The Main Idea Strategy: Student Practice Lessons

Name

Date

Passage #20

**Are You Ready for Some Football?**

Hundreds of pairs of eyes stare down at you, your teammates, and your opponents on the field. Several thousand bulbs of light shine on the field, casting giant shadows that look like massive warriors. The cameras are rolling, recording every moment of action. Your team is trailing by a touchdown, and you need one score to win. All eyes are on you and the two opposing teams. It is Friday night high school football.

Eleven young gladiators line up against eleven others. The objective for the offensive unit is to move the ball downfield to the end zone. The defense is attempting to vanquish the offense. All eleven people have to be on the same page for a team to succeed. For the moment, pretend that ten out of eleven players understand that the quarterback called play “A.” That one person who did not know the play call could do the wrong thing, and the offense will not be able to advance. All the individuals have to work as one.

If a football team performs really well, many people praise and applaud the quarterback. The quarterback directs the offense, sometimes calls plays, throws or hands off the ball, and sometimes runs the ball. On the other hand, guess who is blamed if the offense is not successful, meaning it does not score often or enough? It’s usually the individual who failed to lead the offense well. It’s the same person who called the “wrong” plays, and the person who made “bad throws.” In other words, it’s the quarterback who everyone holds most accountable.

Have you ever wondered why football players look so big? They wear protective pads beneath their uniforms. And why do they wear such enormous pads? Consider the following parts of football. Football players push, shove, and collide with each other, and there is a tackle on almost every play. Players are slammed on their head, yanked by their legs, and pulled down by their shoulders. Despite the protective equipment, there are still injuries that occur during games.

As much as people watch high school football on Friday nights, the stage is even larger for the professionals in the National Football League (NFL). Millions of people watch football on television every week during the season. Stadiums for the games hold fifty to a hundred thousand people. Each year, about one hundred million people watch the championship game, The Super Bowl. In addition, the NFL is so popular that fans spend hundreds of dollars to buy their favorite player’s jerseys and other related souvenirs such as hats, banners, shirts, and key chains. Perhaps the boys playing on Friday nights will be on the grand stage on Sundays in the future!

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