

Chapter 33: The Throw

Chapter 33: The Throw highlights a crucial turning point during a tense football game that pushed the Cubs to their limits, demanding resilience and quick thinking. It was a chilly evening, with the temperature hovering around fifty degrees, as Coach Davidson removed his blue Faith Baptist varsity jacket, preparing for what would become an intense battle on the field. The Cubs were midway through the first quarter and, despite facing a tough start, were determined to make a comeback. Their third drive of the game saw them attempt a screen pass, a play that had been successful in previous games but had faltered earlier against Faith Baptist. This time, however, the pass worked beautifully. Trevin, the quarterback, allowed the defenders to rush by before rolling to his right and delivering a perfectly timed throw to Cody. Cody sprinted down the sidelines, gaining thirty yards before being shoved out of bounds. But just as the Cubs' spirits began to rise, a yellow flag was thrown, signaling a holding penalty on Jory, nullifying the gain. The setback forced the Cubs back to their own twenty-yard line, dampening the team's momentum.

Undeterred by the penalty, the Cubs pushed forward, aiming to regain momentum with a bold attempt. They turned to Gio Visco, who was open and in position for a touchdown. Unfortunately, Trevin overthrew the ball, and Gio's frustration was palpable as the missed opportunity added more tension to the situation. With the sequence of negative events piling up—an interception, a penalty, and now a missed opportunity—Trevin focused on staying calm and refocusing his mind for the next play. As he worked to stabilize his game, he continued to rely on his teammates for support. The Cubs, determined to advance, turned to Cody once again, giving him the ball for another attempt to break through Faith's defense. As Cody carried the ball forward, his efforts were met with fierce resistance, but he kept pushing, despite showing signs of exhaustion. Reaching the twenty-eight-yard line, Cody, visibly struggling, continued to

give his all. Facing a critical fourth down, Coach Adams called for Trevin to take control and run the ball himself. However, Faith's defenders anticipated the play, forcing Trevin to retreat.

In a split second of decision-making, Trevin noticed a defender leave his post, and instinctively, he launched a Hail Mary pass with incredible accuracy despite the mounting pressure. The pass seemed almost impossible, but miraculously, Gio, ever the reliable receiver, was perfectly positioned to catch the ball at the ten-yard line. With the ball in his hands, Gio quickly sprinted toward the end zone, but his run was halted just two yards short as he was tackled by the defense. The Cubs now found themselves with a first-and-goal situation, a chance to regain the lead. Trevin's quick thinking and on-the-fly decision-making had breathed new life into the game, rekindling the Cubs' hope for a successful drive. As the team huddled and prepared for the next play, they were filled with determination. On the very next play, Cody, despite his fatigue, dove into the end zone for a touchdown, bringing the Cubs one step closer to victory. The crowd erupted in excitement as the Cubs surged ahead with a score of 14-12. Although the two-point conversion attempt was unsuccessful, the Cubs had achieved a much-needed lead, and the energy on the field shifted dramatically. With only moments left in the first quarter, the Cubs had found their rhythm again, showing their ability to rise above adversity and stay focused under pressure. Trevin's critical throw and Cody's determination had sparked a pivotal change in the game's momentum. The Cubs' journey to victory had only just begun, but this moment would be remembered as a testament to their resilience and unwavering commitment to the game.