

# chapter

# 1

It was Friday night. Cole was at home. He had his radio on. His cell phone chirped. He had a text message from Anna. Anna was his girlfriend. Anna texted, “Call me.”

Cole turned the radio down. Then he called Anna. “Hi, Anna. When did you get home?” Cole asked. Anna had gone to see her little sister Sara’s play. That was why she and Cole didn’t have a date.

“A few minutes ago,” Anna said.

“How was the play? Did you have a

good time?” Cole asked.

Anna said, “The play was okay. But I wish you’d been there with me. Where are you now? What have you been doing tonight?”

Cole said, “I’m at home. I have the radio on. I’m trying to find out the Oak Hill game’s score.”

The winner of the game would play Dawson High in the state finals. Cole was on the Dawson High team. He played tight end.

He hoped that Oak Hill lost. Oak Hill had the best team in the state. And Cole didn’t want to play them in the state finals.

Oak Hill had the best running back in the state. His name was Garrett. And Cole didn’t think Oak Hill could lose with him on the team.

Anna said, “I’ll hang up. You can listen to the radio.”

“You don’t have to hang up. I can find out the score later. I’m sure Oak Hill will win,” Cole said.

“I’ll still hang up. I know you want to find out the score right away. You can call me tomorrow morning,” Anna said.

“Okay. I’ll talk to you then,” Cole said.

Cole turned the radio back up. He thought about the Oak Hill game. Cole couldn’t keep his mind on his homework.

About twenty minutes later, his cell phone rang. He turned the radio down. Then he quickly answered his phone.

A boy said, “Bro, it’s Jeff. I just found out who won the Oak Hill game.”

Jeff was Cole’s best friend. Jeff was on the Dawson High team. And he was a tight end, too.

“Great. Who won?” Cole asked.

“Bad news. Oak Hill won,” Jeff said. “I just heard it on the radio. Oak Hill won

by 21 points.”

“That doesn’t surprise me. But I hoped they would lose,” Cole said.

Jeff said, “Yeah, me too. That Garrett guy’s a good player. I don’t think we can beat Oak Hill in the state finals.”

“We need to believe we can win. If we don’t, we won’t have a chance,” said Cole

“Yeah. I know. I’ll try to think we can win. But I don’t believe we can. Unless something happens,” Jeff said.

“Like what?” Cole asked.

“I don’t know. But maybe something will happen that will help us. We need all the help we can get,” Jeff said.

“You’re right about that,” Cole said.

The only thing that would help was if Garrett didn’t play. And Cole didn’t want Garrett to get hurt. Cole couldn’t think of anything else that could help Dawson High win.