

# Chapter 34: Blocking and Tackling

Chapter 34: Blocking and Tackling shifts the focus to an intense football game between the Cubs and Faith Baptist, highlighting the significance of strong defensive plays and strategic offensive efforts. From the start of the game, the Cubs knew they were up against a tough opponent, but they immediately adapted by solidifying their defense and asserting control over the match. Trevin and Kaden stood out with their fierce tackling and nearly intercepted a pass despite the pressure from Faith's offensive line. Even though Faith managed a few minor victories, like a first down, the Cubs quickly demonstrated their dominance with a defensive strategy that set the tone early in the game. Their solid defense was a key factor, and their ability to handle Faith's attempts with such efficiency created a noticeable shift in momentum.

One of the game's defining moments came when Faith tried to execute a basic running play with their star rusher, Parker Mills, carrying the ball. However, the Cubs' defense, led by the Adams brothers, was more than ready and shut down Faith's attempt to move the ball forward. Mills, who had been anticipated as the game changer, was stopped cold by the aggressive Cubs' defense. This major defensive stand sent a clear message to Faith that their star player wouldn't find much success on the field. The Cubs made the most of their newfound momentum when they forced Faith to punt for the first time, providing the Cubs with the chance to strike. With determination, the Cubs orchestrated a brilliant play, using a well-timed screen pass to Jory that resulted in an impressive gain in yardage, pushing them even further into their opponent's territory.

This chapter underscores the idea that the fundamentals of football, such as blocking and tackling, can be more influential than any flashy plays or complex strategies. The Cubs demonstrated this, overpowering their opponents through sheer physicality and determination. With every hit and tackle, they asserted their dominance, proving that

in football, sometimes brute strength and teamwork triumph over finesse. Trevin, for his part, capitalized on this solid defense and turned it into offensive success by scoring a touchdown, putting the Cubs ahead by a score of 22-12. Meanwhile, Faith struggled to maintain their footing, as their quarterback, A. C. Swadling, was injured during the game. This injury left Faith with limited options for recovery, and their offensive strategy faltered as a result. The Cubs, now confident in their lead, opted to take risks, trying for daring passes and plays even as they held the upper hand. This paid off when Jory made a stunning catch that resulted in another touchdown, further increasing their advantage.



Summaryer

In addition to the team's strength and skill, individual perseverance played a crucial role in the Cubs' performance. Christian Jimenez, a lineman who had been suffering from a fractured leg, refused to let his injury affect his performance. Despite the excruciating pain, Jimenez continued to play a vital role in keeping the Cubs' offensive line strong. His resolve was a clear reflection of the team's overall mindset and determination. Trevin's role in driving the team forward didn't stop after the touchdown; he followed through with another interception, running it back for a touchdown just before halftime. This crucial interception and subsequent score put the Cubs firmly in control with a commanding 42-12 lead, leaving Faith with little hope for a comeback in the second half. The Cubs' aggressive defense, coupled with their precise offensive plays, ensured that Faith was not going to recover from such a devastating blow. This game was shaping up to be a defining moment for the Cubs, showcasing not only their skill but their indomitable spirit.