

Chapter 6: On a Roll

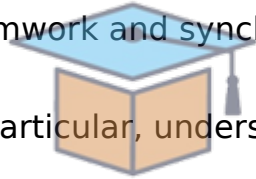
Chapter 6: On a Roll begins with the scene of high school football teams sizing up their opponents during warm-ups. The Cubs, considered a small team, lacked the imposing physique of many of their competitors, especially due to pandemic-related restrictions on weight training. Despite their physical shortcomings, they compensated with incredible fearlessness and agility, qualities that did not go unnoticed by opposing coaches. Felix Gonzales, one of the standout players, gained attention for his exceptional speed. Known for catching kickoffs, shedding tackles, and posting an impressive 4.6-second 40-yard dash time, he proved that sheer speed and determination could make up for a lack of muscle.

Trevin Adams, another crucial player, approached every game with a fearless mindset. His "warrior" mentality, as described by Coach Galvin Drake, was evident in the way he barreled through defenders with power and persistence. His aggressive running style became a point of pride for his team, though it worried his mother, Carol Adams, who fretted over her son's safety. Football dominated the Adams family's lives, from practices to game analyses, and even Carol joked about being a "football widow" due to the sport's all-consuming nature. Despite the sacrifices, Carol was the Cubs' most loyal supporter, watching with pride as her son showcased his athleticism on the field.

Trevin's skills as a quarterback helped mask some of the Cubs' weaknesses, particularly their offensive line. During one memorable game, he demonstrated both elusiveness and toughness by evading multiple defenders, proving his ability to lead under pressure. Cody Metzner, known for his strength and academic ambition, also played a pivotal role, intimidating opponents with his brute power. In a game against Hesperia Christian, Cody's physical dominance was clear, making powerful tackles that immediately shifted the momentum in the Cubs' favor. These key players exemplified the heart and resilience of the team, showing that even without size, their collective

strength and drive made them formidable opponents.

As a team composed of deaf athletes, the Cubs faced unique challenges in a world where most people relied on hearing. The bond between the players created an unspoken camaraderie, turning the team into a tight-knit "brotherhood." This shared experience made communication effortless and allowed the Cubs to function as a well-oiled machine, no matter the circumstances. Their ability to communicate beyond words gave them a significant advantage in the fast-paced world of high school football, where teamwork and synchronization are crucial for success.



Summary

Felix Gonzales, in particular, understood the challenges of communication. Having previously faced barriers while playing on a hearing team, he knew firsthand how isolating it could feel. When he transferred to CSDR, he initially hesitated to join the football team but ultimately found a sense of belonging. The instant communication bond formed with Coach Adams and his teammates made the decision to stay easy, leading to an undefeated season for the Cubs. Felix, who had initially been unsure of his place, grew into a versatile player who excelled in various positions. His leadership and adaptability made him a key contributor to the team, and he quickly became a role model for younger players, showing them the power of resilience, communication, and passion for the sport.

This chapter illustrates how the Cubs' success wasn't just about raw athleticism but also about the deep, unbreakable bonds formed through shared experiences. Each player, from Felix to Trevin to Cody, brought something unique to the team. Their commitment, combined with their ability to work together despite challenges, propelled the Cubs to victories that many would have deemed impossible at first glance. Their journey is a powerful reminder that teamwork, heart, and determination can lead to success, no matter the obstacles standing in the way. Through their struggles and triumphs, the Cubs proved that being "on a roll" is not just about winning games—it's about overcoming adversity and doing it together.