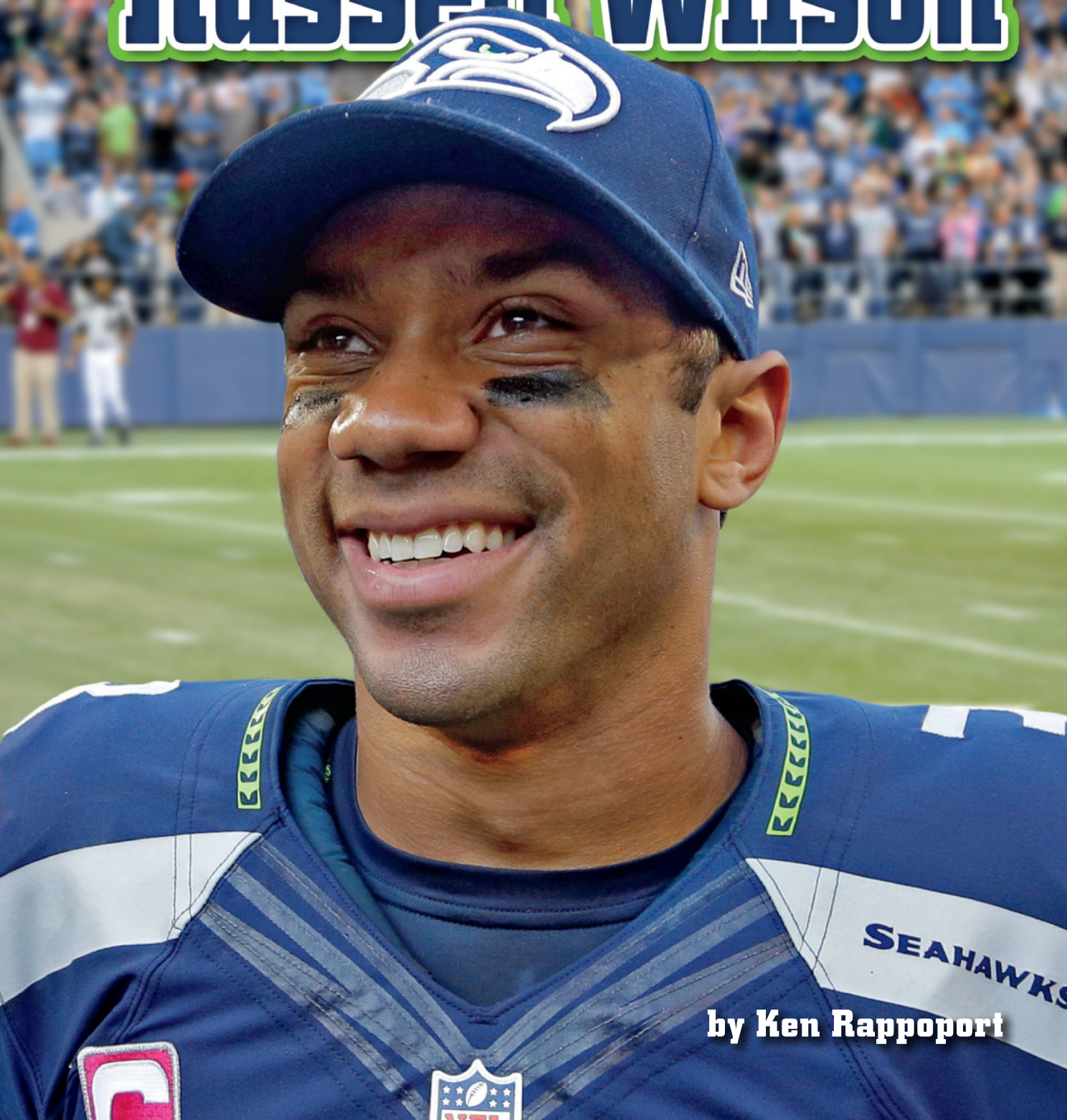




Russell Wilson



by Ken Rappoport

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By Ken Rappoport

Consultant: Barry Wilner
AP Football Writer

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editor: Jessica Rudolph

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Chrös McDougall

Design: Emily Love

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Rappoport, Ken.

Russell Wilson / by Ken Rappoport.

pages cm.—(Football stars up close)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-62724-541-8 (library binding)—ISBN 1-62724-541-3 (library binding)

1. Wilson, Russell, 1988—Juvenile literature. 2. Football players—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. 3. Quarterbacks (Football)—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature.

I. Title.

GV939.W545R37 2015

796.332092—dc23

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2014036728

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

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Playoff Time

It was January 19, 2014. The Seattle Seahawks were battling the San Francisco 49ers in the **playoffs**. In his first play of the game, Seahawks **quarterback** Russell Wilson lost a **fumble**. Later, he was **sacked** four times by 49ers players. Down 17–10 in the third quarter, the Seahawks were running out of time. Would Russell be able to lead his team to victory?



Russell (far left) prepares to take a snap to start a play in the 2014 playoff game.

A full-page action shot of Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson. He is wearing his dark blue home uniform with neon green accents and a black Riddell helmet. He is running forward, holding the football with both hands, looking slightly to his left. The background is a blurred stadium filled with spectators.

Russell about to
throw a pass in
the 2014 playoffs

A graphic of a brown football with white laces, tilted diagonally. It serves as a background for the text.

The 2014 playoff
game was held at the
Seahawks' home stadium,
CenturyLink Field.


What a Comeback!

Russell never lost his cool. He got his team close enough to the end zone to score a **field goal**. Then, in the fourth quarter, Russell launched a 35-yard (32 m) pass into the end zone.

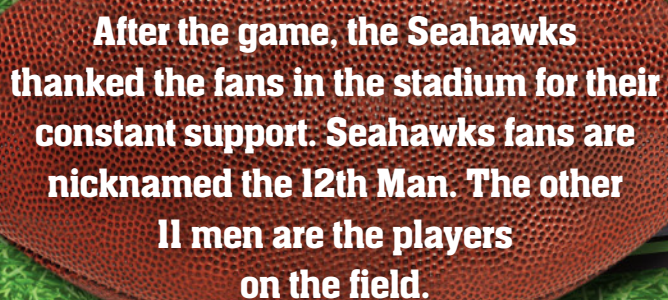
Seahawks **receiver** Jermaine Kearse made a leaping catch for a touchdown! Seattle quickly scored another field goal, and the 49ers never recovered. The Seahawks were on their way to the **Super Bowl!**



Jermaine Kearse catches the fourth-quarter touchdown.



Russell (left) and teammate Richard Sherman celebrate after beating the 49ers 23–17.



After the game, the Seahawks thanked the fans in the stadium for their constant support. Seahawks fans are nicknamed the 12th Man. The other 11 men are the players on the field.

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To learn more about Russell Wilson, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/FootballStarsUpClose

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Russell Wilson

As a boy, Russell Wilson loved playing lots of sports. However, because he wasn't very tall, Russell was often told he could never play professional football. He never gave up, though. Russell's hardworking attitude led him all the way to the NFL. In just two years, he helped his team, the Seattle Seahawks, achieve a Super Bowl victory!

Look inside to learn about this quarterback's inspiring journey from his childhood in Louisiana, through his college years at North Carolina State University and the University of Wisconsin, all the way to NFL stardom.

Tom Brady

Andrew Luck

Aaron Rodgers

Drew Brees

Peyton Manning

Tony Romo

Robert Griffin III

Adrian Peterson

Richard Sherman

Colin Kaepernick

Troy Polamalu

★ **Russell Wilson**

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

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ISBN-13: 978-1-62724-541-8



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