

alabama football qb history

Alabama Football QB History: A Legacy Forged in Pressure and Glory

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Abstract: This article delves into the rich and complex history of Alabama football quarterbacks, examining the evolution of the position within the program, highlighting both legendary figures and those who faced significant challenges. From the early days of the program to the modern era under Nick Saban, we analyze the triumphs, failures, and the enduring impact these quarterbacks have had on the Alabama football legacy. The article explores the changing dynamics of the game, the pressures faced by these athletes, and the opportunities presented by playing for one of college football's most prestigious programs.

Introduction: The history of Alabama football is inextricably linked to the performance of its quarterbacks. For over a century, the Crimson Tide's success has often hinged on the ability of its signal-callers to lead the team, manage the game, and execute the offense effectively. Understanding the Alabama football qb history is crucial to grasping the overall trajectory of one of college football's most dominant programs. This exploration of Alabama football qb history will traverse eras, examining the challenges and opportunities faced by quarterbacks across different coaching regimes and competitive landscapes.

The Bear Bryant Era and its Impact on Alabama Football QB History: Bear Bryant's legendary coaching tenure (1958-1982) profoundly shaped Alabama football qb history. While Bryant wasn't known for flashy offensive schemes, his quarterbacks were expected to be efficient game managers, capable of making crucial plays in critical moments. Players like Joe Namath, despite his flamboyant personality, embodied this balance of leadership and efficiency, leading Alabama to its first national championship in 1964. Later, quarterbacks like Ken Stabler, a more mobile and improvisational player, continued to contribute to Alabama's success, showcasing the evolution of the quarterback position within Bryant's system. The Bryant era laid the foundation for the demanding standards of the position and the intense scrutiny quarterbacks would face for generations to come.

The Post-Bryant Years and the Search for Consistency: The period following Bryant's retirement saw a period of relative inconsistency for Alabama football. While several talented quarterbacks took the field, the program struggled to maintain its national prominence. This era highlights the challenges of maintaining a winning tradition and the pressures inherent in filling the enormous shoes left by legendary figures. The search for the next

great Alabama quarterback became a constant narrative, showcasing the high expectations associated with the position. This period in Alabama football qb history is marked by a search for identity, both on and off the field.

The Nick Saban Era: A New Chapter in Alabama Football QB History: The arrival of Nick Saban in 2007 ushered in a new era of dominance for Alabama football. While Saban's system emphasizes a strong running game, his quarterbacks have been vital to the team's success. Players like Greg McElroy, AJ McCarron, and Tua Tagovailoa have led the Crimson Tide to multiple national championships, showcasing the versatility and adaptability of Saban's offensive schemes. However, even within Saban's success, the pressures on the quarterback position remain immense. The expectation of winning national championships every year creates an environment of intense scrutiny and high stakes. Analyzing the Alabama football qb history under Saban reveals not just remarkable success, but also the immense pressures placed upon the players. This era demonstrates the evolution of quarterback play within a modern, highly successful program.

Challenges and Opportunities: Throughout Alabama football qb history, quarterbacks have faced unique challenges. The intense media scrutiny, the expectation of consistent winning, and the pressure to perform in high-stakes games are just some of the obstacles these athletes encounter. However, playing for Alabama also offers unparalleled opportunities. The exposure, the access to top-level coaching, and the chance to compete for national championships provide a platform for these athletes to reach their full potential and leave a lasting legacy on the game. The balance between these challenges and opportunities is a recurring theme in the ongoing narrative of Alabama football qb history.

Conclusion: The Alabama football qb history is a compelling story of triumphs and tribulations, successes and setbacks. From the legendary figures of the Bear Bryant era to the modern-day stars under Nick Saban, the quarterbacks who have worn the Crimson Tide uniform have shaped the legacy of one of college football's most prestigious programs. The intense pressure and the remarkable opportunities inherent in the position have created a narrative that continues to unfold, captivating fans and shaping the future of Alabama football. The ongoing story of Alabama football qb history remains a testament to the enduring power of the game and the human drama at its heart.

FAQs:

1. Who is considered the greatest Alabama quarterback of all time? This is subjective and often sparks debate, with strong arguments for Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, and more recently, Tua Tagovailoa.
1. How has the role of the Alabama quarterback evolved over time? The role has shifted from primarily a game manager under Bryant to a more versatile and passing-focused role in the modern era.

1. What are the biggest challenges facing an Alabama quarterback? Intense media scrutiny, high expectations for winning, and the pressure to perform consistently in high-stakes games.
1. How has Nick Saban's coaching influenced Alabama's quarterbacks? Saban emphasizes discipline, leadership, and efficient execution, resulting in quarterbacks who excel in his system.
1. Which Alabama quarterbacks have gone on to successful NFL careers? Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, and Tua Tagovailoa are notable examples.
1. How does the recruiting process affect Alabama's quarterback position? Alabama consistently recruits top-ranked quarterbacks, creating fierce competition and high standards.
1. What is the impact of the offensive coordinator on Alabama's quarterbacks? The offensive coordinator plays a crucial role in developing the quarterback's skills and game plan.
1. How does Alabama's quarterback training program differ from other college programs? Alabama's program is known for its intensity, high-level coaching, and focus on preparation.
1. What are the long-term implications of playing quarterback for Alabama? It can lead to NFL success, but also significant media attention and lifelong scrutiny.

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alabama football qb history: University of Alabama Football Vault Jay Barker, 2007

alabama football qb history: The Missing Ring Keith Dunnivant, 2007-08-21 Keith Dunnivant's triumph is that he takes us into the heart of Alabama, into the darkness and the light, and there we see Joe Namath, Kenny Stabler, Ray Perkins, and their band of brothers play football for Bear Bryant the way life should be lived, at full throttle, indomitably. ---Dave Kindred, author of Sound and Fury: Two Powerful Lives, One Fateful Friendship The Missing Ring is more than a football book. It is both a story of a changing era and of an extraordinary team on a championship quest. Very few institutions in American sports can match the enduring excellence of the University of Alabama football program. Across a wide swath of the last century, the tradition-rich Crimson Tide has claimed twelve national championships, captured twenty-five conference titles, finished thirty-four times among the country's top ten, and played in fifty-three bowl games. Especially dominant during the era of the legendary Paul Bear Bryant, the larger-than-life figure who towered over the landscape like no man before or since, Alabama entered the 1966 season with the chance to become the first college football team to win three consecutive national championships. Every aspect of Bryant's grueling system was geared around competing for the big prize each and every year, and in 1966 the idea of the threepeat tantalized the players, pushing them toward greatness. Driven by Bryant's enthusiasm, dedication, and perseverance, players were made to believe in their team and themselves. Led by the electrifying force of quarterback Kenny Snake Stabler and one of the most punishing defenses in the storied annals of the Southeastern Conference, the Crimson Tide cruised to a magical season, finishing as the nation's only undefeated, untied team. But something happened on the way to the history books. The Missing Ring is the story of the one that got away, the one that haunts Alabama fans still, and native Alabamian Keith Dunnivant takes readers deep inside the Crimson Tide program during a more innocent time, before widespread telecasting, before scholarship limitations, before end-zone dances. Meticulously revealing the strategies, tactics, and personal dramas that bring the overachieving boys of 1966 to life, Dunnivant's insightful,

anecdotally rich narrative shows how Bryant molded a diverse group of young men into a powerful force that overcame various obstacles to achieve perfection in an imperfect world. Set against the backdrop of the civil rights movement, the still-escalating Vietnam War, and a world and a sport teetering on the brink of change in a variety of ways, *The Missing Ring* tells an important story about the collision between football and culture. Ultimately, it is this clash that produces the Crimson Tide's most implacable foe, enabling the greatest injustice in college football history. Keith Dunnavant has written yet another fabulous book about the fabled Alabama football program. You will be amazed at how one of the great injustices in the history of college football cost them their rightful place in history. And you just thought the system was screwed up now. ---Jim Dent, author of *The Junction Boys* Keith Dunnavant nails it: all the sacrifices the 1966 Alabama team made to win three national championships in a row, and how we were robbed at the ballot box. ---Jerry Duncan, one of the boys of 1966 Dunnavant infuses reportage and passion into a tale that every Alabamian of a certain age knows: For all the crying about Penn State in 1969, Penn State in 1994, or Auburn in 2004, no team ever got shafted the way the 1966 Crimson Tide did. It's all here: the churning legs, the churning stomachs, and the dreaded gym classes where Bear Bryant's boys made the sacrifices he demanded in order to become champions. They conquered their opponents on the field, but proved to be no match for the politics of the day off the field. The

alabama football qb history: *Career in Crisis* John David Briley, 2006 This study of a watershed year in Bear Bryant's legendary football career shows the potential for sports history to educate us about the broader cultural context. The author brings a unique perspective: and insider's knowledge of Bryant and the Alabama football program, along with a scholar's objectivity. Historians of the modern South and modern America will benefit from this close case study of a social change in sports.

alabama football qb history: *Tom Brady Vs. the NFL* Sean Glennon, Pat Kirwan, 2012-09 Showcasing one of professional football's best players, this book spotlights the life and career of gridiron great Tom Brady. More than just a biography, it relates Brady's story while also establishing his prominent place in NFL history. By examining his skills and statistics in a variety of categories and comparing him to other great quarterbacks—including Peyton Manning, Joe Montana, Bart Starr, Johnny Unitas, Roger Staubach, and more—the guide makes a strong case for Brady as football's best signal caller. Along the way, his best moments as a Patriot are revisited, from championship seasons and his favorite receivers to his relationship with legendary coach Bill Belichick. With detailed sidebars on Brady's celebrity status, fashion sense, much-talked-about hair, and supermodel wife, this is a must-have for faithful New England fans and pro football buffs alike.

alabama football qb history: *Forty Million Dollar Slaves* William C. Rhoden, 2010-02-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • “An explosive and absorbing discussion of race, politics, and the history of American sports.”—Ebony From Jackie Robinson to Muhammad Ali and Arthur Ashe, African American athletes have been at the center of modern culture, their on-the-field heroics admired and stratospheric earnings envied. But for all their money, fame, and achievement, says New York Times columnist William C. Rhoden, black athletes still find themselves on the periphery of true power in the multibillion-dollar industry their talent built. Provocative and controversial, Rhoden's *\$40 Million Slaves* weaves a compelling narrative of black athletes in the United States, from the plantation to their beginnings in nineteenth-century boxing rings to the history-making accomplishments of notable figures such as Jesse Owens, Althea Gibson, and Willie Mays. Rhoden reveals that black athletes' “evolution” has merely been a journey from literal plantations—where sports were introduced as diversions to quell revolutionary stirrings—to today's figurative ones, in the form of collegiate and professional sports programs. He details the “conveyor belt” that brings kids from inner cities and small towns to big-time programs, where they're cut off from their roots and exploited by team owners, sports agents, and the media. He also sets his sights on athletes like Michael Jordan, who he says have abdicated their responsibility to the community with an apathy that borders on treason. The power black athletes have today is as limited as when masters forced their slaves to race and fight. The primary difference is, today's shackles are invisible. Praise for

Forty Million Dollar Slaves “A provocative, passionate, important, and disturbing book.”—The New York Times Book Review “Brilliant . . . a beautifully written, complex, and rich narrative.”—Washington Post Book World “A powerful call for more black athletes to give back to their communities.”—Los Angeles Times

alabama football qb history: The Quarterback Whisperer Bruce Arians, 2017-07-11 What is an elite NFL QB and what separates that player from the others? One answer is the coach they share. In the recent history of the biggest game on earth, one man is the common thread that connects several of the very best in the sport: Peyton Manning; Ben Roethlisberger; Andrew Luck; and the resurgent Carson Palmer. That coach is Bruce Arians. A larger than life visionary who trained under the tutelage of Bear Bryant, Arians has had a major impact on the development and success of each of these players. For proof beyond the stats, go to the sources. Bruce is gonna love you when you need some loving, but he's gonna jump on you when you're not doing right. -- Peyton Manning He coaches the way players want to be coached. -- Ben Roethlisberger He made players comfortable around him and let everybody have their own personality. He didn't force anybody to be someone they weren't. It may sound a little corny or cheesy, but there's merit to that. I felt comfortable being myself and I felt he had my back. -- Andrew Luck We're a resilient group. It trickles down from the head coach. I think good teams, really good teams, and hopefully great teams take on their coach's mentality. I think that's what B.A. brings . . . -- Carson Palmer Known around the game as the 'quarterback whisperer', Arians has an uncanny ability to both personally connect with his quarterbacks and to locate what the individual triggers are for that player to succeed. No two quarterbacks are the same. And yet with Arians they always share success. In this book Arians will explain how he does it.

alabama football qb history: Crimson Nation Eli Gold, 2006-07-31 For nearly twenty years Eli Gold has been behind the microphone for Alabama football, calling many a memorable game and witnessing first hand some defining moments in the history of Alabama football: an unbelievable win at Penn State; numerous wins over Tennessee on the Third Saturday in October; a national title win over Miami. He also had a front row seat for the 1990 return of Junction Boy Gene Stallings. Those firsthand memories, plus many great moments from days gone by, are just some of the stories as told by the Voice of the Crimson Tide. Other memorable moments include: Bama takes Southern football out west Bear Bryant answers Mama's call 12 national championships Joe Willie and the Snake The Goal Line Stand Mike Shula and a return to the Bowls The passion he brings to his broadcasts, be it NASCAR or Alabama football, is beyond compare. There is no one better to write a book about one of the proudest franchises in all of college sports. ?Mike Helton, President, NASCAR A whole generation of Alabama fans [know] Eli as The Voice of the Tide. Like all great broadcasters, he is a wonderful storyteller and this book is filled with some stories that I had never heard. An enjoyable combination of Bama football history and behind the scenes broadcast booth stories. ?University of Alabama coach Mike Shula

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alabama football qb history: 'Bama Football Myths Jacob M. Carter, 2021-02-16 Alabama Fans Understand. The Crimson Tide football team is part of who we are. It isn't so much that we want the team to win. We need them to win. When they lose, we lose. When they taste victory, we taste it with them. When we talk about the program, we don't say "they." We say "we." It's an Alabama thing. In his book, 'Bama Football Myths, bestselling author Jacob M. Carter (The RipTide) statistically defends why he believes the University of Alabama offers the greatest college football program of all time. Commonly heard opinions such as "they don't play anybody" or "the refs favor them" are put to rest. If you're an Alabama football fan, this book was written for you.

alabama football qb history: Legends of Alabama Football Richard Scott, Jason Mayfield, Jay Barker, 2014 Discover the legacies of Alabama's greatest football heroes newly updated! With 15 national championships and a tradition of national achievement that dates back to the 1920s, the University of Alabama has secured its spot as one of the most successful athletic institutions in the history of American sports. Dating back to the days when university president Dr. George H. Mike Denny decided football would be the university's ticket to national prominence, Alabama has produced some of the most legendary teams and players in the history of the game. Many of those legends have long since passed, but standouts such as Johnny Mack Brown, Dixie Howell, Don Hutson, Pat Trammell, and Derrick Thomas remain alive and well in the hearts and minds of loyal Crimson Tide fans. The legends of Tide stars such as Joe Namath, Ken Stabler, Harry Gilmer, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, and Ozzie Newsome continue to grow with time. None of those legends stands taller than Paul Bear Bryant, the former Crimson Tide player who returned to Alabama as head coach in 1958 and built a dynasty that rivaled any in sports, pro, or college. From Wallace Wade to Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram, current coach Nick Saban, and all points in between, *Legends of Alabama Football* chronicles the coaches, players, and events that placed Crimson Tide football on the national sports landscape. 50 black & white photographs.

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alabama football qb history: All the Way Joe Namath, 2019-05-07 The NFL icon who first brought show business to sports shares his life lessons on fame, fatherhood, and football. Three days before the 1969 Super Bowl, Joe Namath promised the nation that he would lead the New York Jets to an 18-point underdog victory against the seemingly invincible Baltimore Colts. When the final whistle blew, that promise had been kept. Namath was instantly heralded as a gridiron god, while his rugged good looks, progressive views on race, and boyish charm quickly transformed him - in an era of raucous rebellion, shifting social norms, and political upheaval - into both a bona fide celebrity and a symbol of the commercialization of pro sports. By 26, with a championship title under his belt, he was quite simply the most famous athlete alive. Although his legacy has long been cemented in the history books, beneath the eccentric yet charismatic personality was a player plagued by injury and addiction, both sex and substance. When failing knees permanently derailed his career, he turned to Hollywood and endorsements, not to mention a tumultuous marriage and fleeting bouts of sobriety, to try and find purpose. Now 74, Namath is ready to open up, brilliantly using the four quarters of Super Bowl III as the narrative backbone to a life that was anything but charmed. As much about football and fame as about addiction, fatherhood, and coming to terms with our own mortality, *All the Way* finally reveals the man behind the icon.

alabama football qb history: Alabama Crimson Tide William Meier, 2020-08-01 This title introduces fans to the history of the Alabama Crimson Tide football program. The title features informative sidebars, exciting photos, a timeline, team facts, a glossary, and an index. Aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. SportsZone is an imprint of Abdo Publishing, a division of ABDO.

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definitive statistical and factual reference for everything related to college football in the past 50 years.

alabama football qb history: *From the Backbooth at Chappy's* David Housel, 2021-03-17 One never knows what the topic of discussion will be when taking a seat with the gentlemen in the Backbooth at Chappy's Deli in Auburn, Alabama. The topics change daily, often several times within the same sitting. The conversation is broad and knows no bounds. Throughout the day, conservative, liberal, and even some middle-of-the-road friends gather for breakfast to chat about the news of the day or just their thoughts and feelings on certain subjects. Usually, the conversation is cordial and without rancor ... but not always. This book is a collection of the group's recollections, hopes, and dreams. In addition to football, politics and religion, there are stories of friends and neighbors, and of people the gentlemen know only through the news media—mostly imperfect people in an imperfect world doing the best they can. Filled with Southern charm and keen insights, you'll finish this humorous book convinced that the world would be better if we as a nation had more conversations like the men at Chappy's.

alabama football qb history: Snake Mike Freeman, 2016-11-15 The first in-depth biography of one of the most talented and infamous legends to play in the National Football League—the life and times of pro football's first bad boy, famed Oakland Raiders quarterback Ken Stabler. Ken The Snake Stabler was the embodiment of the original Men in Black—the freewheeling, hard-hitting Oakland Raiders. The league's first swashbuckling pass thrower, the mythical southpaw Southerner famous for come-from-behind drives late in the game, Stabler led the Raiders to their first Super Bowl championship in 1977. In an era dominated by gentleman quarterbacks like Roger Staubach and Bob Griese, this 1974 NFL MVP, four-time Pro-bowler, and Super Bowl champion was an iconoclast who partied as hard as he played and lived life unapologetically on his own—not the NFL's—terms. Though Stabler's legacy is larger-than-life, there has never before been an exclusive account of him, until now. Snake goes deep under the surface of Stabler's persona to reveal a man who, despite his penchant for partying and debauchery, was committed to winning and being the best player he could be. From his college days playing for Bear Bryant at Alabama to his years with the Raiders under coach John Madden, his broadcasting career to his death in 2015 and the revelation that he suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, known as C.T.E., Snake probes the myriad facets of Stabler's life on and off the field to tell his complete story, and explores how his legacy and the culture and times that pivotally shaped it, continues to impact football today.

alabama football qb history: Raye of Light Tom Shanahan, 2014 When African-American Quarterback Jimmy Raye enrolled at Michigan State University in 1964, he was much more than a student athlete: he was part of a groundbreaking movement that changed college football forever. The Michigan State team with a progressive head coach, a pioneer black quarterback, and the first fully integrated roster in college football is the subject of this engrossing new book by award-winning author Tom Shanahan. Michigan State was a world away from Raye's hometown of Fayetteville, N.C. -- both in miles and culture. In his junior season in 1966, Raye was Michigan State's first black starting quarterback and the first black quarterback from the South to win a national title. The story of Raye's journey, as well as those of his Spartan teammates and coach Duffy Daugherty, is told in *Raye of Light*: the first book to fully explain Duffy Daugherty's Underground Railroad and its impact on college football.

alabama football qb history: The Perfect Pass S. C. Gwynne, 2016-09-20 An “excellent sports history” (Publishers Weekly) in the tradition of Michael Lewis's *Moneyball*, award-winning historian S.C. Gwynne tells the incredible story of how two unknown coaches revolutionized American football at every level, from high school to the NFL. Hal Mumme spent fourteen mostly losing seasons coaching football before inventing a potent passing offense that would soon shock players, delight fans, and terrify opposing coaches. It all began at a tiny, overlooked college called Iowa Wesleyan, where Mumme was head coach and Mike Leach, a lawyer who had never played college football, was hired as his offensive line coach. In the cornfields of Iowa these two mad inventors, drawn together by a shared disregard for conventionalism and a love for Jimmy Buffett, began to engineer

the purest, most extreme passing game in the 145-year history of football. Implementing their "Air Raid" offense, their teams—at Iowa Wesleyan and later at Valdosta State and the University of Kentucky—played blazingly fast—faster than any team ever had before, and they routinely beat teams with far more talented athletes. And Mumme and Leach did it all without even a playbook. "A superb treat for all gridiron fans" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review), *The Perfect Pass* S.C. Gwynne explores Mumme's leading role in changing football from a run-dominated sport to a pass-dominated one, the game that tens of millions of Americans now watch every fall weekend. Whether you're a casual or ravenous football fan, this is "a rousing tale of innovation" (Booklist), and "Gwynne's book ably relates the story of that innovation and the successes of the man who devised it" (New York Journal of Books).

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alabama football qb history: *Tua Tagovailoa* Jackson Carter, 2021-01-04 Some of the NFL's greatest quarterbacks in recent memory have had remarkable simple names, like Ben, Tom, and Joe. Every now and then, one comes along with a moniker that's a bit more difficult to handle, like Tuanigamanuolepola Tua Tagovailoa. Fresh from starting with the national football powerhouse, the Alabama Crimson Tide during the 2017 and 2018 seasons, it remains to be seen if Tua can comfortably join the best-ever Miami Dolphins quarterbacks, like Bob and Dan, in the record books.

alabama football qb history: *New England Patriots* Christopher Price, 2010-09-03 Released in conjunction with the franchise's 50th anniversary, this fully illustrated history of the New England Patriots celebrates the team from its origins in 1960 through its dynastic success in the new millenium. The book highlights the great players, coaches, teams, and moments that have made the Patriots one of the most successful franchises in NFL history. With chapters organized by era and articles profiling the top players and characters, *New England Patriots: The Complete Illustrated History* explores every aspect of Patriots history and traditions. Includes stats and some 200 photos.

alabama football qb history: *Through My Eyes* Tim Tebow, 2011-12-24 Meet Tim Tebow: He grew up playing every sport imaginable, but football was his true passion. Even from an early age, Tim has always had the drive to be the best player and person that he could be. Through his hard work and determination, he established himself as one of the greatest quarterbacks in the history of college football and as a top prospect in the NFL. Now, in *Through My Eyes: A Quarterback's Journey*, he shares the behind-the-scenes details of his life, on and off the football field. Tim writes about his life as he chooses to live it, revealing how his Christian faith, his family values, and his relentless will to succeed have molded him into the person and the athlete he is today.

alabama football qb history: *My First Coach* Gary Myers, 2017-08-22 From the New York Times bestselling author of *Brady vs. Manning* and dean of football writers - a book that explores the many interesting facets to NFL quarterbacks and their relationships with their fathers. Tom Brady's father is an estate planner. Jim Harbaugh's father had a long career as a college coach. Archie Manning played fourteen years in the NFL and never made the playoffs, but his sons Peyton and Eli won a combined four Super Bowls. Joe Montana is considered by many to be the greatest quarterback of all time, but his two sons bounced around college football with limited success. Jameis Winston's father supported his family working overnight highway construction in Alabama. Derek Carr's father moved the family to Houston after Derek's older brother, David, was drafted by the Texans. *My First Coach* goes behind the scenes to explore the unique relationship between these and other quarterbacks and their fathers, as well as investigate various approaches to parenting

through their stories. Can young athletes overcome helicopter parents? How did the kids with NFL aspirations deal with their fathers who'd already made it? What kind of pressure did they have to overcome? What kind of pressure did the father who succeeded put on his son to be an athlete? Would the expectations be lower and the results greater if the father was an attorney or doctor? Was it better for the fathers to be overbearing, or borderline disinterested? My First Coach tells the compelling, real-life stories of some of the country's most famous quarterbacks and how they took advantage of or overcame their relationships with their fathers.

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