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CAMP DODGEBALL

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Hector was ready. He'd been preparing for this ever since last Wednesday, when the camp dean announced the Official All Camp Dodgeball Tournament. "All right ladies & germs," the dean had said. "There might be loss of life, limb, and even lymph nodes, but the game must go on." Hector considered the dean's words as he surveyed the damage to his team. They had begun the games well, eliminating several teams early on with their devastating



moves. But Hector's Hecatonchires had not survived unscathed. Big Bones Billy had gotten the worst of it, having lost his throwing arm and 3 lymph nodes. The others were in similar states of pain.

Hector looked up at the new brackets that had been posted for the final rounds. He shuddered. They would be facing the Mauling Manatees. They had caused the majority of the tourney injuries so far, and Hector was not eager to face them again.

When the time came for their bout, the Hecatonchires assembled themselves behind Hector. They could see the Manatees gather behind their captain, Manford, as they cackled and gleefully rubbed their hands together. Hector adjusted his sweatband and set his face in a scowl. He knew his team was ready.

The bell rang.

The fight began.

In less than 30 seconds, carnage reigned. The Hecatonchires had taken out half of the Manatees, but they had lost most of their team in the process. Hector looked to his right as his last teammate took a dodgeball to the stomach. He froze, narrowly avoiding a missile on his left. He was all alone. Three manatees remained.

Hector drew in a deep breath, feeling the oxygen rejuvenate his muscles. He launched his last dodgeball, taking out Captain Manford. He backed up, then ran and leaped into the path of a dodgeball from the Manatees. He landed like a cat, still holding the ball. The thrower was out. The last Manatee hurled dodgeball after dodgeball while Hector skillfully avoided them all.

Finally, as the Manatee was winding up, Hector sent his last ball

Soaring.
Direct hit.