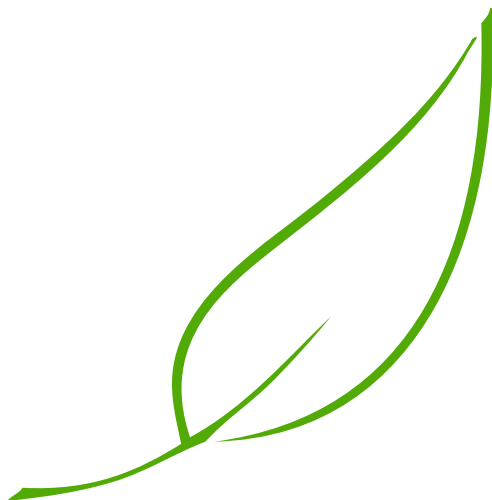


GIMME THE BALL! GIMME THE BALL!

by Ken Bradbury



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(entering) This is it! This is it! Been waiting all week for tonight! Man! Look at the crowd! Moms and Dads and cheerleaders. Whoa! I like cheerleaders! Referees and coaches and popcorn and ... *(jumps)* Ahhh! What's that? Oh ... the buzzer.

Come on, guys! Huddle up! Time to start the game! *(pulling at his imaginary basketball shorts)* Wish they had a pair that fit me. I'm gonna have to dribble with one hand if I'm gonna win this game. *(looking down)* Cool new shoes! On the commercials it made the guys jump really high. Huh? Oh ... sorry. National Anthem. *(puts his hand over his chest and turns toward an imaginary flag)* Are we supposed to sing? Are the other guys singing? *(looks down the line)* Looks like most of 'em don't know the words. *(seeing something)* Boy, I like cheerleaders. *(to someone beside him)* Huh? Oh. *(singing)* "And the home of the brave!" Yes!

Okay, let's play some ball! *(goes to an imaginary huddle)* Yeah ... okay ... yeah ... Got it, coach. I got it. Okay, let's go ... Huh? Bench? The bench? But I'm ... Okay. Savin' me as the secret weapon. I got it, coach. I got it.

(seating himself) Boy are they gonna be surprised when the coach sends me in right after the first play. They think they've got an easy team on their hands tonight ... wait 'til they get a load of the dude with the new basketball shoes.

You know, there's an art to sitting on the bench. I mean, you've got to pay attention so when the coach sends you in you'll know what's goin' on. You can't be lookin' around and not payin' any ... Hey! There's Mom! *(waving)* Hi Mom! This is me! On the bench! I'm goin' in any minute! And I'm wearin' the new shoes! Cool, huh? Yo! Dad! This is me! Your all-star son! And ... who's that? Grandma! Hey, Grandma! *(stands to wave, then grabs his pants)* Whoa. Forgot about these loose shorts. I gotta stand up slower. *(sits)*



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