

THE SUDDEN DEATH SHOOT-OUT

By Rod

Based on 1 Samuel 17 – David’s stoning of Goliath. It is set as if a football match that goes to penalties. Gary and Alan are two pundits in the studio who act as commentators. David and Goliath do not need to appear – but could if so desired. They would have to mime the action. They could appear when Gary begins to describe the action.

CAST

Gary *Link man and main commentator. Based on Gary Lineker (but any character will do)*
Alan *Expert analyst. Based on Alan Hansen (but any character will do)*
Gabby *Interviwer. Based on Gabby Yorath (but any character will do)*
Terry Aviv *Manager of Israel’s team. Based on Terry Venables (but any character will do)*
Goliath *Must be tall!!!*
David *Must be young and small!!!! (e.g. kneeling)*

Gary Good evening and welcome to the magnificent Soch stadium. Today we have a real David and Goliath battle between the mighty Philistines on one side and the tiny minnows from Israel on the other.
And I can tell you that the score at full-time is a total stalemate at nil –nil.
Well, Alan, what do you think of the tactics employed by the two teams so far? Perhaps we could start with Israel first.

Alan I have to say, Gary, that I have never seen anything like it. I’ve heard of a flat back four but Israel seem to be playing a flat back everybody. They have never tried to attack at all. In fact they seem totally terrified and were afraid even to come out of their own half.

Gary And what about the Philistines?

Alan Their tactics are equally bizarre. They have just the one man up front. But all he seems to have done is shout a lot.
It’s been really boring. Neither side even looked like shooting, let alone scoring.

Gary Thanks, Alan.
Well, everybody, as a result of the nil all scoreline the match will go to penalties. And I can tell you that it will be sudden death.
Alan, what do we know about the two players involved? First of all for the Philistines – Goliath.

Alan We do know he is big, that’s for sure.

Gary Nine foot tall I believe.

Alan That's right.

Gary So he should be good in the air.

Alan No doubt about that. But whether that will be of any help in the penalty shoot out remains to be seen.

Gary He was the lone striker you were referring to earlier.

Alan That's right. And he has a formidable international reputation. He has numerous caps – most of them bronze, I am told.

Gary Really? And what about Israel's champion – the lad, David.

Alan Lad is the right description. We know very little about him. He's never played in an international and, as far as I can gather, his only significant appearances have been against Wolves.
But the rumour is that he has got a terrific shot from long range.

Gary Given that we know so little about him, I am delighted to be able to tell viewers that Israel's manager, Terry Aviv, has joined us. He's with Gabby now. Over to you, Gabby.

Gabby Thanks, Gary. Well, Tel, we're intrigued to know why you selected this unknown, David, for such a crucial role against such a formidable opponent.

Tel Well, basically, Gabby – because he offered.

Gabby But he wasn't even in your starting line up.

Tel That's true but he seemed confident. And, to be perfectly frank with you, Gabby, the rest of the team looked terrified.

Gabby How come he was so confident?

Tel He said that he felt that the hand of God was on him.

Gabby And that persuaded you?

Tel Well, I figured that it worked OK for Maradona – so maybe it'll work for him.

Gabby What do you think are his chances?

Tel We'll have to wait and see.

Gabby Thanks very much, Tel Aviv. Back to you, Gary.

[David and Goliath could appear at this point. David could prepare his sling. Goliath could prepare in the way a goal-keeper does]

Gary Thanks, Gabby. Back to the action then and the penalty shoot-out is about to begin. The two players are facing up to each other. *[David & Goliath mouth words at each other]* There appears to be a bit of banter between them. What do you think they're saying, Alan.

Alan I don't think they're exchanging telephone numbers, that's for sure.

Gary The difference in their sizes is enormous. Goliath is towering over David. *[Goliath glares down at David]*

Alan He's got no chance.

Gary But he seems undeterred and it looks as though David will go first. He begins his wind-up.....*[David releases sling, Goliath clutches his head and falls to the ground]* Oh, what a shot! Right in the top corner

Alan Well stone me!

Gary Stone Goliath actually. He's out cold.

Alan He certainly is. That's a fantastic result for Israel.

[Tel appears to congratulate David holding his hand aloft in triumph- in the way a boxing referee would announce the winner]

Gary Perhaps David was right when he said the hand of God was with him.

Alan That may well be, Gary. But, whatever, we certainly have a major upset. Israel, in the shape of David, have become real giantkillers today.

Gary So there we have it, ladies and gentlemen, the result from the Socoh stadium is: Israel one, Philistines nil.
Or maybe that should be: God won, Philistines lost.
Goodnight.

THE END