

The Big Game

Jimmy Glen played first base for the Larks. His team was leading 3 to 2 in the last game of the season. If the Larks could hold on, they would win the championship. The other team, the Macros, had two outs and two runners on base. A hit could win the game for them.

Jimmy could hear his father shouting from the stands. Jimmy's father had been a major league baseball player. Jimmy wanted to make his dad proud of him.

The pitcher, Joe Lee, sent a ball flying low to the batter. The batter swung and hit a ground ball to first base. It looked like an easy catch, but then the ball took a bad bounce and jumped away from Jimmy's mitt. The two Macros players on base slid into home. The Macros had won.

None of the other Larks would look at Jimmy. Jimmy walked over to the water fountain. "Tough luck," called his father, running up to him.

"Everyone hates me," said Jimmy. "I'm just no good."

"Come on home," said his dad. "I want to show you something."

When they got home, Jimmy's dad pulled out an old clipping. The headline read: **Glen Strikes Out with Bases Loaded, Loses Big Game.**

"That was my last game in high school," said Mr. Glen.

"But you were a star!" said Jimmy.

Mr. Glen grinned. "Jimmy, even stars make mistakes. I messed up in my big game. But I didn't let it stop me. Life goes on. You have a whole future ahead of you."

1. Why wouldn't Jimmy's teammates look at him?
2. What does Jimmy's father do to make him feel better?