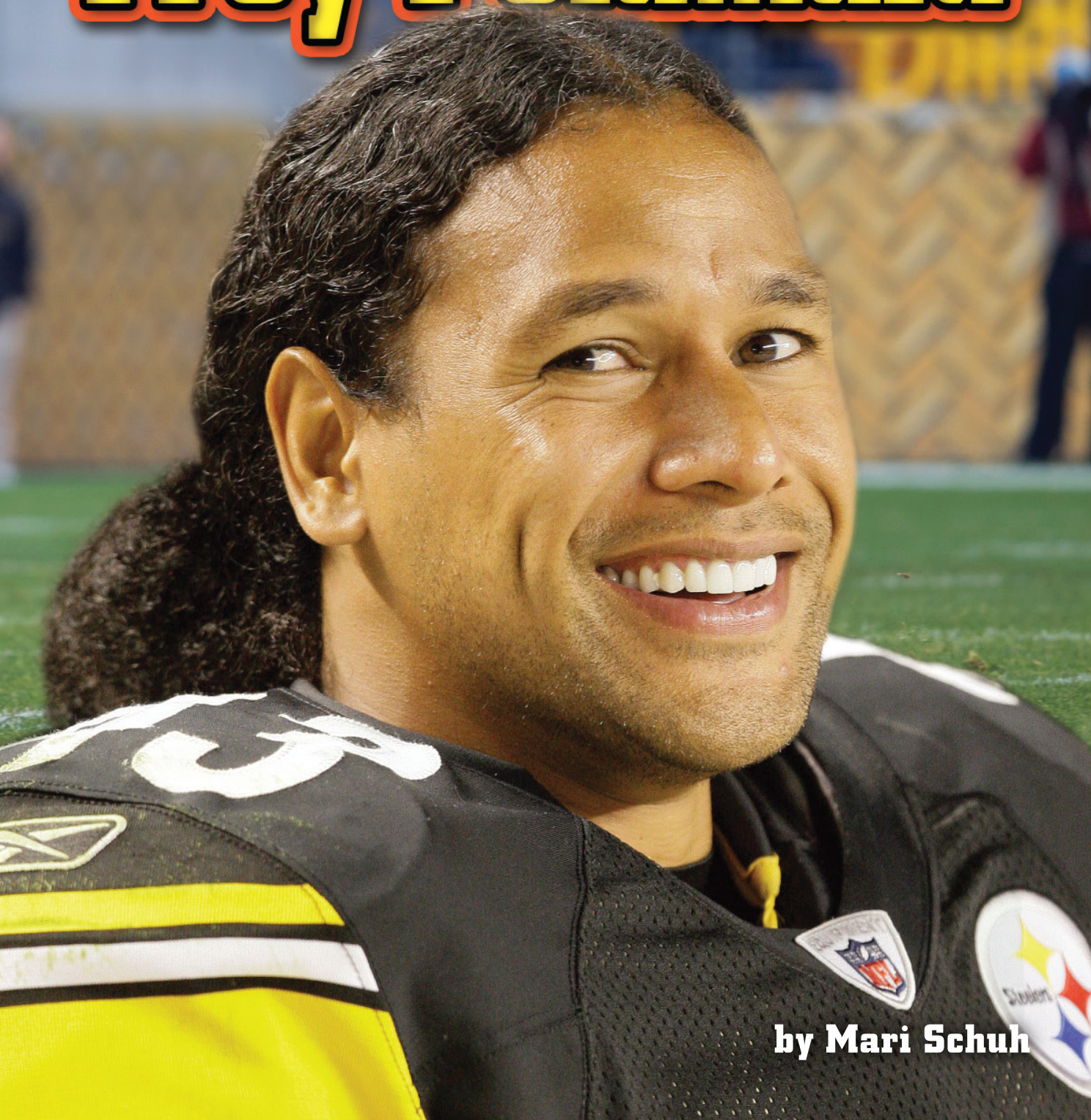


FOOTBALL STARS
UP CLOSE
★★★

Troy Polamalu



by Mari Schuh

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Troy Polamalu



by Mari Schuh

Consultant: Barry Wilner
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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover and Title Page, © Gene J. Puskar/AP Images and Tom Hauck/AP Images; 4, © Keith Srakocic/AP Images; 5, © G. Newman Lowrance/AP Images; 6, © Gene J. Puskar/AP Images; 7, © Aaron Josefczyk/Icon SMI; 8, © Lisa Fletcher/iStockphoto; 9, © Daniel-life/Shutterstock Images; 10, © Zuma Press/Icon SMI; 11, © Icon SMI; 12, © Ted Timmons; 13, © Gary I. Rothstein/AP Images; 14, © Tom Hauck/Icon SMI; 15, © Daniel Hulshizer/AP Images; 16, © John Heller/AP Images; 17, © Icon SMI; 18, © Mark J. Terrill/AP Images; 19, © Mark Cowan/Icon SMI; 20, © Kevin Reece/Icon SMI; 21, © Zuma Press/Icon SMI.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Editorial Director: Adam Siegel

Senior Editor: Joyce Tivolacci

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Arnold Ringstad

Design: Emily Love

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Schuh, Mari.

Troy Polamalu / by Mari Schuh.

p. cm. — (Football stars up close)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61772-715-3 (library binding) — ISBN 1-61772-715-6 (library binding)

1. Polamalu, Troy, 1981—Juvenile literature. 2. Football players—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

GV939.P65S34 2013

796.332092—dc23

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2012037978

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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.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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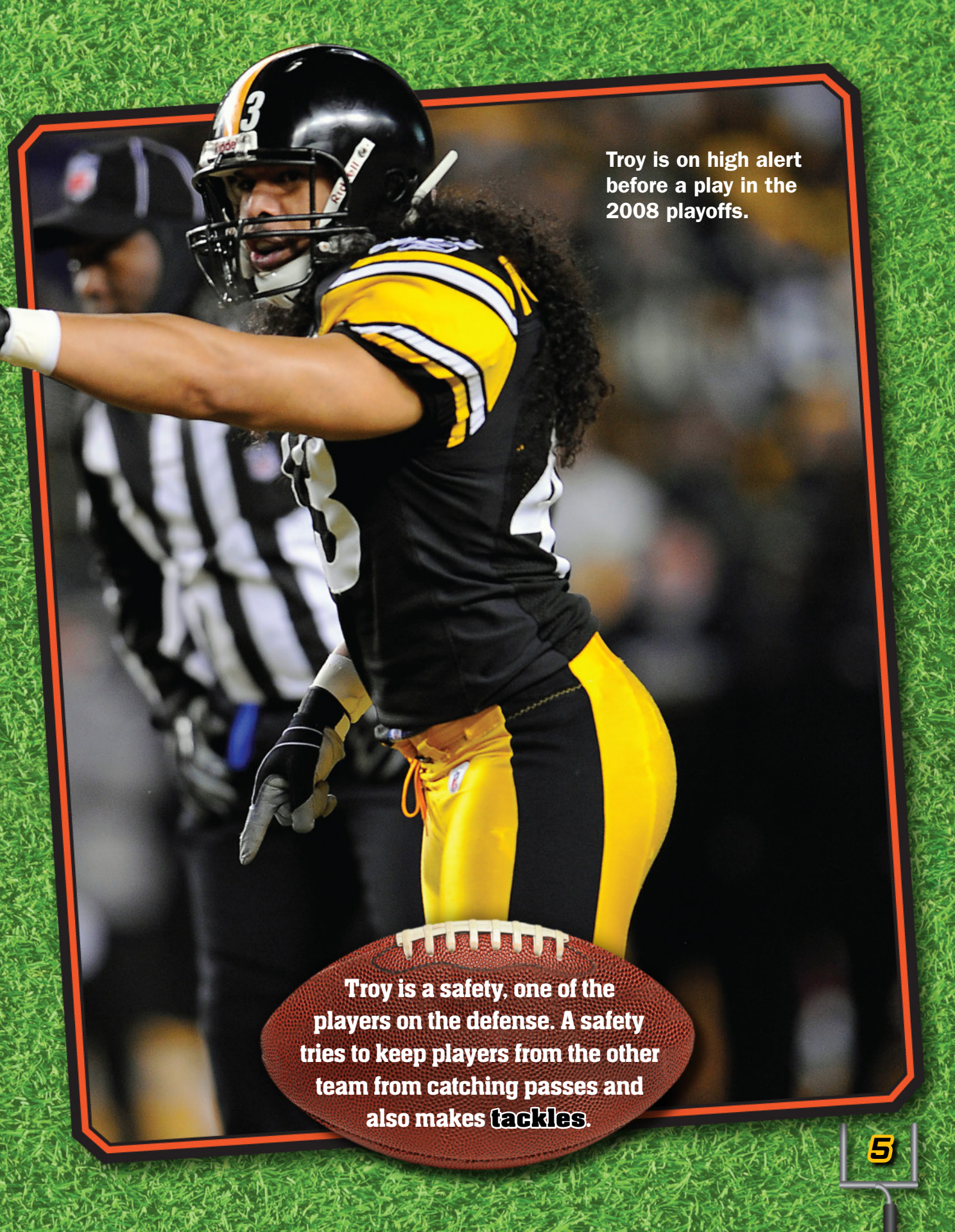
Big Play

It was the 2008 **playoffs**, and Troy Polamalu had to make a big play. His team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, was battling the Baltimore Ravens. Troy knew the winning team would go to the **Super Bowl**—and the Ravens now had a chance to score. If they could get the ball to the **end zone**, the Ravens would win the game. Could Troy stop them?



Troy rests at practice a few days before the big game against the Ravens.





Troy is on high alert
before a play in the
2008 playoffs.

Troy is a safety, one of the
players on the defense. A safety
tries to keep players from the other
team from catching passes and
also makes **tackles**.

Super Bowl Bound

Troy watched Ravens player, Joe Flacco, throw the football. Troy ran toward the ball, reached high into the air, and **intercepted** the pass. He tucked the ball into his arms and ran as fast as he could. He twisted and turned past Ravens players, speeding into the end zone for a **touchdown**. Thanks to Troy, the Steelers won the game 23–14. They were on their way to the Super Bowl!



Troy (#43) moves to tackle a Cardinals player during the Super Bowl.

The 2009 Super Bowl was played in Tampa, Florida. The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals 27–23.

Troy dashes toward
the end zone after
intercepting Joe
Flacco's pass.



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Official Site of the Pittsburgh Steelers: www.steelers.com

Official Site of Troy Polamalu: www.troy43.com

Official Site of the USC Trojans: www.usctrojans.com

Read More

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Learn More Online

To learn more about Troy Polamalu, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/FootballStarsUpClose



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Troy Polamalu

Troy Polamalu is an unstoppable force. Considered to be one of the best defensive players in the NFL, Troy uses his stunning speed, agility, and strength to intercept passes and tackle opponents. Troy's talents have helped his team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, win two Super Bowl championships. Even though life hasn't always been easy for this superstar, no obstacle could stop Troy from rising to football fame.

Look inside for a close-up look at the defensive player's inspiring journey from his childhood in California and Oregon, through his college years at the University of Southern California, all the way to NFL stardom.

Tom Brady

Drew Brees

Adrian Peterson

★ **Troy Polamalu**

Aaron Rodgers

Tony Romo

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com



ISBN-13: 978-1-61772-715-3

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