

Short Story – Humans are Invincible

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‘What a volley! Long shot with power! That’s a goal! Human’s goal! Human won!’
The commentator yelled as the referee blew the whistle to signal an end to the match..

It was the year 2050. Jet planes and flying cars were swooping between tall buildings, making an amazing view of skylines. Robots in this time were very high-tech. They could work for their owners, like carrying heavy load following their owners when shopping. They helped to drive, and even take care of children. Restaurants were selling a new kind of food in this era. That was the molecular gastronomy. People really liked it and they didn’t know how French Fries with Hamburgers looked.

In this world, Robots were designed to replace humans to do different jobs. As a result, more humans got no jobs to do. Some robots even joined sports to become professional players. They could swim, play basketball, badminton, and soccer. All the soccer players in Chiba Team were replaced by robots recently. Football matches became so boring as robots played so mechanically with no tricks, no skills, and no surprises. Joe, a soccer player, couldn’t bear this anymore.

He went to the government office and discussed with the President why robots had to replace humans. The President answered him robots could do much better and run faster than humans.

Joe did not agree with him. He suggested a soccer match between robots and humans. The President thought for a moment, and said, ‘OK, it is a good idea to compare robots and humans. If humans win, humans can get back their jobs from robots; but if robots win the match, all jobs will be spared only for robots.’ Joe accepted the challenge and chose some famous soccer players to build the strongest human soccer team of the world.

Joe was the best shooter in the team, but also the fattest one. He was the captain and he always got angry with his teammates who liked to show off. He never gave up no matter how many goals his team lost. Football was his life, and he couldn’t live without football. Due to his big, fat body, he couldn’t run fast. It was also difficult for him to perform some skills.

Ian got a slim figure with muscular legs. His hair went all up in a punk hairstyle. He

was an optimistic guy. He liked to play at any moment, anywhere, with anyone, and was never serious at all times. That always made Joe angry. His position was attacking left back. He was good at skills like passing and running, but weak in shooting. He was a star on the field. As he played, he always shocked his opponents as he attacked suddenly, and they could never steal the football under his feet. Because of his perfect skills and his fast speed, he didn't have to pass the ball. However, when he came near the net, he always missed as he was not good at shooting. That always made Joe angry.

Eric was a tall, strong boy with long arms and legs. He always wanted to shoot a goal to show off. He was a goalkeeper without many skills and speed, but good at goalkeeping. He always left his net and tried to get the ball. He was the most annoying guy in the team. How come a goalkeeper wanted to shoot a goal? His teammates did not trust him as he always went far away from the goal post to chase the ball.

These were the three top stars of the team, and with the other eight members, they had a match with the robots team.

'Ladies, gentlemen and robots, welcome to Humans vs. Robots Cup! Today's weather is really good, blue sky with no clouds. Who will win the match? We are going to know. Please sit and stay calm to enjoy this battle of the century! However, no one sits down as the audience was nervous and thrilled about the match. 'OK, let's check the warriors of today! In the human team, there were number one, Eric, the goalkeeper..., number ten, Joe, the captain of the team who plays as a midfielder, number eleven, Ian, attacking left back. These are all the eleven players of the human team. In the robot team, there are ... Uhoouo, that's all. OK, now the match is about to begin! The rule is simple, victory on one goal. Ready? Peeeeeew!'

The human team kicked off the race. Joe passed the ball back, and the other members kept on passing the ball. The ball passed to Eric's foot. He hit the ball hard to give a long pass to Joe. Joe received the ball on his chest, and that was a chance as no one was around him. The ball touched down on his feet. He aimed at the right corner of the goal, and shot... 'Woouo ...' The time was running slowly, the audience raised both their hands, and opened their eyes wide. They didn't want to miss any moments of the match. 'Pop!' The robot goalkeeper caught the ball easily by one hand. All the people were shocked and turned silent.

'That's ... that's really a super-awesome shot, but ... but how? How can the keeper save it? It's too amazing!' the commentator said. Joe opened his mouth wide and he was still

feeling shocked at the goalkeeper's amazing save of the ball. Not only him, but the players of the whole Human team were shocked and froze!

Joe hit his face hard to wake himself up. The robot keeper kicked the ball into the air, and it landed on Eric's head as he was already far from his net. He was awakened because of the hit of the ball. 'Wake up, my bro! We can't quit this match! We have to fight for our future! Come on humans!' They went back to their position, and nothing could stop them. They were on fire! Ian used his skill to pass all the defenders.

'Ian!' Eric shouted and passed the ball to Ian who was near him. Ian was standing at the back of the field, and he was going to play some tricks on the opponents. 'Hey, that is the magician – Ian!' said the reporter. 'Robot number one and two are chasing him, Ian started his engine and rushed like a Lamborghini car. Really fast! Haha, the two robots couldn't catch him, and robot number three, four and five were standing in front of him, ready to defend. What will he do? He stopped. He was moving his body, going right or left? No! He made a 'Rainbow' to pass the three defenders! Wow, that's sick!' All the audience clapped their hands for Ian's amazing skills. Ian kept pushing the ball and tried to dribble in the middle of the field so that he might get a comfortable angle to shoot the ball into the opponent's goal. Ian was still on the left hand side of the field, and he wanted to pass the ball to the strikers, but they were all marked by the opponent's defenders. 'Ian, give a long pass to me!' Joe shouted. He was standing in the middle of the field and that was a great place for a long shot. Ian passed the ball high so that Joe could shoot a volley easier, but Joe was smart this time. He knew that long shot was easy for the goal keeper. 'Volley from Joe again!' said the reporter. 'Um ...? No! That's not a volley. That actually is a long pass to ... Eric! The goalkeeper! What? Why does the goal keeper run so far and now near the opponent's goal? Wait ...' 'Pew!' the sound from the referee's whistle came. 'Goal! A header from Eric! The goalkeeper! What a team! What a surprising goal! No one could guess the goalkeeper came out and made a header,' the reporter yelled excitedly, and the field was full of shouts from the audience.

'Humans are unique. We can't be replaced by anyone.' Joe exclaimed in an interview after the match, and all the players got back their jobs in Chiba team finally.