Harley Shows Advocacy

A STORY ABOUT STANDING UP FOR A GOOD IDEA, INSPIRING OTHERS TO LISTEN, AND FINDING THE COURAGE TO SPEAK.



by Christopher Hudson

BOOK THREE IN THE HARLEY SHOWS... SERIES MINI-STORIES TO IMPROVE WORKPLACES

Soccer season was finally here.

HARLEY LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.

AFTERALL, THIS WAS HIS FAVORITE SPORT!



THE PRACTICE, HIS TEAMMATES, AND THE FRESH-CUT GRASS...

HE LOOKED FORWARD TO BEING A PART OF THE TEAM EVERY YEAR.

THIS WEEK, THE TEAM HAD A NEW PROJECT TO WORK ON TOGETHER:

The annual fundraiser!

PIP, THE TEAM CAPTAIN WITH HIS RED ARM BAND, LED THE DISCUSSION.



"We'll do a candy sale again. That worked last year."

MOST TEAMMATES LOOKED AROUND BUT SAID NOTHING.

THEN, ONE HAND WAS RAISED HIGH!



Mike, a new teammate, spoke up.

"AT MY LAST SCHOOL, WE DID A FUNDRAISER SOCCER MATCH. IT WAS TEACHERS VERSUS STUDENTS AND WAS REALLY A BIG SUCCESS."

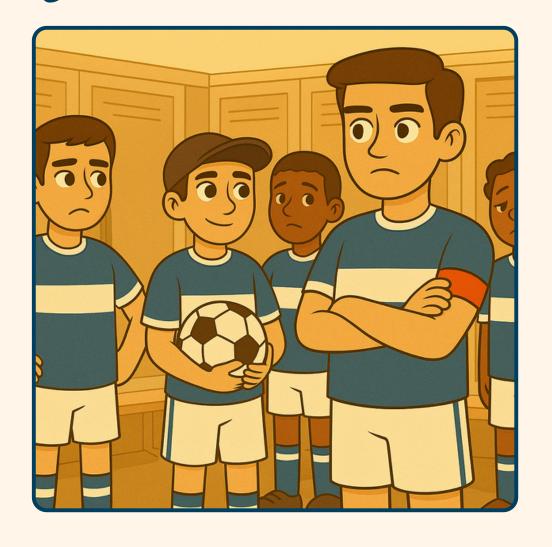
A FEW TEAMMATES LIT UP.



Pip... well, he was skeptical.

"TOO COMPLEX," PIP REPLIED.

"We'd never pull that off! Let's just stick with what we know!"





MIKE WAS DISCOURAGED.

HARLEY STAYED QUIET, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS IDEA STUCK WITH HIM.

The next day, Harley approached Pip.



"LOOK, YOU'RE A GREAT SOCCER LEADER AND WE APPRECIATE IT," HE TOLD PIP.

"BUT, WOULD YOU BE OPEN TO REVISITING MIKE'S IDEA IF I TALKED TO A FEW TEACHERS AND SEE IF THEY'D BE INTERESTED?"

PIP NODDED SLOWLY. "SURE. BUT I DOUBT IT'LL FLY."

AFTER THE NEXT PRACTICE, HARLEY CAUGHT UP WITH MIKE.

"I really liked your idea. I'd be glad to help!"

MIKE WAS CURIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC. THEY MADE PLANS TO DISCUSS IT OVER LUNCH THAT AFTERNOON.

BEFORE THEY LEFT, MIKE ASKED, "YOU THINK IT COULD WORK?"

HARLEY DID INDEED.



SOON AFTER LUNCH, THEY GOT BUSY! THEY BOUNCED ALL AROUND THE SCHOOL, ASKING SOME TEACHERS IF THEY'D BE INTERESTED IN PLAYING IN A CHARITY SOCCER EVENT. TO THEIR SURPRISE, A LOT OF TEACHERS



NOT EVERYONE WAS ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT THEY GOT ENOUGH SUPPORT TO THINK THEY COULD PULL IT OFF.

After all their hard work, Harley and Mike were eager to present their plan to Pip.



THERE WAS A BIG MATCH COMING UP ON FRIDAY SO THEY DECIDED TO WAIT TO FOCUS ON PRACTICE INSTEAD.

AFTER FRIDAY'S MATCH (AND THEIR BIG WIN!), HARLEY AND MIKE APPROACHED PIP.

" IS NOW A GOOD TIME TO TALK ABOUT MIKE'S IDEA? WE'VE GOT SOME GREAT NEWS TO SHARE," HARLEY ASKED.

Pip listened to the hard work that they already put into the idea.

DOING THE BAKE SALE WOULD BE EASIER, BUT THEY SEEMED SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE CHARITY MATCH. FINALLY HE SAID, "LET'S DO IT!"

AT PRACTICE, PIP UPDATED THE TEAM.



"THE STUDENT-TEACHER MATCH IS ON," HE ANNOUNCED. CHEERS BROKE OUT. MIKE BEAMED. HARLEY FELT GREAT.

EVERYONE WAS EXCITED TO PITCH IN.

PIP WAS SURPRISED AT HOW QUICKLY EVERYTHING CAME TOGETHER.

THE TEAM WAS ACTING LIKE... A TEAM!

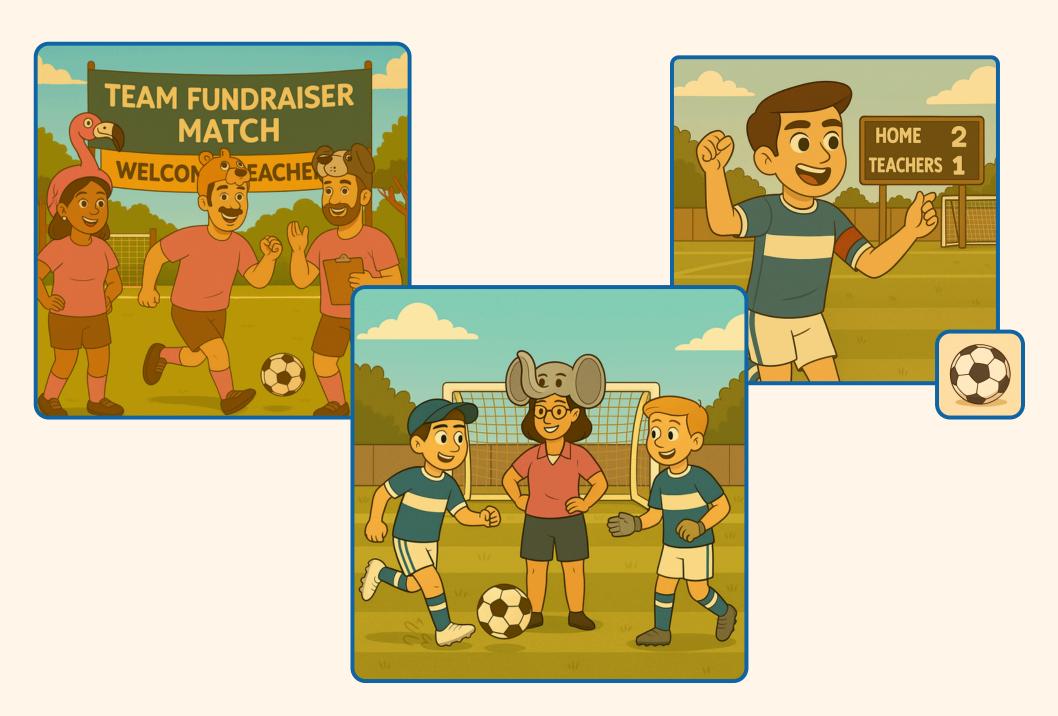


They were getting it done.

BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, IT WAS TEAM FUNDRAISER MATCH DAY!

The fundraiser really delivered!

TEACHERS WORE SILLY UNIFORMS. ENERGY WAS HIGH.



THE FUNDRAISER EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS AND WAS A LOT OF FUN!

NEXT MORNING, PIP FOUND HARLEY AND MIKE. "YOU GUYS MANAGED THAT PERFECTLY," HE SAID. "THANKS FOR ADVOCATING FOR SOMETHING BIGGER."

HARLEY AND MIKE GRINNED.



"Everyone had a role. That's what teams do,"

SAID HARLEY.

HE HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED GOOD IDEAS DESERVE TO BE HEARD.

AND SOMETIMES, THE RIGHT SUPPORT TURNS A QUIET IDEA INTO SOMETHING UNFORGETTABLE...

IF YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Thank You For Reading! HARLEY SHOWS ADVOCACY

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CHRISTOPHER HUDSON HAS SPENT HIS CAREER ENCOURAGING EXECUTIVES TO QUIETLY LEAD WITH PURPOSE, EMPATHY, AND A DECENT SENSE OF HUMOR. WHEN HE'S NOT HELPING BUILD BETTER WORKPLACES, HE'S LIKELY BUILDING SOMETHING OUT OF LEGO BRICKS, QUOTING OBSCURE HARRY POTTER TRIVIA, OR REMINDING PEOPLE THAT PIZZA IS NOT A LONG-TERM PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY. HE PROMISES NOT TO SUGGEST BAKE SALES AT WORK.

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