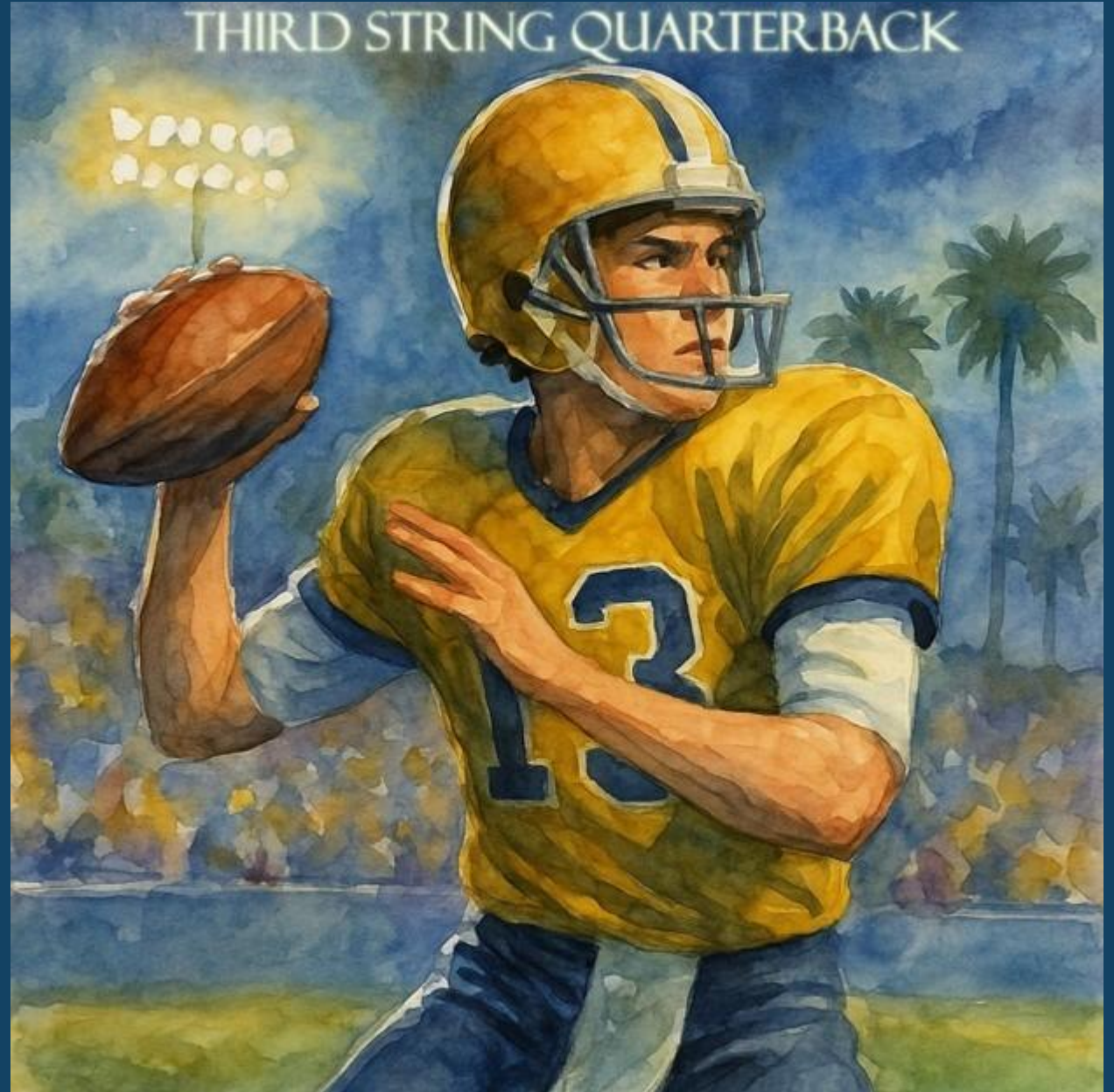
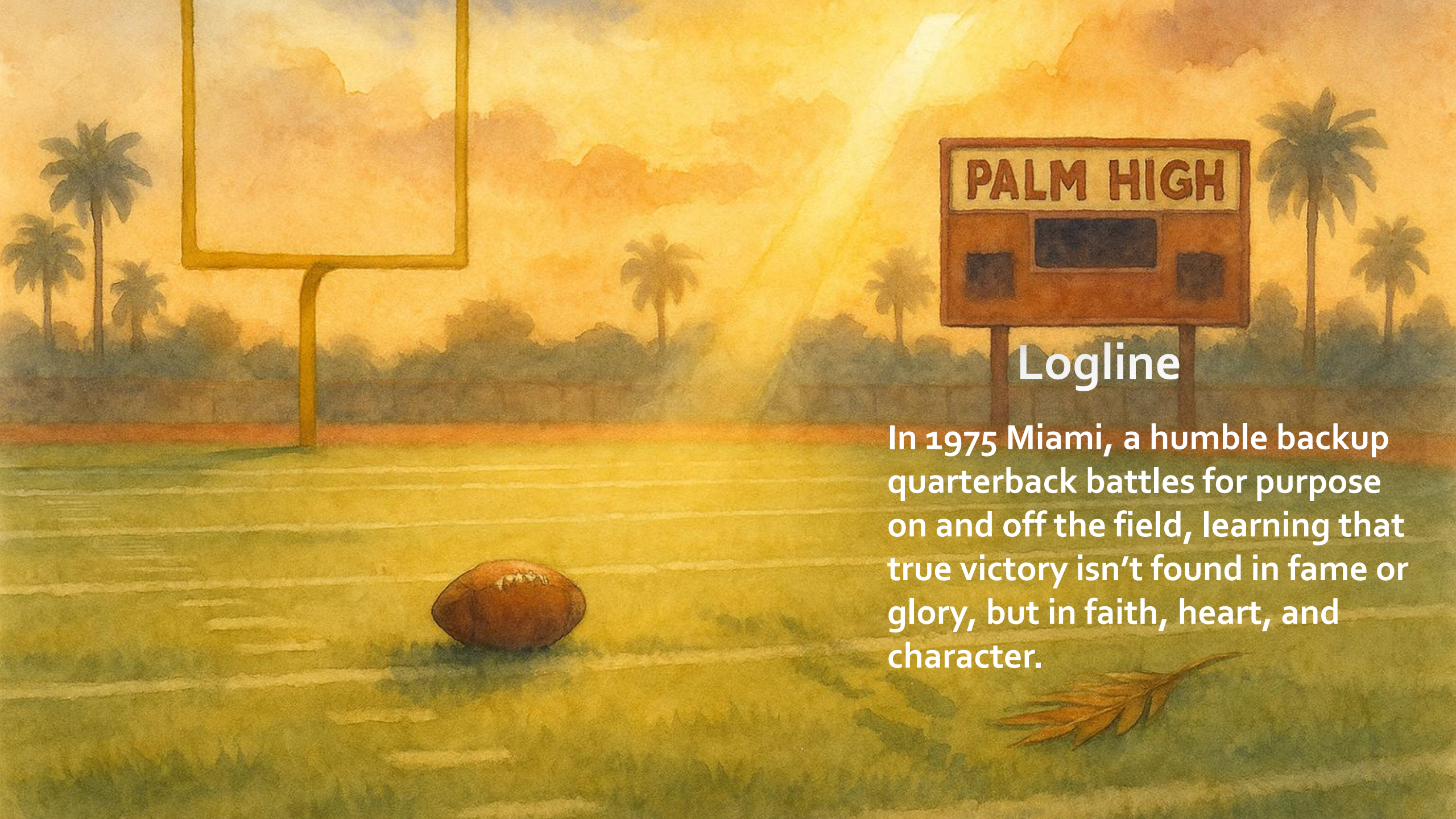


Third String Quarterback

“Winning isn’t always measured by the scoreboard.”





Logline

In 1975 Miami, a humble backup quarterback battles for purpose on and off the field, learning that true victory isn't found in fame or glory, but in faith, heart, and character.

Synopsis

Set in 1970s suburban Miami, *Third String Quarterback* follows Scott Cann, an earnest teenager who lives for football but spends most games on the sidelines. Surrounded by colorful classmates, a demanding coach, and loving but burdened parents, Scott wrestles with disappointment and the quiet pressure to prove his worth.

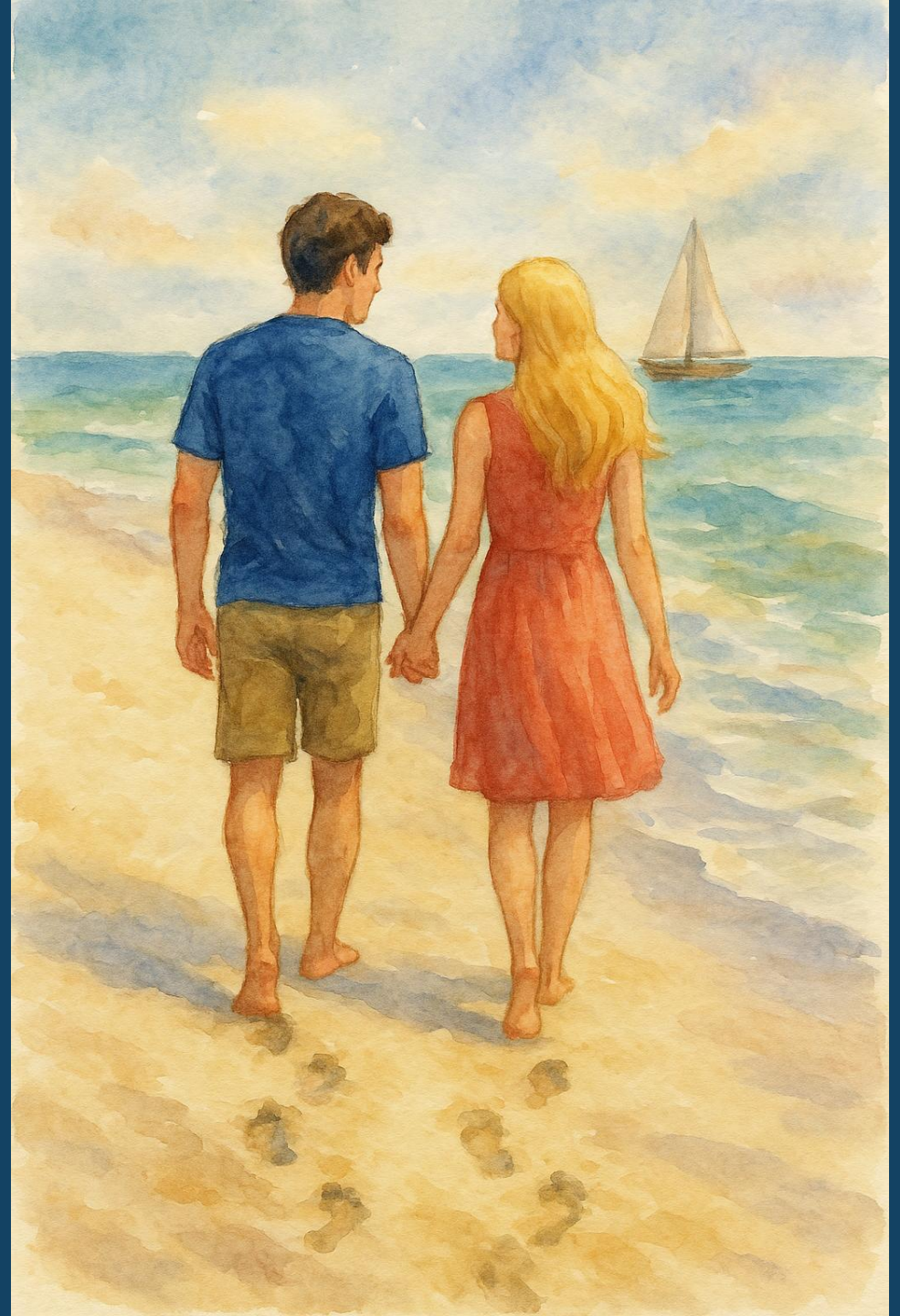
As the season unfolds, he faces new trials — a demotion to third string, his father's job loss, and the tragic death of a teammate. Guided by his coach's tough love, his mother's wisdom, and his own growing faith, Scott discovers that true courage isn't about glory, but grace.

In the state championship's final seconds, he steps onto the field and delivers a play that transforms his life. Years later, standing at his teammate's grave, Scott reflects on the value of daring greatly — and learns that winning isn't always measured by the scoreboard.



Why This Story Matters Now

Third String Quarterback is a story about the quiet heroes we often overlook — the ones who show up, give their all, and define what true victory means when no one's watching. Scott Cann's search for purpose mirrors the universal longing to matter, to belong, and to find meaning even when life keeps us on the sidelines. Through the warmth of nostalgia and the grit of self-discovery, *Third String Quarterback* reminds us that grace, perseverance, and quiet courage are not consolation prizes, but the truest measures of a life well lived.



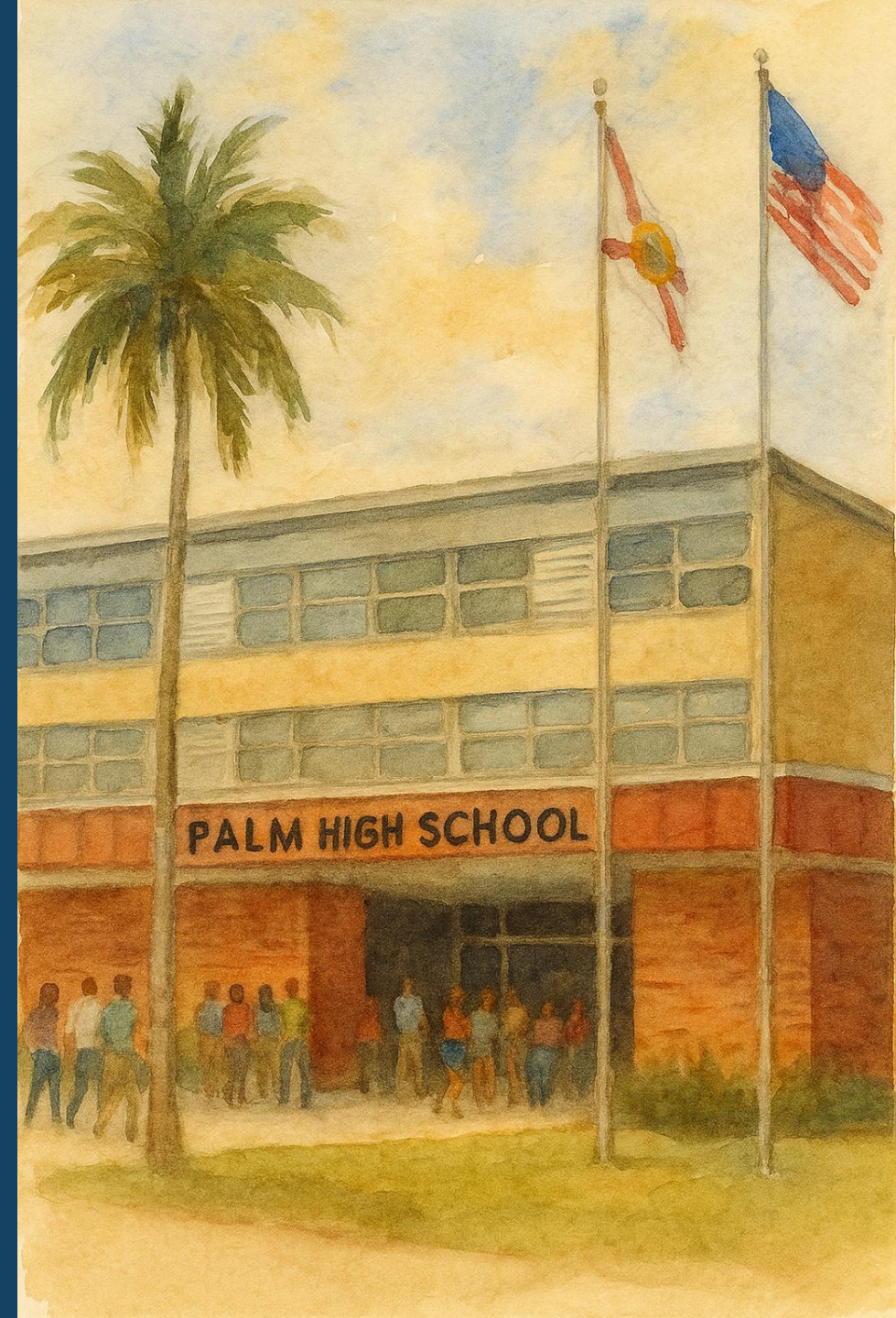
Themes That Drive the Story

- **The Measure of True Success** – True victory isn't found in fame or the scoreboard, but in character, integrity, and heart.
- **Faith and Purpose in Adversity** – Setbacks become steppingstones toward self-discovery, revealing that faith and perseverance define real strength.
- **Identity and Belonging** – Scott's struggle to find his place mirrors our shared need to matter — proving that worth isn't determined by the role we play, but by how we play it.
- **Love, Grace, and Redemption** – Through compassion, forgiveness, and quiet courage, Scott learns that grace transforms failure into growth and love into purpose.



ACT I — The Sidelines of Youth

- 1975, Kendall (Miami): A nostalgic South Florida suburb — palm and ficus trees, quiet neighborhoods, and the hum of high school football under the Friday-night lights.
- Scott Cann, an introspective teen quarterback, begins the season as third string for the Palm Bulldogs — talented but overlooked.
- Home life is supportive and normal: mom offers perspective (“maybe football isn’t everything”), dad is proud, little sister adores him.
- Scott starts tutoring fellow classmate April — spark of mutual respect and the start of a real relationship.
- On the field, Coach Fairbanks demands toughness and discipline, setting up the film’s central theme: courage over comfort.
- When backup QB Karl Katz gets hurt, Scott is bumped to second string.
- In a spirited scrimmage, Scott guides the second-string offense to a surprisingly strong performance against the starters.
- For the first time, teammates and coaches take notice. It’s not victory — but it’s validation, and it launches his journey toward confidence and purpose.



Act II – Trials of Character

- As the Bulldogs fight their way toward the playoffs, Scott and April's relationship blossoms into young love
- When the starting QB Joe Capps goes down, Coach Fairbanks replaces Scott with a sophomore, Tom Lewis, demoting him to third string. Humiliated he plans to quit the team.
- At home, his parents' quiet strength — and April's belief in him — help him realize quitting isn't who he is.
- Scott returns to practice determined to earn his place through grit, not glory.
- After a careless mistake at school, Scott faces a humbling punishment that becomes an early lesson in responsibility and self-control.
- At home, another setback hits: Scott's father is fired from his job, shaking Scott's confidence but revealing quiet resilience through his father's calm example.
- The team regroups after suffering a tough loss as Florida's top-ranked squad, sharpening their discipline under Coach Fairbanks's firm but caring leadership.



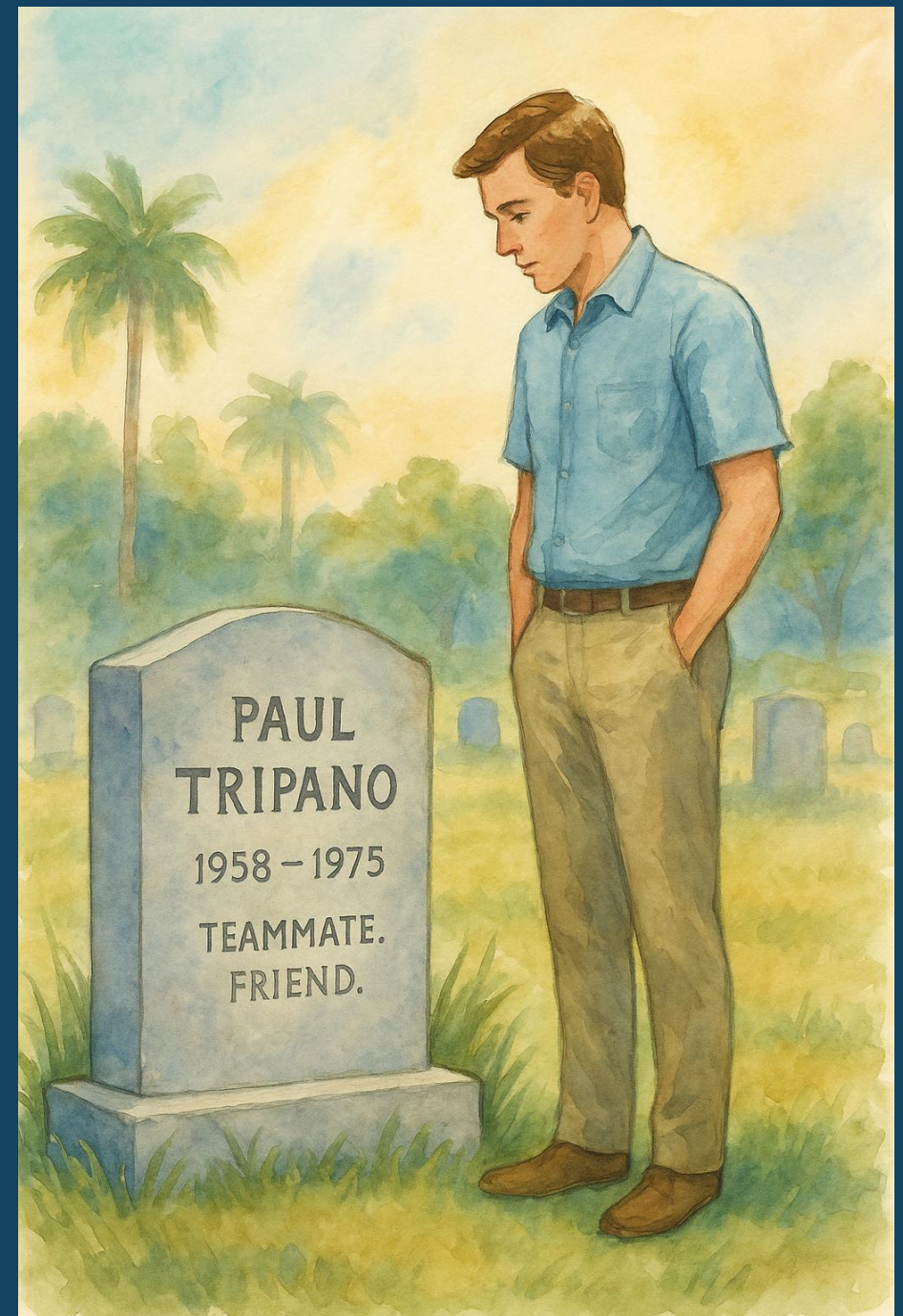
Act III – Arena of the Heart

- Coach Fairbanks announces his retirement, reminding the team that character, not championships, defines success.
- The Bulldogs face Coral Gables in a pivotal game. Late in the game, Paul Tripano makes a courageous hit that secures victory — but collapses moments later. He dies from his injuries, leaving the team and community shattered.
- At the funeral, the minister's words and Scott's mother's quiet wisdom drive home a truth: we are not invincible — and life is bigger than the game.
- The tragedy deepens Scott's understanding of faith, purpose, and what truly endures.
- In the weeks that follow, the Bulldogs regroup with renewed unity — determined to honor Paul and Coach Fairbanks in his final season.
- State Championship – Tangerine Bowl: The Bulldogs reach the final, playing for Coach Fairbanks and the memory of Paul. During the game, the starting quarterback is injured and the backup falters. In a profound act of faith and courage, Scott steps forward without permission — seizing the moment and taking the field on instinct and heart alone.



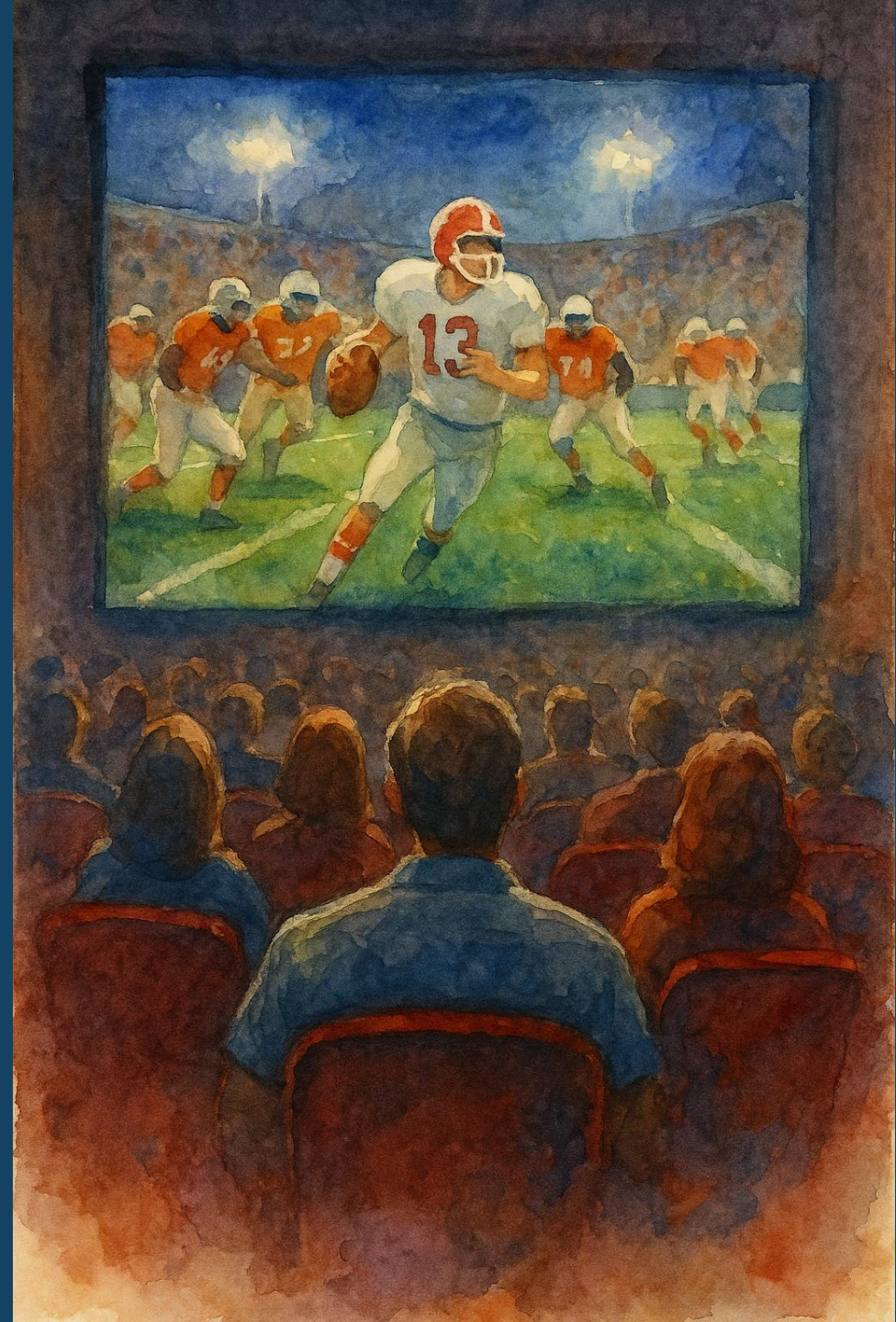
Epilogue

Years later, Scott visits Paul's grave, placing a small plaque engraved with Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" quote. He stands silently, remembering the night he chose faith over fear — knowing now that real victory isn't measured by the scoreboard, but by the heart behind the effort.



Target Audience

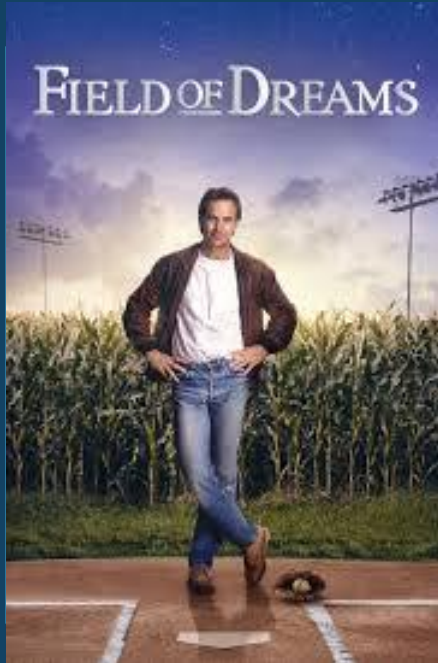
- **Adults (35–70)** – Fans of heartfelt, character-driven stories like *Field of Dreams* and *The Way Back* who value reflection, redemption, and quiet strength.
- **Inspiration-Seeking Viewers** – Audiences drawn to uplifting dramas about perseverance, grace, and personal growth — where faith is felt rather than spoken.
- **Sports & Coming-of-Age Fans (15–35)** – Viewers who connect with emotional, authentic sports stories such as *Friday Night Lights* and *Rudy*.
- **Nostalgic Viewers** – Those who appreciate the warmth and texture of 1970s Americana — sunlit neighborhoods, classic music, and timeless values.



Tone & Style

- **Nostalgic & Authentic** – Set in 1975 Miami, the film captures the warmth and texture of a bygone era — humid nights under the stadium lights, AM radios, 33 1/3 RPM records, and the Innocence of youthful Miami dreams. Every scene evokes memory and meaning.
- **Heartfelt & Character-Driven** – The story unfolds through quiet, human moments of struggle and grace — a coach's farewell, a father's setback, a friend's loss, and the quiet ache of being overlooked on the sidelines — revealing Scott's courage and emotional awakening.
- **Emotionally Uplifting** – Though grounded in struggle, the film's tone is ultimately redemptive — a journey of heart and hope that reminds us that grace and perseverance define what it truly means to win.

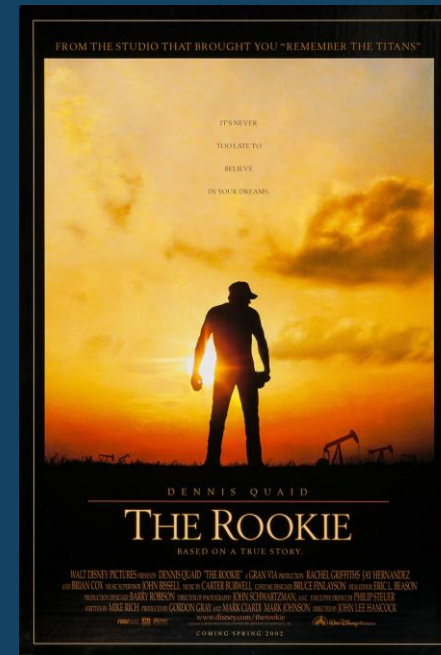
Comparable Films



Field of Dreams (2016) – Farmer builds a baseball field that reunites father and son → Oscar-nominated, \$85M box office..



Rudy (1993) – Undersized football player defies odds to play for Notre Dame → Cult classic, enduring symbol of perseverance.



The Rookie (2002) – Middle-aged teacher gets a second chance in Major League Baseball → Disney hit, \$80M box office.



Friday Night Lights (2004) – High-school football players chase perfection amid pressure, pain, and community expectation → Critically acclaimed, \$62M box office, cultural touchstone for authentic sports storytelling.

Main Characters and Casting Vision

A

B

C

D

E

F

G



A. **Scott Cann** – A quiet teen quarterback searching for purpose beyond the scoreboard. **Charlie Plummer**

B. **Amelia Cann** – His spirited sister and source of light at home. **Emily Mitchell**

C. **Mr. Cann** – A proud father defined by quiet strength. **Josh Lucas**

D. **Mrs. Cann** – A steady, compassionate voice of faith and balance. **Sarah Drew**

E. **April** – A bright classmate who helps Scott see his worth. **Sadie Sink**

F. **Joe Capps** – the team's star QB — skilled, cocky, always needling Scott. **Liam Woodrum**

G. **Coach Fairbanks** – A tough mentor who values character over wins. **J.K. Simmons**

Format Potential:

Feature Film (90 - 120 min) –
Coming-of-age sports drama



Why I'm Telling This Story

- I grew up in Miami, where Friday-night football wasn't just a game — it was part of the air you breathed. I wrote *Third String Quarterback* in 1979, looking back through the eyes of a 20-year-old reflecting on his teenage years and the lessons that quietly shaped him.
- At its heart, this isn't just a football story. It's about family, faith, and finding strength when the spotlight shines elsewhere. It's about fathers who lead by example, mothers who hold everything together, and the moments that test who we are.
- For me, *Third String Quarterback* captures a time and place — and the universal truth that winning isn't about the scoreboard, but about the courage to step onto the field when no one's watching.



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