

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 playing Templeton High School for the State Championship, a team that beat them previously. It is halftime. Templeton is ahead 14-0.

Chapter 36 It's Our Half

Sam Carter murmured, "We haven't been able to establish anything remotely called an offense yet. We gotta open up, start passin'."

Diana and Barbara Myers were sitting together. "Don't worry, Diana. We've got another half."

"Thanks, Barbara," Diana said, "But I can't help it. Travis has worked so hard. Wait a minute. There they are now, but where's the team? Oh, God, I hope everything's alright."

Becky was sitting in the Hamilton student section. She must have said a hundred prayers, even though the students were cheering like they were ahead. Then, a huge roar came from the crowd. The band began playing and the Hamilton students cheered loudly. The Lions were charging onto the field and formed a tight circle screaming, "Psych! Psych! Psych! Psych!"

Bernie and Fred Maddox stood up clapping their hands. "Glory be, Bernie," Fred exclaimed, "I've never seen 'em so psyched before."

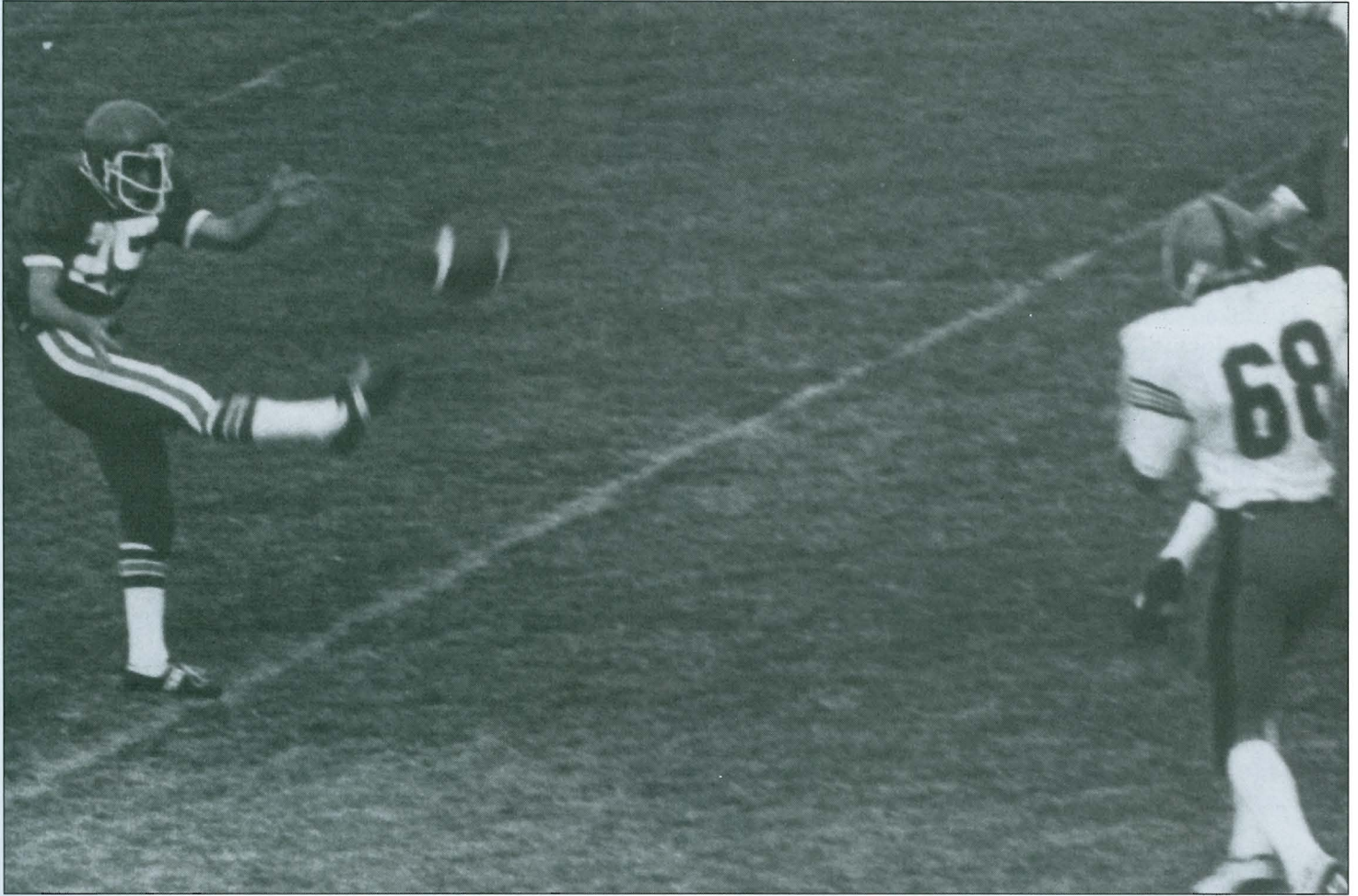
"I told you to relax, Fred. The second half is our half. Now, sit down. You just gotta have faith," winked Bernie.

Templeton kicked off; and with the penalty, the ball

Story Continued After Catalog



Rick Steadman Breaks Off Tackle To His Left And Raced 30 Yards!



With Templeton Ahead 14-7, It Became A Defensive Struggle.

easily went out of the end zone. Hamilton had the ball, first-and-ten from the twenty. The first play was nothing fancy, just an off tackle play. Rick ripped for nine yards. He jumped up and helped the Templeton tackler off the turf. "Nice tackle," he said and jogged back to the huddle. "Give me the ball again," he demanded. TJ called a sweep. Rick raced for another eight. Then, Dave Pruitt popped one for fifteen on a counter. Rick got hit hard even though he didn't have the ball. "Nice call, TJ. They're really keyin' on me."

"OK, Guys, we'll get 'em on this one," TJ asserted with authority. It was a play action pass. Rick took the fake with twists and turns. He was hit by three Templeton players. But TJ, who had the ball, deftly passed to his tight end.

"Nice catch, Jeff," complimented TJ.

"Nice pass!" said Jeff.

The next play was Rick's best play of the night. The defense relaxed a little and Rick broke an off-tackle play to the left and raced for thirty yards for Hamilton's first touchdown. The extra point was kicked. It only took Hamilton three minutes to score.

The Hamilton fans were on fire. "Glory be, I think we

can do it."

"Relax, Fred."

Becky had her hands clasped tightly and pressed against her mouth. She was squealing with excitement as she rapidly jumped up and down.

However, Templeton wasn't undefeated for nothing. They came back hard. But after two first downs, they were forced to punt. Hamilton couldn't sustain a drive, either, and another defensive struggle ensued. All too quickly, the quarter ended and the score stood Hamilton 7, Templeton 14.

TJ and company got the ball back with ten minutes left. "We gotta do it, guys. Suck it up," urged TJ. He passed on first down, catching Templeton off guard. Skip took the ball, eluded his man and raced for a nifty 35-yard gain before Templeton finally brought him down.

Sam Carter was dancing. He turned and faced the crowd with a broad grin. Holding both arms up, he yelled, "That's my boy. That's my boy."

Mrs. Carter, who was normally reserved, stood up and cried, "That's my boy too!"

TJ again took command. "Hey Buddy, how you doin'!"

"We're wearin' 'em down. You can call anything, TJ."

"OK, guys, we're in four-down territory. Fight for every yard, and let's put 'em away. Fullback trap on one. Fullback trap on one. Ready, break!"

Grudgingly, the Templeton defense began to yield. Three yards, then four, then three—no big plays, but always enough to get the first down.

Finally, but unspectacularly, Pruitt crashed in over Buddy for the touchdown. However, it was spectacular in the stands. Everyone was cheering madly. The referees asked for quiet. Five minutes showed on the clock.

TJ looked at his teammates, "We're goin' for two. They'll be lookin' for Rick, so we'll do our 26 QB at 8 play. Let's do it on one. Ready, break." The crowd was hushed in anticipation. The ball was snapped and Rick took the fake and leaped high in the air. TJ slipped the ball out and began to turn the corner. He was met by two Templeton players. TJ squirmed and knifed his way toward pay dirt. TJ's eyes focused on the goal line. "All I have to do is just reach out with the ball and break the plane. God, let me do it," raced TJ's mind.

Templeton's side erupted. Hamilton's side groaned. The referee signaled "No good." TJ was stopped one foot short.

So near and yet so far, was the thought of everyone from Hamilton. Sam Carter slumped down in his seat.

"Glory be, Bernie. I feel so badly for the kids, especially TJ."

Story Continued Next Issue



Hamilton Had To Go For Two!

QUEST FOR GREATNESS

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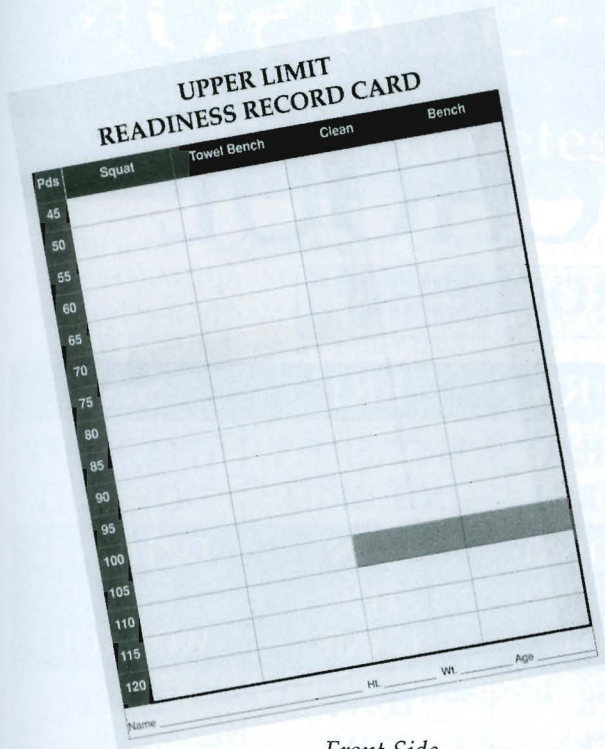
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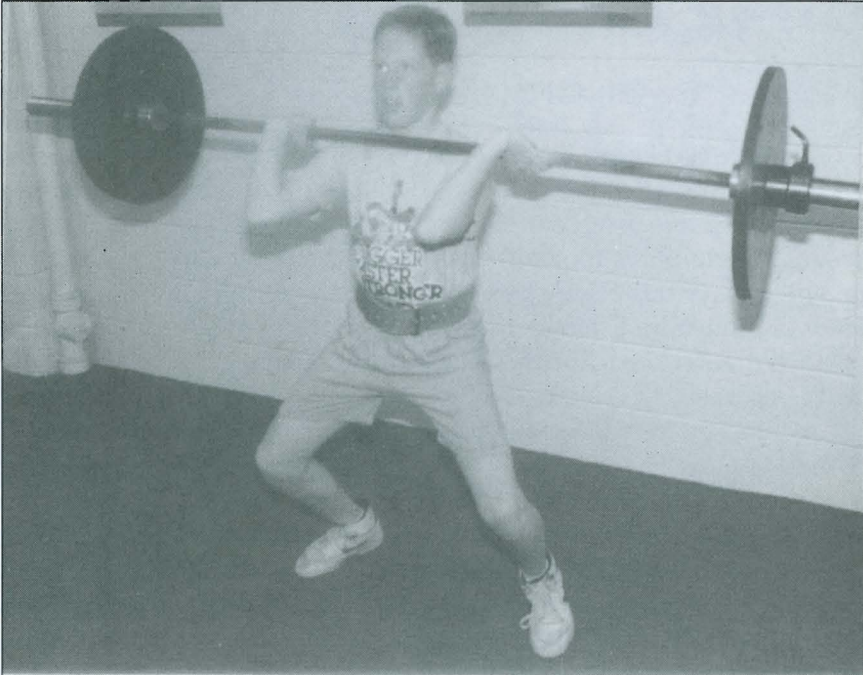
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TRAVIS BURKHALTER

Travis is 16 and will be a Senior at O’Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is a perfect 4.0 student in advanced classes. Travis started at point guard as a Sophomore. He made the All State Tournament team and was 2nd team All-State. Travis presently weighs 168 and is under 6 feet tall with a 225 Bench and a 325 Squat. The other day, Travis stole the ball and on a break away did a two hand gorilla dunk. His dad, Al, has been a high school basketball coach says, “Thank you. Travis could never have dunked it without the BFS Program.” TALK SMALL-WORK HARD-THINK BIG!

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