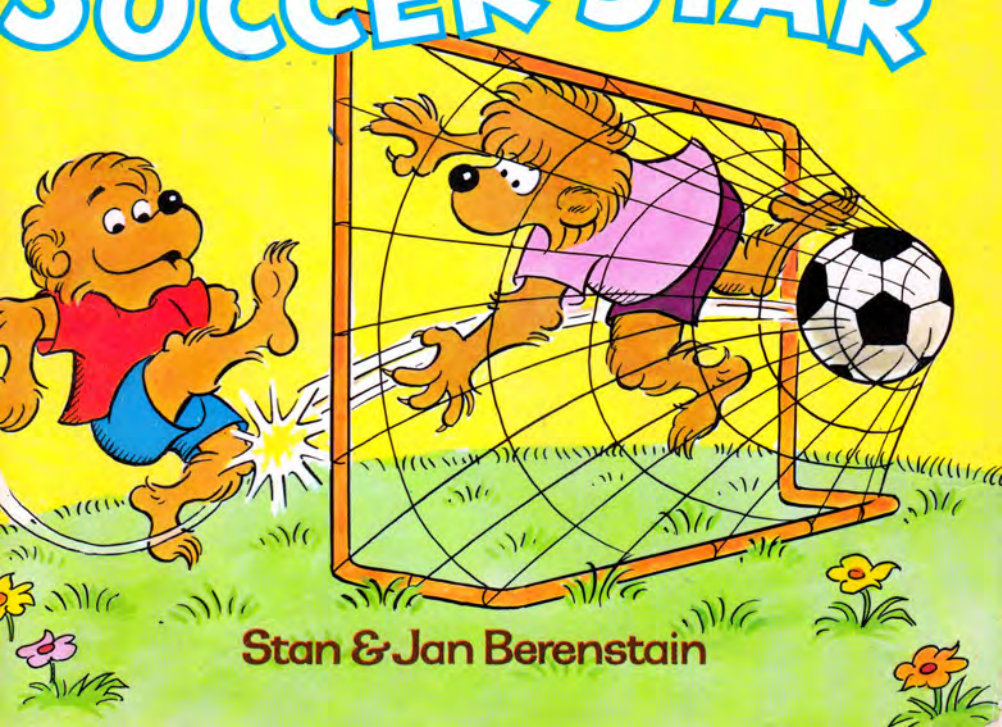


THE BERENSTAIN BEARS' **SOCCER STAR**

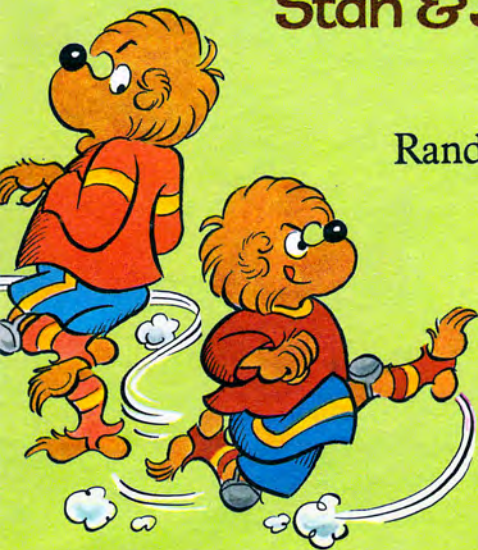


Stan & Jan Berenstain

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS' **SOCCER STAR**

Stan & Jan Berenstain

Random House  New York



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One early fall day when Brother Bear and his friends were playing touch football, Coach Bruin, the athletic director of Bear Country School, posted a sign on the big shagbark hickory that served as the official bulletin tree.





Bear Country School
TRY-OUT
FOR FOOTBALL
TEAM
NEXT SATURDAY

COACH

“Look!” said one of Brother’s playmates. “They’re going to have tryouts for the school football team!”

Now, Brother was a pretty good backyard football player, so when his friends asked, “Are you going out for the team?” Brother answered, “Sure. Why not?”

A cartoon illustration featuring three anthropomorphic bears. The bear in the foreground is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, brown pants, and a blue baseball cap. He is holding a brown American football with both hands and looking at it with a focused expression. Behind him, two other bears are visible. The one on the left is wearing a red baseball cap and a red shirt, looking over the first bear's shoulder. The one on the right is also wearing a red baseball cap and a red shirt, looking towards the sign. They are standing on a patch of green grass. In the background, there is a large yellow sign with black text and red lettering. The sign is pinned to a wooden post. The sky is blue with a few yellow leaves falling from a tree at the top. The overall style is a classic cartoon with bold outlines and bright colors.

Bear Country School

TRY-OUTS

FOR FOOTBALL
TEAM

NEXT SATURDAY

But when he went out for the team,
he found that the other bears who were
trying out came in three sizes—big,
bigger, and colossal.



Brother was a pretty good runner, but it wasn't so easy to run with the ball when much bigger and older bears were trying to stop him.

Brother was a pretty good passer, but it wasn't so easy to pass the ball when Too-tall Grizzly tried to block it.

And Brother was a good pass-catcher too, but it wasn't easy to catch a pass in a crowd when everybody in the crowd was at least a head taller than he was.



Brother got pretty discouraged. But Coach Bruin liked the way Brother Bear did his best.

“Brother, you’re just not big and strong enough yet for the school team. But I like your spirit. How would you like to be Water Bear? You’ll be helping, and you’ll get to ride on the team bus.”

Brother said yes.



Before long it was baseball season.
And once more Coach Bruin posted a
tryout sign.

“Are you going to try out?” Brother’s
playmates asked.

Brother Bear was a good sandlot
baseball player. He was a good fielder,
an excellent base runner, and he usually
got his share of hits.

“I guess so,” he said.



Bear Country School
TRY-OUTS
FOR
BASEBALL
TEAM

But at the tryouts the first thing
Brother had to do was bat against
Too-tall Grizzly.

Brother struck out on three straight
fastballs.





“I don’t think you’re quite ready yet, Brother,” said Coach Bruin. “But how would you like to be Bat Bear?”

“Okay,” said Brother. Being Bat Bear would be all right, but it wouldn’t be like being part of the team.



The same thing happened with basketball. Brother was the smallest one at the tryouts and every time he tried to take a shot—you guessed it—there was Too-tall, ready to block it.

“I still like your spirit,” said the coach. “How would you like to be Manager?”

Now, that sounded pretty impressive, so Brother took the job.



But being manager turned out to mean taking care of all the dirty uniforms and wet towels after the game, and it really wasn't much fun.

Especially when Too-tall Grizzly dumped his dirty shirt and wet towel on Brother's head.

Brother got angry. He got very angry.



He got so angry that he began to kick things around the locker room. He kicked the wet towels. He kicked the water bucket and dipper. He kicked a soda can.

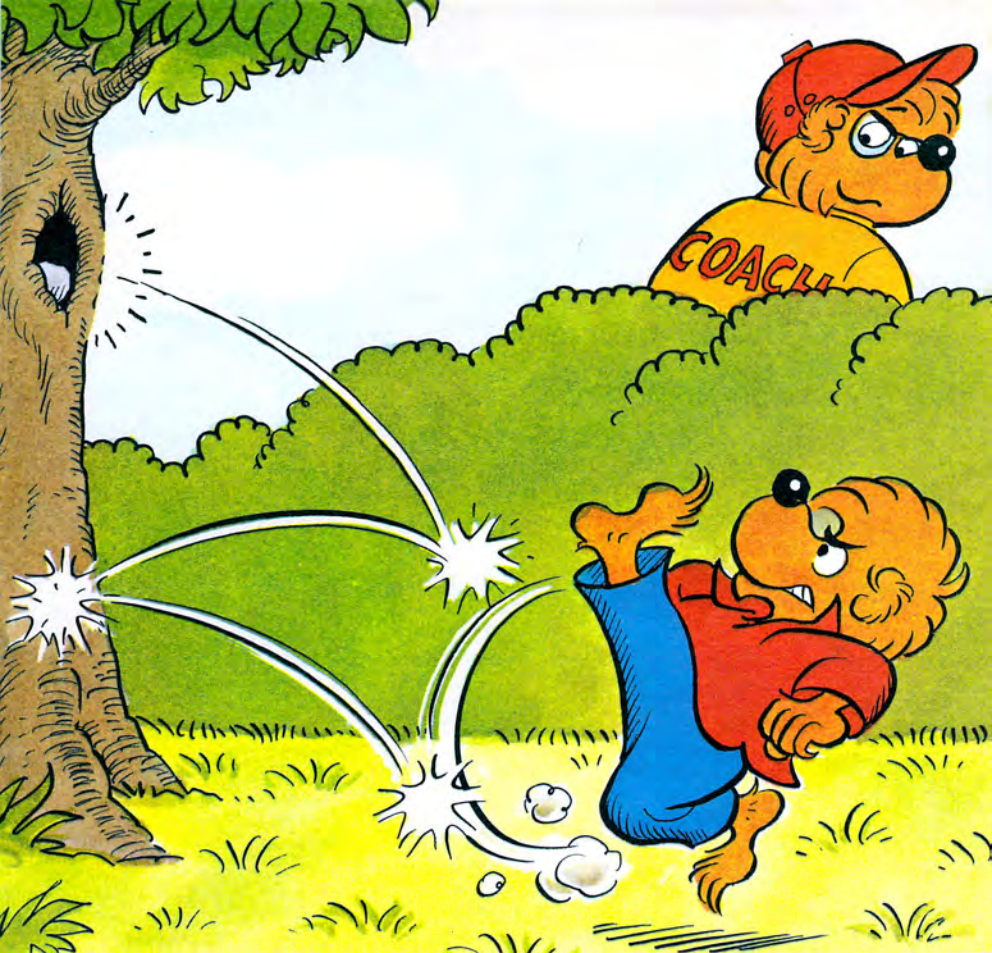


Then Brother went outside and kicked a stone against a tree and when it bounced back, he leaped up and kicked it again—

right into a hole in the tree.

“Just a minute, Brother Bear!” called Coach Bruin.

Brother figured he was in big trouble.



“Sorry about that, Coach,” he said.
“I just got so angry—”

“Never mind about that!” the coach said. “You’re a fantastic kicker, and you’re just the bear I’ve been looking for—for the school soccer team!”



And Brother didn't even have to try out. Not only was he a great kicker, but because he was so quick and small, he ran rings around the bigger players, who were a little clumsy. Once, at practice, he scored by dribbling the ball right between Too-tall's legs!

Brother became Star Forward on the school soccer team.



Brother scored so many winning goals that at the end of the season Too-tall and the other bigger, older players carried Star Forward Brother Bear off the field on their shoulders.

“Good work,” said the coach. “We’re having football tryouts again pretty soon, and, you know, you’re getting bigger and stronger all the time. I’d like you to try out.”

Brother Bear said he’d think about it.





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THE BERENSTAIN BEARS' SOCCER STAR

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS TO THE RESCUE

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE WILD,
WILD HONEY



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