



GAME ON

On the basketball court at Burgdale Elementary, the tension was running high. Burgdale was playing Green Park, a local rival. Both schools had plenty of fans cheering them on and chanting at each other across the court. The score was tied at 24, with a couple of minutes left.

At the top of the key, Max Darwin watched eagerly for a chance to score.

He caught the eye of Green Park's captain. The tall boy smirked at him. "Go get changed, Darwin!" he yelled. "The game's in the bag."

Max gritted his teeth and stared right back. "It's tied with five minutes on the clock. I don't call that 'in the bag.'"

Burgdale *couldn't* lose today . . . not to Green Park, of all schools! There was more at stake here than just a game. Last year, Green Park had humiliated Burgdale with a 32–6 defeat. Max had missed a few baskets and blamed himself for the loss. Today, he was going to make up for that.