

Deep, meaningful breathing is heard. Another breath slowly exhales as we hear the "click" of cleats on a track.

FADE IN:

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - BARCELONA, SPAIN 1992 - DAY

Soft chanting of "Go Hemp Go" swells as we are shown a packed Olympic Stadium on a cloudless, impeccable day.

A young HEMP STEVENS, with dark wavy hair, standing at about 6'3" dominates the shot. The Screen Reads: "Barcelona, Spain - 1992"

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)
(excited)

One hundred and ten thousand people on hand, and this is what they all came to see. Hemp Stevens, perhaps the greatest Olympic hero of all time in perhaps the greatest Olympic moment of all time!!!

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD (V.O.)

That's right GIGGS, not only will Hemp win gold here in Barcelona if he successfully navigates this jump, but he would also break the new world record just set by none other than the "Iron Pole" himself, Russia's Ivan Jerkingov.

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - CLOSE ON NEARBY BENCH

A well built, chiseled Russian wears no emotions as he sits calmly. A large "bulge" in his spandex shorts is evident as underneath him, blinking yellow lights read: "Jerkingov".

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)
Just look at him LLOYD, what a physical specimen, *what* a man.

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD (V.O.)
But, if Hemp makes this jump it'll be back to Siberia for Jerkingov.

OLYMPIC STADIUM - CONTINUOUS - SHOT FAVORING HEMP

Hemp squints his eyes and peers forward, breathing deeply.

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)
You can't help but to root for this young man. He's simply become the poster-boy for American

pole-vaulting.

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD (V.O.)
 Let us not forget all that Hemp has
 done and continues to do for his
 community back home as well.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

A young black child runs and pole-vaults over the
 outstretched arms of two adults who's arms mimic that of a
 pole-vault cross bar. The child lands viciously hard onto
 cardboard covered pavement as Hemp looks on smiling.

CHILD
 (looking up, hurt a bit)
 I wanna be like Hemp!

As the adults nod at the boy with pride, Hemp gives the
 "thumbs up" and smiles wide.

CUT TO:

INT. ANNOUNCERS' BOOTH OLYMPIC STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

The two announcers sit comfortably behind a sports desk
 wearing blazers, using puffy orange microphones.

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD
 Too true Giggs. With Hemp's
 tutelage and dedication, inner city
 youths have finally been given the
 opportunity to embrace the art *and*
 science, that is pole-vaulting.
 Hemp's volunteer work has simply
 been unprecedented.

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS
 And Lloyd, as if that weren't
 enough, Hemp is carrying a solid 2.5
 GPA while being a model "Patriot" at
 the University of Stony Brook back
 home on Long Island.

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD
 (smiling at his partner)
 And he's rumored to be circumcised!

CUT TO:

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - CONTINUOUS - SHOT CIRCLING HEMP

Olympians crowd the side lines, as we can see the enormity of this anxious crowd.

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)

Big guy, county champ, all American... Well, one thing is for certain, if Hemp can make this jump he will forever be immortalized in the hearts and souls of all Americans. With all this going for him, one can only wonder what the future holds for this fine young man.

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD (V.O.)

But he's got to execute here Giggs... There it is! Hemp has just begun his unorthodox pre-jump ritual. Overdone? Perhaps. Necessary? Certainly not, but it has become a fan favorite from sea to shining sea!

With his pole resting on his shoulder, Hemp quickly raises his loosely closed fists up to his eye level. The crowd hushes. In a clockwise motion, he makes small circles into the air while slightly moaning, grunting.

HEMP

(circling his hands)

Whummph.... Whummph...

A SERIES OF SHOTS

US TRACK TEAM

They mimic Hemp's every move.

SECTION OF THE CROWD

All fans are standing decked out in red, white, and blue. The entire section grunts along.

OVERHEAD BLIMP'S POV

Olympic Stadium is packed. The sounds of the "Whummph..." grow and echo throughout.

Times Square - NYC

A huge crowd watches every move on the "jumbo-tron" circling and grunting in unison. A large billboard ad next to the jumbo-tron features Hemp in a pair of underwear. The sign reads: "HEMPWEAR U.S.A."

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)
 (throughout the above shots)
 Oh my Lloyd you can literally feel
 the earth shaking, this is
 incredible.

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD (V.O.)
 Absolutely Giggs, right now, here in
 Barcelona, Hemp Stevens will leap
 for his place in the history books.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - CONTINUOUS - CLOSE SHOT OF HEMP

Hemp completes his last rotation as the crowd applauds. The volume fades out as we are left only hearing Hemp's deep, slow breaths.

NEW ANGLE - WIDER SHOT

The crowd is visibly "going nuts", but all we hear is Hemp. Everything slows down as he takes his first step in his run. Cleats clacking, Hemp charges forward in slow motion.

NEW ANGLE - STATIONARY SHOT BEHIND HEMP

In full speed suddenly with the noise level deafening, Hemp charges down the narrow strip, plants his pole and launches skyward.

NEW ANGLE - SIDE VIEW OF CROSS-BAR

Hemp's body is perfectly parallel to the earth below. The shot slows to a crawl.

CUT TO:

CLOSE SHOT - SECTION OF THE CROWD

A small Chinese man wearing a bright yellow rain slicker amongst "American" fans, pops up out of his seat and snaps a photo. A slow, dramatic flash is seen and heard.

CUT TO:

PREVIOUS ANGLE - SIDE VIEW OF BAR - FULL SPEED

His parallel body soars over the bar, barely clearing his head and landing picture perfectly on the comforting mat below. Hemp springs off the mat in absolute elation, he falls to his knees and points to the sky.

SERIES OF SHOTS - SAME SERIES AS BEFORE

His track teammates, the enormous crowd, and the good people of NYC all celebrate emphatically.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - CONTINUOUS

As Hemp begins to celebrate he is mobbed by his teammates and a few spectators who have made their way onto the track.

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)
 (throughout series of shots)
 He's done it, he's done it!!! Holy Shish-kabob, Hemp Stevens has just become *THE* greatest pole-vaulter in history!!!

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD (V.O.)
 (just as excited)
 The man was simply unconscious out there today ladies and gentlemen! With the weight of the world pressed squarely upon his shoulders, Hemp Stevens has reached the peak, the pinnacle, the very paramount of pole-vaulting!

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)
 A brilliant performance indeed Lloyd. Such poise, such grace... Oh man the future shines so incredibly brightly for this new American icon. What this beloved pole-vaulting god could possibly do for an encore, well... I just have no idea.

ANNOUNCER 2 - LLOYD (V.O.)
 One man, one pole, one legend.

ANNOUNCER 1 - GIGGS (V.O.)
 Hemp Stevens, this is your moment!
 Enjoy it!

Hemp is hoisted up by his teammates and draped in an American flag. As Hemp smiles and waves to the adoring crowd the shot slowly zooms all the way in to his eye as the screen goes black.

THE SCREEN READS: HEMP STEVENS

