

THE BIG COMEBACK

A Narrative Nonfiction Memoir of Faith, Leadership, and Second Chances

Jimmy Woods, Ed.D., NBCT

Logline

When a veteran high school football coach loses everything—his job, his identity, and the life he believed he was building—he is forced to confront what leadership means when winning is no longer an option.

Overview

The Big Comeback is a narrative nonfiction memoir that begins in the familiar world of high school football but quickly expands into a deeper exploration of identity, failure, faith, and the quiet work of rebuilding purpose after public loss.

Set against the pressure-driven culture of competitive athletics and education, the book follows a seasoned coach navigating philosophical clashes, moments of doubt, and a locker room hungry for belief—while privately reckoning with the collapse of the life he once defined by wins, reputation, and professional standing.

As external validation disappears, leadership is stripped down to its essentials. What emerges is a deeply human story about humility, trust, love, and the difficult grace of starting over—professionally, spiritually, and personally.

Though rooted in sports, The Big Comeback is ultimately a book about what happens when identity collapses and must be rebuilt from the inside out. It asks what remains when the scoreboard no longer tells the story—and what it truly means to lead when no one is watching.

Positioning & Appeal

- Narrative nonfiction with crossover appeal beyond sports
- Explores leadership, masculinity, faith, and identity under pressure
- Resonates with readers facing career disruption, personal loss, or reinvention
- Grounded in lived experience, written with restraint and humility
- Accessible to both faith-rooted and general trade audiences

Audience

Coaches, educators, athletes, parents, and readers drawn to faith-rooted stories of resilience, leadership, and second chances.

Comparable Titles

Friday Night Lights — Buzz Bissinger

When Pride Still Mattered — David Maraniss

Hillbilly Elegy — J.D. Vance

The Last Lecture — Randy Pausch

About the Author

Jimmy Woods, Ed.D., NBCT is a veteran educator and high school football coach with more than forty years of experience in athletics and education. Known for a culture-first approach to leadership, he has mentored countless student-athletes and young coaches while navigating the evolving pressures of modern sports and schooling.

Project Details

Genre: Narrative Nonfiction / Memoir

Length: Approximately 89,000 words

Status: Complete

Rights: Available

Full manuscript and proposal available upon request.

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