

Fourth And Goal

CONDENSED VERSION. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STORY ARE PRESENTED HERE.

OPENING SCENE OF THE MOVIE:
EXTERIOR - Pee Wee football field

It's a bright sunny crisp Autumn day in the small town, Jordan, Texas. You are hearing the roar of the crowd at the first Pee Wee football game of the season. Good friends Zane and Brandon are playing on the same team for the first time. Nine year old Zane is the quarterback, and nine year old, Brandon, is a wide receiver. Both sets of parents are there to cheer the team to victory. Zane and Brandon are great friends, but they have never played football before joining the team. But if you grow up in the heart of Texas, football is in your blood. Throughout this first game of the season, both teams have been struggling to score. The opposing team has scored six points. It's now the fourth quarter and time is running out. Zane's team must score and get the extra point to win the game. It's a been a battle for these youngsters, so far, and they are very exhausted. Zane's team has the ball on the opposing team's thirty yard line. The ball is hiked to Zane, and he throws a pass to Brandon who is wide open. He catches the ball and runs toward the end zone. Brandon is 20 yards from the goal line and falls to the ground and rolls onto his back, clutching the ball to his chest. Time is running out, and the crowd is cheering and yelling. The buzzer signals that the game is over. Zane runs over to his friend who is still lying on the ground hollers, "why did you stop?" Brandon says, huffing and a puffing, "I got tired and couldn't run any more, but I feel better now!" Zane moans, "the game's over!" He could have killed his buddy right then and there. The coach knows he has his work cut out for him with those two boys. Well, it's back to the old chalkboard!

Zane and Brandon live next door to each other. Both parents are great friends, active in PTA and other school functions. The common bond between the two families is football being played by their sons. Both families attend all the football games – it's a Texas tradition. If you are not attending at least one game a week, you're not from Texas.

EXTERIOR - Zane's backyard

The next day, Zane and Brandon are in Zane's backyard practicing. Zane is throwing the ball through a swinging tire that Brandon is pushing. Periodically, Brandon goes out for one of Zane's throws. The boys practice for hours every day, using these techniques and others they have developed to help them improve their game. They do this practice routine for years.

EXTERIOR - Jordan High School football field, Spring practice

Years later, the boys are seniors in high school, both playing on the varsity team, same positions as their beginning years in Pee Wee ball: Zane, the quarterback, and Brandon, the wide receiver. They have mastered their football skills very well, but Coach Vince still works their rears off. Today, the boys are dragging old tires around the practice field. Coach Vance is yelling in a thunderous tone, "pick it up or you'll go around again." Painful moans accompany a burst of speed for all but two runners,

Bubba and Jason. They fall in exhaustion, and upon the arrival of Coach Vance pretend that their shoes laces have come undone, causing them to trip and skin their legs. He dismisses them to take care of their wounds, and they limp pitifully off the track with exaggerated moans and grimaces of pain. Coach Vance rolls his eyes upward and shakes his head, and then turns his attention to the true aspiring athletes who are pushing onward to gain his approval and vie for their coveted positions. His attention is especially directed to the medium build of young Zane. As he watches the young man straining to stay ahead of another young man, Jeremy, who is putting his strength into the effort to stay at best on the heels of his rival athlete, Zane. Both young men are encouraged by the presence of each other to pull harder and run faster to cross the finish line. With an extra burst Zane leans forward even more as they both cross – a “neck and neck” tie, and finally Jeremy falls down rolling and panting as Zane slows himself to a complete stop. The coach looks on and softly laughs as he looks at these two boys who give so much of themselves to please him.

Coach Vance's attention is diverted to girls giggling and the jingle of an ice cream van. As he walks toward the van and the girls, he notices the two injured boys slowly lumbering toward the field house. Coach knows they have breached their diets, so he takes off to the locker room after them.

INTERIOR – locker room at stadium

Coach Vance sneaks upon them and hears the tearing open of wrappers and sounds of delight emanate as they bite into the ice cream drum sticks. As he rounds the corner, they both hide the goodies except for what's in their mouths. He asks, “Why haven't you bandaged up?” They swallow hard, and Jason replies, “We couldn't find the first aid kit!”

The Coach yells at them and says, “Maybe you thought the ice cream truck was an ambulance. Am I right?” They both shake their heads, yes, and Bubba says that he actually feels better now. Coach Vance says, “Good, then you both drop and give me 50 sit-ups. You got one week of Spring training left, and Dr. Atkins better be your best friend from here on out, or you're sitting on the bench for starters. Understand?” Just then Zane and Brandon come into the locker room and assess the situation. Zane and Brandon ask the two if they can to hold their ice cream drum sticks while they finish the sit-ups. “Sure,” they reply as the boys begin the slow painful sit-ups. Zane and Brandon turn toward the showers and enjoy finishing off the ice cream. Zane says to Brandon, “Wouldn't want that ice cream to go to waste. Mmmm, dang, that's good.”

The team has showered and gathered in the locker room for Coach Vance's Spring practice speech. Coach Vance says, “After the team giving us a championship last year, we have gone from a 3A to 4A team. Which means, gentlemen, that this year will be the most challenging football season you will have the privilege to play, and I will have the honor to coach. Get some rest between now and September. You're gonna need it. But don't you dare come back here flabby and out of shape, or you will be sitting on the bench. And, oh, by the way, say ‘hello’ to your new team mate.” Everyone looks around and notices a very athletic young man with a great smile who says, “My name's Tony. I'm looking forward to playing with you guys next Fall.”

OTHER SCENES (to be inserted in story later): more of Jason, the other team members and friends, girl friends, the local hangout, and the parents

EXTERIOR – Jordan High School football field, Fall practice

The offense and the defense split on the field for practice. Coach Vance walks toward the defense accompanied by assistant coach Alex Castleberry at his side. Coach Castleberry bellows out with a thick Australian accent, “Let’s hit the sled.” Coach Castleberry is standing on the practice sled and have the boys hit it with their shoulders.

INTERIOR – Coach Vance’s office after practice

At end of the day, Coach Vance and Castleberry meet in the office. They talk about the players that scrimmaged earlier. “What do you think we got here, Castleberry?” Alex answers. “With Zane, Tony and Brandon, we have a dream team that might just get us to State.” Coach Vance agrees and says, “Let's just get through the Homecoming game tonight.”

INTERIOR – school auditorium, Homecoming pep rally

We hear cheering coming from the auditorium and see the cheerleaders doing a difficult routine. Coach Vance is being paged to the office.

INTERIOR – Coach Vance’s office

As he enters, he is heard mumbling that someone should know better than to have him paged on a day that his schedule is completely filled, but he stops short as he notices a police officer giving him a stern look. “Hey Jimbo, is there a problem?” Jim Ferrell, a Jordan policeman says, “I don’t know yet. Just wondering if you’ve noticed any garbage cans laying around?” Coach Vance says, “I don't know what you're talking about.” The officer hands him his card and says, “Call me, if you happen to find them.” “Okay, will do,” Coach answers as he looks at the principal and the policeman and then walks away with a questioning look on his face.

INTERIOR – school auditorium, Homecoming pep rally

Coach Vance walks toward the auditorium and hears a sound similar to a Blue Man Group routine. He opens the door and sees the entire football team tapping out rhythms on the missing garbage cans that have been painted in their school colors. “Oh, man,” the coach whispers exasperated. (This scene dissolves from the auditorium and the rhythms of the garbage cans into the Homecoming football game that is very much underway.)

EXTERIOR – Homecoming football game

It’s the fourth quarter and near the end of the game, and Tony causes the opposing quarterback to fumble. Jordan gets possession of the ball on their own 40 yard line. Zane in the huddle calls the play and says, “Split right down and out post pattern on

two.” As the ball is snapped, Zane looks to the end zone where Brandon is open. He throws the ball. It’s a high pass. Brandon leaps to catch it and comes down with the ball held close to his body. He makes the winning touchdown. The crowd roars.

INTERIOR – locker room after the Homecoming game

After the Homecoming game, Coach Vance tells the team what a great job they have done, but not to get too comfortable because the hardest games are still ahead. They are so “pumped” and ready to go to the Homecoming Dance. But as they walk toward the door, they notice Coach Castleberry standing in the doorway with paint brushes and a paint can. He hands the painting materials to the boys, who look at them and without a word take the brushes and paint can out of his hands and walk out the door. They are strutting their “stuff” on the way to the Homecoming Dance.

OTHER SCENES (to be inserted in story later): Homecoming Dance, the girls, friends

EXTERIOR – a Jordan city street

The morning after the game Officer Ferrell turns down a street and stops his patrol car and bursts out laughing. As he creeps slowly along, he notices the painted trash cans placed in front of the houses with the winning score painted on them by the players. The neighborhood residents are not too upset about the display of the winning numbers of last night's victory.

INTERIOR – pizza parlor

Fall approaches, and the gang will soon go to college. They meet at CiCi's Pizza and discuss where they are going to college. Tony, Zane and Brandon get scholarships to South Texas University. Bubba and Jason will go to Texas A & M. Jason is staying at home for a year to help his family. Tony and Zane are jiving Bubba that he needs to remember who his friends are when they meet in a game.

INTERIOR – South Texas University sports room

It’s the first day orientation for the college football team. Players walk into the sports room talking to each other and showing off pictures of their girl friends. A group of men enter the room. They approach the podium, and one introduces himself, “Good afternoon, gentlemen. I'm your head coach, Bob Zeller. I'd like you to meet my Assistant Coach – Barry Hickman, Defensive Coach – Joe Thompson, Offensive Coach –Tom Jeffus. We want to welcome our new red shirts to the team. I believe some of you have already met each other. We will have house rules and academic requirements” Speech fades as Zane and Brandon see Squirmy (a high school buddy). They walk over and give him a high five and a hug and tell him how good it is to see him, and they will try to keep the hazing to a minimum.

Zane and Brandon enter their sophomore year at South Texas University, looking forward to playing football after being red-shirted their freshman year. They both become first-stringers – Zane, as quarterback and Brandon, as wide receiver; just like they were in high

school. This powerful and talented duo is bound to excel on the college-level playing field. This year the team has an excellent chance to win the conference title.

EXTERIOR – in Zane’s pickup truck, driving to Jordan for the high school Homecoming game

After winning the third game of the season, the team has a bye-week on their schedule. No game this Saturday. Both Zane and Brandon had half day classes on Friday and are going home to Jordan for the Friday night homecoming game. They are excited about the game, and seeing their brothers play. Zane is driving his pickup truck. Texas weather can change at a moment’s notice, and this day was no exception. The sky is “clouding up” in the West. Zane says to Brandon, “I hope this storm doesn’t mess up Homecoming, but it looks like it might blow over before we get home.” Brandon says, “Well, we need the rain for the crops. It’s been so dry, and the grass fires are getting worse.” Zane and Brandon are taking a short cut on a “farm-to-market” road. In Texas farm-to-market roads line and crisscross the landscape everywhere. But Zane and Brandon haven’t been on this road, but this short cut will be time saver. They want to arrive in enough time before the game to visit the team in the locker room. The sky is getting darker, and then in Texas-style “the bottom falls out of the sky.” It’s not a quick “gully-washer” kind of storm, but a torrent rain. Due to a lack of rainfall in the area, the oil on the asphalt combined with the rain has created a slick spot. Zane’s pickup truck finds that slick spot, and the vehicle starts spinning. Zane is trying to gain control, but Brandon starts to grab the steering wheel to help – bad mistake on Brandon’s action. The last thing Zane’s sees is Brandon’s frantic and death-look expression on his face before the pickup truck skids into a bar ditch, flips over and hits a concrete culvert.

EXTERIOR – accident scene on the farm to market highway

Just minutes behind the boys is a rancher going to check on his cattle in the thunder-storm. He sees the pickup truck upside down with spinning wheels. He stops as quickly as he can in the rain and runs to the pickup truck. Inside, he finds the boys knocked out cold – one has a pulse, and one doesn’t. The rancher immediately calls 911 on his cell phone. There is nothing he can do but turn off the pickup truck’s motor and wait. He goes to his pickup truck and gets two horse blankets to cover the boys. He covers one boy’s face; the other one, even though unconscious, he tries to comfort. Rain is running off the brim of the rancher’s Stetson and is mixing with tears from his eyes. He tries to wipe his eyes from his weathered face, so he can watch for the emergency crew. Soon, he sees some flashing lights coming toward the accident scene. Behind the oncoming emergency vehicles, the sky starts to lighten up, and the sun is beginning to appear low in the Western sky. The thunderstorm is about over, and another storm of a different nature is about to begin: one boy is transported to the hospital by a speeding ambulance with flashing lights – the other boy is being taken in an ambulance that’s in no rush with no flashing lights to the hospital morgue. On the way to the hospital in the ambulance, Zane becomes conscious. He asks the paramedics, “Are my eyes open? I can’t see.” One paramedic tells Zane, “Yes they are. You have a problem with your eyes, among other things, but you are on your way to the hospital.” Zane asks, “Where’s Brandon?” The paramedic says, “He’s in the other ambulance.” Upon hearing that answer, Zane passes out. The rancher will visit Zane in the hospital and attend a funeral.

The state troopers at the accident scene recognize the boys from their high school football games. They radio their Headquarters to send an officer over to the Taylor's house.

EXTERIOR – The Taylor's front porch.

The officer tells the Taylors about the accident and escorts Zane's parents to the hospital.

EXTERIOR – Jordan General Hospital

Zane's parents arrive at the hospital just as Zane's ambulance is approaching the Emergency Room entrance. As they get out of their car, Zane is being wheeled through the E.R. entrance.

INTERIOR – Emergency Room

Zane's parents rush in, but they are held back so the doctors and nurses can do their job. Soon, Zane is transported to an Operating Room.

INTERIOR – the Operating Room waiting area

Outside the O.R., Zane's family and friends wait for hours. As everyone paces the room, the parents ask everyone in a uniform as to "what's going on with our son?" Eventually, the lead doctor in surgery comes out and gives his diagnosis. He says, "Hi, I'm Dr. Berris. Zane is recovering from surgery. You can see him later in ICU, room 202 when he wakes up. He has some internal injuries and broken bones that will heal fine, but we have another problem – he is blind in both eyes. We don't know if he will regain his sight." Zane's mother collapses in her husband's arms on hearing the diagnosis. The doctors are puzzled as to the cause of his blindness, and if there is a cure.

INTERIOR – Brandon's house

The troopers also radio HQ about sending an officer to Brandon's house, but Zane's mother has called about the accident. Brandon's mother calls her husband at work and tells him about the accident. He will meet her at the hospital.

INTERIOR – the Operating Room waiting area

Brandon's parents arrive at the same time and find Zane's parents in the O.R. waiting room. They ask the hospital staff to the "whereabouts" of their son, but no one seems to know. After several minutes, the hospital chaplin enters the room and introduces himself. He takes Brandon's family to the hospital chapel.

INTERIOR – hospital chapel

The chaplin sets the family down in a pew, and he is in the pew in front of them, facing the family behind him. He says, "Your son is not in the E.R.. I'm sorry, but he has passed away." Both parents are in shock. Brandon's mother begins to scream.

Mourning begins quickly as heavy tears begin to flow. Pastor Gates of the Mt. Olive AME Church arrives at the hospital and finds Brandon's family in the chapel. He consoles them and takes them home. The news of the wreck and the condition of the boys have spread like a "Texas grass fire" in the small town of Jordan.

INTERIOR – outside the operating room

As Zane is being taken to his hospital room, still sleepy from the surgery, he overhears one of the nurses commenting on how sad it is about his buddy who died in the car. Zane should not have heard this comment, but he did.

INTERIOR – Zane's hospital room

After many hours in the emergency room, Zane is brought to his intensive care room, and for a brief moment, he is alone. Thinking about what has happened – his best friend dead and no vision, some tears began to stream down his cheeks. A nurse walks quietly into his room, sees Zane's tears, pulls a tissue from the box and starts to wipe his tears. "Who's there," Zane asks. "I'm Deborah, your nurse, and I'm going to get your body and mind well." Deborah is the chief ICU nurse and has seen a lot, working in hospitals for 25 years, but she hasn't seen such a broken-spirited young man such as Zane.

INTERIOR – outside of Zane's hospital room

After wiping Zane's tears, Deborah excuses herself and walks out into the hall, leans against the wall and cries.

Deborah knew of Zane and his promising football career from newspaper articles, local talk and from her young son, Todd. She has never seen him play, but Todd's dad (her ex) has taken him to all the games. Todd idolizes Zane and wants to be a quarterback like him. It breaks her heart knowing that she will have to tell Todd about the accident and Zane's blindness. Out of Deborah's love for her son and Zane's anguish, Zane becomes a cause for her – to get him well in mind and body. She is a student of life and motivation and is an inspiration to many people, being a single mother at an early age and working up from the bottom to the best in her profession. "To heal you body, you must heal your mind," says Deborah, having witnessed many modern day miracles at the hospital. She starts implanting positive thoughts in Zane's mind, but to no avail. Deborah is determined not to give up.

INTERIOR – Mt. Olive AME Church for Brandon's funeral
(intercut with scenes of Zane at the hospital)

Three days after the car crash, it is a cold rainy day for Brandon's funeral. The whole town of Jordan and the surrounding area are at the small Mt. Olive AME Church, way out in the country from Jordan. The little church is filled to the brim, standing room only, with an overflow crowd outside. The whole football team is sitting in the first pew along with Brandon's parents and relatives, but one team member is missing, Zane. (intercut with hospital scenes of Zane) The service is sad with the testimonials from relatives

and team mates, but when the choir sings, the crowd is uplifted with the inspiring Black gospel music they sing. The crowd's spirit is up with the music, but down when it stopped and testimonials are given. It's like riding an emotional roller coaster, up and down, up and down are the emotions of the audience. But the service ends with the uplifting music and final prayer.

EXTERIOR – Mt. Olive AME Church for Brandon's funeral

Everyone eventually leaves the church, but no one wants to leave the grounds. They are visiting and talking about Brandon and his football days. He is buried in the church cemetery.

After several weeks in the hospital, it's time for blind Zane to go back to his home in Jordan. Zane is still distraught upon leaving the hospital, not knowing what his future will be. It's painful for Zane to think about football or any sports-related activity. Thinking about it makes him very sad about losing his friend and his eyesight. All the time Zane tries to "put football out of his mind to relieve the pain in his heart." He wants nothing to do with football.

INTERIOR – Zane's house in Jordan

EXTERIOR – backyard

Deborah begins to visit Zane at his home several times a week, just to see how's he is doing. Zane's parents began to see a bond developing between the nurse and the patient, but they don't see it, yet. On one sunny afternoon visit, Deborah tells Zane, "Get up and grab my arm and let's go outside. It's a beautiful day, and you need some sunshine." Unknowingly to Zane, Deborah has a hidden agenda. She has planted a football on the back porch. As she leads Zane down the porch steps, she grabs the hidden football on the porch steps railing. In the backyard as they walk, Deborah slams the football into Zane's belly and holds it there. He grabs it. Zane says, "What's this?" Deborah says, "You know what it is. Throw me a pass." "I can't. I can't see you," says Zane. He doesn't throw her a pass. Deborah takes his arm and leads him to the patio and sets him down for an unwelcome pep talk. She starts out by saying, "Football's been your life, since you were a kid. You can't forget about it. Hold your ball with a passing grip, toss it up and catch it." Hesitating, he tosses the ball up, but misses the catch. Deborah picks up the ball and puts it to his belly again and says, "Let's go inside. I have to go to work, now. I'll be back in a couple of days. Now, hold on to your ball and your dreams."

EXTERIOR - back yard, weeks later

A few weeks later, Zane is sitting on the patio with football in hand, and Deborah walks up. "Thinking about the game, huh," says Deborah. "Yes, I am. I have to get back into the game, not just for me, but as a tribute to Brandon and our years playing football together. I need to go and talk to my old high school football coach. Maybe he can help me," says Zane.

OTHER SCENES (to be inserted in story later): Zane goes to rehab, returning to college

Zane decides to give his old high school coach, Alec Castleberry, a call. Castleberry invites him back to Jordan for a evening meal at his house. Castleberry would visit him at South Texas University to make it easier on him in traveling, but he's in the middle of football season. Deborah, the nurse, takes him to the coach's home on a Sunday night.

INTERIOR - The Castleberry family dining room

Everyone is sitting at the dining table: Alec, his wife, two kids, Zane, and Deborah. After dinner the kids leave the table to do homework, and the adults are still at the table drinking coffee. The coach asks Zane, "You have something on your mind, what is it?" "Well, Coach, I have to get back into the game, playing," says Zane. The coach says, "You can be the team manager." Zane says, "No, coach, I mean 'in the game' playing!" Coach says, "What? Did you say, play? Now, wait a minute. Let me think. O.K. It has to be a position that has limited mobility, ease on and off the field, and you don't have to be in every play. This means one position – a field goal kicker." Zane gets excited and says, "Hey, this is a great idea. I think I can do it. Can you help me?" Coach Castleberry says, "I think you can do it, but let's figure out how and develop a training program." Castleberry asks his wife to get him some blank paper. He starts doodling as they talk about kicking. Zane and the Coach are devising a plan to turn Zane into a blind field goal kicker. Deborah and Alex's wife clear the dining room table and head for the kitchen. Coach says, "Zane, I think we can do this, but let's think about it. You need to come back to my house next Sunday afternoon and let's get to work on kicking a field goal. Let's keep it a secret."

EXTERIOR - Coach Castleberry's backyard

In the high-fenced backyard you see some makeshift equipment on the ground. There's something like a jig, a dummy in the position of ball holder that can hold the ball, directional rails to lead Zane to the ball location, and a big net to catch the ball. This combination can be turned in any direction to line up with the goalpost. Castleberry explains how the equipment will train him to kick and leads him in his first drill. (montage showing many days of kicking, using the equipment)

In Zane's junior year, he becomes the team manager. (will develop his manager's role later)

INTERIOR – Zane's college dorm room

Zane wants to get back into football in one fashion or another, but he's not ready to tell anyone about his field goal kicking. He's still perfecting his kicking skills. It's Sunday afternoon during football season, and Zane is listening to some of the NFL games. He is hanging on the every word of the sportscasters and the game analysis. He is visualizing in this mind the action on the field. He is developing a keen sense where everyone should be on the field with the different offenses and defenses. He is also developing new offensive plays in his mind. "If I could only see a play diagrammed on the chalk board. I need to feel it," Zane thinks. Then a light bulb went off in his mind. He remembered seeing an old football game in his grandfather's attic when he was in pee wee

football. The game had little players that scooted or basically vibrated around a small metal football field when plugged into electricity. Where the players vibrated to, was anybody's guess. They just vibrated everywhere. But this game gives Zane the idea to mockup a field with players he could move around, like a chess board – a football board. Then he could design plays and analyze the ones he heard on television. A friend helps him build the football board and the players. There are braille numbers at the yardlines, and each yardline has a raised line. Each team has different shape players. Zane now could really feel the plays. Bob Zeller, the head coach at college, gets “wind” of the project and visits Zane in his room. “Zane, let me see that football board I have been hearing about,” says Coach Zeller. Zane says, “It’s really nothing, but it helps me see the game and design some plays.” Coach Zeller says, “I love this board. What a great way to study the game. Tomorrow, I’m sending one of my assistants over with a play book and will help you set up some plays. I’ll come around next week to see how you have laid out some of our plays.”

INTERIOR – Coach Zeller’s office at the college football stadium after a day of Spring football practice

“Coach Zeller, are you there,” asks Zane. “Hi, Zane, come in. How are you doing?” says the coach. Zane says, “Have you got a minute? I would like to show you something. I need a couple of players with a ball on the field. I really would like to show you what I have learned.” Coach Zeller says, “On the field? O.K. You’re a sharp guy. What else have you come up with?”

EXTERIOR - Zane, Coach Zeller and two players are on the football field

Zeller asks, “What do you want to show me?” Zane says, “I’m going to kick a field goal from the 35 yardline.” Coach Zeller says, “What? You are going to kick a field goal blind. I don’t believe it.” Zane says, “Just have the guys hike the ball and line me up.” Zane finds the ball holder and then walks off a few steps. Zane says, “When the holder gets the ball set, yell ‘here’, and I will kick it.” He kicks the ball, and he has enough leg on it, but he hooks it to the right and misses the uprights. Coach Zeller tells him he missed. “Hike me another one, and I will make it this time,” says Zane. That Spring afternoon, Zane makes seven out of ten field goals. Zane tells Coach Zeller that he and one of his old high school coaches developed a kicking technique and has been practicing for a long time. Coach Zeller is impressed. He tells Zane, “Come see me this Fall. You just might have to be on our team, again.”

In Zane’s senior year, Coach Zeller puts him on the team as a backup field goal kicker. At every practice Zane is getting better with his kicking. His kicks are getting through the uprights, and his distance is improving. He’s completing about 70 percent of his field goals. Eric Jones, the team’s first string kicker, is only hitting about 45 percent of his field goals in the games. The team knows Zane is a better kicker, but Coach Zeller puts Eric in the game every time because of his real game experience. Most of the team at one time or another have told Zane that they will get him in the game. His teammates devise a plan of action to get Zane in the game when the time arises.

EXTERIOR – college football game, South Texas University vs. Duke State

It's the third game of the season, and the team is playing Duke State. It's a critical conference game, and the team must win to be in contention for the conference championship. It's down to the last seconds of this game, and Duke State is up by one point. South Texas University is on the 45 yard line, and it's fourth down. Coach Zeller has the quarterback to call a timeout. The team goes over to the sideline and huddles around Zeller, and the coach decides to kick a field goal to win the game. The team knows the distance is slightly out of range for Eric. They want Zane to kick the field goal, and the team sets their plan into action. Just after the huddle breaks, Eric slips back behind the sideline, and Zane hidden from coach's view is escorted on the field. As he lines up to kick in his special way, Coach Zeller realizes Zane is on the field. It's too late to bring him off. The ball is snapped, and Zane kicks the ball dead center through the uprights. The crowd goes crazy with excitement with the South Texas University win. And when the game announcer tells who kicked the field goal, both sides of stadium go absolutely wild. Zane is hoisted on the shoulders of his teammates and is taken off the field to the locker room.

EXTERIOR – football stadium grandstand

Deborah and Todd – excited, jumping up and down, hugging and celebrating the team's victory and Zane kicking his first field goal for the win. Deborah is now a full-fledged football fan.

INTERIOR – South Texas University locker room

Zeller stops the victory celebration and chews out the team for getting Zane in the game. But Zeller is happy that Zane kicked the winning field goal and makes him the first string field goal kicker. Eric is also happy that Zane is the new field goal kicker. Eric is still in the game, kicking on the kickoffs and punts. Eric says, "Zane is the better field goal kicker, and the coach needed to give him a chance. We put him in for the good of the team and to win the game."

Zane's reputation gains attention in the conference, and South Texas University wins the conference championship.

It's the LAST COLLEGE GAME that Zane will play. It's the small college championship between South Texas University and King State University.

INTERIOR – King State University locker room before the game

The King State head coach is giving last minute instructions and a pep talk to his players. One topic he discusses is this, "If they put this blind field goal kicker in the game, go at him as hard as you can. If don't care if he is blind, he's a player. He's in uniform. His kicking may be crucial to this game. He can't score on us."

INTERIOR – South Texas University locker room before the game

Coach Zeller gives a pep talk to the team. (to be developed later)

EXTERIOR – football stadium at the championship game

It's a very exciting offensive game with each team scoring on almost every possession of the ball. The lead changes often. But in the fourth quarter, both teams' defenses start to click. King State has a slight lead. It's in the closing seconds of the game, and South Texas U. has the ball on the ten yardline. It's fourth and goal. Coach Zeller calls his last timeout, and the entire team is in a big huddle on the sideline. Zeller says, "Their defense has kicked our tail on these last three plays. So, Zane, it's up to you to kick the winning field goal. You can do it." Both teams return to the field. Play is about to resume, and King State calls a timeout to try to "ice" Zane – make him nervous, to give him time to think and to miss the field goal.

The timeout is over, and play resumes. The ball is hiked to the holder, but it's a bad hike. The ball hits the holder and bounces up into Zane's hands. He gets a firm grip on the ball, and then his instincts as a quarterback takes over. He shouts at the holder to run for the right corner of the end zone. Zane throws the ball toward end zone.

SFX – slo-mo and morph

As he releases the ball, in Zane's mind (his point of view) he sees his dead friend Brandon running in slow motion toward the end zone. (The real runner is morphed into Brandon and the scene is intercut with ball in the air and Brandon running in slow motion. Then as the ball is caught, Brandon morphs back to the real runner.)

Time runs out; game is over. South Texas University wins the championship game, not by Zane's field goal, but his pass.

Zane is mobbed by his teammates and is hoisted on their shoulders. The entire King State team congratulates him. The crowd goes crazy with excitement. Brandon's parents and former girlfriend are at the game. It's the first game they have attended since Brandon's death. They are excited along with Zane's parents. Also, in the grandstand celebrating are Deborah and Todd. Both sides of stadium go absolutely wild and files onto the field, looking for this true American football hero. Zane on his teammates shoulders raises a hand and shows the "v for victory" sign super imposed on Brandon's face. (Freeze frame on v sign.) It's a great tribute to his friend, Brandon.

The End

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