

33. The Throw

In the evening chill of fifty degrees on the field, the intensity of the game grew as Coach Davidson shed his blue Faith Baptist varsity jacket. The Cubs were midway through the first quarter and eager to make a comeback. On their third drive, they attempted a screen pass, a play that had seen success in prior games but struggled against Faith Baptist previously. This time, however, it appeared to work flawlessly. Trevin, the quarterback, let the defenders rush by before rolling right and delivering a well-timed pass to Cody, who sprinted down the sidelines. Cody gained thirty yards before being pushed out of bounds—only for a yellow flag to nullify the achievement due to a holding call on Jory. The setback was disheartening, forcing the Cubs back to their own twenty.

Hoping to regain momentum, they tried a daring play with Gio Visco, who was open for a touchdown. Trevin, unfortunately, overthrew him in a poorly executed pass, causing Gio to express his frustration. Alarmed at the sequence of negative plays—an interception, a penalty, and a missed opportunity—Trevin focused on refocusing his game.

To stabilize the team, the Cubs repeatedly handed the ball to Cody, who pushed through the Faith line, but by the time they reached the twenty-eight-yard line, Cody was visibly struggling from the impacts of the game. Facing fourth down with four yards to go, Coach Adams decided to press on with another run, calling for Trevin to keep the ball and run left. However, the Faith defenders anticipated the play and converged on Trevin, leaving him no choice but to backpedal.

Recognizing one defender had left his assignment, Trevin executed a quick mental calculation and, just before being tackled, launched what would be remembered as a "Hail Mary." Remarkably, Gio was in the right place to catch the desperate throw at the ten-yard line. He managed to scramble to the two before being tackled, bringing the Cubs to first and goal. Trevin's throw, a mix of instinct and skill, breathed life into the game, and on the next play, Cody dove into the end zone for a touchdown. After a failed two-point conversion attempt, the Cubs pulled ahead with a score of 14–12 as the first quarter neared its end.