



SKAT.

By David A. Moschetti, 12

SKAT is kind of a detective agency. Actually it is four kids pretending to be detectives. The SKAT comes from the first letter in each of their names. Sid is the leader. Kyle is the person in charge of the money. Amy is the spy. And Tammy is the secretary. They all live in a fairly nice apartment house in Chicago. Across the street is their hideout. It has a table, four chairs, a lamp and, when Kyle remembers to bring it, a stereo. The hideout is a basement covered with boards. When the city knocked the building down in 1955, they forgot to fill in the basement.

Butch and his gang are the SKAT's archenemies. Butch's gang almost rules the school. There are about 25 kids in the gang. They wear spiked gloves and bracelets, chains, spiked belts and rock 'n' roll bandannas. They look pretty scary, but they're really wimps. Trouble is, they usually travel in groups of at least three.

One day during seventh period Sid passed a note to every member of SKAT. "Go to the hideout after school. I have a case. P.S. Get there fast."

As the final bell rang, everybody rushed out of class and into the hall. Ten minutes later all of SKAT was assembled except for Kyle who had been detained by Butch and three other guys. As Kyle left school, Butch had tripped him, causing him to drop all of his books. As Kyle got up, he noticed that Butch's three goons were watching a cute girl go by. Before Butch knew what was happening, Kyle was out the door running as fast as he could. After about five detours he made it to the hideout and safety.

Amy asked what took so long and after Kyle explained about Butch, they all laughed. Then Sid said, "Back to the point of this meeting. Amy heard something about Butch and his gang fixing the football game between the Eagles and Rams tomorrow."

Kyle said he'd heard Mitch say something about Johnny, the Eagle quarterback, and a mirror. Tammy made the first guess. "Maybe Johnny will have a mirror taped to his helmet. He could catch the sun's rays and blind the defense." But without more facts, the SKAT gang couldn't be sure who the fix was against. Maybe somebody in the audience was going to flash a mirror in Johnny's eyes. Sid told the gang to meet back at the hideout at 8 p.m. so they could go and search the Eagles' locker room.

That night the gang met at the hideout and headed over to the locker

room. On the way there Amy and Tammy complained about having to search a boy's locker. Finally Sid convinced them it wouldn't be that bad. When they got there Kyle and Amy took the first aisle and Sid and Tammy took the second. After about fifteen minutes both couples reported no sign of foul play. The disappointed gang went back to their apartments. That night Sid tried to piece everything together.

Sid knew that Butch and his gang were involved in cheating for the Rams. They were going to flash a mirror in Johnny's eyes but he didn't know who would do it or when.

The next morning Sid met Tammy going to school and asked if she had come up with anything. She said, "No." Before school started, Sid told the SKAT team to meet on the front step at lunch. They would follow Eric (a member of Butch's gang) and corner him. They knew he walked home alone at lunch break.

At lunch recess, SKAT started after him. They took a few shortcuts to get ahead of him. When Eric rounded the corner, he saw Sid and Tammy coming right at him. He turned and started to run, but Kyle and Amy blocked his way. He stopped dead in his tracks and waited for them to grab him. As soon as they did he blurted out that Butch was going to make Rick hold the mirror to blind Johnny's eyes in the third quarter, but he didn't know where Rick was going to be. Eric begged SKAT not to tell anyone where they found out about the plan.

Sid told the SKAT team to listen to every word anybody in Butch's gang said. By sixth period nobody had heard anything. Sid told Tammy to get Rick to tell her where he was going to sit. So during reading, Tammy walked up to Rick and said, "Hi, Rick. Where are you going to sit at the game? I want to sit by you."

Before he could answer Jim said, "You can sit by me, baby." Then a fight broke out between them. Tammy gave up and left.

After school SKAT searched the stands for what seemed like hours. With about two minutes of halftime left, SKAT went to their seats. As Sid took a look around, he saw Rick just two seats away. Rick was getting a mirror from a duffel bag. Sid crept up behind him. Just as Rick held the mirror up, Sid yanked it from his hands. Rick ran off whimpering about Butch being mad.

Another case had been solved and Butch's plan was crushed.