

Sports Radio Talk Show

Enlist three people to perform this skit; **Harry Browne** is the host of a sports talk program. He is interested in hearing an American's viewpoint on British sports.

John Wilson is an American who is interested in British sports, and **Charles Shelley** from London will discuss sports with John.

Harry: Welcome to tonight's Sports Talk Show for the London radio network. I am your host, Harry Browne. Tonight our show will be a dialogue with two sports fans, John Wilson from the United States and Charles Shelley from right here in London. Welcome, gentlemen. (Both say thank you, good to be here, etc.)

Harry: John, I understand that you are quite a sports fan from across the pond. What are some of your favorite sports?

John explains that he enjoys baseball, basketball, and football then he says: Since I'm going to be here for the Olympics next summer, I want to find out about some of your sports.

Charles: I'm so glad you like football; it is one of our favorite games.

John: I know that football means something different in England; it's the game we call soccer. I recently attended a soccer, oops, I mean football, game at a neighborhood park and came away feeling very puzzled.

Harry: In what way?

John: It was a game between two community teams. The game was actually pretty dull; neither team scored a goal, and the game ended in a scoreless tie. In the US, we just don't like ties. I guess we're competitive and want one team to be the winner. If a soccer game ends in a tie even after overtime, the game is decided by penalty kicks. Few of my friends would have stayed around until the end unless a winner was going to be declared. I was really surprised that the people in the stands not only stayed; they stood up cheering and singing for most of the game. How can they get so excited about a tie game?

Charles: I believe I can explain. Since you were watching two neighborhood teams, you probably realized that the people on the teams are friends and representatives of the entire community. We don't have to wait for an exciting goal to cheer; we cheer when our goalkeeper kicks the ball away from the other team. Actually, we cheer even when someone on our favorite team even touches the ball.

Harry: So you see, John, it's like the team is the community and what affects one affects all. Our favorite sports may not be as flashy as those in the US, but they are very important to us.

John: I think I'm beginning to understand. One more thing. I also attended a cricket match, but I still have no idea what is going on with that game.

Charles: I understand it's a lot like American baseball with a batsman and a bowler, or as you say, pitcher. In both sports, a team tries to score runs. Instead of a diamond, the cricket field is a rectangle, and a team bats until it is dismissed.


John: One of the people sitting near me said a cricket match may take three or four days; I don't think I'm patient enough for that.

Charles: We enjoy cricket, so the more we get to watch, the better we like it.

Harry: John and Charles, I'm afraid we're out of time. Thank you for helping us to see some differences in American and British outlooks on sports and thanks also for being a part of London Sports radio . . . Goodnight, everyone.

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