

The Dragon Who Played Football

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Max

Max was just as usual as you and me, despite the fact that he was a dragon.

Max had a dream; a dream of being a football star. He wanted to have a great career like Harry Kane, Ronaldo, Messi, or Benzema.

He often pondered how amazed his parents would be, how loud the 90,000 Wembley crowd would applaud, how exuberant his teammates would be, and most

importantly, how proud his dog, Spencer, would be.



He wanted to taste the sweetness of success, the amazement of his accomplishment, and the excitement of his team's achievement.

Max went to a local football club where there was a match coming up the following Saturday and Max hoped to be man of the match. So, for the next few days, he decided to train himself, with some assistance from his Dad.

He was determined to seek help from his friends too.

It was during one of these particular training sessions something very significant happened to Max.

Training

On Thursday, Max decided to practice with his friend, Mike.

Mike also dreamed of being a football player, being a good defender rather than attacker. He loved being a midfielder.

He was green, jubilant and courageous.

He also loved playing board games such as chess and would always beat Max.

Mike and Max got pretty well together and played collaboratively.

One day, they decided to play against Max's Dad.

Max explained his great plan to Mike. The plan was - for Mike to run towards the goal looking like he was about to score but instead to pass the ball to Max and Max would then end up scoring a goal.

They worked really hard to practice these moves diligently and skillfully ahead of the practice game.

Later, in the practice match, Mike accidentally kicked the ball over Max's head and Max recollected a move he had

seen on television. Quick as a bolt of lightning, he twirled around gracefully and executed a backflip in the air. He then landed swiftly on his two feet. Excitedly, his Dad explained to him that the move he did was called a BICYCLE KICK.

Mike was amazed that his friend had done such a splendid acrobatic move. Mike passed another ball above Max's head et voilà! Max performed another bicycle kick and this time he did it even faster than the last time! With the third attempt, he became an expert being swifter as a bullet.

Max and Mike were really pleased with their hard work for the game.

They were ready for the tournament and they had a secret weapon for their victory, the newly approved BICYCLE KICK!

Pre-Tournament

“Over here!” hollered Max as loudly as he could to Mike as he raced across the vast, endless field.

His heart was pumping so fast that he lost his breath whilst sprinting and galloping through the fields. The goal was in sight. Not long now.

The ball landed smoothly, and when it hit Max's foot he felt like his head had been stepped on by metal studs.

He dashed towards the goal. He ran rapidly, a blur of red. The wind was as strong as an elephant.

The grass must have felt like it was hammered into the ground with every leap Max took forward.

The ball was zig-zagging like a crocodile's teeth.

Then, Max decided to execute his move - the BICYCLE KICK! which he had been practising for a long time in his training.

He kicked the ball in the air and spun around himself and did a backflip.

Well...

Almost.

Suddenly, the sound of the wind stopped. The next few seconds unfolded horrifically in slow motion.

Max did hit the ball and it did go inside the goal BUT sadly, this time, he did not manage to land perfectly on his foot.

He landed on his ankle which made him feel like he had placed his foot inside a blazing, bubbling pool of lava.

His unexpected landing had resulted in an unlucky outcome.

He thought regrettably about how he could no longer play in the game. His dream of becoming the *Man of the Match* was over. Max felt so terrible to have almost missed that golden opportunity.

Rick

Although Max was a placid dragon he was often bullied by a teal dragon named Rick. Not only was Rick mean, disastrous and harsh, but he was also taller, stronger, and tougher than the other dragons.

Rick used his talons, which were as sharp as knives, to threaten other dragons and sometimes even hurt them badly.

“What's the matter dweeb? Is your foot hurting?”, roared Rick nastily.

Now, you and I know how important it is not to lose your temper in situations like this. And Max knew that too. So he tried to keep his calm like the water of a small lake.

“Oh, don't you feel bad,” muttered Rick, “I am sure you will enjoy all the food here.”

“That’s it!” said Max with a spark in his eyes.

“What is it?”, shouted Rick, for he did not know that he had unknowingly given Max an idea.

The Big Match

It was Saturday, the day of the big match; however Max was not playing today. He sat on the bench next to his home-made ice-cream stall, watching the grounds dutifully.

“Oh well. At least I get an ice-cream. And my ankle kind of feels good enough that perhaps in a few minutes, I’ll be ready to play!”

While Max was observing patiently, the match was not going well at all.

Mike passed the ball to Rick, but he missed the goal and started to caterwaul at Mike.

The score was 0-0 for the first 88 minutes.

“That’s it!” Max murmured to himself. “I can not wait any longer.”

Spontaneously, Max marched towards the coach. He ingeniously convinced the coach that he was ready to play, while giving him his favourite mint choc chip ice-cream.

The coach substituted Max instead of Rick in the team.

“BK!BK!” yelled Max.



Mike knew what he needed to do.

The clock was ticking, it was the start of the 90th minute!

Mike passed the ball towards Max.

As the ball swung across the penalty area, Max instinctively hurled himself into his favourite BICYCLE KICK.

“What a single greatest work of art!” cried the Coach loudly as the ball hit the back of the net.

The score board showed 1-0.



Max’s team won the game.

Max was announced the best player of the match.

Everyone clapped.

Max and Mike cheered in victory “Hip Hip Hurray!”.

Spencer licked Max’s face and wagged his tail excitedly.

Max’s parents celebrated the success of his team.

“What a game! What a win!!” cheered Dad happily.

“I can’t believe you did not give up,” said Mike.

“If I did, I wouldn't get anything done. My dream is still alive!” replied Max happily.



We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

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SWITCHED ON!

Max is a dragon with a dream of being a football star. But when he sprains his ankle his dreams of being Man of the Match are nearly crushed.

Will he find a way to succeed or does his arch enemy Rick steal the spotlight?