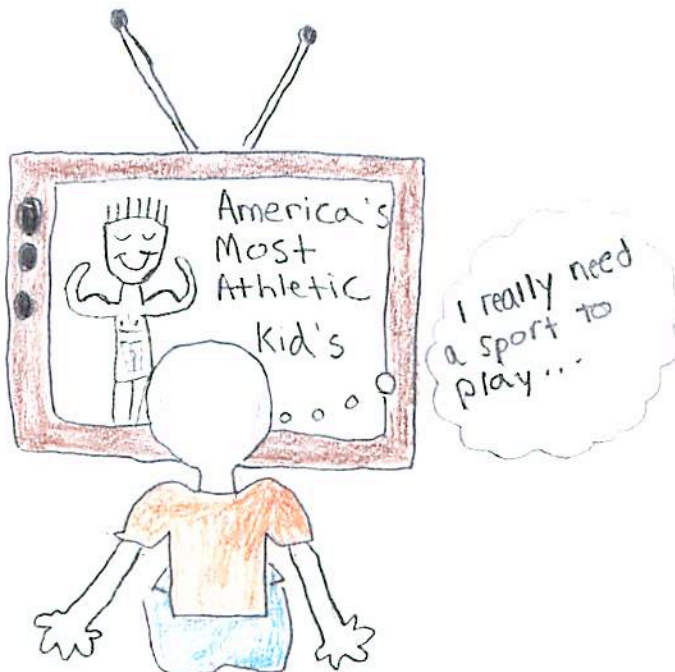


Jeremy's Sport
(Drawings by Charles Yeakum)

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P2 05/26/08

One day Jeremy was at home watching television. He was watching a show called "America's most Athletic Kids." In the show he saw a 12-year old girl who scored thirteen goals in a single soccer game. He saw an eight year old boy who could hit a golf ball straight into the hole. He also saw a ten year old boy who can make hundred free throws in a row with a basketball. At that point Jeremy began to think and asked himself.

"I wonder what my sport is."



At school Jeremy was the only boy who wasn't on a sport's team. Lucy, who sat in front of Jeremy was a great tennis player, never having lost a single game in her entire life. Steve who sat behind Jeremy was an amazing football player. He once made six touchdowns in a single game. Amy who sat to the left of Jeremy was a tremendous soccer player and she was able to bounce the top of her head for ten minutes. And Jack who sat to the right of Jeremy was a spectacular hockey player. He once scored twenty points in a game. Yup, everyone seemed to be good at something except Jeremy. Zack the Track runner said to Jeremy, "aah Jeremy how come you don't have a sport?" Everyone laughed.

During recess everyone was playing their sports while Jeremy was sitting on the bench.

One day when Jeremy was walking in the hallway at school he saw a poster that read, "Try out for all the sports tomorrow." At that point Jeremy had an idea. 'I'll try out for all the sports and see which one I'm good at.' This made Jeremy thrilled and eager to start to next day.

The very next day Jeremy was the first and only kid trying out for a sport. Everybody else that was there were already on the team.

He first went to the soccer field. Every time the ball went to him he either missed it when he tried to kick it or he'd got scared and used his hands. Soccer wasn't for him.

He decided to try basketball. Every time he bounced the ball to the ground, it never came back to his hands. And when he shot the ball it never came close to the hoop. Basketball wasn't for him.

He walked over to the baseball field. When it was his turn to hit he didn't even notice that the pass him. The second try the ball hit him in his left eye and everyone laughed. Baseball wasn't for him.

He headed over to the tennis court with the black eye he got from baseball. When his opponent served the ball he swung the racket as fast and hard as he could. He missed the ball and it ended up hitting his private area which made him collapse to the ground. Tennis wasn't for him.

As he walked over to the football field he noticed he was the smallest one on the field. He decided to put on a helmet and get in the game before he got scared and ran away. When the ball came to him he was surprised he had caught it. "I caught it. I caught the football. Football is my sport," Jeremy yelled out while he was jumping in the air. He looked forward and realized his opponents were about to tackle him. He dropped the football and ran in the opposite direction. Football wasn't for him.

When Jeremy walked over to the track field, he began to doubt that if he would ever find a sport. "Ooh, what's the use, if I can't play any of the other sports, then how can I run track? I guess I don't have a sport." He began walking home.

While Jeremy was walking home he ran into Zack, the track runner. "Aah Jeremy you can't walk pass my street."

"What why?. That's the only short cut I know to get home."

"I know. You're going to have to give me something I want if you want to take the short cut."

"Like what."

"Your DVD player."

"Forget it. That's my parents."

"Than start walking the other way chump."

"No. This isn't your street. I'm taking the short cut," Jeremy said, taking a step forward.

"As you wish. Apes come here boy," Zach yelled out, calling for his dog.

Apes was a big, mean black dog. His teeth were large and sharp. He was the scariest living creature in the neighborhood.

"Apes sick him," Zach ordered pointing to Jeremy. When Apes started charging at Jeremy, Jeremy immediately turned around and ran the opposite direction.



He ran as fast as he could. He climbed over fences and made sharp turns. He never looked back and he wasn't even tired. When he got home he realized he lost Apes and that he was safe.

The next day when Jeremy got to school he saw a man wearing a hat, sunglasses, whistle around his neck and a t-shirt that read "Track and Field". The man began to

approach Jeremy. He asked Jeremy if he was the kid running away from the dog yesterday after school.

“Yup,” Jeremy said.

“Man kid you’re incredibly fast. How would you like to run track for the school? You’ll be great. From what I saw yesterday you have natural speed.”

“Me? Run track? Are you serious? Do you really think I have speed?”

“There’s only one way to find out”

On the following Saturday the school held a track meet where everyone in the neighborhood had came. Jeremy was running the boys 100meter dash. He was excited. His parents were sitting on the stands getting ready to root for him. He was going to be racing against some big kids from his school and other schools. Zach was also going to be racing.

“Hey Jeremy if you really want to live you should drop out of the race and save your energy for my dog. After this I’m going to have him finish what he started.”

Jeremy was too excited to pay any attention to Zack. It was time to race.

“Ready! Set! Go!

From the Beginning Jeremy took the lead and made the gab even bigger. His parents screamed “Go Jeremy.” Jeremy won by a long shot. It was Zack’s first defeat.

“Aah Jeremy.” The coach called out. “I told you that you had natural speed.”

That entire season Jeremy came first at every race. At his fifth grade graduation he was named the best athlete. He found his sport. He was a track runner.

THE CROWD CHEERS

