

Name:

Day One

Paving the Way

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out about a football 'first.' Read silently.

Do you watch the Super Bowls? One ad on Super Bowl LII got everyone to sit up and pay attention. It's a gray morning. A young woman in black sweats walks by. She loads a sports bag into the back of an SUV. She speeds off. A flashback shows her playing pickup football as a kid. Then you see her tackle in a college game.

Toni Harris became one of the first female players to win a college football scholarship. As tough as she is on the field, Harris got emotional hearing the news. "I'm just a crybaby!"

By age four, Toni was in foster care. Her mother couldn't care for her. Toni lived with several different families. Most girls who play football are receivers or kickers. But defense came easily to Toni. "I fought through everything else in my life," she says.

She remembers the pain of being kicked off her youth football team. "I hate when people put limitations on my life," Toni recalled. She walked onto her high school team. While other players made fun of her, she kept showing up.

Harris had cancer the year she finished high school. She lost half her body weight. After she beat cancer, she worked on getting back into shape. She tried out and made her junior college team. As she heads off to play college ball, Toni is thinking of others. "I want to keep paving the way for little girls everywhere."

Sources: "History In The Making: Antoinette 'Toni' Harris Wants To Be The First Female Player In The NFL" by Gwendolyn Quinn. *Essence*, February 4, 2019.

"Detroit woman wants to play in NFL. Here's why you shouldn't doubt her" by Carlos Monarrez. *Detroit Free Press*, February 9, 2019.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Harris had cancer the year she finished high school. She lost half her body weight. After she beat cancer, she worked on getting back into shape. She tried out and made her junior college team. As she heads off to play college ball, Toni is thinking of others. "I want to keep paving the way for little girls everywhere."

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What was Toni Harris's football 'first'?

What tough things has Toni had to deal with?

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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.

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Toni Harris became one of the first female players / to win a college football scholarship. // As tough as she is on the field, / Harris got emotional hearing the news. // "I'm just a crybaby!" //

By age four, / Toni was in foster care. // Her mother couldn't care for her. // Toni lived with several different families. // Most girls who play football / are receivers or kickers. // But defense came easily to Toni. // "I fought through everything else in my life," / she says. //

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Harris had cancer / the year she finished high school. // She lost half her body weight. // After she beat cancer, / she worked on getting back into shape. // She tried out / and made her junior college team. // As she heads off to play college ball, / Toni is thinking of others. // "I want to keep paving the way / for little girls everywhere." //

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