



SANTONIO HOLMES

and the

Pittsburgh Steelers

SUPER BOWL XLIII



by Michael Sandler

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by Michael Sandler

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Meeting the Challenge

Super Bowl XLIII (43) was coming down to the wire. Both teams were fighting to the very end, refusing to lose.

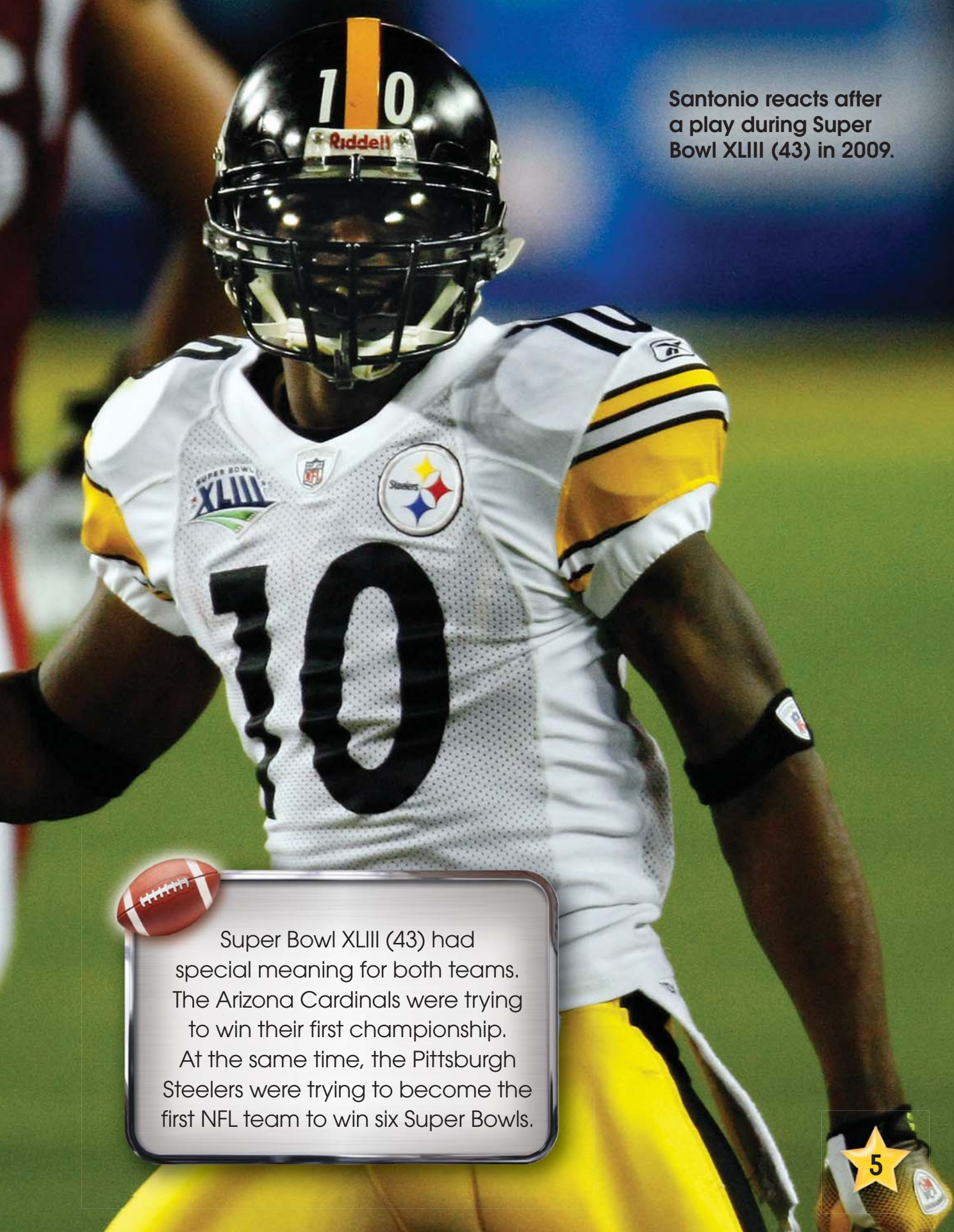
The Pittsburgh Steelers had started the game strong. Then the Arizona Cardinals roared back, taking the lead with just two minutes left to play.

Now the Steelers were beginning their final **drive** of the season. They needed to make big plays. If they didn't, they'd lose. Which player would step up to the challenge?

"I'm the guy," said Santonio Holmes to quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Could the young **wide receiver** back up his words?

Ben Roethlisberger (right) talks with Santonio Holmes (left) during Super Bowl XLIII (43).





Santonio reacts after
a play during Super
Bowl XLIII (43) in 2009.



Super Bowl XLIII (43) had special meaning for both teams. The Arizona Cardinals were trying to win their first championship. At the same time, the Pittsburgh Steelers were trying to become the first NFL team to win six Super Bowls.

A Tough Life

Santonio Holmes was used to tough situations. He grew up in Belle Glade, Florida. In his rough-and-tumble neighborhood, there were no factories, big stores, or even movie theaters. Most people couldn't find jobs. Santonio's mother, Patricia Brown, was lucky to have one.

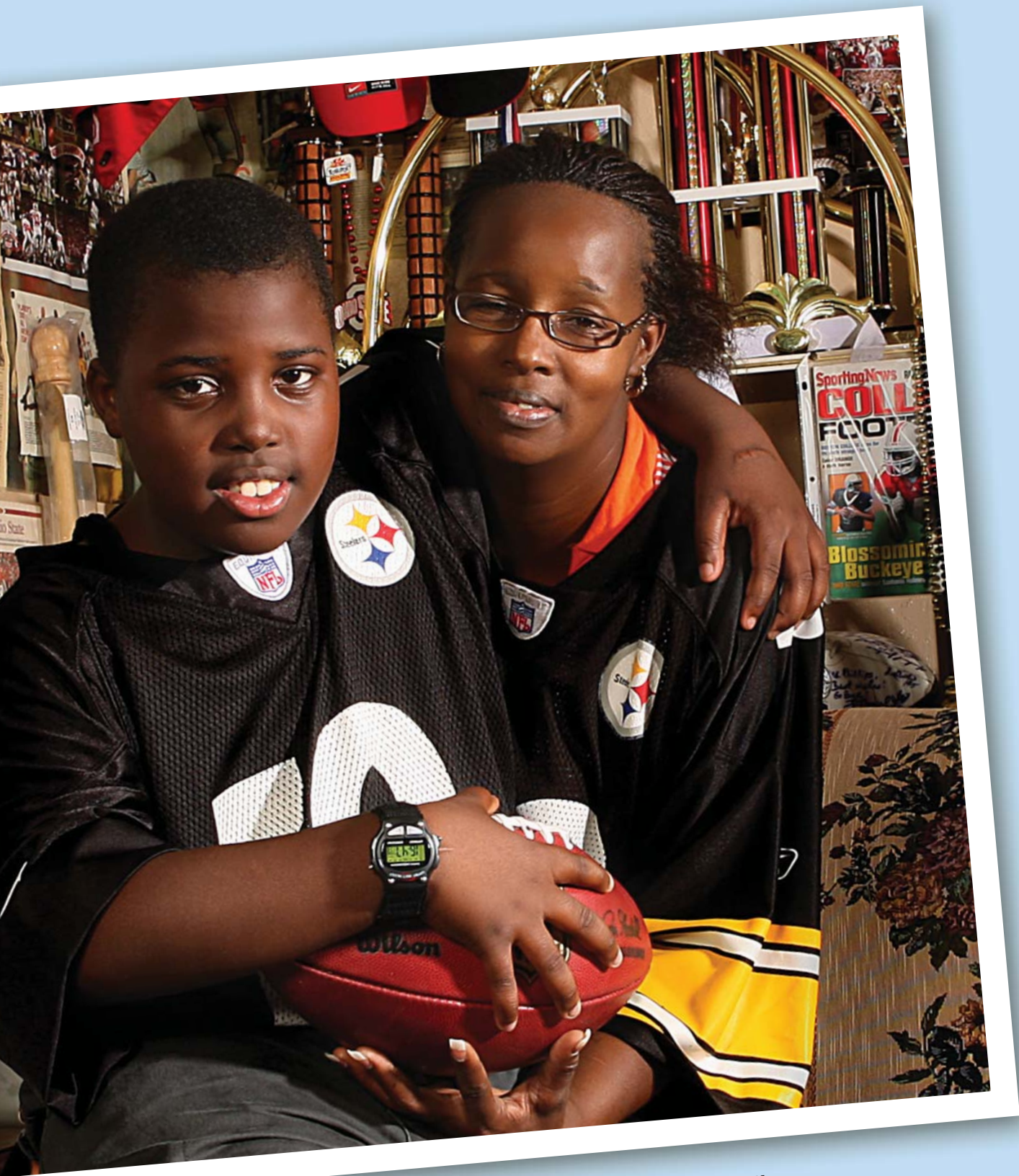
Every morning, this single mom woke up at 3 A.M. and caught a bus out to a farm. Working all day packing corn into boxes, she barely made enough money to support her four sons.

With his mother working long hours, Santonio was left at home to take care of his three younger brothers. In the morning, he got them ready for school. In the afternoon, he watched them until his mother got home from work.



To earn extra money for clothing and shoes, Santonio chased rabbits in the sugarcane fields outside of Belle Glade. He could sell each rabbit he caught for three dollars.





Santonio's mother, Patricia, with one of his brothers

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NFL.com

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To learn more about Santonio Holmes, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and the Super Bowl, visit www.bearportpublishing.com/SuperBowlSuperstars

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SANTONIO HOLMES and the Pittsburgh Steelers

SUPER BOWL XLIII

Super Bowl XLIII (43) between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Arizona Cardinals was coming down to the wire. Santonio Holmes and his team were fighting to the very end. With just two minutes left to play, Arizona had the lead. The Steelers needed to make big plays. If they didn't, they'd lose. Could Santonio and his teammates turn this game around?

Troy Aikman
and the Dallas Cowboys
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Tom Brady
and the New England Patriots
SUPER BOWL XXXVIII

John Elway
and the Denver Broncos
SUPER BOWL XXXIII

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Dexter Jackson
and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
SUPER BOWL XXXVII

Eli Manning
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Peyton Manning
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Joe Montana
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Hines Ward
and the Pittsburgh Steelers
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Kurt Warner
and the St. Louis Rams
SUPER BOWL XXXIV



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