

Davina Takes the Court

By Michele Meleen

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The basketball courts at Well's Field were the place to play basketball in Maytown. Girls, boys, men, women, and people of all skill levels were equals on the court when fun was the name of the game. Anyone could go and play ball any time. Most of the people in Maytown were farmers and there certainly weren't any professional athletes nearby.

All that changed one day when a new family moved into town. The Golat family included a mom, dad, and 10 kids. They moved into the house right across the street from the Well's Field basketball courts. Every member of the Golat family was highly competitive, super tall, and seriously athletic.

Once the moving truck was emptied, all 10 of the Golat kids took over one basketball court. They did this every free second they had, every day, and they never let anyone join them. Luckily, there were two courts at Well's Field, so other people could still play ball on the empty court. Until one of the hoops rotted off the backboard.

Davina and her friends had been playing ball on the Well's Field courts since they were eight, and that was five years ago. Now, if they wanted to play, they'd have to convince the Golats to share.

Davina and her friends took turns asking the Golats each day if they could join their game. The answer was always, "If you want the court, take it from us."

So, the girls took turns asking if they could schedule a time to use the court when the Golats didn't need it. The answer was still always, "If you want the court, take it from us."

Davina and the other girls were intimidated by the Golats. After all, each Golat had at least a foot on Davina or any of her friends. Feeling defeated, Davina asked her mom for advice.

"God always provides an answer," her mom said. Davina thought of all the times God had helped her get through difficult situations, like when her parents got divorced or her pet hamster had died.

The next day, Davina gathered her friends and marched to Well's Field. The Golats were all taking a water break at the bench next to the court. As Davina and her friends approached, the oldest Golat kid, Greg, stepped onto the court. He was 16.

"If you want the court, take it from me," he yelled.

Davina's friends each took a step back, but Davina took a step forward. "That's exactly what I intend to do," she yelled back and bounce passed her ball to Greg.

Davina knew Greg was tall, and strong, but she'd also noticed he was a terrible shooter and liked to stay near the basket, thinking he could block every shot. She said a quick prayer asking God to help her three-pointers find the net.

Greg let Davina be on offense first. He stood near the hoop while she let off a three-pointer that sailed through the net. Greg was so mad Davina scored first, he stormed off the court and into his house. The rest of the family followed.

Davina and her friends finally got to play basketball at Well's Field and the Golats started playing ball only in their own driveway.