

Name:

## Day One

# The Flying Wedge

### Part 1: Silent read

➔ Find out about one of football's most dangerous plays. Read silently.

Football can be a dangerous game. But one play was so hazardous that it was banned over 100 years ago. This play is the Flying Wedge.

The Flying Wedge first appeared in 1892. In a game between Harvard and Yale, the Harvard team's playbook had a new development. All of the Harvard players except the ball carrier, Bernie Trafford, stood close together. They made a massive V, or a wedge, behind the ball. They left a gap in the middle, at the point of the V. Then, the players began running down the field. At the time the play began, they were already running at full speed. Trafford put the ball in play by lifting it off the ground. His teammates ran past and closed the V. Now, Trafford had a wall of offensive players as protection. He ran inside the V with the ball. The Wedge sent the Yale players crashing to the ground, one by one.

Soon, teams everywhere were using the Wedge. Some teams linked arms. Others sewed loops into the backs of their pants for their teammates to grab onto.

However, some people had objections to the new play. When 10 men flew full speed into one or two defenders, the collision left foggy brains and shattered bones. The Flying Wedge was banned in 1894. However, even today, sometimes two or three blockers will form a wall that the ball carrier runs behind. These plays are ghosts of the old Flying Wedge.



## Day One

// one minute

# The Flying Wedge

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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the old Flying Wedge. 246

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why was the Flying Wedge so dangerous?

\_\_\_\_\_

Why did some players sew loops into the backs of their pants?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Day One

# The Flying Wedge

### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Football can be a dangerous game. // But one play was so hazardous that it was banned / over 100 years ago. // This play is the Flying Wedge. //

The Flying Wedge first appeared / in 1892. // In a game between Harvard and Yale, / the Harvard team's playbook / had a new development. // All of the Harvard players except the ball carrier, / Bernie Trafford, / stood close together. // They made a massive V, / or a wedge, / behind the ball. // They left a gap in the middle, / at the point of the V. // Then the players began running / down the field. // At the time the play began, / they were already running / at full speed. // Trafford put the ball in play / by lifting it off the ground. // His teammates ran past and closed the V. // Now, / Trafford had a wall of offensive players / as protection. // He ran inside the V with the ball. // The Wedge sent the Yale players crashing to the ground, / one by one. //

Soon, / teams everywhere were using the Wedge. // Some teams linked arms. // Others sewed loops into the backs of their pants / for their teammates to grab onto. //

However, / some people had objections to the new play. // When 10 men flew full speed into one or two defenders, / the collision left foggy brains and shattered bones. // The Flying Wedge was banned in 1894. // However, / even today, / sometimes two or three blockers will form a wall / that the ball carrier runs behind. // These plays are ghosts of the old Flying Wedge. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.