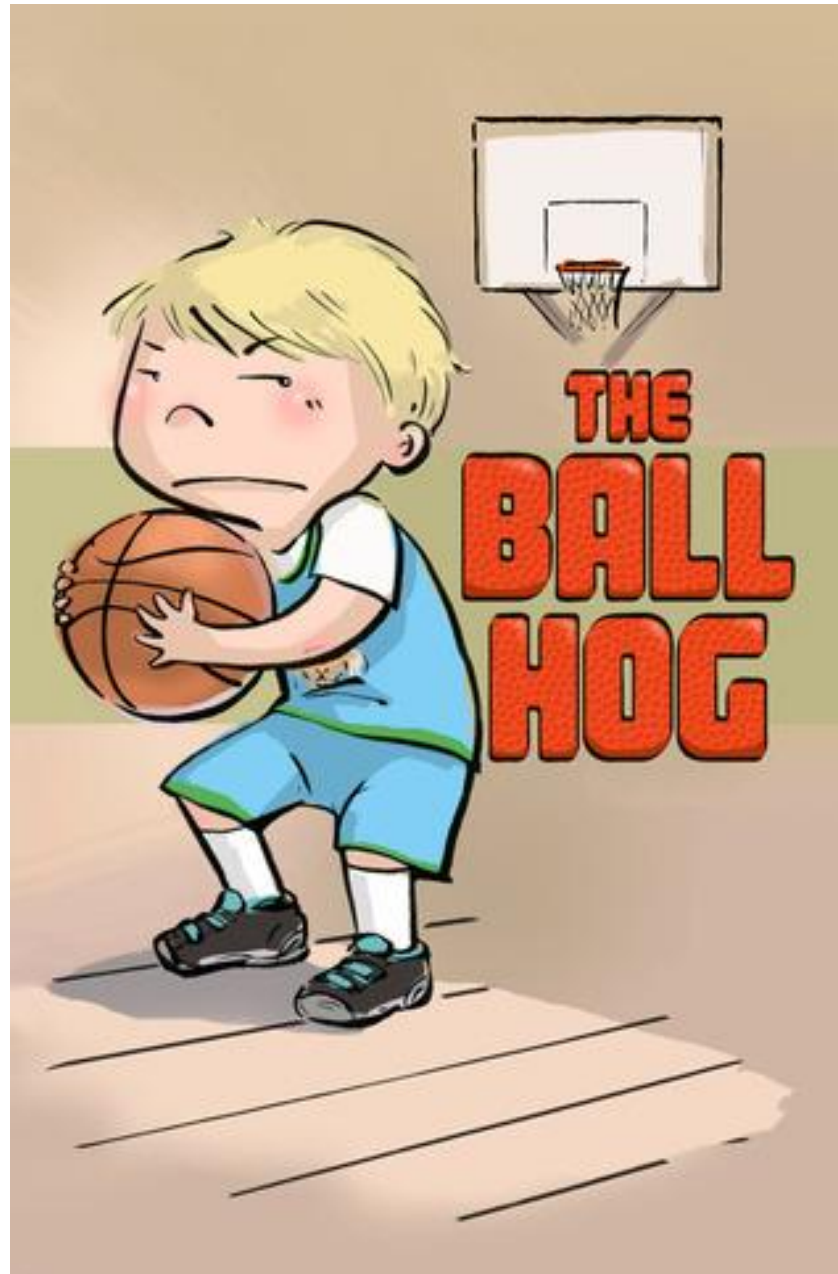


[Ball Hog - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ball_hog)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/**Ball hog**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ball_hog)

A **ball hog** is a derisive term for a basketball player who handles the **ball** exclusively to the point of impairing the team. Despite not a violation of the rules of basketball, "**ball-hogging**" is generally considered unacceptable playing behavior at all levels of basketball competition.



The Ball Hog

Written by Justin Key

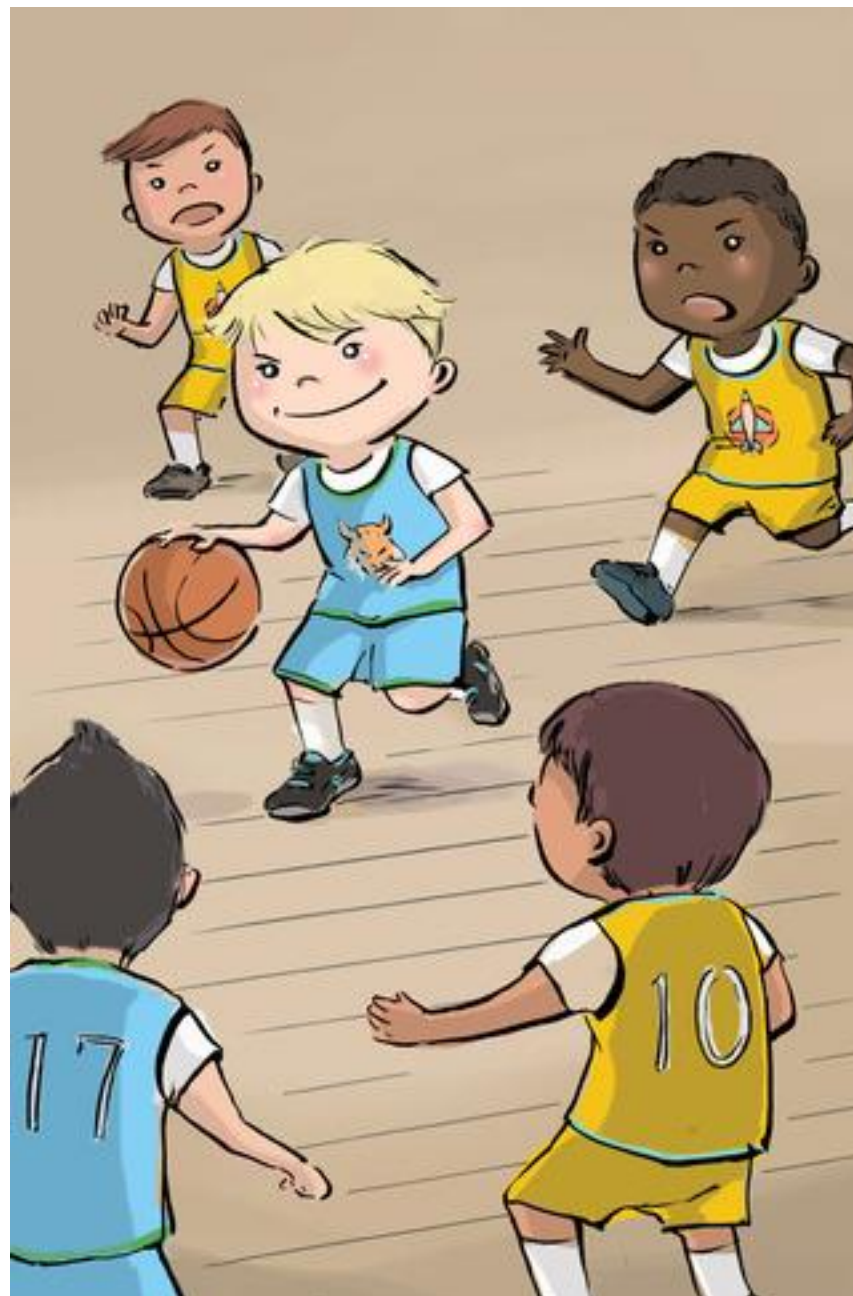
Illustrated by Christine Chang

<https://www.farfaria.com/the-ball-hog>

The Bobcats are the best basketball team in the league. They have never lost a game.

Stevie is the team's sharp shooter. He shoots layups, jump shots, and three-pointers!

He dribbles circles around every player!



Today, the Bobcats are playing the Jets. The Bobcats are winning. Stevie has the ball.

He gets around the last Jet. He leaps into the air. The ball rolls off his finger tip. He nails the layup.

The buzzer sounds. The Bobcats win, again!



“We win! We win! I am the best!”
Stevie yells. He points to each player
on the Jets. “Loser! Loser! SUPER
loser!”

Stevie doesn't shake hands with the
Jets. He just laughs in their faces.



In the next game, the Bobcats are playing the Tigers. Stevie has the ball.

Stevie dribbles towards the basket. He spins around one Tiger. He bumps right into another Tiger!

Stevie is double-teamed. He doesn't have a clear shot!



“I’m open!” yells Jeremy, Stevie’s teammate. “Stop being such a ball hog. Pass it!”

Stevie ignores him. He jumps up to shoot a three-pointer.

A Tiger blocks the shot! He gets the ball and dribbles to the hoop. He shoots and scores two points for the Tigers!



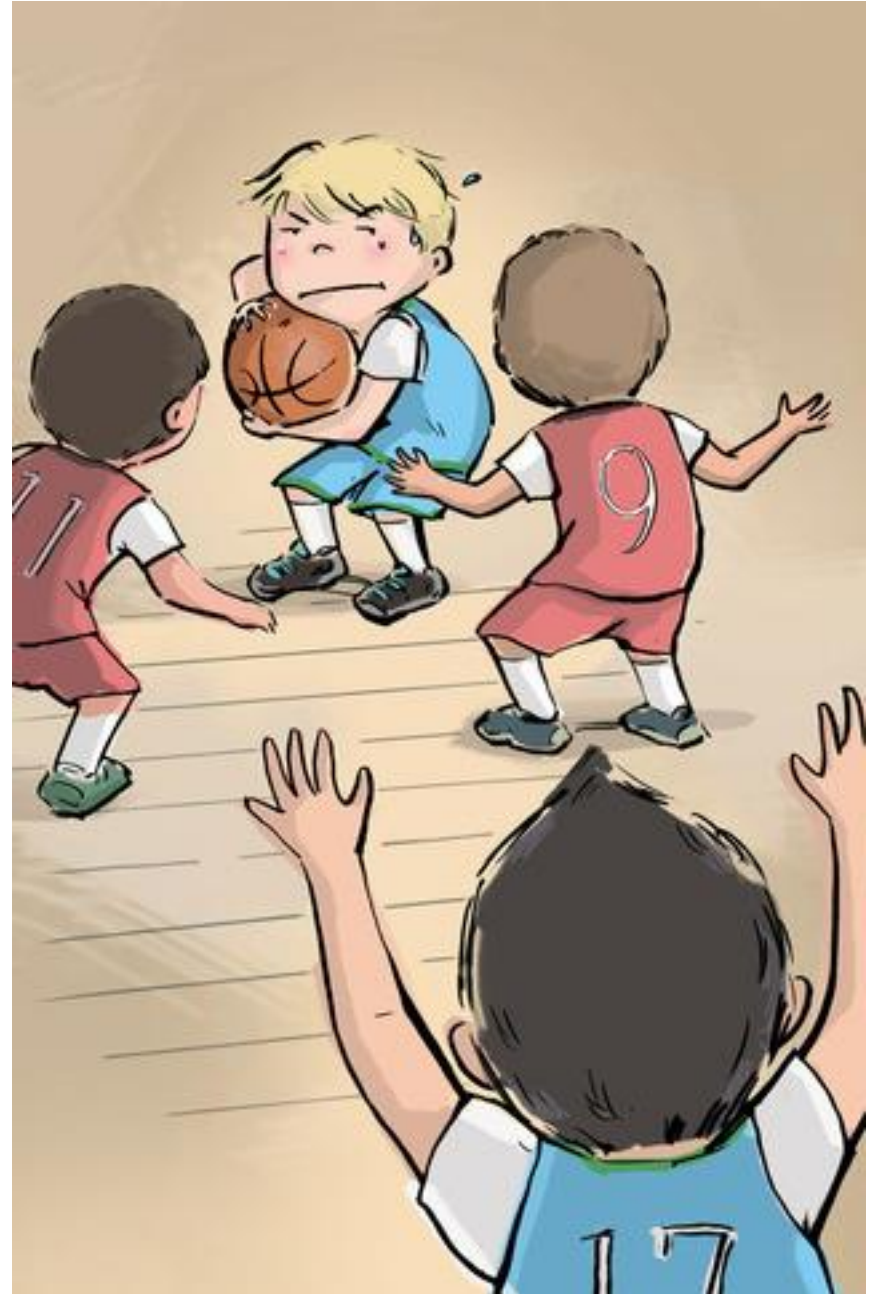
By the fourth quarter, the game is tied. With only two minutes left, Stevie has the ball. He heads down court.

Two Tigers approach.



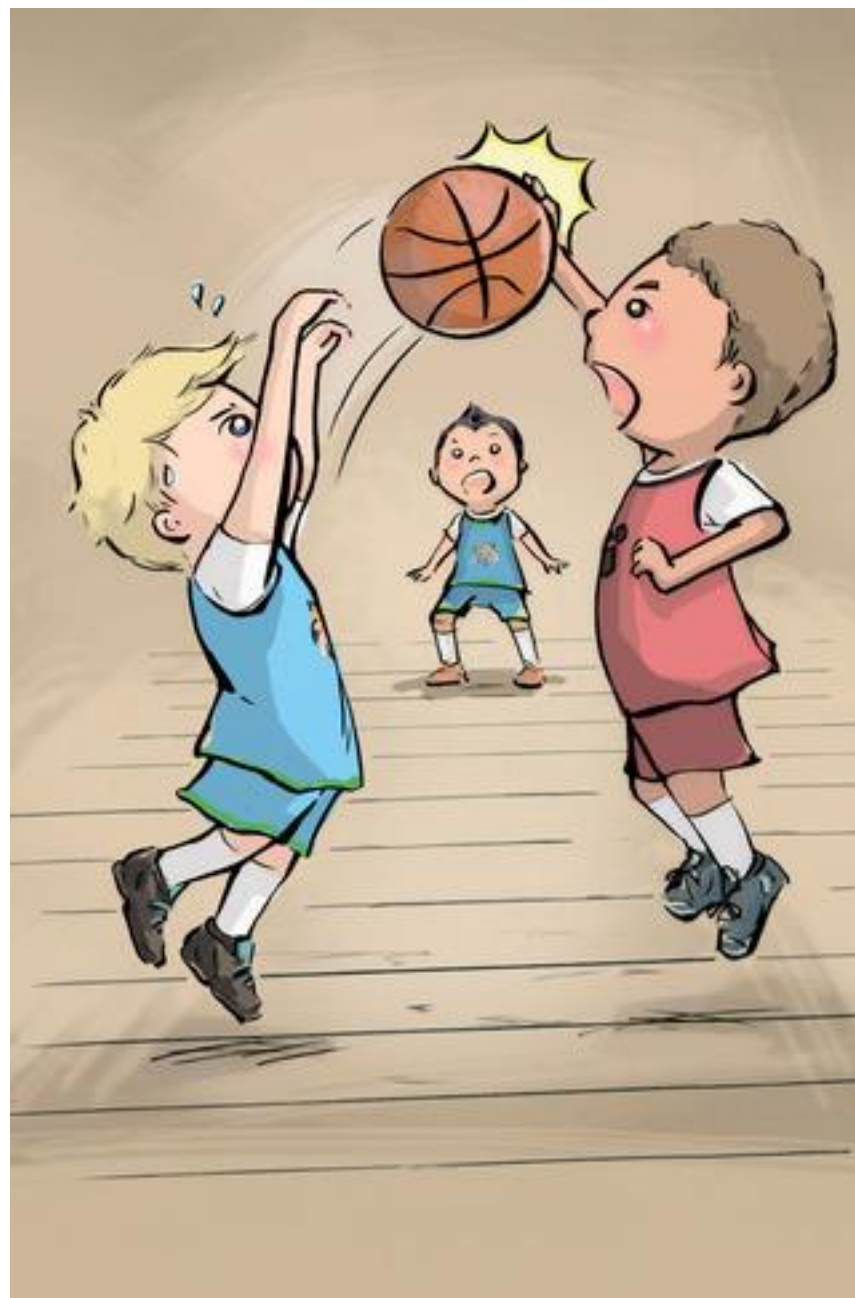
“Hey Stevie,” Jeremy calls, “Pass it here! We can win this!”

Stevie scoffs at Jeremy. “Yeah, right, and let you shoot the winning point.”



Stevie goes left. Then he fakes right. He gets past the first Tiger. Now Stevie is one-on-one with another Tiger.

Stevie drives to the basket. He jumps up. Suddenly, the Tiger leaps into the air. He grabs the ball right out of Stevie's hands!



Before Stevie can think, the Tiger races down the court.

Stevie watches as the Tigers win the game.

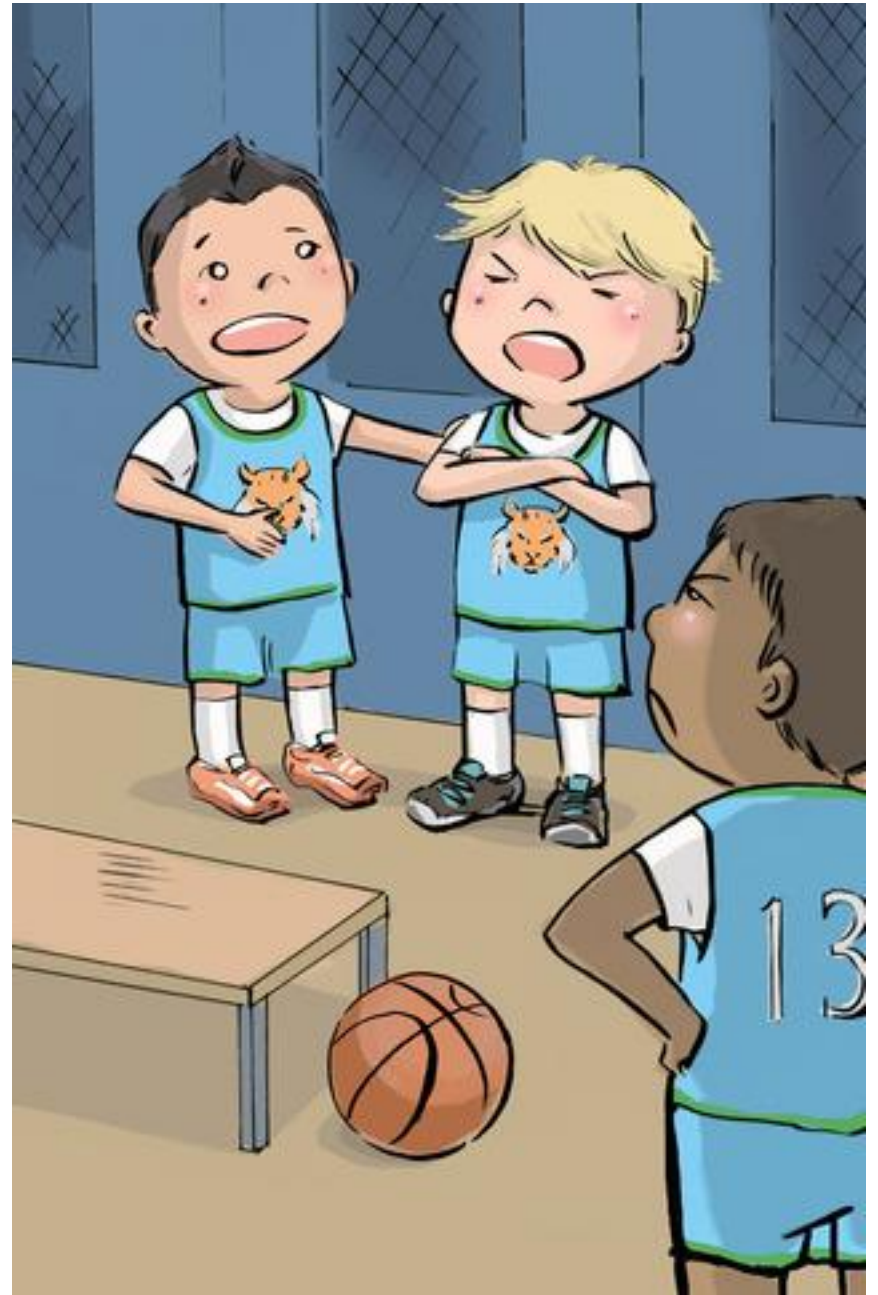


In the locker room, the other Bobcats give Stevie mean looks.

“Way to blow it,” one says to Stevie.

“We’ll get them next time,” Jeremy says.

“Only losers talk like that,” Stevie says.



Before the next game, Stevie talks to Coach Joe. “Bench me, coach,” Stevie says. “I can’t shoot. I stink.”

Coach Joe smiles. “If you can’t shoot, find another way to help the team,” he says.



The next game is against the Pirates. The Bobcats are down by ten points.

Stevie takes the ball to the three-point line. Two Pirates come for the ball. Stevie looks to shoot, but he is blocked!

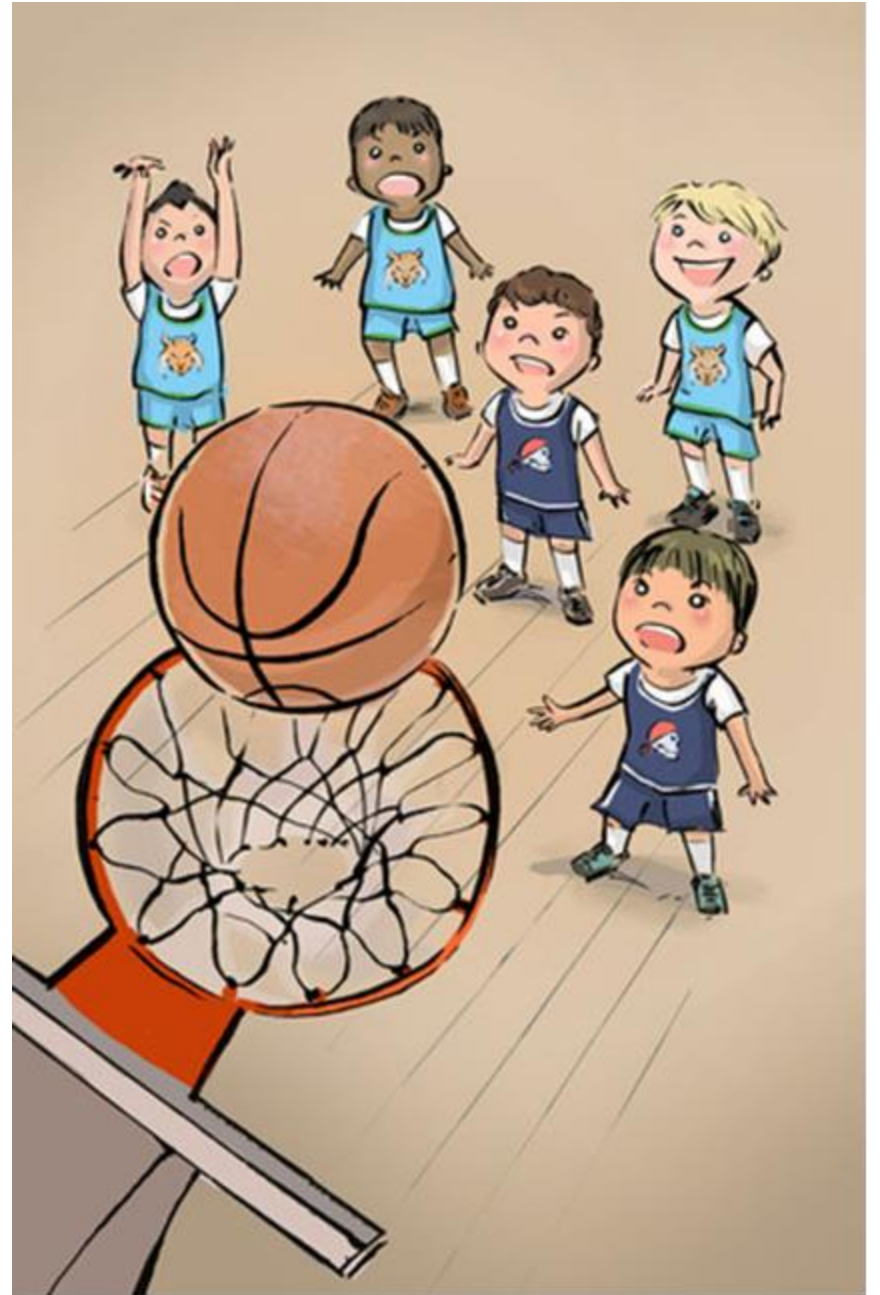
Then, Stevie remembers what Coach Joe said. Stevie sees Jeremy under the basket.



Stevie passes the ball to Jeremy.

Jeremy is so surprised he almost drops the ball. Jeremy looks up, and shoots.

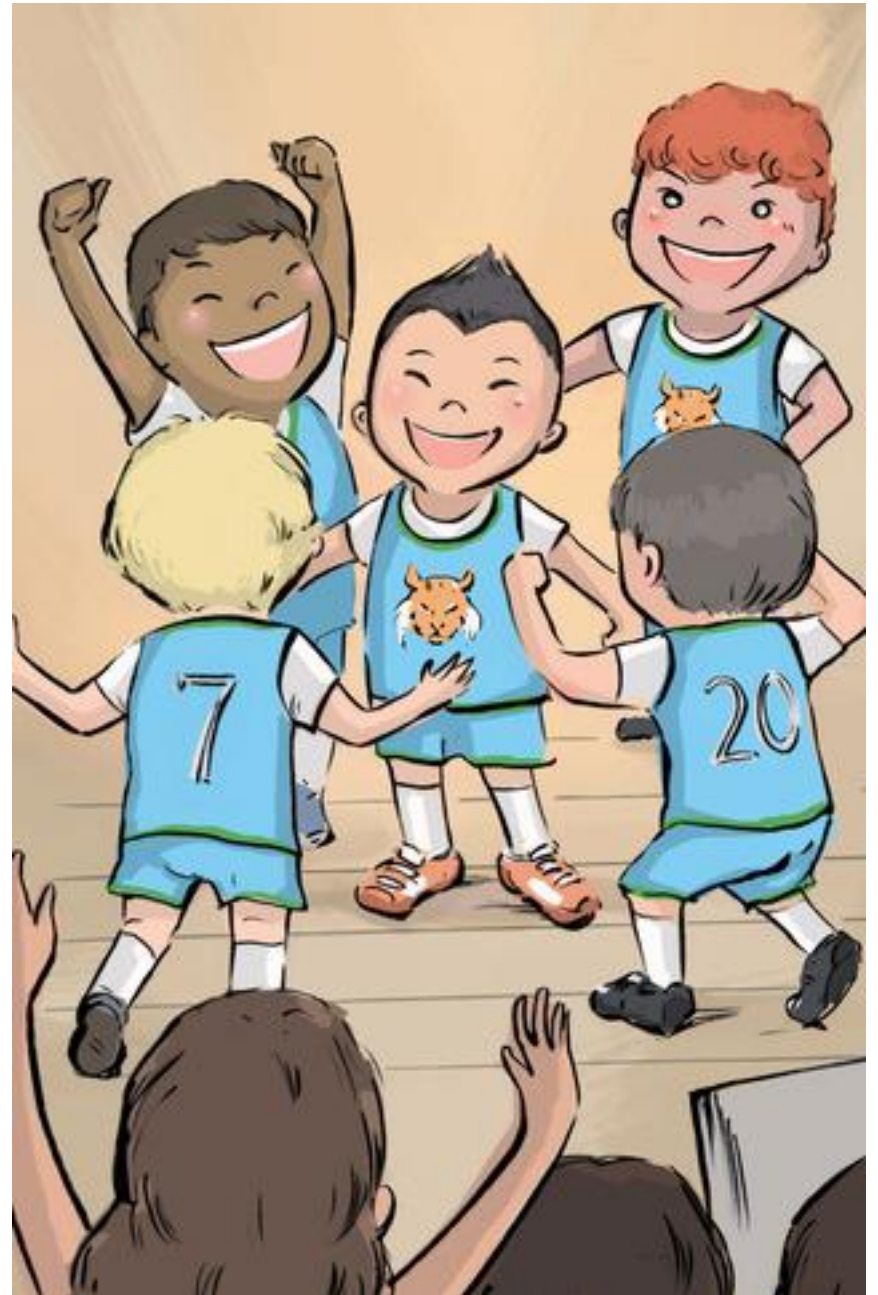
It's good!



For the rest of the game, Stevie passes the ball to Jeremy and his other teammates.

The Bobcats win!

The crowd goes wild.



“Alright!” Stevie’s teammates cheer. They high five and slap Stevie on the back.

“We were awesome out there!” says a Bobcat.

“Stevie, those passes were great!” says another player.



Stevie sees Jeremy. “Good game,” he says.

“You too,” Jeremy says. “We won as a team.”

“We did,” Stevie says. “It feels good to win, but being a team player feels even better!”

