

Goalball

Created for the 2019 NPR Student Podcast Challenge

(Game sounds; rolling ball with bell inside)

Charlie Lechtenberg: Out!

(Game sounds continue)

Charlie Lechtenberg: Ball in play!

Goalball player (Max): The team aspect...just being able to get to know your team and traveling with them...

Goalball player (Coby): ...I think it's unique in the sense that it's, it's, it puts all of us on a level playing field vision wise, and then it uses completely different ah, like sensory abilities um, 'cause it's not just like seeing, seeing a football or baseball it's hearing a goalball rolling across the gym...

(Background talking and game sounds)

Goalball player (Georgs): My favorite part of goalball is throwing. Um, I'm very bad at blocking the balls, but I can throw them so, I really rely on my team to block them and I destroy them so, I like that part.

(Background talking)

Goalball player (Tori): Well, it's, it's sort of a freedom kinda for me where I can go and um, just let everything else in life kind of go

and I can kind of just play a sport that I know well um and not have any limitations.

Kadence: Hi, my name is Kadence.

Maddie: My name is Maddie.

Riley: And I'm Riley.

Maddie: And we are students at Minnesota State Academy for the Blind.

Riley: And we would like to tell you about a sport called Goalball.

Kadence: Goalball is a sport for the blind and visually impaired. What you just heard were some favorite things about the sport. We also asked around about the history of Goalball in *Minnesota*.

(Game sounds)

Mrs. Shallbetter: Two wonderful men in Minnesota, one John Gillen from the school for the blind here in Faribault, and one from Bemidji State University, Dr. James Mastro and they got together, and they created the game called goalball*. At first, it was a girl's ball and a boy's ball. The girl's ball was smaller and now, and the boy's ball was much larger, they have bells inside of them and now it's one ball; we have a universal ball.

(Game sounds)

Charlie Lechtenberg: Goal!

(Game Sounds)

Charlie Lechtenberg: Well, I teach the players, you know...where their positions are, how to throw, different kind of throws, different blocking styles, and depends on the players and what they're comfortable with, and, the positions they play and if they can block standing up, or they just stay on the ground and working with different throws with them too.

(Game sounds, crowd cheering)

Rocky: The most important rule is that everyone wears a blindfold, it doesn't matter if your totally blind or if you have 20/20 vision. Everyone wears a blindfold because goalball is a listening game designed for people who are blind. Um, you, it's ah, usually it's six to seven minute half with a two to three minute half time, per game. You have three players offence and defense. You cannot, um throw the ball too high; it has to be rolled on the ground. Um, you cannot make any noises during the game, you can't touch your blindfold, that also a penalty um...You, it used to be you couldn't throw the ball more than three times, that, that has since been reversed. But ah, you know, for the most part it is a pretty simple game, ah, but really the most important like I said, is everybody wears a blindfold. That's, that is a mandated requirement for all players.

Riley: So, what do you wear to play goalball?

Max: Let's start with the basics, um, obviously some sweatpants would be good, cause, cause you can slide around the floor pretty easily. Um, other stuff would be like ya know, knee pads, elbow pads, um, and the most important thing obviously is blindfolds. So that you can actually play the game properly without breaking the rules.

(Game sounds, goalball rolling)

Goalball player (Ashlan): The sport of goalball is meant to be like an ah, it's an adaptive sport, but it's not exactly adaptive it's completely, it's completely from the ground up meant for visually impaired students. So, it's, it's, it allows us as visually impaired students to actually participate and not have to have extra ah, help or assistants for a, a para, or ah, or change the game with an adaptive ball or something like that. It's actually ah, meant or intended, originally intended for us and ah, our disabilities and works around that.

(Game sounds, ball rolling)

Goalball player (Coby): It's a good thing for anybody who is blind or vision impaired. I think it's something everybody should try.

(Game buzzer)

(Clapping and cheering)

Kadence: We'd like to thank all the people who helped us with this podcast, including Max, Coby, Georgs, Tori, Kadence, Maddy, Riley, Mrs. Shallbetter, Mr. Lechtenburg also known as Coach, Rocky and Ashlan. Thank you.

**Goalball was invented in 1946 by Hanz Lorenzen and Sepp Reindle for WWII veterans. It was introduced decades later in Minnesota.*