

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

El partido del domingo

An A2 story about soccer, family expectations, teamwork, and learning from disappointment.

TEAM

EFFORT

SUPPORT

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ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Diego's team is playing an important semifinal. His father hopes to attend, but an unexpected problem changes their plans.

Before you begin

How can you support someone after a difficult game?

Reading goal

Notice vocabulary for soccer, teamwork, and talking about disappointment.

THE STORY · PART 1

A special game

Diego woke up early on Sunday. His soccer team was playing in the city **semifinal** that afternoon.

For three weeks, the players had stayed late after every **practice**. Their coach, Ms. Ortiz, wanted them to communicate better on the field.

Diego was a **forward**, and he hoped to score. He also wanted his father, Carlos, to see the game.

Carlos worked at a hotel and often worked on weekends. However, he had changed his schedule for the match.

At breakfast, Diego placed his clean **uniform** beside his bag. Then Carlos's phone rang. A coworker was sick, and the hotel needed help immediately.

'I may arrive late,' Carlos said. 'But I will try my best to be there.'

Diego nodded, but he felt disappointed. His father had already missed two games that season.

Before leaving, Carlos touched Diego's shoulder. 'Play for your team, not only for the people watching,' he said.

Diego carried those words with him as he walked to the field.

THE STORY · PART 2

The final minutes

A large **crowd** filled the park. Diego looked toward the entrance, but he did not see his father.

The **referee** blew the whistle, and the game began. The other team scored first.

In the second half, Diego's **teammate** Mateo made a perfect **pass**. Diego kicked the ball into the corner of the net.

'Goal!' the crowd shouted. The **score** was now one to one.

With one minute remaining, a defender pushed Mateo inside the penalty area. The referee pointed to the spot.

Ms. Ortiz chose Diego to take the **penalty**. He placed the ball carefully and took a deep breath.

He kicked hard, but the goalkeeper moved quickly and stopped the shot.

Seconds later, the whistle ended the game. Because the other team had more points in the tournament, they advanced to the final.

Diego sat on the grass. He felt **responsible** for the loss.

'If I had scored, we would still be playing,' he said quietly.

THE STORY · PART 3

More than the score

Mateo sat beside him. 'You scored our first goal,' he said. 'And we all played the whole game. The result belongs to the whole team.'

Ms. Ortiz gathered the players. She praised their **effort** and reminded them that one moment did not decide their value.

Then Diego heard someone call his name. Carlos was running toward the field in his hotel uniform.

'I saw the final ten minutes,' Carlos said. 'I saw your goal, your missed shot, and the way your teammates came to you afterward.'

Diego looked down. 'I wanted you to see me win.'

'I wanted to see you do your best,' Carlos replied. 'Winning is wonderful, but **support** is most important when something is difficult.'

Diego stood and congratulated the other team. Then he thanked Mateo and Ms. Ortiz.

That evening, Diego and Carlos practiced penalties at a small park. Carlos was a terrible goalkeeper, and soon they were both laughing.

Diego still wished the result had been different. But he understood that disappointment could become a reason to learn, not a reason to quit.

A team is measured not only by the final score, but by how its players stand together afterward.

Words for sports and teamwork

semifinal	semifinal
practice	práctica / entrenamiento
forward	delantero/a
uniform	uniforme
crowd	multitud / público
referee	árbitro/a
teammate	compañero/a de equipo
pass	pase
score	marcador
penalty	penalti / penal
responsible	responsable
effort	esfuerzo
support	apoyo

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose

1. Why might Carlos arrive late? a) His car is broken b) A coworker is sick c) He forgot the game
2. Who passes the ball before Diego's goal? a) Mateo b) Carlos c) Ms. Ortiz
3. What happens to Diego's penalty? a) It goes over the net b) The goalkeeper stops it c) Mateo kicks it
4. What does Carlos do that evening? a) Returns to work b) Watches television c) Practices penalties with Diego

B. True or false

1. Diego's team scores first. TRUE / FALSE
2. Diego believes he caused the loss. TRUE / FALSE
3. Diego congratulates the other team. TRUE / FALSE

C. Write

Describe one way Mateo, Ms. Ortiz, or Carlos supports Diego. What can a person learn from losing a game?

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. 1. b 2. a 3. b 4. c

B. 1. False 2. True 3. True

Suggested answer

Mateo reminds Diego that the result belongs to the whole team. A person can learn what to practice, how to handle disappointment, and why supporting teammates matters.

KEEP GOING

Practice: We did not win, but we played as a team and learned from the game.