

Photographs

Photographs in *The Boys of Riverside* provide a vivid and intimate portrayal of the journey undertaken by the California School for the Deaf, Riverside, and its football team, the Cubs. The picturesque campus, nestled at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, offers a serene environment that reflects the dedication and ambition of its students. The palm trees lining the school grounds serve as a visual marker of the region's beauty, while the tranquil yet vibrant atmosphere sets the tone for a community deeply committed to both academics and extracurricular activities. It's here, in this unique setting, that the Cubs strive for greatness, balancing the challenges of being student-athletes with the broader mission of breaking down barriers for the deaf community.

The narrative brings the Cubs to life, painting a picture of a small yet passionate team composed of around twenty dedicated players. Despite practicing on a rough, worn field with faded lines and worn-out goal posts, the team's spirit and commitment to their sport never waver. Before each home game, the Cubs share a ritual of dining together at a local pizzeria, where their red jerseys and energy fill the establishment with pride and excitement. This tradition not only builds team camaraderie but also roots the players in a sense of community, allowing them to bond off the field. The proximity of the field to a busy road and the presence of dedicated local figures like Phillip Castaneda, who sleeps in his father's car across the street, further illustrate the depth of their commitment to the team and their goals. The sense of pride and sacrifice permeates every action of the Cubs, reinforcing the importance of their mission.

Coaching plays an integral role in the team's progression, with Coach Keith Adams employing sign language in a strategic manner to keep their plans hidden from opponents. This thoughtful and practical approach showcases the importance of

effective communication, ensuring that the Cubs are always one step ahead. As the team readies itself for crucial games, such as the upcoming match against Chadwick School, Coach Adams utilizes the school's air-conditioned weight room to deliver motivational speeches. This combination of comfort and focus provides an ideal environment for building mental resilience. Additionally, the surrounding region, rich with history, is enhanced by the presence of orange groves, which not only reflect Riverside's agricultural past but also contribute to the overall atmosphere, grounding the Cubs' journey in the community and the legacy of the land.

Key figures like Kaveh Angoorani, the defensive coordinator, take on vital roles, helping guide the Cubs toward their ultimate goal: a championship. Trevin Adams, the team's quarterback, is a standout player known for his dynamic abilities as a dual-threat, excelling both as a passer and a rusher. Despite the limited number of players, the Cubs boast a team composed of students from varying grades, showcasing the strength that comes from working together regardless of age or experience. This collaboration and unity are what fuel the Cubs' perseverance, making them a formidable force on the field and demonstrating that success is born from collective effort.

The role of technology is another vital aspect of the Cubs' journey, as iPhones are utilized to facilitate communication between players and coaches, ensuring that the team remains connected and coordinated. This modern tool has a significant impact on the team's ability to adapt, collaborate, and stay in sync during practices and games. As the Cubs progress toward their championship run in 2022, the excitement builds, with each game providing new opportunities for triumph and growth. The recognition of the Cubs' efforts extends beyond their immediate community when the Los Angeles Chargers invite them to their stadium, solidifying the broader acknowledgment of their achievements. This moment of recognition is a testament to the Cubs' dedication, perseverance, and hard work, highlighting not only their personal triumphs but also their role in inspiring others. The invitation is a celebration of the team's resilience, further cementing their place as role models for other aspiring athletes, especially within the deaf community.