

Episode 009-Best of Friends

Written by Jeff Jubinville

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(things have calmed down from the last episode, Breta and Juzan watch on as Lock and Tino make their way to the ring)

Musa: The next match in the semi-finals is Tino vs. Lock.

(as the two walk to the ring, Tino begins to formulate a plan)

Tino: (thinking) There has to be a way to beat him. Lock's good but he's not invincible.

(he thinks back to Lock's previous fights, a flashback is shown of Lock's aura blowing his first opponent out of the ring, and then of him beating his second opponent with one kick)

Tino: (continued thinking) Every time he won, he was fully charged with his orange aura. I can't let him reach that against me. I'll have to attack him with all I've got before he gets a chance to charge it...but I have to end this fight fast, the longer it goes on, the harder it will be to stay with him. No matter the cost I've got to stay one step ahead of him, but that's easier said than done, I bet Lock's already formulating a plan of his own.

(Tino looks over at Lock, who is picking in his ear, then Lock states at his finger once he removes it)

Tino: (thinking) Then again, maybe not.

(the two are now facing each other in the ring)

Lock: Hey, good luck.

Tino: Thanks. (he charges his aura to its maximum, he has a purple aura)

Headmaster Ozana: Begin!

(the second the fight starts Tino flies at Lock, stunning him with a fast punch to the face, Tino stays on him, scoring many hits. Lock is still out of it due to Tino's fast action.)

Juzan: Strange. I thought the opposite would be happening right now.

(Breta just watches on surprised, she is still a bit taken back by what Tino said before)

(in the ring Tino continues to stay on Lock. Lock has recovered a bit and is blocking a few hits but Tino is using his full power and still has the advantage and pushes Lock back even though his attacks are being blocked.)

Musa: Even with his superior strength, Lock is still a fairly inexperienced fighter. He can't just rely on his new aura to win, he needs to learn to think while he fights. Unfortunately for him, real fight experience cannot be taught in training sessions.

Headmaster Ozana: Well, gaining experience for the world tournament is the basis for this.

Ms. Hancock: Lock is mostly brawn and little brain, and Tino is the exact opposite, perhaps this match will be more interesting than I thought.

Musa: (smiling) Strength alone is never enough to win a fight, and judging from the way things are going, Lock may learn that the hard way.

Ms. Hancock: (puzzled) You look like you're enjoying watching Lock struggle.

Musa: Like Headmaster Ozana said, this will be a good learning experience for him, but yes, I am enjoying watching him have a challenge for the first time in this tournament. This will help him in the long run more than both of his previous fights did put together. Besides, he needs to experience a close fight since that's all he'll have against Drakon School.

Ms. Hancock: Right.

(the fight continues all over the ring for a bit before both fighters land)

Tino: Flying shoe attack!

(Tino does a long-distance kick that shoots his shoe off, which has the purple aura around it, it hits Lock in the face)

Lock: (rubbing his face) Oww! I think that's gonna leave a mark.

Musa: That was the worst attack I've ever seen.

Ms. Hancock: The saddest part is the fact that it actually worked on Lock.

(Tino attacks and Lock warps into the air to avoid his punch, Tino puts his shoe back on and flies up at Lock, the two continue to battle back and forth for a bit until Lock tries a punch and Tino spins behind him to avoid it and heel-kicks him in the back of the head)

Juzan: (thinking) I can't believe Tino is winning this, although I'd still bet on Lock emerging as the victor...but maybe I should consider a similar aggressive offense if I do face Lock in the finals.

Breta: (thinking) Incredible, Tino's doing great...heh, maybe I should yell out something embarrassing to pay him back.

(in the air, Lock and Tino trade a few blows, but in the end Tino elbows Lock hard in the face, sending him back down to the ring as all the students watch on, completely surprised at what they are seeing.)

Student 1: Hey, is Lock tired or something?

Student 2: He shouldn't be, his matches were over faster than anyone else's.

Student 1: Maybe it's something with his orange aura, like maybe it takes a toll on his body or something?

Student 2: Who knows, that would certainly explain what's going on out there.

(after knocking Lock to the ring floor, Tino follows and tries to punch Lock on the ground. Lock sees this coming however and warps out of the way, he re-appears far away from Tino, near the edge of the ring.)

Juzan: (thinking) Finally Lock gets a break from Tino's attacks, let's see if he is able to turn the tide now.

(Lock instantly begins to charge his aura)

Tino: (thinking) Oh no! I can't let him charge his aura or else I'm done for.

(he fires a large two-handed blast that hits Lock directly on, knocking him back. Lock is now right on the edge of the ring.)

Tino: (thinking) That's it! This is my chance!

(he flies at Lock, who is still recovering from the blast, Tino charges his aura around his fist)

Juzan: (shocked) Now way! Don't tell me *Tino* defeats Lock!

(Breta also watches on with complete shock, as does everyone else)

Ms. Hancock: After all that exclusive training Musa, Lock is about to be defeated by one of the worst fighters in the class.

Musa: I don't believe what I'm seeing.

(Tino is right about to hit Lock in the face...until Lock smirks and warps behind him)

Tino: What!?

(Lock kicks him out of the ring, everyone watching is stunned)

Headmaster Ozana: What just happened? Was he just toying with him the whole time?

Musa: Lock's not the type to toy with his opponents, that was just the right move at the right time.

Ms. Hancock: Nah, he lured Tino into that I'm sure. That's the only explanation for his poor performance.

Musa: Looks like we've got a great fight set for the finals.

Ms. Hancock: I knew it would come down to Lock and Juzan eventually.

Musa: Yes, it will be a fitting end to the tournament.

(Lock offers his hand to Tino and pulls him up to his feet)

Lock: Great fight Tino.

Tino: Thanks, you too. I thought I had you there for a second.

Lock: I thought you had me for a second there too at the end.

(Lock pulls him closer so he can whisper in his ear)

Lock: But just to let you know, I gave you those hits.

Tino: What? How come?

Lock: Well I knew Breta would be watching. And after what you said in her match I thought it would be the best way to help you win her over.

Tino: You mean you could have blocked all my attacks...but instead you took all those hits just to make me look good?

Lock: (rubbing his head) Yeah, well honestly I didn't think it was going to hurt as much as it did. You've definitely gotten a lot stronger.

Tino: You're the best friend ever.

(Tino hugs him for a second before they both head back to the waiting room, before they enter however, Headmaster Ozana makes an announcement)

Headmaster Ozana: Before the final match of the tournament, there will be a brief intermission so the ring and ceiling can be repaired. Everyone will assemble back here in one hour. Go eat, sleep, use the bathroom or do whatever else you youngsters do these days. Just make sure you return on time. Any stragglers will be severely disciplined by Ms. Hancock.

(as the students begin to leave the arena, Juzan approaches Lock)

Juzan: Hey, good fight. Congrats on being in the finals.

Lock: Thanks, you too.

Juzan: You have no idea how much I'm looking forward to this.

Lock: Oh I think I have some idea, I can't wait to test myself against you.

Juzan: This intermission is a good idea, we both got a bit roughed up in the last round.

Lock: Yeah, this way we get to fight fresh.

Juzan: I guess you could say we've now officially gone full circle.

Lock: What do you mean?

Juzan: Don't you remember? We fought each other on our first day here, and now after months of training and learning new techniques we're going to fight again for the title of number one in this school.

Lock: Well I would say that fighting right now is about half circle, because we've still got the world tournament after this is all over. If we fought in the finals of that one then I'd say that's going full circle...or wait, if we fought when we were really old and about to die then *that's* full cir-

Juzan: (cutting him off) You're over-thinking this a little too much.

Lock: Or am I?

Juzan: (shaking his head) Well, at least I know when we fight I won't be able to give you anymore brain damage then you've already got.

(they both laugh as Juzan walks off...then Lock stops laughing when he realizes that joke was about him)

Lock: Hey!

(meanwhile Headmaster Ozana heads back into his office while Musa and Ms. Hancock look over the ring as it is being repaired)

Musa: Any thoughts on who will be our new school champion?

Ms. Hancock: Definitely Juzan. He is close to Lock in strength, has a clear advantage mentally, and he has a bunch of new techniques. I would be surprised to see Lock defeat him.

Musa: Funny, I see Lock emerging the victor.

Ms. Hancock: Care to make it interesting?

Musa: Not this again. Every year we bet on the finals and every year I lose. As the one who actually teaches the advanced class it makes me look bad when I can't predict which student will win.

Ms. Hancock: Well here is your chance to break that streak. Come on, it's your pupil against mine, we've been personally training them for the last three months.

Musa: You're right, okay I accept. So what should the bet be this year?

Ms. Hancock: What was it last year?

Musa: (smiling) When I lost you had me blast Headmaster Ozana in the back of the head when he wasn't looking. I think I would kill him if I ever did that again.

(there's a quick flashback of Musa shooting Ozana in the head)

Ms. Hancock: (laughing) I think that's what made him bald too!

(they both laugh)

Ms. Hancock: If Lock wins, I'll let you pick what I'll do. But if Juzan wins, you have to do the next pointless task Headmaster Ozana assigns me.

Musa: What kinds of things does he assign you to?

Ms. Hancock: Well I think he gets my job as the school's disciplinarian mixed up with a secretary, basically he makes me do all of his work. I have to get him lunch, help him with his all of his paperwork. If this job didn't pay so much I'd never lift a finger for him. One day he lost his reading glasses so I even had to read all his paperwork to him!

Musa: I'm not surprised he lost them, I heard one time he got lost in his own school.

(they both laugh, until Headmaster Ozana comes running through the door)

Headmaster Ozana: Please help! It's horrible! Ms. Hancock you've got to come quick, there's no time to lose!

Ms. Hancock: What's the matter?

Headmaster Ozana: It's terrible beyond belief!

Ms. Hancock: What is?

Headmaster Ozana: There's a really big spider in my office!

(Ms. Hancock just rolls her eyes while Musa snickers. Headmaster Ozana sends her into his office while he hides behind Musa.)

Headmaster Ozana: I've never seen anything so scary in my whole life! I hope she's okay in there.

Musa: I think she'll be just fine.

(Ms. Hancock comes back out)

Headmaster Ozana: Did you get it?

Ms. Hancock: Yeah, it's gone. Don't worry Headmaster Ozana it won't bother you again.

Headmaster Ozana: Where is it? It might come back again.

Ms. Hancock: I don't think that's going to happen.

(she lifts her leg up to reveal the dead spider on the bottom of her shoe. Headmaster Ozana screams in fear, telling her to get it away and runs back into his office, Musa and Ms. Hancock just laugh as she wipes the dead spider off her shoe.)

Ms. Hancock: Yuck. That should have been you in there instead of me.

Musa: I see what you mean about pointless tasks. Lock had definitely better win his match now. I don't feel like holding Headmaster Ozana's hand next time he wants to walk across the street.

Ms. Hancock: But hey, at least now I know what scares him. Next assignment he gives me, I'll tell him there's a spider crawling on him to scare him off.

(the both laugh as the scene shifts to Tino, he is sitting alone in the back of the training room, thinking about the day)

Tino: (thinking) What a day. First I blurt out my feelings for Breta in front of everyone. That was something I'd been holding in for years and wanted to whisper in her ear when I found the right moment...instead it cost Breta her match and will probably cost me our friendship. (he sighs) Then I think I'm close to Lock in power when he narrowly defeats me...only to learn after the match that nothing has changed after all this training and no matter what I'm still not a challenge for him.

(Breta approaches him)

Breta: Hey, great match out there. You almost had him.

Tino: (depressed tone) Thanks.

(Breta sits down next to him)

Breta: I think we need to talk.

Tino: Okay.

Breta: I have to admit what you said out there took me by surprise. Have you always felt this way about me?

Tino: Yeah, since the day I first met you, I remember it like it was yesterday.

(a flashback begins, it shows a very young Lock and Tino sitting at a table together. They are in school and doing work.)

Tino: There, finished my math. Man, that took forever.

Lock: All this homework is frying my brain. (sighing) I need to go pee.

(Lock gets up and leaves the room, a bully who was watching Lock exit gets up and heads over to Tino)

Bully: Hey shrimp, what ya working on?

(he picks up Tino's homework, none of the other students are paying any attention and there are no teachers in the room, a young Breta who is sitting at another table with some friends notices the situation)

Tino: Hey, give that back.

(the bully holds him back and looks over the homework, Breta gets up and begins to walk over, her friends look confused as to what she's doing)

Bully: So you finished your work already? Then you won't mind if I copy the answers.

Tino: You'd better give that back. When my friend comes back he'll make you sorry, he knows martial arts.

Bully: Oh yeah? Well I don't see him around anywhere, and no one else here gives a crap about you, four-eyes, so what are you going to do now?

Tino: Come on give it back and leave me alone, I never did anything to you.

Bully: Fine, I'll give your precious work back on one condition, you give me all your lunch money.

Tino: No way, I need that.

Bully: I don't care, give it to me now!

Breta: (from behind) Hey, why don't you leave him alone?

(students stop and watch what develops)

Bully: Stay out of this blondie, this doesn't concern you.

Breta: So you expect me to just watch you pick on this poor kid. Yeah, you're real tough to bully someone half your size.

Bully: I can't believe you're defending this nerd, he's such a loser.

Breta: Just give him his work back and you won't get hurt.

Bully: (laughing) You hurt me?

(he rips up the homework and drops it on the ground)

Breta: (angered) I'll give you one last chance, apologize or else!

Bully: Go back to playing with your dolls girlie. (turning back to Tino) Now give me your lunch money before I give you a black eye! (he raises a fist)

Breta: If you even lay one finger on him you'll be sorry.

(the bully sticks a finger out and mockingly begins to poke Tino, before he does however, Breta grabs his finger and begins to bend it backwards)

Bully: (breaking free) Hey, you almost broke my fing-

(Breta kicks him in the groin and he falls down. She walks around him and picks up Tino's ripped homework, she steps on the bully's chest to hold him down)

Breta: You wanted his homework, well here, take it! (she shoves the papers in his mouth) Now if you ever even look at him again I swear I'll make you wish you'd never been born!

(she yanks him to his feet, spins him around and gives him a huge wedgy, which reveals the bully to be wearing teddy-bear underwear. The students laugh at him as Breta gives him a kick in the butt which sends him running out of the room, crying like a baby. All the students cheer.)

Breta: (to Tino) Hey, sorry about your work. Why don't you come and sit with us so he doesn't bother you again.

Tino: (stunned and blushing) Uh...thanks.

Breta: So what's your name?

Tino: (frantically thinking) What is my name!? I'm drawing a blank! Think Tino, think. Wait, that's it, Tino, my name is Tino! (speaking) Tino.

Breta: Nice to meet you Tino, my name's Breta.

(Lock comes back and sits down)

Lock: (to Tino) I was wrong, I had to pee *and* poo.

Breta: (laughing) And who's this?

Tino: This is my friend, Lock.

Breta: Nice to meet you Lock, I'm Breta. Come on, you two come sit with us from now on.

Lock: Alright, just let me put on some protection first.

Breta: Protection?

Lock: Yeah, all you girls have cooties, but don't worry. I've learned a technique that will protect me. Circle, circle, dot, dot...now I have a cootie shot. Okay, I'm all set. You want me to do it to you, Tino?

Tino: (dull tone) I think I'll just take the risk.

Lock: You're a brave man.

(Lock and Tino pick up their stuff and sit with Breta and her friends)

Breta: Hey guys, this is Tino and Lock. (her friends say hi)

Friend: Did you see that kid, what's with the teddy-bear underwear?

(they all laugh except Lock)

Lock: (excited) Hmm? Someone else has teddy-bear underwear, that's what I have!

(they all just laugh at Lock's openness and honesty, the flashback ends, both Tino and Breta have a smile on their face after thinking back to that day.)

Tino: (laughing) And then Lock admit he wore the same underwear.

(Tino and Breta both laugh for a second and then smile thinking about that moment)

Tino: You were the only person there willing to help me, after that, I just couldn't stop thinking about you. Most girls wouldn't even look at me...but you of all people, the most beautiful and popular girl in the school, actually went out of your way to be nice to someone like me.

Breta: Tino, since that day we first met you've always had a special place in my heart, but I just don't see us going beyond friends.

Tino: (still sad tone) I see.

Breta: Listen, you're as good a friend as I've got. But if we dated now and things didn't work out, we probably wouldn't be friends anymore. You know how it goes, you always say you're going to remain friends but you never do, you know what I mean?

Tino: Well...actually not really, I've never had a girlfriend.

Breta: What I'm saying is I just don't want to do anything that might jeopardize the friendship we have now.

Tino: Really?

Breta: I wouldn't change our friendship for the world.

Tino: Yeah, I guess I wouldn't either.

Breta: Thanks for understanding. (she gives him a kiss on the cheek) Now let's go watch the finals. Lock's going to need our support.

Tino: Sure.

(as they get up, all of the other students are shown coming back into the arena, Lock and Juzan are in the training room, staring each other down)

Musa: The intermission is over. We will now resume the tournament to decide who will earn the title of school champion.

Juzan: It's time Lock...time to finally see who's better.

Lock: Bring it on.

(the episode ends with the two facing off)