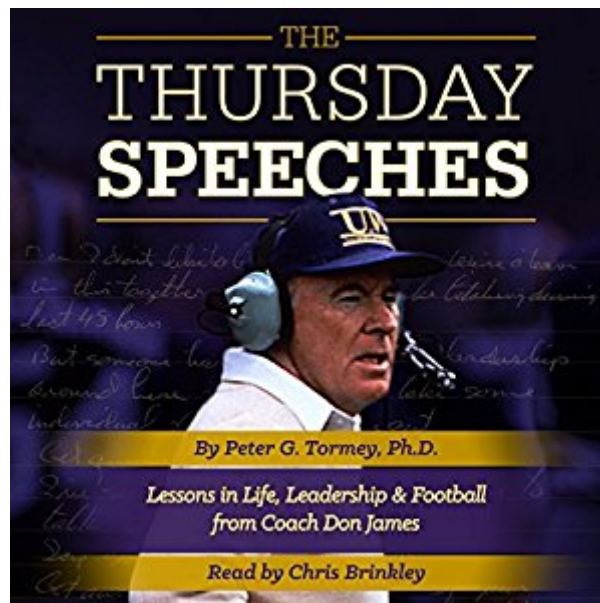




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# The Thursday Speeches: Lessons In Life, Leadership, And Football From Coach Don James



## Synopsis

The Thursday Speeches pulls back the curtain to put listeners in the room with exclusive access to the compelling pregame speeches from one of the best college football coaches in history. The book reveals the exact words James used to inspire the Huskies to slay the football giants of his day. It features the inspiring stories and invaluable life lessons that Coach Don James used to transform the University of Washington football program from obscurity to the national championship during his legendary 18-year UW career. Two days before Christmas 1974, Don James seized the reins of a Washington football program in disarray. Immediately James challenged players to do the hard work necessary to get to the Rose Bowl. Some players laughed, reminding James that Washington hadn't been to the Rose Bowl since 1963. James insisted on his vision. In his third season, the Huskies advanced to the Rose Bowl and - led by future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon - beat the heavily favored Michigan Wolverines. As but one measure of his coaching skill, Sports Illustrated once named the three best college football coaches in the country: number one, Don James; number two, Don James; number three, Don James.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a great compilation of stories from such a coaching icon. I was actually a student at the UW when Don James was hired as the Husky Head Football coach. Over the years, it was very obvious that Coach James was excellent at football X and O's, attention to detail and motivation. Although I lived with many of the players mentioned in the book, including Pete Tormey, the author, I never

heard or realized how Coach James was so successful in the motivation arena. "Thursday Speeches" takes you back and explains how Coach James utilized his teaching, philosophy, history and leadership skills to motivate his players and coaches. The book is an excellent read. It took me back to my fondest memories of my college years. My University of Washington student and Husky Football experience started with the firing of Jim Owens, the hiring of Don James and ended with a trip and a win in the Rose Bowl my Senior year. Not much else you could ask for being a Husky student and fan. Great job Pete and very proud of you!!!!

The speeches presented by Mr. Tormey present a side of coaching that few people ever see. One might hear a coach speak at a banquet or two, but to acquire a collection such as this is much more meaningful. Truly, the foundation of a commitment to sports can carry one through life if properly applied. "The objective--so bold, so outrageous, and so unrealistic--shocked the players and became a mantra that would catalyze the program's rise from mediocrity to a national power" is an objective each one of us should carry every day, to rise above daily reluctance and commit ourselves to dare to challenge the status quo, to challenge history, and build a winning program for life. Life requires dedication and periods of total concentration to achieve greatness, something each of us can do on a daily basis. Mr. Tormey's insight as a player in the program, and as an author today, lends well to the message Coach James delivered to the young men on his teams.

This book is so Don James. He was a great coach and teacher until his last breath and passed his legacy on to every coach and player he touched. His attention to detail and commitment to excellence are here on these pages and continue to inspire those who had the good fortune to work with him, coach with him, play under him, or just be lucky enough to be a fan in his stands on game day. Thank you, Don, we love you!

Great insight into how Coach worked with young men on a football team and enabled them to do the right things for the right reasons. Thanks Coach! Love the Dawgfather!

While not a technically well written book, the lessons shared apply not only in the athlete's world but also to anyone seeking to be the best person they can in whichever way they want. I am biased as a fan of Coach James and his football teams but there is much wisdom herein...

Every coach should read this book. You can find something you can use on any level of play Every

coach should have a copy in his coaching library.

Great read for the football fan, especially a Washington Huskies fan, but the real value of this book lies in the life's lessons that are taught.

As a coach of a competitive team, I can say this is an incredibly informative book. A must read for anyone with a team they are looking to motivate.

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