

You Choose: New kid on the team

Directions: Read the Story. Then, following the example below, pick a question to answer. Print this page and create a story that tells about the outcome.

Megan, who is 17 years old, just moved into town because her father transferred jobs. She wasn't happy to have left her friends at her old school, nor was she excited to make new friends at a new school as a senior. Her parents thought it would be a good idea for her to join a team or activity to feel like a part of a community. She joined the cross-country running team. This was her first year on the team, so she wasn't the fastest runner, but she tried her best.

At first, things were going great. She had a few pals to run with and really started enjoying cross-country running. She was working hard, getting a lot of sleep and eating right. Out of nowhere, she started running really fast! She was put at the bottom of the varsity team, taking the place of some runners who'd been working for years to make those spots on the team.

Ever since she began running on the varsity team, the girls who'd been placed back on the junior varsity team started bullying her in the locker room. Megan started getting into better shape and lost some weight. The girls were calling her "anorexic Annie" and telling her she was "probably on steroids." She would get to the locker room before practice to find her shoes soaking wet or her sports bra missing. She had to suffer through practice in these conditions.

Megan, at first, thought her only solution was to intentionally run slower so the girls would lighten up on her for being so successful. Her coach told her how disappointed he was that she suddenly was running slower. She was doing so well before, so he was extra tough on her at practice because she wasn't running to her potential. She didn't want to tell him about what happened in the locker room, because she feared the girls would only make fun of her more.



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WHAT SHOULD MEGAN DO?

Example Question: What might happen if Megan tells her coach?

Outcome: Megan tells her coach that the girls are bullying her for doing so well. He encourages her to continue running her best, while discussing the issue with the other girls. He suspends two of the girls who bullied her in the locker room for two races. The girls are initially upset, but when word gets out about how mean they were to Megan, she finds a new group to support her and the bullying stops.

Other Questions:

What might happen if Megan tells her parents?

What might happen if Megan chooses to ignore them but continue to run her best?

What might happen if Megan continues to run slower to avoid bullying?

What might happen if Megan asks a friend to help her in confronting her bullies?

What might happen if Megan quits the cross-country running team?

How do you think this outcome would affect the student, their self-esteem and their future?
