



Doodyville Stadium was jam-packed for the biggest football event of the season-the Gravy Bowl game. It was almost time for the contest to start and the fans were growing more excited by the minute. Howdy Doody, Dilly Dally, and Clarabell Hornblow had arrived early and secured good seats well down in front.

"Gosh, Howdy," exclaimed Dilly Dally, "this should be a terrific game!"

Howdy nodded in agreement, but did not speak. He was busy watching the puzzled expression on Clarabell's face. Clarabell had never been to a football game and it was plain to see that he was mighty bewildered by it all, but mighty interested, too! He leaned forward and his eyes opened wide as the husky players trotted out onto the field and began snapping the ball back and forth in their pre-game practice warm up.

"Clarabell!" shouted Howdy above the din of the crowd. "Would you like me to explain the game to you as it goes along?"

Clarabell shook his head vigorously and

honked his horn, meaning "yes."

"Very well, I will," continued Howdy. "First will come the kickoff. One player will kick the ball into the air and whoever catches it must run as fast and as far as he can until he is brought down."

Clarabell smiled and rubbed his hands together. It was plain to see he was anxious for the game to get under way.

Soon it was time for the opening kickoff. THUD!!!! The ball rose almost straight up from the ground and soared higher and higher. Just as it reached the peak of its climb, it was caught up in a strong gust of wind and carried off at an angle that brought it well over the heads of the spectators. All eyes were alved on the descending pigskin-especially those of Howdy, Dilly and Clarabell, for the ball seemed to be coming down directly over them!

WHU-UMP!!!! It landed squarely in Clarabell's lap! With an expression of bewildered amazement. Clarabell rose slowly to his feet, the ball clutched tightly in his arms. Then Howdy's words came back to him-"and whoever catches it must run as fast and as far as he can. . . . " A look of determination came over Clarabell's face and before Howdy or Dilly could stop him, he put his head down and charged over the knees of the people sitting next to him! Onward plowed Clarabell, knocking people over backwards like tenpins as he went! Howdy and Dilly leaped to their feet and tried to keep their eyes on their disappearing clown friend, but a long line of leas kicking in the air blocked their view. Clarabell had turned the entire row of people unside down!

In the clear at last, Clarabell started up the steps toward the stadium exit but the sight of two husky policemen coming toward him

(Continued on inside back cover)

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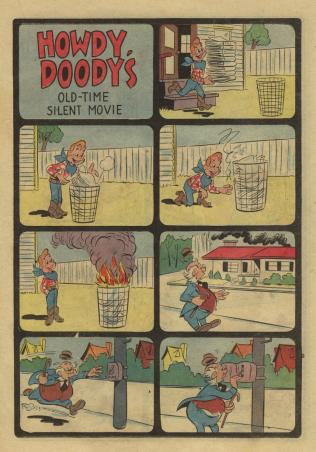


































































































changed his mind. Clutching the ball for dear life, he turned and ran down the steps, vaulted over a gate and sprinted out onto the playing field!

"CLARABELL-COME BACK!!" Howdy and Dilly screamed at the top of their lungs, but it was of no use. The whole stadium was in a screeching uproar! The players on the field couldn't believe their eyes as Clarabell chugged by them, smiling, waving and honking his horn. They soon recovered from the shock, however, and started after him. Hearing the thunder of feet behind him, Clarabell took one look backward and promptly went into high gear. Down the center of the field tore the silly clown, with two football teams in hot pursuit! Closer, closer they camefaster, faster flew Clarabell until his legs were just a blur of movement. "I'll bet Howdy and Dilly are proud of me," thought the fleeing clown, but his thoughts were suddenly interrupted by a flying tackle from behind and DOWN went Clarabell!

"Ohh-hhh my gosh!" moaned Howdy. "Poor Clarabel!! Two football teams piled up and HE is on the BOTTOM!"

By this time spectators were streaming out onto the field laughing and shouting. Howdy and Dilly followed suit and soon caught sight of Clarabell—grass stain and mud from head to foot—in the determined clutches of two stadium officials.

"Why don't you answer my question?" shouted one of the officials, shaking poor Clarabell.





"Pardon me, sir, Clarabell doesn't talk," scholing through the crowd. Then he explained how the whole thing happened. "So, you see, sir, it was partly my foult and a misunderstanding on the part of Clarabell," concluded Howdy.

The official shrugged his shoulders. "Okay, everybody back in the stands—let's go on with the football game!"

After about fifteen minutes, Howdy, Dilly, and Clarabell again found their way to their seats. People cheered Clarabell whenever they caught sight of him. He was busily taking bows in all directions.

"Stop bowing and waving and sit down!"
exclaimed Howdy. "And this time you are
aging to sit between Dilly and myself!"

Again it was kickoff time. THUD!!! The pigskin once more sailed_high into the blue, and once more it veered sharply over the heads of the spectators. An excited murmur ran through the stadium which changed to shouts and cheers as the ball AGAIN dropped in the general direction of Clarabell! Down, down it came as Howdy and Dilly held their breath! CLUMP!!! The ball struck an empty seat directly in front of Clarabell, bounced out onto the stadium steps and rolled down toward the playing field. Through it all, Clarabell's eyes never left the ball, but he sat quite calmly and never made a move.

Do you know why he sat calmly? Because Howdy Doody was sitting firmly on Clarabell's right hand and Dilly Dally was perched just as firmly on Clarabell's left hand!

