Joe Vitelli was excited. He liked to watch baseball, and his favorite team was going to play Saturday night. It was a championship game – the biggest game of the year. He was thinking about the game.

“Maybe I’ll invite some friends to my apartment,” he thought. “We can eat pizza and watch the game on TV.” Then the phone rang. It was Joe’s girlfriend.

“Hi!” she said. “I bought my dress today.”

“Your dress?” Joe asked.

“Yes, the dress for the dance,” she answered. “Remember? You’re taking me to the dance Saturday night.”

“Oh, no,” Joe thought. “I forgot: The dance is Saturday night.”

“Joe?” his girlfriend asked. “You’re taking me to the dance, right?”

“Right!” Joe said. “See you Saturday night.” Joe hung up the phone. What bad luck! The baseball game and the dance were on the same night!

Joe didn’t want to go to the dance. He wanted to watch the baseball game. The next day, he called his girlfriend.

“I’m sorry,” he told her. “I can’t go dancing Saturday night. Today I was playing football, and I broke my leg.”

“Oh, no! Poor Joe!” his girlfriend said.

On Saturday night, Joe’s girlfriend went to the dance alone, and he watched the baseball game on TV.

It was a great game, and his team won. But now Joe had a problem.

He and his girlfriend went to the same small university, and he saw her almost every day.

 A broken leg is in a cast. Joe didn’t really have a broken leg, so his leg wasn’t in a cast.

Joe bought a big white bandage and put it on his leg.

Then he rented a wheelchair.

Every day a friend pushed him in the wheelchair from his apartment to the university.

For two weeks, Joe’s plan worked perfectly.

Then he got caught.

He went shopping without his bandage and without his wheelchair.

He was walking through the store when his girlfriend saw him.

Joe doesn’t have a girlfriend anymore.

Now he has a lot of time to watch baseball games, and he is free every Saturday night.