



Losers Take All: A Novel

By David Klass

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In this table-turning novel about the thrill of defeat and the agony of victory, the new rule at Jack Logan's sports-crazy New Jersey high school is that all kids must play on a team. So Jack and a ragtag group of anti-athletic friends decide to get even. They are going to start a rebel JV soccer team whose mission is to avoid victory at any cost, setting out to secretly undermine the jock culture of the school. But as the team's losing formula becomes increasingly successful at attracting fans and attention, Jack and his teammates are winning in ways they never expected—and don't know how to handle.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 7 Up—"This is not a typical story about the birth of a sports team dynasty..." warns 18-year-old Jack Logan. It's his senior year at Fremont High (aka Muscles High), where the jocks reign supreme. Even though he comes from a family of athletes, Jack himself has never shown much prowess on the field. So when an oppressive new principal takes over and makes it a rule that every single student must participate in a sport, Jack, along with some nonathletic friends, decides to create a third-string soccer team called The Losers, with the school's part-time Latin teacher at the helm. Tensions mount between The Losers and the jocks as their mission to dramatically lose on purpose attracts more and more attention from the student body as well as the local media. Jack then begins to wrestle with the idea that maybe avoiding victory isn't all it's cracked up to be. While this book addresses the excessive emphasis that some schools can place on athletics and the effect that has on students, it's equally one about parent/child bonds. Jack's father never got to fulfill his own professional athletic dreams, so by projecting them onto his son, he creates a strain on their relationship. Many teens will relate to the pressures that adults can sometimes unfairly place upon them. **VERDICT** Even readers who aren't sports fiction fans will find themselves rooting for The Losers in this refreshing take on the genre.—Kimberly Castle-Alberts, Hudson Library & Historical Society, OH

Review

"Klass creates an uproarious soccer spectacle that's fun to imagine, but it's the message behind this underdog team, one of acceptance and forgiveness, that will stick with readers after the Losers play their final heroic game." *?Publishers Weekly*

"The depiction of jock culture at 'Muscles' High is disturbingly accurate, and Jack's and Becca's familial struggles are well-played. There is a lot to like here: humor, social commentary, and what it means to be a winner." *?Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author

David Klass is an acclaimed screenwriter of such movies as *Walking Tall* and *Desperate Measures*, and is the author of many popular YA novels, including *Second Impact*, co-written with his sister, Perri Klass, and *Grandmaster*. He lives in New York City.

Users Review

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Allison Devore:

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