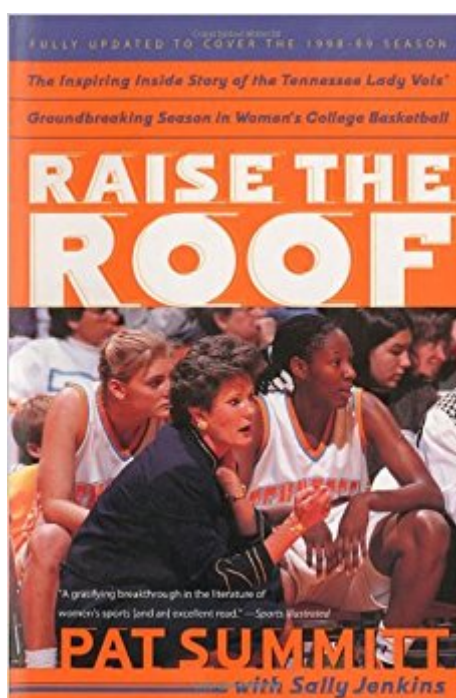


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Raise The Roof: The Inspiring Inside Story Of The Tennessee Lady Vols' Historic 1997-1998 Threeppeat Season



Synopsis

"It wasn't a team. It was a tent revival." So says Pat Summitt, the legendary coach whose Tennessee Lady Vols entered the 1997-98 season aiming for an almost unprecedented "three-peat" of NCAA championships. Raise the Roof takes you right inside the locker room of her amazing team, whose inspired mixture of gifted freshmen and seasoned stars produced a standard of play that would change the game of women's basketball forever. The 1997-98 season started innocently enough. One Saturday in August, four young freshmen--Semeka Randall, Tamika Catchings, Ace Clement and Teresa Geter--arrived on the Tennessee campus to begin their college careers. Welcoming them were a number of players from the previous year, including Chamique Holdsclaw and Kellie Jolly. But that night, in a sign of things to come, a simple pickup game turned into an amazing display of basketball brilliance--freshmen against established players, and with barely a shot missed by either side. Suddenly Pat Summitt glimpsed the future: fast, aggressive and hugely talented. This might be the team she'd worked her whole career to coach. As the season got under way, other dramas unfolded. After one emotional team meeting, Summitt realized that many on the team were playing for something more than just the glory of the game: all four freshmen, for example, came from single-parent homes, and the tough circumstances of the majority of the other players seemed to add an extra edge to their desire to win it all. Further, Chamique Holdsclaw, widely regarded as the greatest female player ever, was being dogged by questions about turning pro--and she seemed reluctant to rule it out. Meanwhile, another member of the team began to notice the unwelcome attentions of a fan, who soon turned out to be a full-fledged stalker. All this was behind the scenes; out on the court, the win column was swelling with every game: 8-0, 15-0, 21-0. As 1997 turned into 1998, Pat Summitt began privately to admit that this team had changed her: these kids were so lovable, funny and eager to please that she simply had to let them into her heart. Along the way, the Lady Vols were redefining what women were capable of, trading in old definitions of femininity for new ones--in short, they were keeping score. And by the time they entered the NCAA Final Four tournament in Kansas City, Summitt found herself believing the impossible: despite all the distractions, the 1997-98 Lady Vols could go undefeated, and, in doing so, raise the roof off the sport of women's basketball. Packed with the excitement of a season on the brink of perfection and filled with the comedy and tragedy of one year in the life of a basketball team, Raise the Roof will have readers cheering from the bench for a team of all-conquering players and their astonishing coach. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

It seems fitting that the most successful college basketball coach since John Wooden is named Summitt, because that's exactly where she's taken the women's program at the University of Tennessee. In *Raise the Roof*, she recounts the Lady Vols' astonishing 1997-98 campaign. The team went 39-0, won its third straight NCAA crown and sixth overall under her direction, and, most importantly to Summitt, "played as if they had no internal or physical boundaries." If the team's unprecedented success is the engine that runs Summitt's story, the fuel that powers it goes a good deal deeper than what happened on the court. "With this team," she admits, "I was different." From two-time All-American forward Chamique Holdsclaw to the four freshmen from broken homes on whose talents the future rested, Summitt realized early that she had to approach them differently than she had any collection of Lady Vols before, and she did; she cared about them differently, yelled at them differently, and reveled with them differently, ultimately tapping into her own emotions in ways she never had before. She, and they, sought to set new standards for themselves, and for their sport. The record shows they did; Summitt details how and why. "Throughout the season," she writes, "I had the curious sensation of something rising." In the end, she rises to the occasion by identifying and preserving that "something." --Jeff Silverman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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I have never liked Pat Summitt. I thought she was hard & mean & often cruel to her players. I just could never relate to her tactics. That is why I read this book. In my heart I knew there was another side to this woman otherwise why would any player put herself in her path? The 1997/98 basketball season was miraculous & marvelous & the story captured the excitement & tension & thrills. The descriptions of those determined, talented & yet vulnerable young athletes provided another

dimension. It also showed a side of Pat Summitt that the public never gets to witness. I was wrong about her.

I'm not a basketball fan, but Pat Summitt has turned me into a Lady Vol fan. What an amazing legacy Pat leaves on the game and on women's sports. What she did at Tenn in relationship to the game alone made her a legend, but it was what she accomplished with her players off the court that makes her one of my heroes. The 100% graduation rate, all the future coaches she inspired and how her players have given back to the community impresses me even more. You do not have to be a sports fan to enjoy any of Pat's books. Because of this amazing woman I will be watching the Tenn, LSU and South Carolina ladies basketball teams this year as these are just a few of the programs influenced by the great Pat Summitt. Thanks Pat from a grateful Florida football fan.

I am a big fan of the Lady Vals. Being from Tennessee, I can truly say that I am very proud of this team and Pat Summitt. I think that she was the best coach that ever coach a team. This just proves that point, she truly cared about winning but she cared more about her players.. She will truly be missed. They did a great tribute to her. It will be hard for other coaches to measure up to her achievement. Thanks Pat.

I never really followed women's basketball until I saw a news interview on TV after Pat Summitt and the Lady Vols had lost to UConn. I decided to look up this coach on the internet and discovered that she was a legend in her own right. I was embarrassed because I knew absolutely nothing about her. The book is easy reading and entertaining. It made me laugh, as some things were just down right funny. I like the outline of the book as it gives short interviews of various players after most chapters. I enjoyed Pat's concise summary of her players character and her dealing with the various issues and problems they faced. She gives a vivid picture of the going on inside a basketball team. She shows an uncanny ability to mold and shape women into winners and all the while, she was willing to make adjustment in herself. Greatness may start with one person, but it can never remain great until it has a supporting cast. Pat her coaches and her players gave us a peek inside greatness and most of all a real life story that got them there.

You laugh, cry and learn the lessons of life from this book. I would recommend this for any one how to succeed in life. Good read.

The book arrived as expected. It was an exciting read--I really purchased it for my granddaughter, but read it before I gave it to her. Thank you.

A very special lady & fantastic coach.

While not at the highest level of writing, I found this book well written, compelling, and a great story. It was recommended by a book club member, which is how I came to read this book very much NOT what I would have selected. Very much enjoyed this inspirational story.

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