

QUEST FOR GREATNESS

A Continuing Novel by Greg Shepard

QUICK REVIEW

Chapters 1-35

Quest For Greatness is based on true stories. Coach Travis Drake is the new football Coach at Hamilton High School. With energy, enthusiasm, charisma and hard work, positive changes have been taking place.

The other major character Rick Steadman, who is a senior at Hamilton, has been devastated by tragedy. His father and two sisters died in a fire that destroyed their home. Only his little brother Billy survived.

Coach Drake with a lot of caring has helped Rick overcome his problems and this tragedy. Billy and Rick are now part of Coach Drake's family. The Town, School, and team are going crazy over the unbelievable turn around.

Hamilton is now preparing to play Templeton High School for the State Championship, a team that beat them previously. However, Principal Donaldson has got Coach Drake and others in his office trying to sort out a fight and a drug deal.



Rick Steadman averaged 136 Rushing yards per game during the regular season.

Chapter 35 The Dome (Lem's Fate)

"I'm sorry sir, but Lem's reputation and honor are at stake here. Please allow me to continue."

"OK, but this better be good."

Travis drew a deep breath and began, "I've gotten to know Lem and his family quite well the last eight months. They are hard-working fine people. Lem would not get involved in drugs, and the honor of Lem's parents is very important to him. Tongans, in fact all Polynesians, are very respectful to their elders. Tongans also have a custom of taking care of confrontations physically and settling matters quickly. In our country, we sue somebody. Maybe Lem shouldn't have hit Bart."

Travis looked at Bart, "and maybe you shouldn't be selling drugs, and maybe you should keep your mouth shut."

Mrs. Snyder was infuriated and yelled, "Your coach is lying. He's just trying to save his precious football player."

"Glory be, Kate, let's not let this thing get out of hand. I know you can be reasonable. Remember when you used to sit in my office?" interrupted Mr. Maddox. "We finally got you graduated."

Mrs. Snyder managed a weak smile and cooled down noticeably. Fred continued, "Now Kate, doggone it, I've asked you several times to come in and talk about Bart. I've sent you three letters already this year. Bart isn't going to graduate."

"Mr. Maddox, I'm sorry, but you don't know the hours I put in. It's not easy bein' alone," said a more subdued Mrs. Snyder.

Mr. Maddox smiled kindly, "I know it's tough, but we just have to try and help Bart. As for Lem, he has a B average and has attended every class."

"What's that got to do with him punchin' me in the nose?" piped Bart.

Mr. Maddox's eyes squinted a bit as he asked Bart pointedly, "You been dealin' in drugs, Bart?"

"You kiddin' me, man. Get serious. You got nothin' on me, man," Bart said steaming as he got up. "Anyway, my nose ain't that bad, so it's 'adios'." He stormed for the door and whirled around quickly and glared with a menacing grin. "Oh, Eddie boy, see ya around," Bart snarled as he pointed his finger and hand like a gun at Eddie and said, "Bang."

"W-wait," Donaldson stammered, but it was too late. Bart was gone. "Do something," Donaldson yelled at officer Wheeler. "We'll keep an eye on him," said the officer. "Oh, and Lem."

"Yes, sir," replied Lem weakly.

"Knock 'em dead Saturday!" Officer Wheeler said, smiling. "Good day, gentlemen."

Mrs. Snyder numbly got up and was assisted by Mr.

Story Continued After Catalog



Hamilton High Student Body Getting Ready To Go To The Dome.

Maddox. "I'll look after Bart the best I can. He just needs time to sort things out, Kate."

"Thanks, Fred. I want you to know I've tried really hard," replied Mrs. Snyder dejectedly.

"Can I go now?" said Eddie carefully.

Everything was happening so fast. Donaldson was trying to regain control.

"Wait a minute, Coach Drake. What were these kids here for, anyway?"

Coach Drake stood and affirmed, "To help us learn the truth. As it turned out, they weren't needed. But what I'd like to do now is get back to class and use any extra time to continue preparing."

Somewhat perplexed, Donaldson muttered, "OK, OK, I think that's a good idea." Everyone left, leaving Donaldson at his desk to ponder the last hour's events.

That Wednesday night after practice and a long

coaches' meeting, Travis returned home at 10:00 p.m. Diana heated up dinner and asked, "How was your day?"

Travis still had a sense of humor. "A day like all days: filled with those events that alter and illuminate our time."

Thursday was a busy day. A big pep assembly was scheduled to send the team on its 200-mile journey to the Dome. The coaching staff wanted a day to travel and a day to practice on the Astro-Turf, therefore they left two days before the championship game. Coach Drake was amused at the directive he found in his mailbox. It reminded him to have a bed check at the motel and gave a recommendation for a 10:00 curfew.

Rick was asked to speak at the assembly. "The team would like to thank the student body, the cheerleaders, the teachers, the board and the administration for all your

QUEST FOR GREATNESS

Continued from page 39



Coach Drake Checking With Officials Before Game



The Game Begins: Hamilton On Offense

support this season. Hamilton's the best school in the world. Thanks!"

Rick got a big ovation. TJ was next. "I feel the same as Rick, and this game is a dream come true. We owe our coaches everything, and we're going to try our best to make you all proud of us Saturday. I know we can get 'em this time."

TJ got an even bigger ovation. "We want Buddy," people yelled. "Do 'Hidee' for us, Buddy." Buddy had already rehearsed with the band. Of course, Buddy really hammed it up. He took the microphone as the band started.

Buddy drawled slowly, "Hidee, Hidee, Hidee-Ho." The whole audience sang the same words back loudly. Buddy boomed again, "Hidee, Hidee, Hidee-Hi." Everyone followed again. "Hidee, Hidee, Hidee-Ho." He then repeated it twice as fast. After that chorus, Buddy went super-fast and shook his head into a frenzy, making very funny faces. The kids were howling.

"Domeity, Domeity, Dome-Dome-Dome. Domeity, Domeity, Dome-Dome." Then slowly again, the "Hidee, Hidee, Hidee-Ho." verse. The band forged into a rousing climax, followed by the team standing up and yelling, "Dome!, Dome!, Dome!"

Everyone jumped up and also began yelling, "Dome!, Dome!, Dome!" Amidst the chant, the team filed out of the auditorium and boarded the bus.

That night, after the team meal, Rick and TJ were assigned as roommates. TJ turned on the TV and stretched

out on his bed. Rick did the same and they both munched on some goodies.

TJ asked, "What are you gonna do after high school?"

Rick chuckled, "I'm getting asked that a lot lately. Becky and I have talked about going to college together. I'd love to play college ball. Coach Drake thinks I can play and can maybe even get a scholarship."

"Does he think I've got a chance? Do the two of you ever talk about me?" inquired TJ.

"We don't talk football hardly at all, and we never talk about the guys. It's probably better that way."

TJ confessed, "My dad wants me to get a scholarship and be a football star. I know he doesn't like our offense. He wants me to throw for 300 yards a game. But one thing I do know, he's super happy about our season."

Gently Rick responded, "I think my dad's very happy about the season, too."

"Damn," TJ groaned, "Rick, I'm sorry, man."

Next Issue: The Final Game

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