

WHY THE CLOSEST FRIENDS MAY NOT BE THE BEST TEAMMATES

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Your squad may be better than the others that you know of or you guys might be the "friendship goals" they aspire to be. At the end of the day, no outsider can question the integrity of your friendship and how close your friend circle is. All this inspires you to attend competitions or group projects by choosing your teammates from your very squad. Will your friends live up to their roles as teammates or will they fail your expectations and jeopardise the friendship as well?



PHOTO: REUTERS

The beauty of football fouls

RASHEED KHAN

Goals are a work of art. The blood, sweat and tears that go into them really give them a whole new beauty. However, in this World Cup, I had found beauty in something else: football fouls. You see, goals still maintain a linear procedure: shoot, score, cheer. But fouls? They're ever-changing. Goals may be art, but fouls are life.

Fouls are like a mystery story: full of plot-twists. Here's an example. Imagine that a player gets fouled; perhaps the other team's player did a slide to kick away the ball and foul him at a risky moment when he might have managed a goal. He falls, his mouth forming the beginnings of a scream. It's relatively predictable so far, yeah? But when the dust settles, why is he clutching his face? Everyone is nonplussed. Close by, the player who had committed the foul stands slack-jawed. Meanwhile, the medics rush into the field with a stretcher. The fans scream in the bleachers. At the side-lines, the referee, who has a PhD in human anatomy, warily taps his own ankle to check if his face hurts or not.

Legends say that a body's most powerful reflexes happen when a foul occurs. Not every player exhibits these reflexes. However, those who do are said to be the most physically fit, and no wonder at that. How else could someone be pushed very slightly, only to somehow end up on the other side of the field, rolling around in anguish? Scientists at NASA have been trying to figure out the secrets to these powerful reflexes in order to just push people to Mars directly from the Earth's surface, but results are inconclusive as of yet.

However, the most beauty spawned from a foul is the drama. I don't know if you've heard, but right before the first match of the 2018 World Cup, there had been rumours that people had found Shakespeare slowly clapping in his grave. They have also discovered a four hundred year old note, prophesising the arrival of Neymar, the Lord of Acting. I, for one, believe in the prophecies. Especially after seeing that one match during which a player simply put his foot close to Neymar's, and the poor man started screaming as though his entire line of ancestors all broke their ankles. No one could have moved so many people's hearts. Had we not fought for Leonardo Di'Caprio's Oscar? Well, people, now we need to do it for Neymar.

Despite its miracles, football fouls have enemies. Many people laugh at living gods like Neymar, Ronaldo, Messi, etc. The referee turns a blind eye (or touches his ankle). People leave hundreds of heart reactions to GMB Akash's photos along with the sad stories, but never sympathise with the art born from the agony of fouls. I ask you, my friends, to stand up against this injustice. The next time someone laughs at a foul, show them the beauty. Tackle them and knock 'em flat.

Rasheed Khan is a hug monster making good music but terrible puns and jokes where he's probably the only one laughing. Ask him how to pronounce his name at aarcvard@gmail.com

TOO MANY OPTIONS

With competitions or group projects limiting the number of members a team can have, the first decision you have to make and the problem you have to face is deciding who gets into the team and who doesn't. This happens more often when your friend circle is comparatively large and you cannot accommodate all of them into the team. The remaining ones can form their own team though, but that being said, they're more likely to get into a state of emotional despair we most commonly refer to as "senti".

SLACKING

Delaying pre-scheduled plans are not uncommon between friends. In fact, not living up to the commitments you make is semi-imperative when it comes to friendship. This assumed pre-requisite of your friendship will eventually go on to haunt you in your group work. You're bound to find one or a few of your mates, if not all, slacking off during work. Such situations will be hard to sort out as you will be confused how to tell off your closest friends when they're not following the team work protocol the leader might have established.

DISAGREEMENTS THAT LEAD TO QUARRELS

Disagreements among teammates are bound to pop up every now and then during your

group work. But what makes such disagreements problematic when it takes place between your friends is that these minor clash of ideas or proposals will lead to fights and fissures in your friendship. No one would like to risk their friendship for the sake of working on a project with their friends.

AND SO THE FIGHTS

The smallest of quarrels are bound to break into the biggest of fights between your friends when you're in a team. The passing of opinions and ideas happens the most when you're surrounded by your friends. This exchange will not always be well received by some and given that you guys are best buds, there are high chances someone will take the liberty to harshly criticise those ideas. Thus, such criticism and its counter argument will only lead to further chaos in your team.

THE BLAME GAME

If things go wrong, there are chances that your friends and/or teammates will start pointing fingers at one another. Thus begins the blame game. Instead of taking responsibility on their own shoulders, they might just blame someone else on the team adding more chaos to the already damaged friendship.

Faisal wants to be the very best, like no one ever was. To survive university is his real test, to graduate is his cause. Send him memes and motivation at abir.afc@gmail.com

