



Offside

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Lily Parr was a real person from Lancashire who lived in the 1900s, playing football during the First World War for Dick Kerr's Ladies, a factory team. She was the first woman in the football hall of fame. In this speech, it is 1921 and teenage Lily is playing football, but she's up against obstacles. The Football Association are trying to ban women from playing the game. Despite this, Lily's commitment does not waver.

LILY: I played it with my heart and soul
I did.

Left foot to lamppost and back again.

Ten years of my life spent kicking a ball,

Most of them hidden away down alleyways.

War-time made it our time,

Time to take a ball to a field as big as the sky

Not just stuck down an alley -

Left foot to lamppost and back again.

Left foot to lamppost and back again.

At the factory,

Some said we'd not have enough players for a team.

But we did.

Said we'd not get any matches. But we did.

Said no one would want to watch. But they did.

Said no one would keep watching.

But they did.

They just kept buying tickets,

Punters turning turnstiles clicking across the country

From Preston to Glasgow

London to Liverpool.

But the men are back from war

And they - meaning the FA, don't want us playing this 'man's game' anymore.

In one match we had 53,000 spectators last year,

Now they ban us from the grounds saying

You're not welcome here?

This match we played last week was a final protest,

Representing all women's teams in the country,

To try and stop the whistles blowing *stop* on our dreams...

My eyes were on the ball, they always are.

My eyes and my left foot,

Cos of them I scored forty-three goals in my first season alone,

Coming up to about four hundred all in all now.

I ran quick like I used to do as a kid in the back streets

Off to find blackberries for the jam we lived off,
But my focus was off -
I knew those FA tools were in the crowd.
Then of thousands of people
But I just wanted to see *their* faces, *their* eyes.
Catch them, keep them on me
As I speed down the pitch they want to ban me from
Just because I'm a flipping woman.
I've scored more goals than they've ever seen!
I stumbled, felt the taste of mud in my mouth,
Swore - sorry Mum - as I spat it out.
The other team scored, but so what,
I just cared that those 'officials' could sit there now and say
See, she can't even keep herself off the group -

I got up.
I always get up.
I was running towards the next
About to kick the ball,
Another goal to get,
I've got the most of any girl,
When I froze.
In the seat in front of me, where my dad always sat,
There they were, those red faces I'd been searching from,
The FA officials, taking up the space my dad should be at,
Now he was a few rows back.
These matches we've been playing for four years
Have made more money for our lads back from wat
That the bloody government or the FA ever has-
Posh puckered lips sipping sweet tea in the capital
And my anger is tangible, I won't slip up again,
I kick the ball so hard my toe cracks -
Back of the net, how d'ya like that!

Scene 2