

# BLAZING BOOTS



NOT FOR  
SALE

# BLAZING BOOTS



In collaboration with



SOMEWHERE IN THE TOWNSHIP,  
WHERE TALENTS ARE BRED.

MEET THE TWINS,  
OLAMIDE AND IFÉ,  
WHO LOVE FOOTBALL.

OPEN!

TAP

TAP

AGBA  
PLAYER!

GOOOO!!!



MEET CHINEDU, IFE AND OLAMIDE'S FRIEND. HE ALSO LOVES FOOTBALL.

IT'S LIKE WE'LL LEAVE THIS FOOTBALL THING FOR YOU. YOU'RE THE ONE RUNNING THINGS.

THANK YOU, CHINEDU. AND WE BOTH KNOW YOU PLAY WELL TOO.

MEET MR. ADEKUNLE, IFE AND OLAMIDE'S DAD.

AGBA PLAYER! AGBA PLAYER!

ARE MY EYES DECEIVING ME?

IFEOLLIWA!

IFEOLLIWA!

DAD?

WE'VE GONE OVER THIS BEFORE. YOU AND FOOTBALL IS A NO-NO.

BUT DAD... WE WERE JUST PLAY--

IFEOLLIWA, I KEEP TELLING YOU THAT THIS IS IN YOUR BEST INTEREST. LET YOUR TWIN BROTHER PLAY.

BUT DAD, IFE IS LIKE RONALDO IN FEMALE FORM. SHE'S REALLY GOOD.

OLAMIDE, DON'T LET ME BEGIN WITH YOU. WHY AREN'T YOU THE ONE SCORING GOALS? DO YOU THINK THIS IS THE WAY YOU WILL GO PRO?

IFEOLLIWA, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO BE A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER, HOW ABOUT YOU TRY PROFESSIONAL WRITING? OR BE A MEDICAL DOCTOR!

WHATEVER THE CASE, I DO NOT WANT TO SEE YOU NEAR A FOOTBALL AGAIN. THAT IS FINAL.



BACK IN HIS ROOM, OLAMIDE REPLAYS HIS FATHER'S WORDS.

OLAMIDE,  
DON'T LET ME  
BEGIN WITH YOU. WHY  
AREN'T YOU THE ONE  
SCORING GOALS? DO  
YOU THINK THIS IS  
THE WAY YOU  
WILL GO PRO?

I APPRECIATE  
MY DAD'S SUPPORT  
BUT SOMETIMES THE  
PRESSURE GETS A  
LITTLE TOO MUCH.

I ALSO WISH  
HE WOULD LET  
IFE PLAY. SHE'S  
ALSO A REALLY  
GOOD PLAYER.

NOT A  
SINGLE  
HAIR ON  
MY CHIN.

LOOK AT  
CHINEDU AND  
THE REST OF  
THE GUYS.

THEIR VOICES  
ARE DEEPER NOW  
OR THEIR BEARDS  
HAVE STARTED  
GROWING.

AND  
I HAVE  
NOTHING.

WHY IS  
MINE TAKING  
SO LONG?

IFE ALSO REFLECTS ON THE EVENTS OF THE DAY

DON'T WORRY, ZIZZI SHOLA. I'LL BE LIKE YOU ONE DAY.



BUZZ BUZZ

IFE, I JUST SAW ONLINE THAT THE BLAZING BOOTS TRYOUTS ARE OPEN.

CHINEDU JUST TEXTED ME THE SAME THING.

DAD IS COMPLAINING AGAIN ABOUT ME PLAYING FOOTBALL SO I'M THINKING I SHOULD JUST COOL IT DOWN FOR A WHILE.

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD DO THAT. FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS, IFE.

WHAT WOULD ZIZZI SHOLA DO? ZIZZI SHOLA WON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY.

YOU'RE RIGHT, LET'S DO IT!

Thanks for sharing. Olamide and I are about to register.  
7:55PM ✓

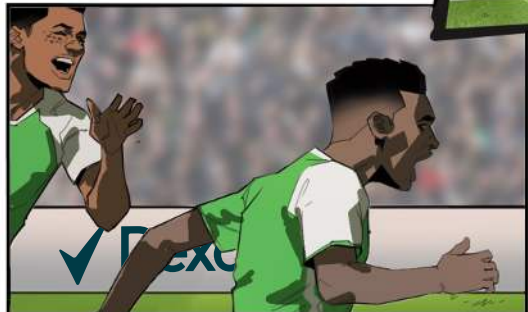
See you both at the tryouts  
7:57PM



LATER THAT EVENING...



THE FIELD IS BLAZING HOT AS THE BOYS TRY OUT FOR THE BLAZING BOOTS ACADEMY.

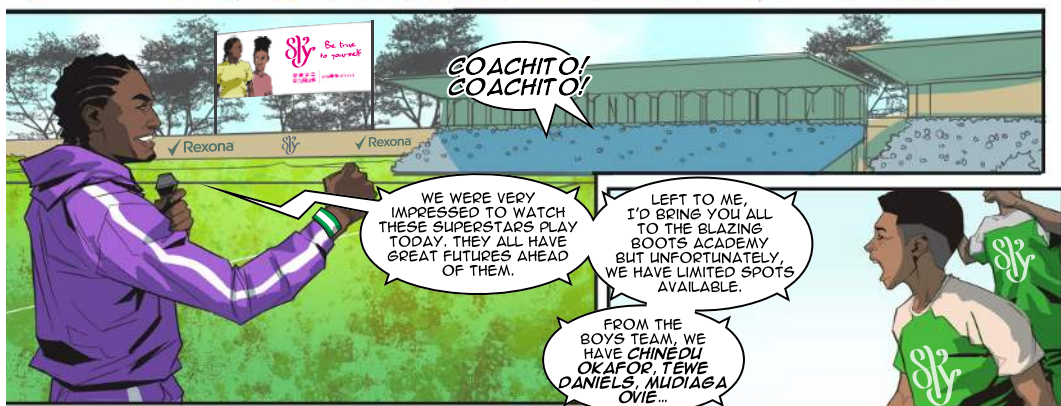




THE HEAT HAS ALSO  
MADE ITS WAY TO THE  
GIRLS' GAME.

IT'S A GOALLESS DRAW AND  
THE GIRLS ONLY HAVE 5 MINUTES  
LEFT, SO TENSIONS ARE RISING.







...EXCEPT THEIR FATHER

IFEOLUWA, MY BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IS THAT YOU DID THIS BEHIND MY BACK AFTER I TOLD YOU THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU ON A FOOTBALL FIELD ANYMORE.

OLAMIDE, MY BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IS THAT YOU SCORED ONLY ONE GOAL WHEN YOU KNEW THAT COACH SHEHU WAS WATCHING. IN MY DAY, WHEN I WAS BEING SCOUTED, I SCORED 4 GOALS IN THE FIRST HALF!

HONEY, PLEASE, TAKE IT EASY ON THEM. WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF THEM.

IFEOLUWA, I KEEP TELLING YOU THAT SUCCEEDING AT PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL AS A LADY IS VERY DIFFICULT. WHEN I PLAYED FOOTBALL, I KNEW MANY WOMEN WHO STRUGGLED WITH IT. I AM TRYING TO SAVE YOU FROM THAT DISAPPOINTMENT.

YOU ARE FORBIDDEN FROM ACCEPTING THE SCHOLARSHIP AND GOING TO BLAZING BOOTS.

DAD, PLEASE NO!

OLAMIDE, YOU WILL GO AND IF YOU DO NOT OUTSHINE EVERYONE IN THAT ACADEMY, I WILL DRAG YOU BACK HOME MYSELF.

HONEY, PLEASE LET IFEOLUWA GO. SHE LOVES TO PLAY TOO!

THAT IS HER BUSINESS.

I GOT THE SCHOLARSHIP BECAUSE I PLAYED WELL BUT IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR HIM.

WILL HE REALLY NOT ALLOW ME TO GO?

DON'T MIND YOUR FATHER. WE ALL KNOW IT'S THE ADEKUNLE STUBBORN GENES THAT MAKES HIM PUT SO MUCH PRESSURE ON YOU BOTH.

I KNOW HOW YOU'RE BOTH TRYING YOUR BEST. I WILL SPEAK TO HIM.

CHEER UP. DON'T WORRY, I HAVE A PLAN.

MEANWHILE, MR. ADEKUNLE IS STILL UPSET.

THE EFFRONTERY OF THESE CHILDREN.

HONEY, YOU WERE TOO HARSH AND UNFAIR ON THE TWINS. OLAMIDE PLAYED A GOOD GAME. IFEOLUWA ALSO DESERVES A CHANCE TO PLAY LIKE OLAMIDE DOES.

I THINK THEY WILL BE HAPPY IF YOU SUPPORT THEM WITHOUT PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEM.

OLAMIDE NEEDS PRESSURE OR HE WILL BECOME TOO RELAXED. FOOTBALL IS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE THIRSTY FOR GREATNESS.

AND IFEOLUWA GOT THE SCHOLARSHIP. SHE IS A GREAT PLAYER. WHY WON'T YOU LET HER PLAY?

I KNOW BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER GET HURT OR TREATED UNFAIRLY. THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT GIRLS AND BOYS HAVE IN FOOTBALL ARE DIFFERENT.

I UNDERSTAND YOU BUT YOU ALSO NEED TO SEE FROM HER PERSPECTIVE. IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE HOLDING HER DREAMS FROM HER. LET HER PLAY. SHE'S A STRONG GIRL THAT CAN PUSH THROUGH ANY CHALLENGES.

MY DECISION IS FOR HER OWN GOOD. AFTER MY YEARS PLAYING BEFORE MY INJURY, I SAW A LOT IN THE INDUSTRY TO COME TO THIS CONCLUSION. WOMEN WERE TREATED UNFAIRLY AND THE OPPORTUNITIES WERE FEWER. PLEASE, LET'S NOT DISCUSS IT FURTHER.

I JUST KNEW HE WOULDN'T AGREE.

LATER THAT NIGHT, MRS ADEKUNLE CEMENTS HER SECRET PLAN.

OKAY, SO WE HAVE A PLAN. I'LL TELL MY HUSBAND THAT IFEOLUWA WILL SPEND THE HOLIDAY IN YOUR HOUSE SO SHE'S NOT LONELY WHEN HER BROTHER GOES TO THE ACADEMY.

BUT REALLY, SHE WILL JOIN HER BROTHER AT THE FOOTBALL ACADEMY.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE SNEAKY SISTER. BUT I AGREE. ANYTHING TO GET IFEOLUWA TO USE THAT SCHOLARSHIP.

YES O. GIRLS DESERVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS BOYS AND I WON'T LET MY ONLY DAUGHTER MISS HER BIG BREAK.



BLAZING BOOTS  
BOOTCAMP ARRIVAL  
DAY.

# BLAZING BOOTS ACADEMY

WELCOME  
TO  
BLAZING  
BOOTS  
ACADEMY

I COULDN'T  
MISS THIS FOR  
THE WORLD.

I'M HAPPY  
WE FOUND A  
WAY FOR YOU  
TO BE HERE!

THE STAR  
TWIN, IT'S  
GOOD TO HAVE  
YOU HERE.

GO SETTLE  
IN AND JOIN THE  
BOYS AND GIRLS  
FOR A WELCOME  
TRAINING SESSION.

WE'RE  
THERE  
ALREADY!

NOT  
BEFORE  
ME, YOU'RE  
NOT.

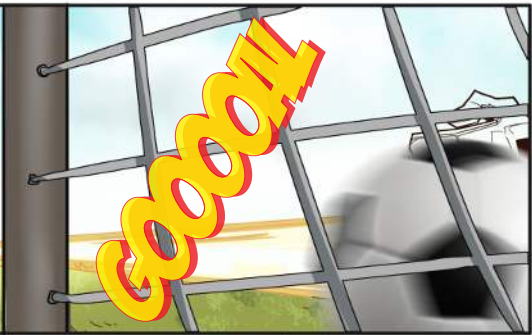
WAIT FOR  
ME! I CAN'T  
RUN THAT FAST  
WITH THIS  
BAG.

IT'S TRAINING TIME.

DON'T FORGET  
BOYS, IT'S ALL ABOUT  
TEAM SPIRIT, CAPTAIN  
MALIK, ONE FINAL  
WORD?

WE'RE IN  
THIS TOGETHER.  
LET'S GO  
BOYS!

ON THE FIELD.





MEANWHILE, THE GIRLS ARE HAVING A TRAINING OF THEIR OWN.

ARE YOU HARD-WORKING?

THEN PROVE IT TO ME GIRLS. LET'S PLAY!

YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL TALENTED. BUT BEYOND TALENT, THERE NEEDS TO BE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. ARE YOU DEDICATED?

YES COACH!

YES COACH!

HI, YOUR HAIR IS SO PRETTY.

THANK YOU! I LIKE YOUR BOOTS. I'VE BEEN DYING TO GET NEW ONES. I'M IFEOLLIWA, BY THE WAY, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME IFE.

I'M HANIFA AND IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU!



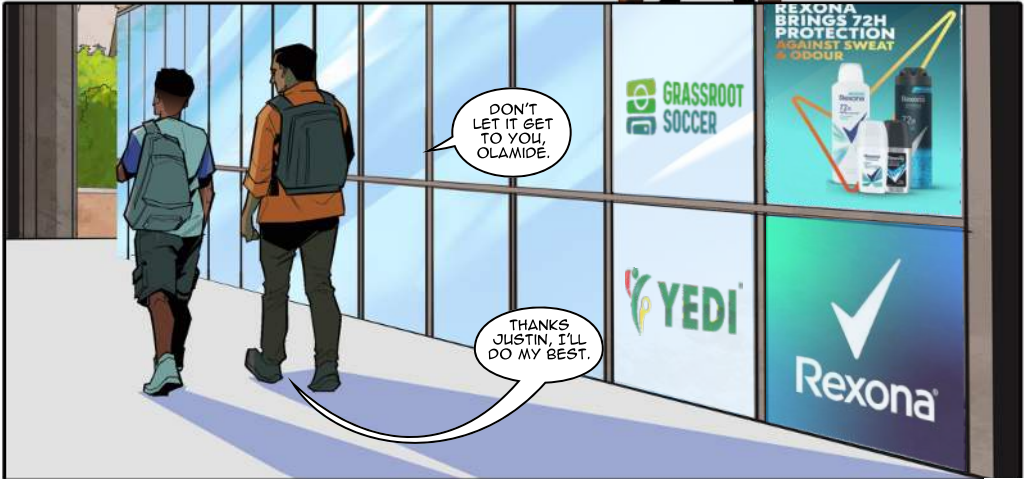
MEANWHILE, OLAMIDE IS THINKING ABOUT THE GAME.

ARE YOU OKAY, OLAMIDE? YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT A LOT.

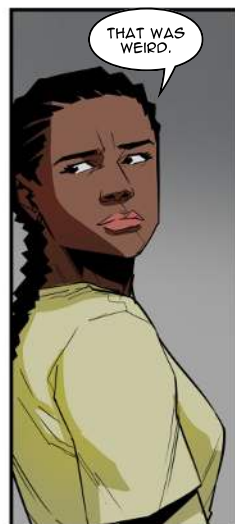
CHINEDU, IS IT JUST ME OR WAS MALIK BEING WEIRD?

I THINK HE'S JUST JEALOUS YOU GOT THE SCHOLARSHIP AND YOU PLAY WELL. MAYBE HE ALSO FEELS THREATENED AND DOESN'T WANT YOU TO BE CAPTAIN.









TRAINING AT BLAZING BOOTS CONTINUES THE NEXT DAY.



SMALLIE, ANYTHING THE MATTER?

I'M NOT A SMALLIE!



WATCH AND LEARN, SMALLIE!



COACHITO BLOWS THE WHISTLE TO END THE TRAINING SESSION.

**FWEEET!**



THAT WAS A GOOD ONE GUYS. WELL DONE ON THAT FINAL GOAL MALIK.

SO GUYS, THIS TRAINING IS TO PREPARE YOU FOR OUR MATCH WITH IGAHALO ACADEMY.

YES COACH!



AS WE PROGRESS, 11 OF YOU WILL BE SELECTED AS THE STARTING 11. SO TRAIN HARD AND I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

THE GIRLS GET UP TO THEIR OWN GAME.



A CLASS ACT!





AFTERWARDS IN THE GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM...

GOOD SAME TODAY. YOU WERE AMAZING, IFE!

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>SOBS<

IFE, ARE YOU OKAY?

OH, I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY ONE HERE.

WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

I'M WONDERING IF COMING HERE WAS A MISTAKE. MY DAD THINKS FOOTBALL IS JUST FOR BOYS, AND GIRLS SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM IT. HE THINKS I'M SPENDING THE BREAK AT MY AUNTIE'S HOUSE.

DON'T SAY THAT, IFE! YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING SO WELL. YOUR DAD MAY NOT UNDERSTAND IT YET, BUT YOU DESERVE TO BE HERE AS MUCH AS YOUR BROTHER OR ANY OF THE OTHER BOYS

OH! HI LADIES.

IS EVERYTHING OKAY, IFE?

I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING THIS ON MY OWN. EVEN THOUGH MY MUM AND BROTHER SUPPORT ME, MY DAD DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I'M HERE. I WONDER IF I SHOULD JUST GO BACK HOME.

NO! NO! YOU ARE STAYING HERE. I HAVEN'T SEEN A PLAYER LIKE YOU IN YEARS.

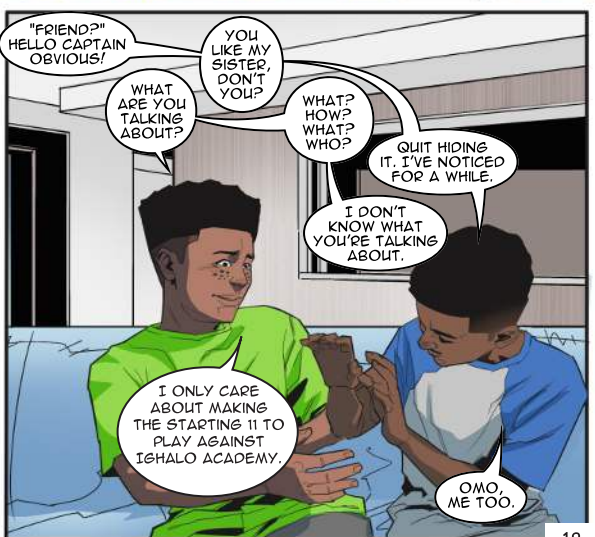
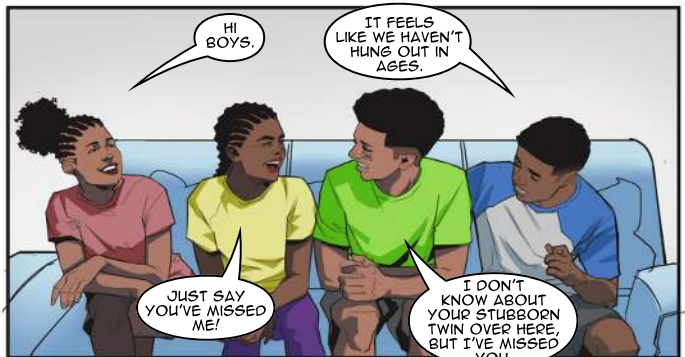
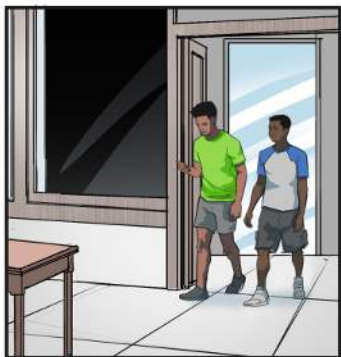
I KNOW HOW TOUGH THIS FEELS. MY FATHER ALSO DIDN'T WANT ME TO PLAY FOOTBALL WHEN I WAS YOUNGER BUT WHEN I WON THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, HE FINALLY STARTED BELIEVING.

THROUGH MY EXPERIENCE PLAYING FOOTBALL AND NOW COACHING, MY FATHER HAS BEEN ABLE TO SEE WHAT I WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO HIM - THAT WOMEN CAN HAVE THE KIND OF JOBS MEN HAVE, BUILD CAREERS OUT OF IT AND MANAGE THEIR MONEY TOO.

JUST DO YOUR BEST HERE, AND WE'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET YOUR DAD ON YOUR SIDE.

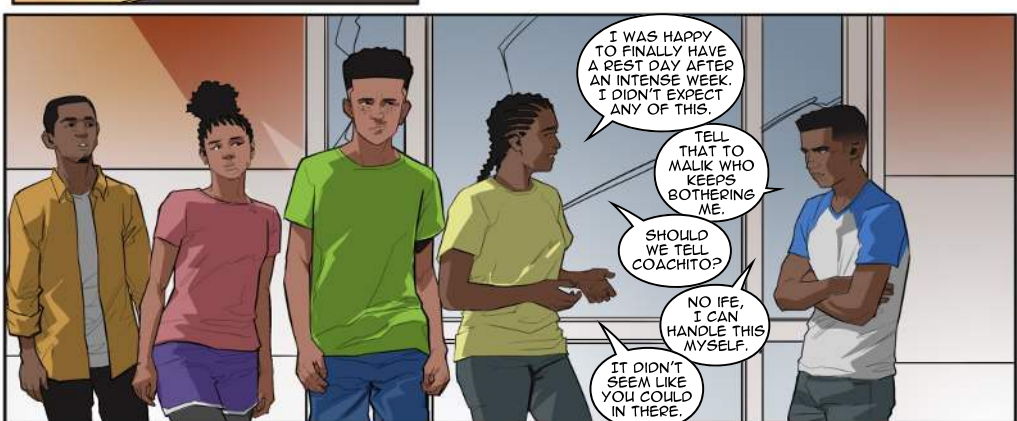
THANK YOU COACH TAMARA. THAT MEANS A LOT.

NOW THE BOTH OF YOU, GO RELAX FOR THE NIGHT. I'LL SEE YOU ON THE FIELD AT 6AM TOMORROW!











OLAMIDE AND JUSTIN WALK TOWARDS THE LOCKER ROOM

I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP MALIK FROM TEASING YOU.

SPILL!

YOU NEED TO OPEN YOUR CHEST TO MAKE YOU LOOK BIGGER.

YES. JUST LIKE THAT. AND CARRY YOUR SHOULDERS UP.

JUST MAKE YOUR VOICE DEEPER, SO YOU SOUND MORE MATURE.

DEEPER LIKE THIS?

PRETEND LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING STUCK IN YOUR THROAT.

HOW'S THIS?

SOUNDS BETTER.

ALSO, I SAW IT ONLINE THAT YOU CAN USE METHYLATED SPIRIT TO GROW YOUR BEARD. JUST PUT IT ON YOUR CHIN AND AROUND YOUR LIP AND IT'LL WORK.

TRUST ME. THAT'S WHAT MADE MY BEARD GROW. COME TO MY ROOM AND I'LL GIVE YOU SOME.

ARE YOU SURE?

OKAY. LET ME QUICKLY FRESHEN UP.

OLAMIDE USES HIS REXONA DEODORANT

SMELLING REALLY FRESH.

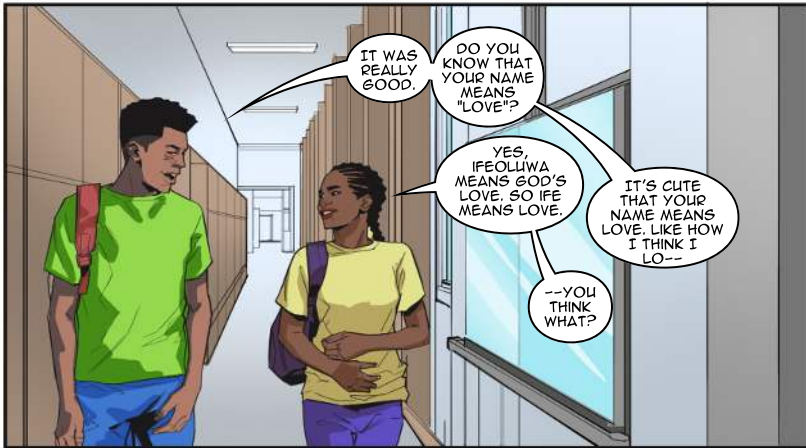
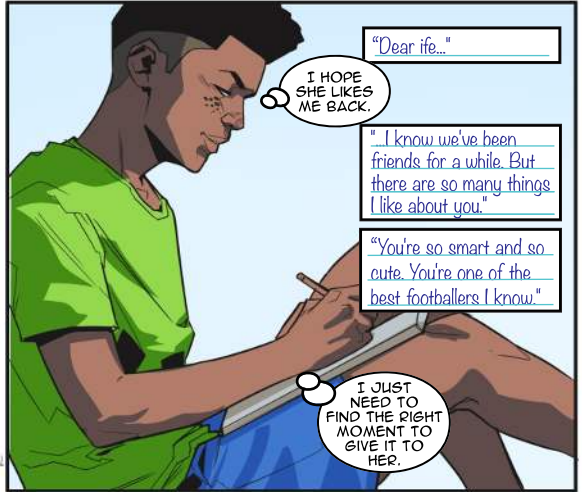
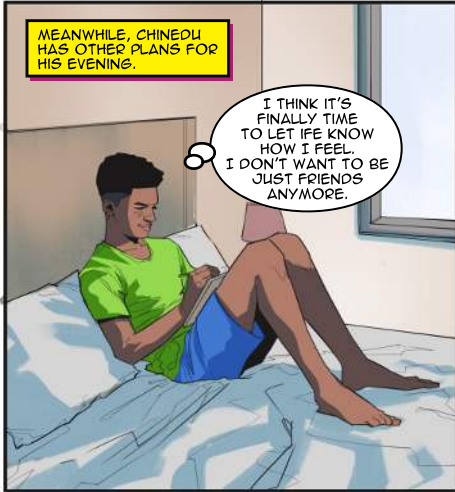
THANK YOU. I'M READY, LET'S GO.

OLAMIDE DECIDED THAT HE WOULD PUT IN THE WORK TO STOP MALIK FROM TEASING HIM.

BACK AT HIS ROOM...

IF I HAVE A FULL BEARD, NO ONE WILL CALL ME SMALLIE.

I JUST WISH IT WOULD WORK QUICKLY AND I'D GET A FULL BEARD TOMORROW.





BACK IN IFE'S ROOM.

WHAT  
A DAY!

WHERE  
DID THIS  
COME  
FROM?

OH,  
WOW!

from:  
Chinedu

DEAR IFE,  
I KNOW WE'VE  
BEEN FRIENDS  
FOR QUITE  
SOME TIME.

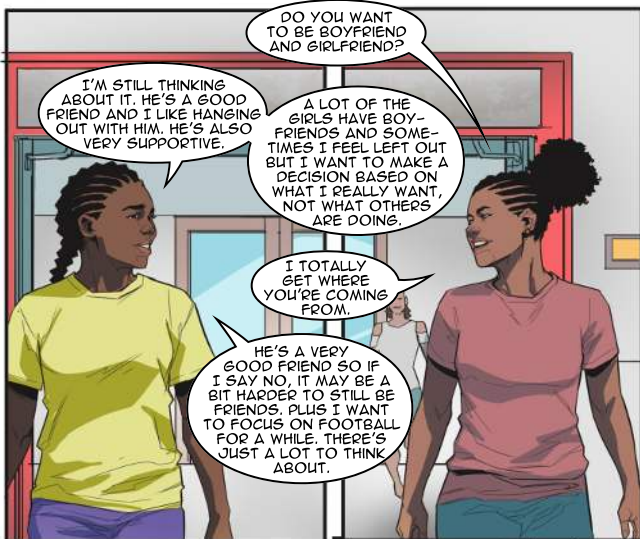
O.M.G.!  
CHINEDU  
LIKES ME.

BUT  
WE'RE  
JUST  
FRIENDS.

CHINEDU  
IS CUTE AND  
I KINDA LIKE  
HIM BUT I'M  
NOT SURE.

MAYBE  
I'LL WRITE  
A LETTER  
TO HIM.

OR JUST  
TALK TO HIM  
WHEN I HAVE  
A CHANCE.





THE NEXT MORNING, AFTER THE TRAINING SESSION...



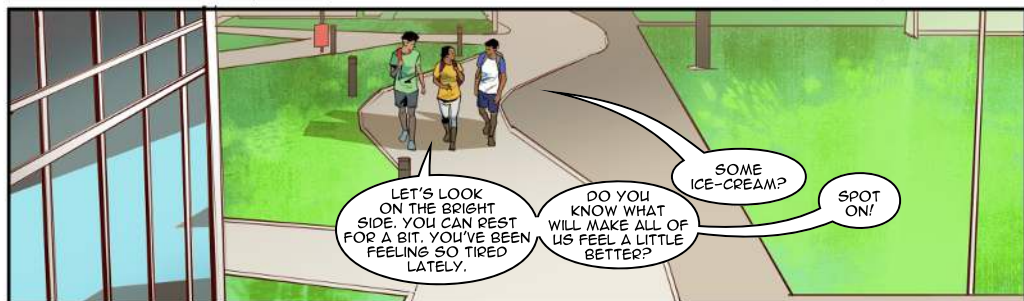
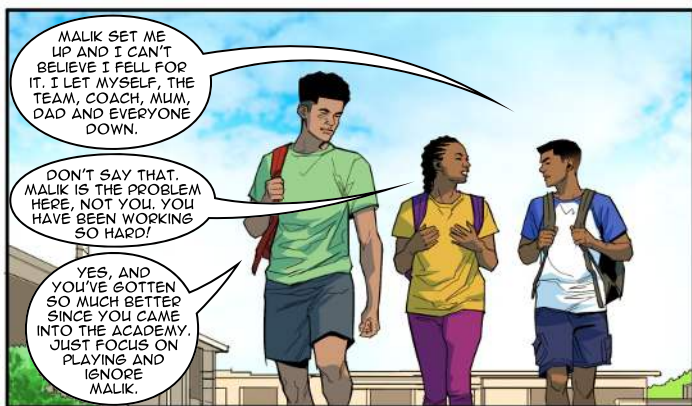












A WEEK LATER AFTER TRAINING SESSION, THE COACH DISMISSES EVERYONE BUT OLAMIDE.

OLAMIDE!

YES, COACH!

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU.



YOUR BEHAVIOUR LAST WEEK WAS UNLIKE YOU. WHY DID YOU KICK MALIK ON THE FIELD THAT DAY?

COACH, I DIDN'T KICK HIM. HE WAS PRETENDING HE'S BEEN TEASING ME FOR WEEKS NOW, CALLING ME SMALLIE, AND NOW HE'S MADE EVERYONE ELSE CALL ME IT TOO!



THAT IS NEWS TO ME. I WILL HAVE A WORD WITH MALIK. I ALSO NOTICED YOU DEEPEN YOUR VOICE AROUND YOUR PEERS. WHY?

I JUST WANT THEM TO KNOW I'M NOT SMALL!

NOW OLAMIDE, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. I'VE COACHED MANY BOYS WHO FEEL THE NEED TO COMPENSATE BECAUSE THEY FELT THEY NEEDED TO BE THE TALLEST BOY ON THE PITCH.



YOU NEED TO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO BE ANYONE BUT YOURSELF. BESIDES, PUBERTY IS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE. YOUR VOICE MIGHT GET DEEPER AND YOUR BODY HAIR MIGHT GROW AT DIFFERENT TIMES.

YOU NEED TO ACCEPT WHO YOU ARE AT EVERY STAGE OF PUBERTY. WHEN YOU ACCEPT YOURSELF, WHAT OTHERS SAY WON'T MATTER.



THANK YOU, COACH. THAT MEANS A LOT. BUT WHY WON'T MY BEARD GROW?

YOUR BEARD WILL GROW WHEN IT IS READY TO. YOU CAN'T FORCE IT TO COME OUT FASTER. LOOK AT ME NOW, I'M ALREADY TIRED OF MY BEARD.

✓ Rexona



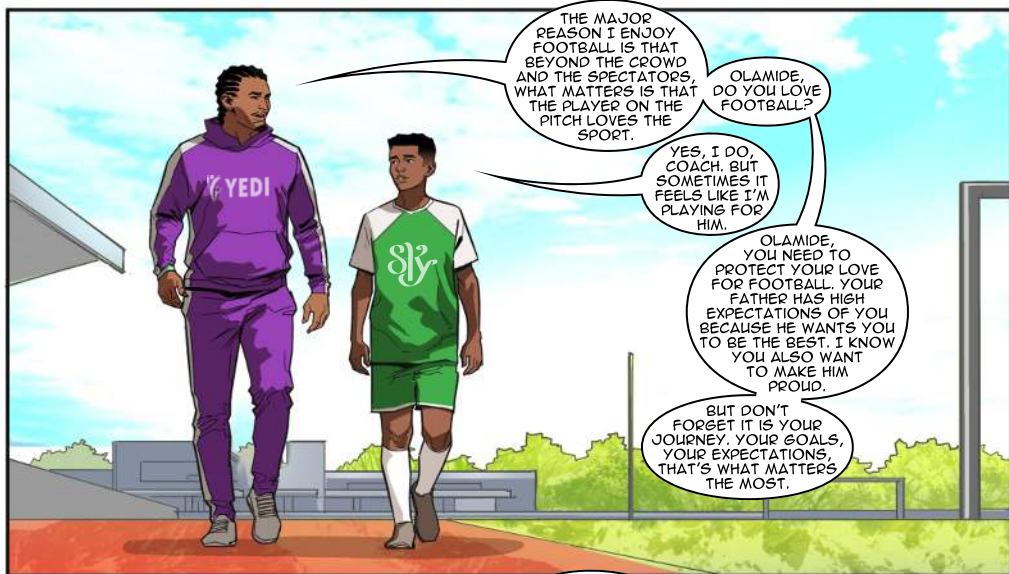
I'LL NEVER GET TIRED OF MINE.

WHEN I SEE YOU AGAIN IN A FEW YEARS, I'M SURE YOU'LL BE TIRED BY THEN.

NEVER!







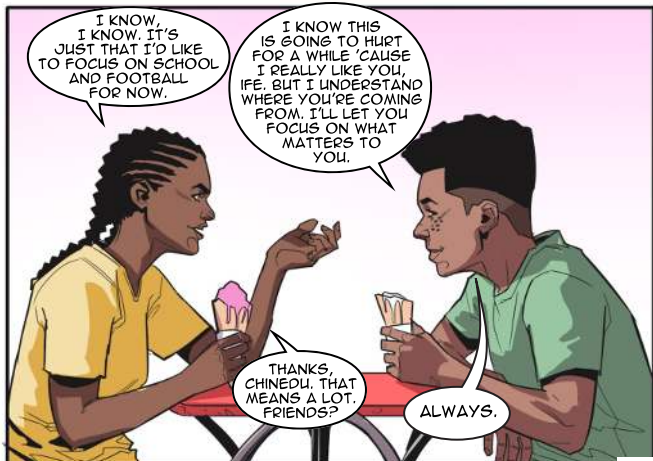
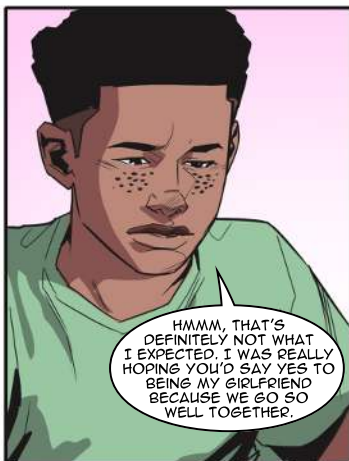
THE NEXT MORNING,  
IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM...







IN THE TUCK SHOP, IFE AND CHINEDU FINALLY HAVE THEIR CONVERSATION.







MATCH DAY IS HERE!  
BLAZING BOOTS ARE  
HEADED TO THE  
STADIUM.

WINNER O!  
O! O! WINNER!  
BLAZING BOOTS  
GO WIN O!



SMALLIE!  
I HOPE YOU'RE  
GONNA PUT YOUR  
HEIGHT TO GOOD  
USE TODAY!



I DON'T HAVE  
YOUR TIME TODAY.  
LET'S JUST PUT OUR  
ENERGY INTO THE  
GAME, AND WIN!

WOW!

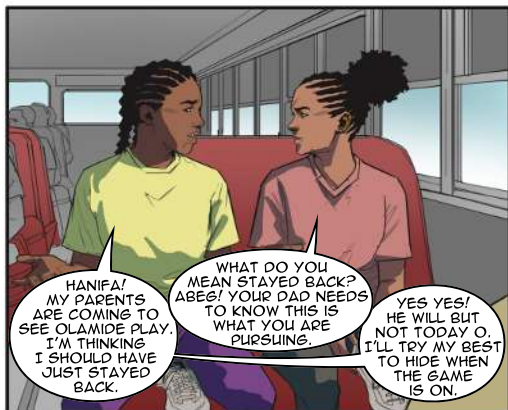


WHAT'S  
WOWING YOU?  
AND WHY ARE YOU  
CLAPPING?

I'M PROUD OF  
YOU, I WASN'T  
EXPECTING THAT  
REACTION. THOUGHT  
YOU WERE ABOUT TO  
GIVE HIM A PUNCH  
FOR THE ROAD.

I'M OVER  
FIGHTING, GUY!  
COACHITO TOLD ME  
TO BE THE BIGGER  
PERSON AND THAT  
HAS NOTHING TO  
DO WITH MY  
HEIGHT.

PROUD  
OF YOU FOR  
REAL!



HANIFA!  
MY PARENTS  
ARE COMING TO  
SEE OLAMIDE PLAY.  
I'M THINKING  
I SHOULD HAVE  
JUST STAYED  
BACK.

WHAT DO YOU  
MEAN STAYED BACK?  
ABEG! YOUR DAD NEEDS  
TO KNOW THIS IS  
WHAT YOU ARE  
PURSUING.

YES YES!  
HE WILL BUT  
NOT TODAY O.  
I'LL TRY MY BEST  
TO HIDE WHEN THE  
GAME IS ON.



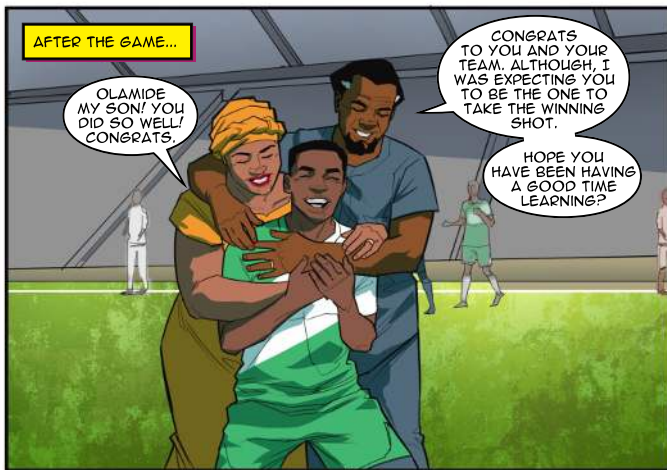
BESIDES,  
CHINEDU NEEDS  
MORE TIME TO  
SEE YOUR  
BEAUTIFUL  
FACE.

STOP IT  
JOR! BESIDES  
WE AGREED TO  
REMAIN  
FRIENDS.









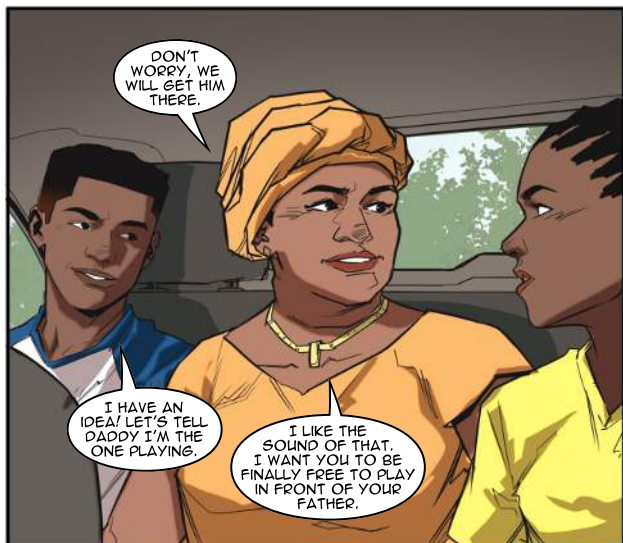








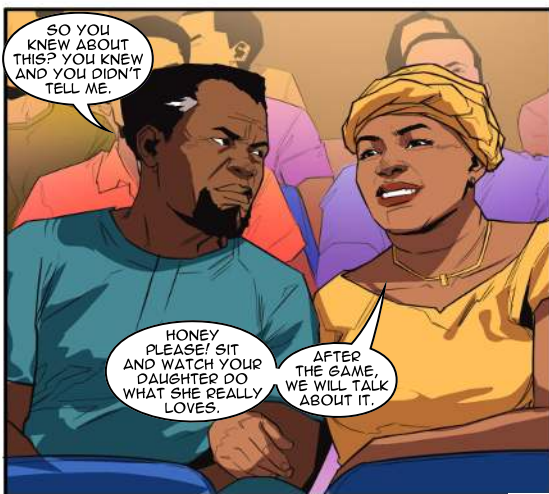








THE ADEKUNLES ARRIVE...





THE MATCH STARTS.



WHILE THE TEAMS ARE GETTING READY FOR THE 2ND HALF.







THE SECOND HALF BEGINS

IS THAT REALLY, IFE? I KNOW SHE PLAYS HERE AND THERE BUT THIS IS PRO LEVEL I'M SEEING. AND SHE IS SO CONFIDENT.

I TOLD YOU! SHE HAS ALWAYS WANTED YOU TO SEE HER PLAY.

YES?! YES?! YES?!



THAT... THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL!

**IFE! AGBA PLAYER!**

WOW! I REALLY SCORED 3 GOALS FOR MY DAD TO SEE.

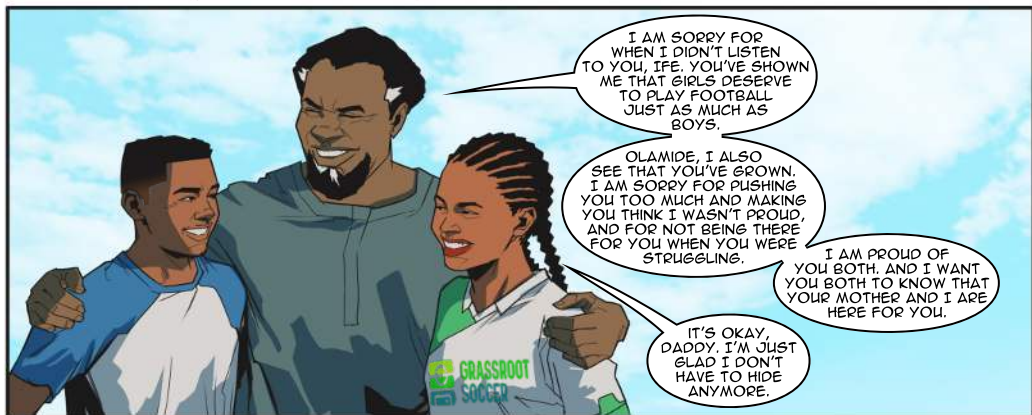
IFE! YOU KILLED IT. CONGRATS GIRL. YOU ARE SO GETTING TEAM CAPTAIN!



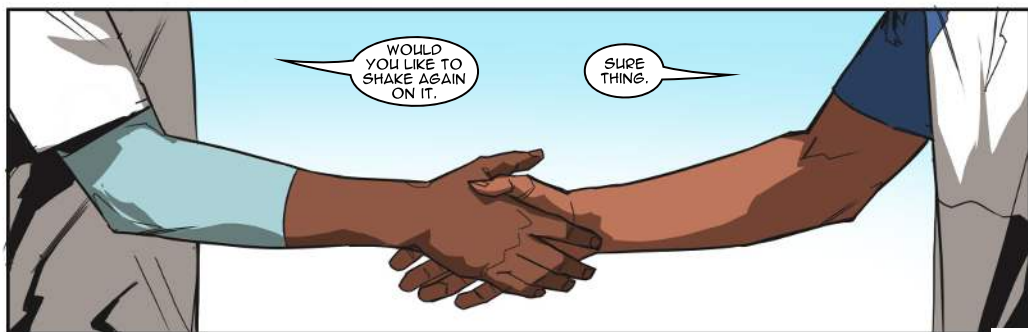
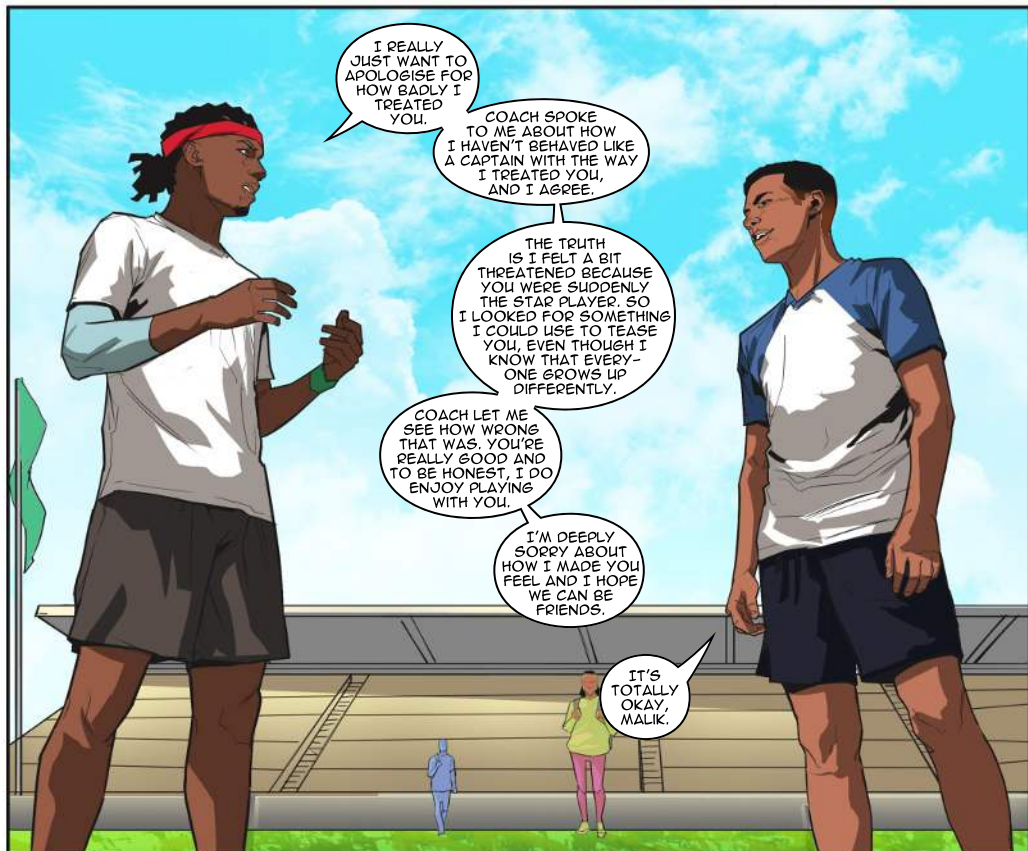
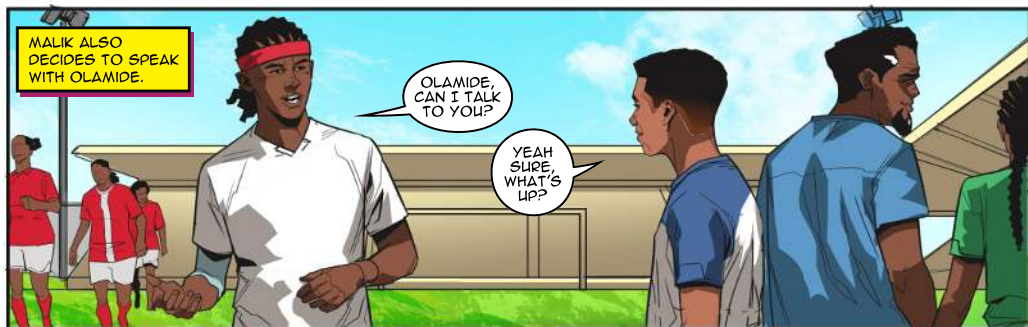
AFTER THE MATCH ENDS.



AFTER THE GAME.













@BlazingBoots

