

MIDDLEMOST POST

#050 - "Sporty Parker"

Written by

Dave Tennant

WRITERS DRAFT #1 - 06/01/21
WRITERS DRAFT #2 - 06/07/21
1ST DRAFT - 06/14/21
BOARD DRAFT - 06/23/21
REC DRAFT - 08/12/21
SHIPPING DRAFT - 10/26/12

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING

1 ANGUS (O.S.) 1
 Alright, girl. Just like we
 practiced!

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - DAY

ANGUS throws LETTERS like a frisbee as RUSSELL parkours around the ship, snatching the letters in her mouth and depositing them in bins (like those frisbee trick dogs).

2 ANGUS 2
 Up! Down! Get 'em, girl! Nice grab!
 (pets Russell)
 And people say there's nothing
 exciting about the mail.

Angus and Russell go to high five when--

3 PARKER 3
 Hey, guy--!

PARKER appears right between them! Their high five smushes the cloud out of shape.

4 PARKER (CONT'D) 4
 <GIGGLES!>

Parker reforms into his regular ol' cloud shape.

5 PARKER (CONT'D) 5
 Guess what everyone!? I just made
 the Yellow Springs Youth Soccer
 team! Go Stinkholes!

6 ANGUS 6
 We have a soccer team?

7 PARKER 7
 We sure do! And I'm on it.

8 ANGUS 8
 That's great, kiddo. Good for you.

Russell <ARFS> her approval.

9 ANGUS (CONT'D) 9
 Russell and I will be there every
 game rooting you on. Consider us
 your number one fans!

10 PARKER 10
 I have fans already? Awesome!

Angus turns reflective as he returns to the pile of mail.

11 ANGUS 11
You know, I never got a chance to
play youth sports. Not because I
didn't want to. I wanted to.

A thought bubble appears above Angus' head. We see KID ANGUS
kicking a ball off the deck of the ship.

12 ANGUS (CONT'D) 12
It's just, when you grow up on a
ship, you don't...

Angus turns around to find Parker gone. It's just Russell
with a letter in her mouth, begging for it to be thrown.

13 ANGUS (CONT'D) 13
Well, girl, at least Parker's
getting the chance.

Angus grabs the letter from Russell and slings it.

14 ANGUS (CONT'D) 14
Go get it!

Angus accidentally chucks the letter out the porthole window.

EXT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - ESTABLISHING

The letter flies directly into REGGIE8's face, who casually
strolls down the street. Russell suddenly comes crashing into
the Reggie, knocking both O.S.

15 REGGIE8 15
<TUMBLING IMPACTS>

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

Ms. Pam wipes down the counter when Angus enters proudly,
wearing a "Little Stinkers" soccer JERSEY.

16 ANGUS 16
Hi, Ms. Pam. I need to order a
whole bunch of toast to go please.

Ms. Pam is all business, pulls out a pad and pen.

17 MS. PAM 17
Okay, how many?

Angus looks to Russell, now holding the retrieved letter in
her mouth.

18 ANGUS 18
 (to Russell)
Well, how many kiddos do you think
are on Parker's soccer team, eh
girl?

Russell shrugs, has no idea. Angus holds up a giant FOAM FINGER that reads "Go Stinkholes" on it.

19 ANGUS (CONT'D) 19
(re: foam finger)
We'll take, oh I don't know... uh,
this many! Times twelve.

20 MS. PAM 20
So a dozen. Okay, hold on.

Ms. Pam goes to work prepping the toast, not curious at all,
which eats at Angus.

21 ANGUS 21
 (to Ms. Pam)
Don't worry, I'll make sure Parker
doesn't eat too much toast before
the big soccer game Parker's
playing in.

He gets nothing from Ms. Pam, who is still all business.

22 MS. PAM 22
How many jams you need?

23 ANGUS 23

How ever many you think a soccer
team that Parker plays on needs!

(beat)

You know, I never had a chance to
play soccer as a kid. Not that I
didn't want to, heh. But growing up
on a ship in the middle of the o--

24 MS. PAM 24
Here ya go, Angus. Next?

Ms. Pam hands Angus the box of toast and moves onto the next customer.

25 ANGUS **25**

Wait-- hold-- <SAD GROAN>

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - SOCCER FIELD - ESTABLISHING

A dying patch of grass in the desert.

26 PARENT WALLA 26
<PRE-GAME CHIT-CHAT>

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Very hometown youth sports feel. Angus and Russell walk by the SOCCER PLAYERS, handing out toast. Angus proudly acts as if he's been doing this forever.

27 ANGUS 27
 (to random kids)
Here you go! Here's a piece of
toast for you! And here's a piece
of toast for you!

Angus and Russell then walk past a few PARENTS posted up already in anticipation for the game.

28 PARENT WALLA 28
 <MORE CHIT-CHAT>

29 ANGUS 29
Hey there! Good to see ya. Got the
kiddos some toast. Go Stinkholes!

The two lay down their lawn chairs and blanket and settle in.

30 ANGUS (CONT'D) 30
Eh, here's a good spot.

Angus grabs a piece of toast and starts to <MUNCH>.

31 ANGUS (CONT'D) 31
<BITES><CHEWS> Wonder what position
Parker's gonna play?

Cards depicting Parker in various soccer positions stack one after the other on screen.

32 ANGUS (O.S.) (CONT'D) 32
Front back? Power Forward? Ooh,
Mine Sweeper?

Russell shrugs.

33 ANGUS (CONT'D) 33
Ah, you're right. The little nimbus
will be great at them all! Hope
you're ready to yell GOOOOAAAAAAL!

34 PARKER (O.S.) 34
Who's thirsty!?

Angus startles.

35 ANGUS 35
Was that... Parker?

Sure enough, on the field is Parker, the team "waterboy." He wrings himself out in the mouth of one kid.

36 PARKER 36
Need a top off? First refill is
free. JK! Have as much as you want!

Parker fire hoses water right into another kid's mouth.

37 ANGUS 37
What in the world?

Confused, Angus makes his way over to Parker.

38 ANGUS (CONT'D) 38
Parker, <NERVOUS CHUCKLE>, what are
you doing?

39 PARKER 39
Hey, Angus! I'm just hydrating my
homies.

Parker turns into a SUPER SOAKER and shoots water into
multiple kids' mouths.

40 KID WALLA 40
<GULPS/GUZZLES>

41 ANGUS 41
I can, uh, see that. Kiddo, you
told me you were on the soccer
team.

42 PARKER 42
I am on the soccer team. I'm the
designated watercloud. It's a very
important position. Go Stinkholes!

43 ANGUS 43
I know it's important, but wouldn't
you rather be out on the field?

Angus gestures to the kids playing on the field.

44 KID WALLA 44
<KICKING/DRIBBLING EFFORTS>

45 ANGUS 45
Head-butting balls, and kicking
game winning goals?

46 PARKER 46
No one's kicking game winning goals
if they get cramps, Angus.

AUNT NANCY (OR10) as the referee steps in and <BLOWS> the
WHISTLE.

47 AUNT NANCY 47
 (to Angus)
 Off the field, big stuff. We got a
 game to play.

Angus steps off the field, clearly bummed.

48 ANGUS 48
 <UPSET MUMBLING>

ASPEN, a nearby parent, saddles up to Angus.

49 ASPEN 49
 Which little stinker's yours?
 That's mine over there.

Aspen points to FORREST juggle-kicking the ball like a pro.

50 KID WALLA 50
 <JUGGLING EFFORTS>

51 ANGUS 51
 Huh, y-you know, I-I don't see my
 little stinker out there.
 <NERVOUSLY CHUCKLES>

52 PARKER (O.S.) 52
 Hey, Angus!

Angus sees Parker, who has turned into a "Fun" SPRINKLER,
hydrating the other team now.

53 KID WALLA 53
 <FUN IN SPRINKLERS>

54 PARKER 54
 Can we have tacos for dinner?

Angus turns beet red.

55 ANGUS 55
 (to Aspen)
 There's the stinker. Heh.
 <EMBARRASSED GROAN>

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Parker, Russell, and Angus eat tacos at the dinner table.

56 PARKER 56
 That was the most exciting game of
 soccer... EVER! Right, Angus?

Angus is clearly not as excited as Parker.

57 ANGUS 57
Uh-huh.

58 PARKER 58
The way Carl dodged those two
defenders, then kicked the winning
goal! So awesome!!

59 ANGUS 59
Eh, it was pretty awesome.

60 PARKER 60
Then I dumped a whole bucket of
water on Coach to celebrate. That
was pretty awesome too.

Parker transforms into a GATORADE BUCKET and dumps water on
Russell.

61 ANGUS 61
I actually wanted to talk to you
about your role on the team, kiddo.

62 PARKER 62
I already know what you're gonna
say.

63 ANGUS 63
You do?

64 PARKER 64
Yeah. You're proud of me. And I
appreciate that, big guy.

Parker zips over and hugs Angus, who now feels jerky.

65 ANGUS 65
<SHORT SWEATING EFFORT>

Angus suddenly gets an idea...

66 ANGUS (CONT'D) 66
Well, heh. Eh, to be honest, I-I
was kinda envious of you, Parker.

67 PARKER 67
Me? How come?

68 ANGUS 68
Well I saw how much fun you were
having keeping the team hydrated
and sorta wished I could do it.

69 PARKER 69
You wanna be the watercloud for the
Little Stinkers?

70 ANGUS 70
Well who wouldn't!? But, you know,
hey, that's your position, Parker.
Heh heh. Oh well.

Angus slowly goes to put a taco into his mouth.

71 PARKER 71
Angus, it would be an honor to have
you on the team as watercloud.

72 ANGUS 72
Wow, really? Uh, but that means
you'd have to find another
position. Hey, here's a crazy
thought... you could play! That
could be fun too!

73 PARKER 73
That does sound fun!

74 ANGUS 74
Then it's set! At tomorrow's game,
you play and I water.

Angus lifts his hand for a high five.

75 ANGUS (CONT'D) 75
Go Stinkholes?

Parker gleefully high fives in agreement.

76 PARKER 76
Go Stinkholes!

Angus dives into his tacos, feeling pretty damn good about himself.

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

Ms. Pam cleans a cup at the counter as PATRONS eat.

77 ANGUS (O.S.) 77
<GRUNTS/GROANS>

Angus pushes through the front door, struggling with a GATORADE BUCKET. This thing is heavy.

78 ANGUS (CONT'D) 78
(breathing hard)
Gonna need... another... big
order... of toast, Ms. Pam.
<EXHAUSTED SIGH!>

Ms. Pam is all business again as usual. Pulls out pad.

79 MS. PAM 79
How many?

80 ANGUS 80
Same as yesterday.

She just stares at Angus. Like she's supposed to remember everything?

81 ANGUS (CONT'D) 81
A dozen, please.

82 MS. PAM 82
Okay.

83 ANGUS 83
Don't you wanna know why I'm
lugging around this giant bucket of
water?

84 MS. PAM 84
That depends. Do you want your
toast today, or do you want it
after I sit through your story
about a giant bucket of water?

85 ANGUS 85
<GROANS> I'll just take the toast.

86 MS. PAM 86
Coming right up!

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - SOCCER FIELD - DAY

A sweaty Angus lugs the bucket of water towards the field.

87 ANGUS 87
<STRAINS/THROW EFFORT!>

Russell trails behind, carrying the chairs, etc.

88 ANGUS (CONT'D) 88
<OUT OF BREATH/GASSED> Eh, it's
good enough.

Angus plants the bucket on the ground. He yells out to no one in particular.

89 ANGUS (CONT'D) 89
(yelling)
Hey! Uh, hello! Yeah, so, uh,
water's here. Help yourself.

The kids on the field continue to play. Angus looks at his watch, then to Russell.

90 ANGUS (CONT'D) 90
 (to Russell)
 How about we come up with a whip
 dandy of a cheer for when Parker
 scores that first goal?

A kid (RICHIE) tugs on Angus.

91 RICHIE 91
 Can I get some water?

92 ANGUS 92
 Yeah, go nuts, kid.

Angus returns his attention to Russell.

93 ANGUS (CONT'D) 93
 (to Russell)
 Like I was saying--

94 RICHIE 94
 There's no cups.

95 ANGUS 95
 (to Richie)
 You got hands, right? Look. Cups.

Angus holds up his HANDS then "cups" his palms. Richie and other kids drink out of the bucket like puppies.

96 RICHIE 96
 <LAPPING UP WATER EFFORTS>

97 ANGUS 97
 (to Russell)
 Eh, back to our super special
 Parker cheer. What do you got,
 girl?

Russell makes a bunch of really obnoxious <DOLPHIN SQUEALS>.

98 ANGUS (CONT'D) 98
 Eh, let's keep working on it.

99 AUNT NANCY (O.S.) 99
 Game time!

100 ANGUS 100
 Oooh, this is it! Parker's taking
 the pitch!
 (side bars to Russell)
 Eh, "pitch" is soccer jargon for
 "field."

Angus surveys the field for Parker but doesn't see him.

101 ANGUS (CONT'D) 101
 Hmm. You see the little nimbus?

Angus looks to the soccer GOAL at the end of the field.
There's Parker... as the GOAL NET!

102 KID WALLA 102
 <SOCCER PLAYING EFFORTS>

103 PARKER 103
 Oh hey, Angus!

104 ANGUS 104
 Parker!?

AT PARKER THE NET - MOMENTS LATER

Angus approaches the goal.

105 ANGUS 105
 Parker, why aren't you out on the
 field?

Russell <ARFS> a response.

106 ANGUS (CONT'D) 106
 (to Russell)
 I know it's called the "pitch,"
 Russell. I'm the one that told you.

107 PARKER 107
 You'll never believe this, Angus.
 But a gang of stupid, jerkface
 birds tore our net to pieces! They
 were gonna cancel the game, but I
 said NO. If we cancel the game, the
 birds win.

Just then a ball flies, SLAMS into Parker's face/net.

108 PARKER (CONT'D) 108
 WOOF! Nice kick, Syd!
 (to Angus)
 Angus, can we chat later? I need to
 concentrate on stopping balls with
 my face.

109 ANGUS 109
 <DISGRUNTLED GRUMBLE>

INT. MIDDLEMOST TOAST - DAY

Ms. Pam collects dirty dishes on the counter in one fell
swoop when Angus enters, looking haggard and worn out.

He lugs a giant KNITTED NET behind him, getting stuck in the doorway.

110 ANGUS 110
 (struggling)
Ms. Pam, I need a dozen pieces of
toast to go.
 (while pulling)
Pleeeeeeease!

<RIP!> One final tug tears the net, sending Angus soaring right into the counter.

111 ANGUS (CONT'D) 111
Gaahh! Ohhh!
(beat, exhausted)
Throw in whatever jams you want.

112 MS. PAM 112
Coming right up.

Ms. Pam preps the order.

113 ANGUS 113
You're not curious, not one bit, as
to why I'm lugging around a giant
goalpost net?

114 MS. PAM 114

I figured a bird destroyed the old net and PJC replaced it, but you want PJC to play, so you stayed up all night making a replacement net so the kid gets on the pitch.

115	ANGUS	115
	Wrong. It wasn't a bird. It was birdsss-uh. Ha.	

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Angus finishes hanging his **HOMEMADE NET** as he talks to Russell, who's lounging in a camping chair, reading a book titled *"When To Let It Go."*

Russell corrects him. <ARF!>

117 ANGUS (CONT'D) 117
 <GROANS> Fine. The pitch. Same
 diff!

118 PARKER (O.S.) 118
Woo-hoo! Alright guys, come on now!
Pass it around! Nice, nice, nice!

Angus perks up.

119 ANGUS 119
Hear that!? That is Parker finally
playing!

Angus and Russell spot a circle of players kicking the ball
around while warming up.

120 PARKER 120
Very good! Over here! <KICK EFFORT>

121 KID WALLA 121
<SOCCER PLAYING EFFORTS>

One of the kids (CHAR) kicks the ball too hard as it rolls
over to Angus and Russell.

122 CHAR 122
(to Angus)
Little help, mister?

123 ANGUS 123
Coming your way.

Angus goes to kick the ball back when it suddenly TALKS!

124 PARKER 124
Hi, Angus!

The ball IS PARKER! Startled, Angus WHIFFS the kick and falls
on his ass.

125 ANGUS 125
AAAH! <CRASH IMPACT!> Parker!?
You're the... you're the--

126 PARKER 126
Soccer ball? I sure am, big guy!
Pretty cool, huh? Reggie
accidentally kicked our last ball
off the side of the mountain.

Parker gestures to a REGGIE with two giant FEET.

127 REGGIE 127
Reggie.

Angus grits his teeth, bottling his frustration.

137 ANGUS (CONT'D) 137
<CLIMBING EFFORTS>

He finally spots the soccer ball!

138 ANGUS (CONT'D) 138
(re: ball)
Ah-ha!

That's when he notices other "soccer balls" all around him.

139 ANGUS (CONT'D) 139
Huh. Well I guess the team lost a
lot of soccer balls. Heh.

But they're not balls, they're... EGGS! He's standing in a
gigantic NEST!

A giant SHADOW of a MYTHICAL BIRD falls over him, followed by
an ear-piercing <SHRIEK>! He looks up, turns pale white.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - SOCCER FIELD - DAY

140 ANGUS (O.S.) 140
AAAAAAAHAH!

It's the middle of the game, and Parker (the ball) is getting
kicked and passed all over the place.

141 PARKER 141
Nice kick! Oof! You really got
under that one! OW! This is so
exciting!

Angus' booming voice gets all to stop.

142 ANGUS (O.S.) 142
TIMEOUT!

All eyes turn to Angus, bruised, battered, scratched, with
his clothing in tatters. He holds up the ball triumphantly.

143 ANGUS (CONT'D) 143
Behold. The lost soccer ball. You
shall play with this.

He tosses it lamely onto the field.

144 PARKER 144
Cool.
(to team)
Okay, guys, have fun. I'll just go
sit on the bench and watch.

145 ANGUS 145
NO!

Angus realizes he's gone a little "too big" and pulls it back.

146 ANGUS (CONT'D) 146
 Heh. Parker, buddy, you should play
 with your team. On the field.

Russell inches into frame.

147 ANGUS (CONT'D) 147
 Don't even say it, Russell!
 (to Parker)
 Whaddya say, kiddo? You deserve it!

148 PARKER 148
 Mmmmmmm... okay!

Angus finally exhales. He did it. Smiles.

149 ANGUS 149
 <CONTENT SIGH> Go Stinkholes!

150 PARKER 150
 Go Stinkholes!

Aunt Nancy <BLOWS> her WHISTLE.

151 AUNT NANCY 151
 Game time!

Parker starts playing soccer like he's done this his whole life. Splits the defenders, jukes two more, no one and nothing can touch this cloud!

152 ANGUS 152
 It's happening, Russell. Look at
 the little nimbus go!

153 KID WALLA 153
 <LEAP/SLIDE EFFORTS>

Parker is a soccer machine! A prodigy! Angus is overwhelmed with emotion.

154 ANGUS 154
 It's... beautiful. <SMALL CRY>

Parker jumps up into the air, kicks the ball right at camera!

155 PARKER 155
 <BIG KICK EFFORT!>

Angus leaps to his feet.

156 ANGUS 156
 GOOOAAAL! The kid's a natural,
 right girl?
 (MORE)

ANGUS (CONT'D)
(off Russell's look)
What?

Angus wipes his eyes, but upon doing so, SEES the truth in front of him...

157 ANGUS (CONT'D) 157
Huh?

Parker is horrible at soccer! The little nimbus runs around holding the ball as Aunt Nancy chases after him, fervently <BLOWING> her whistle.

158 PARKER 158
This is fun! Look, Angus! Soccer!
I'm doing it!

Dumbfounded, Angus gives a shaky thumbs up through gritted teeth.

159 ANGUS 159
<GROANS>

EXT. S.S. STEADFAST - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

INT. S.S. STEADFAST - KITCHEN - CONT.

The MMP crew eat dinner.

160 PARKER 160
<SLURPS UP SPAGHETTI>

Russell gives Angus a look and nods toward Parker.

161 ANGUS 161
<SIGHS> Listen, kiddo. About the
game today. I haven't been fair
with you.

162 PARKER 162
(mouth full)
You haven't?

163 ANGUS 163
Not one bit. You getting to play on
a team has been all about me, when
it should have been all about you.
You know, I never got a chance to
play youth sports.

164 PARKER 164
Really? You never told me that.

Angus blankly stares.

165 PARKER (CONT'D) 165
Hey, Angus? I don't wanna play
soccer anymore.

Angus suddenly perks up.

166 ANGUS 166
(perking up)
Y-you don't?

167 PARKER 167
I know you're probably super
disappointed in me, especially
since I'm pretty good and all.
But not a lot happens in soccer. If
it's cool with you, I'd like to
retire my "Little Stinkers" jersey
forever.

168 ANGUS 168
Ha ha! Well, th-that's cool with
me!

169 PARKER 169
Wow, you answered fast! Thanks,
Angus!

Parker takes off. Angus looks to Russell, a huge smile on his
face. Success. Parker suddenly zips back in.

170 PARKER (CONT'D) 170
Ooh, almost forgot. I signed up for
the Red Ridge Youth Football Team.
First game's tomorrow. GO ROCKS!

Angus is dazed.

171 ANGUS 171
(mumbles)
Go Rocks.

THE END.