

# 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

The locker room was dead quiet. Almost everyone was looking at Coach Drake, who sat facing the wall with his back to the team and coaches.

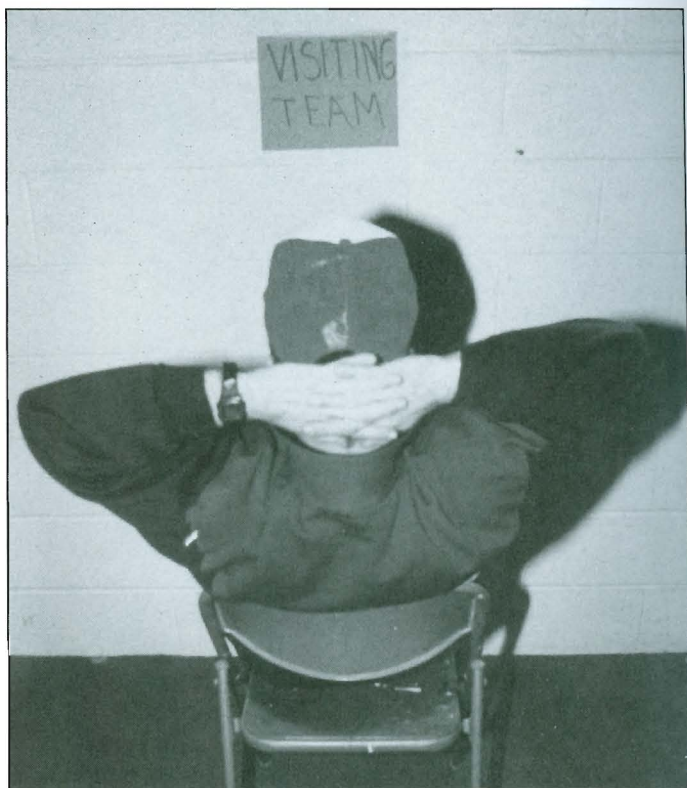
Emile was off by himself, fighting back tears. Emile felt responsible for the team being behind 14-0.

Finally, Travis turned around. He had a curious smile. He walked over to Emile and said, "Emile, did you go all out the first half?"

"Yes sir, but I screwed up badly."

Travis looked at everyone and declared, "Men, all I've ever asked is for you to go all out on every play. I've never asked you to win. I've never expected you to not make mistakes." Travis pulled Emile up and looked at him, "Emile, you're like my son. I could never get upset because you made a mistake if you were goin' all out. I love each of you. You're all like my family." He gave Emile a big hug and whispered, "Don't worry about it, we'll kick their fannies the second half."

"Now, here's what we're gonna do. We are gonna stick with our game plan, but we'll just play a little tougher. I



*Down 14-0, How Would Coach Drake Respond?*

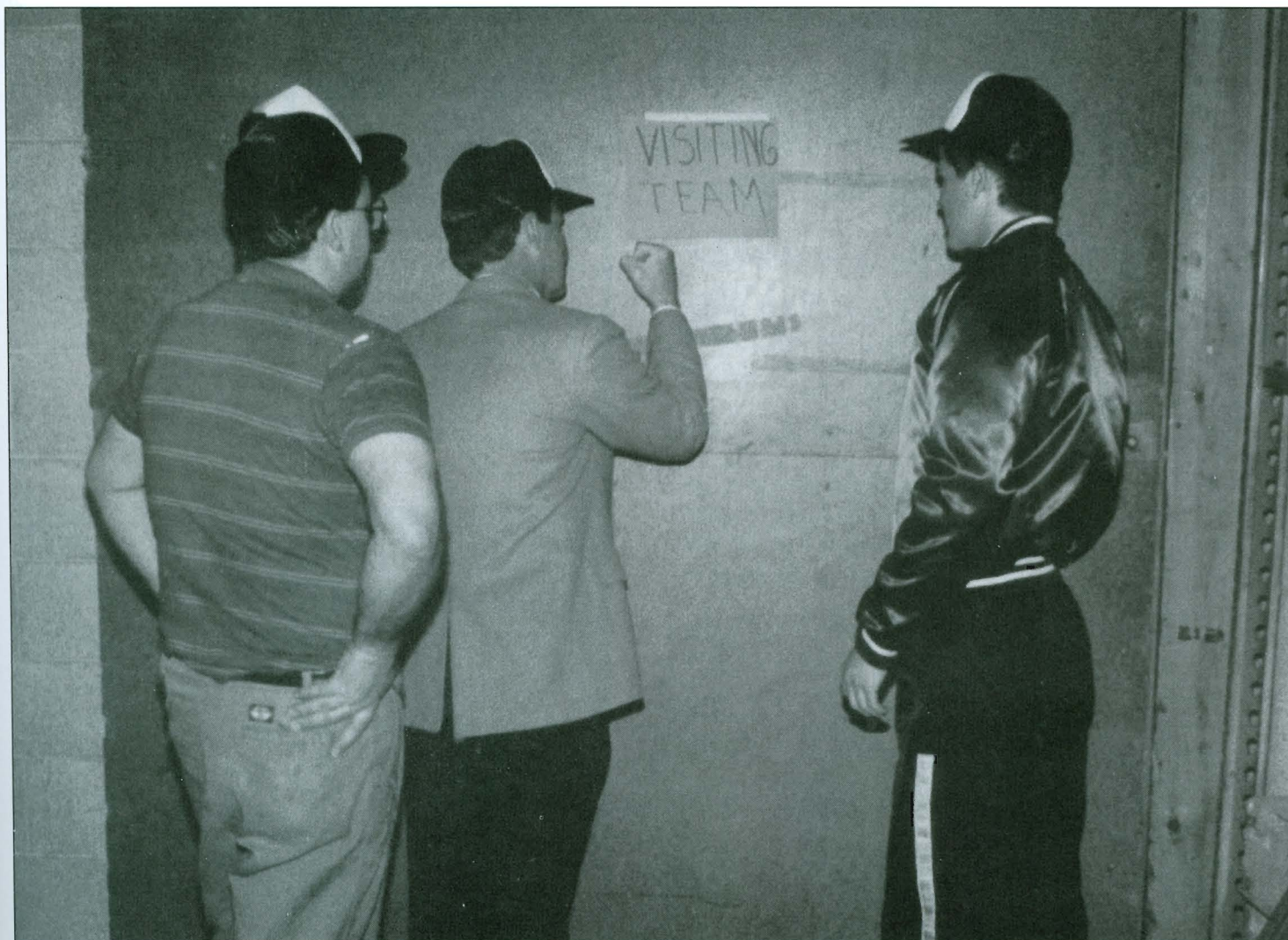
think the worst thing we can do is panic and start changing things around. Heck, all we gotta do is score once in the third quarter and shut them out. Then, score again the fourth quarter and go for two. We'll win 15-14 and be State Champs."

That seemed to lift everybody's spirits. A roar came out of all the players. The enthusiasm and confidence were returning.

The next statement by Travis was a shocker, "But I'll tell you something, men. When I look at all we've been through together, it really isn't all that important if you win today." Travis paused briefly before continuing, "The important things have already been done and learned. You remember our first meeting when Rick did his 14 reps, which represented the State Championship. Well men, we are half through that 14th rep. You have worked tremendously hard to get to the 14th rep. You have spent all kinds of hours preparing to accomplish that worthy goal. It has been our 'Quest.' It has been our 'Quest for Greatness.' It has been a noble cause. You have developed leadership abilities. You have helped make Hamilton a great, great school. You have inspired teachers and other students to do the right thing for the right reasons. You have developed in the classroom and have achieved fine grades. Many of you have established better relationships with your parents and families. It has been a joy to see and be a part of your progression. That's why I love each of you so much.

"You see, you've already won the most important





*"One Minute... You'll Get A Penalty For Being Late!"*

contest. You have gained a victory in mind and spirit. You will take this victory and will conquer many noble goals in the future. You will be successful in your life's work, and you'll be successful with your future families. You know how to set goals and how to work through obstacles to attain them.

"I know you'll play your guts out this second half and that's enough for me. So hold your heads high. I want you to play with class. When you knock a Templeton player on his fanny, help him up. Tell him he's playin' a heck of a game and then knock 'im on his fanny again."

Many players had tears, some were saying, "All right," but all were filled with pride and with a fierce determination to complete that "14th rep."

"Coach Myers," asked Travis, "You got anything you want to say?"

Big John Myers stood, but his voice was trembling, "I love you kids, too. This year has been the best year of my life. I didn't know how much I missed coaching. Coach Drake, our defense will shut 'em out. You kids on offense

just get us fifteen."

Coach Littlewood stood next, "I've never experienced anything like this season in my life. You guys have made me proud once again to be a coach. We can do it! Just play together and we'll win this thing."

Everyone was standing, and after Coach Myers' and Littlewood's speeches, the noise level was getting louder and louder. Suddenly, a knock was heard at the locker room door. A voice yelled, "Two minutes! Two minutes!"

Unperturbed, Travis called upon Brian McMasters.

"I'd like to thank Coach Drake who's helped make me a much better coach. I've always wanted to win badly, but I used to get really negative when we lost. I've learned from Coach Drake to really care about my players — win or lose. Emile, we've got a trick or two left to show Templeton. We'll do it. I can feel it."

Coach Drake embraced Coach McMasters and said, "Thanks!"

"One minute!" The voice boomed, "You'll get a penalty for being late."



# QUEST FOR GREATNESS

Continued from page 27

Ignoring the warning, Travis called out, "Coach Miller."

Tom responded, "I don't know what to say that hasn't already been said. I feel the same as everyone else. I just know our linemen are going to dominate the line of scrimmage. It's going to be our half."

"Dome! Dome! Dome!" came the familiar frenzied chant.

Travis held up his hands for quiet as he stood on top of a locker room bench.

"Men, we coaches are going out first. We'll talk to the refs. We'll probably get a penalty for being late, but it won't matter. We'll take the ball and stuff it down their throats anyway," roared Travis with a fist clenched in the air.

After the coaches left, TJ spoke, "We can do it. Seniors, this is it. I love you guys."

Everyone put their right hand toward the middle of the circle. Rick quietly but firmly addressed his team: "I came from nothin'. Everything Coach Drake said is true. We are winners, and we've learned a lot. I'll never forget you guys."

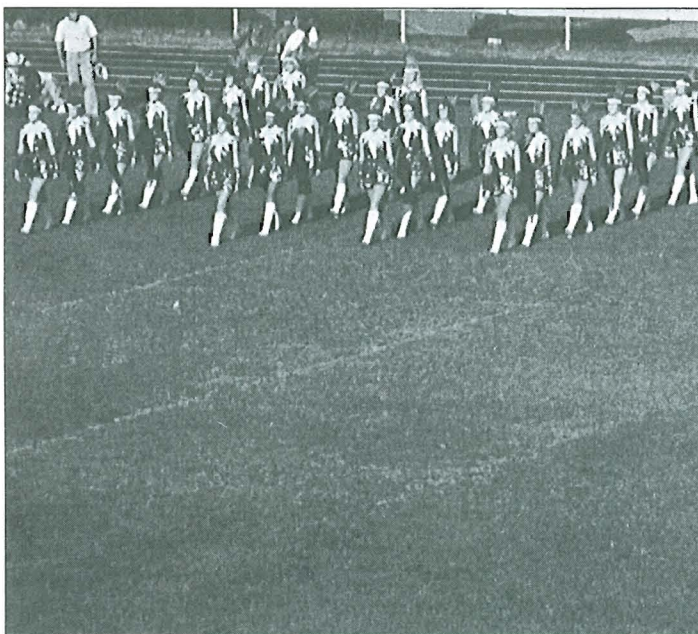
Then Rick pointed at Lem and started chanting, "Lem! Lem! Lem!" Everyone else quickly joined in the chant and backed away, leaving Lem alone in the middle.

For one final time, Lem began his Tongan war chant. It was wilder than ever. Everyone was going bonkers. The Hamilton Lions stampeded out the door.

Dr. Kowalski wondered, "What's keeping those guys? We're getting a penalty."

Principal Donaldson said, "It's sure not very smart. In fact, it's kind of embarrassing. You want me to go check on them, sir?"

*Game Continued Next Issue*



*The Halftime Show Was Almost Over But  
Hamilton Was No Where To Be Seen.*

## QUEST FOR GREATNESS

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

**THE BEST FOOTBALL  
BOOK EVER!**  
**Cost: Only \$10.00**

*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*.