

The matches wouldn't get under way for another fifteen minutes. The first of the spectators were just starting to come into the rec hall. Sulu walked through the competitors until he found Chekov.

"Pavel." Sulu smiled when he walked up to him. "How are you feeling?"

"Fine." Chekov said as he continued his stretching.

"Ready for Silber?"

"Will my answer effect you betting?" Chekov asked.

"The bet is already made." Sulu laughed. He lowered his voice. "I understand Silber is not familiar with Daran rules."

"I have heard that rumor going around, but it is not true." Chekov said. "He merely wrestled under Rigelian rules at Starbase Twenty Six."

"Really?"

Chekov stopped stretching and looked his friend in the eye. "Will that change your bet?"

"Of course not." Sulu said. "I just thought I'd stop by. See if there was anything I could do?"

"Hikaru."

"What?"

"Go away." Chekov said. "You are not helping."

"All right, all right." Sulu laughed as he walked away. "Good luck."

"Lt. Esteban." Sulu said as he walked into the security office. "It's too bad you were on duty. You really should have seen it in person."

"I had it on the monitor." Esteban said. "I really thought Silber had him. Then Chekov pulled a reverse Daran twist. Silber looked totally surprised."

"Yeah." Sulu grinned. "He did. I believe the bet was fifty."

"Yes, fifty." Esteban nodded. "And as soon as I get off duty, I'll pay up."

"Everything quiet here?" Sulu asked with a nod to the prisoners.

"Yes Sir." Esteban said. "They've been told that they will be transferred to the base at the beginning of first shift and that the Romulan Ambassador will be there. I don't expect any problems between now and then."

"Good." Sulu smiled. "There's a victory party for Chekov in rec two. I'm sure it will still be going on when you get off duty."

"I'll look for you there." Esteban said.

After Commander Sulu left the security office, Subcommander Kelvew came to the edge of his cell. He appeared to be studying Lt. Esteban. Finally he said. "You lost the bet?"

Esteban leaned back in his chair. "Yeah. A wrestling match. It was close. Could have gone either way. Don't Romulans bet on sporting events?"

"We do." Kelvew said. "I am just surprised that Humans do also."