

# DAD'S GAME

A Dramatic Monolog

by  
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Judd Lezerian sat on the bench watching Craig Morgan bring the ball up from the back court. Being second string was hard. But knowing that Dad was in the stands, even if he was blind, was comforting. For three years now, Judd had been the only guy on the basketball team whose father attended every game. It was something of a funny story around the locker room that Judd's Dad was so loyal and so blind.

"I mean, he can't even see you sittin' on the bench," Judd's friend Lee Harrison often said.

Judd had been working hard. He and Craig Morgan had battled it out in scrimmages and practice; Craig had edged Judd out of first string by only one free throw. Otherwise, Coach Pellerend said, "They were equals."

This was the game Judd might get into if Craig messed up.

Not that Judd wanted him to mess up. Or get hurt, or anything else. He wanted to win first string fair and straight. It was hard sitting on the bench.

"Put Lezerian in!" a voice behind yelled. It was his sister Suzy who came to most of the games too.

Judd just sat still and straight, hoping the team would get ahead and he'd be able to play a few minutes.

The whistle blew.

"Foul." The ref raised his arm, ran over to the timekeeper's and ref's bench and said, "How many fouls on sixteen."

Craig rarely fouled. Judd hadn't been counting.

"Three," the foul keeper said.

A second later, Coach Pellerend called out Judd's name. "Lezerian, get up here."

"Go, Lezerian," Judd father's strong voice roared out. There was one thing about Dad you could count on, he'd hear everything even if he couldn't see it.

"Time, ref," Coach Pellerend called and the game stopped. "I'm putting in Judd. You have three fouls, Craig."

"Yeah, I know, coach. I'm off tonight."

"All right. Take a seat and rest."

"Judd!"

A split second later, Judd stood at the coach's arm. "Watch number twelve Craig was covering. He's pulling fouls whenever he can."

"All right."

"GO LEZERIAN!" Judd's Dad yelled as the boy ran out onto the court amid much cheering from the stands.

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---