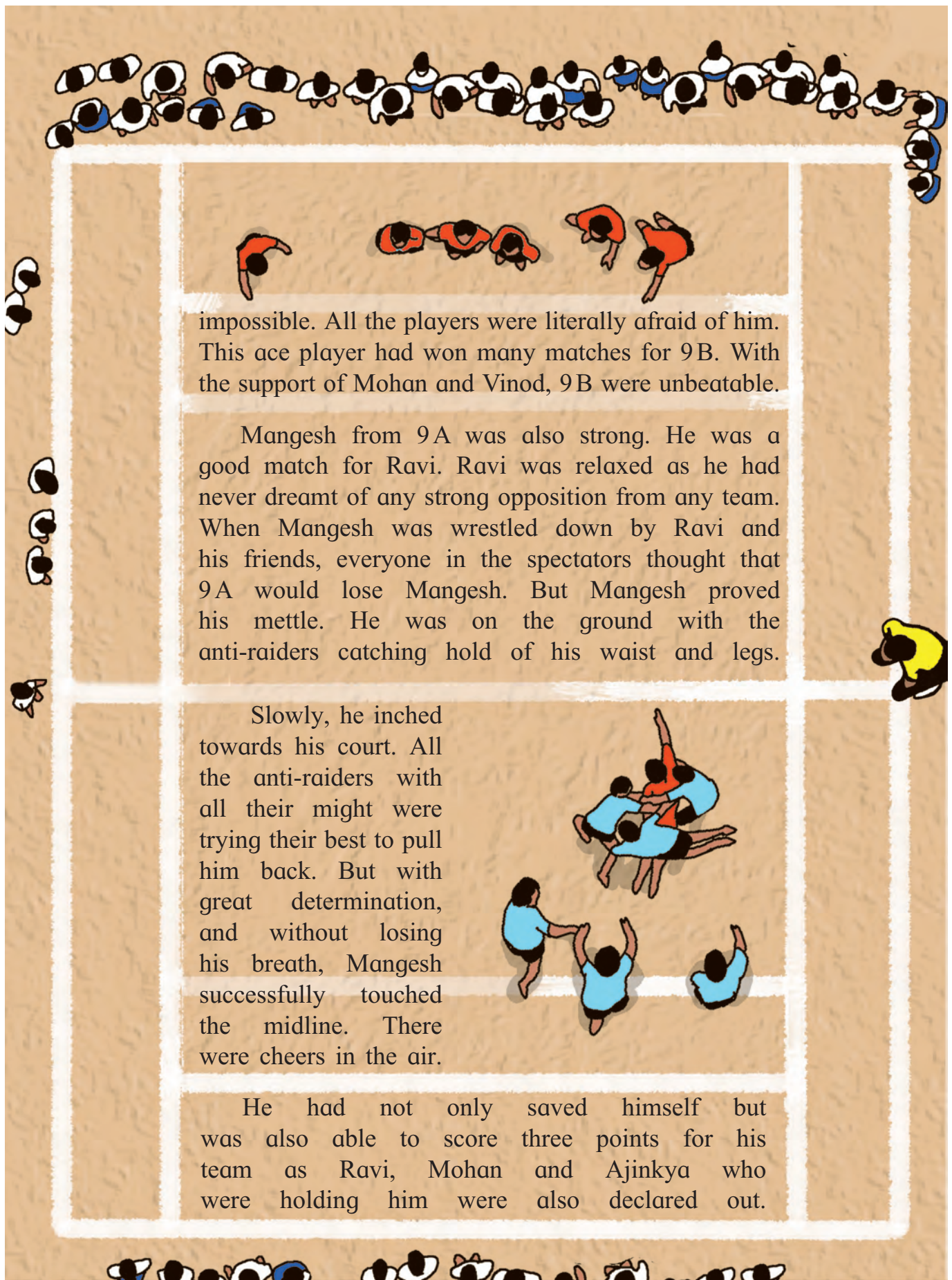




The school sports meet was scheduled next month. The practice matches had already begun. 9B were the favourites as they had strong players in their team. The Kabaddi trials were on. This year there were three new students in class 9A. To everyone's surprise, they proved to be outstanding players. 9A's hopes soared.

When the match started, all the spectators clapped and boosted the morale of both the teams. 9A won the toss and sent their raider Govind. He was so swift that before the opponents realized it, he had touched Suresh from 9B, and was already heading home. A point was scored.

Ravi from 9B was a very strong player. He alone was sufficient to catch hold of any player so tightly in between his legs twisted like scissors that releasing oneself from his grip was next to

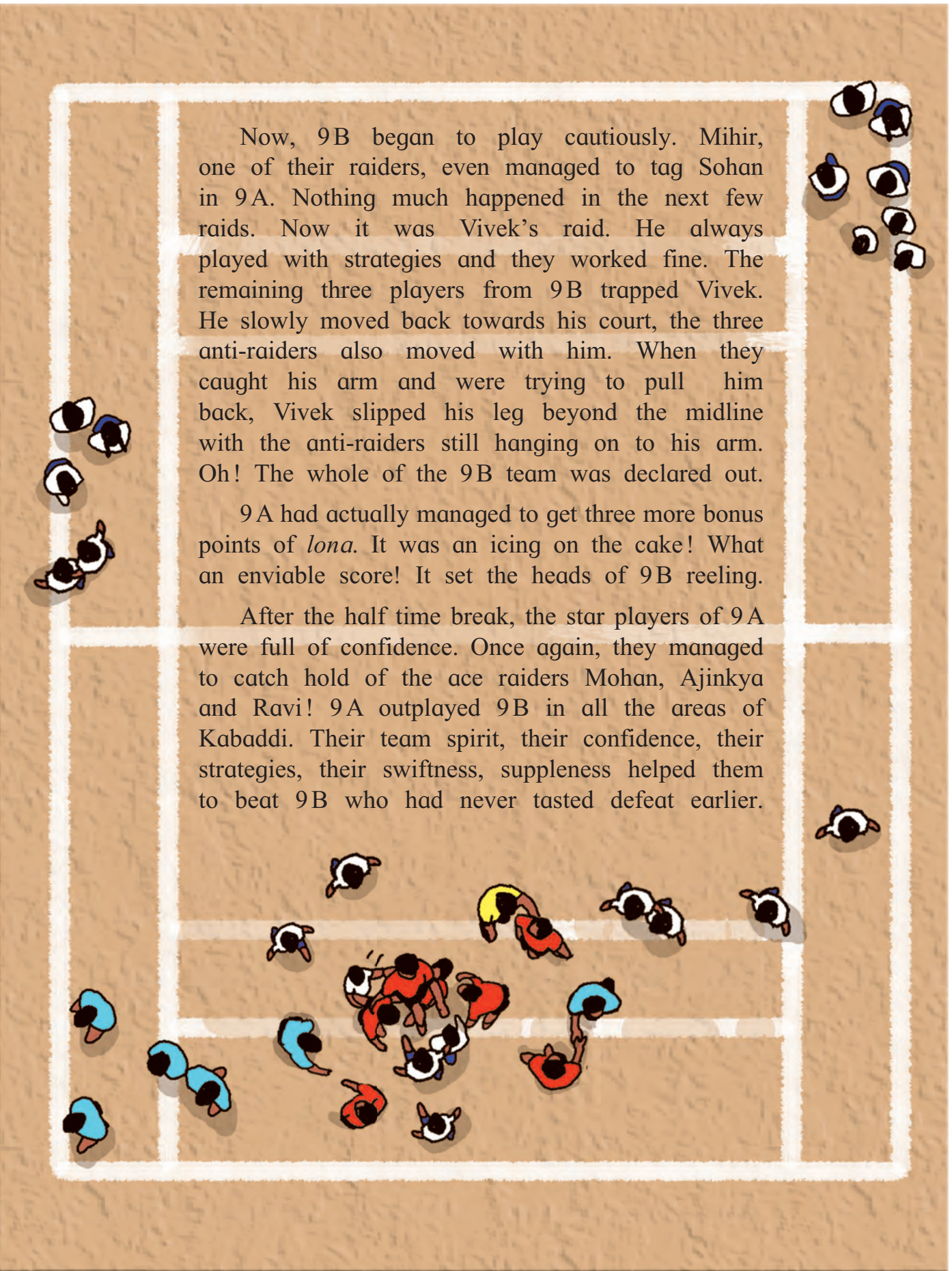


impossible. All the players were literally afraid of him. This ace player had won many matches for 9B. With the support of Mohan and Vinod, 9B were unbeatable.

Mangesh from 9A was also strong. He was a good match for Ravi. Ravi was relaxed as he had never dreamt of any strong opposition from any team. When Mangesh was wrestled down by Ravi and his friends, everyone in the spectators thought that 9A would lose Mangesh. But Mangesh proved his mettle. He was on the ground with the anti-raiders catching hold of his waist and legs.

Slowly, he inched towards his court. All the anti-raiders with all their might were trying their best to pull him back. But with great determination, and without losing his breath, Mangesh successfully touched the midline. There were cheers in the air.

He had not only saved himself but was also able to score three points for his team as Ravi, Mohan and Ajinkya who were holding him were also declared out.

An illustration of a Kabaddi court. The court is a large rectangle with a white border and a central white line. The ground is brown. There are several players on the court, some in red and blue uniforms, and some in white uniforms. Some players are in a huddle in the center, while others are scattered around. There are also several spectators, represented by stylized heads with eyes, looking on from the sides and corners of the court. The text is placed in the upper right quadrant of the court.

Now, 9B began to play cautiously. Mihir, one of their raiders, even managed to tag Sohan in 9A. Nothing much happened in the next few raids. Now it was Vivek's raid. He always played with strategies and they worked fine. The remaining three players from 9B trapped Vivek. He slowly moved back towards his court, the three anti-raiders also moved with him. When they caught his arm and were trying to pull him back, Vivek slipped his leg beyond the midline with the anti-raiders still hanging on to his arm. Oh! The whole of the 9B team was declared out.

9A had actually managed to get three more bonus points of *lona*. It was an icing on the cake! What an enviable score! It set the heads of 9B reeling.

After the half time break, the star players of 9A were full of confidence. Once again, they managed to catch hold of the ace raiders Mohan, Ajinkya and Ravi! 9A outplayed 9B in all the areas of Kabaddi. Their team spirit, their confidence, their strategies, their swiftness, suppleness helped them to beat 9B who had never tasted defeat earlier.

**Kabaddi** is an ancient sport. It originated in India and has now become popular in many countries, so that many international events are organized. In these events, international rules are followed, but several other Kabaddi styles such as Sanjeevani, Gaminee, Amar, etc. are followed in different parts of India.



In Kabaddi, two teams of seven members each face each other in a flat rectangular court, divided by a midline. The game is usually played in two halves with a halftime break in between. After the break, the teams exchange their sides in the court.

To play the game, each team sends 'raiders' across the midline to the other team. The raider tries to 'tag' the opponents and run back to his side, all in one breath. To show that he hasn't inhaled again, he has to chant 'Kabaddi-Kabaddi' all the time. If he has to inhale again, he is 'out'. The opponents try to catch the raider and stop him going back to his half till he loses his breath, and has to inhale again. If the raider manages to go back successfully, all the persons he has tagged and all those who have touched him are declared out. For each player declared out, the opposite team scores a point. If all the seven players in a team are 'out', the opposite team gets bonus points - a *lona*. The team with the maximum points wins the match.



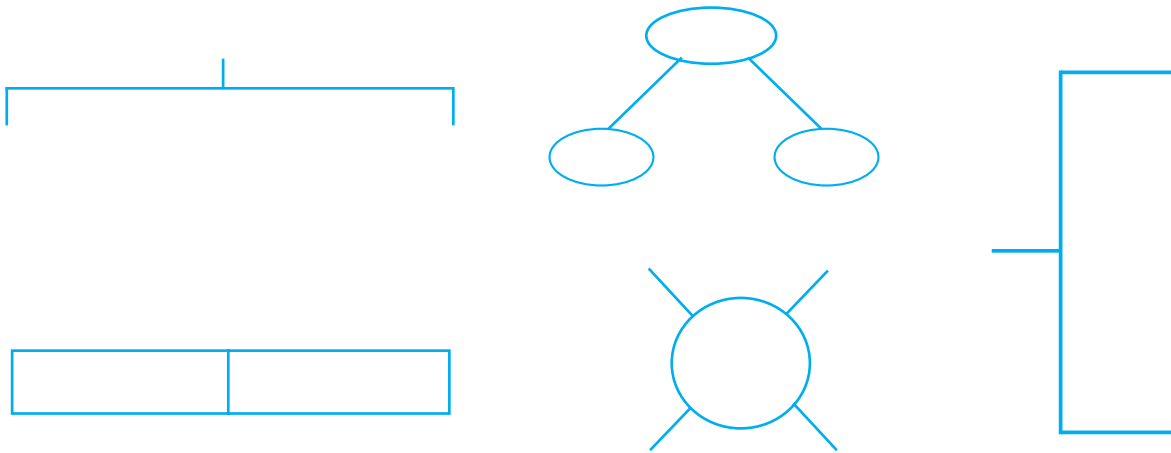
The game of Kabaddi requires good health, muscular strength, strategic skills, a lot of practice and above all, great determination. Indian girls and boys have always excelled at Kabaddi. Would you like to be an ace Kabaddi player when you are a little older? Who knows, if you make a resolve now, one day you may help win glory for your school, district, or even the State and the Country.

**POINTERS**

1. Form pairs. Make a list of as many games as you can. (At least 25)  
Then classify the games using the following criteria:

- \* Indoor and outdoor games.
- \* Games played with and without any equipment.
- \* Games which have one-to-one matches and those in which teams play against each other (Single player or team)
- \* Games played mostly by children and games played by adult players.
- \* Shape and size of the court or field.

Use the following figures to show your classification.



2. Read the description of the Kabaddi match and do the following:
  - (a) Note down the names of the players and say whether each one belongs to 9 A or 9 B.
  - (b) Describe, in your own words, the important events in the first half.
  - (c) Write, in your own words, what happened in the second half.
  - (d) Choose any one event and draw a diagram to show what happened.
3. List all the words specially used in the game of Kabaddi.
4. From the internet or other sources, find the other names by which Kabaddi is known in different parts of our country and the world.
5. What characteristics are needed to be a good player of Kabaddi? What should you do to develop each? Discuss this in groups of 5 and write a composition on it.

6. Read the following note from a school girl's diary :

Miss Fernandes is our new class teacher. She is slim and fit even at the age of 50. With her grey hair, spectacles and plain formal clothes, she looks so strict!

But we discovered that her classes can be great fun. We begin each class with a simple two-minute game or activity. Today, we had to write as many words beginning with 'a' as we could, within 60 seconds. I wrote 50! I got a pat on my back for making 'the best effort'! I feel on top of the world.

Write diary entries for the interesting or important events that take place in your school. Write at least 3 entries.

7. Language Study : Degrees of comparison.

We use different forms of adjectives and adverbs to show comparison. They are known as degrees of comparison.

Positive : Mangesh was *as strong as* Ravi.  
She is *as tall as* her sister.

Comparative : Mangesh was *stronger than* other players.  
She is *taller than* her sister.

Superlative : Mangesh was *the strongest* player in the team.  
Their sister is *the tallest* amongst the three.

8. Complete the following sentences using your own ideas.

- The princess was as ..... as ..... . (Positive)
- The princess was ..... than ..... . (Comparative)
- The princess was the ..... amongst all ..... . (Superlative)

Note that we usually add '-er', '-est' to short adjectives and use 'more' or 'most' with longer adjectives.

Examples :

- high - higher - highest
- attractive - more attractive - most attractive
- nice - nicer - nicest
- interesting - more interesting - most interesting

9. Read the following words and name the degree of comparison shown by each.

good - better - best

bad - worse - worst