

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. Templeton is ahead 14-13. It is late in the game.

THE FINAL CHAPTER

"Keep the faith, Fred, we still got five minutes."

The score stood at 13-14 in favor of Templeton.

The Templeton coaches were cautious. They just wanted to control the ball, to keep it in-bounds, and to run out the clock. They did a good job as they ran the clock to 2:18. However, it was third and nine from Templeton's forty-five. They took a long count and then called "timeout" at the last second.

Tim Adams came over to the sideline and conferred with Coaches Myers and McMasters. Coach Myers said, "Let's play a normal third and long defense. Tim, we can't let 'em get a first!"

"I know, Coach," said Tim, determined to do the job at hand.

Coach McMasters blurted, "I know they're gonna throw that little out-pass to Emile's side, Coach. I want to disguise a double coverage to that side. They haven't seen it all night."

Coach Myers made a snap judgement, "OK, Tim, call it; but you watch that tricky draw of theirs."

"You got it, Coach."



Emile Stepped In Front. The Plan Worked!

The defense was called. Templeton called their play and lined up. Templeton's QB glanced at Emile, who was eight yards off the ball. As the wide receiver burst off the line, Emile held his ground. Chad came over and covered Emile's deep corner. Templeton's receiver came to an abrupt halt and cut sharply to the sideline. The pre-timed pass was in the air. Emile timed his move perfectly. He stepped in front and grabbed it and was immediately tackled. Emile must have jumped ten feet in the air, as did Coach McMasters. As interception! Hamilton breathed new life!

Not one spectator was sitting as the Hamilton offense charged onto the field.

Becky couldn't stand it. She came over to Diana and her parents. Diana held her trembling hand. The two of them could scarcely breathe.

"We got plenty of time. Let's just stay cool and get it," TJ ordered. "We're gonna do sweep-right-pass on one. They won't expect it. Let's do it! Ready, break!" TJ reverse-pivoted and tossed the pitch to Rick, who tucked



Skip Caught The Sweep Pass From Steadman On The Nine Yard Line.

the ball in and swept right.

All of a sudden, he pulled up. Rick spotted Skip behind the strong safety. He made it look exactly like his sweep-block assignment before turning on the jets and heading for the flag. Skip was alone and the ball was almost on target. Skip had to stop and leap. The ball was his as he crashed down on the nine-yard line.

The clock started ticking after the chains were set. Pruitt again came through with a slick trap play for five yards. Rick bulled his way down to the one-yard line on the next play.

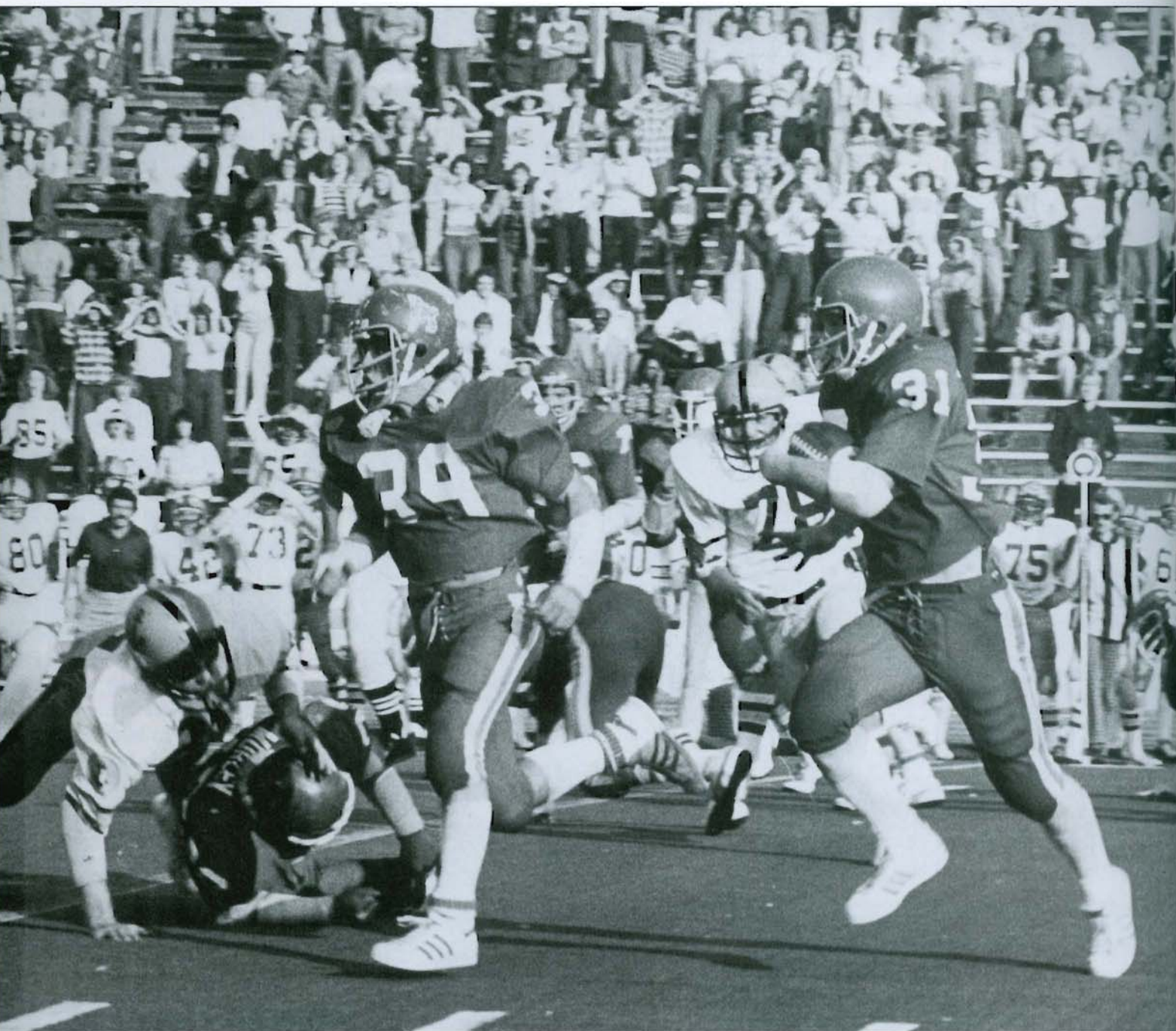
TJ was trying to settle everyone down in the huddle. "Keep it together." He slapped each lineman on the side of the helmet. "Tighten down; don't let 'em split ya. We gotta score on this one. I don't want to rely on a field goal. Rick, it's your play off-tackle to the right. Let's do this one for your Dad."

A surge of energy went through Rick's body. He stared straight ahead. As Pete snapped the ball, Buddy, Dan and Jeff blocked down. They made all the work they had done in the weight room count. Dave Pruitt charged on an inside-out approach and collided with the defensive end, who awaited Pruitt's blow. Rick burst like lightening to the designated spot. He saw a slight gap. It was all he needed, as he exploded past Templeton's defensive line. The strong safety tried to fill the hole, but Rick lowered his shoulder and crashed into the end-zone standing up.

HAMILTON : 19
TEMPLETON: 14

It was pandemonium. Rick was mobbed. TJ butted helmets with Rick.

Rick picked up TJ. The stands started to pour onto the playing field. But the officials ordered them quickly back. One minute, twelve seconds were left on the clock.



Steadman Goes Over For The Go-Ahead Touchdown: Hamilton 19 Templeton 14

The two-point play was missed. The score stayed 19-14 for Hamilton. Coach Drake, along with the rest of his coaching staff, was still extremely worried. Templeton still had time to come back.

Sam Carter was ecstatic, "Did ya see that? What a team! What a Coach! My boy engineered those drives to perfection. He's a winner. Hell, they're all winners."

"Glory be again, Bernie, you were right. Doggone it, you were right."

Dr. Kowalski beamed, "We got ourselves one heck of a team and one heck of a coach."

Diana hugged Becky, but both of them could hardly wait to hug their heroes. Rick picked up Billy who said, "We did it, didn't we!" Before Rick could answer, Coach Myers was roaring above everyone else, "Defense! Defense! Defense! It's not over yet."

Coach Littlewood was racing to get his kickoff team ready. Travis came over and ordered, "Squib it. I don't want any return."

The ball went end-over-end, to the thirty-five, where a Templeton player was immediately tackled. Templeton threw two incomplete passes, but then a screen pass

THE NOBLE QUEST IS OVER

connected for fifteen yards. Suddenly, the Hamilton fans were scared to death. Coach Myers had a special "prevent" defense called with 36 seconds left.

Another pass was completed down to the Lion 38-yard line. Coach Myers signaled in the defense. Wes readied himself and charged. It was, of course, another pass. He got by his man and leaped high in the air just before the Templeton quarterback released the ball. Wes' outstretched fingertips caught a piece of the ball. It fluttered in the air and Lem Kalani was waiting for it. He gobbled it up and immediately fell to the ground.

Lem went crazy. The defense mobbed him. They were deliriously happy. The offense came out, and TJ called a play but just let the time run out.

Hamilton had won! The Lions were State Champions! Coach Drake was given the customary ride. Elated, he cried, "State Champs! State Champs!" and raised both arms in the air. Suddenly, he twisted and his eyes scanned the crowd. There she was! Travis threw Diana and the kids a kiss. After being carried to the middle of the field, he yelled, "Let me down!"

Rick was right there and tears were coming down his cheeks. Travis picked up Billy and gave Rick a big hug. "Thanks, Coach," Rick cried. Travis couldn't hold back the tears, either, as Rick held him close. Travis knew he couldn't talk, so he just hugged Rick a little tighter.



Coach Drake, Looking For Rick, Yelled, "Let Me Down."

I Hope Everyone Enjoyed This Novel In This Serial Form. It Has Been A Great Passion of Mine. Someday, Maybe We Can Make A Full Length Movie:

Greg Shepard, Author

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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 38-41 have continued our ongoing story in serial form. Each BFS Journal has continued the series of *Quest For Greatness*.