

Eddie, The Sophomore Year

Say Goodbye to Mr. Crum

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The second four-way meet of the year brings excitement to the Northside Track Team. Totally crushing the competition thus far this year, the team is looking forward to today's meet. In consideration of the opposition, the team is expected to walk away with all the gold and silver medals today, and many of the bronze medals.

The three visiting teams trickle in, and hang out around the track. They have heard through the grapevine the power of the Northside team this year. As opposed to the first meet of the year, the competition knows exactly what to expect today, hoping that they go home winning at least one event.

Kathy again sees a few team assistants that she recognizes from prior years. Paula mentions to Kathy, Barbara, and Tessa, "the other teams are checking us out again. It looks like we're the center of attention this year." Kathy replies, "they're probably wondering how good we are." Paula informs Kathy, "by now, girl, they know exactly how good we are." Barbara comments, "apparently, so does Mr. Crum. Don't look now, but he's headed down the stairway." Exercising her superpowers, Paula replies, "that can't be good."

As he is halfway down the stairway, Mr. Crum yells out, "Katarina Karakova, Paula Giovani, Barbara Wyngate, and Tessa Klement, I want to see you in my office immediately!" In response, Kathy whispers under her breath, "oh, crap. Not this shit again." Paula suggests,

“just ignore him.” Barbara replies, “good idea. Mr. Frazier and Mr. Zunde will take care of this.” Not getting the attention he deserves, Mr. Crum yells out to the four girls, “did you hear me?” Kathy comments under her breath, “yeah. We heard you. So did everyone else in the arena, you moron.” Paula comments, “oh, wonderful. He’s headed this way.”

Interrupting Mr. Crum’s witch hunt, Mr. Zunde yells back to Mr. Crum, “Crum, get out of my arena, or I’ll personally have you removed. We have a track meet that’s about to start. So, get out of my arena.” Mr. Crum yells back, “you can’t talk to me that way!” Mr. Zunde calmly replies, “go ahead and stop me. From my perspective, it looks like you’re outnumbered, roughly forty to one. Your move.” Seeing Mr. Crum shift his trajectory toward Mr. Zunde, the girls breathe a sigh of relief.

Mr. Zunde calmly asks Mr. Crum, “exactly what is your problem today, Crum?” Mr. Crum exclaims, “my problem? My problem? I have done my research! When that stick is passed from one student to another, that is making contact! That would classify track and field as a contact sport!” Mr. Zunde informs Mr. Crum, “first of all, Crum, it’s not a stick. It’s called a baton. If you did any research at all, you would have known that. Secondly, when they’re on the track, they’re participating as an athlete, not a student. That should suggest to you that what goes on down here is out of your jurisdiction. And, thirdly, Crum, nothing of what you say or do here is going to stop the women from running today. So, get out of my arena.”

Not hearing a thing Mr. Zunde said, Mr. Crum demands, “Mr. Zunde, get Katarina Karakova, Paula Giovani, Barbara Wyngate, and Tessa Klement over here right now!” Apparently having a plan of attack, Mr. Zunde obliges, and waves to Kathy, Paula, Barbara, and Tessa, signaling for them to join the meeting. On their way across the arena, Kathy sarcastically comments, “here we go again. The shit show is about to begin.” Seeing nothing but trouble ahead, Mr. Frazier jogs over, hoping

to help defuse the situation. And, the opposing teams wonder what is going on.

Once the girls and Mr. Frazier have joined the meeting, Mr. Zunde asks Mr. Crum, “so, what flavor of bullshit have you brought to my arena today, Crum?” By immediately inflaming Mr. Crum and putting him on the defensive, it is quite evident that Mr. Zunde is really ticked off. In response, Mr. Crum yells out, “I don’t want these girls running track! As I told you, I did some research! Handing off that stick makes track a contact sport!” Reiterating his point, Mr. Zunde tells Mr. Crum, ‘first of all, Crum, it’s called a baton, not a stick. If you did any research, you would have known that. And, secondly, I’ll show you exactly what a contact sport is.” Kathy looks at Paula, wondering what Mr. Zunde’s plan of action is.

With no further thought, Mr. Zunde tells Kathy, Paula, Barbara, and Tessa, “carry him out of here.” Barbara asks, “do you mean, physically carry him out of here?” Mr. Zunde replies, “yes. Carry Mr. Crum back to his office, where he can find a pencil to push.” Mr. Zunde informs Mr. Crum, “what you’re about to experience, Crum, would be called a contact sport.” Sitting on the bench, Braden comments, “yeah. It’s called taking out the trash.”

Kathy, Paula, Barbara, and Tessa all look at each other in shock, and go into action. With no hesitation, Kathy and Paula each grab one of Mr. Crum’s arms, and drag him away. As Mr. Crum yells out, “someone is going to get suspended,” Barbara and Tessa each grab one of Mr. Crum’s legs and head toward the stairway. On the bench, The Northside team watches as Mr. Crum is helplessly carried away by four girls, any of which could kick his ass singlehandedly if need be.

Mr. Zunde calmly tells the girls, “follow me. I’ll get the door.” Walking ahead of the girls, Mr. Zunde walks up the stairway, and opens the door. Following Mr. Zunde down the hall, the girls carry away the screaming Mr. Crum. Arriving at Mr. Crum’s office, Mr. Zunde instructs the girls,

“drop him off here.” Taking Mr. Zunde literally, the girls release Mr. Crum, who lands on the ground. Mr. Crum yells out, “all four of you, get in my office right now!” Contradicting Mr. Crum, Mr. Zunde tells the girls, “good job. You can go back to the meet now. I’ll be back in a minute.”

On the way back to the arena, the girls stop around the corner, wanting to hear Mr. Zunde as he lectures Mr. Crum. The girls hear Mr. Zunde tell Mr. Crum, “if you so much as call those women to your office, you can be sure Noreen will be sitting in on the meeting.” Mr. Crum exclaims, “Mr. Zunde! You’ve totally embarrassed me back there!” Mr. Zunde replies, “Crum, you’ve embarrassed yourself. If you want to come down to the arena and embarrass yourself again, feel free. I am not going to stop you. Next time, I’ll have Bobby B. carry you out.” Mr. Crum firmly tells Mr. Crum, “you haven’t heard the last of this, Mr. Zunde!” Mr. Zunde replies, “so what,” and walks away.

Kathy, Paula, Barbara, and Tessa head back to the arena. With adrenaline levels beyond the imaginable, the four athletes are bound to deliver an awesome performance, and a personal best. But, Mr. Zunde already knew that would be the result of the girls physically removing Mr. Crum from the arena.