



Near the end of the game, Palito tricked the defender once again. The crowd laughed. The defender turned round and ran straight at Palito. He kicked Palito hard on the legs. Palito fell to the ground and lay still.

The referee immediately sent the defender off the field. The crowd shouted and whistled. Palito did not get to his feet. The team doctor ran out onto the field. Palito was carried off on a stretcher and taken straight to hospital.



The Operation

Chico and the team doctor went with Palito to the hospital. On the way, Palito told them the truth. His legs had been painful for some time. He had not wanted to disappoint Chico or the spectators. He had played in every important game. But he had often felt pains in his legs.

At the hospital, Palito's legs were X-rayed once again. And he was examined by a specialist. He was put in a bed in the hospital and Chico and the team doctor sat beside him. They waited for some time. Then the specialist came in with the X-ray photographs.

'What do you think, doctor?' Chico asked the specialist immediately.

'Palito must have an operation,' replied the specialist.