

## Football 127

### Chapter 127

"Huff I think I need a break," I subconsciously said to no one in particular as I sprawled my body on the ground. For the past three hours, Coach Carlos has been torturing us with his so-called training.

All of his training was focused on improving our feel for the ball following the motto of making the ball your friend. However, as the training continued, I could tell that some of the kids started to hate the ball at their feet. I mean I almost got mad as well after I started making silly mistakes due to fatigue.

After the reaction drill, we moved on to various obstacle courses where we had to dribble through. The course had a random feel to it as we had to dribble through gates of cones. After that came a row of poles that we had to weave in and out of as fast as we could.

We completed a lot more drills like that targeted at strengthening our feel for the ball. The coach and the trainers would sometimes pull us to the side to give us instructions on how to improve. However, that is not the reason why I am so out of breath right now.

The reason for this is due to something coach likes to call final challenge. He felt like we needed to finish off our session off with a bang, so he set up a rugged zig zag cone course. The premise of the drill was to dribble the ball along the zig-zag course as fast as possible without losing control of the ball.

To make it more interesting we were split into two teams and made to race against one another. Some players thought that they could get by taking big touches and roughly getting through the course. Well, they were wrong since as soon as they lost control of the ball or missed a cone they were made to do a punishment.

What makes it worse is the fact that everyone had to go through the course thrice. So, unless those who are doing the punishment come back fast enough your team can't finish. That is how I ended up in this situation where I had to run two laps because Sam tried to show off.

Whilst everyone else was trying to get through the challenge drill as fast as possible he felt the need to try out skill moves. It wouldn't be bad if he knew what he was doing but the boy tripped over a cone falling over and losing control of the ball.

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"Looks like you're having fun," a familiar voice said from behind me causing me to open my eyes.

My sight was met with the smiling face of Akari holding a water bottle out for me. The water seems like it's fresh out of the fridge as I can see small droplets trickle down from it with one landing on my face. Slightly surprised at her action It took me a second to gather my thoughts.

"Thanks, and yeah I had fun more or less," I responded with a smile getting to my feet and taking the bottle off her hand. Not wasting a second, I gulped half the contents of the bottle down not bothering to even taste it.

"You're on break, right?" she half questioned but didn't really want me to answer her as she grabbed my arm and pulled me along. "Let's go the food here is delicious." That is all she said as she yanked my arm along with her barely allowing me to grab my small bag with my iPod in it.

"I can walk you know," I half yelled out to her hoping she would stop dragging me along with her. Don't get me wrong I could easily break free from her grasp it's just I don't want her to question her strength.

[You know, you don't have to lie to me I won't judge you,] Eva suddenly said striking a blow to my ego almost causing me to trip over myself. Sometimes I think she relishes whenever she gets the opportunity to tease me.

'I'm not lying, I'm just being considerate of her feelings,' I quickly defended myself feeling the need to clarify myself. However, I don't think she cared much for my response as she burst out laughing.

"So, what do you think of Coach Carlos, isn't he fun?" Akira asked letting go of my arm not bothering to apologise. This girl is definitely an acquired character and I'll need some time to adjust to her.

"He's fun but definitely tough in a weird, relaxed way," I answered as I walked along the corridor with her.

I'm not lying though as his coaching style oddly made me try harder without the added pressure of someone yelling. I can't say that I feel the effects of the training yet, but I do know I've never gotten tired as fast as I did today. I'm sure after a couple of months of training my stats will see an explosive improvement.

"Yeah, I also had him on my first day and ended up just like you," Akira explained with a reminiscent look in her eyes seemingly remembering a tough day.

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We continued our journey to the canteen in this atmosphere discussing football and our aspirations. I found out that Akira's Dad is a businessman and is actually the reason she started playing football.

According to her Dad loves the game but couldn't pursue his dreams as he had to help his family business.

Her Dad's family business was in the movie-making industry back in the late 1980 owning a company called Silver Screen Production. However, they faced money problems when a string of their movies failed, and her grandfather died thus the company losing direction. Her Dad took over the company at the age of 18 In 1982 and immediately sold a third of the shares in the production company.

His move was seen as a risky one since Hollywood just started to boom and the industry was at a stage of rapid development. You see her Dad didn't trust in the stability of the box office so he shifted his company to the emerging TV industry. Renaming the company to Silver Screen Studios he went on to invest in three TV stations and distribution channels for the movies they do make.

The man changed the company's direction from creating artsy films to making children's cartoons. His bet paid off as the competition in that field wasn't as congested as with movies. Basically, what I'm trying to say the man may not like the industry but he sure is a business genius.

Akira started playing football due to her Dad's love for the game with him even having shares in Arsenal. Realising that I was walking with a rich young lady also left me flabbergasted. However, for some reason, she doesn't like the club her Dad's company invested in.

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~Hi Emma, how's your practice going,~ I said to her as soon as the phone call connected. She sounded a little out of breath having seemingly just finished one of her practices. This makes me wonder why she texted me saying to call her and didn't just rest or at least catch her breath.

~it's good we just finished our morning session~ Sure enough I was right in my assumption of her just finishing her training.

~Oh, how are you getting on with that, I remember you beefing with a girl called Jenna?~ I asked genuinely curious since she had been complaining about this girl. For some reason the girl started hating on her and with Emma being younger than most girls she wasn't as close with them. So, without May there because of her holiday, she had to endure it since she tends to avoid unnecessary confrontations.

~(sigh) She's being a pain but with May she's staying away from me~ she stated in an exasperated tone but seemingly didn't want to continue to talk about it.

~Haha I knew I wasn't the only one scared of her when she gets mad,~ Not forcing her to continue the topic I started recalling the few times I've seen May get mad. She surprisingly has great self-control despite having quite an impulsive character.

~haha Don't let her hear you say that, or she might take your snacks~ She chided with a light chuckle reminding me of the times she tricked me into giving her my snacks. The funny thing is the fact that Mom makes a portion just for her, but she still had it out for mine.

~Never If she does, I'll get my big sister to act as a shield~ I responded confidently knowing that Emma is one of the few people who can deal with an angry May. Well, that is as long as she isn't the one who caused her to get mad in the first place.

~Hey! How come I'm only your big sister when you're in trouble~ She indignantly exclaimed referring to the bet that she lost to me. However, I do not mind being shameless as this is exactly what elder siblings are for.

~haha Not sure you signed the contract; guess you should have read the fine print~ I told her as a bright smile appeared on my face as I can already imagine the pout on her face.

"Is that your sister?"