BEGIN FLASHBACK...

11 **EXT. ALTGELD GARDENS - NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT (1982)** 11

TEEN NOONIE (17, Black boy), skinny frame, patched-up sneakers, runs behind his best friend DARIUS (17, Black boy). Rows of Altgeld Projects fly by as they race between the buildings and courtyards. They breathe heavy as their feet pound against the cracked sidewalk. A pair of woman's eyes peek through the blinds of a home as TEEN NOONIE and DARIUS sprint past. It's the home of GLORIA JOHNSON (40s, Black woman).

12 **INT. GLORIA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (1982)** 12

GLORIA in her colorful nightgown peeks through the blinds. Offscreen a man's VOICE yells from behind her.

VOICE (O.S.)
Who was that?

GLORIA
Darius and Noonie again.

13 **EXT. CORNER STORE - NIGHT (1982)** 13

The hum of streetlights buzz overhead. The corner store's neon sign glows half-dead. TEEN NOONIE and DARIUS arrive on the side of building, hunched over trying to catch their breath. Each carries a small brown package tucked under their jackets.

DARIUS
(Jokingly)
How you gon play college ball and still can't beat me!

TEEN NOONIE
(Out of breath)
Yo ass cheated! How you gon say we go on 3...and take off at 1.

DARIUS
(Laughs)
Ay thats how it be. Gotta be ready to move at all times.

NOONIE doesn't laugh. He stands up tall scanning, eyes sharp as a small-time DEALER (20s, Black man) comes around the back of the building from the shadows. TEEN NOONIE taps DARIUS to look up and get ready. The DEALER makes his way toward them.