A Green Day at the Stadium (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Tom worked as a volunteer at the city stadium every Saturday. He liked the noise, the flags and the smell of hot food. His job was simple: he stood near the north entrance and checked tickets. Most fans were friendly, and the queue moved quickly.

That autumn the club started a new project. Old plastic cups were destroying the park behind the ground, and the environmental group in the city had complained for months. The club promised to use only paper cups and to plant trees. Tom thought the idea was good, but he was not sure that people would follow the rules. On the first match day he watched carefully. To his surprise, almost nobody dropped rubbish on the ground.

The news spread quickly on social media. A short video of the clean park got two million views, and journalists from other countries called the club. Suddenly a small local plan became worldwide news. Tom laughed when a friend sent him a photo of himself at the gate, printed in a Japanese newspaper. "You are famous," she wrote. "Please do not become worse than before."

A film company then asked to make a documentary. They filmed one episode about the players and another about the volunteers. Tom spoke for three minutes about tickets and rubbish bins. When he saw the film later, his voice sounded strange, but his mother cried. She said the story really touched her heart. His father only said that Tom needed a haircut.

The whole season went well until the last month. Then the weather turned bad and the pitch got worse every week. The club had to close the east side of the ground, and entry there was not allowed for two matches. Fewer tickets meant less money for the tree project. Some people said the club should stop, but the manager refused. "We will finish what we started," he told the newspapers.

On the final Saturday the team needed one point to stay in the league. Tom hardly watched the game, because the queue at his gate was long. He heard a huge shout in the eighty-ninth minute and knew something had happened. The team had scored, and they went on to win the match two–one. That evening the volunteers planted the last twenty trees together in the dark, using the lights of the car park.

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