

Eddie, The Mechanic

Eddie Reprimands McCutchen

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With unmistakable enthusiasm, Kathy tells Dr. Braun, “Eddie finished his training sleds!” Pointing to the end of the bleachers, Kathy tells him, “they’re over there.” Dr. Braun’s eyes open wide, as he says, “wow! Let me take a look!” Dr. Braun walks over and examines the units, exclaiming, “wow! These look really great! They look very professionally made.” Kathy interjects, “yeah! By Eddie, the Mechanic.”

Dr. Braun, also with a lot of enthusiasm, yells out to Coach Herndon, “hey, come and take a look at this,” getting the attention of the sprinters as well. Coach Herndon walks over, joined by a few of the sprinters, and takes a look at Eddie’s masterpieces. Coach Herndon comments, “wow! These look really great! I can’t wait to put them to use.” Looking at Eddie, Kathy smiles, assuring him that his work is greatly appreciated. And, Eddie is happy that his welds are not rejected.

As a few of the sprinters look at the units, McCutchen comments to his older brother, “not those pieces of shit,” heard by all standing around. Eddie turns around, and boldly asks McCutchen, “what did you just say?” McCutchen, trying to gain the upper hand, replies, “I said, ‘not those pieces of shit.’ I really don’t think they’re worth anything.” Silence falls over the arena in response to McCutchen’s derogatory comments.

Angered by McCutchen’s comment, Eddie replies, “the only thing around here that’s shit, McCutchen, is your performance on the track! You can’t hand off a baton.

You can't break 60 seconds in the 440. And, I ran the 100-yard dash faster when I was in eighth grade than you can now! And, when you run, you never win! Then, when you come in last place, you sob like a little pansy in a hurricane." Pointing to the resistance sled, Eddie exclaims, "that piece of equipment is how I can run 100 yards in 9.2 seconds! And, until you can do that, just shut up! And, don't you dare call my work of art a piece of shit again!"

Dead silence remains over the arena. Apparently, Eddie has the floor, so he continues. Recalling what he told Kathy during the track meet a few weeks ago, Eddie exclaims, "and, that's the problem with you, McCrutchen! You can only run when it's between 68 and 72 degrees, and it has to be 50 percent humidity! The wind can't be more than two miles per hour, and you won't run in the rain because you'll get wet. And, when it's snowing, you cuddle up in your little blankie. Then, at the track meet, when it's 80 degrees, you pass out from heat exhaustion! And, if it's 60 degrees outside, you stand there shivering, looking for a heater! No wonder you suck, and you never win!" Genise whispers to Paula, "did he just call him 'McCrutchen?'" Paula whispers back, "yeah. You heard that right."

With some advice, Eddie continues, "you should be out there dragging that sled up and down the sand track, in the heat, in the cold, in the rain, and in the snow! When it's hot outside, you should be wearing sweat pants! And, when it's cold out, you should be running in shorts! In the snow, you should be running in your bare feet! You need to toughen up your little pussy ass! Then, when you can barely stand up anymore, that's when you should start running your laps!" Eddie just whittled McCutchen down to the level of a spoiled little brat.

As if that wasn't enough, Leggett starts laughing at Eddie, and comments to someone, "he's not even in college. He doesn't know anything." Looking sternly at Leggett, Eddie, calling him out, tells him, and everyone around, "and, you're laughing at me? When we're

watching you in a meet, and see you running high school times, we're all laughing at you! I've timed you! I ran better times than you when I was in tenth grade! And, if you'd take those lead weights off your feet, and lose your heavy socks, maybe you'll run times worthy of the scholarship they gave you. Oh, and by the way. That was a wonderful handoff during the divisional meet!"

Dr. Braun starts clapping, followed by a few of the sprinters. After a few seconds, the other coaches and the entire team are clapping their hands, except for McCutchen and Leggett. Eddie, reiterating Dr. Braun's introductory speech given earlier today, said it in an unmistakably clear way. And Johnson, sitting back on the bleachers, enjoyed the whole show.