

*An Out of this World Shootout.*

It was a brisk, sunny day in the Mars stadium. Now this isn't your regular stadium though. It is on Mars! Earth's soccer team is playing Mars' soccer team in the Universe Cup championship.

My name is Tino Carlos. I am a huge soccer fanatic and I play soccer at my school. My friend and teammate from Tangerine, Florida named Paul Fisher is going with me to Mars. We got the amazing tickets and the flight because we were the two MVP's of the state cup. Also, we are slightly famous since the book *Tangerine* was written about us.

The planet came into view about three hours before the game started. Paul and I stared in awe at the red planet. When we entered the stadium, we were once again awe struck by the amount of fans in the stadium. There were at least 100,000 people there even though it was an hour before the game.

The team we traveled to see was the Earth World Soccer team. It took us about five days to get to Mars City, so I was hoping for a win. Our two best players, Ronaldo and Messi, are almost unstoppable together. So, of course Ronaldo had the first goal of the game which was assisted by Messi. Then the other team's number 77, AB or Alien Boy, scored a diving header into the upper 90 of the net. That is how the game ended. It was going to shootouts.

First up on Earth was Ronaldo. We all stopped holding our breath because he is automatic at the penalty spot. He shoots and he scores! Next up on Mars was AB. He didn't score on Neuer. Neuer made an amazing diving save with one hand and knocked the ball away. "Tweet" went the ref's whistle. He said Neuer left his line early so it's a redo penalty. I yelled along with the rest of the crowd, "BOOOOOOO." So AB got to try again. He shot it the same as his first try, but this time, he made it. Now it was time for Messi to do his magic. Since he is left footed, it made it harder for the goalie from Mars to save it since they don't get as much practice on left footers.

"Wooohooooo," I yelled along with Paul.

"That was an incredible shot," said Paul. "That was a banger!" I replied. Meanwhile, Messi was jumping up and down with delight on the field. Mars' next player, Allistar, calmly walked up to the penalty spot. Claaaang! Allistar hit the bottom left post and sank to his knees in defeat. Now it was up to Luka Modric, my favorite player. If he makes it, we win, if he misses, then we keep going. Apparently, the pressure wasn't too much for him. He precisely curved the ball into the upper 90 of the net!

He started sprinting back to his teammates and took his shirt off in the process. Earth had done it! "Come on," I said to Jack. We sprinted down the steps to the field and jumped the fence to go onto the field along with 20,000 other fans. "LET'S GOOOOOOO," e screamed. Once everyone was on the field, we all started jumping up and down chanting Earth Earth Earth. Thirty minutes later we had all lost our voices.

Everyone climbed back into the stands and went to the parking lot. Jack and I climbed into our spaceship and pressed the HOME button, but first we had to watch the replay on the Milky Way Tube. Sure enough, we were in the highlights. We were both content for the rest of the ride back to Earth knowing that we were on Universe television. That was an exuberant day, I thought to myself. I don't know if I will experience something like that again, but I do know I will never forget that experience.

When we returned home, everyone wanted to talk to us about the game. Even Paul's brother, Eric, wanted to know about the game. He has been slightly depressed since his football career was ended by injury. We both became less of outcasts with all of the attention we were getting. It was great because the soccer team got a lot of new players who transferred from other schools to play with us. We both agree, if we can ever do something like that again, we will do it before you can say *Tangerine*.