



CARTER HIGH
CHRONICLES



BACK-UP

Quarterback



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

Dan was in his front yard. Kirk was there too. Kirk was his best friend.

“What do you want to do?” Dan asked.

“I don’t know. What do you want to do?” Kirk asked.

Dan said, “Practice starts next week. I could throw some passes to you.”

“OK,” Kirk said.

Dan was on the football team. Kirk was on the tennis team. But Kirk also helped the football team.

Dan got his football from the house. Then both boys went to Dan’s backyard.

Kirk said, “What are you and Eve

going to do this weekend?”

Eve was Dan’s girlfriend. They had been dating for almost a year.

Dan said, “We’re going to a show. What are you and Claire going to do?”

Claire was Kirk’s girlfriend. They had been dating for about two months.

Kirk said, “Claire has to go out of town. She has to go see her grandmother one weekend each month.”

The boys threw the ball to each other for a while.

Then Dan said, “What do you think?”

“About what?” Kirk asked.

“Will I be the quarterback this year?”

Dan said.

The team would need a new quarterback.

Dan hoped he would be the quarterback. Last year he had been the back-up quarterback.

Two other boys were going to try out for the job. He and Kirk knew them.

Kirk said, "You should be. You pass better than the other guys. So the coach should pick you."

Dan was sure he would be the quarterback too. He could hardly wait for the season to start.

The boys threw some more passes to each other.

Then Dan said, "Know any news?"

Not much had been going on all week.

"One thing," Kirk said.

"What?" Dan asked.

"A new guy moved in down the street from me. But I haven't met him yet," Kirk said.

"Know anything about him?" Dan asked.

Kirk said, "Yeah. He played on the football team at his other school."



“What did he play?” Dan asked.

Kirk said, “I heard he’s a running back. But I don’t know for sure.”

They could use a new running back on the team.

Dan said, “I hope he is a back. We sure could use one more good back.”

Kirk said, “I’ll let you know as soon as I find out. I’m going to try to meet him before practice starts.”

Dan heard the phone ring.

Dan said, “I hear the phone. I’ll be back in a few minutes.”

Dan hurried into the house. Kirk stayed out in the yard.

The phone call was for Dan.

It was Coach Grant.

Dan got very excited.

Did Coach Grant call to tell him he would be the quarterback?



Chapter 2

Coach Grant said, “I’m at school, Dan. I need to talk to you. Do you have time to come over here?”

“Sure. When?” Dan asked.

“As soon as you can,” Coach Grant said.

Dan said, “Kirk is here. Do you want him to come too?”

“No. Just you, Dan,” Coach Grant said.

“I’ll be right over,” Dan said.

Dan hurried outside.

“Who was it?” Kirk asked.

Dan said, “Coach Grant. He wants me at school. He wants to talk to me.”

“Does he want to talk to me too?”
Kirk asked.

Dan said, “No. I asked him. He just wants to see me.”

“Why do you think he wants to see you?” Kirk asked.

“Maybe to tell me I will be the quarterback. And to go over some plays with me,” Dan said.

“Good luck. I will be at home. Let me know what he wanted,” Kirk said.

Dan said, “Thanks. I’ll stop by your house on the way home. And I will tell you all about it.”

Dan hurried to the school.

Coach Grant was in his office. His office door was open. He was sitting at his desk. He was looking at some papers on his desk.

Dan knocked on the door.

The coach looked up. He said,

“Thanks for coming, Dan. Come in and shut the door.”

Why did the coach want him to shut the door? That didn’t sound good to Dan.

“Sit down, Dan,” Coach Grant said.

Why did the coach ask him to sit down? Did he have bad news for Dan? Or was he just going to go over some plays with Dan?

Coach Grant said, “A new guy is going out for the team. He is from out of state. His name is Clay. He is going to try out for quarterback.”

Coach Grant quit talking. He seemed to be waiting for Dan to say something.

But Dan was too surprised to know what to say.

“I wanted you to hear that from me, Dan. And not from someone else,” Coach Grant said.

Dan made himself say, “Thanks for telling me.”

Coach Grant said, “Clay gave me a letter from his coach. Last year Clay was one of the top players in his state.”

What was the coach trying to tell Dan? Was it that Clay would be the quarterback? And not him?

Dan had to know. He said, “What are you telling me? That he will be the quarterback this year?”

Slowly Coach Grant said, “Maybe, Dan. I won’t know until I see both of you at practice. The better player will get the job. I hope it is you. You worked hard last year. But you need to know it might be Clay.”

Dan didn’t want to stay there any longer. He had to get out of there.

Dan said, “OK for me to go? Or did you need to see me about something else?”

