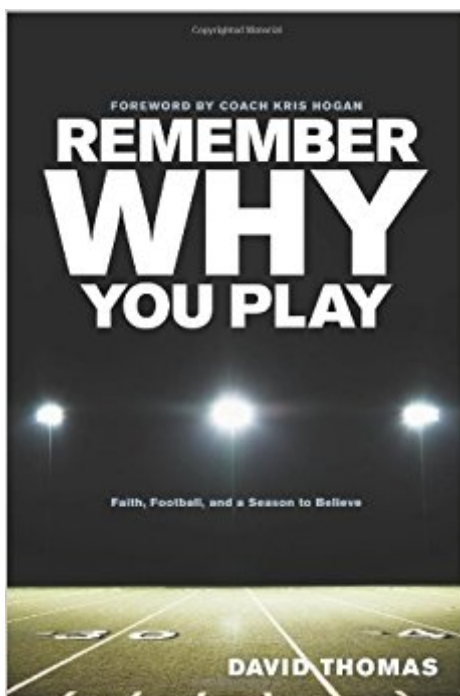


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# Remember Why You Play: Faith, Football, And A Season To Believe



## Synopsis

If you enjoyed *Friday Night Lights*, this book is a must-read. *Remember Why You Play* documents the lives, struggles, and triumphs of the players and coaches of Faith Christian School in Grapevine, Texas. Sports columnist and author David Thomas followed the team for a full season, recording a story that will inspire readers to understand that relationships are more important than winning. One of the key events was a game that Faith Christian played against the Gainesville State Tornadoes, a school for convicted juvenile offenders. The story of this spectacular game is being made into a movie, titled *One Heart*, with an anticipated release in November 2010. Reminiscent of *Hoosiers* and *Remember the Titans*, this true story makes a strong statement about the impact of compassion and sportsmanship.

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## Customer Reviews

If you enjoyed *Friday Night Lights*, this book is a must-read. *Remember Why You Play* documents the lives, struggles, and triumphs of the players and coaches of Faith Christian School in Grapevine, Texas. Sports columnist and author David Thomas followed the team for a full season, recording a story that will inspire readers to understand that relationships are more important than winning. One of the key events was a game that Faith Christian played against the Gainesville State Tornadoes, a school for convicted juvenile offenders. The story of this spectacular game is being made into a movie, titled *One Heart*, with an anticipated release in November 2010. Reminiscent of *Hoosiers* and *Remember the Titans*, this true story makes a strong statement about the impact of compassion and sportsmanship.

The subtitle of *Remember Why You Play* by David Thomas is a bit of an understatement: Faith, Football, and a Season to Believe. It is so much more than another football book. I picked up this book because I had heard the story about the Faith Christian Lions playing against the Gainesville State Tornados in 2008. Gainesville State is a maximum-security juvenile detention facility, and Faith Christian is a squeaky-clean Christian high school. Yet the Faith team and fans handled this game in an unbelievable way. Kris Hogan, Faith's head coach, asked the Faith parents to cheer for the Gainesville players... to cheer against their own sons. These incredible families responded in the most loving, Christ-honoring way, leaving an indelible impact on the 14 Tornado players dressed for that game. But, as David Thomas said, you have to go back to look at the Lions' 2007 season to truly understand why a team - a whole school - would respond this way. Kris Hogan is a highly successful coach in the state of Texas where football is king. Because of his success on the field, he has been offered positions at other schools, making a lot more money than Faith Christian can pay him. But he continues to coach at Faith because he believes that is where God has placed him. And because he believes that, he is much more than an Xs and Os football coach. Football is simply the backdrop to the life lessons Coach Hogan is trying to teach his players. He views it as his mission to prepare these young men for life after high school, so football games and practices just become the means by which he can apply the valuable lessons. Sports fans will definitely enjoy this book, as will any current or former football players or coaches. But I also believe parents of teenagers and even youth pastors will find a lot of life lessons in *Remember Why You Play* to pass on to the young men in their lives.

*Remember Why You Play* by David Thomas is an incredibly touching story of a high school football coach and his team who value people more than numbers on a scoreboard. In November 2008, the Faith Christian Lions closed their regular season by playing the Gainesville State Tornados. Faith had already secured its slot in the playoffs. The Tornados were winless in eight games and had scored only two touchdowns all season. This game should have meant nothing. It turned out to mean everything. Those two short paragraphs are enough to spark just about any football enthusiast to pick up this book. Reading the first few pages will hook you and draw you in as you read about kids with values that are not, unfortunately, common any more in our world. This is a story about doing what you can to make a difference for your fellow man. A story for all ages. A lesson to be learned for all ages.

Not very often do you come across a book that is equally engaging for men and women alike. While the book appeals to anyone who loves Friday night football, this goes so far beyond a Friday night game. The summary of the book tells of the Gainesville State game and how the fans and families reached out to the players to make them feel valued and loved. The majority of the book follows the Lions the previous season to show just how natural such an act of kindness and service was to Faith Christian. There are not many high school coaches who see their job as much more than winning games...especially in Texas. Kris Hogan knows that he has been called to help raise boys into men. Regardless of whether they play at the college level or not, he is helping to instill character qualities that will serve them the rest of their lives. There are moments when you have to remind yourself that this is a true story because the actions of the players and the coaches are so counter to what society would do in the same situations. Because this is a Christian school, they know that they are under a microscope and that their actions are scrutinized. The 2007 Faith Christian Lions were not perfect, but they each were transparent with the author and allowed him to show what it takes to be successful and what it means to be a team. This was without a doubt one of the best books that I have read. I have bought copies for several people already knowing that it will appeal to a wide audience from high school kids to senior citizens. None of us are too old or young to learn that if we want to be successful in anything, we must be "Sold Out" and remember why we do what we do every single day.

I loved reading this book. As the Mom of one of the players, I saw personally the influence Coach Hogan had on the life of my son, and thus the life of my family. He is the real deal and this book captures it. I always wanted to know that Commitment Night entailed and what Coach was telling these awesome young men, so thanks, David Thomas, for making that known. I highly recommend the book - TRUE and inspirational!

This is an awesome book!! I would highly recommend it to everyone!! You don't have to love football to love the message from this book!! Also a great gift for any teenagers in your life!!

If you are a coach of any sport and hoping to have excellence on the field and devotion to Christ, read this book. I got many great ideas for my basketball coaching and was affirmed in some of the things I already do. Well-written and engaging. It's not really "about" the game with the juvenile detention center kids, but that part is a great anecdote at the end of the book. It certainly serves as the perfect summary for what that team was all about.

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