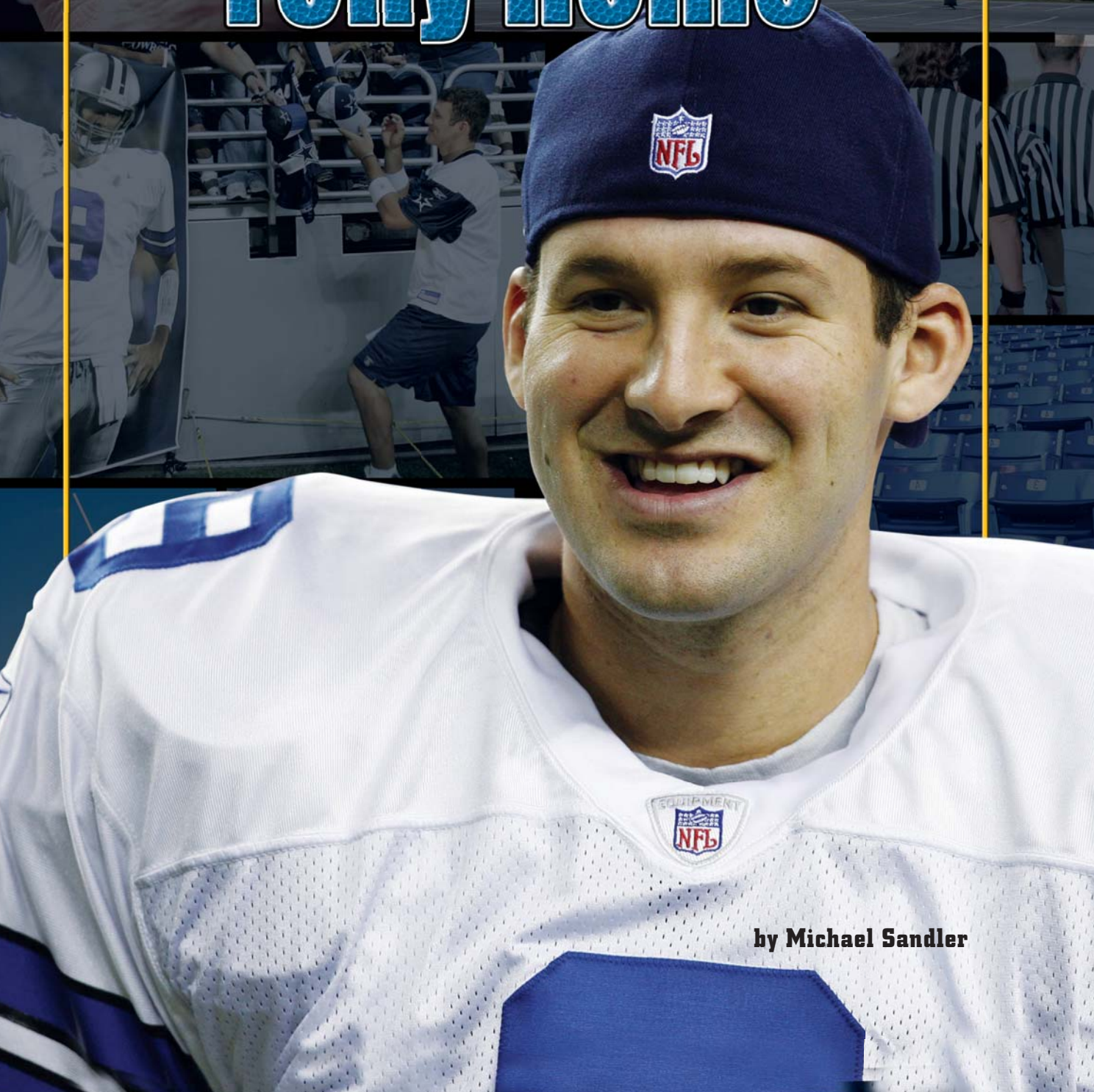




Tony Romo



by Michael Sandler

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by Michael Sandler

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Columbia University

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Tony's Big Chance

"Romo, you're in!"

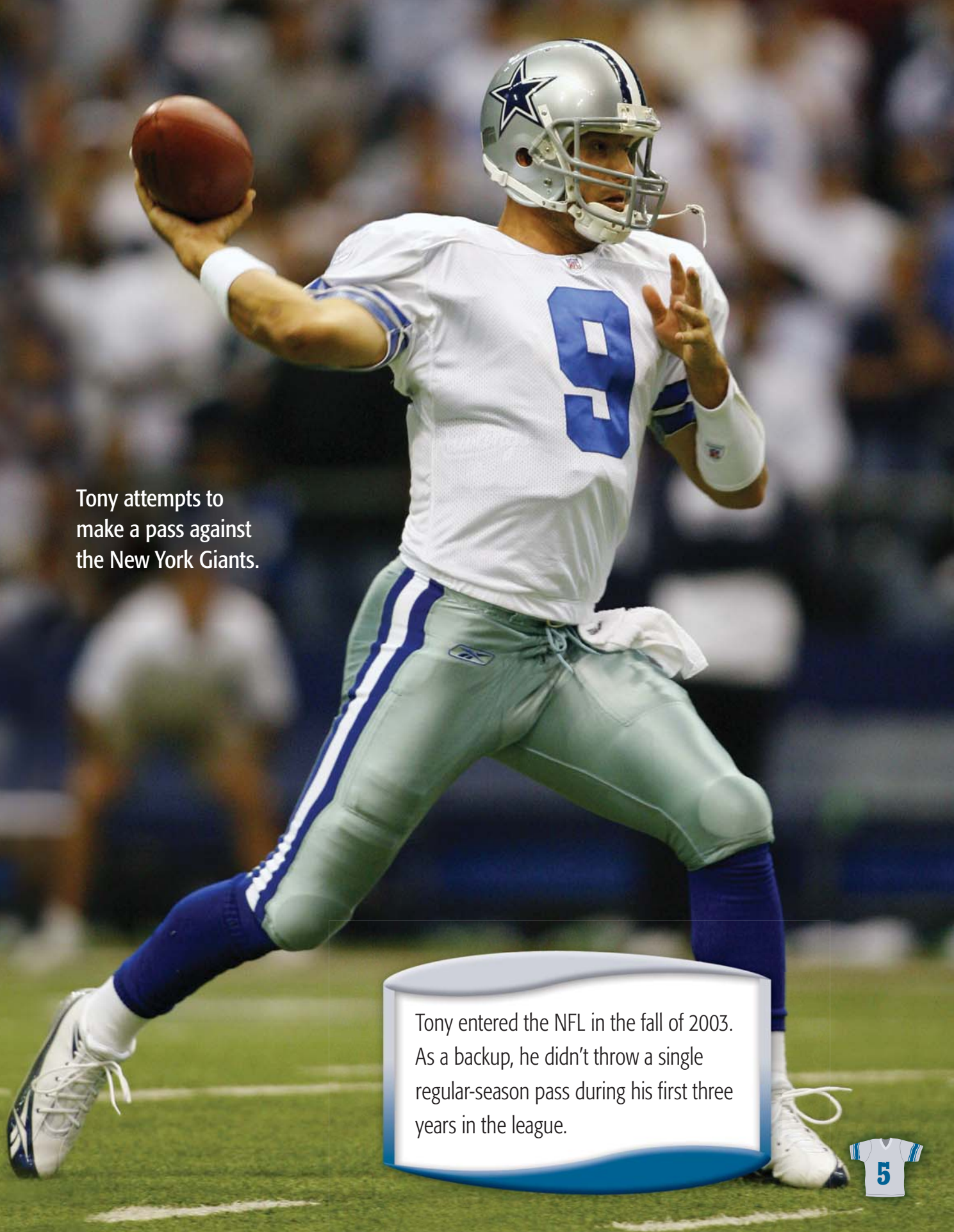
Tony Romo had been waiting three years to hear these words. The Dallas Cowboys quarterback was a **backup**. He usually only played in practice. Now, at halftime against the New York Giants in 2006, his coach was calling his name.

Tony had a full half to prove he belonged in the NFL. How did he do? Terribly! Over and over, he threw bad passes. The Giants **intercepted** three of them, and the Cowboys lost.

Afterward, Tony was crushed. He'd let his teammates down. He'd blown his big chance! Would Dallas coach Bill Parcells give him another try?

Tony warming up on the sidelines before the game against the Giants on October 23, 2006



A full-page photograph of Tony Stewart, a Dallas Cowboys player, in action. He is wearing a white jersey with the number 9 in blue, silver pants with blue stripes, and a silver helmet with a blue star. He is in a three-point stance, holding a brown football in his right hand, ready to throw. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

Tony attempts to
make a pass against
the New York Giants.

Tony entered the NFL in the fall of 2003. As a backup, he didn't throw a single regular-season pass during his first three years in the league.



Surprise Starter

Tony couldn't believe it. Coach Parcells did give him another chance. He started at quarterback during the very next game, which was against the Carolina Panthers. It was the first start of Tony's career.

This time, Tony made the most of it. After the Panthers jumped out to a 14-0 lead, Tony brought the Cowboys back. He stayed away from the other team's **defenders** and threw short, crisp, **accurate** passes. By the fourth quarter, Dallas had closed the gap to 14-10.

Then, with Tony leading the way, Dallas exploded with 25 fourth-quarter points. The young quarterback helped his team to an amazing 35-14 victory!



Tony (#9) calls a play to his team during the game against the Panthers.



Dallas's 25-point fourth quarter was a new team record.

Tony (#9) scrambles down the field away from the Panthers' defenders.



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Tony Romo

During the first three years of his NFL career, Tony Romo wasn't given a chance to play. However, from the moment Tony became the starting quarterback, the Dallas Cowboys seemed unable to lose. Tony has given his fans something to cheer about off the field, too. Through the football camp he runs, Tony helps young athletes learn the fundamentals of the game. Tony has also donated money to Eastern Illinois University, where he attended college, and supports groups such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Follow Tony through the biggest moments of his career on and off the field to see how this champion makes a difference.

Brett Favre
Larry Fitzgerald
Tony Gonzalez
Matt Hasselbeck
Donovan McNabb

Adrian Peterson
Ben Roethlisberger
Tony Romo
LaDainian Tomlinson
Brian Urlacher

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