

6. On a Roll

Chapter 6: On a Roll

High school football games often start with players sizing up their opponents during warm-ups. The Cubs, regarded as a small team lacking in muscle mass due to pandemic restrictions on weight training, did not exude intimidation. Despite their physical shortcomings, they compensated with fearlessness and agility, a trait recognized by opposing coaches. Felix Gonzales stood out for his impressive speed, catching kickoffs, shedding tackles, and achieving a remarkable 4.6 seconds in the forty-yard dash.

Trevin Adams, another key player, approached the game with a fearless mindset, embodying a “warrior” spirit as described by Coach Galvin Drake. His powerful running style involved barreling through defenders, a trait that even worried his mother, Carol Adams. Football consumed the Adams family's time, with practices and game analyses dominating their schedules. Though Carol often joked about being a "football widow," she remained the Cubs' most ardent supporter, proud of Trevin's on-field exploits.

Trevin's quarterback skills masked some of the Cubs' weaknesses, particularly their offensive line. He demonstrated this in a game where he evaded multiple defenders, showcasing both his elusiveness and toughness. Cody Metzner, who played various positions and possessed both brute strength and academic ambition, similarly aimed to intimidate opponents. His standout play during a game against Hesperia Christian illustrated his physical dominance, making powerful tackles that had an immediate impact.

As part of a deaf team, the Cubs faced unique challenges in a hearing world. The camaraderie among them created a "brotherhood," which strengthened their team dynamic and fueled their determination to succeed. This shared experience fostered deep connections, making communication effortless among teammates.

Felix Gonzales understood the weight of being misunderstood, having faced communication barriers on a hearing team. After transferring to CSDR and meeting Coach Adams, he reluctantly joined the football team, which ultimately led to an undefeated season. His experience on the deaf team provided an instant bond and clear communication, leading him to discover his passion for the sport. Now a role model for younger players, Felix excelled in multiple positions, proving to be a versatile athlete and a key contributor to the Cubs' success.