON

Will you for once let me run my team? Foster wants McQuire to get a chance, a couple of pitches, so what?

CONTINUED

FARREL

So, it's a waste of time. We have one heck of a pitching staff already.

(Beat)

Okay, look, maybe I just don't want to see him get disappointed again.

They stop.

HARMSON

Let's face it, Farrel. Our relievers are a little weak. Nicky isn't throwing well, you know that.

*
*

FARREL

It's early, he always throws that way in the spring. I've been working with him, he'll come around.

HARMSON

McQuire's gonna get his chance, Farrel. And if your boy can't hang onto his spot, you're both off the team.

*

(smiles)

That's baseball "Coach".

On that:

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)

Coach Harmson?

ANGLE TO INCLUDE - HARDCASTLE, McCORMICK AND McQUIRE

as they walk toward Harmson and Farrel. McQuire and Farrel lock stares for a beat.

HARDCASTLE

Milt Hardcastle.

(nods to McCormick)

Mark McCormick and I'm sure that this guy here doesn't need an introduction.

HARMSON

Hi Duke... Haven't seen you since you struck out fifteen batters against Arizona State back in Seventy-three.

*

CONTINUED

McQUIRE

That was a long time ago.

HARMSON

Nah, you look great. Did you get your locker?

McQUIRE

Yeah, thanks.

McQuire turns to Farrel.

McQUIRE

(nods)

Mister Farrel. How've you been.

On that Farrel just walks off.

HARDCASTLE

What's with him?

HARMSON

That's Nick Farrel's old man. I have to carry him as an assistant coach 'cause it's in his kid's contract. But he's driving me nuts...

(Re: McQuire)

I think he's afraid that Duke here might take his kid's place... I mean, you did once, right?

MCCORMICK

(Re: Farrel)

You already know that guy?

McQUIRE

Yeah, Nick and I came up together, college, little league...

HARMSON

And before Duke went to prison, he was snatching up all the hot press. Farrel always felt Nick should'a got it... But Duke was just plain better and that's why he went first in the draft.

CONTINUED

Hardcastle shoots Farrel a look.

HARDCASTLE
How's Nick throwing this
year?

HARMSON
Not good...

McQuire looks around and takes in the stadium... He
sees Nick Farrel and walks out to him.

McQUIRE
Hey Nick-O!

CONTINUED

Nick grabs McQuire around the neck and wrestles with him:
old friends.

McQUIRE

Nick...Hey, how you been?

NICK

Fat and outt'a shape just like
I am every spring. I was gonna
come up with the other guys and
see you but, I well, was busy.

McQUIRE

Forget it.

There is a beat.

NICK

Too bad about Billy Bauer, wasn't
it?

McQUIRE

Yeah, it was.

NICK

Sometimes I can never stop think-
ing about that guy, he really
had it, until --
(he stops)

Sorry.

McQUIRE

It was an accident, Nick. I
forgave myself for that one a
long time ago. Too bad it took
Billy ten years to forgive me.
(smiles)

Whatt'a ya think? Do I have a
chance?

NICK

I think you have a better
chance'n me.

He smiles and puts his arm around Duke and walks him
toward the locker room.

FARREL (V.O.)

Nick-O!

80

ANGLE - FARREL

80

as he motions to his son.

FARREL

Get your mitt.

81

RESUME - NICK AND McQUIRE

81

as they regard Farrel.

McQUIRE

He hasn't changed, has he?

NICK

He's my dad. Y'know... Have you said "Hello" to him yet?

McQUIRE

...he didn't say "Hello" back. But, I guess, that's better than how he said I was a disgrace to the game back when I was arrested.

FARREL (V.O.)

Get you mitt, Nick-O.

*

Nick walks off toward his dad and we can see McQuire watching him go.

FARREL

C'mon, Nick. We can't waste this kind'a time. Now, that sinker'a yours is scoff'n off too much speed.

Nick and his dad walk back toward the bull-pen and Hardcastle and McCormick walk up to McQuire.

McQUIRE

(Re: Farrel and Nick)

Now, there's a part of the game that never changes.

and we:

CUT TO

82

CLOSE ON - COCAINE

82

about an ounce and a half in a small plastic bag.

83

PULL BACK TO INCLUDE - INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

83

we can see two COPS standing with Chuck Foster and Coach Harmson. On the locker we can see that McQuire's name has been printed. Hardcastle, McCormick and McQuire come around a corner off the locker room. One of the cops turns to McCormick.

COP

Are you Duke McQuire?

McCORMICK

Ah, no... He is.

HARDCASTLE

Do we have a problem here?

The cop holds up the bag of Cocaine.

COP

Someone called in an anonymous tip. This was found in McQuire's bag in his locker.

McQuire reacts and:

McQUIRE

I haven't even opened that locker yet. I swear, Judge, I, someone else must have.

HARDCASTLE

I know, Son. Relax.
(to Foster)
Duke didn't do this, Chuck.

FOSTER

Look, Milt. I was willing to give McQuire a shot at a come-back, but I have run a clean team image here... I'm sorry.

(beat)

I can't understand why you'd take this kind'a chance, McQuire.

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK

Ah, c'mon, guys, that isn't
Duke's stash, this is a roust.

COP

(to McQuire)

We're going to have to take
you in...

HARDCASTLE

On what grounds?

(Beat)

Ya'see, Duke was just assigned
that locker this morning and...

Hardcastle walks to the "Satchel Bag" that the coke
came out of... The name on it reads, Milt Hardcastle.

HARDCASTLE

Seeing as how this is my
bag, I lent it to Duke, you're
gonna maybe have to run me in
on the possession charge too... But,
(smiles to cop)

then again, I don't think anyone
downtown will believe that a
good, old, retired superior
court judge is sniffing up the
heart attack powder... Do you?

FOSTER

What do you think is all that
about, Milt?

HARDCASTLE

Like you said, Chuck, Baseball
is big business now... Maybe
somebody else on the Stars
wants to keep their spot.

(to Harmson)

We'll see you at practice
tomorrow, Coach.

And we...

CUT TO

84

EXT. GULL'S WAY - NIGHT

84

A quiet night on the coast.

McQUIRE (V.O.)

Forget practice and forget pro-
ball. I'm not going. I quit.

*

85

INT. HARDCASTLE'S DEN

85

McQuire is pissed off and Hardcastle and McCormick are there, trying to calm him down.

McQUIRE

I don't owe anyone anything.
And I'm not gonna risk getting
put back inside.

*

McCORMICK

Look, there's bad blood in
everything. When I was on
the race car circuit, some
guys who didn't have what it
takes to win would sabotage
the faster drivers...
It cost me the Outlaw Trail
Championship one year.

McQUIRE

But it didn't send you to
prison.

McCORMICK

No. That was something else.

He shoots Hardcastle a look.

HARDCASTLE

Apples'n oranges, McCormick.
They're not even close.

*

There is a beat.

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Is there anyone you can think of that would'a try to set you up again? A cocaine possession now would finish you.

*

McQuire shrugs.

McQUIRE

I don't know, Judge. I mean, yeah, I guess there are a lot of guys who might think I'm standing in their way... Back ten years ago and now I guess.

(Beat)

There's only so many guys in the majors, and you run into almost all of them on your way up.

*

*

MCCORMICK

How many of the guys you played with back in college are still in the game?

*

McQUIRE

Quite a few... Hertzog's still with the Blues, Sheldon, Swerling. Lots'a pitchers... Nick Farrel.

(smiles)

We've got the longevity, I guess.

*

HARDCASTLE

Okay, look, Duke. Your senior year in college you went fourteen and O... You looked like the number one draft choice, every one in the majors was waving contracts in your face. You were the bonus baby... Of all the guys you played with back then, who had the most to gain with you out of the way?

CONTINUED

McQUIRE

What are you getting at?

HARDCASTLE

I'm just trying to connect that coke that was planted in your locker to Billy Bauer framing you for murder.

McQUIRE

That was ten years ago... Bauer is dead, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, but maybe the person who paid him the twenty-five grand isn't.

(Beat)

And if you keep on trying to make the team we might be able to see whose buttons are getting pushed.

McQUIRE

I don't want to cause any trouble, Judge. I just wanna play ball.

HARDCASTLE

I know.

There is a beat.

MCCORMICK

Whatta'ya say, Duke. You wanna take another swing at this?

And we:

CUT TO

CLOSE ON - A BAT

as it swings and misses at a fastball and:

PULL BACK TO - SERIES OF SHOTS - MONTAGE - BASEBALL FIELD - DAY 87

And here we play all the rites of spring as McQuire throws hard and strikes out batter after batter... We see Nick getting knocked off the box as Farrel watches with disgust. Hardcastle and McCormick look on with Foster and Coach Harmson. We see handshakes and maybe a contract is signed. This montage should establish the passage of maybe a week or so... Then:

CUT TO

88 CLOSE ON NEWSPAPER - SPORTS PAGE

88

The headline reads:

DUKE McQUIRE TO SIGN WITH STARS

*

Then:

88A OMITTED

88A

CUT TO

89 EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

89

Hardcastle, McCormick and McQuire walk toward McQuire's sedan that is parked in the lot...

McQUIRE

It's a dream come true.

(Beat)

And Coach Harmson says I might get to pitch in our pre-season opener.

HARDCASTLE

You deserve it, Duke. I'm just sorry we had to take that wrong turn together.

McQUIRE

Me too...

(to McCormick)

Thanks, Mark...

They shake hands.

McCORMICK

How do you feel?

McQUIRE

The arm's great... But, I'm a little scared.

McCORMICK

Relax, the judge and I are still keepin' a close eye on you.

(smiles)

See you on the mound, Duke.

CONTINUED

89

CONTINUED

89

McQuire walks over and gets in his sedan as McCormick watches*
him. He tries to start it but it won't start.

90

McCORMICK - POV

90

as he sees that the hood is slightly open. *

McCORMICK
Hey, wait, Duke. *

91

RESUME SCENE

91

McCormick goes to the sedan and pulls open the hood. *

92

INT. OPEN HOOD

92

and we see that a bomb has been attached to the electrics
of the car. We can see a digital read-out of one of
those small liquid crystal watches ticking down from
six seconds.

McCORMICK
Get him out of the car,
Judge!

Hardcastle and McCormick haul McQuire out of the car.

McCORMICK
Run!!!!

As they run off and maybe get a hundred feet away, the
bomb blows the sedan maybe twenty-five feet in the air
and it is engulfed in flames. The shock waves flattening
our three guys... Play this as the sedan burns, and:

HARDCASTLE
All right, that's it. Now,
I start playing hardball.

And we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

93 EXT. A TALL BUILDING IN DOWNTOWN L.A. - DAY 93

We can see a sign out in front that reads:

HALL OF RECORDS - LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Hardcastle's truck is parked out in front and after a beat we can see him exit the building with a file under his arm.

CUT TO

94 EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY 94

As Hardcastle's pickup truck drives up.

MCCORMICK (V.O.)

Where the heck were you?

95 INT. HARDCASTLE'S DEN - DAY 95

McCormick, Hardcastle and McQuire are there and Hardcastle is reviewing the file he took from the Hall of Records.

HARDCASTLE

I spent all night in Records and I.D. running down every person that might'a had contact with Duke here when he was playing ball.

MCCORMICK

Did you find anything....?

HARDCASTLE

I think so, yeah.
(to McQuire)
How much a problem did you have with Nick Farrel's old man back when you were playing ball?

MCQUIRE

What do you mean?

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE

Did he ever threaten you, start rumors, bad-mouth your performance in a game? That kind'a thing.

McQUIRE

(wry)

All the time... Whenever I got the nod instead'a Nick-O, old man Farrel went right to the coach and started screaming.

McCORMICK

Was he around when you had the traffic accident and Bill Bauer got hurt?

McQUIRE

Boy, was he... I mean, I knew it was my fault, and I felt horrible about it. Bill was a good friend and a heck of a ball player... But, old man Farrel wouldn't let me up for a minute about it. Every time he had a chance to talk to the press he would say what a disgrace I was to the game.

McCORMICK

I guess he figured the more bad press you got, the better Nick would look for being a first round draft choice.

McQUIRE

Exactly...

(beat)

But, it didn't seem to make much difference, I still went number one in the draft, and Farrel never got over that, let me tell you.

HARDCASTLE

I guess not.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

HARDCASTLE (cont'd)

(Re: file)

Listen... I got this outta the county tax recorder. Two weeks before Bill Bauer pulled the trigger in that hold-up and framed you... Farrel sold his house for twenty-five grand.

Off McQuire's look:

MCCORMICK

How come that doesn't surprise me.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, I know... Anyway, it was worth fifty. He sold it fast for cash...

(Beat)

And twenty-five grand was what Bauer said he was paid to set you up.

(to McCormick)

Whatta'ya think?

MCCORMICK

I think we should go talk to this guy.

And we:

CUT TO

96

EXT, HOUSE - DAY

96

This is where Mister Farrel lives, it is a little run down. Hardcastle's pickup truck is parked in the drive.

97

INT. HOUSE - DAY

97

We can see that Farrel is angry as Hardcastle, McQuire and McCormick confront him with the facts.

FARREL

I think you're way outta bounds on this one...

(Re: McQuire)

And as far as I'm concerned, this punk still belongs in prison...

(at McQuire)

You ruined Bill Bauer's life... you're a busher, McQuire... You always were.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, well that's something you'd know about, Farrel.

(Beat)

But, you see, I got a little problem here. Bauer was paid twenty-five grand to frame Duke...

We can see Farrel react.

FARREL

This all sounds like fantasy to me.

HARDCASTLE

Maybe, but Bauer confessed to that just before he died... That's why Duke was released from prison. And, I think it more than a coincidence that you sold your house for the same amount...

There is a beat.

McCORMICK

What did you do with the money, "coach"?

CONTINUED

97

CONTINUED

97

FARREL

(measured and hot)

What I do with my money is my business... Now, get outta my house.

HARDCASTLE

Be glad to, but I'm gonna be building a case against you, Farrel. I want you to know that.

FARREL

Go ahead... But with Bill Bauer dead, it won't be a good one. Get out.

They leave and after a beat, Farrel reaches for his telephone and:

97A

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

97A

Hardcastle's pickup truck streaks past CAMERA.

McQUIRE

You mean, that's it? Farrel's right?

97B

INT. TRUCK - DAY

97B

Hardcastle drives with McQuire and McCormick.

McQUIRE

We can't just go and have him arrested?

HARDCASTLE

Well, not yet, anyway. Without Bill Bauer to testify that it was Farrel who put up the money to frame you, we don't have a case.

McCORMICK

So, whatt'a we do, Judge. Stay close and see if Farrel tries to make another move on Duke? I don't think he's dumb enough to try that.

HARDCASTLE

I don't either... But, maybe something else will break.

98

OMITTED

98

CUT TO

99 INT. BASEBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

99

It is empty and the size of this place is told with the echo of footsteps as they come down one of the concrete tunnels that eases to the infield. There is a beat and then Nick appears in the spotlight of the field. He walks to the backstop.

NICK

Dad?

(beat)

Hey, Dad?

There is no answer and then a BASEBALL whizzes past Nick's head and bounces off the back stop.

100 REVERSE ANGLE - FARREL

100

as he picks up another ball and winds up hurling it at his son...another near miss.

101 WIDEN TO INCLUDE SCENE

101

As Farrel walks up to his son.

FARREL

What the hell did you do, Nick?

NICK

Whatta'ya mean, Dad.

Farrel slaps Nick across the face.

FARREL

Don't lie to me, boy... What did you do to Duke McQuire? Ten years ago, Nick. What did you and Bill Bauer do to Duke?

We can start to see here that Nick is starting to come apart. He's a little short on mental health.

NICK

I don't know why you're mad at me dad... I mean, yeah, I've had a tough spring but I'm still in training. My fast ball's coming back. I've been working on it just like you said to.

CONTINUED

101

CONTINUED

101

FARREL

Shut up!

He grabs Nick.

FARREL

Ten years ago you said you needed help because you got a girl in trouble... She wanted twenty-five grand... And what did I do? I sold my house for you boy. No questions asked... I did that so nothing, not that girl, not anyone would stand in our way to the pros.

NICK

I know... I appreciated that, Dad. I did. We're a team.

FARREL

There was no girl in trouble, Nick. There was no paternity suit... You used the money to pay Bill Bauer to frame Duke for murder.

He pushes Nick away.

FARREL

My God, what kind of a son have I raised?

(Beat)

Farrels don't have to cheat, Nick.

NICK

Dad, please.

FARREL

And then you go and put cocaine in Duke's locker.

*

There is a beat.

FARREL

Why? Why humiliate me like this?

NICK

(laughs)

You don't know... Okay, yeah, that's what I did... You wanna know why?

(MORE)

CONTINUED

NICK (cont'd)

(Beat)

Because finishing in second place was never enough for you, Dad... Winning was everything and finishing second was losing... Duke was better'n me. He was better in little league, he was better in high school, college. He was always better.

FARREL

No he wasn't, Nick. You just had to work for it... Throw harder, be a man.

NICK

You're wrong! Every one knew he was better but you. I was good, but not as good as Duke.

FARREL

He wasn't better! You had it all Nick-O... You had a dad who cared, a dad who made all the sacrifices so you could play the game... I coached you myself, every day, I know.

NICK

It wasn't me you were coaching. It was you. You wanted me to be a ball player just so you wouldn't be a loser... You just wanted people to say, "there goes Nick Farrel's old man".

(Beat)

But, I wasn't enough... and every day I knew that no matter what I did it wasn't gonna be enough. Duke was better, Dad, and him being better was the only thing that kept you from loving me...

Farrel starts to walk away.

CONTINUED

FARREL

You're not my son anymore,
Nick.

There is a beat as Farrel walks out of the stadium.

NICK

Hey Dad, c'mon, don't leave me
here, hey... We can fix this,
like always. C'mon, get your
mitt. You see my new slider
and you'll be proud. I'm gonna
throw real good this year... I
can be better. You can help me.
We'll play some pepper...

Farrel is now out of the stadium.

NICK

Dad!? Hey, Dad!? Who's your
best pal...? Dad, who...
C'mon, y'know... I'm your best
pal... Like always, you and me,
the Farrel team.

and we:

CUT TO

102

OMITTED

102

103

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

103

The team is suiting up. McQuire is there in his uniform and Hardcastle and McCormick stand with him. Then, Farrel walks up... dressed in his street clothes.

FARREL

Duke?

There is a beat and then McQuire shoots a look to Farrel and then to Hardcastle and McCormick. He turns back to his locker.

FARREL

I have to talk to you.

MCQUIRE

Why? You gonna say you're sorry 'cause I had to serve time for your murder?

We can see that Farrel is on the edge here: a tear about to spill from that concrete face of his.

HARDCASTLE

Better talk to a good lawyer, Farrel. I'm gonna get you for this one. Promise.

FARREL

This is the hardest thing I've ever had to say to anyone...

(Beat)

It wasn't me... It was Nick. My son.

(Beat)

My Boy. Nick did this to you. He told me last night. I'm sorry.

Harmson walks up.

CONTINUED

103

CONTINUED

103

HARMSON

Hey, c'mon, we gotta a game today. We gonna play baseball or what?

(to Farrel)

Hey, Farrel, I'm gonna go to the Bullpen early so make sure Nick's ready.

FARREL

Nick's not gonna play today.

HARMSON

Whatt'a mean he's not gonna play? Where is he?

FARREL

I don't know.

(Beat)

And I sure wish I didn't care.

CUT TO

104

EXT. STADIUM - BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

104

The game is played.

105

SERIES OF SHOTS

105

Action baseball, montage.

CONTINUED

105 CONTINUED 105

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

It's a six to four in the seventh
inning and the Stars are letting
this one slip away.

106 ANGLE - HARMSON 106

He's in the dugout and with him are Hardcastle and McCormick
The rest of the team sits on the benches in the background.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

They scored six runs in the
first inning, but with the bases
loaded it looks like Harmson's
gonna have to go to his bullpen.

Harmson shakes his head.

107 ANGLE - BULLPEN 107

And we see Duke throwing pitches. McCormick is with him. *

108 OMITTED 108

109 ANGLE - THE GAME 109

as a batter hits a hot grounder and a run scores. The
crowd boos and Harmson walks to the mound... He signals
for a right hander.

110 ANGLE - BULLPEN 110

McCORMICK

You got the nod, Duke.

McQUIRE

I guess this is it, huh?

McCORMICK

Just go out there
and throw'm like you know how to...

McQUIRE

Thanks.

CONTINUED

110 CONTINUED 110
*

They high five it and:

111 ANGLE - BASEBALL FIELD 111
as McQuire takes the mound. He warms up and:

112 HARDCASTLE 112 *
in dugout with Harmson.

HARDCASTLE
(calls out)
Okay, Duker-kid, throw that
B-Ball around, kiddo. The high
smoke is hot and hard...

113 OMITTED 113 *

114 RESUME - McQUIRE 114
pitching hard and fast... He strikes out a couple of
batters and the crowd cheers.

115 ANGLE - McCORMICK 115 *
he smiles from the Bullpen.

116 OMITTED 116 *

117 RESUME - McQUIRE ON THE MOUND 117
He tosses another perfect pitch. The game plays on and we
can see that Harmson is real impressed with his new prospect.

CONTINUED

117 CONTINUED 117

ANNOUNCER

This is a real break for Duke McQuire. Nick Farrel has always been the Star's hot reliever, but for some reason Nick isn't playing today, and Duke's got a chance... And, if he keeps throwing like this, Nick Farrel's spot in the rotation might be in jeopardy. *

118 ANGLE - NICK 118*

up on the roof of the stadium with a rifle. *

119 ANGLE - McQUIRE 119

He hurls a strike and:

120 RESUME - NICK 120*

He aims and pulls the trigger.

121 RESUME - McQUIRE 121

He gets hit in the glove and the bullet tears through and rips his uniform in the shoulder. He hits the deck and the crowd screams. Panic as the ball team heads for cover and:

122 RESUME - NICK 122*

And like a madman he squeezes a couple of rounds.

123 RESUME - BASEBALL FIELD 123

Play the panic and Hardcastle and McCormick run out and help McQuire off the field...

McQUIRE

On the roof!

McCormick and Hardcastle look up and we see Nick take off. *

HARDCASTLE

I'll call the police, keep him in sight.

- 124 ANGLE - STADIUM TUNNEL 124
Nick is running like crazy.
- 125 ANGLE - McCORMICK 125
as he rounds a corner and chases after Nick. Play this
action foot chase through the crowds and:
CUT TO
- 126 EXT. STADIUM - DAY 126
Nick sprints through the parking lot and McCormick is
gaining on him... Nick gets to his car and McCormick
heads for the Coyote. They jump in and the chase is on.
- 127 SERIES OF SHOTS - CAR CHASES - DAY 127
An outrageous chase outside of the stadium and through
the parking lot... Play this for as long as it holds and
then Nick's sedan is forced off the roadway and into an
abutment. It flips and McCormick climbs out of the Coyote
and runs to him. In the b.g. we can see cop cars arriving.
- 128 CLOSER ANGLE - McCORMICK 128
as he pulls Nick out of the sedan.
NICK
I just wanted to make the majors
for my dad... We're a good team...
I'm a heck of a pitcher. Did you
read about me? I won five games
in a row the first year in little
league. Ask my dad.
McCormick leads Nick over toward a couple of cops.
NICK
He said I was the best darn
ten-year old in the State. I
even had a curve...
McCormick watches Nick getting cuffed, and:

CONTINUED

#2223

70.
(X)

Rev. 12/30/84

128

CONTINUED

128

NICK

My dad taught me how to throw
the curve... I'm his boy,
we're a team... I'm much
better'n McQuire. I got heart.
Ask my dad...

And we:

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

129 EXT. LASALE PARK - DAY

129

We can see Duke McQuire signing autographs for a bunch of kids. Hardcastle and McCormick drive up...

130 ANGLE - DUKE - McQUIRE

130

As he signs autographs and baseballs, we can see he wears a sling on his left arm...he spots Hardcastle and McCormick.

McQUIRE

(to kids)

Give me a minute, huh guys?

McQuire walks off to Hardcastle and McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

Looks like you're still a star around here, Duke.

McQUIRE

Well, y'know, the kids like it.

McCORMICK

How's the arm?

McQUIRE

Okay... The doctor said it should be as good as new in about four weeks... Too bad, I think I would'a made the team. But, with missing the preseason, well, I'm getting a little older anyway...
(beat)

McQuire looks back at the group of kids.

McQUIRE

At least it's nice to know I mighta made the majors.

CONTINUED

130

CONTINUED

130

McCORMICK

You did.

Hardcastle reaches in to his pocket and pulls out a contract.
He hands it to McQuire.

McQUIRE

What's this?

McCORMICK

It's a contract with the Stars.
Chuck Foster signed you for two
years and he wants you to report
as a player coach starting tomorrow
morning. Congratulations, you
made the majors.

McQUIRE

You're kidding?

HARDCASTLE

Baseball is big business, Duke.
We don't kid about that... As
soon as the arm heals you're going
into the rotation...

(beat)

Ya'see, some things never change...

Off of McQuire's look, we

131

ANGLE ON

131

a FATHER and SON playing ball in the park. The son holds a
bat.

FATHER

...Don't step into the bucket
when you swing the bat... the
ball isn't going to hurt
you.

SON

But, I can't...I don't know how.

FATHER

Don't say that...Now look, swing
level.

CONTINUED

131 CONTINUED

131

SON

I don't want to play this game.
I don't like it.

FATHER

Well, you're damn well gonna
learn to like it...

*

132 RESUME - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK AND McQUIRE

132

McQuire watches the boy and his father, he shakes his head.

McQUIRE

Yeah, some things never do...

And we:

FREEZE FRAME

THE END