## My Losing Season: A Memoir

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER I A deeply affecting coming-of-age memoir about family, love, loss, basketball-and life itself-by the beloved author of The Prince of Tides and The Great Santini

During one unforgettable season as a Citadel cadet, Pat Conroy becomes part of a basketball team that is ultimately destined to fail. And yet for a military kid who grew up on the move, the Bulldogs provide a sanctuary from the cold, abrasive father who dominates his life-and a crucible for becoming his own man.

With all the drama and incandescence of his bestselling fiction. Conroy re-creates his pivotal senior year as captain of the Citadel Bulldogs. He chronicles the highs and lows of that fateful 1966-67 season, his tough disciplinarian coach, the joys of winning, and the hard-won lessons of losing. Most of all, he recounts how a group of boys came together as a team, playing a sport that would become a metaphor for a man whose spirit could never be defeated.

Praise for My Losing Season

"A superb accomplishment, maybe the finest book Pat Conroy has written."-The Washington Post Book World

"A wonderfully rich memoir that you don't have to be a sports fan to love."-Houston Chronicle

"A memoir with all the Conroy trademarks . . . Here's ample proof that losers always tell the best stories."-Newsweek

"In My Losing Season, Conroy opens his arms wide to embrace his difficult past and almost everyone in it."-New York Daily News

"Haunting, bittersweet and as compelling as his bestselling fiction."-Boston Herald PAT CONROY-AMERICA'S MOST BELOVED STORYTELLER -- IS BACK! ""I was born to be a point guard, but not a very good one....There was a time in my life when I walked through the world known to myself and others as an athlete. It was part of my own definition of who I was and certainly the part I most respected. When I was a young man, I was well-built and agile and ready for the rough and tumble of games, and athletics provided the single outlet for a repressed and preternaturally shy boy to express himself in public....I lost myself in the beauty of sport and made my family proud while passing through the silent eye of the storm that was my childhood."

So begins Pat Conroy's journey back to 1967 and his startling realization "that this season had been seminal and easily the most consequential of my life." The place is the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, that now famous military college, and in memory Conroy gathers around him his team to relive their few triumphs and humiliating defeats. In a narrative that moves seamlessly between the action of the season and flashbacks into his childhood, we see the author's love of basketball and how crucial the role of athlete is to all these young men who are struggling to find their own identity and their place in the world. In fast-paced exhilarating games, readers will laugh in delight and cry in disappointment. But as the story continues, we gradually see the self-professed "mediocre" athlete merge into the point guard whose spirit drives the team. He rallies them to play their best while closing off the shouts of "Don't shoot, Conroy" that come from the coach on the sidelines. For Coach Mel Thompson is to Conroy theundermining presence that his father had been throughout his childhood. And in these pages finally, heartbreakingly, we learn the truth about the Great Santini.

In "My Losing Season Pat Conroy has written an American classic about young men and the bonds they form, about losing and the lessons it imparts, about finding one's voice and one's self in the midst of defeat. And in his trademark language, we see the young Conroy walk from his life as an athlete to the writer the world knows him to be. "From the Hardcover edition.

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--The Washington Post Book World

Other Books

West of Boston: Growing Up Red Sox in a Yankee Household, If you've ever really wanted something - a job, acceptance to a college, a part in a play-and it seemed within your grasp but always slipped away, you'll understand Bill's dilemma. While his own athletic aspirations are frustrated time and again by nature, bad luck, and odd circumstances, his Boston Red Sox continue to be thwarted by their age-old nemesis, the New York Yankees. Making matters worse, he lives with a Yankee fan! West of Boston: Growing Up Red Sox in a Yankee Household will leave you laughing and rooting for Bill, and maybe even the Red Sox!

2 2 2 2 . In his memoir My Losing Season, author Pat Conroy eloquently sums up what playing on his underachieving college basketball team would mean to him later on as an adult: Sports books are always about winning because winning is far more ..."