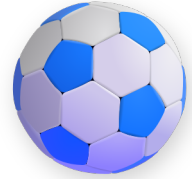




Read the story carefully. Then answer the questions using clues from the text.

## **The Soccer Team's Loss: Learning to Grow**



Chloe stood on the soccer field, her cleats digging into the damp grass. The final whistle had just blown, and the scoreboard glared with a score that wasn't theirs. Her shoulders slumped. Around her, her teammates exchanged quiet glances, some kicking at the ground, others staring at their shoelaces. No one spoke. The usual post-game cheers were replaced by a heavy silence that felt even louder than the crowd had been.

Coach Miller walked towards them, his expression soft but firm. He didn't yell or point fingers. Instead, he knelt down, eye-level with the shortest player. "That was a tough one, team," he said, his voice calm. "We didn't play our best today, and the other team earned their win. But what matters now is what we do next." Chloe watched him, a knot still tight in her stomach.

He continued, "Winning is great, but learning is even better. We made some mistakes, yes. But we also showed grit. Remember that pass Maya made? Or how Sam never gave up chasing the ball?" A few heads lifted slightly. The coach then pulled out a small notebook. "Tomorrow, we'll review the game. We'll talk about what went wrong, and more importantly, what we can improve. Every player has something to work on, and every player has something to teach."

Chloe looked at her teammates. Maya was nodding slowly. Sam was no longer kicking at the grass, but looking towards the goal. The heavy silence began to lift, replaced by a quiet hum of understanding. Maybe losing wasn't the end of everything. Maybe it was just



the beginning of something new. They walked off the field, not with smiles, but with a different kind of determination.



---

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

---

- (1) **Based on the passage, what can you conclude about the team's initial feelings after the game?**
- (A) They were angry at the other team.
  - (B) They were disappointed and quiet.
  - (C) They were excited to practice new strategies.
  - (D) They were ready to quit soccer forever.
- (2) **What does the passage suggest about Coach Miller's approach to coaching?**
- (A) He believes in yelling to motivate his players.
  - (B) He focuses on learning and improvement, even after a loss.
  - (C) He only cares about winning big games.
  - (D) He blames individual players for mistakes.
- (3) **The author mentions Coach Miller kneeling down most likely to show that...**
- (A) the coach was tired from the game.
  - (B) the coach wanted to appear less intimidating and more approachable.
  - (C) the coach was looking for something on the ground.
  - (D) the coach was showing them how to tie their shoelaces.
- (4) **Which statement is NOT well-supported by evidence from the passage?**



- A The team felt a sense of disappointment after losing.
- B Coach Miller encouraged his team to learn from their mistakes.
- C The team immediately started cheering after the coach spoke.
- D Chloe felt a knot of worry or sadness in her stomach.

**(5) What clues in the passage helped you infer that the team felt more hopeful by the end? Use details from the passage.**

---

---

---

---

