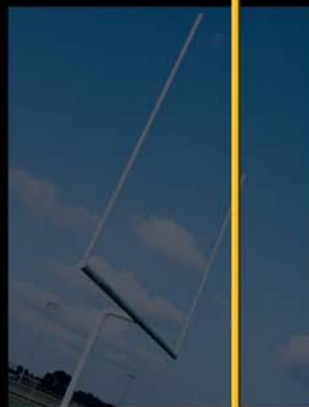




# Ben Roethlisberger

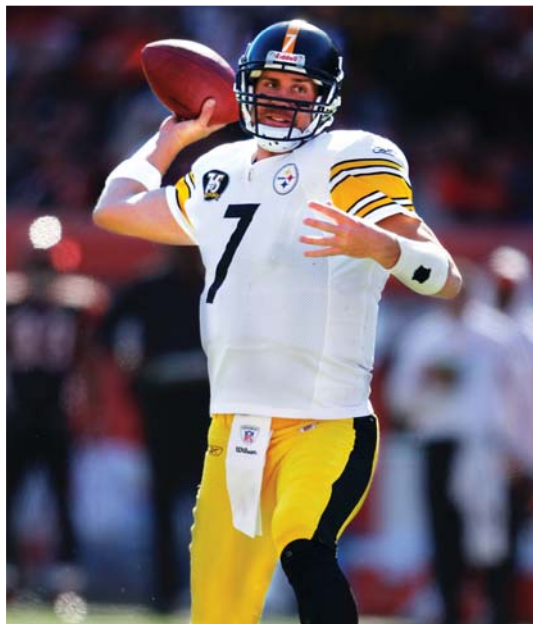


by Michael Sandler

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**



# Ben Roethlisberger



**by Michael Sandler**

Consultant: Norries Wilson  
Head Football Coach, Columbia University

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

## Credits

Cover, © zsports/NewsCom; Title Page, © Andy Lyons/Getty Images; 4, © Jason Arnold/Reuters/Landov; 5, © AP Images/Luis M. Alvarez; 6, © Scott Boehm/Getty Images; 7, © Andy Lyons/Getty Images; 8L, Courtesy of Jerry Snodgrass; 8R, Courtesy of Jerry Snodgrass; 9, © Michael J. LeBrecht II/Sports Illustrated/Getty Images; 10, © Brett Hansbauer; 11, © Chris Trotman/Getty Images; 12, © Archie Carpenter/UPI Photo/Landov; 13, © Rick Stewart/Getty Images; 14, © Steve C. Michell/epa/Corbis; 15, © Marc Serota/Reuters/Corbis; 16, Courtesy Bigbennews.com; 17, Courtesy Bigbennews.com; 18, © Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; 19, © Scott Dietz/412foto.com; 20, © AP Images/Keith B. Srakocic; 21, © AP Images/The Courier/Howard Moyer; 22, © Andy Lyons/Getty Images; 22Logo, © KRT/Newscom.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Lisa Wiseman

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Omni-Photo Communications, Inc.

Design: Dawn Beard Creative

## *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Sandler, Michael, 1965—

Ben Roethlisberger / by Michael Sandler.

p. cm. — (Football heroes making a difference)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-770-3 (library binding)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-770-3 (library binding)

1. Roethlisberger, Ben, 1982—Juvenile literature. 2. Football players—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

GV939.R64S36 2009

796.33092—dc22

[B]

2008042446

Copyright © 2009 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 101 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6R, New York, New York 10003. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



# CONTENTS



Suddenly a Starter .....	4
Amazing .....	6
Growing Up .....	8
Choosing Football .....	10
Surprising the Steelers .....	12
Super Bowl Success .....	14
Service to Others .....	16
Working with Kids .....	18
Bouncing Back .....	20
 The Ben File .....	 22
Glossary .....	23
Bibliography .....	24
Read More .....	24
Learn More Online .....	24
Index .....	24

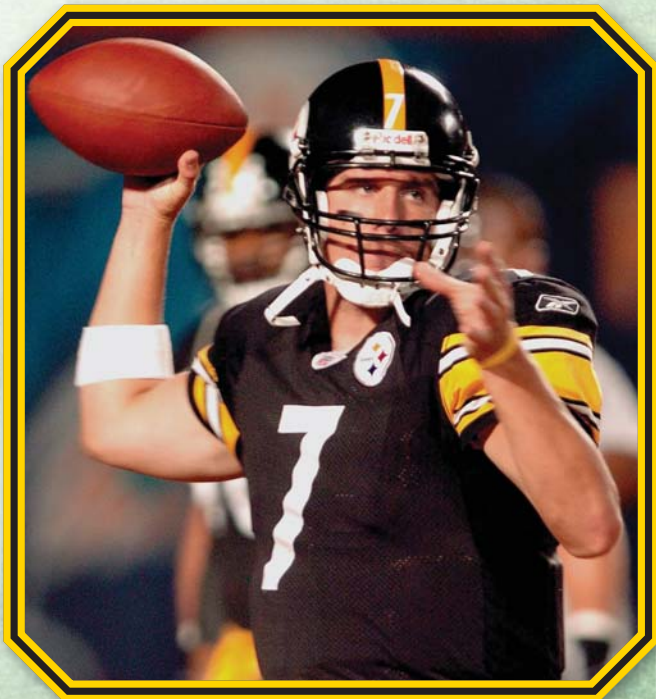


# Suddenly a Starter

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.



# Amazing

Most rookies would have crumbled after beginning a game with a **turnover**. Ben didn't. He stayed calm and cool, and waited for another chance.

On the next **possession**, Ben threw a 42-yard (38-m) pass to set up a Pittsburgh field goal. The Steelers took the lead and never gave it up. The rookie had his first win.

A week later, in a game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Ben got his second win. Then, the following Sunday, Pittsburgh beat the Cleveland Browns. With Ben at quarterback, the Steelers couldn't lose. By season's end, he had won 13 straight games.

Ben celebrates a touchdown during the game against the Cleveland Browns in 2004.





One of the 13 games won in 2004 was against the New England Patriots. Ben completed 18 out of 24 passes without an interception.



Ben's 13-game winning streak was the longest for a rookie in the history of the NFL.



# Bibliography

**Farmer, Sam.** "The Man with the Golden Arm." *Los Angeles Times* (November 28, 2004).

**Robinson, Alan.** "Football Not Roethlisberger's First Love." *AP Sports* (February 4, 2006).

**Silver, Michael.** "Ben There, Done That." *Sports Illustrated* (November 8, 2004).

## Read More

**Sandler, Michael.** *Hines Ward and the Pittsburgh Steelers: Super Bowl XL.* New York: Bearport (2007).

**Schmalzbauer, Adam.** *The History of the Pittsburgh Steelers.* Mankato, MN: Creative Education (2005).

**Zuehlke, Jeffrey.** *Ben Roethlisberger.* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner (2007).

## Learn More Online

To learn more about Ben Roethlisberger, the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, visit [www.bearportpublishing.com/FootballHeroes](http://www.bearportpublishing.com/FootballHeroes)

## Index

baseball 8–9  
basketball 8–9, 10–11  
Ben Roethlisberger  
    Foundation 16–17, 22  
Bettis, Jerome 12–13  
Cincinnati Bengals 6  
Cleveland Browns 6  
Denver Broncos 14  
dogs 16–17, 22

draft 10–11  
Findlay, Ohio 8, 16, 18  
fire departments 16–17  
high school 8–9, 10, 18  
Indianapolis Colts 14  
Miami Dolphins 4–5  
Miami University 10  
motorcycle accident 20  
New England Patriots 7,

12

Pittsburgh,  
    Pennsylvania 18–19  
playoffs 12, 14, 20  
police departments  
    16–17, 22  
Seattle Seahawks 14  
Spraw, Bill 16  
Surtain, Patrick 4–5  
Ward, Hines 12





**[Intentionally Left Blank]**



# Ben Roethlisberger

At age 23, Ben Roethlisberger became the youngest quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl. He was a hero to Pittsburgh Steelers fans! Ben decided to use his newfound fame to help other kinds of heroes. He started the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation, an organization that buys service dogs for police and fire departments. His goal? To provide a service dog for every town the Steelers play in! Follow Ben through the biggest moments of his career on and off the field to see how this champion makes a difference.

**Brett Favre**

**Ben Roethlisberger**

**Matt Hasselbeck**

**LaDainian Tomlinson**

**Donovan McNabb**

**Brian Urlacher**

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

[www.bearportpublishing.com](http://www.bearportpublishing.com)

ISBN-10: 1-59716-770-3  
ISBN-13: 978-1-59716-770-3

