

Episode 024-Drakon's Schemes

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(the episode begins with Lock helping Juzan to his feet)

Lock: Hey, you alright?

Juzan: I'm fine, the only thing he hurt was my pride.

Lock: You put up one heck of a fight though, Rondo is definitely sore after that one.

(in the ring, Rondo is tired from his battle with Juzan)

Juzan: Somehow I don't think he's as sore as I am. Good luck against him in the finals, you're going to need it.

Lock: Yeah, I've certainly got my work cut out for me.

Juzan: If I can't be the champion, I want you to get it.

Lock: Thanks, that means a lot.

Juzan: Go get him, and make sure to show what Ozana fighters are really capable of.

Lock: Count on it. (looking up into the stands) Hey, is it me or is that girl waving in our direction?

Juzan: (looking up too) Hey! Alright, at least I've still got some fans left. I think I'll watch your match from the stands with her instead of in Ozana's waiting area.

Lock: (laughing) I knew you were going to say something like that.

Juzan: See ya later. And make sure to tell the rest of the class I'm watching from my own vantage point. (all of a sudden someone grabs him by the ear)

Ms. Hancock: Oh no you don't. You're staying with the rest of us Juzan. You have all the time in the world to date after the tournament is over.

Juzan: Well, at least there's only one more match, and Rondo is pretty winded right now.

Ms. Hancock: Is that Drakon talking with the tournament committee again?

Lock: Yeah, what the heck does he want now?

(Drakon is whispering to the members and then they take counsel amongst themselves, Rondo is smirking)

Juzan: I've got a bad feeling about this.

(one of the committee members stands up and takes a microphone from Larina)

Member 1: After the last match, the finals have been set. Ozana's champion Lock will face Drakon's champion Rondo. However, because Rondo was just in a match while Lock was resting, this gives an unfair advantage to Ozana School. Therefore, the championship match will take place tomorrow.

Juzan: What? Oh come on, this is ridiculous!

Lock: Don't worry about it Juzan, I'd rather fight Rondo when he's at his best.

Juzan: Yeah, but you know they wouldn't have made the same choice if your places were reversed. This tournament committee is just trying to screw you.

Musa: I agree with you Juzan, but let it go. There's nothing we can do about it.

Lock: Hey, it's not like they disqualified me or anything.

Musa: Shhh, don't give them any ideas.

(Larina gets her microphone back as Drakon heads back to his waiting area)

Larina: What a shocking ruling by the tournament committee. The final match between Lock and Rondo has been postponed until tomorrow.

Targon: A wise decision I believe. This way we get to see both fighters go at it fresh. Juzan put up a great fight against Rondo and scored many strong hits on him, it just wouldn't be fair to have a rested Lock fight a weary Rondo.

Larina: Yes, that does make sense, but it still won't help the ratings.

Targon: This tournament is about more than ratings Larina. This is about finding out which school is the number one martial arts academy in the world.

Larina: Well there you have it folks, consider this a "to be continued" tournament, and make sure to tune in tomorrow for the championship match.

(the audience members are not happy about the ruling)

Fan 1: Man, what a drag.

Fan 2: I know, the final match better be worth the wait.

(the audience begins to head out, as do the teams of fighters, Drakon has a smug look on his face, he and Rondo are walking together through their entrance tunnel)

Rondo: I still could have beaten Lock with the spirit energy I have leftover from my fight with Juzan, but now when I face him with my full strength, I'll win easily.

Drakon: I know you could have defeated him now, but I want him destroyed, not just defeated. Do you understand?

Rondo: Yes, don't worry it will be my pleasure.

Drakon: I'm not worried at all, in fact, that ruling was just the first part of my plan for Lock's defeat.

Rondo: What do you mean?

Drakon: Let's just say there's a good chance Lock might not make it to the finals tomorrow...at least not in any condition to fight.

Rondo: I see, (sarcastically) that sure would be a pity if something happened to Lock that made him unable to participate.

Drakon: And the fans would have no one to blame but Lock for not showing up.

(Drakon turns and nods to the rest of his students, who nod back then teleport off while Drakon and Rondo laugh as they walk away)

Ms. Hancock: Well I guess we should get going. The other students are leaving.

Lock: I'm not going yet, first I want to check in with Breta and Tino and see how they're doing.

Musa: I'll go with you. I'll leave the rest of the students to you Ms. Hancock.

Ms. Hancock: Sure. Besides, if I went with you, who would wake up Headmaster Ozana?

(they all look at their waiting area and see Headmaster Ozana is still asleep)

Musa: Does he even know about the committee's ruling? I mean he could probably just spend the night here. It's not like he would know we ever left.

Ms. Hancock: Pitiful, and he wonders why no one takes him seriously.

(Ms. Hancock heads over to Ozana's waiting area)

Lock: What about you Juzan? Do you wanna come with us?....Juzan?....Juzan?

(Lock looks around but Juzan is no where to be seen)

Lock: Where'd he go?

Musa: Take a good guess.

(she nods into the stands and Lock sees Juzan leaving with his arm around the girl that was waving to him before)

Lock: Well, that's Juzan for you.

(meanwhile Ms. Hancock returns to Ozana's waiting room, where she finds many students standing over Headmaster Ozana with a marker, doing something)

Ms. Hancock: Hey, what are you all doing?

Student 1: Oh man, we're dead!

Student 2: Yeah, she's going to kill us.

Student 1: I told you guys to keep watch!

Ms. Hancock: Alright, what have you delinquents done this time?

(the students back off to reveal they were drawing on Headmaster Ozana's face while he was sleeping. They colored his nose black and drew whiskers, making him look like a cat. All the students are afraid she's going to be mad at them. However, the second Ms.

Hancock sees Headmaster Ozana's face she bursts into laughter while the other students are relieved and laugh as well.)

Ms. Hancock: Quickly, clean that off before he wakes up.

(the students start to, but Headmaster Ozana groggily wakes up, the students instantly chuck the marker away and they all act like nothing happened, hoping he won't notice)

Ms. Hancock: (acting like there's nothing on his face and trying not to laugh) Welcome back Headmaster Ozana, are you feeling rested now?

Headmaster Ozana: Yes I am. (looking around) What happened? Did we win?

Ms. Hancock: Not yet, the tournament committee ruled that the championship match will be tomorrow so the fighters can be rested.

Headmaster Ozana: And they didn't consult me first? I want to speak with them immediately.

Ms. Hancock: I believe they left already, sir.

Headmaster Ozana: That won't stop me. I'll hunt them down like a cat stalking a mouse.

(Ms. Hancock and the students try hard not to laugh)

Ms. Hancock: Well you certainly look ready to stalk them down.

Headmaster Ozana: Now come, Ms. Hancock. Let's go find that committee.

Ms. Hancock: (shrugging) You're the boss.

(they begin to leave but Headmaster Ozana stops)

Headmaster Ozana: Um, before we go find them, can you tell me which way the restrooms are?

Ms. Hancock: (under her breath) I'm sure we can find a litter box somewhere.

Headmaster Ozana: What?

Ms. Hancock: I said I think there's one near the infirmary. Besides, then we can check in with Musa and Lock.

Headmaster Ozana: Musa and who?

Ms. Hancock: Lock...the one who's fighting in the championship match tomorrow.

Headmaster Ozana: Lent?

Ms. Hancock: LOCK!

Headmaster Ozana: Oh yes, I'd like to speak to my champion before the final match anyway.

Ms. Hancock: (to the students) All of you go and wait in the bus, we'll be out in a minute. If anyone is late they'll face severe consequences.

(they leave as the scene changes to the infirmary, Lock and Musa enter to see Breta and Tino, lying in their beds, still in bandages)

Lock: Hey guys, how you feeling?

Tino: Hey Lock, I'm doing a little better, but I'm still not one-hundred percent yet.

Breta: Hi Lock, sorry about your match being postponed.

Lock: It's okay. I'll get to face Rondo soon enough.

Breta: I know you'll win. Oh and by the way, thanks for taking care of Braun for me. I just wish I could have watched firsthand as you cleaned his clock all over the ring.

Tino: Yeah, just make sure you get Rondo for me too.

Lock: I'll try my best, but after watching his match with Juzan, I can tell he's going to be one tough opponent. Honestly I'm not sure I have the power to beat him.

Breta: I have faith that you can do it.

Musa: Doctor, how are they recovering?

Doctor: Well, Breta is almost completely healed and Tino is also coming along nicely. I would say by tomorrow night they should be just fine.

Lock: (charging his aura around his fist) This should have never happened to you two in the first place.

Musa: Save it for tomorrow, Lock.

Lock: Yeah, you're right. (he down-charges it)

Tino: Where's Juzan? I was gonna congratulate him on fighting so well against Rondo.

Lock: He's doing the one thing he does better than fight right now...flirt.

(they all laugh as the scene changes to Juzan with the girl, the two are alone in a corner of one of the hallways in the arena)

Girl: That was so brave of you facing Drakon's champion like that. You're the only one in this entire tournament he couldn't beat easily.

Juzan: It was nothing. But enough about me, I'd much rather focus on us now anyway.

Girl: That's fine with me-

Juzan: (putting his hand over her mouth) Hey, wait a sec.

Girl: What is it?

Juzan: Shhh, look.

(he points for her to look behind her, where the tournament committee, Drakon, and Rondo are shown entering a private room and closing the door)

Juzan: What are Drakon and Rondo doing meeting with the tournament committee?

Girl: I thought you wanted to focus on us?

Juzan: I do....but I just don't like the looks of that.

Girl: I can help you take your mind off them.

(the scene then changes back to the infirmary)

Breta: You know, I think I'm strong enough to stand up now.

Doctor: You can give it a try if you want, but take it slow.

(Breta removes her few remaining bandages and gets up as Headmaster Ozana and Ms. Hancock enter. Everyone looks shocked when they see Headmaster Ozana's face but Ms. Hancock puts her finger over her mouth to signal for everyone to not tell him.)

Ms. Hancock: Don't let the cat out of the bag.

(they all smile and nod)

Headmaster Ozana: Ah, there's our champion.

(he walks past Lock and over to Breta and shakes her hand as she looks confused)

Headmaster Ozana: Good luck tomorrow in the finals.

Musa: Um, no Headmaster Ozana, he's the one in the finals. (she points to Lock)

Headmaster Ozana: Oh, well anyway I just wanted to give you a pep talk before your match.

Breta: Don't you mean "pet talk"?

(everyone snickers)

Headmaster Ozana: Tomorrow I want you to be as quick and fierce as a wild tiger.

(behind his back, Tino makes ears behind Headmaster Ozana's head with his hands. Headmaster Ozana turns around but Tino quickly lies back down and doesn't get caught. Lock tries hard to keep a straight face as Headmaster Ozana continues.)

Headmaster Ozana: I want you to attack head on with all you've got. No playing cat and mouse with him.

(everyone in the room is now on the verge of laughing, they're all trying so hard not to let him know)

Headmaster Ozana: Do you understand what I want you to do tomorrow?

(Lock can't say anything, he's just trying not to laugh)

Headmaster Ozana: What's the matter? Cat got your tongue?

Lock: (still holding in his laugh) Well, I just hope the tournament committee doesn't have any more tricks tomorrow.

Headmaster Ozana: Don't worry about them, they're all a bunch of fat cats.

(everyone again starts to crack up, but stop themselves)

Headmaster Ozana: (looking around) What's so funny?

Ms. Hancock: Nothing sir, perhaps we should get going. The rest of the students are waiting on the bus.

Headmaster Ozana: Yes, good idea. (he looks out the window) We'd better hurry. Judging by those storm clouds it looks like it could start raining cats and dogs anytime now.

(he and Ms. Hancock leave and the second he's out of the room everyone bursts into laughter for a while)

Musa: Well, you know what they say. Laughter is the best medicine.

Tino: Yeah, I'll second that.

Lock: (looking out the window, smiling as he thinks) The only storm that's coming is my battle with Rondo tomorrow.

Musa: You should get going too Lock, you don't want to miss the bus.

Lock: Aren't you coming?

Musa: I can't. I'll find another ride back. Right now I've got to call Breta and Tino's parents and let them know what happened and explain that everything is okay. You go on without me.

Lock: Alright, (to Breta and Tino) you two get better, see you tomorrow.

Tino: Bye.

Breta: Bye Lock.

(Lock heads out, he is walking alone through one of the hallways very focused)

Lock: (thinking) I have to win tomorrow for my friends. If I fail now, then their injuries will have been for nothing.

(Lock continues to walk, completely unaware that Drakon's entire team except for Rondo is watching him)

Student 1: He's alone. Now's our chance.

Student 2: This should be easy.

Braun: Now I get to repay him with interest for all that he did to me!

(Lock enters a locker-room with the label "Team Ozana School" on it, and once Lock is inside Drakon's team walks over to the door...meanwhile outside the stadium the students of Ozana are sitting on the buses, Ms. Hancock and Headmaster Ozana are standing in front of them)

Ms. Hancock: (looking at a clipboard) Juzan still hasn't shown up yet. Lock was with Musa so he's fine, but I better go look for Juzan.

Headmaster Ozana: Ms. Hancock, is there something on my face? All the students keep pointing and laughing at me...way more then usual.

Ms. Hancock: Umm...well...

Headmaster Ozana: Yes?

Ms. Hancock: (not wanting to tell him) Sorry but I've got to go find Juzan, ask someone else.

(meanwhile in the locker-room for Ozana School, Lock puts his sweatshirt on and begins packing up his things)

Lock: I should bring Tino and Breta their stuff so it's not lost...but I'd better hurry, I don't want to miss the bus.

(all of a sudden he hears the door open, the wall of lockers in front of the door are immediately knocked over. When the smoke clears Lock is stunned to see Drakon's team blocking the exit.)

Lock: You guys are in the wrong locker-room.

Student 1: No, we're right where we're supposed to be.

(he blasts the security camera)

Lock: What'd you do that for!?

Braun: It's payback time.

Student 2: (to his teammates) So, how do you want to do this?

Student 1: He may be able to win a one-one-one fight with any of us, but let's see how he does against us all at once.

Lock: What are you all talking about?

Student 3: Our orders are to take you out before tomorrow's match.

Student 1: Not that Rondo needs the help, but we're just here to guarantee his victory.

Lock: (thinking) Darn, this doesn't look good. I can't fight them all at once.

(all Drakon's students charge their auras in the offensive form)

Drakon's Team: For Drakon School!

Lock: (thinking) Well, here goes nothing.

(Lock charges his aura in the defensive stance. Braun fires a large blast from his mouth that Lock deflects into the ceiling. Two students attack him, but Lock does a split-kick that knocks them both down. Another student flies in and punches Lock in the face, who punches the student away only to get hit by another student. Braun grabs Lock from behind and holds him tight as many students punch and kick him. Lock is thrown to the ground and all the students start pummeling him until Lock is able to blast all of them off. Drakon's students surround the already winded Lock, who braces for their attack.)

Lock: (thinking) I've got to think up something fast or else I'm toast!

Braun: Die!

(Drakon's students try to charge but are all stopped in their tracks. They look down at their feet and see their legs bound by blue spirit energy coming from the ground...Juzan is standing behind them in the doorway, using the entanglement technique.)

Lock: Juzan!

Juzan: (snickering) Hehe, these fools were so focused on you that they didn't even sense my spirit energy until it was too late.

Braun: Why you!

Student 1: He can't keep this technique up forever though.

Student 3: He also can't defend himself from incoming energy blasts as long as his hands are using the technique.

(the student fires a blast at Juzan, who has to release the entanglement technique in order to block the blast)

Braun: Now you're mine!

(Braun flies at Juzan, charging a fist)

Lock: Juzan, look out!

Juzan: (smirking) Don't worry, I've got backup.

(before Braun can hit Juzan he gets kicked extremely hard in the face by Ms. Hancock, who lands in front of Juzan)

Ms. Hancock: You all must not have much faith in your school champion if you have to resort to these despicable tactics.

Student 1: Not another one to deal with.

Ms. Hancock: Drakon must really be afraid of Lock's power to sink this low.

Student 1: Get lost, you giant witch.

Ms. Hancock: (furious) What did you just call me!?

Juzan: A word of advice guys, don't get on her bad side.

Ms. Hancock: (still angered) Lock, you and Juzan stay out of this, I'll handle them alone.

(she charges her aura, and Drakon's students are all terrified when they see her aura)

Student 1: A silver aura!? No way!

Lock: This won't be pretty.

(all the Drakon student charge Ms. Hancock, the screen goes black for a moment as the sounds of Drakon's students getting the beating of their lives is heard. After a few moments everything is quiet and Ms. Hancock is shown standing without a scratch on her, Drakon's student are sprawled all over the locker-room.)

Ms. Hancock: Anyone else!?

(the scene then shows the five committee members, Lock, Juzan, and Musa entering the locker-room, Drakon's students are sitting on the floor, bound with spirit energy from Ms. Hancock)

Lock: We got the tournament committee and Musa.

Ms. Hancock: Good. (she releases the energy bonds around Drakon's fighters) All of you get out of my sight...and tell your master his plan failed.

(the Drakon students leave)

Musa: What's going on here?

Ms. Hancock: You'll see.

Member 1: Why did you summon us all here?

Ms. Hancock: Drakon's students attacked our school champion as he was leaving.

Member 2: What proof do you have of that? Who says Lock didn't start the fight?

Lock: What? Why would I do that?

Ms. Hancock: Use your heads...it's obvious Drakon ordered them to eliminate Lock before tomorrow's match.

Member 1: I need more evidence than your testimony.

Ms. Hancock: Lock, you and Juzan go back to the bus and wait for our return.

Lock: You two aren't coming?

Ms. Hancock: Musa and I need to have a few words with the committee.

(Lock and Juzan leave)

Ms. Hancock: You know Drakon was behind this incident.

Member 3: Prove it.

Musa: Why don't we drop this and get to the heart of the issue...how much is Drakon paying you for all of this?

(the committee member glances over and notices the broken security camera)

Member 2: What good would come from telling you? Unless you're willing to pay higher?

Musa: How can you sell out the fighters of the tournament like this?

Member 1: It's very simple...Ozana School was going to lose this tournament anyway, it always does. In the last thirty years only two tournament champions have come from your school. We're not doing anything wrong by speeding up the result of this tournament and making a profit at the same time.

Musa: Not doing anything wrong!? You're spitting in the face of our students that have trained so hard for this opportunity.

Member 4: We're not changing any outcomes here. Bribes or not, Ozana School was doomed to lose from the start, and there's nothing we could do about it even if we wanted.

Ms. Hancock: You're all spineless and pathetic.

Member 1: Back when these tournament first started, the schools were even, and the ratings were sky high. But over the last quarter-century Drakon School has emerged and dominated practically every year. The more Drakon School won...the lower the ratings became as fans got tired of seeing so many one-sided victories.

Musa: It almost seems as though you would have used your influence against Drakon School to try and balance things out.

Member 5: We did, the owners of the networks that aired the tournament ordered our predecessors to make Ozana School even with Drakon School so the tournament would receive higher ratings and generate more revenues.

Ms. Hancock: Then what caused the change?

Member 1: Drakon School never lost, despite the best efforts of the tournament committee they continued to dominate the tournament and the ratings continued to drop. Drakon's father owned the school at the time and was frustrated by the committee's antics. He offered a large sum of money in exchange for our allegiance during the tournaments. And so, for the last fifty years the tournament committee has always been under the control of Drakon and will always remain there.

Musa: And let me guess, the money Drakon School pays you compensates for the networks' lost revenues?

Member 1: Exactly. Now if you don't have any other questions we'll take our leave.

Musa: You know we could easily press charges for bribery and have you all stripped of your positions.

Member 1: And who would believe you? Maybe you didn't notice but the security camera's been destroyed so this conversation is officially off record.

Musa: I won't let you cost Lock his match tomorrow.

Member 1: (moving face to face with Musa) There's nothing you can do about it. Ozana School's fate was decided a long time ago. There's no way Lock can defeat Rondo, the outcome will be the same as it is every year.

Musa: The outcome should be decided by the fighters not by you!

Member 1: We probably won't need to do any more than we've already done. You know Lock can't beat Rondo.

Musa: Maybe, but I've learned never to count Lock out.

Ms. Hancock: Don't any of you even care that what you're doing is both illegal and immoral?

Member 1: No, I don't care. I don't care about Lock or you or Ozana School or anything else for that matter. This is strictly business, without Drakon's money the networks would be bankrupt, so if we need to cost Lock his match in order to keep making a profit then that's what we're going to do.

Musa: That's despicable.

Member 1: Lock's fate is the same with or without our influence, that cannot change. Lock *will* lose tomorrow Musa, one way or the other.

(the committee members turn and leave)

Musa: (thinking) Lock...

(end of the episode)