FAMILY FOOTBALL

COMIC BOOK #1



The Road to the Family Bowl

The 2026 season, drawn from the league's own record · A Family Football Times publication

CHAPTER ONE

Fourteen Houses on the Hill



Every autumn, the fourteen houses on the hill light up again. Fourteen clubs, one family, and a whole season of Sundays stretched out in the valley below. This is the Family Football League — and this is its story, drawn the way the family tells it.

CHAPTER TWO

The Champion's Porch



Last season ended on Mitch Maling's porch, with the trophy held high. That's My Monan-Guy are the 2025 champions — and all autumn long, thirteen other houses have been staring up at that porch, making plans.

CHAPTER THREE

Three at the Top



Five weeks in, the summit is crowded. Carty +1, Little Boy Hunter and the New York Generals all stand 4–1 — three clubs, one flag at the top of the hill, and nobody willing to blink first.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Loudest Scoreboard



The biggest noise on the hill belongs to Team BMonaghan45: 183.00 points in Week 5, the highest score any club has posted — and yet they stand 3–2, a game behind the leaders. The league's top scorers are chasing, and everyone can hear them coming.

CHAPTER FIVE

Meanwhile, at the Barnyard



Down in the valley, Back at the Barnyard stands 0–5 — the league's only winless club. But the barn door is still open, the game plan is still taped up fresh, and nobody on the hill has ever counted Joseph's club out of a Sunday.

CHAPTER SIX

The Warrior's Playbook



The Woodside Warriors ruled the family's basketball court — Brendan's club brought that crown home. Football is a different riddle: 1–4, and a playbook full of squiggles. The sword stays sharp. The season is long.

CHAPTER SEVEN

One Table



Ask anyone on the hill what the league really is, and they'll point at the table. Fourteen chairs, fourteen jerseys, one family — the standings change every week, but supper is supper, and the bragging rights get carved up with the pie.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Seven Doors



Week 6 opens seven doors at once. The leaders draw the chasers, the chasers smell blood, and by Sunday night the tie at the top of the hill cannot survive. Somebody is coming down. Somebody is moving up.

CHAPTER NINE

Trade Winds



Between the Sundays, the little boats cross the harbor: trades wrapped in ribbon, waiver claims in the morning post, and FAAB dollars that burn fast. Every package that lands changes the map of the hill.

CHAPTER TEN

The Road to the Family Bowl



From here the road runs through the cold weeks, past every porch on the hill, to one game at the end of it: the Family Bowl. Fourteen flags line the road. One trophy waits at the top. TO BE CONTINUED — in Issue #2, after the Week 6 dust settles!

PART TWO

Meet the Fourteen Clubs



Fourteen houses on the hill — every club, its manager, and where it stood when Week 6 dawned. Records through Week 5, drawn from Family Illustrated Issue 1 — the league's own record.

Carty +1



Managed by Tom & Emma Carty

Through Week 5: 4–1 · 665.98 points for

Tied at the very top of the hill — three clubs, one flag, and nobody blinking first.

Little Boy Hunter



Managed by Ciaran Hennessy

Through Week 5: 4–1 · 627.98 points for

Tied at the very top of the hill — the quiet house nobody wants to visit.

New York Generals



Managed by Kevin Duffy

Through Week 5: 4–1 · 611.40 points for

Tied at the very top of the hill — the Generals hold the line.

Team BMonaghan45



Managed by Brian Monaghan

Through Week 5: 3–2 · 691.46 points for — the league's highest total

183.00 in Week 5: the loudest scoreboard on the hill, and everybody heard it.

Team Duffymj



Managed by Martin Duffy

Through Week 5: 3–2 · 645.38 points for

Third-highest scorers in the league through Week 5 — one game back and coming.

TheGoofTroops



Managed by Michael Duffy

Through Week 5: 3–2 · 580.78 points for

Dead even: 580.78 scored, 580.22 allowed — the closest-run house on the hill.

Team Crevecoeur1



Managed by Reggie Crevecoeur

Through Week 5: 3–2 · 575.40 points for

In the thick of the five-club chase pack at 3–2, smelling blood like the rest.

That's My Monan-Guy



Managed by Mitch Maling

Through Week 5: 3–2 · 532.92 points for

The 2025 champions. The trophy sits on this porch — thirteen houses are staring up at it.

Team patrickd31



Managed by Patrick Duffy

Through Week 5: 2–3 · 548.52 points for

Lost Week 5's closest finish by 2.76 points — a heartbreaker at Jayr0me's place.

Team abmason



Managed by Avery Mason

Through Week 5: 2–3 · 530.68 points for

The league's newest house — a 2026 debut season on the hill.

Team JayrOme



Managed by Jerome Seiling

Through Week 5: 2–3 · 500.54 points for

Won Week 5's closest finish: 91.94 to 89.18, settled by 2.76 points.

Woodside Warriors



Managed by Brendan Duffy

Through Week 5: 1–4 · 526.04 points for

Kings of the family's basketball court. Football is a different riddle — and the season is long.

Team JohnHayes13



Managed by John Hayes

Through Week 5: 1–4 · 486.90 points for

The league's lowest points-for through Week 5. The only way from here is up.

Back at the Barnyard



Managed by Joseph Duffy

Through Week 5: 0–5 · 499.76 points for

The league's only winless club — and nobody on the hill has ever counted them out of a Sunday.



PART THREE

The Season Talks Back

Up to now, the hill has been narrated. The hill has notes. What follows is the league in its own voices — the porches, the barn, the benches and the hotline, talking the way Sundays actually sound.

The Trade-Deadline Hotline



THE 3–2 HOUSE



THE 4–1 HOUSE

THE 3–2 HOUSE
Evening. I'm calling about a certain running back. Rhymes with 'everyone wants him.'

THE 4–1 HOUSE
We know the one. The answer is three firsts and your porch.

THE 3–2 HOUSE
My porch is load-bearing.

THE 4–1 HOUSE
Then we're both keeping him. Good talk.

Both houses hung up convinced they had won. The hotline charged them for the call.

The Waiver Wire at Dawn



THE EARLY HOUSE



THE COFFEE HOUSE

THE EARLY HOUSE
You're up early.

THE COFFEE HOUSE
I never slept. Sleeping is how claims get away.

THE EARLY HOUSE
I bid before coffee. That's discipline.

THE COFFEE HOUSE
I bid DURING coffee. That's the edge.

The claim went to neither of them. The wire keeps the league's hours: all of them.

FAAB Anonymous



THE DEEP BENCH



THE WHOLE LEAGUE

THE DEEP BENCH
Hello. My name is the Deep Bench, and I spent my whole budget by Week 2.

THE WHOLE LEAGUE
Hi, Deep Bench.

THE DEEP BENCH
It was one player. He was going to change everything.

THE WHOLE LEAGUE
He changed your budget. Sit down. There's pie.

The circle meets every Tuesday. Attendance is mandatory. So is the pie.

The Bench of Shame Hearing



THE BENCHED ONE



THE BENCH ITSELF

THE BENCHED ONE
I demand an explanation. I scored thirty the week AFTER.

THE BENCH ITSELF
The bench notes the timing. The bench finds it hilarious.

THE BENCHED ONE
I could have won the week!

THE BENCH ITSELF
From here? Nobody wins from the bench. That's why it's called the bench.

Verdict: the bench is upheld. The couch's appeal is denied.

The Questionable Tag



HOUSE ONE



HOUSE TWO

HOUSE ONE
The report says QUESTIONABLE. What does that mean?

HOUSE TWO
It means he plays if he's on THEIR team and rests if he's on YOURS.

HOUSE ONE
That's not medical. That's personal.

HOUSE TWO
Welcome to the injury report. Questionable is a lifestyle.

By Sunday he played, rested, and somehow did both. The tag remains undefeated.

PART THREE · 12:55 P.M.

Sunday, 12:55 PM



THE MANAGER



THE DEPTH CHART

THE MANAGER
Five minutes to lock. Tell me everyone's healthy.

THE DEPTH CHART
Define healthy. Define everyone. Define five minutes.

THE MANAGER
You had ONE job.

THE DEPTH CHART
I have FOURTEEN jobs. Every week. I am a chart, not a miracle.

Lock arrived at 1:00 sharp. The lineup, as always, was a masterpiece and an accident.

Letters to the Hill Gazette

DEAR GAZETTE: My porch light burns all night so the standings can see it. Is that bragging?

— THE HIGH HOUSE. EDITOR: At 4–1, it's not bragging. It's landscaping.

DEAR GAZETTE: I checked my lineup eleven times before lock. Was that too many?

— A CAREFUL HOUSE. EDITOR: The league record is forty-one. You are an amateur. Carry on.

DEAR GAZETTE: My bench outscored my starters. Should the bench get its own porch?

— A LOUD BENCH. EDITOR: The bench already has a porch. It's called next week.

DEAR GAZETTE: When does the barn door open?

— THE VALLEY. EDITOR: It was never closed. That's the whole point of the barn.

The Trophy Gets a Bath



THE CHAMPION'S PORCH



THE TROPHY

THE TROPHY
Careful with the polish. I have seen thirteen porches. Yours has the best snacks.

THE CHAMPION'S PORCH
Do the other houses talk about you?

THE TROPHY
All autumn. They stare up at this porch and make plans.

THE CHAMPION'S PORCH
Let them. Bath's over. Back to the shelf, Your Shine-ness.

The 2025 champions keep the trophy. For now. The hill is patient.

The Rookie Housewarming



THE NEW HOUSE



THE OLD NEIGHBOR

THE NEW HOUSE
Any advice for a first season on the hill?

THE OLD NEIGHBOR
Win early. Apologize never. Never trust a porch light — check the standings.

THE NEW HOUSE
And the neighbors?

THE OLD NEIGHBOR
Loud, kind, and keeping receipts. Welcome home, rookie.

The new house stands 2–3 and rising — which, on this hill, counts as a parade.

The 2.76 Support Group



THE HOUSE OF 89.18



THE HOUSE OF 91.94

THE HOUSE OF 89.18
Two point seven six. I've counted it a hundred times.

THE HOUSE OF 91.94
It gets smaller every time you count it. That's the healing.

THE HOUSE OF 89.18
Ninety-one ninety-four to eighty-nine eighteen. A coin flip with extra steps.

THE HOUSE OF 91.94
Same time next week? — Same time. Bring the coin.

The closest finish of Week 5 gets its own support group. Membership: two. Snacks: provided.

The Porch Light Summit



CARTY +1



NEW YORK GENERALS

CARTY +1
Three houses at 4–1, and every porch light on the hill claims to be the highest.

NEW YORK GENERALS
Mine is highest. It's not close. Altitude is a stat now.

CARTY +1
The Hunter's house says the same. Word for word.

NEW YORK GENERALS
Then let Week 6 decide. The summit holds three flags. Barely.

Three at the top: Carty +1, Little Boy Hunter and the Generals. Nobody blinking.

Meanwhile, at the Barnyard



THE BARN



THE BARN, LOUDER

THE BARN
Record: oh-and-five. Morale: unreasonably excellent.

THE BARN
The plan is still taped to the door. The door is still open.

THE BARN
Undefeated in October — of NEXT year. Mark it.

THE BARN
Nobody counts this barn out of a Sunday. Least of all this barn.

Down in the valley, the lights stay on. The season is long. The barn is longer.

The Night Before the Family Bowl



THE HILL AT DUSK



EVERY HOUSE, WHISPERING

EVERY HOUSE, WHISPERING
When the cold weeks come, one road stays lit — past every porch, to one game.

THE HILL AT DUSK
Fourteen flags on the road. One trophy at the top of it.

EVERY HOUSE, WHISPERING
Who lifts it?

THE HILL AT DUSK
Ask again after Sunday. The hill is still talking.

TO BE CONTINUED — in Issue #2, after the Week 6 dust settles!

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The Road to the Family Bowl

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Want to use something from it beyond that? Ask first, in writing, through the Family Mailbag in The Family Football Times — for family, the answer is usually yes.

Meet the Fourteen Clubs

Carty +1
Tom & Emma Carty

New York Generals
Kevin Duffy

Team Duffymj
Martin Duffy

Team Crevecoeur1
Reggie Crevecoeur

Team patrickd31
Patrick Duffy

Team Jayr0me
Jerome Seiling

Woodside Warriors
Brendan Duffy

Little Boy Hunter
Ciaran Hennessy

Team BMonaghan45
Brian Monaghan

TheGoofTroops
Michael Duffy

That's My Monan-Guy
Mitch Maling

Team abmason
Avery Mason

JohnHayes13
John Hayes

Back at the Barnyard
Joseph Duffy



Family Football Comic Book #1 — 'The Road to the Family Bowl' — is an original illustrated story from the world of The Family Football League, published by The Family Football Times. The season's facts are the league's own, as printed in Family Illustrated Issue 1 (Week 6, 2026); the artwork is original cartoon illustration, and any resemblance of the drawings to real plays is purely the scoreboard's fault.

NEXT ISSUE: the Week 6 fallout — somebody comes down the hill!