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opening extract from

Dino FC: The Terror on the Training Ground

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Terry Triceratops was young and he was keen, but right now he was feeling like a pterodactyl in an ocean – out of his depth. He hadn't asked to be manager of Dino FC, the worst team in the Dinosaur Premier League, it just sort of happened…

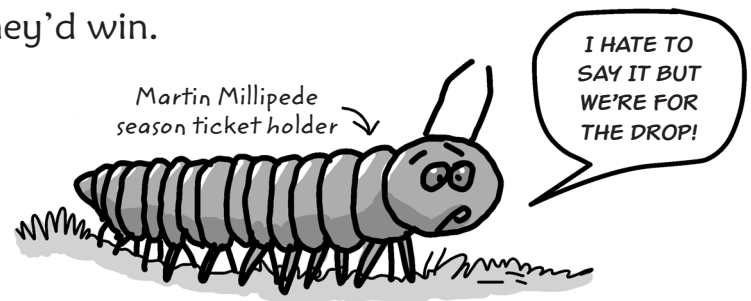
First the team lost almost every match that season. Then their old manager resigned, saying he would rather dance on hot molten rocks than be in charge of such a useless rabble. And finally the club chairman, Danny Deinonychus, had come to Terry.



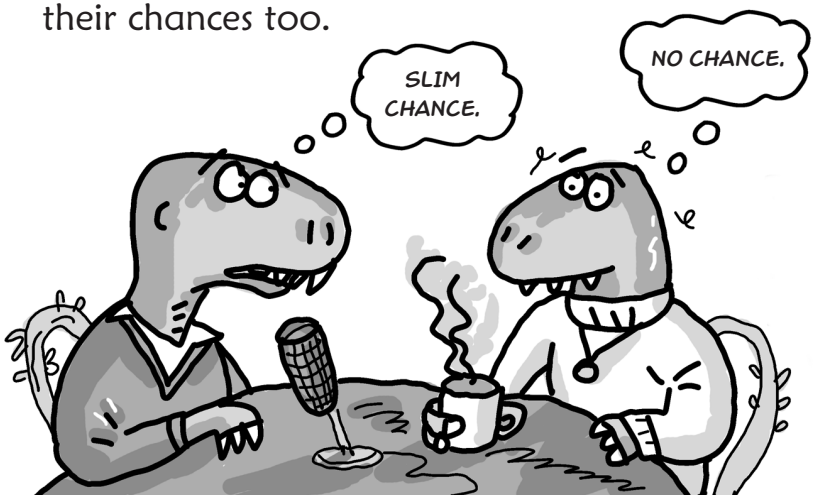
Now Terry was in charge of the team, he was really enjoying it. But he was under a lot of pressure. Since he had taken over as manager, the team had lost three more matches and now it was crunch time. Relegation to League Two was on the cards.

Terry and the team knew they would have to find a win from somewhere. The question was…where?!

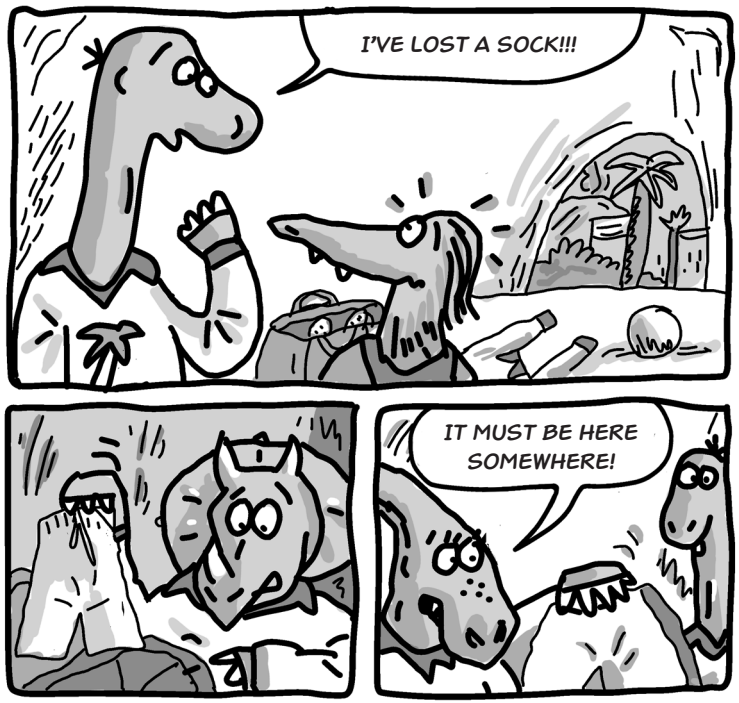
Dino FC's next match was against AFC Fossil. Even their most loyal fans didn't think they'd win.



And up in the TV tower, the experts from the DBC (the Dinosaur Broadcasting Corporation) were feeling gloomy about their chances too.



In the team's dressing cave it was chaos.



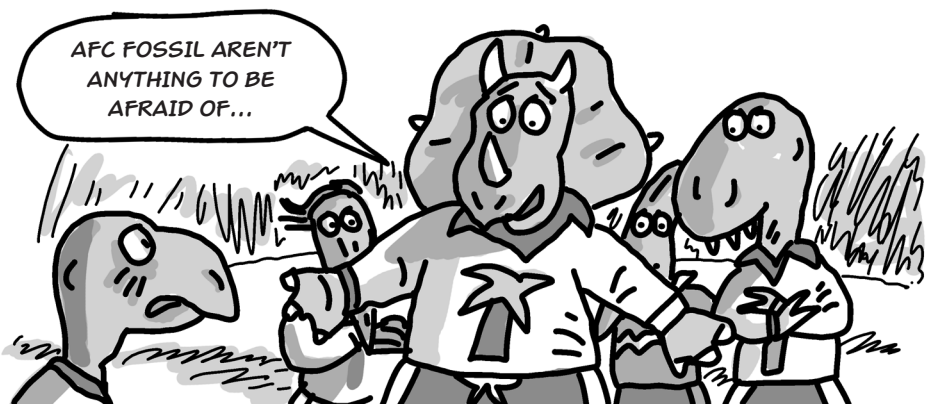
By the time they found Marcus Diplodocus's sock (in his bag), there was no time for Terry to give his prematch tactics talk. He was disappointed, because there was a lot he'd wanted to say about "team spirit" and "not letting the fans down". But now that would have to wait until half-time.

The referee darted into their cave. He was a small ichthyostega.

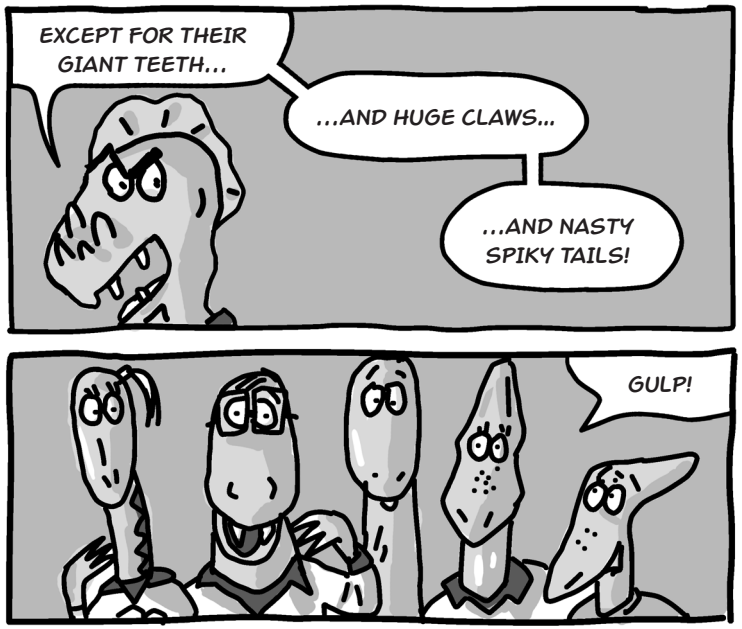


"Hey, I'm not a lad," sniffed Celia Coelophysis, Dino FC's speedy forward. The referee looked embarrassed and told them they had two minutes until kick-off.

"Okay, team," said Terry, forced to shorten his talk to just a few words...



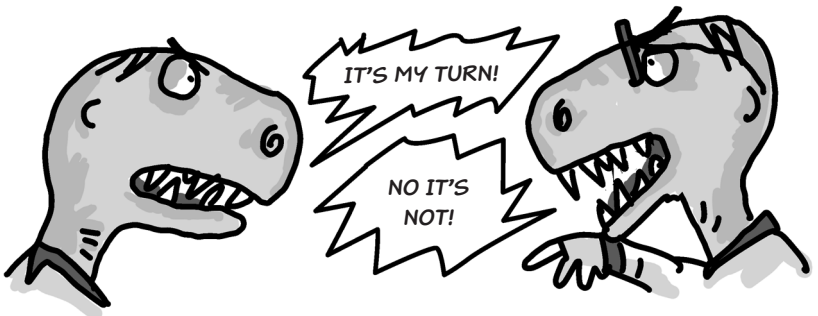
He was interrupted by Steggy Stegoceras, the squad's grumpy defender.



Terry sighed. He sometimes wished Steggy would keep his unhelpful thoughts to himself.

Terry tried again to raise the team's spirits. "Come on, we can do this. Let's get out there and get ourselves a result!"

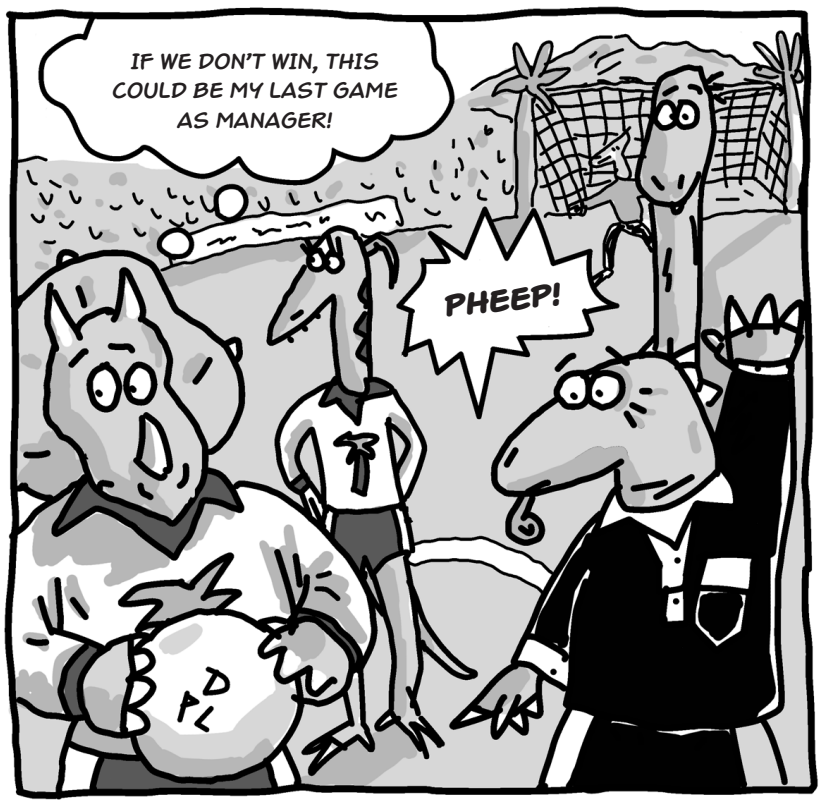
Everyone nodded, but then Eric and Albert Allosaurus started squabbling over who should be first out of the dressing cave.



Eric and Albert were twins and they were always fighting.

In the end, it was Terry who led the side out onto the pitch. As the team ran out, the long grass rippled in the gentle breeze of a prehistoric summer's evening. Terry was feeling really nervous now. They needed the points so badly. How would the team play?

Terry looked up and saw the club's chairman, Danny Deinonychus, taking his seat. He didn't look very happy. Terry knew that Danny was already talking to other possible managers about taking over at Dino FC.



But there was no time to worry about that now as the game was about to begin.

