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# Sum It Up: A Thousand And Ninety-Eight Victories, A Couple Of Irrelevant Losses, And A Life In Perspective



## Synopsis

Pat Summitt, the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history and best-selling author of *Reach for the Summit* and *Raise the Roof*, tells for the first time her remarkable story of victory and resilience as well as facing down her greatest challenge: early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Pat Summitt was only 21 when she became head coach of the Tennessee Vols women's basketball team. For 38 years, she has broken records, winning more games than any NCAA team in basketball history. She has coached an undefeated season, co-captained the first women's Olympic team, was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame, and has been named *Sports Illustrated* "Sportswoman of the Year". She owes her coaching success to her personal struggles and triumphs. She learned to be tough from her strict, demanding father. Motherhood taught her to balance that rigidity with communication and kindness. She is a role model for the many women she's coached; 74 of her players have become coaches. Pat's life took a shocking turn in 2011, when she was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease, an irreversible brain condition that affects 5 million Americans. Despite her devastating diagnosis, she led the Vols to win their 16th SEC championship in March 2012. Pat continues to be a fighter, facing this new challenge the way she's faced every other - with hard work, perseverance, and a sense of humor.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Review: Pat Summitt's autobiography is written in the same manner as she coached. When she learned that she was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's she didn't let the disease knock her

down. She was determined to keep coaching and while she privately wept, she kept up her work, her spirit and her life. This book shows that this is typical Summitt. Whether it was her childhood on the farm in Tennessee with her parents and brothers, as a player at the University of Tennessee-Martin, on the 1976 Olympic team, or the head coach of Tennessee, she has always approached each task and challenge head on. The writing and recollections in this book illustrate this characteristic well. I found the beginning of the book very interesting as she starts out with memories as "I remember" and other items that she doesn't have clear recollection as "I don't remember." It was sobering when the reader remembers why she is no longer coaching. I also liked how Summitt addressed subjects that would be troubling to her personally and also how she addressed matters that would be considered controversial at the time. For personal matters, not only did she write about learning of her diagnosis with grace, she also wrote about the end of her marriage, her miscarriages and her other medical conditions without any anger or bitterness. She simply wrote about what took place, what she was feeling, how she dealt with it and what came next. As for controversial matters, the best example would be her writings on the feminist movement in the 1970's. She never sounded bitter about being "in her place" especially as it related to her childhood. While she certainly worked toward the goal of women's equality, she was not a rabble rouser or radical when it comes to this issue.

This book is inspiring, fascinating, heart warming and it will touch your soul really deep. Pat Summitt is a remarkable woman, that put a stamp on women's college basketball as the best female coach at this present time. This woman is a legendary in women basketball. She recruited girls from all over and demanding respect and discipline. The book goes in depth about the relationship she had with her players both off and on the court and how she impacted their lives. Pat loved all her players and they all graduated. Summitt won 1,098 games and eight championship in her career that spanned over 38 seasons with the Tennessee Lady Vols (1974-2012). When you hear the name Pat Summitt, who would ever think that she would be suffering from Alzheimers disease. She shared the story about when she was first diagnosed with the disease and how she felt. The story is so heart breaking that she is suffering from Alzheimers's, a disease of the brains with no cure. The Alzheimers's part hit home for me because I lost my grandma from this disease 3 years ago. Pat talks about her childhood growing up in Henrietta Tennessee on a dairy farm. Her name growing up was Tisha Head and her dad also nick name her "Tall Man". She was very athletic since from a child shooting hoops with her brothers, drag racing on the country road and milking cows 5am in the morning. The book also talked about her college career and how she comes to be the coach at

University of Tennessee, turning a team with no attention into superstars . She also talks about the feud she had going on with rival Uconn coach Geno Auriemma over recruiting issues. The book also talks about her marriage ending after 27 years. Overall this is a great book into life of Summitt on the court and off the court.

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