

# Days of Glory

## Introduction

Days of Glory is a captivating memoir that chronicles my journey of revisiting my childhood dream of playing football by joining America's oldest semi-pro team. It's a story of passion, perseverance, and the transformative power of community.

As a thirty-year-old husband, father, and English professor, I yearned to relive the glory days of my youth when I was a star player on the gridiron. Driven by nostalgia and a desire to prove to myself that I still had it, I decided to join the Watertown Red & Black, a semi-pro team with a rich history and a reputation for toughness.

My journey was filled with challenges. I had to balance the demands of work, family, and football, often

sacrificing sleep and personal time to pursue my dream. I faced skepticism from some who doubted my ability to keep up with the younger, stronger players on the team. But I was determined to prove them wrong.

Overcoming these challenges required unwavering support from my wife, family, and teammates. They believed in me when I doubted myself, and their encouragement kept me going through the tough times. The camaraderie among the players was also a source of strength. We came from diverse backgrounds and had different reasons for playing, but we were united by a shared love of the game and a desire to succeed.

Through the ups and downs of the season, I learned invaluable life lessons about the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and community. I discovered that age is just a number and that it's never too late to chase your dreams. And most importantly, I realized that the true measure of success lies not only in

achieving your goals but also in the journey itself and the people you share it with.

In Days of Glory, I invite you to join me on this extraordinary journey. It's a story that will inspire you to overcome your own challenges, embrace your passions, and never give up on your dreams.

## Book Description

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As a thirty-year-old husband, father, and English professor, the author yearned to relive the glory days of his youth when he was a star player on the gridiron. Driven by nostalgia and a desire to prove to himself that he still had it, he decided to join the Watertown Red & Black, a semi-pro team with a rich history and a reputation for toughness.

His journey was filled with challenges. He had to balance the demands of work, family, and football, often sacrificing sleep and personal time to pursue his dream. He faced skepticism from some who doubted his ability to keep up with the younger, stronger

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Days of Glory is a story that will inspire you to overcome your own challenges, embrace your passions, and never give up on your dreams. It's a reminder that it's never too late to pursue your dreams, no matter how old you are or what obstacles you face. It's a story that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

# Chapter 1: A Dream Revisited

## 1. The author's childhood dream of playing football

From a young age, I harbored an unyielding passion for football. Growing up, I spent countless hours in the backyard, throwing and catching a pigskin with my father and brother. The thrill of the game, the camaraderie of teammates, and the adrenaline rush of scoring a touchdown ignited a fire within me.

As I progressed through school, I excelled on the gridiron, earning recognition and accolades. I was the star quarterback, leading my team to numerous victories. The cheers of the crowd and the feeling of triumph after a hard-fought win fueled my dreams of a future in professional football.

However, life took an unexpected turn. After high school, I decided to pursue a different path, one that led me to academia and a career as a college professor.

Though I loved teaching and sharing my knowledge with students, I couldn't shake the longing to play football again.

The dream of reliving my glory days never fully dissipated. It simmered within me, waiting for the right moment to resurface. And when I stumbled upon the opportunity to join the Watertown Red & Black, America's oldest semi-pro football team, I knew it was time to seize it.

The prospect of playing alongside experienced athletes, testing my limits, and rekindling the fire of my youth was too tempting to resist. With a mix of excitement and trepidation, I embarked on a journey that would change my life forever.

In joining the Red & Black, I not only hoped to fulfill a childhood dream but also to prove to myself that age was just a number and that it was never too late to chase my passions.

# Chapter 1: A Dream Revisited

## 2. The decision to join the semi-pro team

After years of yearning to relive my football glory days, I finally decided to take the plunge and join the Watertown Red & Black, America's oldest semi-pro team. It was a leap of faith, but I was determined to prove to myself and others that I still had what it takes.

The decision didn't come easy. I had a lot to consider. I was thirty years old, with a wife and two young children. I had a stable job as an English professor and a comfortable life. But I couldn't shake the feeling that there was something missing. I longed for the camaraderie, the competition, and the thrill of the game.

I knew joining the team would require a lot of sacrifice. I would have to commit to grueling practices, long road trips, and the physical toll that comes with playing football. But I was willing to make those sacrifices. I

believed that the experience would be worth it, both on and off the field.

The decision was ultimately a personal one. I needed to do something for myself, something that would challenge me and make me feel alive. I knew that joining the team was a risk, but I was willing to take it. I believed that it would be an enriching experience, regardless of the outcome.

In the end, the decision to join the Red & Black was one of the best decisions I ever made. It reignited my passion for football and gave me a new sense of purpose. It also taught me invaluable lessons about perseverance, teamwork, and the importance of following your dreams, no matter how old you are.

## Chapter 1: A Dream Revisited

### 3. The challenges of balancing work, family, and football

The decision to join the semi-pro team was a difficult one. I had a demanding job as an English professor, a wife and two young children, and a busy schedule filled with other commitments. I knew that adding football to my plate would be a major challenge, but I was determined to make it work.

At first, I tried to do it all myself. I would wake up early to fit in a workout before work, work long hours at the university, rush home to spend time with my family, and then head to football practice in the evenings. It was a grueling schedule, and I soon realized that I was burning myself out.

I knew I needed to find a way to balance my different responsibilities without sacrificing any of them. I talked to my wife and explained that I needed her

support. She was understanding and agreed to help me out by taking on more of the household chores and childcare.

I also talked to my boss at the university and explained my situation. He was supportive and allowed me to adjust my work schedule so that I could attend football practices and games.

With the help of my wife and my boss, I was able to find a way to balance my work, family, and football commitments. It wasn't easy, but it was worth it.

Being a semi-pro football player was a demanding but rewarding experience. I got to play the game I loved, and I made lifelong friends. I also learned a lot about myself and about what I'm capable of.

Balancing work, family, and football taught me the importance of time management and prioritization. I learned to be more efficient with my time and to

delegate tasks to others. I also learned the importance of asking for help when I need it.

Most importantly, I learned that it's possible to achieve your dreams if you're willing to work hard and make sacrifices. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have played semi-pro football, and I'm proud of the things I accomplished.

**This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.**

**Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.**

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