

Teamwork

Characters:

Cristiano: A professional football player who has too much self-esteem and does not believe in his teammates.

Cristiano's father: He is a kind, sincere, but strict father.

Sir Alex Ferguson: The coach. He is very harsh.

Smith: Cristiano's teammate. He plays the forward position in the team.

Keane: The captain of the team.

Two amateur players: They play with Cristiano in Portugal.

(Scene One: After a disappointing 1-1 draw, players come inside the locker room.)

Smith (smashes the locker and talks to Cristiano angrily): Damn! There is such a great chance to score. Why didn't you pass the ball to me?

Cristiano (being arrogant): I think I can deal with that situation better than you can.

Smith (runs to Cristiano angrily): Are you trying to provoke me? (Ready to punch Cristiano)

Keane (stands between them): Hey, this game is over. All we have to do is think about the next game we are going to come across. Both of you should stop fighting.

Cristiano (says something into Smith's face): That's my own style of playing football. You cannot change it. You "must" get used to it.

(Smith cannot control his temper and punches Cristiano on his face. The fight is soon stopped by the other players.)

(The coach, Sir Alex Ferguson, comes in.)

Ferguson (wrathfully): Look what you did! You cannot even handle this kind of problem and don't mention about performing well on the fields.

Keane (comes to the front): I have already told Smith and Cristiano not to fight because the game is over. I also told them that ...

Ferguson (to Keane): As a captain, you should always know your position in this team. Our team had lost our position and our players seem to have lost their positions, too. I've never led a team like this.

(Silence)

Ferguson: I believe some of you need to take a long break. Though we still have some games during Christmas and New Year, a break is proper for some of you. (Looks at Cristiano) You can have a three-week vacation back home and I hope you can come back with a better attitude.

Cristiano: Sure, I would like to take a “long” vacation and nobody will appreciate my leaving because the team needs me. Everybody needs me.

(Scene Two: Back home at Lisbon, the capital of Portugal)

Cristiano (opens the door): Father, glad to see you again!

Cristiano’s father (looks unhappy): The coach, Sir Alex Ferguson, had called me this morning and I know everything now.

Cristiano: The coach sends me back for a “vacation.” Maybe he does not need me anymore.

Cristiano’s father (angrily): How can he just give up such a football genius like you? (A pause) I know you well, my son. You always cannot be in others’ shoes and just believe you’re right. That’s not good

Cristiano (impatiently): I have no idea. He just sends me back. Father, I come home not for your lecture but for relaxation.

(Cristiano impatiently takes his luggage to his room.)

Cristiano’s father: Hey, tomorrow morning you’re going to play against an amateur team. I do not want you to be lazy when you’re on your vacation. You have to keep training yourself every day because you’re a professional football player. I must be strict to you.

Cristiano (being contemptuous): What? It seems too easy for me.

Cristiano’s father: Let’s see.

(Scene Three: Next day after the game, Cristiano and his teammates, who are all amateurs, are in the locker room.)

Cristiano (talks angrily to everyone): Why didn’t you pass the ball to me? My position is better than anyone else on the field. We miss the chances again and again. Then, we lose the whole game. Can you really play football?

One of the teammates: (A pause) Maybe we will never be good enough in your eyes.

Cristiano: All of you had better keep an eye on the ball and “my” position.

Another teammate (reluctantly): I just don't want to. That's my style of playing football and I can't change it. Why should I pay attention to your position?

(Now Cristiano has been irritated. He tried to beat the teammate. However, Cristiano's father comes in.)

Cristiano's father: Stop that silly fight! (to Cristiano) I think you are still acting the same.

Cristiano: Father, they make me miss the chance to win.

Cristiano's father: That is totally wrong! You lose the game not because of your teammates but because of YOU! A football game is played by eleven people not just by one person. You should always focus on everybody's position, pass the ball to your teammate who gets the better position, and avoid being impatient when you cannot score. It is not anyone's fault. You cannot blame your teammates for not letting you have a shot at the goal.

Cristiano (impatient): But when I get the best position to score, my teammates do not pass the ball to me. That makes us lose the game. That's the truth.

Cristiano's father: Listen! Be in your teammates' shoes and think about it. When your teammates get the best position to score, you do not even pass the ball to them and just have a shot on your own. How would they think? I believe that's the truth that makes you lose.

Cristiano:

Cristiano's father: I believe if you can understand what I had said, you can change your attitudes towards your teammates in England, too. With a humble heart, and the spirit of cooperation and teamwork, you can make your football career more prosperous than before.

Cristiano: (to his teammates) I am so sorry. I have no idea what I have done to you. I will change my attitude and try to experience the true meaning of "teamwork."

(Light out)

(~The end~)