



SCORE

T H E H E I G H T S



Chapter 1



Franco Silva ran off the field. He headed to the locker room. Coach Brock was tough. He worked the team hard. The Rockdale Heights Rams were ready for their season.

Franco was a senior. He'd been on the football team since freshman year. He loved football. And he worked hard.

The Rockdale Heights Rams won a lot of games last season. Most of

the wins were because of Franco. He made the All-State team in both offense and defense. It was the first time in 15 years a player did that.

He was a great running back. Franco was fast. Coach thought that he was an even better defensive player. His position was left linebacker. And he blocked players much bigger than him.

The first game was next week. The Rams were going to have a great season. Last year they only lost two games. This year the Rams wanted to go undefeated. They also had a good chance to be state champions. It was the first time. They were finally good enough.

Antonio Silva was a freshman.

He was on the team too. He was the third-string wide receiver. That meant he wouldn't play much. But Antonio didn't mind. He worked hard. He wanted to be as good as his brother someday.

Franco hurt from practice. The hot shower felt good. Antonio waited for him. He was ready to go. They walked to Franco's car.

"I can't wait for the game," said Antonio. "We're going to win!"

"I hope so," Franco said. "It would be awesome!"

The whole town wanted the Rams to win. They wanted Rockdale Heights to be state champs!

Ana Silva had dinner ready for the boys. They were starving!

Chapter 2



The entire family planned to go to Saturday's game. Ana was thrilled to see her boys play.

On Friday Coach Brock canceled practice. He worked the team hard in August. He knew they were ready. The coach was worried for Franco. He was going to be under a lot of pressure. Sportswriters were predicting that Franco would break

many records.

There were also college recruiters. They were always calling. Many of them wanted to see Franco play. Coach Brock would help Franco as best he could. But Franco was so well known. It would be hard.

That day the newspaper headline read:

SEASON OPENER TOMORROW
ROCKDALE HEIGHTS RAMS

Favored by 20 Points

Over Castro Colts

Franco sat in the locker room. He was ready for the game. Tramon Garcia sat next to him. Tramon was the biggest player on the Rams. He played defensive tackle. He kept

Franco from getting creamed.

“Are you going to block for me today?” Franco asked. “Or do I have to do all the work myself?”

Tramon laughed. He and Franco always joked around. They were best friends on and off the field. They were also the team’s best players.

Coach Brock called the team together.

“Men,” Coach Brock said. “Today we start a new season. Many people predict a great year for us. But all I’m asking from you is one thing. Do your best!”

Then the Rams ran onto the field.

Castro won the coin toss. They wanted the ball first. But they only got four yards. The Rams got

the ball on their 40-yard line. The quarterback threw Franco the ball. He broke over the tackle. Then he got by two Castro defenders. He ran into the end zone for a touchdown.

Castro made a first down. Now they were on their own 35-yard line. They needed six yards. Their quarterback went to pass. But Franco ran in. He hit the quarterback before he could pass. The ball hit the ground. Franco grabbed it on the bounce. Again, he ran into the end zone. He scored his second touchdown of the game!

Now it was Castro's turn to receive. They were forced to punt fast. Four plays later, Franco scored

his third touchdown.

It was still the first quarter. The score was 21–0. Coach Brock took Franco off offense. He only played defense for the rest of the game. Franco didn't touch the ball again. But he didn't let Castro score any touchdowns.

The next day the papers read:

CASTRO NO MATCH
FOR RAMS

Final Score, 42–0

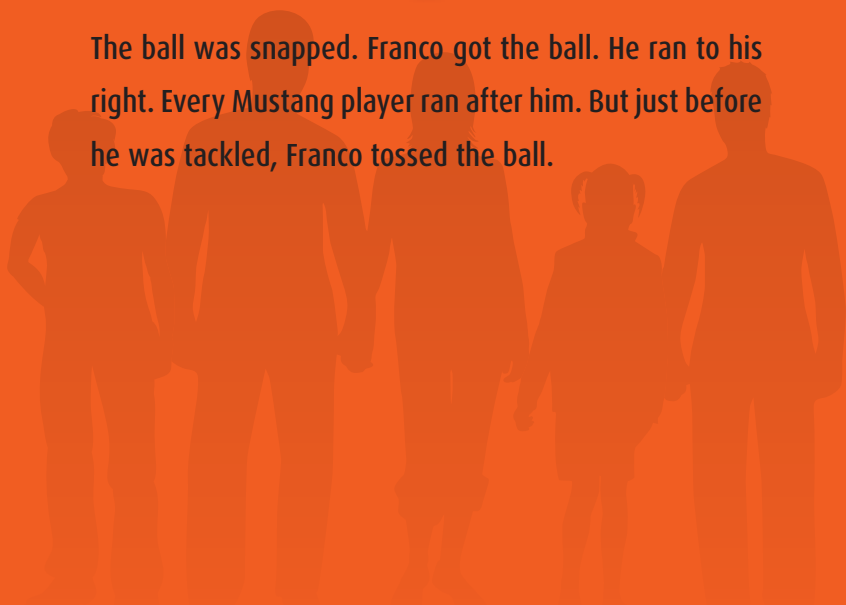
Franco Silva Scores 3 TDs

T H E H E I G H T S



SCORE

The ball was snapped. Franco got the ball. He ran to his right. Every Mustang player ran after him. But just before he was tackled, Franco tossed the ball.



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