

First Bout: Andromedolls Vs. Crotch Rockets

Jam zipped down the neon track, feather-light in low gravity. She rocketed forward, a glowing haze in her starred helmet, and shot past the pack. The crowd cheered, "Space Jammer!" as she neared the line. Time for her to rack up the points.

"Star Pass! Medusa's coming!"

Her heart hopped like a caffeinated frog as Medusa hissed up the track. Onlookers cheered, "Me-du-sa! Me-du-sa!"

She waved frantically, ending the jam just before Medusa struck.

Medusa skidded to a stop and tossed her head. "Jelly, you are *toasst*." Her green braids *hissed*.

The whistle blew, and the next jam began. Jam cut to the left—blocked! She jumped—cut off! She leapt—but Medusa broke through the Rockets' defenses, racing down the track.

No! Jam flew after her, squeezing past the Andromedolls' blockers. Then the lights flickered, a blinding rainbow, and gravity shifted to Jupiter levels, hard and heavy. She crouched to gain speed, passing Medusa.

Smack!

Medusa hip-checked her with the sharp force of a cobra.

Jam wobbled and wheeled. The Andromedolls' blockers clipped her, and she hit the ground with a wet *smack!* "Oww." She lay on her back, dazed and catching her breath. That hurt, even for a goo girl.

The ref whistled, signaling the end of the jam. Medusa appeared above her, offering her a hand up. "Sorry, Strawberry." For a long moment, Jam only stared at her and the golden scales sparkling on her cheek. *So shiny.*

Jam blinked the stars from her eyes and took her cool hand. "I'm good!"

And then they were off again, chasing each other 'round the rink for the rest of the bout.

The last whistle blew, and the scores came in: Crotch Rockets, 64; Andromedolls, 62.

In the locker room, Jam tugged off her helmet as Medusa approached. "Good game."

"You too, babe." Medusa snaked a scaly arm around her. "But next time, *you're* going down."

"Ugh." Jam winced and leaned against her with a heavy sigh. "Tell that to my bruised ass."

She pecked Jam's strawberry cheek. "I'll ice it when we get home."