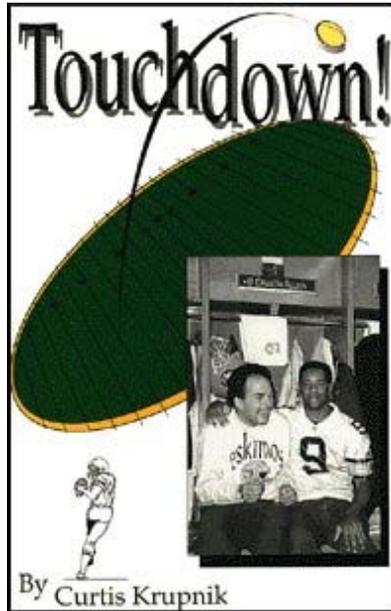

Touchdown!



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Prospects Literacy Association

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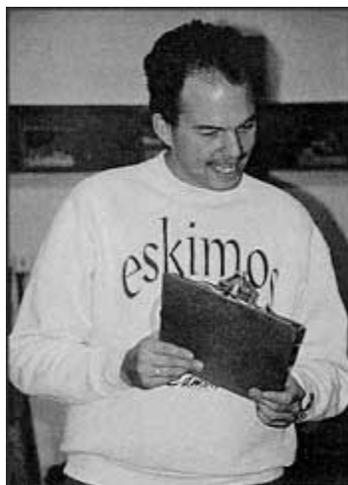
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Touchdown!

**by
Curtis Krupnik**

**Assisted by Don Trembath
Photographs by Rachel Sanders**



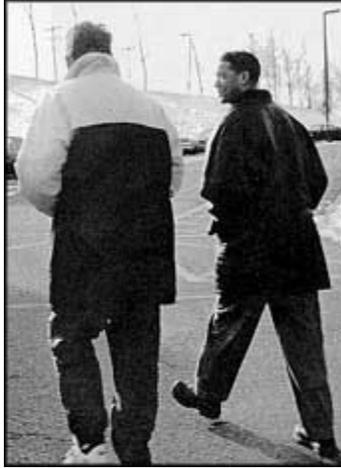
My name is Curtis Krupnik. My favorite football team is the Edmonton Eskimos. My favorite player is Damon Allen. He is the quarterback.



This is where Damon plays football. It is called the Commonwealth Stadium. It is in Edmonton.



I met Damon Allen one morning in November, before the playoffs. We met at the stadium.



We walked to the Eskimos' dressing room together. As you can see, I am bigger than he is.



We went to his dressing room. I sat in the stall where he keeps his equipment.



He came and sat beside me. I was excited. We had our picture taken about a million times.



I brought some questions to ask him.

Some of the questions were:

Where were you born?

How old were you when you started playing football?

Why did you become a quarterback?

What are your hobbies and interests outside of football?



We went into the trainer's room and I wrapped his sore leg. He said I did a good job.



Then I got to put on some equipment. First I put on the shoulder pads.



Then the jersey. Then the helmet.



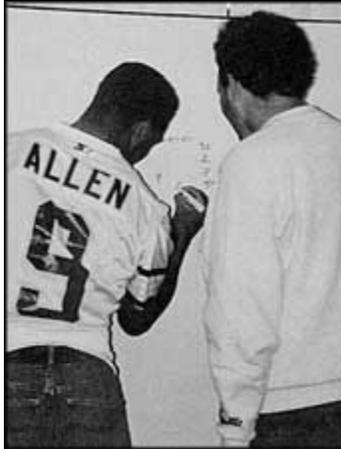
I felt great. I felt like a football player.



We practiced putting our fingers on the floor the way football players do. We were ready to play football.



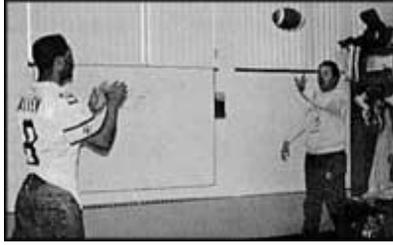
It took two guys to get the jersey off. It was really tight.



Damon and I drew some plays on the board. He asked me where I was. I said I was the receiver.



He said, "I think this play would work." I said, "fantastic!"



Then we played catch with a football.



I've never played catch with a quarterback before.



I asked him if he would sign my flag. He said, "sure."



Before we left, he gave me a football.



He wrote on it, "I enjoyed my time with you."

I enjoyed my time with him.



About the author

A lifetime sports fan, Curtis has wanted to meet Damon Allen since the quarterback first joined the Edmonton Eskimos. "He's my favorite player," says Curtis, "without him the Eskimos wouldn't win." Curtis also enjoys hockey, floor hockey and soccer.