

**TEEN TITANS**  
**"Winner Take All"**  
**REVISED BEAT OUTLINE**  
**6/11/03**

[NOTE: This is a rough beat outline to clarify storypoints. All quoted dialogue is intended only to convey a general idea -- and should be revised and polished in script.]

**TEASER**

> **TITANS TOWER - OPS:** "Fire beats wood!" "Water beats fire!"

The Titans are gathered in Ops, playing a card game (think: Pokemon, Yu-gi-oh, "Baseball", or the playing card classic "War"). CYBORG loses his last card, RAVEN folds, STARFIRE doesn't quite understand: "Er, I wish to ... 'Go the Fish'?"

[NOTE: Terra has been cut from this episode, airing order will be shuffled after post to preserve series continuity.]

> Robin wins the round. But just as he's about to claim all the cards that everyone else lost, Beast Boy stops him, waving his last card tauntingly and says something like, "I've still got one card left. Don't you wanna play *one more game* to see if you can get it ... winner take all?"

> Robin takes the bait. With the big pile of cards hanging in the balance, he confidently plays his best card: "Tornado!" But BB smiles and flips over his final card to reveal that it's ... "METEOR!" -- the incredibly rare trump card that beats all others. Robin LOSES!! BB cackles as he gathers up the cards and frustrated Robin scowls (handled in comic anime style so it doesn't feel like Robin's being a brat.) Starfire tries

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to cheer him up, "Winning is not everything." But comically grousing Robin doesn't agree, grumbling something like, "It is when you're *losing* ..." (But better dialogue, of course)

> And just as Robin is suggesting a rematch (and BB is pointing out that they *can't* have a rematch -- Robin doesn't have an cards) ... <FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!> Robin, Cyborg, and Beast Boy mysteriously disappear from Ops. Bewildered Starfire looks at surprised Raven: "Was that part of the game ...?" CUT TO:

> **A SURREAL ROMAN-ESQUE PALACE:** <FLASH!> Our three confused heroes appear -- and so do <FLASH-FLASH-FL-FLASH!> FIVE OTHER SUPERPOWERED TEENS: SPEEDY, AQUALAD, WILDEBEEEST, JOTO, and GIZMO. But before anyone can say anything, an o.s. other-worldly voice booms: "Welcome, Champions All!" And a SMILING GOD-LIKE MAN in ROMAN-ESQUE ROBES steps into the chambers: "I am the MASTER OF GAMES. And you have all been summoned to compete ... in THE TOURNAMENT OF HEROES!!!" On the Titans intrigued reactions ... **CUT TO BLACK AND ROLL MAIN TITLE.**

[GLEN: I know you said the Master should be a bit fey and weak -- but I don't think that works. I keep hearing Sam's voice telling me: a weak, gay emperor doesn't make a good toy. I think he HAS to be kinda strong. Think: the head of Cobra Kai in "Karate Kid".]

**ACT ONE**

> **PALACE - CONT.:** The jovial Master explains the contest, a friendly competition between the world's greatest young heroes. The Master introduces the heroes to each other via a series of ANIME BG HERO SHOTS. "So what do we get if we win?" asks Beast Boy. The Master explains that when the Tournament is over -- there will be a MAGNIFICENT PRIZE. [DWAYNE: obviously, phrasing is important here -- not sure I got it right, but it should SOUND like the winner gets the prize, without actually *saying* it.]

> The Master offers any who aren't interested a chance to back out and go home [so it doesn't seem like they're trapped and the Master seems like a good guy] -- but no one accepts.

> The Master tells them that Round One will begin shortly and instructs them to prepare (or something like this). As the Master leaves the room, we get a moment for everyone to interact. BB high-fives his old pal Aqualad (unless we swap Aqualad out.) Cyborg growls at his nemesis Gizmo: "What are you doing here? You're not a hero!" Gizmo smirks back: "So? I'm still gonna kick your butt!" (or the Gizmo-slang equivalent of dialogue like this.)

> And Robin and Speedy shake hands. The two heroes are aware of each other by reputation -- and after just a few lines of dialogue, it's clear that they're very much alike. (Beast Boy

whispers to Cyborg: "Whoa: never knew Robin had a *clone*." Just then, the unseen Master's voice booms: "Champions! It is time for Round One to begin!" <FLASH!> The heroes are whisked off to ...

> ... VARIOUS VIDEO-GAME LIKE ARENAS (same design but colored differently). As the heroes <FLASH> appear in their respective arenas, the Master's voice announces their match-ups: "CYBORG versus GIZMO!" "BEAST BOY versus WILDEBEEEST!" "SPEEDY versus AQUALAD!" "ROBIN versus JOTO!"

> HUGE CROSS-CUT ACTION SET PIECE ensues as we get snippets from the various match-ups. [QUESTION: If we're in video game arenas with no WATER, is Aqualad able to fight in a cool way? Do we just have him do martial arts? Do we have him in an arena with water (seems dumb to me)? Or is this another reason to swap him out for someone else? Red Star? (since his "solar" powers squint with the elemental card game opening)].

> After plenty of exciting action, each match is won. Each winner celebrates his victory, and each loser <VANISHES> in a DARK FLASH: Cyborg defeats Gizmo, Speedy defeats Aqualad, Robin defeats Joto, and ... Wildebeest defeats Beast Boy. (BB: "Uh oh ..." <VANISH!>)

> **BACK INSIDE THE PALACE:** <FLASH!> Robin, Cyborg, Speedy, and Wildebeest appear before the Master of Games. "Congratulations,

Winners! You have survived Round One!" But Robin and Cyborg exchange a concerned look as they realize Beast Boy is not among them. "What about the losers?" asks Robin. "Yeah," frowns Cyborg, "What happened to our friend?" With a warm smile, the Master assures them that Beast Boy and the others have all been returned safely home. "But worry not about the vanquished, Young Champions," the Master tells them, "You must prepare ... for ROUND TWO!"

> Our four heroes are sent away to rest and recharge [GLEN AND DWAYNE: Now that we've eliminated Pawn, how does this work? Do SILENT PAWN-LIKE CHARACTERS lead the heroes away? Does the Master just <FLASH> them out of his sight? Something better?] And as our heroes leave, the Master's kind face twists into a wicked grin: "I love this game: no matter who wins, I always wind up holding all the cards ..." [DWAYNE: This dialogue may be too on-the-nose now -- but it should be a line *like* that.] And as the Master grins, we PUSH IN FAST on his SOLID BLACK EYES, to reveal BEAST BOY and the other defeated heroes TRAPPED INSIDE THE MASTER, pounding on the "window" of his eye to get out!

**END ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

> **PALACE - THAT NIGHT (OR THE NEXT MORNING?):** ROBIN is in his QUARTERS [new design, but the only room we'll see] preparing for the next battle (either training or resting or something else??). Cyborg comes by: can't sleep. "I'm gettin' a bad feeling here. I tried to call home and make sure BB's okay, but the transmission wouldn't go through." Robin assures Cyborg that everything is fine: the Master promised them BB was safe -- and as for the transmitter, they're in an alternate dimension: WAY out of range.

> Cyborg remains concerned -- maybe they oughta go have a look around, just to be sure everything's on the up-and-up. But Robin stops him with smirk: "I know what you're doing." Cyborg: "What am I doing?" Robin: "You're trying to psyche me out. We'll go out to 'investigate' and find nothing. Then I'll be short on sleep tomorrow -- and you'll have an advantage." Cyborg swears that he's not trying to trick Robin -- he really is worried about BB: "Winning isn't everything, ya know." But Robin's not buying: "Riiiiight ...". And he closes the door, leaving Cy to investigate on his own. CUT TO:

> **MASTER'S MAIN CHAMBER - MOMENTS LATER:** Cyborg's HAND crawls into view and uses its FINGER-TIP CAMERA to have a look around. It spies the Master and we get SOME TBD PROOF that he's absorbed the heroes. [Perhaps he's toying with his new found powers --

using Joto's fire to light candles, etc. Or is there ANY OTHER WAY to make it VISUALLY CLEAR that he's absorbed the heroes??]

> When Cyborg's seen enough, he <LOCKS> his HAND back into place and <RATCHETS> out his SONIC CANNON as he steps in to confront the Master: "Game over! Let 'em go!" But the unfazed Master smiles calmly as he informs Cyborg, "The game is never over, Young Champion -- and you are DISQUALIFIED!" Before Cyborg can fire a shockwave, the Master holds up a hand and <MAGICALLY PULLS> Cyborg into him.

[GLEN AND DWAYNE: Since I've knocked our hero-count from twelve down to eight, this scene can no longer take place DURING the Tournament. So we lose the clearest proof of what's going on: i.e. seeing the Master absorb a loser. Do you guys miss it? Should we bump back up to twelve and go back a little closer to the structure we had for this scene (i.e. with Cyborg skipping his match and arriving in the Master's chamber DURING round two? Either way ...]

As Cy gets absorbed, we CUT TO:

> **THE PALACE - THE NEXT MORNING (OR LATER THAT DAY IF WE DO MORNING EARLIER):** Robin, Speedy, and Wildebeest gather in the main chamber for Round Two -- but so far, Cyborg is a no show. Speedy wishes Robin luck in the coming battle -- and Robin

somewhat reluctantly wishes him luck, too. (or some such moment between them)

> The Master arrives and informs them that Cyborg has withdrawn from the competition. Robin is concerned, but before he has a chance to say or do anything, the Master announces that they'll be moving straight to ROUND THREE! In a <FLASH!>, the three remaining heroes all appear in ONE ARENA: "SPEEDY versus WILDEBEEEST versus ROBIN!!"

> BIG ASS THREE-WAY EVERY-MAN-FOR-HIMSELF FIGHT SEQUENCE as the three heroes go at it. After plenty of cool action, Robin and Speedy wind up working together to take down Wildebeest. But then the two friends are left to fight each other. As they square off, Speedy offers a sincere: "May the best man win." But intense Robin isn't so nice: "I intend to." And as the two heroes rush to attack each other, we ...

**END ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

**IN THE ARENA:** Robin and Speedy fly at each other -- and we begin a CONDENSED VERSION of the fight described in our original outline. [QUESTION: would it be better if this was Robin fighting Cyborg? I guess it has to be Speedy since we've kinda done Robin versus Cyborg in season one -- but it sure feels like it doesn't mean as much this way.] Perhaps we do a moment where Robin gets knocked down and Speedy gives him a hand to get back on his feet. But when Speedy's in trouble, Robin goes for the win and takes him down.

> HOWEVER WE GET THERE ... After some cool action, Robin gets the better of Speedy, "YES!!" But as Robin raises his fists in victory, Speedy manages to get the last word before he vanishes: "You may have won the Tournament -- but you just lost a friend ...". And as Robin's brow suddenly furrows with guilt ...

> ... <FLASH> the satisfied Master appears before him, "Well done, Champion. I will send you home now." Robin arches an eyebrow: "I thought you said I'd get a prize if I won." But the Master corrects him: "I said there would be a prize at the end of the Tournament, but I didn't say it was for you." The Master reveals that HE'S been getting the prizes: seven of them to be exact.

> Robin reacts in shock as the Master TRANSFORMS to manifest some element of each of the heroes he's absorbed: he has Beast

Boy's Gorilla Arm, Cyborg's SONIC CANNON, Joto's flame, Gizmo's SPIDER LEGS, Wildebeest's powerful legs, and Speedy's ARROWS (or some such amalgm like this).

> Robin tells the Master to let his friends go. But the Master refuses. And, he gloats, with all the heroes powers at his command, there's no way Robin can stop him. But as the Master "thanks" Robin and prepares to send him home ... Robin arches a scheming brow. "You may have the losers -- but *I'm* the only winner. Don't you want to find out if you can add me to your collection?" And just like Beast Boy did in the teaser, Robin entices the Master into ONE LAST GAME -- winner take all.

> OUR THRILLING FINALE SET PIECE ensues as Robin fights the Master, using all of his skills to take on all of his friends' powers combined. At first, it looks like Robin's a goner -- but then he rallies. And when he succeeds in STUNNING the Master -- <ENERGY> spills out and SPEEDY (or Cyborg?) reforms to fight at his side.

> One by one, the heroes are freed and the Master is stripped of his powers until ... the defeated Master tumbles to the ground with the heroic eight looking down at him as Robin snarls: "You lose." And as the Master <VANISHES> into a MIST. DISSOLVE TO:

> **TBD LOCATION (BACK IN THE PALACE?, TITANS ISLAND?) - LATER:**  
Robin and Speedy shake hands as the eight heroes prepare to part

ways. Robin apologizes to everyone for being so focused on winning. But they let him off the hook -- if it wasn't for his drive to win, they would have been trapped forever. But Robin shakes his head as he explains that his drive to win has nothing to do with him beating the Master: "I wasn't fighting to win -- I was fighting for my friends."

> And with that (or some better segue), Robin hands them each a TITAN COMMUNICATOR -- making them all Honorary Titans. Aqualad smiles as he holds up the Communicator he got in 'Deep Six': "Thanks. Already got one." And Gizmo grabs his eagerly: "COOOL!" But frowning Cyborg <YOINKS> it back: "AY! You're NOT a good guy!"

> "Call us if you need us," nods Robin, "And we'll do the same." And as the new friends wave their good-byes, <FLASH!> they all suddenly disappear. [NOTE: To make this make sense, we'll need to give the Master some sort of control device that Robin can use here -- some sort of SCEPTER or something that the Master uses to make people appear and vanish.]

> OPTIONAL MIND-FUCK ENDING: But a split-second after they disappear, the Master <REFORMS> out of the mist. And in a <FLASH>, STARFIRE, RAVEN, TERRA and several other TBD FEMALE HEROES. And as he welcomes the ladies to the TOURNAMENT OF HEROINES, we ... CUT TO BLACK. [GLEN AND DWAYNE: I still

think this might work -- but if you guys are against it, fine by me.]

**THE END**