

Football dreams do come true

Erfan Hussaini – Lyndhurst Secondary College



There is a local football club that has an amazing young player named Refan, who loves to play football. Refan is very popular and beloved at this club, and the fans are incredibly grateful for Refan.

But things were not always so good for Refan.

Refan was born with a growth hormone disorder. His father and mother were not always around, so he was mostly raised by Clara, his grandma. Refan was smaller than other people his age, even the other football players. A lot of people would tell Refan to give up football. Even Refan's doctor told him to quit football because of his height

because he might get hurt.

Refan was sad and did not know what to do, but Clara told him, "Don't be sad! Always believe in yourself." Clara was always encouraging Refan to keep his dream alive and to not give up. She was always available to take Refan to football training. Clara would say to Refan, "You must do your best and keep your dream alive!"

Refan's family was poor even though his father and his mother were working full time. His parents didn't have time to take Refan to football training but his grandma, Clara, always had time for Refan.

Refan's dream was to play for major league football club just like his idol, Ronaldinho Gaúcho. One day, a scout from a high-profile football club saw Refan play and showed interest in signing on Refan. The club arranged for a 'audition tryout' for Refan to showcase his football skills. Refan was so happy and Clara was so proud.

Two days before the audition date, Clara who had been really sick, found out that she had cancer. Refan was devastated and crying non-stop. Refan felt that he needed to be with Clara instead of going to the audition tryout.

On the day before the tryouts, Refan went to see Clara in the hospital. His grandma was so happy to see him but became sad when she saw Refan crying and wanting to hold her hands. Refan told Clara that he did not want to go to the audition tryout and to focus on looking after Clara.

Clara told Refan, "You have to go to your audition. You have to do this for yourself." Clara kissed Refan on the head and then said, "You have your whole future ahead of you!"

They were the last words spoken by Clara. She died that night.

Refan was heart-broken.

On the day of the audition tryout, the football club president and club manager were at the tryout, but Refan did not know this. Refan felt numb but remembered his promise to his grandma. He knew that this made Clara smile before she died and it warmed Refan's heart to remember Clara feeling happy.

When Refan walked out onto the field, he was panicking, but he remembered Clara's words and became focused. Refan was amazing at his audition tryout, he felt so calm and peaceful, he believed that his grandma was there with him. Refan felt that he could not have done any better!

When he finished his tryout, Refan saw his parents waiting for him. He also saw the scout, the manager and the president. The manager walked towards him and said, "Congratulations, we would like to sign you on to the team."

Refan felt joy, grief and also humble. He remembered everything that his grandma had said and done for him so that he could have this moment.

It was then that Refan knew – even football dreams do come true.

[Some football fans take their support to the extreme, Fitzroy (the Lions) Football Club]

[picture] / Rennie Ellis

Ellis, Rennie, 1940-2003, photographer.

[1980]