

PATRICK SCALISI'S EARLY WORK

“The Goal”

I composed this fabulous story about a bike race in fourth or fifth grade (1992-94). What it lacks in plot, punctuation and style, it makes up for with a fabulous hand-painted background created by yours truly. Everyone in the class had to compose a one-page story, which was then glued to a hand-painted background created by the author, laminated and placed in a large binder. The finished result was a “book” created by the whole class. I don't know why I chose the name Brian for one of the characters, but Joey was one of my good friends at the time.

The Goal

"Ouch, said Brian as he fell off his bike again. How am I suppose to get on this thing if it doesn't stay up itself?"

"Just jump on quickly and put your feet down. You have to learn to ride a bike perfectly if you want to win this race."

"But its just so hard . If I even do enter, Joey, then I probably won't win. There's a very slim chance of it happening."

"How is he doing? Can he use the hand brake yet?"

"The hand brake!! said Joey as his face got redder. Pat, he can't even get on the bike let alone use the hand brake."

"Okay, then answer this, said Pat slyly. How will we win the trophy?"

" Is this a trick question?"

"No."

"How about this," said Brian, "if you would stop arguing then maybe, just maybe I could learn!"

"You know something, he's right," said Joey.

Soon Brian was hitting asphalt. By the time it was race day he knew all the tricks in the book. When the big day arrived the course was so crowded and so noisy that even if you dropped a bomb you probably wouldn't hear it.

"To the starting line," the announcer said with excitement. "This is how the race begins. First, go over the ramps and through the rings. Next, go through the mud pit and cross the lake. Third, go across the grassy meadow and do a 360 degree turn in the painted circles. Finally cross the finish line where you will be awarded your trophies. READY...SET...GO!!"

The announcer shot a flare into the air which looked like a speeding train. When the race began Brian didn't take the lead. Actually he was 5th. in line!

"This can't be," said Joey in amazement, "Why isn't he going as fast as he was at home?"

Then something amazing happened. The boy in front of him fell and the third girl in line lost speed! He started to close in and became second in line. The battle for first place continued until about ten feet from the finish line. It looked

as though it was a tie. They both crossed the finish line at full speed. It was a photo finish! The judges closely examined the pictures. The saw that Brian's tire was indeed five inches ahead of the other bike! They announced the news to the crowd and Brian did indeed win first place.

By: Patrick Scalisi