

FOOTBALL STARS  
UP CLOSE  
★★★

# Troy Polamalu



by Mari Schuh

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# Troy Polamalu



**by Mari Schuh**

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# Big Play

It was the 2008 **playoffs**, and Troy Polamalu had to make a big play. His team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, was battling the Baltimore Ravens. Troy knew the winning team would go to the **Super Bowl**—and the Ravens now had a chance to score. If they could get the ball to the **end zone**, the Ravens would win the game. Could Troy stop them?



Troy rests at practice a few days before the big game against the Ravens.



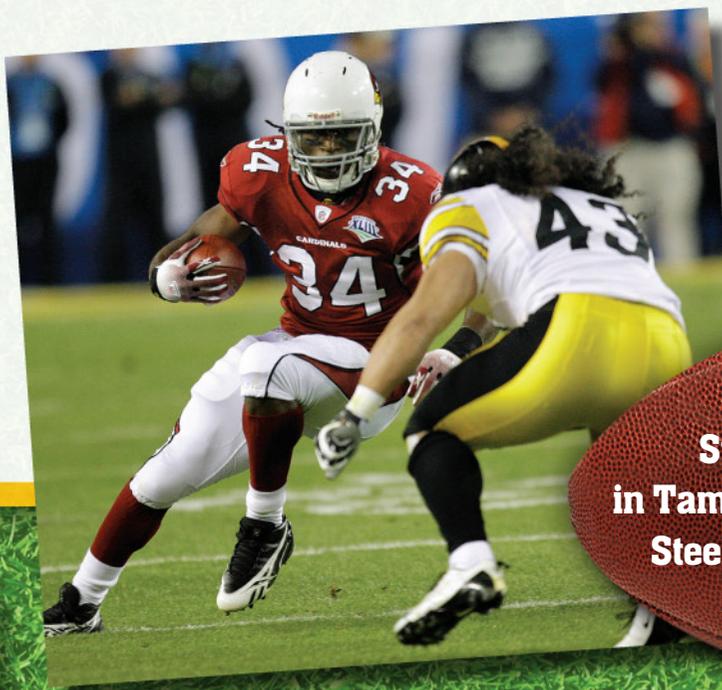


Troy is on high alert before a play in the 2008 playoffs.

Troy is a safety, one of the players on the defense. A safety tries to keep players from the other team from catching passes and also makes **tackles**.

# Super Bowl Bound

Troy watched Ravens player, Joe Flacco, throw the football. Troy ran toward the ball, reached high into the air, and **intercepted** the pass. He tucked the ball into his arms and ran as fast as he could. He twisted and turned past Ravens players, speeding into the end zone for a **touchdown**. Thanks to Troy, the Steelers won the game 23–14. They were on their way to the Super Bowl!



Troy (#43) moves to tackle a Cardinals player during the Super Bowl.

The 2009 Super Bowl was played in Tampa, Florida. The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals 27–23.



Troy dashes toward the end zone after intercepting Joe Flacco's pass.

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**Official Site of the Pittsburgh Steelers:** [www.steelers.com](http://www.steelers.com)

**Official Site of Troy Polamalu:** [www.troy43.com](http://www.troy43.com)

**Official Site of the USC Trojans:** [www.usctrojans.com](http://www.usctrojans.com)

## Read More

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# Troy Polamalu

Troy Polamalu is an unstoppable force. Considered to be one of the best defensive players in the NFL, Troy uses his stunning speed, agility, and strength to intercept passes and tackle opponents. Troy's talents have helped his team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, win two Super Bowl championships. Even though life hasn't always been easy for this superstar, no obstacle could stop Troy from rising to football fame.

Look inside for a close-up look at the defensive player's inspiring journey from his childhood in California and Oregon, through his college years at the University of Southern California, all the way to NFL stardom.

**Tom Brady**

**Drew Brees**

**Adrian Peterson**

★ **Troy Polamalu**

**Aaron Rodgers**

**Tony Romo**

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