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The Wild Soccer Bunch, Book 1, Kevin The Star Striker



Synopsis

When the last of the snow has finally melted, soccer season starts! Kevin the Star Striker and The Wild Bunch rush to their field. They have found that Mickey the bulldozer and his gang, the Unbeatables, have taken over. Kevin and his friends challenge the Unbeatables to the biggest game of their lives. Can the Wild Bunch defeat the Unbeatables, or lose their field of dreams forever? Can they do what no team has done before?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 620L (What's this?)

Series: Wild Soccer Bunch (Book 1)

Hardcover: 152 pages

Publisher: Sole Books; First edition (May 20, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0984425705

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 5.5 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #428,504 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Â Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Soccer #422 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #1693 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Siblings

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

I am a father of two children-- a son and a daughter ages 8 and 11. I am also an educator, dealing with children of all ages. I came upon the Wild Soccer Bunch book series, book #1 (Kevin the Star Striker), and immediately knew I had found something special. I introduced the book to my kids, and to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. They simply couldn't put the book down. My kids actually stayed up extra late (way passed their bedtime) so that they could finish the book! I have passed the book along to my colleagues at school, and many parents have responded by asking where they could find the next book in the series. What makes the Wild Soccer series so special are the books' themes: team sports, diversity, friendship-- even if your child is not a soccer fan, he/she will love the

characters and the storylines. I am not surprised that the author, Joachim Massanek, is a huge success overseas-- the WildSoccer series has already sold millions of copies in Europe!The Wild Soccer Bunch is funny and it's a light read, but the book will challenge your kids too. My kids can't wait for the next book in the series to come out. My daughter has asked me to signed her up for soccer-- we can't wait!

The Wild Soccer Bunch, Book 1, Kevin the Star StrikerThis is an energetic book full of kids who love soccer. However, the thing I don't like about it is the fact that all the kids are rude, disrespectful, and bold-faced liars. All they want to do is play soccer, and they treat their parents as idiots. I'm not even a parent, but a teacher. I bought this book for my class, but I will not buy the next one. I don't want my students reading this. I wish I could get a refund, and I'm disappointed as soccer and LA Galaxy fan that Landon Donovan has endorsed this book.

I was sent a review copy of this book. I am no longer a child, I have no kids, and I do not play or watch soccer at all. Yet, I enjoyed this book quite a bit. I think this is mainly due to the fact that the writing has a child-like flair, or mindset if you will that is just fun and easy to read. It just feels natural; you could easily imagine a 10 year-old boy saying this stuff. The sentences are often rather stilted, just a few short words, and there are often a lot of these in a row. It just really comes off as the way children often speak, it made the kids feel authentic in a way.The main premise of the book is that the 'Wild Bunch' is a group of boys that just love to play soccer, it's their entire world. The main kid in this book is Kevin, and his brother and their friends make up the 'Wild Bunch' team. I could tell you all their names and introduce them to you, but that would ruin the first chapter for you, which does it in a real fun way. They want to play soccer all spring break, but they have a real challenge getting past their parents and battling with the fact that winter won't quite let go. When they finally do manage to get to the field, they're beaten to the punch by 'the Unbeatables', a group of older boys who are a lot bigger and a lot tougher. They make a bet that they'll all meet back at the end of two weeks, and whichever team wins get's the field for their own from then on out. Now they need to practice up for the big game, but will it be enough time for them to get good enough to win?It's very well paced and never gets dull or tiresome, and it's written quite simply, but it never reaches the point of talking down to its key audience.Something that was a nice surprise were the illustrations by Jan Birck. There's one or two on nearly every other page, and they're very simple and charming. The facial expressions are great, and the posing of the characters is rather cartoony yet still comes across as believable, it adds a lot to the book.Now, before I end this review, let me say that this is

not a book for overly-sensitive PC parents. The coach they get drinks sometimes and one mild curse word is uttered. The boys are also rather dishonest on occasion to their parents. These things happen in life and they are not portrayed as positive things, so please, do not buy this book and then give it a scathing 1 Star review. Just don't buy this book if you think everything should be sunshine and roses for your kid until they're a teenager. The real message in this book is about teamwork, friendship, perseverance and all that jazz. I'm sure kids will love the book, especially if they are into soccer. But be warned, this is the first book in a series of 13, so if your kid likes this one, they'll most likely want to read the rest. Although, you may not mind yourself actually, definitely recommended!

THE WILD SOCCER BUNCH is already becoming an international favorite group of kids and this first edition in this country - Kevin the Star Striker - demonstrates why. Not only does this book, which originated in Germany, hit a note of alignment with a team sport already well established as a favorite throughout the world, it also manages to tell stories that are imaginative and hugely entertaining. Author Joachim Mesannek states that his mission is to encourage children worldwide to live by their values they learn by playing the game of soccer: courage, teamwork, and friendship. His writing accomplishes that goal. He is aided by the intricate and well conceived illustrations by Jan Brick. Reading the book will involve kids and parents alike - the writing is that good. But the author's goal is far greater than entertainment. He succeeds in motivating kids to get involved on team sports, wins them over to sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, self acceptance, and the joy of the game. The writing is infectious and bodes well for a continuing series by this talented duo of Messanek and Brick. Grady Harp, August 10

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