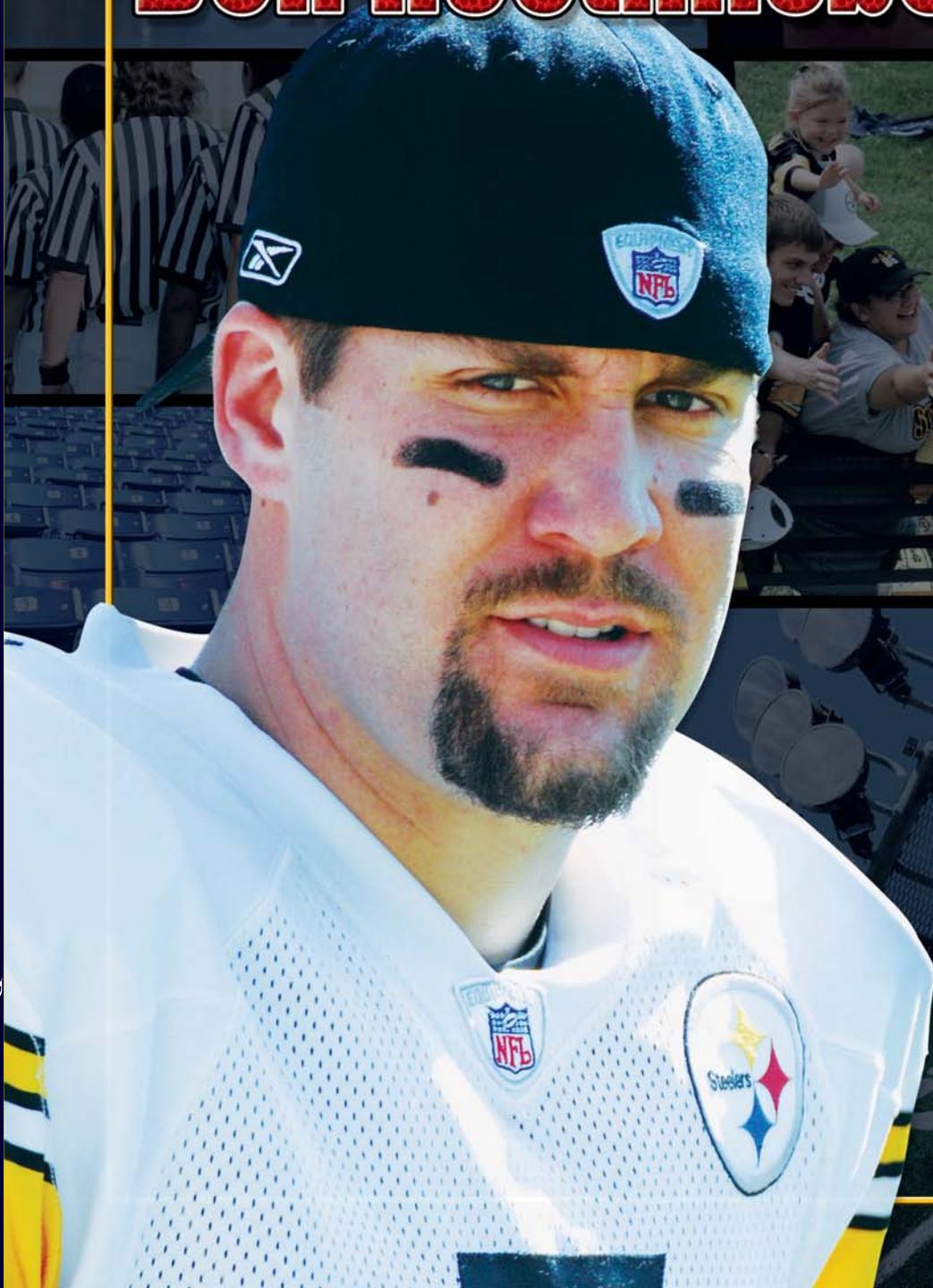


FOOTBALL HEROES
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
★ ★ ★

Ben Roethlisberger

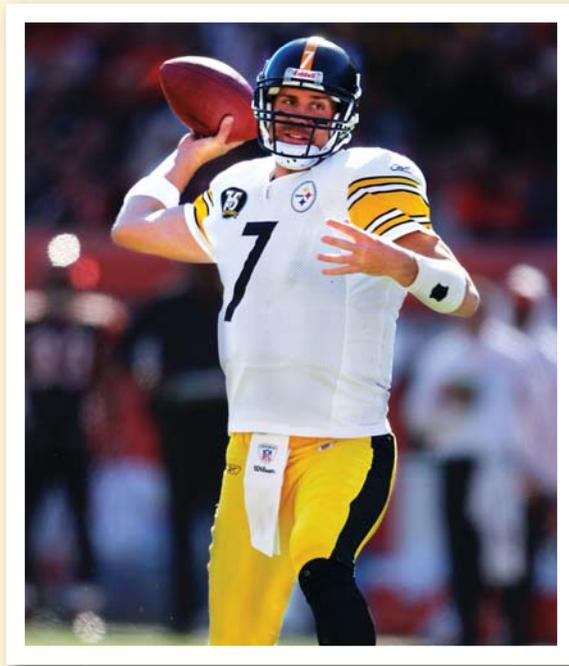


by Michael Sandler

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Ben Roethlisberger



by Michael Sandler

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Head Football Coach, Columbia University

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CONTENTS



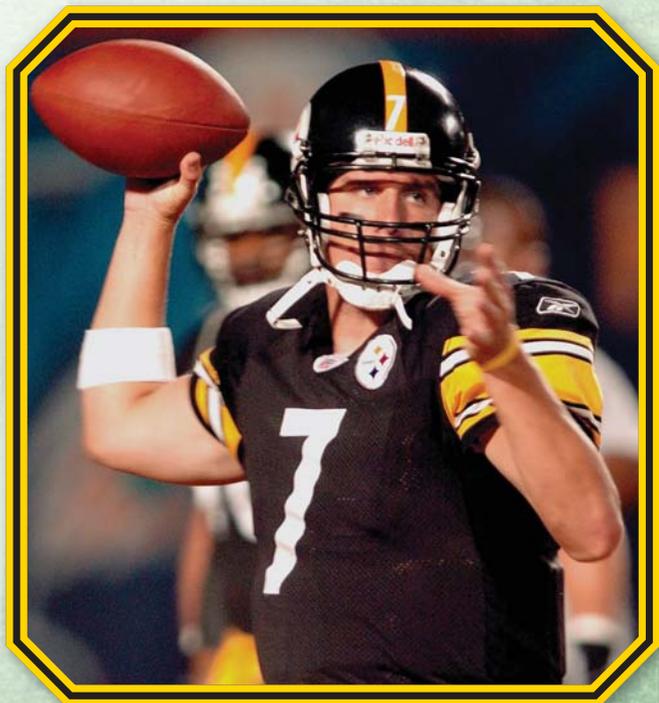
Suddenly a Starter	4
Amazing	6
Growing Up	8
Choosing Football	10
Surprising the Steelers	12
Super Bowl Success	14
Service to Others	16
Working with Kids	18
Bouncing Back	20
The Ben File	22
Glossary	23
Bibliography	24
Read More	24
Learn More Online	24
Index	24

Suddenly a Starter

This was Ben Roethlisberger's big test. For the very first time, the young Pittsburgh Steeler was **starting** at quarterback.

Pittsburgh had planned to go slow with the rookie. He wasn't supposed to play much at first. Now plans had changed. Pittsburgh's top two quarterbacks were hurt. Only Ben was left to face the Miami Dolphins. Could he handle the job?

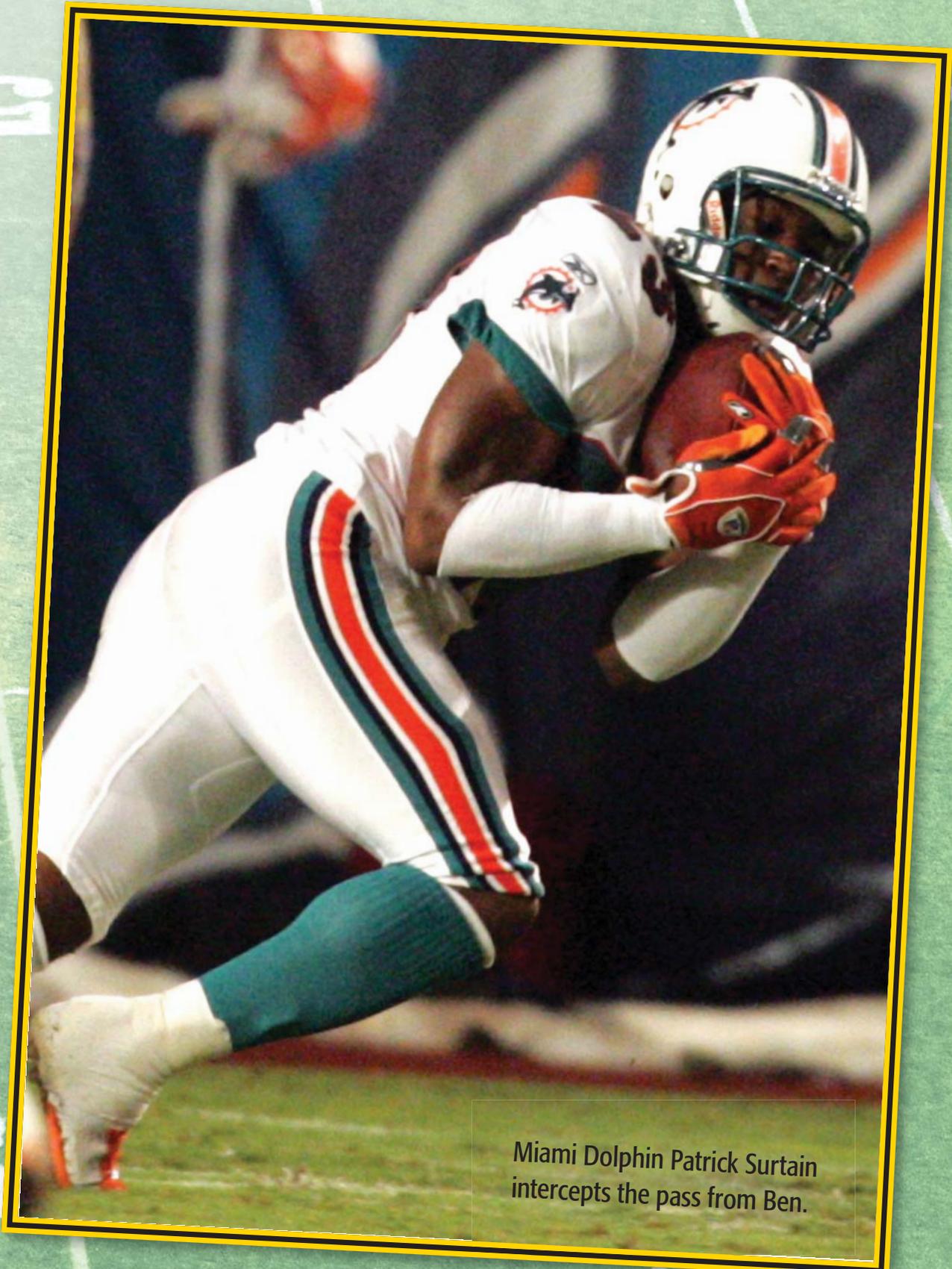
On the game's first play, Ben dropped back to pass. Miami **defenders** were all over the Steelers' **receivers**. Ben let the ball fly anyway—right into the hands of Miami **cornerback** Patrick Surtain. **Interception!** "Not good," Ben thought.



Ben throws the ball during the game against the Dolphins.

Ben's first NFL start was on September 26, 2004, the third week of the season.





Miami Dolphin Patrick Surtain intercepts the pass from Ben.

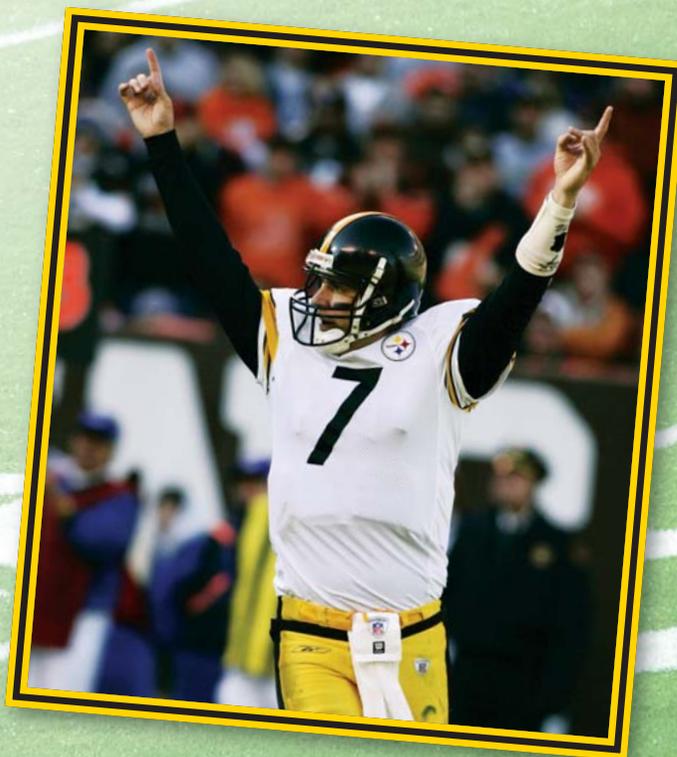
Amazing

Most rookies would have crumbled after beginning a game with a **turnover**. Ben didn't. He stayed calm and cool, and waited for another chance.

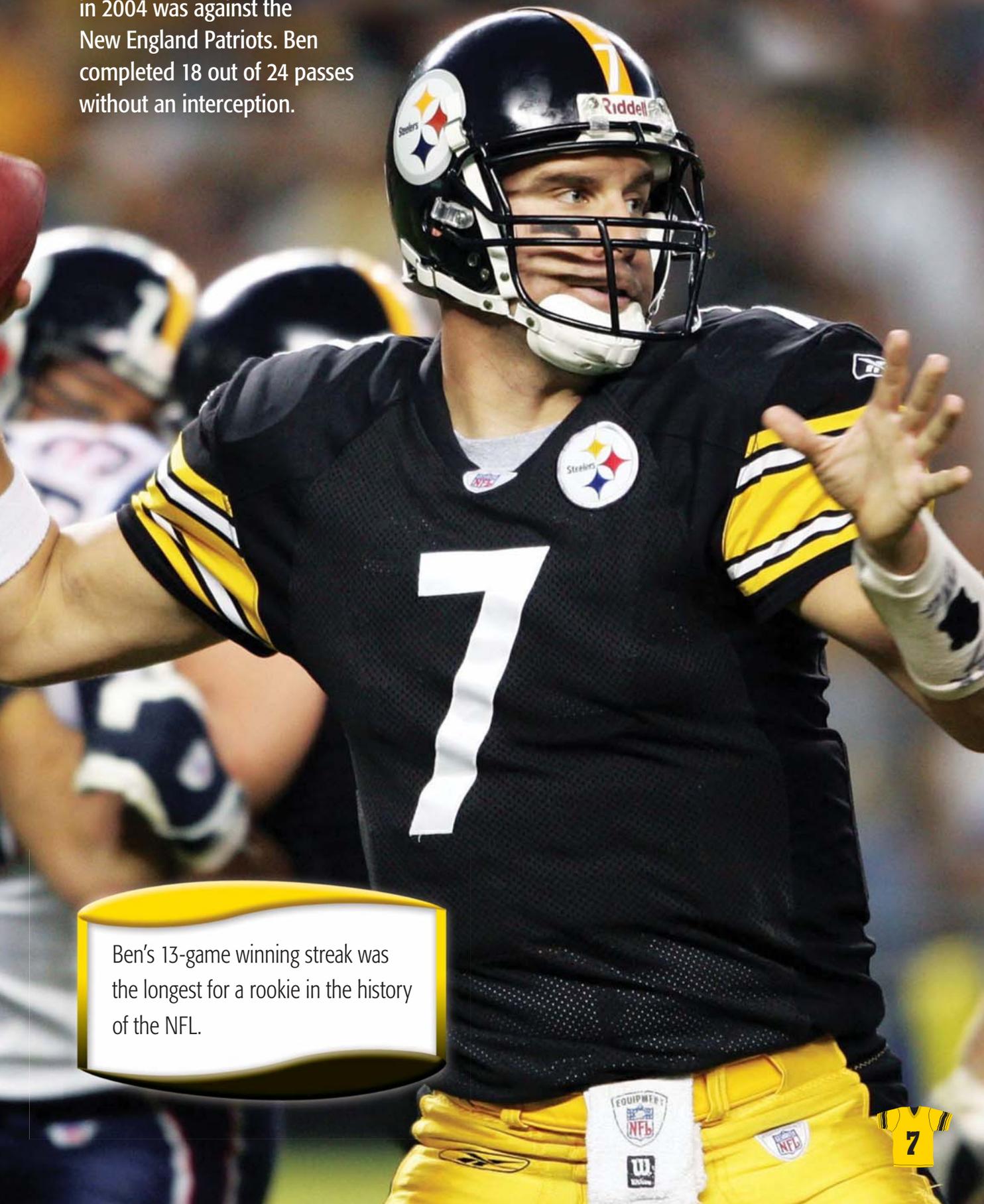
On the next **possession**, Ben threw a 42-yard (38-m) pass to set up a Pittsburgh field goal. The Steelers took the lead and never gave it up. The rookie had his first win.

A week later, in a game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Ben got his second win. Then, the following Sunday, Pittsburgh beat the Cleveland Browns. With Ben at quarterback, the Steelers couldn't lose. By season's end, he had won 13 straight games.

Ben celebrates a touchdown during the game against the Cleveland Browns in 2004.



One of the 13 games won in 2004 was against the New England Patriots. Ben completed 18 out of 24 passes without an interception.



Ben's 13-game winning streak was the longest for a rookie in the history of the NFL.



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To learn more about Ben Roethlisberger, the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/FootballHeroes

Index

baseball 8–9

basketball 8–9, 10–11

Ben Roethlisberger
Foundation 16–17, 22

Bettis, Jerome 12–13

Cincinnati Bengals 6

Cleveland Browns 6

Denver Broncos 14

dogs 16–17, 22

draft 10–11

Findlay, Ohio 8, 16, 18

fire departments 16–17

high school 8–9, 10, 18

Indianapolis Colts 14

Miami Dolphins 4–5

Miami University 10

motorcycle accident 20

New England Patriots 7,

12

Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania 18–19

playoffs 12, 14, 20

police departments
16–17, 22

Seattle Seahawks 14

Spraw, Bill 16

Surtain, Patrick 4–5

Ward, Hines 12



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Ben Roethlisberger

At age 23, Ben Roethlisberger became the youngest quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl. He was a hero to Pittsburgh Steelers fans! Ben decided to use his newfound fame to help other kinds of heroes. He started the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation, an organization that buys service dogs for police and fire departments. His goal? To provide a service dog for every town the Steelers play in! Follow Ben through the biggest moments of his career on and off the field to see how this champion makes a difference.

Brett Favre

Ben Roethlisberger

Matt Hasselbeck

LaDainian Tomlinson

Donovan McNabb

Brian Urlacher

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