Manfred’s big indoor soccer game begins in just three hours. His team is called The Monsters. The winners of this game will be district champs! Nervous Manfred has butterflies in his tummy.

Manfred’s mom and dad dropped him off at his sports complex. The stands in that complex were empty now. But later there would be hundreds of people in the seats!
As Manfred did his stretches, he remembered the years of constant hard work he put in. It took him a long time to improve. But he transformed himself into a fantastic player!

Before the game, Manfred and his team spent some extra time running drills. Then they went under the stands to relax a bit.

Soon it was time for this game to start. As the ref tossed out the ball, six players instantly made mad dashes for it. Manfred got there first. He made a few nice cuts in and out as he ran. He was in complete control of the ball. He took a shot, but just missed. That frustrated Manfred!

The game went on and on with no score. Players made nice passes, and when a team came close to getting a goal, players on both benches jumped up! But all shots were misses.

With just ten seconds left, the ball got loose. Manfred turned and ran right at it, but the laces on his sneakers got tangled. Manfred tripped and fell! To his surprise, the ball bounced oddly and landed right next to him. Manfred did not let tripping distract him, though. As he lay on the grass, Manfred swooped his leg around and kicked the ball at the goal. It went in!

The crowd exploded in happy yelling! The Monsters were district champs!