

FOOTBALL STARS
UP CLOSE
★ ★ ★

Tony Romo



by **Kathy Allen**

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Tony Romo



by Kathy Allen

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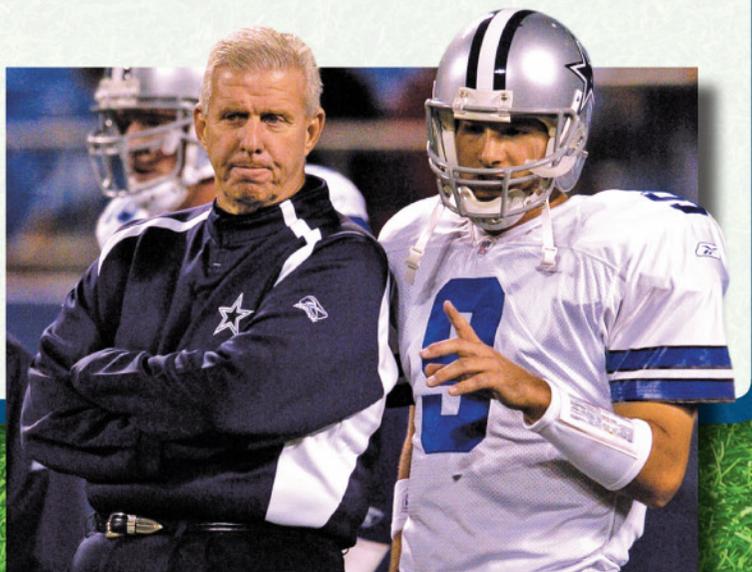
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Backup No More

Tony Romo joined the Dallas Cowboys as a **quarterback** in 2003. However, he spent most of his time on the bench as a **backup**. That changed in the 2006 season. The Cowboys' starting quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, was throwing fewer **touchdowns** than before. The team's coach decided to give Tony a chance to play. It was near the end of a game against the Houston Texans. Would Tony be able to score a touchdown?

Tony (right) speaks with his coach before a 2006 game.





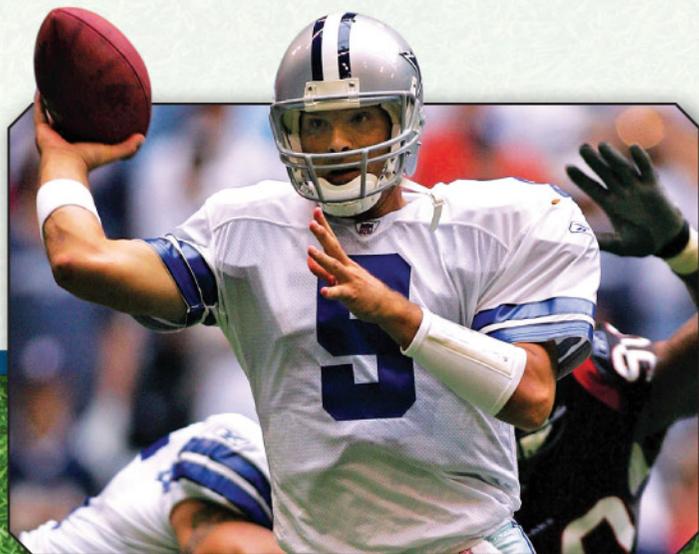
Tony throws a ball during practice in 2006.

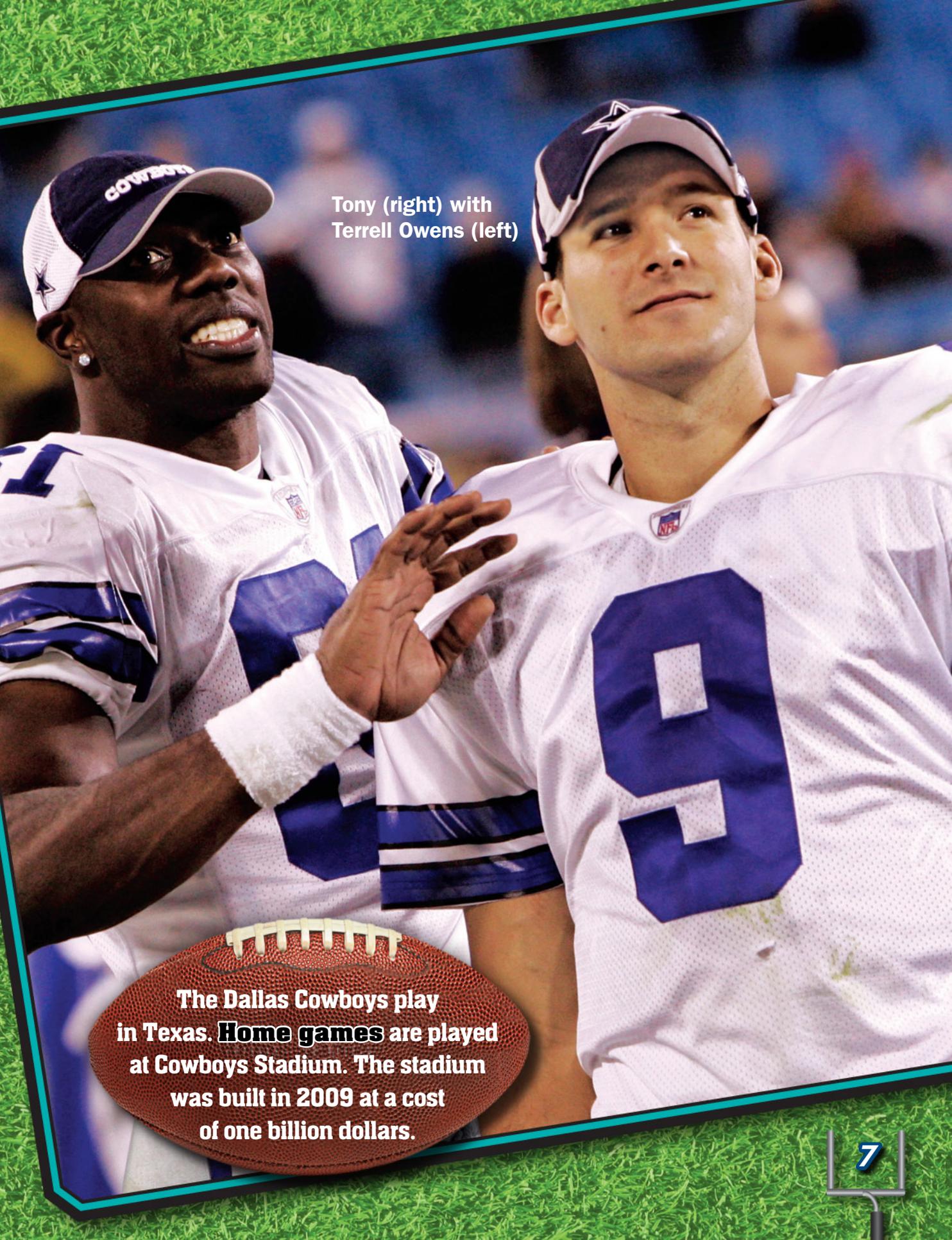
A starter is any player who is the coach's first choice to play in a game.

Tony's Touchdown

Fans cheered from the stands as Tony ran onto the field. The Cowboys and the Texans lined up, and the play began. Tony wanted to score—and fast. He quickly passed the ball to move his team down the field. Then, he threw the ball to his teammate Terrell Owens in the **end zone**. The ball shot through the air right into Terrell's arms! It was Tony Romo's first touchdown pass in the **NFL**. The Cowboys won the game 34–6. Tony was ready to be a starting quarterback!

Tony throws the touchdown pass to Terrell Owens.





Tony (right) with
Terrell Owens (left)



The Dallas Cowboys play
in Texas. **Home games** are played
at Cowboys Stadium. The stadium
was built in 2009 at a cost
of one billion dollars.

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www.bearportpublishing.com/FootballStarsUpClose



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Tony Romo

When Tony Romo joined the Dallas Cowboys in 2003, few people thought he'd become a superstar. During his first three years he was stuck being a backup quarterback, spending most of his time on the bench. That changed in 2006 when Tony's coach decided it was time to see if Tony had what it takes to play in the NFL.

Look inside for a close-up look at the quarterback's inspiring journey from his childhood in Wisconsin, through his college years at Eastern Illinois, all the way to NFL stardom.

Tom Brady

Drew Brees

Adrian Peterson

Troy Polamalu

Aaron Rodgers

★ **Tony Romo**

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