

It sure is nice to know that sportsmanship is not dead. In fact, it was alive and well recently at a Missouri high school football stadium.

Matt Ziesel, a 105 lb. freshman with down syndrome was where he was supposed to be; with his team.

Surrounded by supportive coaches and team mates who have included him in the true sense of the word. Zeisel was a dedicated, devoted team member who worked hard and deserved that spot on the team. Still too young and light to take a hit in a real game, Zeisel runs drills with the team and practiced tackles but much of his time was spent practicing field goal kicks and celebrating big when they go through the uprights. Zeisel always had a "can do" attitude and showed his hustle, the coaches were happy to have him on the team.

No one was expecting it but a little bit of magic happened during that game.

The team was losing ugly, 46-0 so the coach called a time out and trotted out to briefly confer with the opposing coach.

A good sportsmanship agreement was made during their conversation; a genuine kindness for a boy who worked so hard and a team whose hearts were in the right place. The coaches agree to make a hand off to Ziesel and allow him to run long for the TD. Opposing tackle agreed to let him make his run without a hit and what a run it was! A 64 yard touchdown run that brought the entire stadium to its feet, both teams, and more than a couple of tears to the eyes of the people who were there.

"It shows that there's still compassion out there, that there's good people out there," said Don McCamy, the Benton High School freshman coach who gave Matt his chance.

But, it didn't stop there.

Because Zeisel's mom wasn't at the game, the video was posted on Youtube where it quickly became a viral sensation with over 500,000 views and thousands of comments from all over the world.

People all over the world were touched by this simple, generous gesture from these young athletes and the coaches who guide them.

Ziesel wanted nothing more to be part of a team, to win and lose with his team mates but something beautiful grew out of that. He is a real part of a team and the story is an inspirational beacon to people all over the world.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ylwXOxKb7I>