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The Wild Soccer Bunch, Book 4, Julian The Mighty



Synopsis

Exciting news for the Wild Soccer Bunch: They are now playing in a club league! Julian, the all-in-one defender, is looking for his dad who left home years ago. He wants to invite him to their first championship game. While searching for his dad, Julian runs into Mickey the bulldozer and the Unbeatables. What happens next tests Julian's character and the resolve and friendship of the Wild Soccer Bunch.

Book Information

Series: Wild Soccer Bunch (Book 4)

Hardcover: 176 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.7 x 8.4 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #434,942 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Soccer

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

Customer Reviews

I am a fan of "The Wild Soccer Bunch" series, and Book 4, "Julian the Mighty", really moved me. In this fourth outing, our intrepid narrator is Julian Fort Knox the All-In-One Defender, a boy who lives in a broken home with his mother, his father having skipped out years ago. When the Wild Soccer Bunch begins playing in a real league in a real stadium of their own, Julian's longing for his father gets the best of him and he goes off to find him in hopes of bringing him to a game so he can see his son play. In his journey across the desolate landscape of some nearby Chicago projects, Julian travels through the Grim Woods and across the 'Prairie' to where his father is rumored to live and comes up against Mickey the Bulldozer and his gang 'The Unbeatables'. This mean gang of bullies forces him to give them all the money his team has been saving up to buy their coach Larry a birthday present. They even threaten to hurt his little brother if he doesn't do their bidding. Julian discovers he has to face his fears and triumph against these bullies to become a real hero. And so,

in touching, often hilarious action adventures, author Joachim Masannek proves beyond a doubt that this wonderful bunch of Chicago street kids known as 'The Wild Soccer Bunch' are good to the core and are true friends to each other. Highly recommended. -- Max

Fans of the first three Wild Soccer Bunch titles will enjoy this opportunity for further adventures with characters they already know and love (or hate, as in the case of rival team and bullies, "The Unbeatables"). The Wild Soccer Bunch is back for more field time, friendship and problem solving as title character Julian tries to balance his need to find his absent father with his love for the life he currently leads. The book has a positive message about friendship and family without minimizing the longing, rejection and self-doubt Julian feels as he ponders why his father is not a part of his life and where he truly belongs. Adult readers may be bothered by grammatical errors and typos, as well as implausible situations and unrealistic solutions, but the bottom line is that kids will want to read this book and that makes it worth buying.

Julian's story has a variety of elements that would capture nearly any upper elementary student: wanting to find his father, bullying and blackmail, and sports. These issues are written about in an authentic child's voice, with interesting asides to the reader much like Kate diCamillo in "The Tale of Despereaux." Friendship and teamwork saves the day, making a fun and engaging story. The only weaknesses that I would identify would be a plethora of characters on the soccer team and their nicknames, making it difficult to keep track of each character's role in the story, and the occasionally excessive use of simile to illustrate various scenes.

I'm a school librarian and I can say this series is a fun choice for readers who love sports and action. This is also an ideal selection for upper elementary students who might be reluctant readers. I would recommend this book be purchased for school and home libraries.

This is a really terrific series. Great stories with enough fun and action to keep kids interested. As soon as one of the books gets turned into my library, it's checked out by another student right away. Probably for ages 9 - 12. I highly recommend The Wild Soccer Bunch series!

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