





AARON RODGERS and the Green Bay Packers SUPER BOWL XLV



by Michael Sandler

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Credits

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Aaron's Test

Super Bowl XLV (45) was the final test for Aaron Rodgers. For six years, the Green Bay passer had been trying to win over the fans who doubted him. Now he had a chance to prove he was a great Packers quarterback. With a Super Bowl victory, no one would be able to doubt him any longer.

For this to happen, though, Aaron would have to beat a mighty **opponent**—the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers had won six Super Bowls—an NFL record. They were a team that could score points easily, and their defense was fierce and effective. Running the ball against Pittsburgh's defenders was nearly impossible. For Green Bay to win, Aaron Rodgers would have to throw the ball perfectly.

Aaron Rodgers before the start of Super Bowl XLV (45) on February 6, 2011







Football Dreams

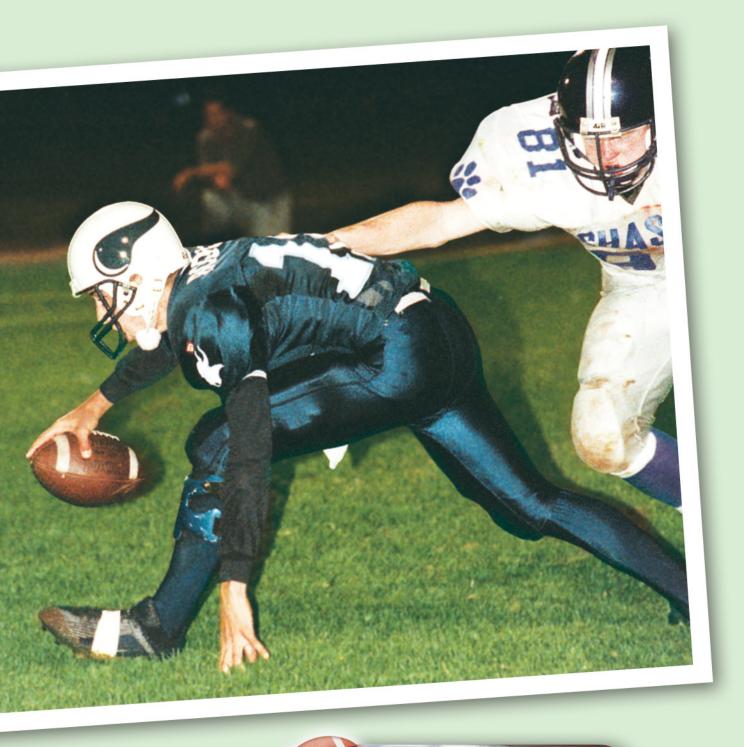
For Aaron, being a Super Bowl quarterback was a lifelong dream. As a child growing up in Oregon and Northern California, he'd lived and breathed football. In kindergarten, he rounded up classmates for football games at recess, and always got to be the passer. Outside of school, he played football with his older brother, Luke, and his father, Ed.

Ed Rodgers didn't let his sons play organized football until high school. He worried about them getting hurt. So Aaron had to wait until he arrived at Pleasant Valley High School to truly show off his talents, of which he had many. Aaron could pass, he could run, and he knew how to lead a team.

Aaron also played baseball in high school.







Aaron tries to escape a tackle during a high school game.

Aaron passed for more than 4,400 yards (4,023 m) in two seasons at Pleasant Valley High School in Chico, California.

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CARON RODGERS SUPER BOWL XLV

In the three years as Green Bay's starting quarterback, Aaron Rodgers met every challenge that he faced. He had proven that he was one of the NFL's best young passers. He had shown that he could lead his team to wins in big games. Still, Packers fans wanted more from Aaron. They wanted a win in Super Bowl XLV (45). Only then would Aaron make fans forget the quarterback he had replaced in Green Bay—the legendary Brett Favre. Could Aaron give the fans what they wanted and win the biggest game of all?

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