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Scott



Dog



Toocool

The Super Bowl



It was the big day. The grand championship football game—the Super Bowl. My team, the Toocool Topdogs, was playing the Underdogs. I was the quarterback of the Topdogs. My friend, Scott, plays all the other positions.

We weren't sure who would play for the Underdogs. It could be Dog, or maybe Bert the Rooster.

I fixed my hair. I looked good. I always looked good.





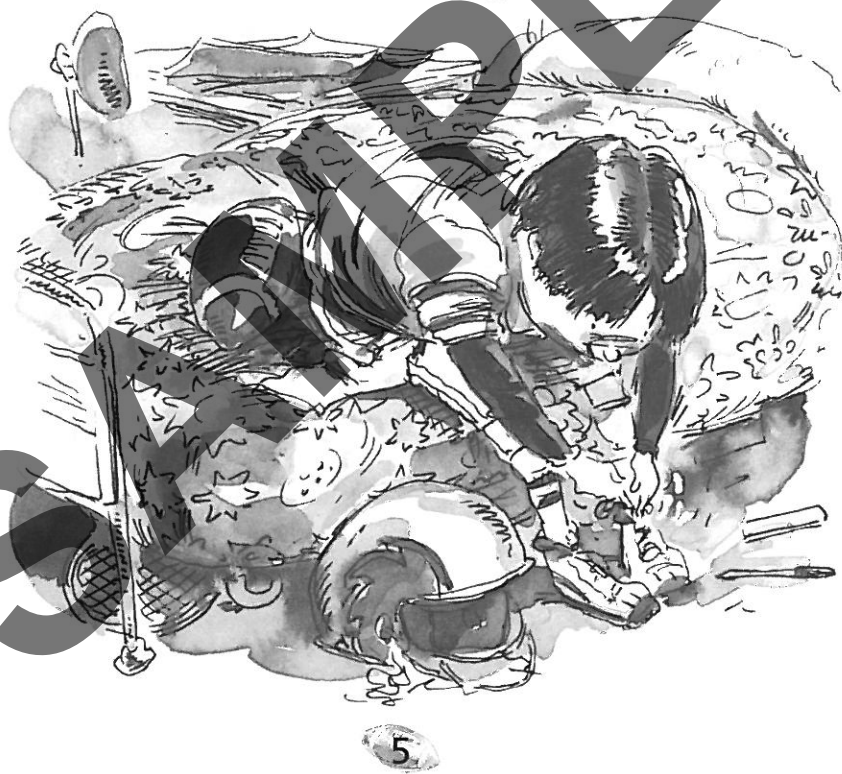
I could see the stadium from the bathroom window. Rain was already falling. I could tell that the field would be wet and muddy. This would be a tough game. The Topdogs would need me more than ever.



I had taped a sign to my bedroom door. It was written in the team colors. It said **LOCKER ROOM**, in big bold letters.

My uniform was laid out. I pulled on my pads, jersey, pants, and socks. Then I tied on my cleats as tight as I could.

I looked like a football star. I imagined my picture on the cover of sports magazines. Toocool: Football Legend.





I headed for the back door.
I could hear the roaring of
the crowd.

“Stop running through the
house with your cleats on!”

I jogged out to the fifty-yard line. My cleats were squelching into the turf. Scott swung his bike around the side of the house. He was in his full uniform, too. Who could beat us?



Toocool's Football Glossary

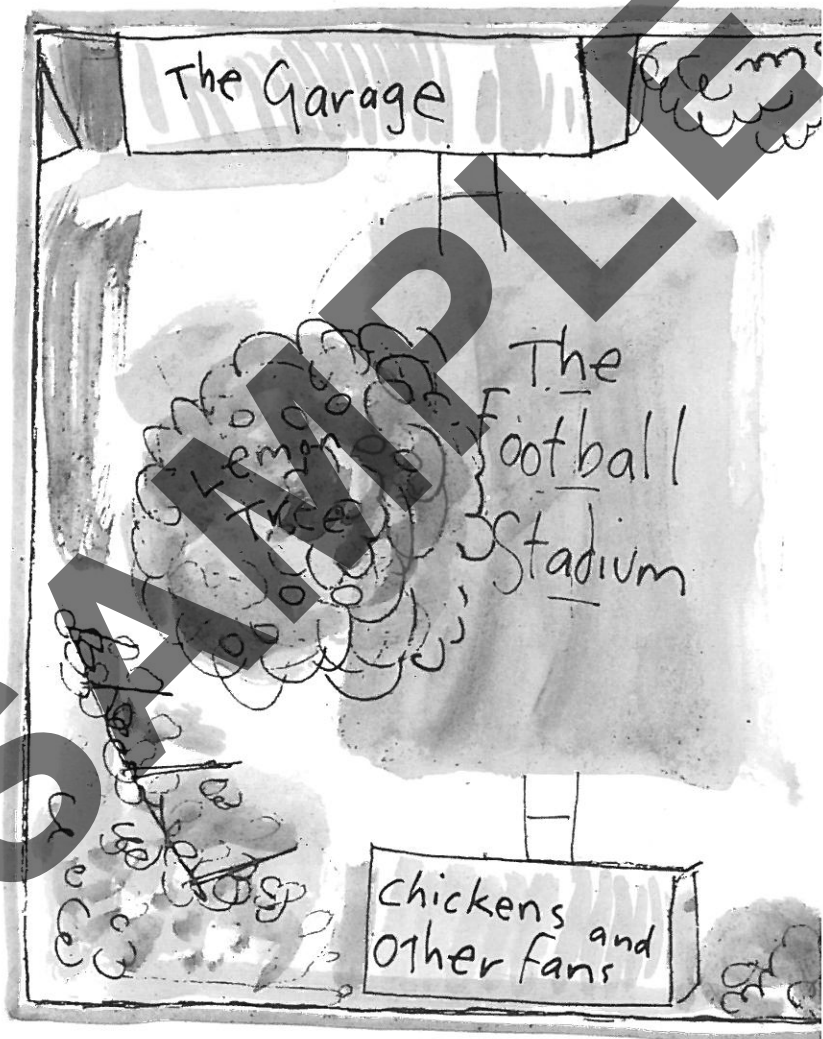
Field goal—Kicking the ball across the goal line and between the goalposts at the end of the field. Scores three points.

Huddle—When the players crowd together to plan what they're going to do, it's called a huddle.

Interception—When a player from the defensive team gets the ball away from the team that is trying to score.

Touchdown—Running the ball across the goal line, or catching a ball that has been thrown over the goal line. Scores six points.

Toocool's Backyard Champion Stadium





Toocool's Quick Summary

Football



Football is one of the most popular sports played in the United States. People started playing football in the mid-1800s, and today, millions of people watch their favorite teams play every autumn.

Football teams can have many players, but only eleven players from each team can play at a time.

The offense is the team that has the ball and is trying to score.

The defense is the team that is trying to keep the other team from scoring. The offense can score by running or passing the ball down

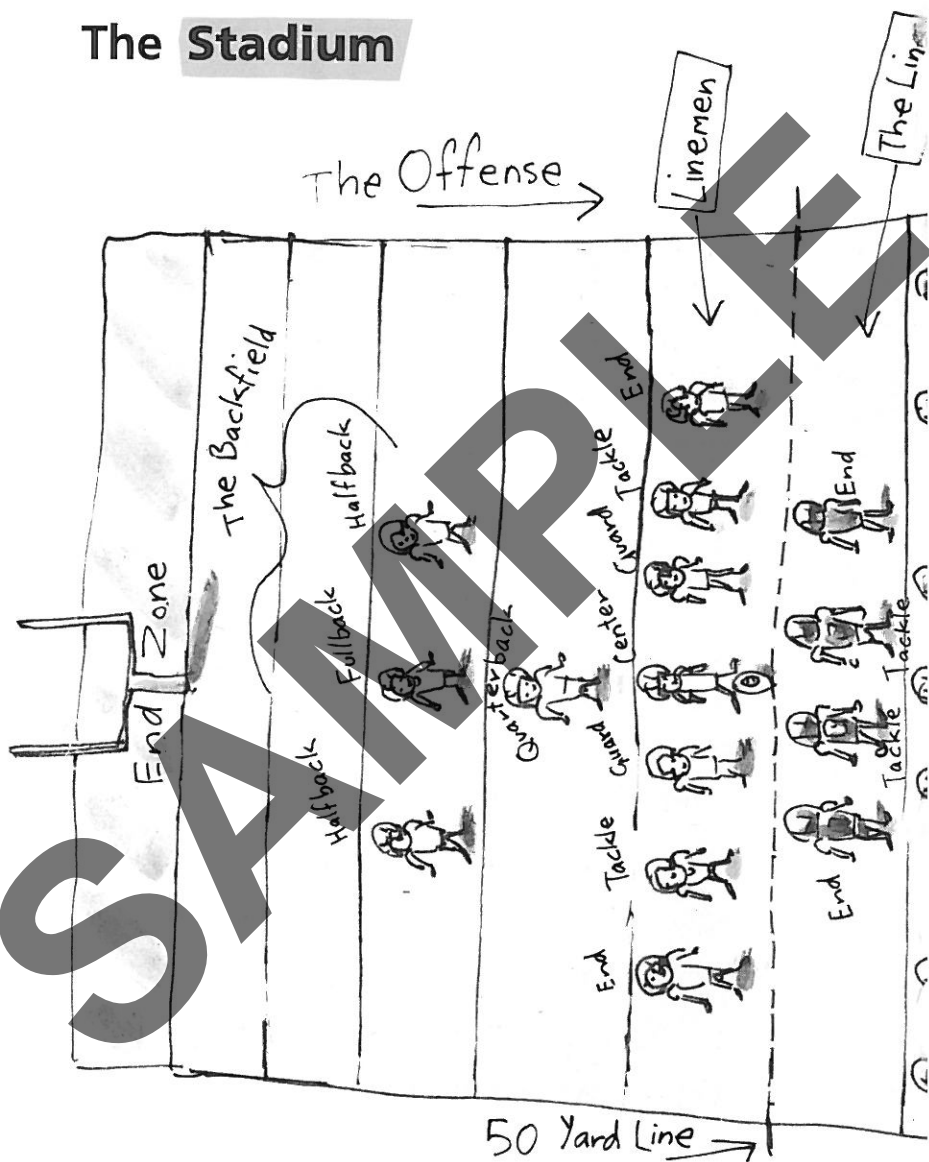
the field and across the other team's goal line.

If they get the ball across the goal line, they score a touchdown, which is six points. If they kick the ball through the goalpost at the goal line, they score a field goal, which is three points.

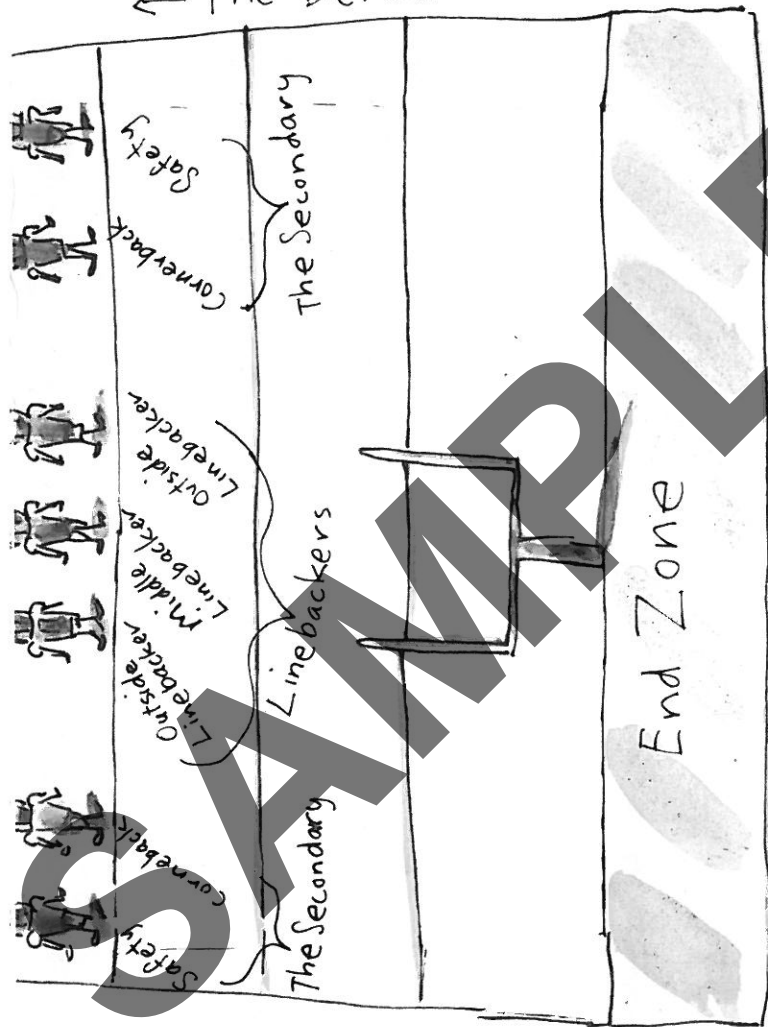
If a team scores, the ball goes to the other team. Each football player has a special skill. Some are fast. Some can throw the ball really well. Others are strong at blocking runners and tackling.

Because football can be a rough sport, the players have to look out for each other besides doing their own job on the field. All of these players have to work together to win games.

The Stadium




← The Defense




Q & A with **Toocool** He Answers His Own Questions



 Do the best players get to wear a number 1 on their jersey, or do they get to wear any number they like?

Football players can only choose from numbers that no other player is using. Sometimes, if a player is really great, his number will be retired. This means that no one on the team can ever use his number again. I have a feeling that when I stop playing football, my number will be retired, not just by my team, but by the whole league.



What should football players do before a game?

Get dressed. Football players owe it to their fans to make sure they show up on the field looking tough and ready. Strap on your helmet. Put on the pads, because this is a game that will crunch your bones. It's also a good idea to double knot the laces on your cleats, because you don't want to run out of your shoes during a big game.



What should football players do after a game?

When you're a great player like I am, all of the reporters always want to talk to you after a game. If I haven't thought up something really smart to say, I tell knock knock jokes. I also make sure my hair looks really good for the photos.



What makes you such a football legend?

Well, most players are known for playing only one position. I truly am a great quarterback, because I can plan just what my team needs to do to win. I'm very fast. I also throw the ball farther and better than anyone. Still, what makes me really great is that I can also catch the ball, intercept the ball, and tackle the other team. Very few players are tough and smart enough to do all these things.



What do you do after you win a game?

I like to shake the hands of every player on the other team. Oh, and then I have to ride around on the shoulders of my teammates.



What do you do after you lose a game?

I don't know. I've never lost a game before.

SAMPLE

Football Quiz

How Much Do You Know about Football?




Q1 If your team scores 4 touchdowns, 3 conversions, and a field goal, how many points would they have scored?

A. 22. **B.** 30. **C.** 23.




Q2 What is the kickoff?


A. When you push your bike off the curb. **B.** When you kick the ball out of the field. **C.** When you kick the ball at the start of the game.

 Q3 What is a conversion?


- A.** Three points, that are scored after a tackle. **B.** One point, that is scored after a touchdown. **C.** Six points, that are scored after an interception.

 Q4 How many players from a team can be on the field at a time?

- A.** 9. **B.** 11. **C.** 16.

 Q5 If a referee throws a yellow flag during a play, what has happened?

- A.** He has lost his hankie. **B.** Someone has scored an extra point. **C.** Someone has done something wrong and earned a penalty.

 Q6 What happens to a team that has done something wrong?


- A. They have to move back on the field.
- B. They lose points.
- C. They have to go home.

 Q7 “Holding” means:


- A. Grabbing onto a player from the other team.
- B. Comforting a team member.
- C. Gripping the ball tightly.

 Q8 Who is the best football player in the world?











- A. Dog.
- B. Bert.
- C. Toocool.

 Q9 What is the draft?

- A. The time when football teams get to pick new players.
- B. A cold blast of air.
- C. A large horse.

 **Q10** Why do football players wear black grease under their eyes?
A. To look mean and scary. **B.** To annoy their moms. **C.** To help them see in the bright light.

ANSWERS

-  **1** B.  **2** C.  **3** B.
 **4** B.  **5** C.  **6** A.
 **7** A.  **8** C.  **9** A.
 **10** C.

If you got ten questions right, you can join Toocool in the Topdogs. If you got more than five right, you can get a spot in the Underdogs with Scott. If you got fewer than five right, maybe you should play marbles.