



Crossring Drama

THE BADGERBALL WORLD CUP FINAL

Joe Byrne and Phil Price

A drama to illustrate that:

²³"Everything is permissible" – but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible" – but not everything is constructive. ²⁴Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

1 Corinthians 10 23-24

(The two commentators are sitting in a commentary box and talking into microphones)

Commentator 1: Hello and welcome to sunny Prague, we're here for the Women's Under 12 Badgerball World Cup Final 1987 between the Democratic Peoples Republic of Congo and the United States of Southampton! With me I have the 1970s Badgerball legend Bill Brown. Bill what are your thoughts today?

Commentator 2: Well Jack it's a hard one to call. Both teams are very evenly matched. We've seen throughout the tournament that Congo have pulled off some remarkable victories in the last two rounds, particularly the last gasp win against an inspired Mondovian team in the quarterfinals. This United States team is very strong as well, you can never count out the defending champions. Congo will have to watch Eavery, the United States' star player and captain who will be a significant threat.

Com 1: And what do you think are going to be the key factors in the match today?

Com 2: Well discipline is going to be a key factor today I think. Both teams are going to have to work together – They have to play as a team if they want to win. There's no time for showboating out there today.

Com 1: Thank you for those thoughts Bill, just quickly whilst we have the national anthems played, what is your prediction?

Com 2: Well Jack, It's a tough one, as I said, but I think that I'm going to go for Congo. They've shown in the past that they can handle the high-pressure situations and as everyone knows you can't get much more high pressure than the Women's Under 12 Badgerball World Cup Final.

Com 1: Ok well the anthems have been sung, the build up is over and now the BBC proudly brings you the highlight of the sporting calendar it is the Women's Under 12 Badgerball World Cup Final, 1987 ... sponsored by Baz and Maz Security & Personal Loans Company (pause) Congo have won the toss and

mate off the ball to give herself a chance. Thomas was in a perfect position to score but it's now with Eavery ... who misses. And that goal would have put the United States ahead with just a few minutes to go! The referee couldn't do anything about that – according to the rules there is nothing against fouling a member of your own team – but it certainly didn't help the team effort! Wilson and Thomas are now remonstrating with Eavery – they're not happy at all.

- Com 1:** I'm not surprised – remarkably selfish play there. But Congo are back on the attack and it's a brilliant swift passing move ... the United States can't get near the ball! Brown ... to Higgens, out wide to Smith, the ball comes into the area ... it's with Brown but Higgens is unmarked in a very good position ... Brown feints a shot, then slips the ball through the gap to Higgens ...
GOOOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAALLLLLLLLLLLLLL!!! Congo are surely the 1987 Women's Under 12 Badgerball World Champions ... as the final whistle goes and they raise their arms in the air – what a performance! What are your immediate reactions to that match Bill?
- Com 2:** I think discipline and team work were the main factors today. Congo made the most of all the players and the pitch and really moved the ball around beautifully, they looked out for the other players and worked for the benefit of the team. The United States' performance was marred by the selfish play of Eavery; while she never technically broke the rules, she wasn't keeping to the spirit of the game. If she'd allowed them to play as a team they could have won the match but she just wanted to show off and do what she wanted. It shows the valuable lesson that ²³"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. When you're in these big matches, you have to play as a team – scoring is hard enough and so you have to work as a team, and pass the ball around so can you get maximum points when you do score. It simply does not benefit the team to have one player showing off and ignoring their team mates – in any case the team then becomes demoralised and doesn't play as well.
- Com 1:** Yes Bill! "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. This game is designed to reward constructive play and team work – as shown today by Congo, the new World Champions. If Eavery had been a bit more constructive in her play it would have been a much closer game.
- Com 2:** Well said Jack, in some ways its very similar to what the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10 23-33. St. Paul tells us that "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. He is talking about how as Christians we are no longer living under the law but under God's grace, however this does not give us free reign to do whatever we want – even if it is strictly permissible. We should be concerned about the needs of others and be aware that exercising our freedom could potentially cause problems for other believers. We should be concerned about their good, not just our own.
- Com 1:** Yes, Bill. Well thanks for joining us today for this game. We saw a superb match that demonstrated the principles of the sport – the team work and smooth passing game of Congo ultimately triumphed whilst the United States were sadly let down by the selfish play of their star player and captain. Thank you to Bill Brown, a Badgerball legend and current Archbishop of Weston-Super-Mare for joining us and as ever giving us interesting insights into the world of support supplemented with a spot of theology. From all of us here, goodbye!

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Drama**

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