

ROY OF THE ROVERS®



GOING UP

ROB WILLIAMS
BEN WILLISHER



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ROY OF THE ROVERS[®]



GOING UP

ROB WILLIAMS BEN WILLISHER

BOOK THREE
GOING UP

Script
ROB WILLIAMS

Art
BEN WILLISHER

Letters
JIM CAMPBELL

Colours
JOHN CHARLES & GUILHERME LINDEMBERG MENDES

**ROY RACE, JUST AFTER THE FIRST
LEG OF THE PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINAL...**

**...EXTREMELY
FRUSTRATED.**

**I DIDN'T
DO IT!**



...COURSE
YOU DIDN'T,
LOVE.

...YEAH...

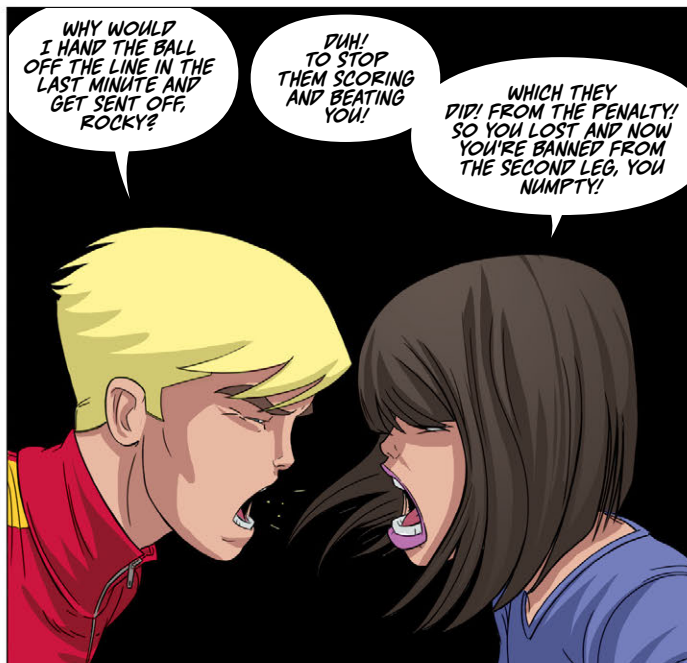
...
IT LOOKED
LIKE YOU DID
IT.



**WHY WOULD
I HAND THE BALL
OFF THE LINE IN THE
LAST MINUTE AND
GET SENT OFF,
ROCKY?**

**DUH!
TO STOP
THEM SCORING
AND BEATING
YOU!**

**WHICH THEY
DID! FROM THE PENALTY!
SO YOU LOST AND NOW
YOU'RE BANNED FROM
THE SECOND LEG, YOU
NUMPTY!**



WE KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED
ROY BUT TRY NOT TO BE SO
HARD ON YOURSELF. IT'S...
IT'S JUST AN INSTINCTIVE
THING TO JUST...

INSTINCTIVE?

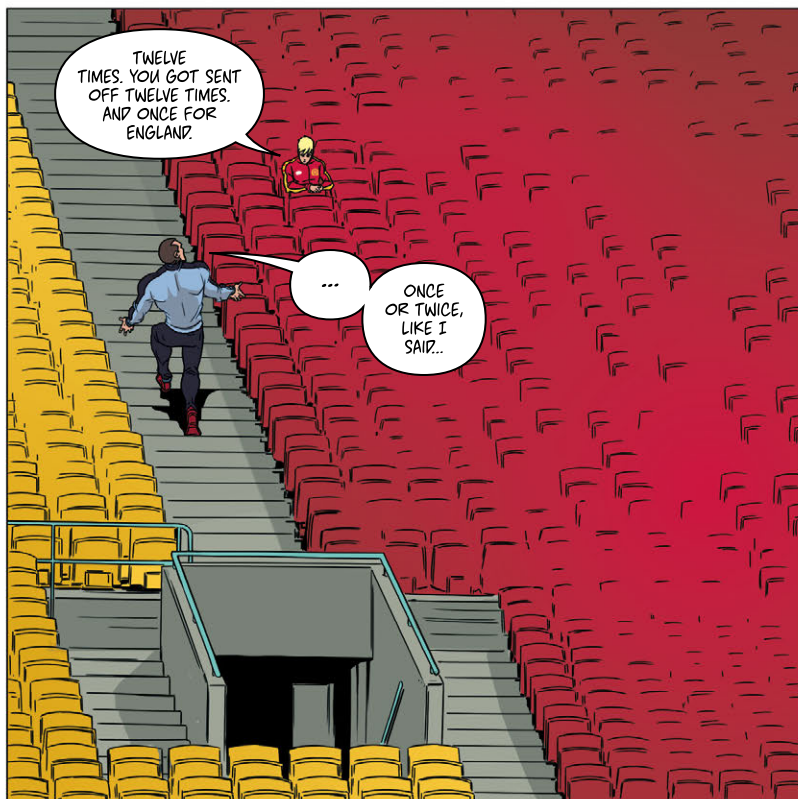






**JOHNNY DEXTER,
MELCHESTER'S
FIRST-TEAM
COACH.**

I GOT
SENT OFF ONCE
OR TWICE. IT
HAPPENS.



TWELVE
TIMES. YOU GOT SENT
OFF TWELVE TIMES.
AND ONCE FOR
ENGLAND.

...

ONCE
OR TWICE,
LIKE I
SAID...



I KNOW HOW YOU'RE FEELING. YOU
WANTED TO WIN SO BADLY. YOU WANTED
TO HELP THE TEAM. BUT NOW YOU FEEL
LIKE YOU'VE LET EVERYBODY
DOWN.

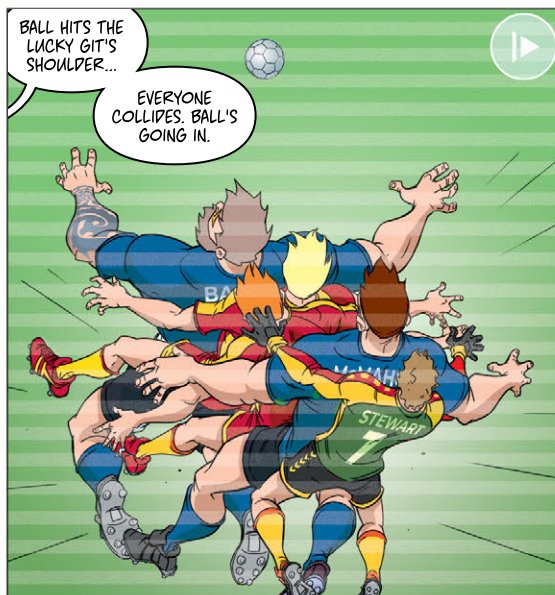
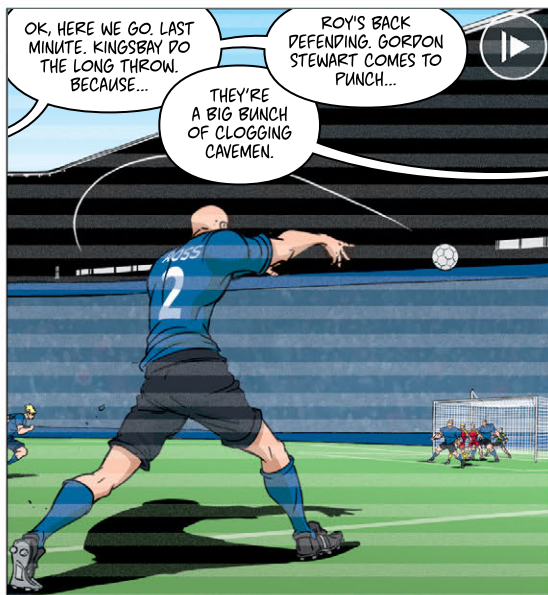
AND YOU
FEEL SICK AND
GUILTY. IN YOUR
GUT.

DON'T PUNISH
YOURSELF, ROY RACE OF
THE ROVERS. WITH THE ROCKET.
WE'VE STILL GOT THE AWAY LEG.
ONLY ONE GOAL DOWN. IT'S
NOT OVER.

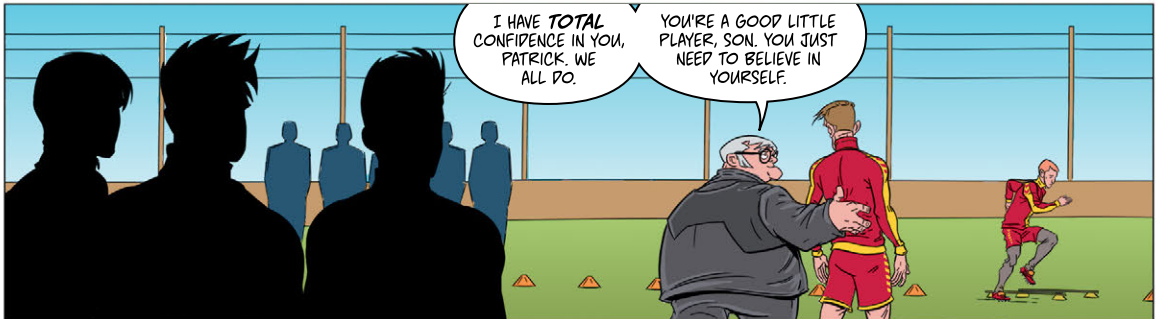


...
BUT
I DIDN'T
DO IT.

HONEST.



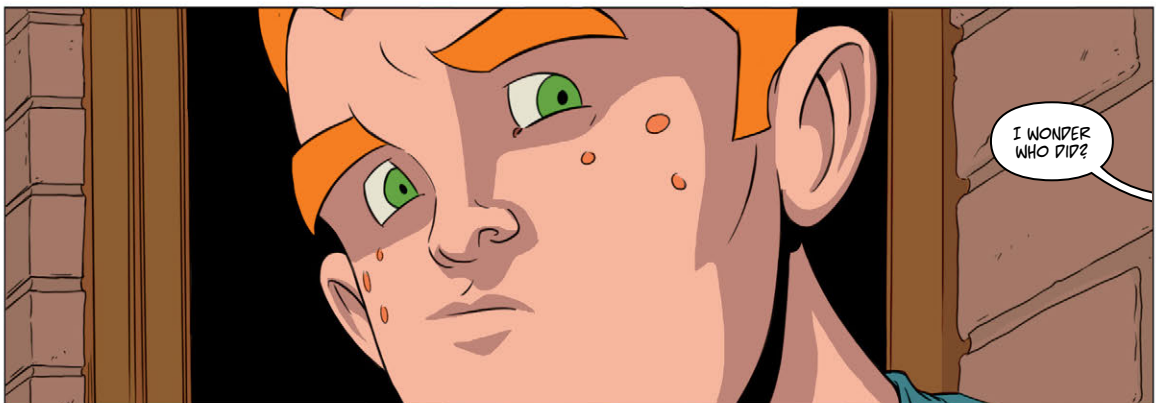
**KEVIN 'MIGHTY' MOUSE.
MELCHESTER'S MANAGER.**

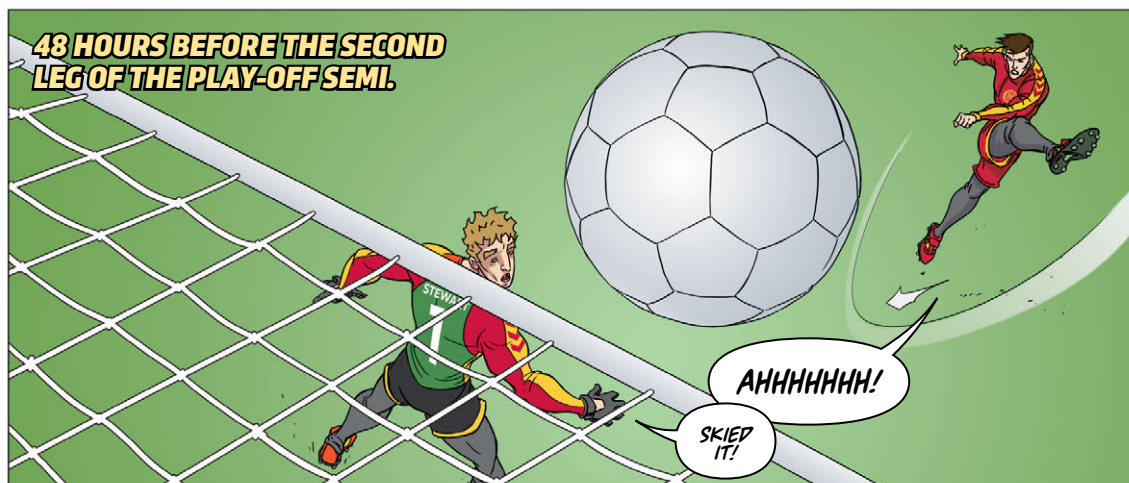


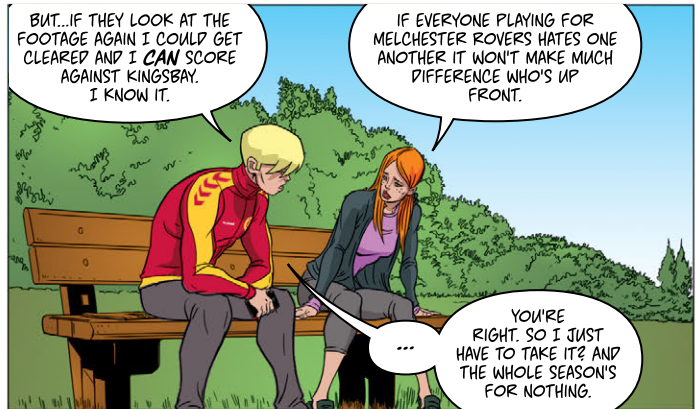
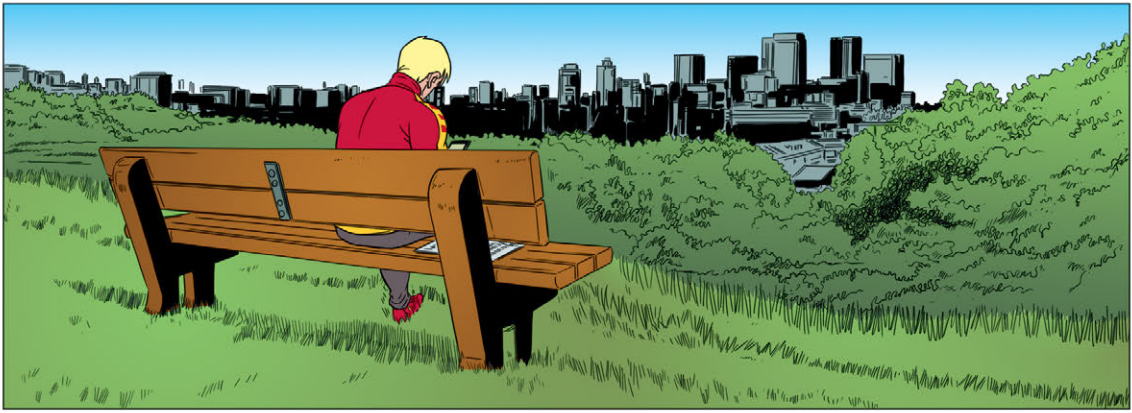
**72 HOURS BEFORE THE SECOND
LEG OF THE PLAY-OFF SEMI.**

FFION'S HOUSE.

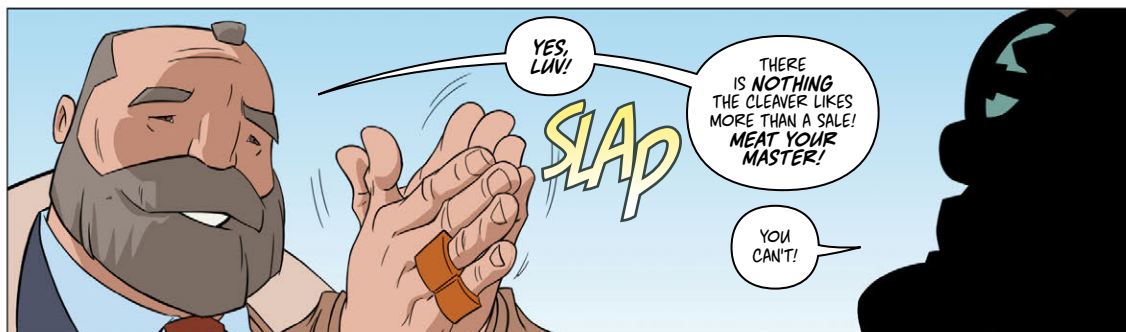
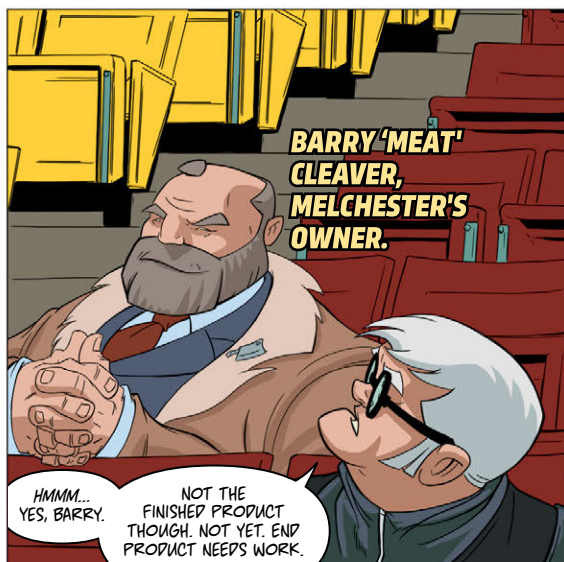
AND VIC GUTHRIE'S.















YOU'RE FIRED, KEVIN MOUSE.

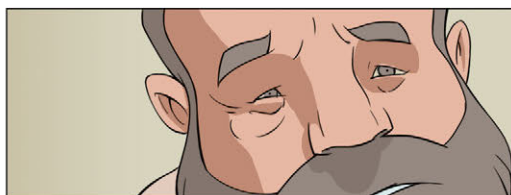
FIRED.

NO ONE TALKS TO BARRY LIKE THAT!



FINE! BUT YOU FIRE ME **AFTER** THE SEASON ENDS OR I GO TO THE PRESS RIGHT NOW AND TELL THEM **EVERYTHING!**

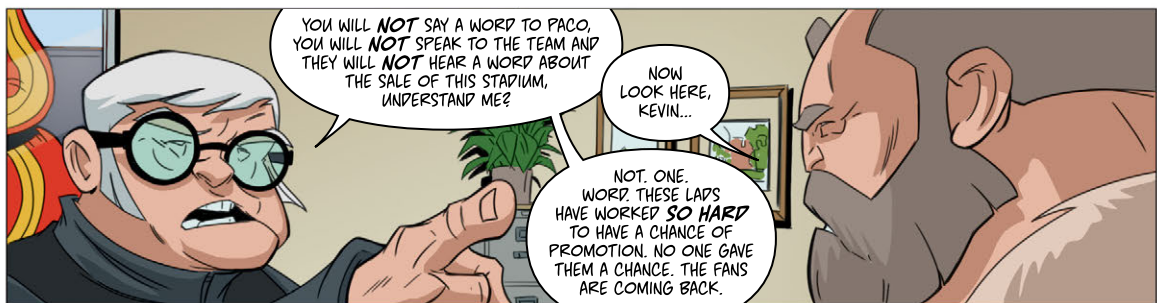
HOW DO YOU THINK THE PEOPLE OF MELCHESTER WILL REACT WHEN THEY FIND OUT THAT YOU'VE BEEN PLANNING TO SELL THEIR CLUB OFF TO A SUPERMARKET CHAIN THE LAST FEW MONTHS?



WHAT'LL THAT DO TO SALES OF CLEAVER MEAT PRODUCTS, EH?

ERM...

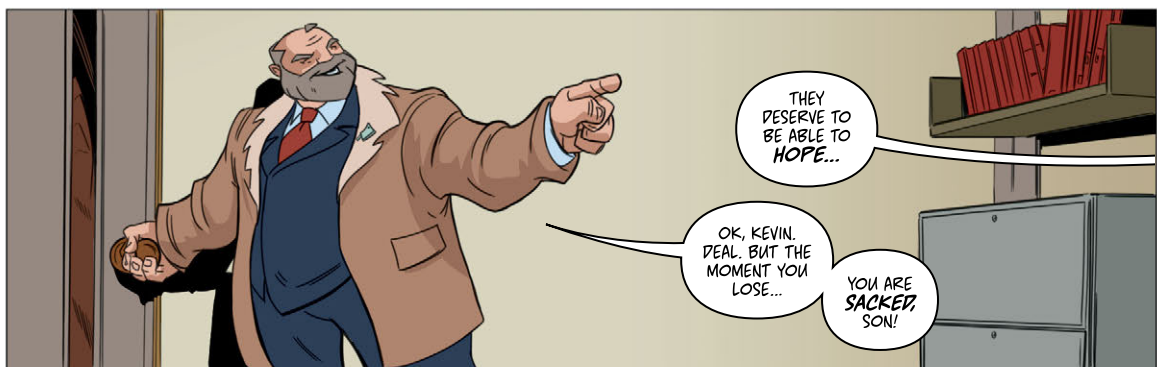
I'LL DO YOU A DEAL, BARRY. I'LL GO AND I'LL GO QUIETLY. **BUT...**



YOU WILL **NOT** SAY A WORD TO PACO, YOU WILL **NOT** SPEAK TO THE TEAM AND THEY WILL **NOT** HEAR A WORD ABOUT THE SALE OF THIS STADIUM, UNDERSTAND ME?

NOW LOOK HERE, KEVIN...

NOT. ONE. WORD. THESE LADS HAVE WORKED **SO HARD** TO HAVE A CHANCE OF PROMOTION. NO ONE GAVE THEM A CHANCE. THE FANS ARE COMING BACK.

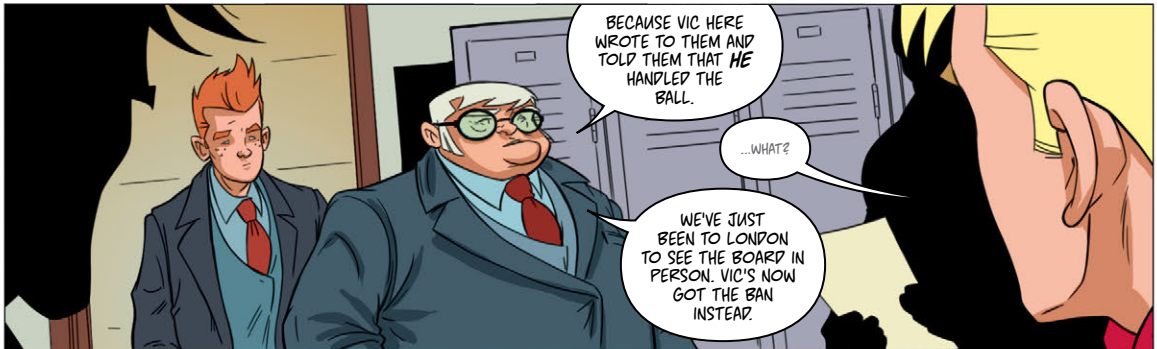


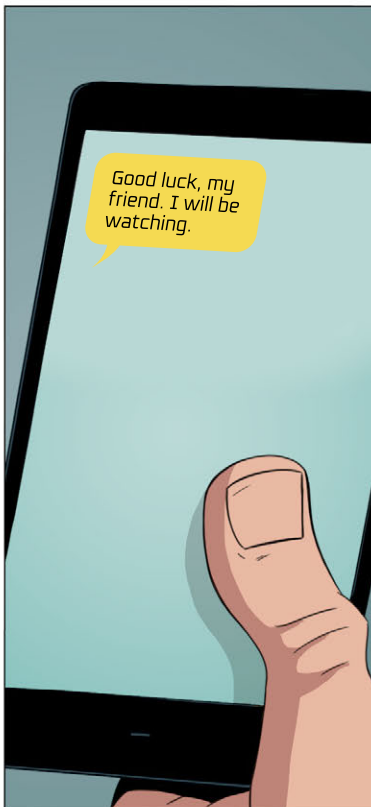
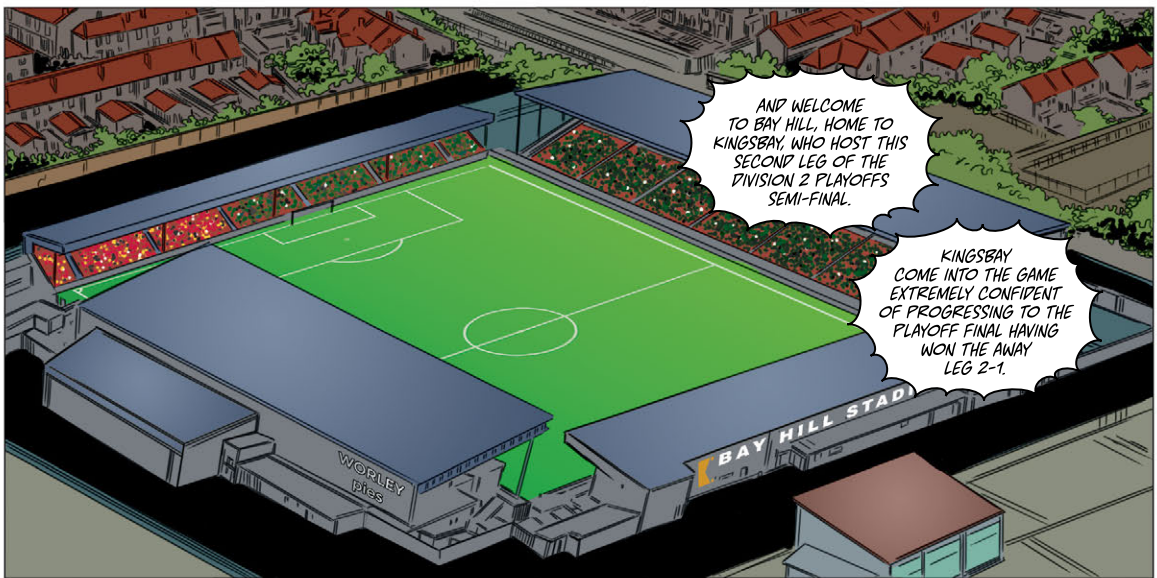
THEY DESERVE TO BE ABLE TO **HOPE...**

OK, KEVIN. DEAL. BUT THE MOMENT YOU LOSE...

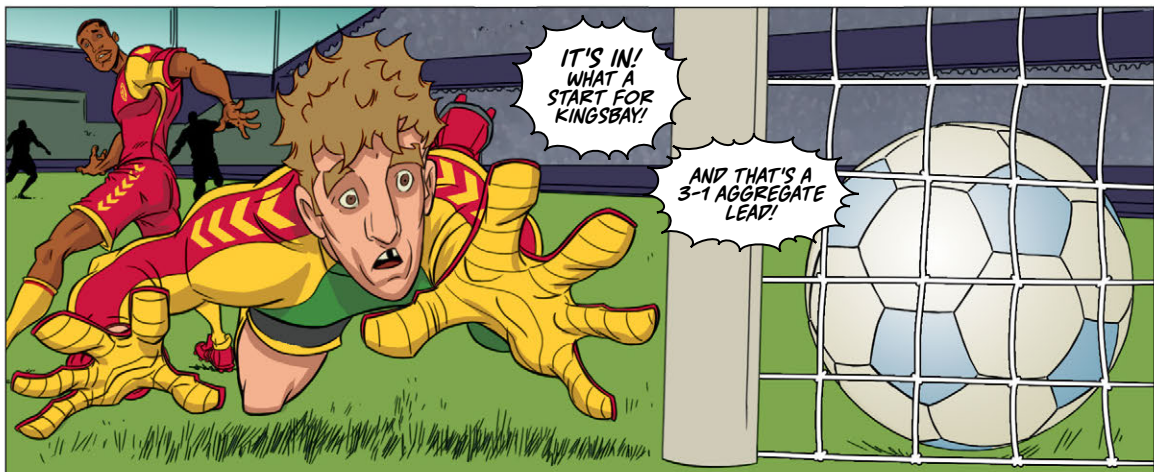
YOU ARE **SACKED,** SON!

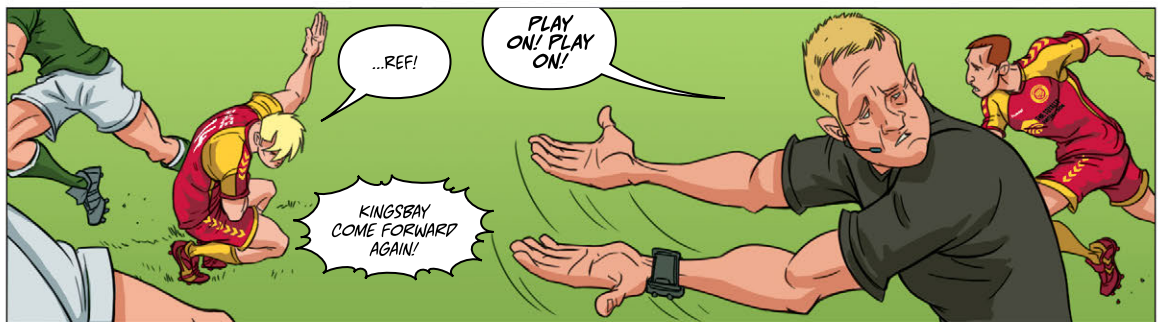
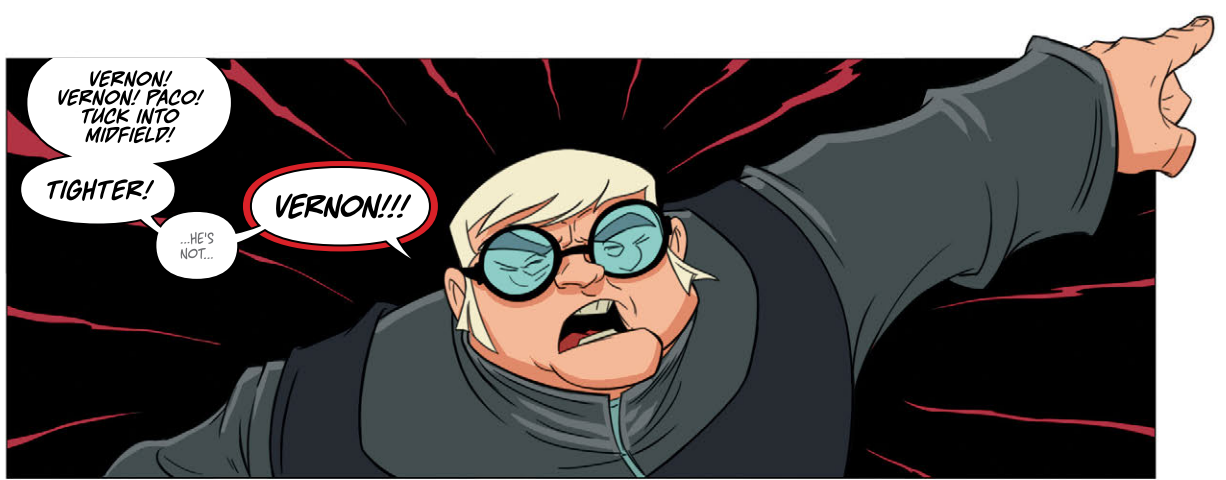














BRAVE
SAVE BY
GORDON STEWART,
MELCHESTER'S
SCOTTISH
GOALIE.

BUT
HE'S TAKEN A
HEAVY KNOCK
THERE.



YOU OK,
GORDON?

YEAH...
I...

=SPIT=

I'M ALRIGHT.
CAUGHT ME ON THE
CHIN IS ALL. I'M
GOOD.

UNINTENTIONAL
THAT, BOYS. HE WAS
REACHING FOR THE BALL.
BUT I'M GIVING A YELLOW
FOR THE CONTACT.



AND THAT'S THE FIRST
YELLOW OF THE SEMI,
FOR KINGSBAY
STRIKER COLE.

BOOOOOOOOOOO!!!



DON'T KNOW
ABOUT YOU,
PACO...

BUT
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
THIS.

SI.

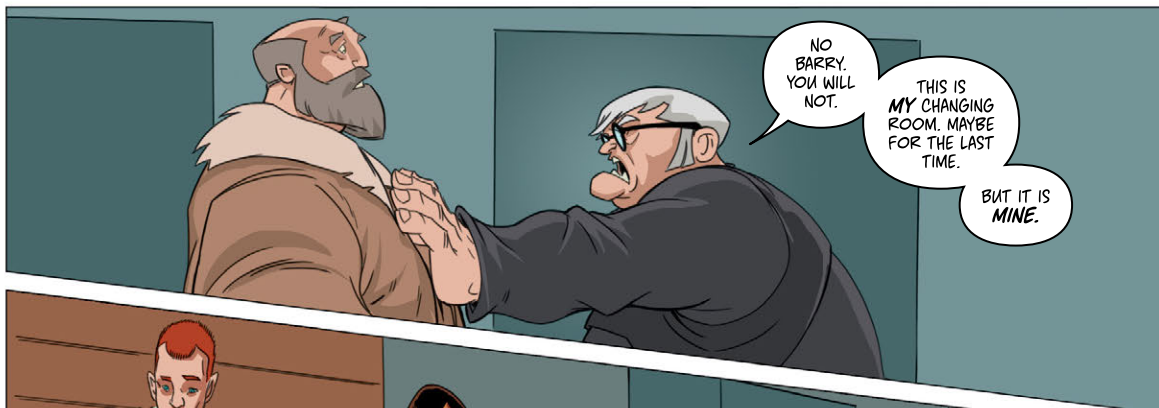


AND NOW
MELCHESTER ARE
STARTING TO LOSE
THEIR HEADS. THAT'S
A FOUL BY
RACE...

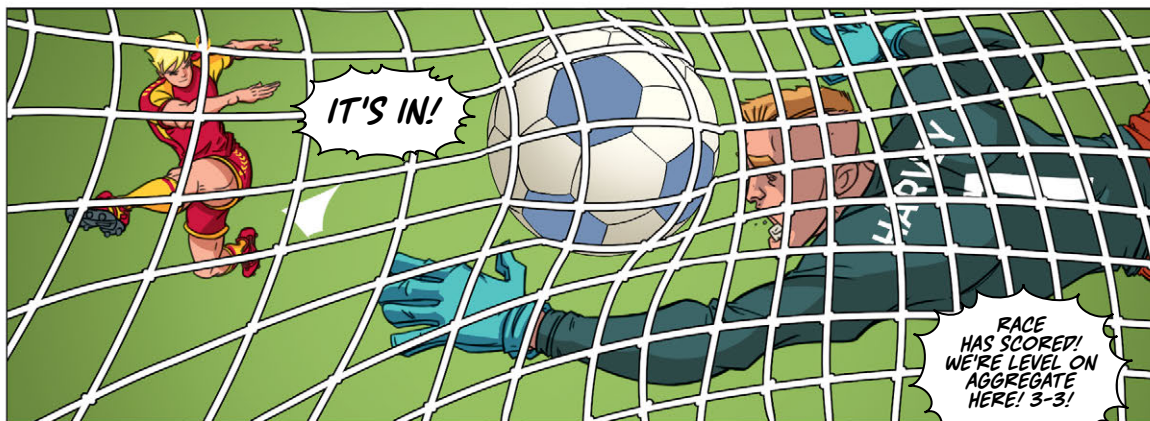
NO, HE
GOT THE BALL!
THE REFEREE IS
WAVING PLAY
ON...

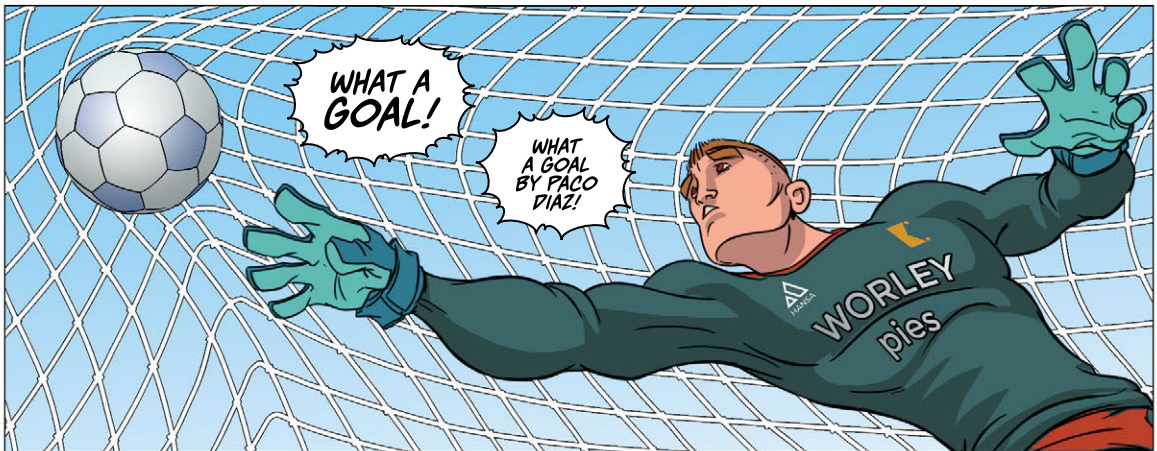




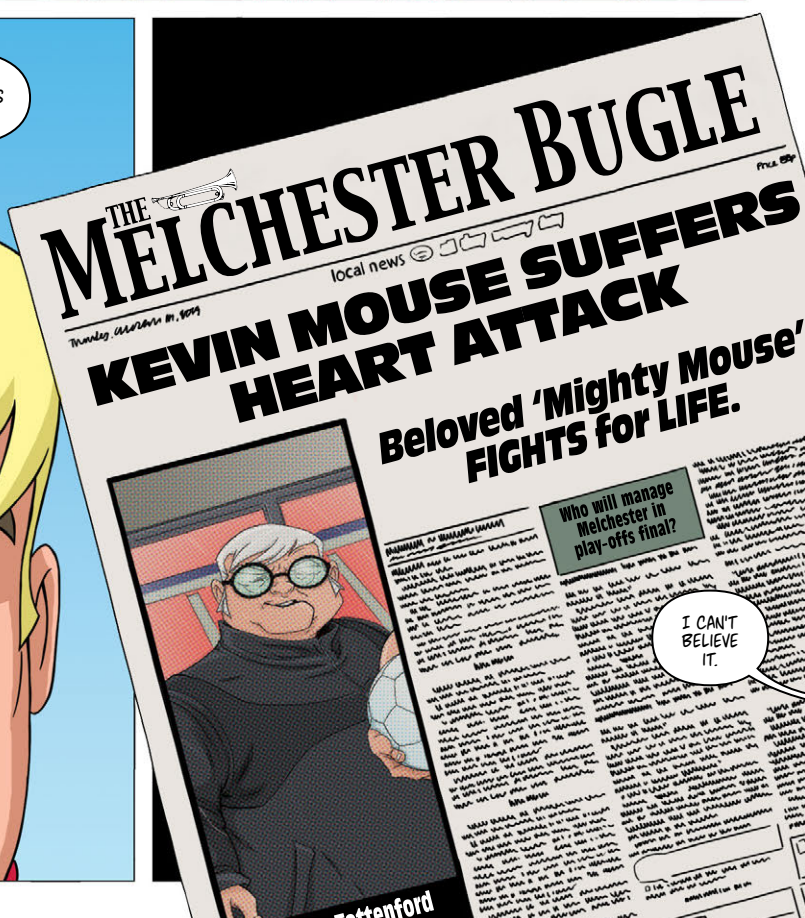
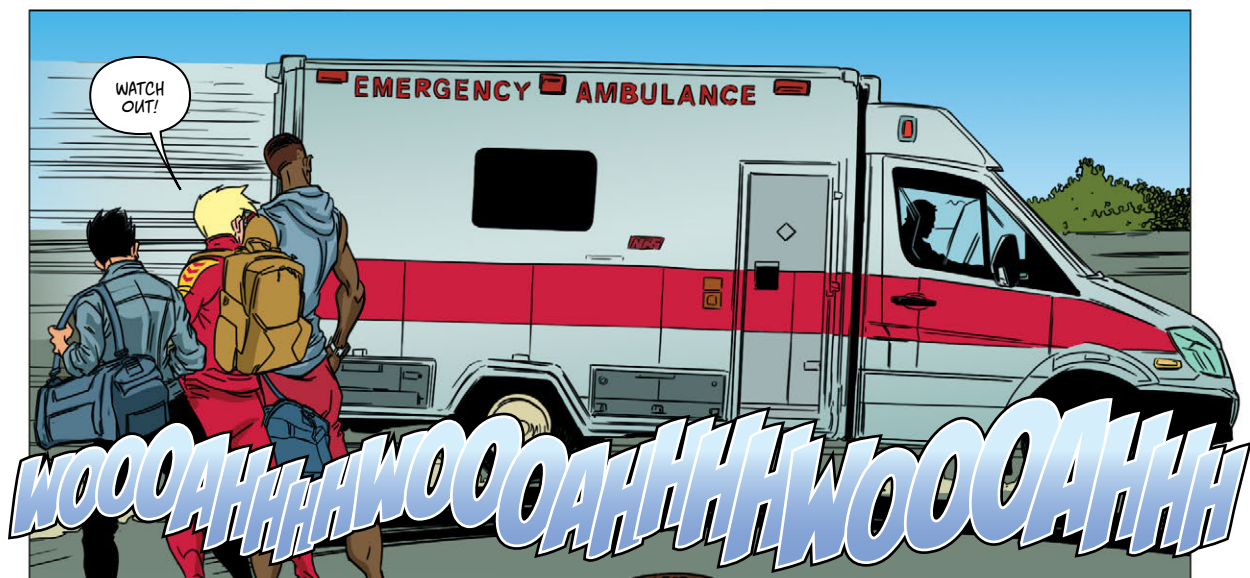


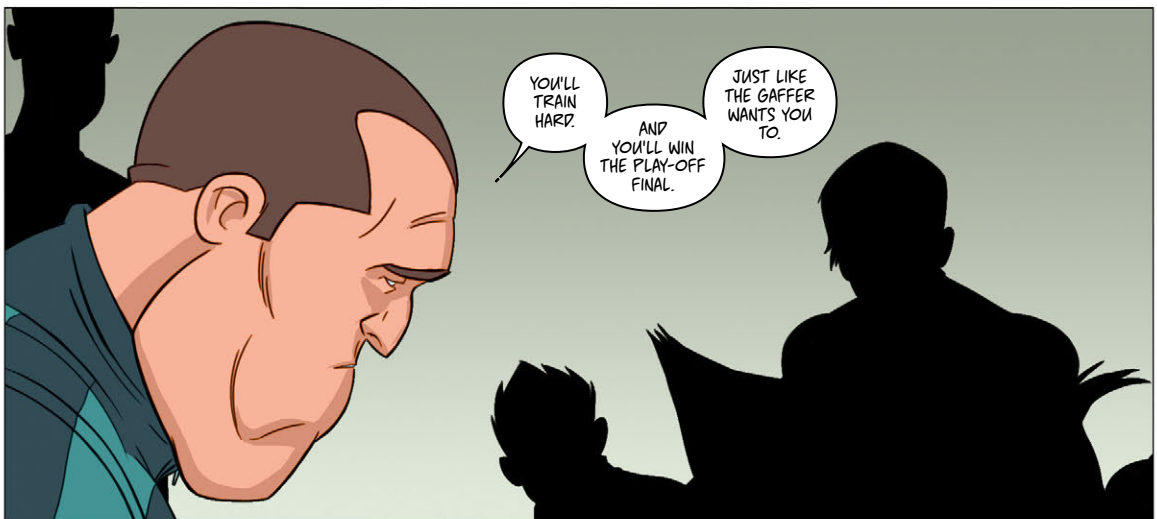


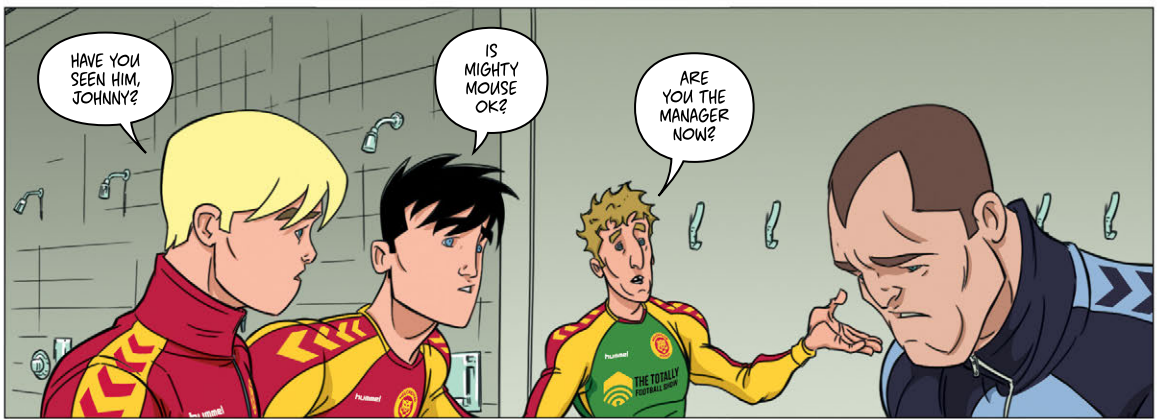












**SIX DAYS BEFORE
THE PLAY-OFF FINAL.**

LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN,
MEET MELCHESTER'S
CARETAKER MANAGER...
WELCOME BACK CLUB
LEGEND...

**HOT-SHOT
HAMISH!**

HULLO.





BARRY! BARRY!
THIS IS A **REAL SCOOP**
FOR MELCHESTER, A
CLUB WITH NO
MONEY.

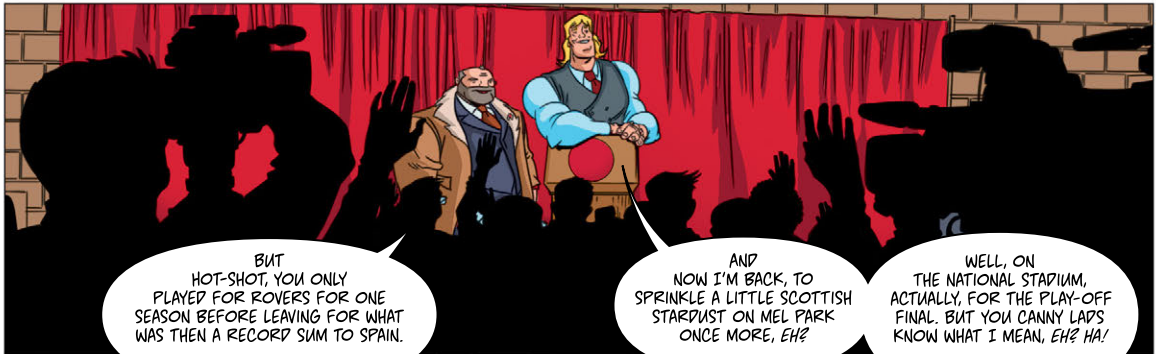
HOW HAVE
YOU MANAGED TO
BRING HOT-SHOT BACK
FROM THE SOUTH OF
SPAIN, WHERE HE'S BEEN
LIVING THESE PAST
TEN YEARS?



I'LL ANSWER
THAT IF I MAY,
BARRY.

MELCHESTER
HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN MY
HEART AND BARRY HERE IS A
VERY GOOD, CLOSE PERSONAL
FRIEND OF MINE, YE KEN?
HE TOLD ME THE CLUB
NEEDED ME AND,
WELL...

I **HAD**
TO COME
BACK.



BUT
HOT-SHOT, YOU ONLY
PLAYED FOR ROVERS FOR ONE
SEASON BEFORE LEAVING FOR WHAT
WAS THEN A RECORD SUM TO SPAIN.

AND
NOW I'M BACK, TO
SPRINKLE A LITTLE SCOTTISH
STARDUST ON MEL PARK
ONCE MORE, EH?

WELL, ON
THE NATIONAL STADIUM,
ACTUALLY, FOR THE PLAY-OFF
FINAL. BUT YOU CANNY LADS
KNOW WHAT I MEAN, EH? HA!



HAMISH HERE
WILL MANAGE
MELCHESTER
ROVERS...

DON'T
YOU MEAN
CARETAKER-MANAGE?
KEVIN MOUSE IS STILL
YOUR MANAGER,
ISN'T HE?

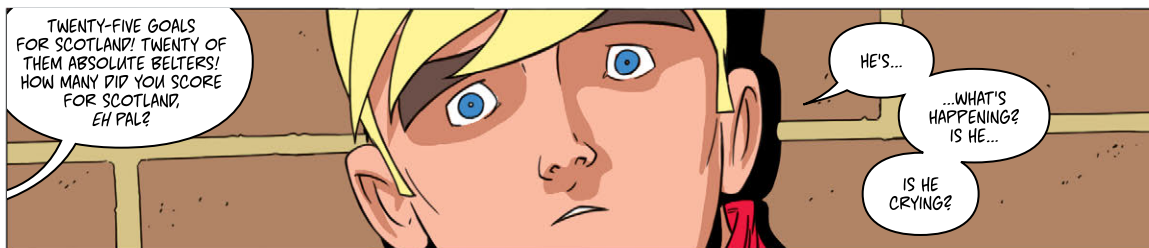
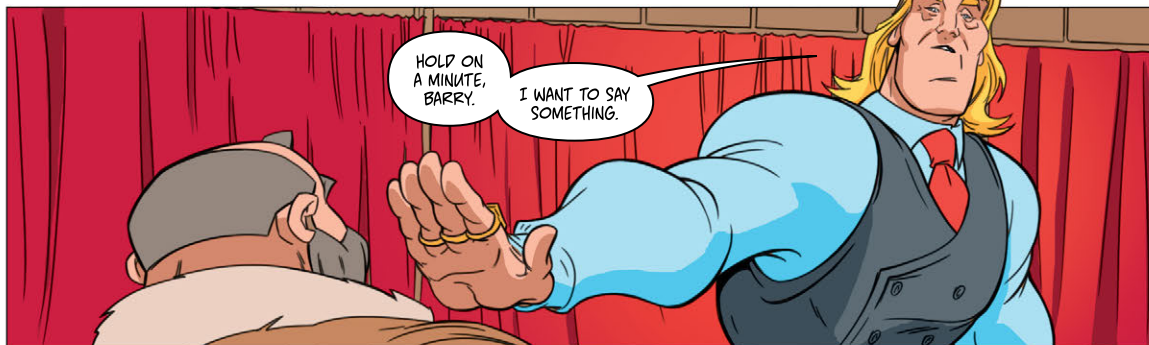
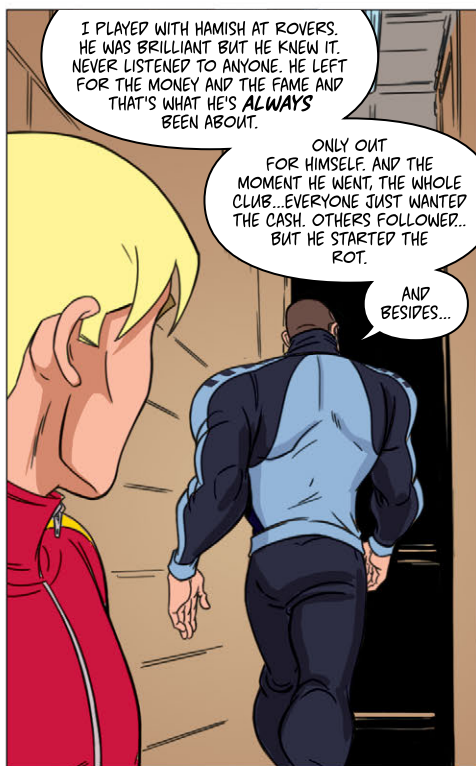
YES. OF COURSE.
HAMISH WILL BE **CARETAKER**
MANAGER. AND AS WE ALL KNOW, HE
HAS EXPERIENCE OF MANAGEMENT
AT THE TOP LEVEL IN SPAIN...

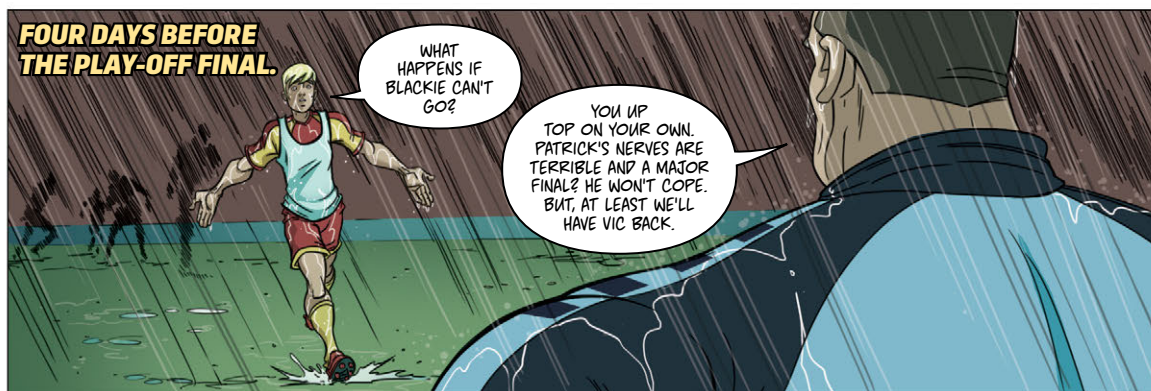
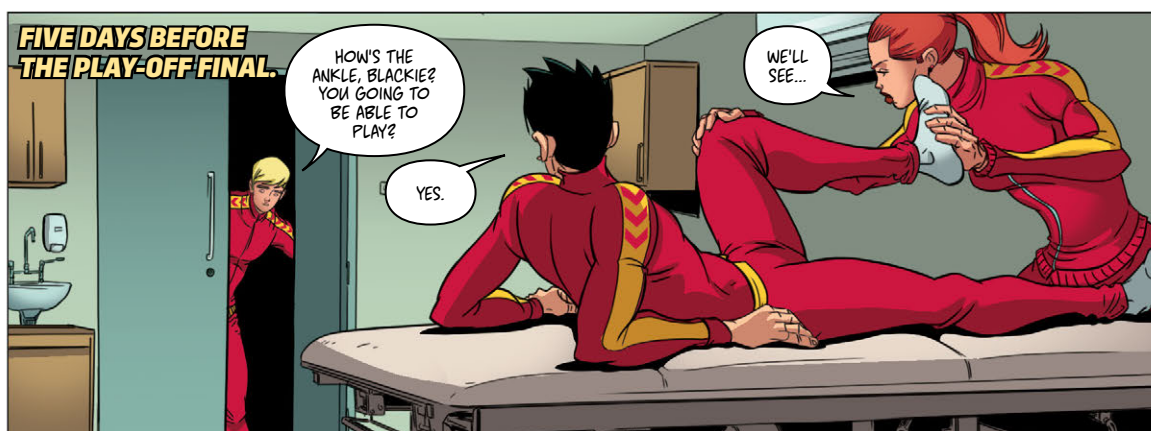


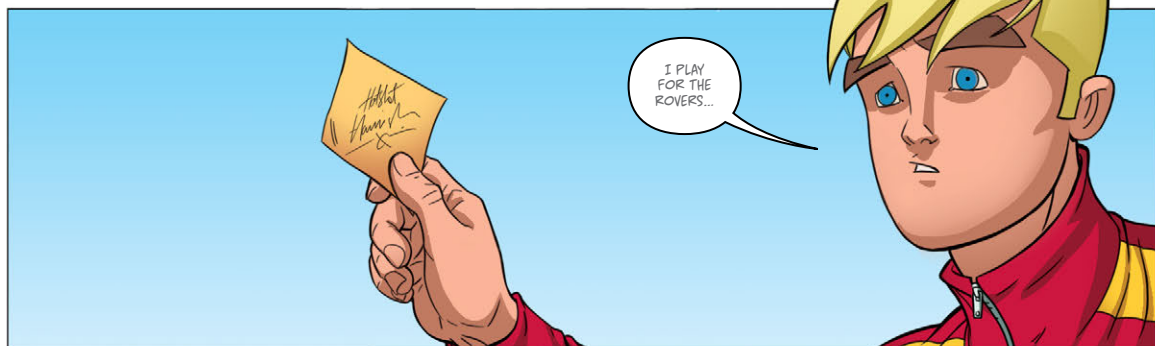
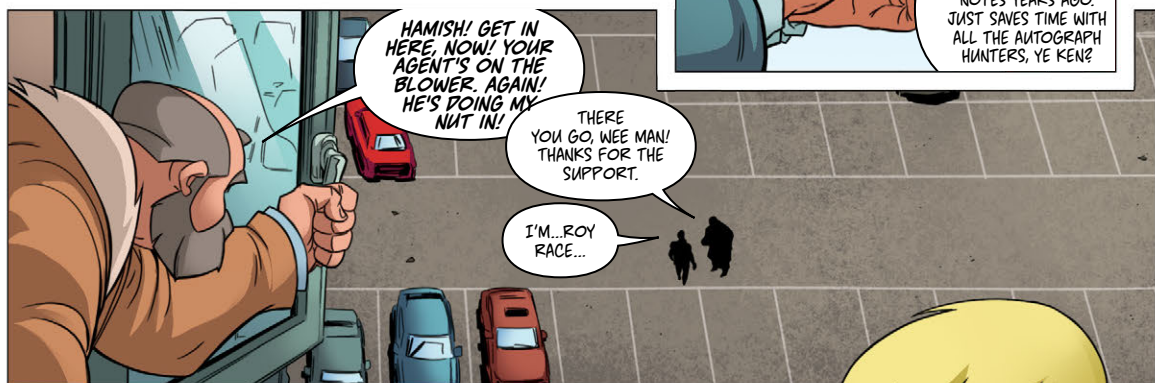
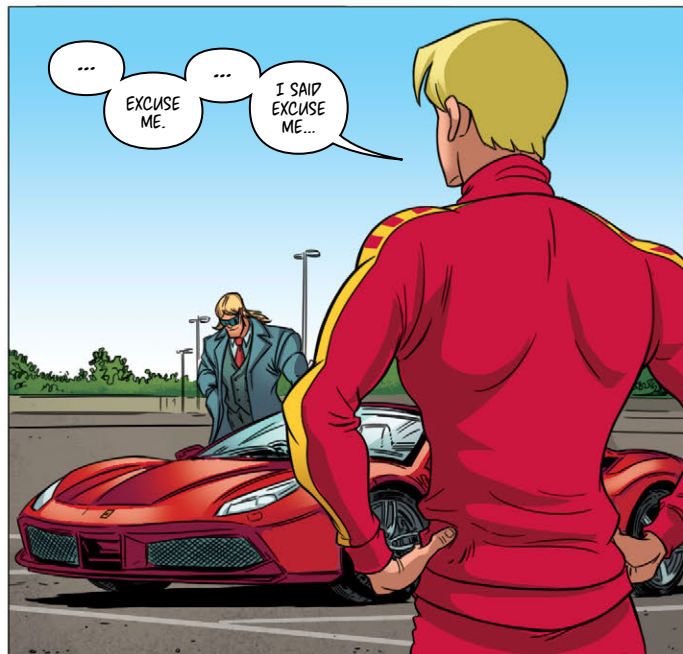
LASTED FIVE GAMES AT REAL
BEFORE BEING SACKED. FOR
BEING TACTICALLY CLUELESS.
LOST FOUR, DREW ONE. AND
THEY CONCEDED FIVE HIS
LAST GAME.

YOU'RE
NOT A FAN
THEN?

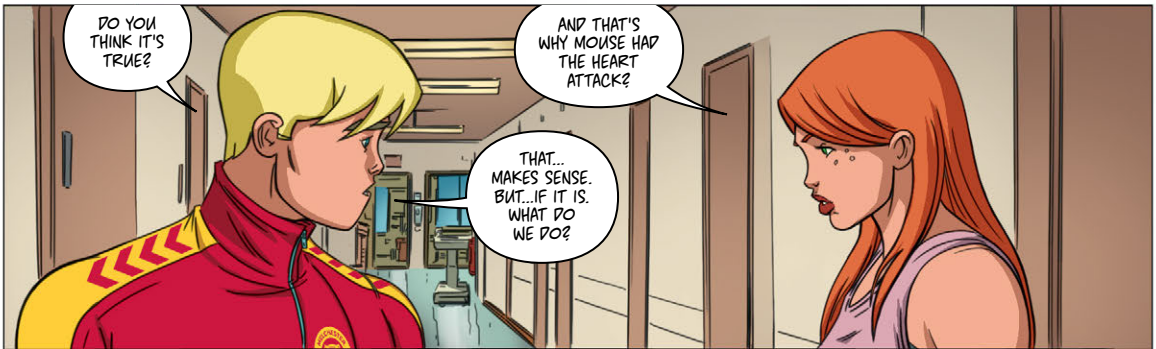
I AM NOT,
ROY RACE, OF THE
ROVERS WITH THE
ROCKET, NO.











THE PLAY-OFF FINAL!

THIS IS IT!
THE NATIONAL
STADIUM!

THE HOME OF
FOOTBALL IN THE
COUNTRY THAT
INVENTED THE
SPORT!

AND
THERE ARE
50,000 FANS
EXPECTED
TODAY!

PRETTY
MUCH THE WHOLE
OF COURT PARK AND
MELCHESTER HAVE
MADE IT DOWN THE
M5 TO LONDON
TODAY!

MELCHESTER ROVERS
14 ROY RACE

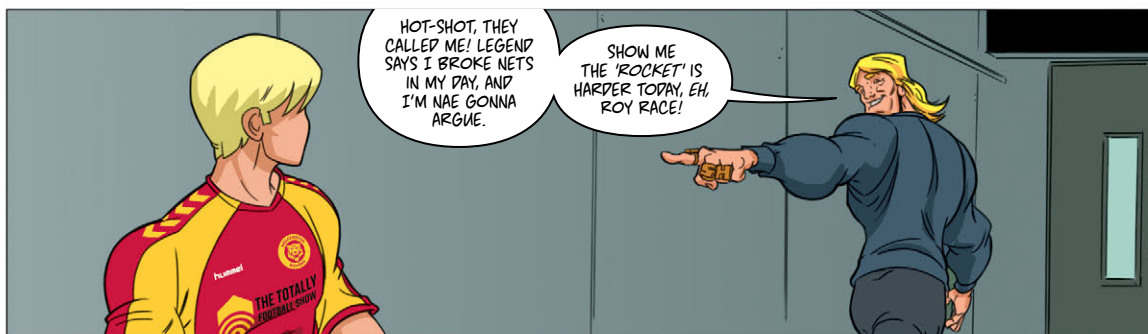
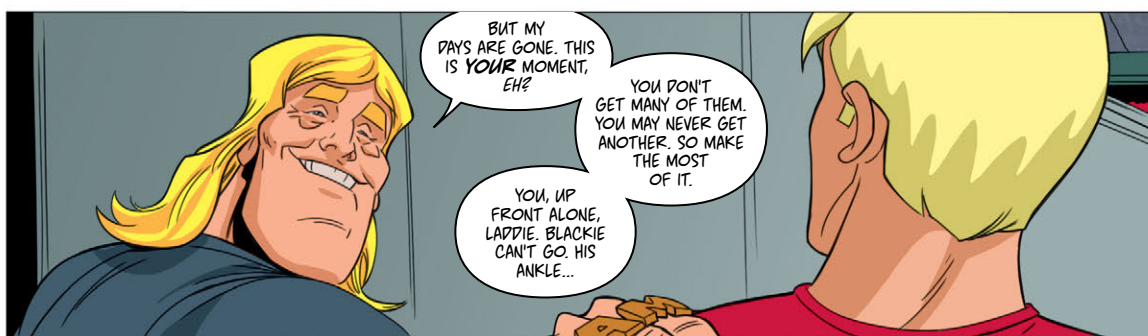
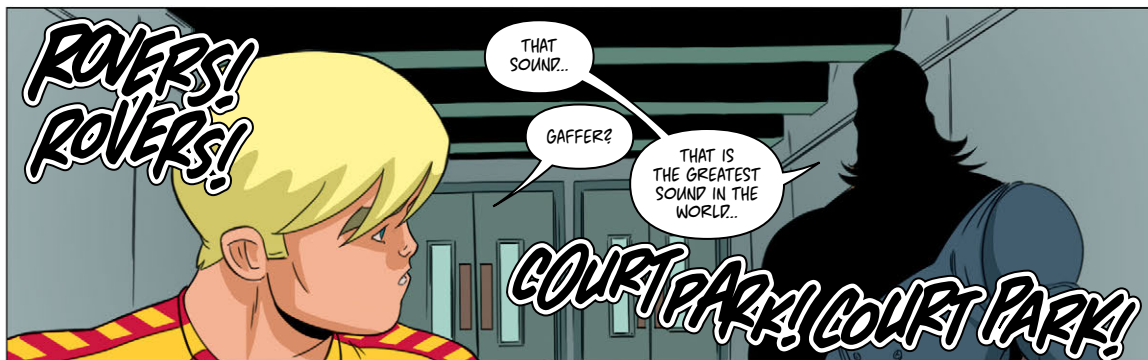
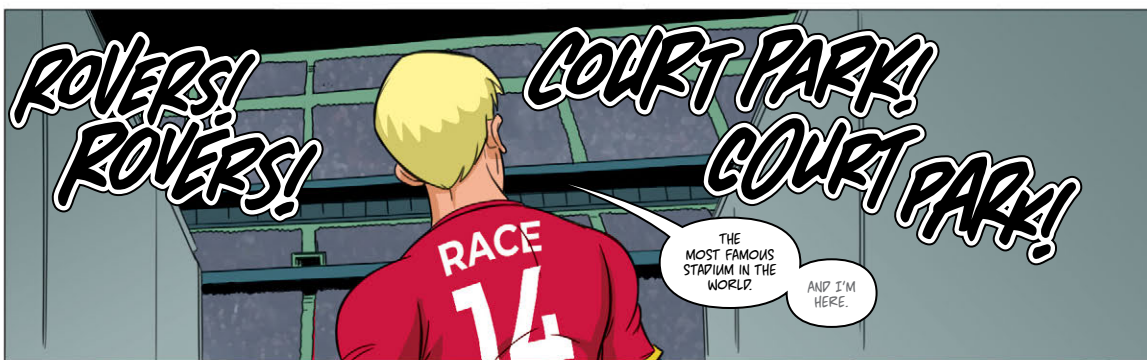
WELL,
THE HALF OF
MELCHESTER THAT
DON'T SUPPORT
TYNECASTER, OF
COURSE.

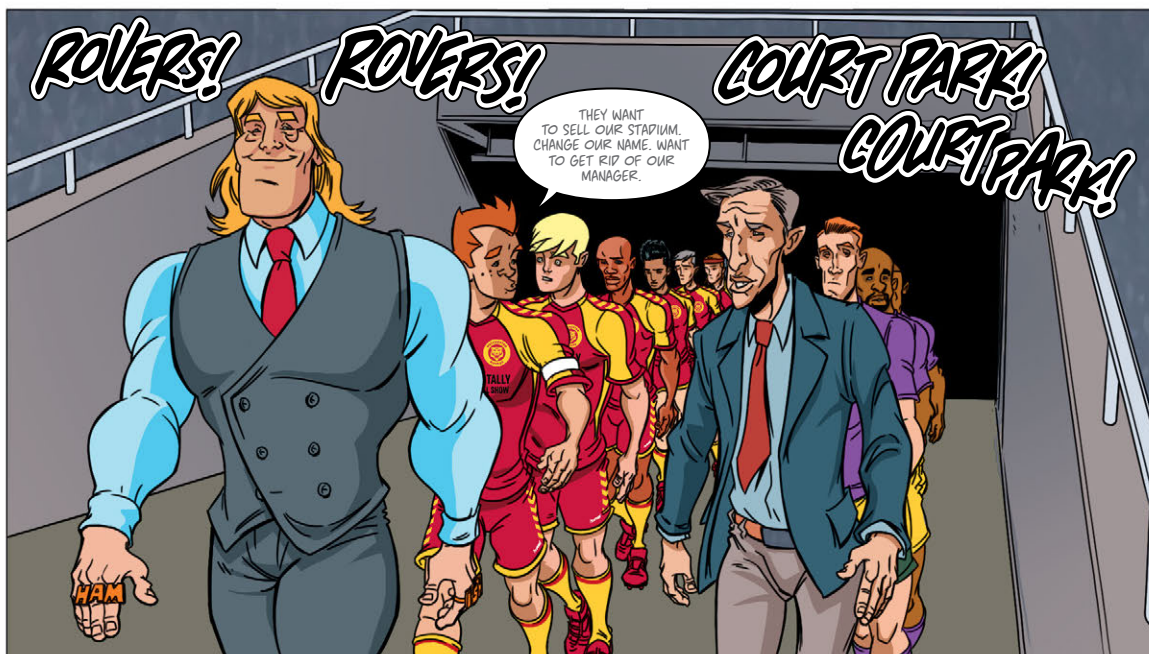
HAHAHA.

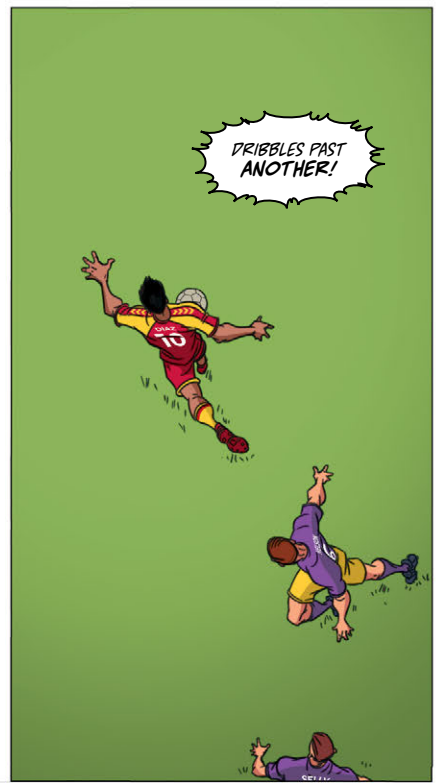
AND IF YOU ARE
A MELCHESTER FAN
YOU'RE OUT FOR
BLOOD, ESPECIALLY
FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN,
BARRY 'MEAT'
CLEAVER.

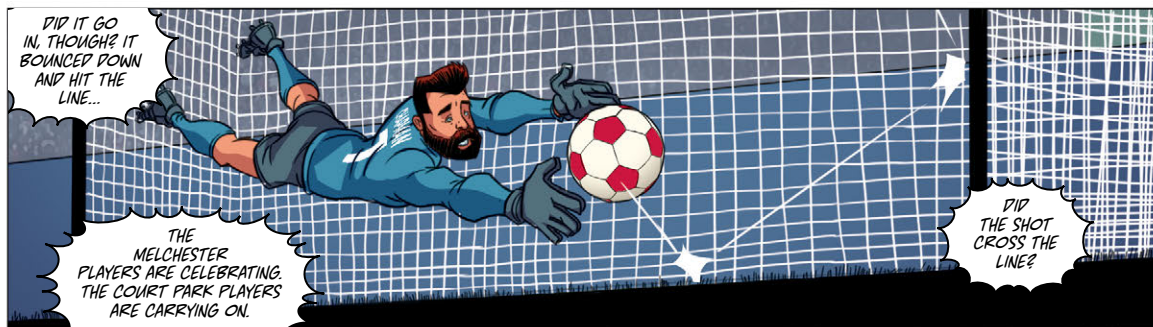
THERE IS **NO**
SUBSTANCE TO THOSE
STORIES, I PROMISE
YOU. **FAKE**
NEWS!

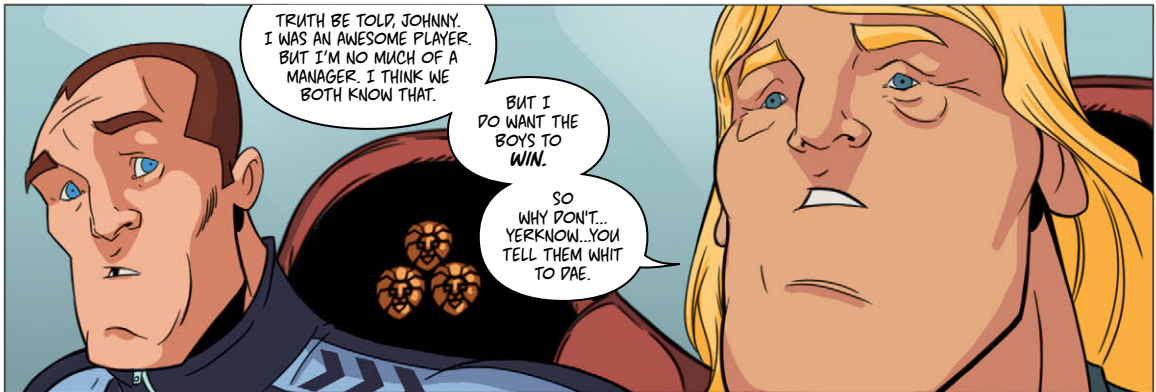
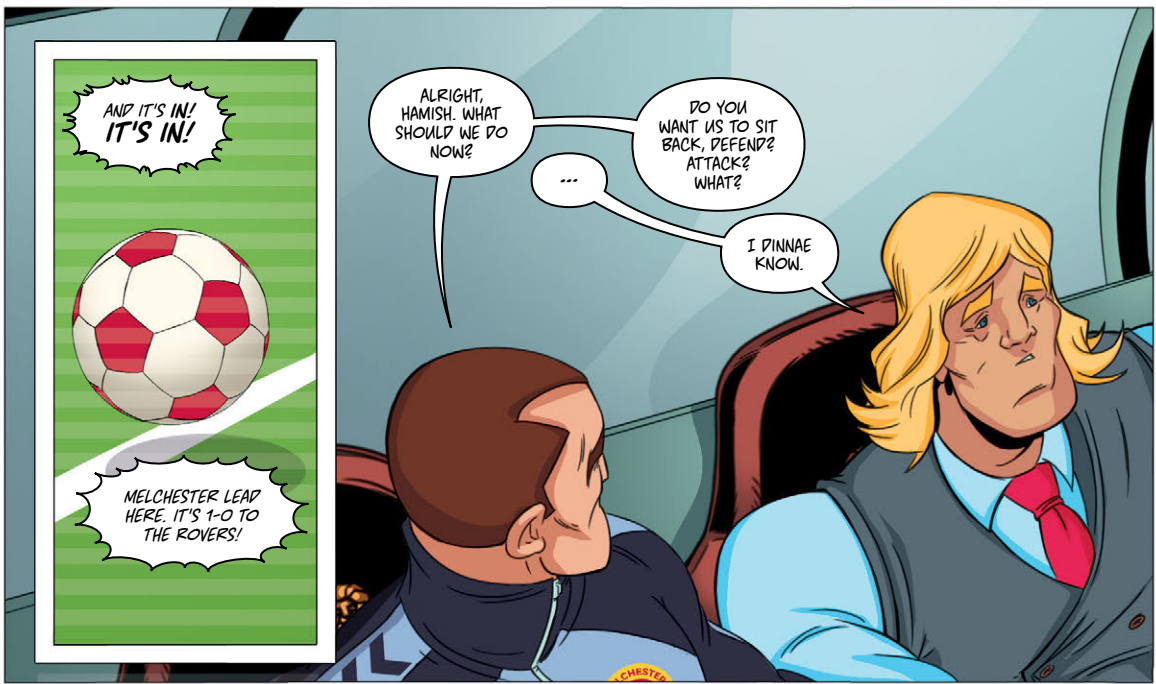
KEVIN MOUSE
WILL BE OUR MANAGER
AGAIN WHEN HE RECOVERS.
YOU HAVE MY WORD, AND
MY WORD IS MY **MEAT**,
AS I SAY.



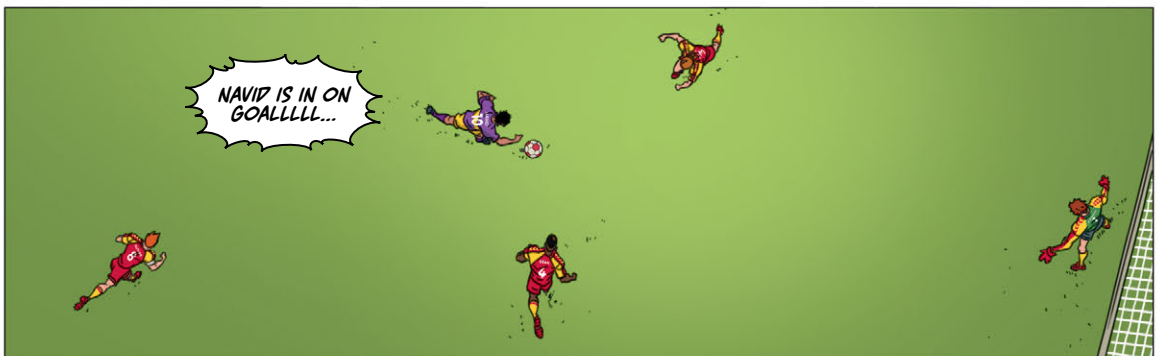


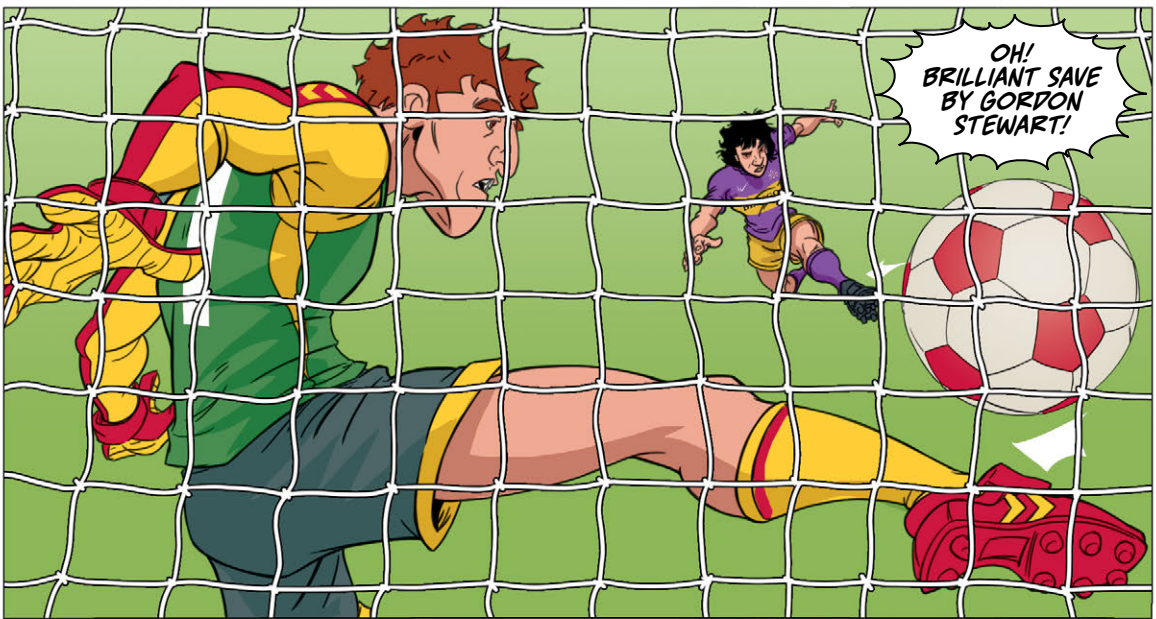


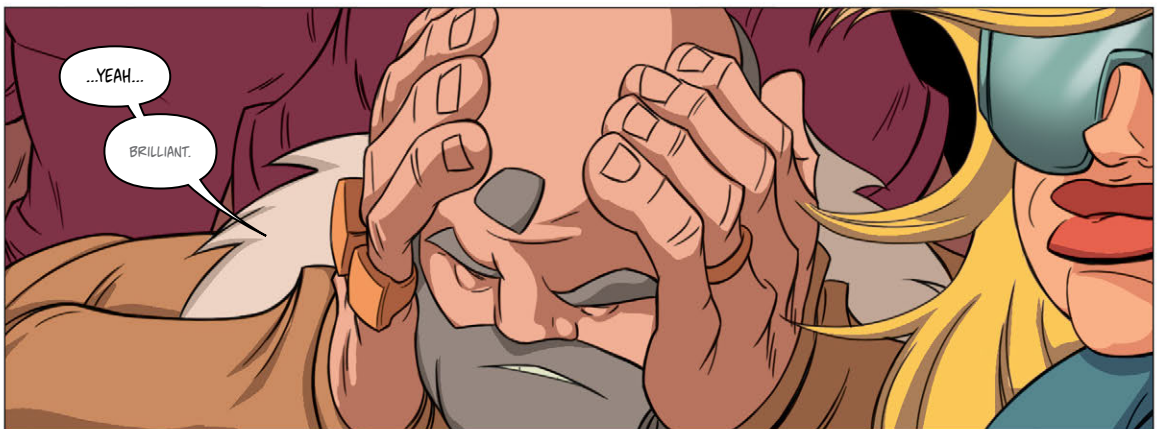
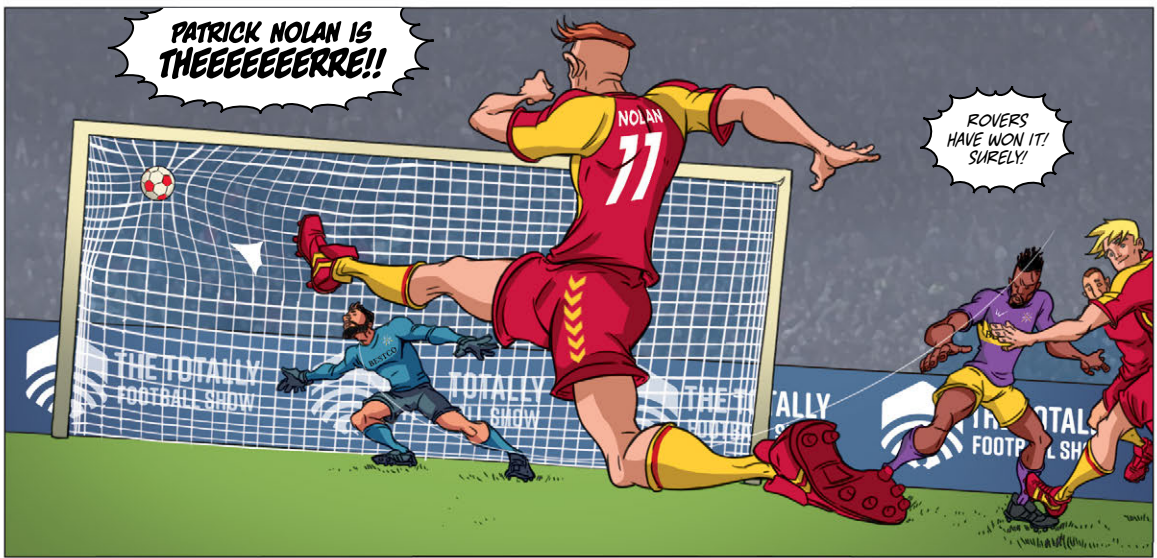


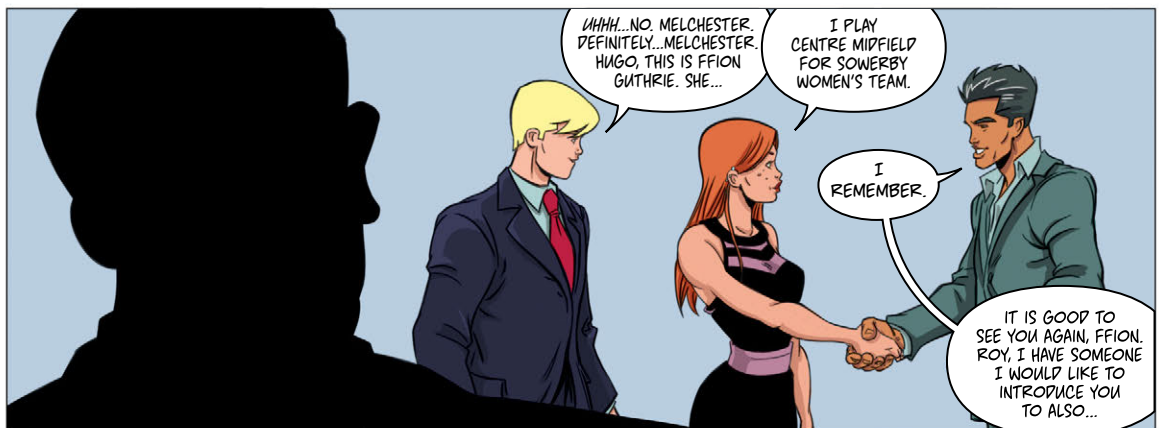
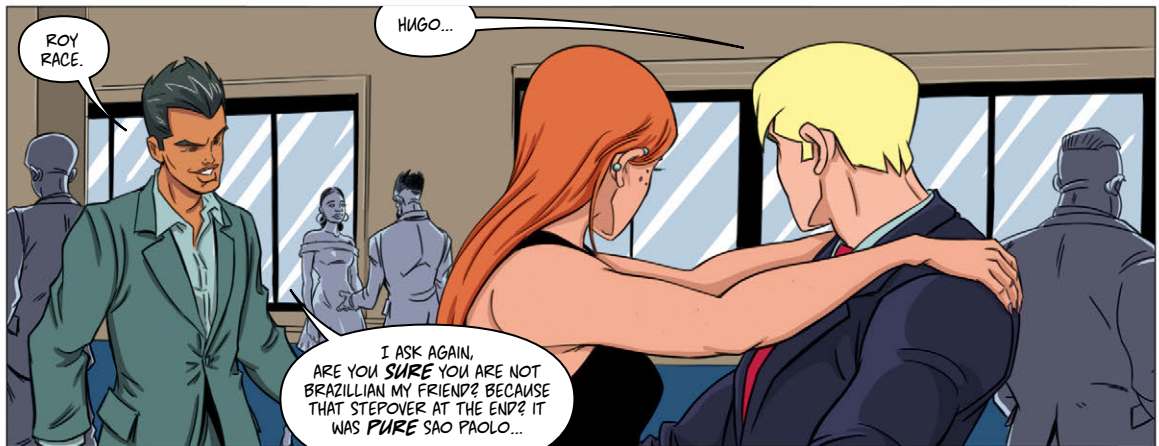


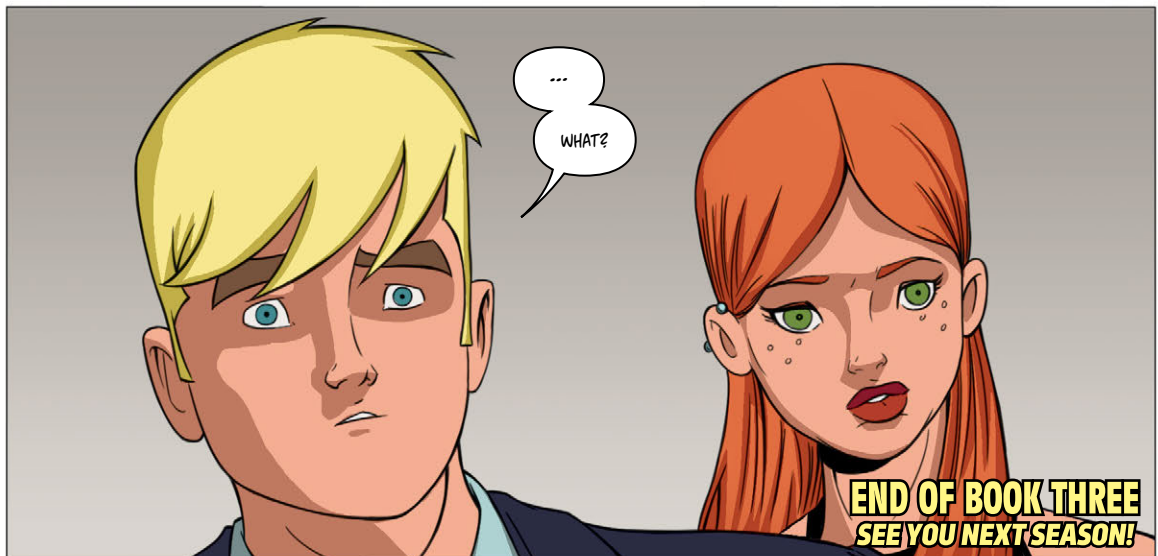












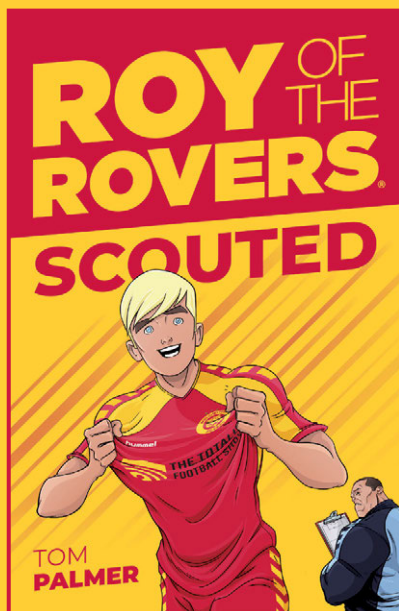


ROY OF THE ROVERS®

THE FIRST SEASON

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Don't forget to tick the boxes as you read each one.

FICTION

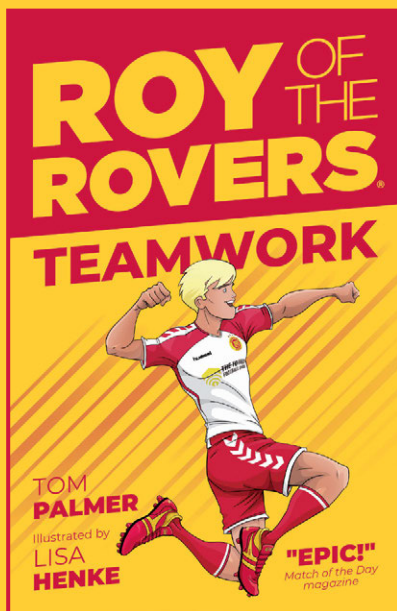


BOOK 1 SCOUTED

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

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

READ? ☐

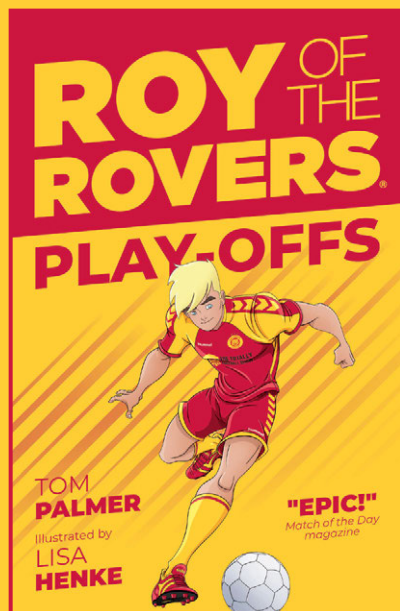


BOOK 2 TEAMWORK

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

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

READ? ☐



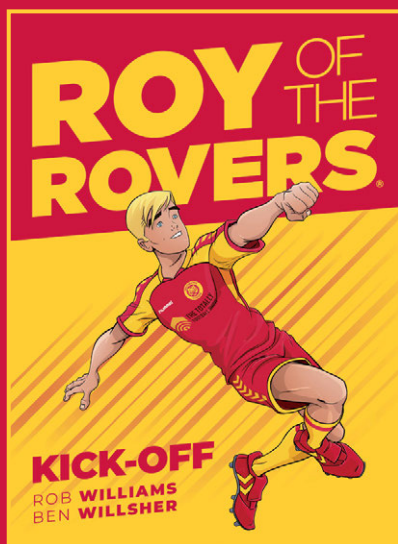
BOOK 3 PLAY-OFFS

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

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

READ? ☐

GRAPHIC NOVELS

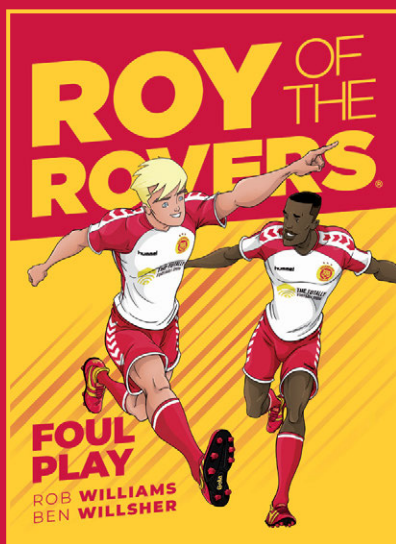


BOOK 1 KICK-OFF

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

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

READ? ☐

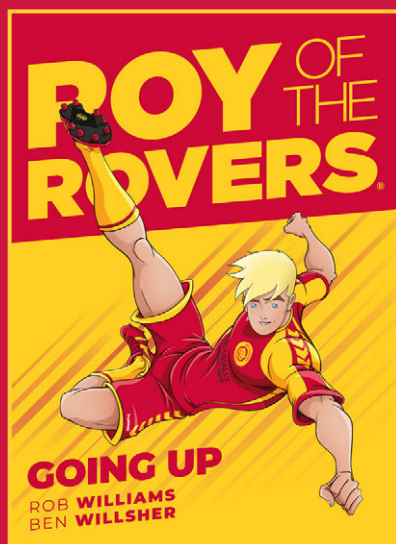


BOOK 2 FOUL PLAY

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

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

READ? ☐



BOOK 3 GOING UP

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

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PLAYER INTERVIEW

Introduce yourself

Patrick Nolan – striker.

Do you have a nickname?

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

Who was your favourite team growing up?

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

Who is the best player that you have played with?

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

Who is the best player that you have played against?

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

Do you have a pre-match routine?

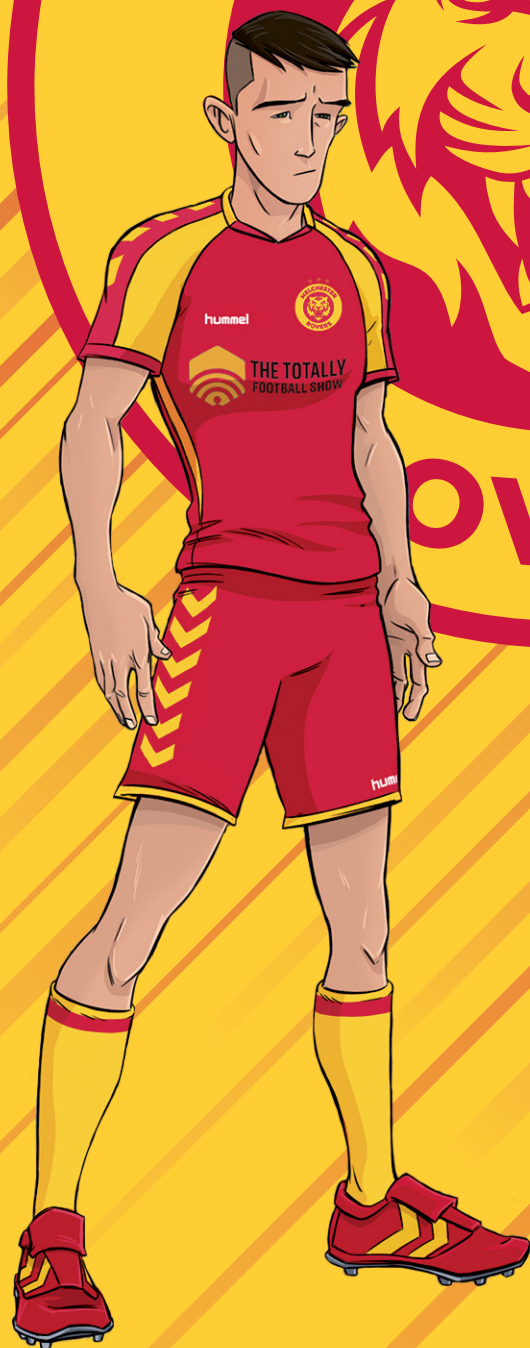
I try and hide from Vic. He does this thing where he comes up to you and screams in your face...it's weird man!

What's your advice to young players?

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

What's your favourite social media network and why?

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





PLAYER INTERVIEW

Introduce yourself

Vic Guthrie – midfielder and captain for Melchester Rovers

Do you have a nickname?

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

Who was your favourite team growing up?

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

Who is the best player that you have played with?

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

Who is the best player that you have played against?

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

Do you have a pre-match routine?

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

What's your advice to young players?

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

What's your favourite social media network and why?

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



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