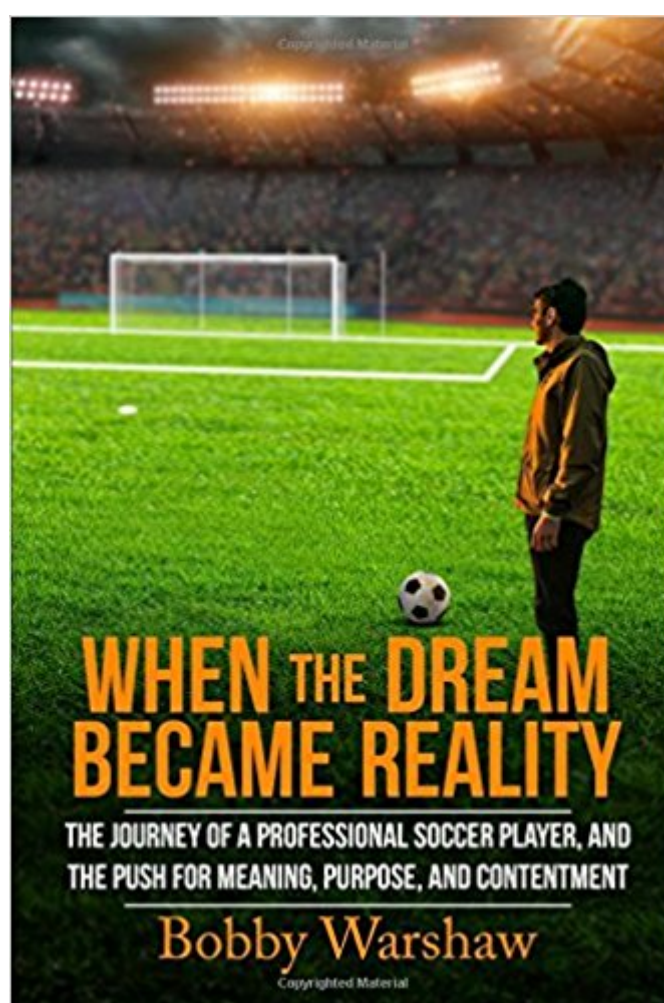


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When The Dream Became Reality: The Journey Of A Professional Soccer Player, And The Push For Meaning, Purpose, And Contentment



Synopsis

"A brutally honest look into the journey of an elite athlete trying to navigate himself to the top. Bobby confronts not only potentially career ending obstacles, but his own inner demons, while giving you an intense but refreshing vantage into the not so often seen life of a professional soccer player in America."-- Herculez GomezUS Men's National Team, World Cup 2010ESPN analystA young soccer player dreamed of playing professionally. Or, better said, he dreamed of doing something great. He wanted to be someone or get somewhere--for his life to mean something--and soccer became his path. When he heard his name called in the 1st Round of the MLS SuperDraft, he expected his life to change forever. What he found, instead, was much of the same: the same fears, insecurities, and internal conflicts, except now with higher stakes. When the Dream Became Reality is the story of a professional athlete's path and evolution, as a person and athlete, from childhood through six professional seasons. In this heartfelt memoir, Bobby Warshaw recounts the moments we rarely hear so honestly from athletes, including disagreements with coaches, personal mistrust of his own ability, doubt about his sexuality, and the aftermath of loss and failure. Warshaw experienced incomparable highs--game-winning goals; championship games; wearing the captain's armband--but he rarely felt like he was living the dream that everyone suggested. Beyond the usual self-doubt, he struggled to come to terms with the paradox at the root of the profession: the intersection of a ruthless business with a children's game. To achieve his goals, Warshaw discovered at a young age he would have to live with two conflicting parts of his life, the athlete and the human. The former Stanford University captain opens up about his efforts to maximize his ability as an elite player and a compassionate person despite their often-clashing demands; the constant frustration that he never performed either as well as he would have wanted; and the subsequent struggle to like himself, as either an athlete or a person, along the way. When the Dream Became Reality is not the story of the glitz and glamour of a famous superstar, but rather the everyday emotions and decisions of an average pro pushing to be remembered. Warshaw writes the story that pulls back the curtain on the life and emotions of America's professional athletes. Sometimes there is more than giant contracts and big trophies on the line. It's a common thought to chase our dreams. Do we ever stop to think what happens when we get there? When the dream no longer remains a dream, but becomes reality.

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Customer Reviews

"A brutally honest look into the journey of an elite athlete trying to navigate himself to the top. Bobby confronts not only potentially career ending obstacles, but his own inner demons, while giving you an intense but refreshing vantage into the not so often seen life of a professional soccer player in America."-- Herculez Gomez, US Men's National Team, World Cup 2010 "This is soccer's version of Andre Agassi's 'Open.' It's what everyone wants when reading an athlete's story, but doesn't usually get - honest, raw, vulnerable." -- Kelley O'Hara, US Women's National Team, Olympic gold medalist, World Cup winner "Bobby has done here what we always ask of athletes, first pulling back the curtain to reveal what life as a pro jock is like, and second peeling off the bandage as he comes to terms (it's an ongoing process!) with the end of his career and the sacrifices he made to have one in the first place. It's not just his journey, though - it's the template for players and fans driven to build a uniquely American soccer culture. It's our story and our journey, too." -- Matthew Doyle, MLSoccer.com, Senior Writer "Incredible to relive parts of my life as they happened through the eyes and thoughts of Bobby. For better or for worse, it all happened. A true insight into what it's like to be a professional soccer player, and a must read for anyone who wonders what their childhood dream could have become." -- Kris Devaux, Baerum SK, former teammate "As someone who covers sports for a living, this is the book I've been waiting for an athlete to write. When the Dream Became Reality offers an unflinchingly honest portrayal of what it's like to struggle up - and then live in - the ranks of professional sports." -- Noah Davis "A counterweight to soccer memoirs written by players at the top of the game, When the Dream Became Reality captures the hope and capriciousness of a career that is worth reading about precisely because it didn't go to plan. I couldn't put it down." -- George Quraishi, Howler Magazine, Founder and Editor-in-chief "A brutally honest look into the journey of an elite

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Bobby Warshaw played for US Men's Youth National Soccer Teams, earned All-American honors while captain of the Stanford University team, and was drafted in the 1st Round of the MLS SuperDraft by FC Dallas. He played three years in Dallas before moving to Sweden, then Norway, and finally finishing as captain of his hometown team, Harrisburg City Islanders. He has also contributed over 50 articles online about world soccer, US soccer, MLS, and life as a professional player. He is currently looking for a place to settle down, ideally one with quaint, local coffee shops.

Many young successful athletes allow themselves to be defined by the sport that they excel at. Bobby's rise in the soccer world was the direct result of his relentless competitiveness and the fact that he was extremely talented. Bobby took on all challenges in his typical never back down manner but struggled emotionally with the conflict between acceptable behavior in the work setting that is

unacceptable in a social non-work setting. I admire the public dissection of stubbornness, selfishness, and what some might characterize as an emotional immaturity. This is a great piece for other athletes and their parents. I was very proud to read this very revealing memoir by a very special young man.

This is a nakedly honest look at the career of a soccer player in the 99.9th percentile - who learns it's not enough. Really gripping, it's a great read for anyone who follows sports and wonders about the great players who don't quite make it to the top- how they get so close and what happens then. I should note a conflict - I was an advisor to the author when he was a student and I am also a soccer fan. But I do think, for just about any sports fan, it will be an illuminating book. The author is 27 and the goal that drove him, relentlessly, for almost his entire conscious life - to be the best in soccer - is gone. How did that happen, what does it mean for him and the rest of his life? Read the book!

Bobby Warshaw has spent the last few years providing great insight into soccer and players' lives through his writing and his podcasts. I was hoping for a book-length extension of his previous material, and got that and much more. It is a very well written insight into the life of a well traveled professional soccer player. The book is intensely introspective, and the contrast between the sensitive soul the author appears to be and the intense competitor who sometimes crosses lines while claiming to ultimately not feel real guilt was fascinating. Much of this was written in his late 20s while he was in his final year, and I look forward to seeing how he reflects on his career over time.

First, I'd recommend listening to Bobby's podcast; doing so lets you hear the author's voice as you read, and the authenticity will ring through. On the book itself - it's rare for someone who has had every success to talk honestly about the internal cost. This book is about soccer, but it's applicable to all walks of life where success can only be achieved by someone else's failure. At some point there is a toll to pay. Bobby Warshaw explores that toll, and describes his internal thinking as he reached for "more" at every step.

I listen to Bobby's podcast and I decided to purchase his book. I wasn't expecting the roller coaster of emotions whilst I read it. It's raw and sometimes heartbreaking. It gives you a small glimpse into a professional athlete's life and struggles. I'll never look at another athlete the same. We as fans sometimes forget that our favorite athletes are also humans. Thank you, Bobby for writing this book.

This book provides a depth and real-life look at what many American soccer players go through. Bobby provides an unfiltered and raw look at the life off the pitch and inside the team room. His writing ability is outstanding and the book leaves you feeling as though you got to experience a little bit of what he did. While the emotional glimpse is written about soccer I think it's fair to say that the emotions shared are what every hyper-competitive individual feels no matter what their field or area of expertise.

Bobby Warshaw does not hide his emotions and feelings at all and puts it all out there. He tells his story as he remembers it and does not shy away from the embarrassing/shameful moments. While not the greatest writing, it is emotional and thoughtful and gets to the heart of the book. I thoroughly enjoyed it and will be taking some lessons from it.

Well written. Thoughtful. This is a must read for any sports fan or aspiring athlete. I enjoyed it and have sent copies to my high school aged neices and nephews who dream of sports futures. A fascinating tale of hopes and dreams colliding with reality and the day-to-day. Not depressing, but a refreshingly clear eyed perspective.

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