

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.

"Chapter 35 The Dome

"Damn!" TJ Groaned, "Rick, I'm sorry, man."

"It's OK, TJ, really. I have this special feeling like my dad and the kids are watching me. They want me to be my very best. I want them to be proud of me. Coach Drake has done a lot to help me have a good perspective about life and death. Do you think we can do it, TJ?"

"Beat Templeton? Of course we can, and right no I'm gonna dream about it."

The first time a team sets foot in the Dome can be intimidating. Tonight over 25,000 people were helping to create this intimidating electricity. Templeton, of course, was favored and had received much of the pre-game publicity. However, at least 5,000 Hamilton Lion supporters were at the game.

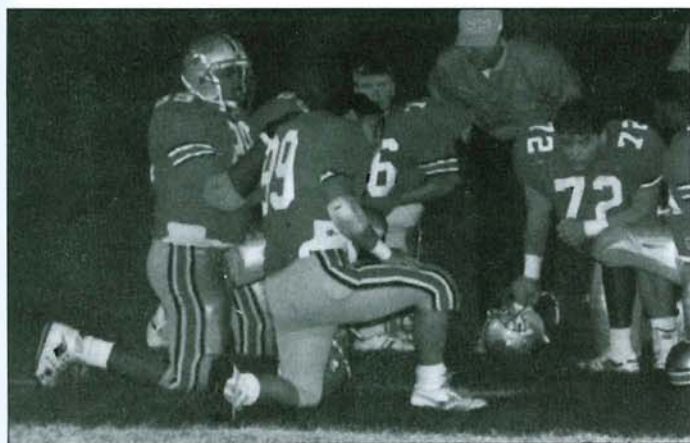
Coach McMasters was really worried about the footing on the Astro-Turf. Travis had felt good about Friday's practice. The players seemed faster on this surface. Everyone figured that it was the same for both teams, so why worry about it.

Coach Littlewood had worked extra hard on kick-off and punt coverage. He didn't want Templeton's running back to get loose again. Coach Myers felt his keys for the linebackers were better. The defense had



PRE-GAME WARM-UPS AT THE DOME IN FRONT OF 25,000 FANS!

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Last Minute Pre-Game Preparations

vowed not to let anyone spring a long one.

As the team finished the pre-game warm-ups and headed toward the locker room, Coach Littlewood remarked, "Well, Travis, the hay's in the barn now." Coach Drake grabbed Jerry by the arm, "Jerry, the hay's not fully in the barn until the final second is over. Until then, we keep working and staying alert for any change that might be necessary." Jerry accepted this comment as a great coaching point. Travis put his arm on top of Jerry's shoulder and said, "We gotta play perfect, old buddy."

Coach Littlewood said confidently, "Coach, I feel good about this one. We'll do it. I know we will."

After the team prayer, Travis addressed the team simply, "Men, we'll be kicking off first. Our dream is still alive. Now, let's go out and make it happen!"

The team exploded. They had the emotion that had been building for a whole week and the huge crowd at the Dome to fire them up. They needed nothing else.

As the National Anthem played, Travis glanced at each team member. How proud he was of everybody.

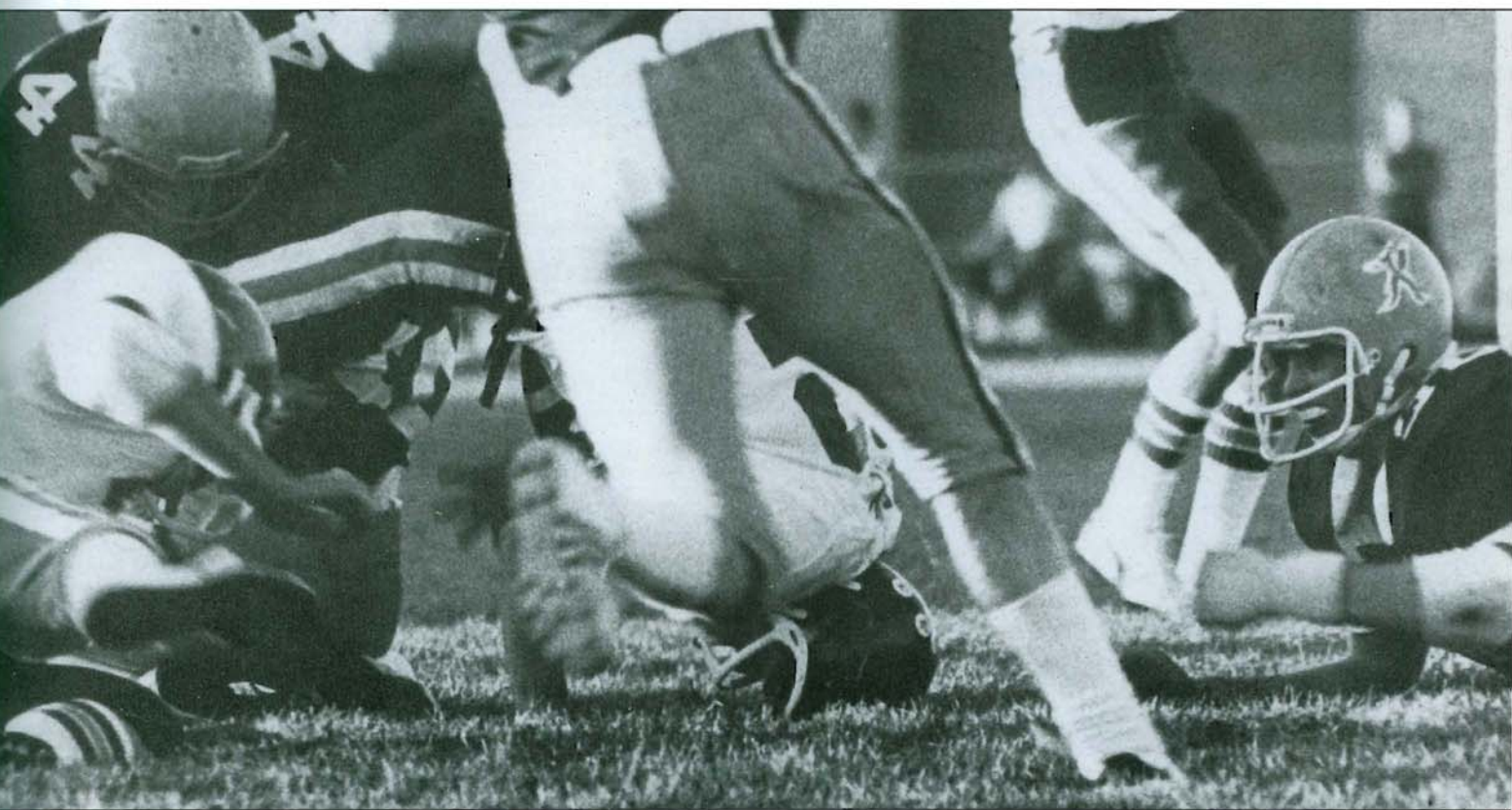
Buddy yelled, "It's showtime, folks. Let's get it on."

"Dome! Dome! Dome! Dome!" Everybody mobbed Coach Drake and jumped up and down.

The whistle blew! Hamilton's kick was high and deep to the three-yard line. The Lions screamed downfield and cornered the Templeton speedster. They nailed him at the twenty-five.

The Hamilton sideline was ecstatic. "Defense! Defense!" shouted Coach Meyers. "Strong Right, Strong Right," came the cry from Lem and Anthony. Templeton blasted off guard. The Lions dug in and met the challenge: a two-yard gain.

The first quarter was a great defensive struggle with neither team being able to punch it in for a score. However, early in the second quarter, Templeton put a



The First Quarter Was a Great Defensive Struggle Until.....

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drive together on some clever play-calling. A trap for six yards, an off tackle blast for five, a counter for seven, a screen pass for fifteen, and a sweep for twelve more. Finally, after two great defensive plays, it was third and eight. Templeton turned it into the first touchdown of the game. The extra point was good and the score was Templeton 7, Hamilton zero.

On the next series, Hamilton made two tough first downs but was forced to punt. Templeton could not sustain anything on their next series. Hamilton again made two first downs only to see the drive stalled by a holding penalty. Hamilton's defense again rose to the occasion and forced Templeton to punt from the thirty-five on their next drive. Emile signaled for a fair catch at the Hamilton twenty-four yard line. Disaster struck. Emile fumbled, and it was Templeton's ball with three minutes left in the half.

The Lion defense gave ground grudgingly; nonetheless, Templeton converted two fourth-and-one plays. They finally scored on a third-and-two situation. The extra point was again converted and Templeton held the lead 14-0 at the half.

"Get your heads up!" TJ and Rick encouraged. "We're still in it!" yelled Tim. The locker room was quiet. The team waited in anticipation for their coaches. Every assistant was giving information and advice at a mile-a-minute pace to coach Drake. Finally, Coach Drake said, "Give me a minute or two by myself." Everyone sat and waited.

Game Continued Next Issue



Templeton's Defense Held Hamilton Scoreless the First Half

QUEST FOR GREATNESS

"Wait Till Next Issue To See What Happens
Or Get The Book Now"

**THE BEST FOOTBALL
BOOK EVER!**
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Quest For Greatness Written By Greg Shepard Is A Special Novel For Football Coaches and Players. It Puts The Whole Secret Into A Real Life High School Situation. The Novel Is Based On True Stories From The Author's Clinic Travels and Own Experience.

IT'S IDEAL

Coaches can't put it down. Players see a new vision of what they can be. It's an ideal gift. It's an ideal way to grasp the vision.

SPECIAL BOOK PREVIEW

Pages 26,27 and 28 have continued our ongoing story in serial form. Each BFS Journal will continue the series of *Quest For Greatness*.