

“The Call”

By: Rachel

The pass, the catch, the run. It's all coming back. The 70 yard rush. To win, the sectionals, the division's championship. It was Nickky that led her team through all the games. The only girl quarterback in the varsity football league, the only girl in college football.

It was a gray, cloudy October day, as Nickky awaited a call. Nickky held her phone tight to her chest, waiting to hear the ringtone. Seconds, minutes, hours had seemed to go by. Nickky looked down at her phone, October 13th, 3:07 pm, it said. Even though Nickky lived in California, it was still a dark and gloomy day. Still not getting a call, Nickky decided to go toss a football around with her boyfriend, Shane.

“Maybe I didn't get in?” Nickky questioned herself while talking to Shane.

“They will call, don't worry.” Shane answered as he wrapped his arm around her. Suddenly Nickky's phone rings. It was Nickky's football coach. She immediately answered.

“Hello, any good news?” Nickky asked eagerly.

“Yes, The New England Patriots would like to have you on their team!” Her coach answered and then waiting for a response added, “They have the first draft pick, and they want you!”

Nickky jumped for joy. The team that she always wanted to be on, the games that she went to with her dad when she was a little girl, that memories that had been created, and Nickky would finally be playing for the Patriots. A dream come true, Nickky thought to herself as she said her good-byes to her coach and hung up the phone. Nickky ran and hugged Shane. She told him the good news.

“No way?!?” Shane yelled excitedly. Nickky just had to go tell her parents the good news. She kissed Shane good-bye and ran as fast as she could home.

Nickky woke from her dream and smiled. She would never forget that moment or this day she thought to herself. Today, she was going to be a Patriot, she thought to herself. She looked at her watch and decided that she had better get going if she didn't want to be late to the draft picking. She took a fast shower, ate a bowl of Trix cereal, brushed her teeth and was out the door. She was nervous and got into her car. She drove to the stadium in San Francisco, which was only about an hour away from where Nickky lived. As Nickky heard that the drafts were starting soon on the radio, she sped up a little and she finally arrived. She quickly got out of her car. She walked through the entrance and her jaw dropped. She was finally where she was supposed to be. Her parents, her coaches, her family and her friends would be watching her moment in the spotlight. Shane and her parents had been waiting for her and helped her get ready.

“You can do this, I know you can!” Nickky's father said. The drafting had begun. A large booming voice came over the loud speaker and announced, “Would Nickky Ryan please come out and receive your new jersey?”

Nickky walked out onto the stage, and felt a sudden chill. This is the moment she has been waiting for, the first woman in the National Football League. Nickky smiled as the Patriot's coach handed a jersey to her. Nickky felt the jersey in her hands, it felt good, she thought.

"Congratulations, Nickky, and Glad you are on the team!" The coach says to Nickky as she walks off the stage.

The day had come, the first NFL practice. Push through Nickky thought. At the end of practice, the pain was so unbearable, but Nickky wouldn't let herself quit. She pushed herself and never gave up. With her family behind her every move, Nickky led her team on to the Super bowl in 2022. Nickky finally retired from football, and retiring her number, 22. But Nickky never stopped having the love of the sport. She had created many charities that helped students have gender-specific sport teams. Nickky left the legacy of being the first woman in the NFL and she was a hero to many young girls aspiring to have a career in gender-specific sports.

