

Suddenly a Starter

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

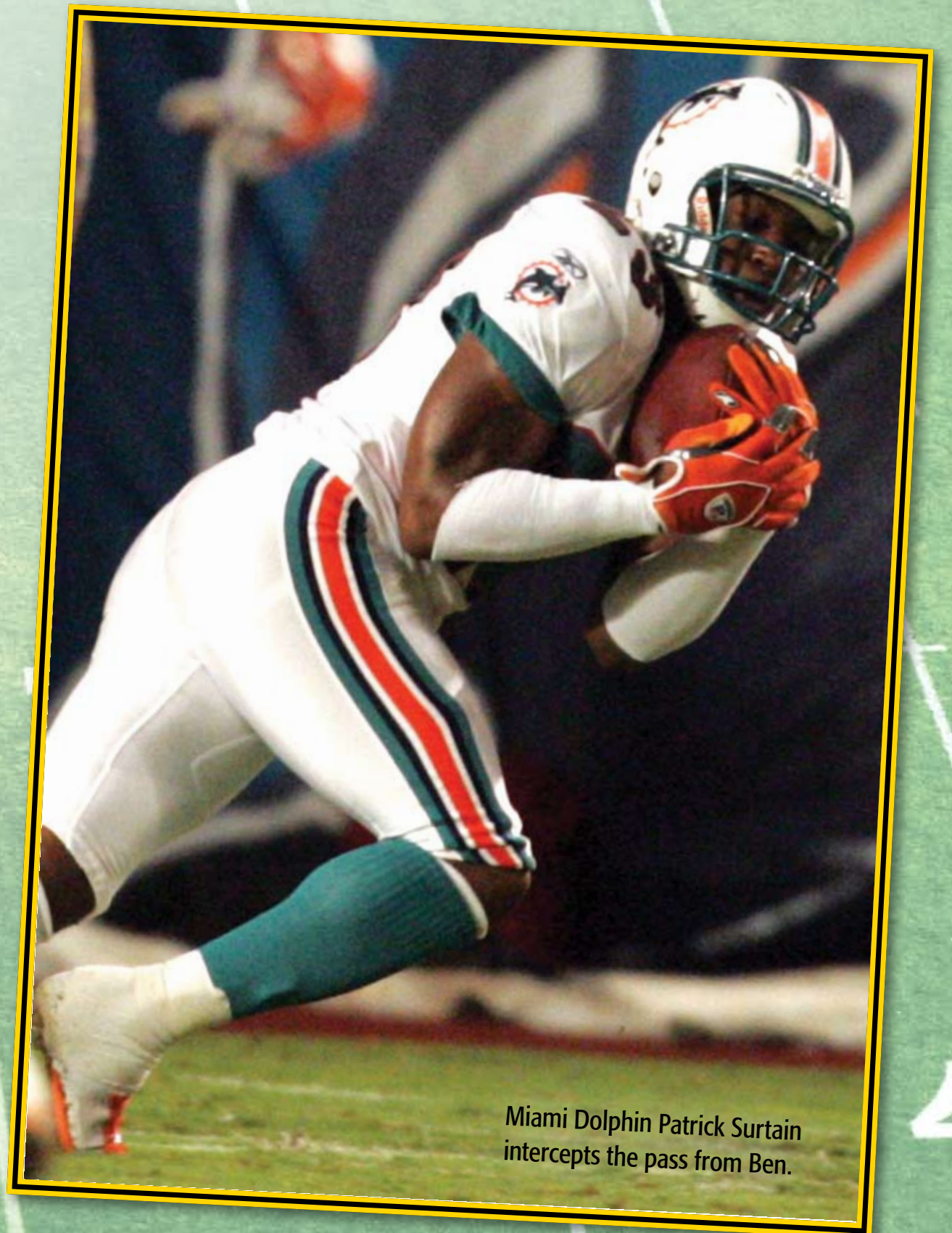
Pittsburgh had planned to go slow with the rookie. He wasn't supposed to play much at first. Now plans had changed. Pittsburgh's top two quarterbacks were hurt. Only Ben was left to face the Miami Dolphins. Could he handle the job?

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.