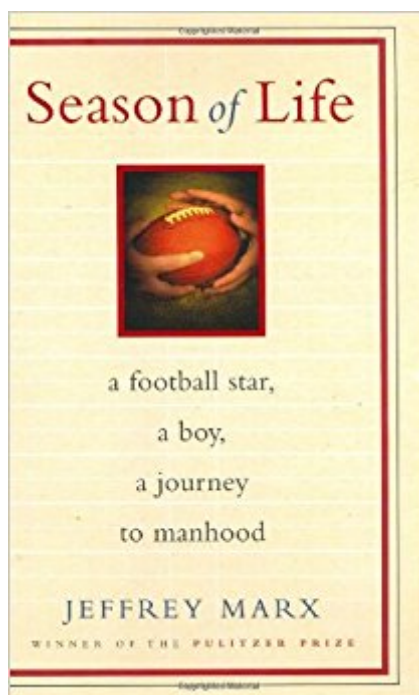


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Season Of Life: A Football Star, A Boy, A Journey To Manhood



Synopsis

The bestselling inspirational book in which the author reunites with a childhood football hero, now a minister and coach, and witnesses a revelatory demonstration of the true meaning of manhood. Joe Ehrmann, a former NFL football star and volunteer coach for the Gilman high school football team, teaches his players the keys to successful defense: penetrate, pursue, punish, love. Love? A former captain of the Baltimore Colts and now an ordained minister, Ehrmann is serious about the game of football but even more serious about the purpose of life. *Season of Life* is his inspirational story as told by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jeffrey Marx, who was a ballboy for the Colts when he first met Ehrmann. Ehrmann now devotes his life to teaching young men a whole new meaning of masculinity. He teaches the boys at Gilman the precepts of his Building Men for Others program: Being a man means emphasizing relationships and having a cause bigger than yourself. It means accepting responsibility and leading courageously. It means that empathy, integrity, and living a life of service to others are more important than points on a scoreboard. Decades after he first met Ehrmann, Jeffrey Marx renewed their friendship and watched his childhood hero putting his principles into action. While chronicling a season with the Gilman Greyhounds, Marx witnessed the most extraordinary sports program he'd ever seen, where players say "I love you" to each other and coaches profess their love for their players. Off the field Marx sat with Ehrmann and absorbed life lessons that led him to reexamine his own unresolved relationship with his father. *Season of Life* is a book about what it means to be a man of substance and impact. It is a moving story that will resonate with athletes, coaches, parents, and anyone struggling to make the right choices in life.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743269748

ISBN-13: 978-0743269742

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 222 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #36,858 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Football #35 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian

Customer Reviews

When Pulitzer-winning investigative reporter Marx was a kid in the 1970s, he was a ballboy for the Baltimore Colts. One of the team captains was Joe Ehrmann, a larger-than-life party guy and star defensive lineman. After the death of his younger brother, Ehrmann changed his life, working in Baltimore's inner city and eventually becoming an ordained minister. Prompted by an article about the demolition of the Colt's legendary Memorial Stadium, Marx reconnected with Ehrmann and became fascinated both with his ministry and his work as a volunteer football coach at a Baltimore private school. This account of Ehrmann's career--and his effect on Marx's life--is inspirational without being preachy. Most amazing are the stories of the team Ehrmann coaches--a football team on which life lessons are more important than tackling fundamentals. The lessons extend to Marx himself, who describes how he was moved by Ehrmann's example to work on his relationship with his father. A sports story, yes, but much more, too. Wes Lukowsky Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Frank Deford, Sports Illustrated Jeffrey Marx has used the most violent of American games to show how men and boys should dare not be afraid to look for love. I was tremendously touched by Season of Life. Christine Brennan, USA Today In a warm, passionate story, Jeffrey Marx finds a boyhood hero who ends up leading him on a fascinating personal journey. This is a book that every father and son will enjoy. Carl Lewis, Olympic champion Season of Life should be required reading for every high school student in America and every parent as well. Ronnie Lott, NFL Hall of Famer This is not a book you are just going to read and then forget about. You're probably going to read it again sometime. And you'll definitely want to tell family and friends about it. By sharing Season of Life with others, you will be helping to make this a better world. Steve Moulton, ESPN Radio This is a life-changing book. You'd have to be a slug on a rock not to be impacted by the messages in this book.

Jeffrey Marx is a Pulitzer Prize winning author (for investigative reporting, not for this book), who takes on the question of what it means to be a man in our society. He does this by following former Baltimore Colt defensive tackle Joe Ehrmann for a year while Ehrmann helped coach a Maryland high school football team. This team has two goals each season $\hat{f}\hat{c}\hat{A} \hat{-}\hat{A} \hat{\infty}$ to win the league championship and to beat their rival high school. But their methods, well,

that's the point of the book. The book focuses on the coaches' goal of Building Men for Others and on the mantra that everyone on the team memorizes: What is the coach's job? To love the players. What is the player's job? To love each other. This is not football as most fans see it, but what does it do to the kids on the team? As Marx tells the story, it builds character, it builds strong and positive relationships, it heals pain, and it Builds Men for Others. In a time when gender roles are changing radically, Marx presents an image of masculinity that is neither traditional (one might think of "a man's man") nor revisionist. Instead, it presents an image of both strength and vulnerability, an image of individual character and of team character. Although Marx began this quest as a detached investigator and as an author, he closes the book by describing neither what happened to Ehrmann nor what happened to the players on the team; he closes the book by describing how the experience affected himself. The book is very well written and it is easy to read (as one might expect from a Pulitzer Prize winning author). It takes about 2-3 hours to read. It is a good book for anybody interested in exploring what it means to be a man in our society, for example, a sports coach or a new father of a young son.

This is a very thought provoking project that Joe E. has undertaken, and one that could significantly change the world if more people were to see how important it is. What he is undertaking is Bible based apparently, but to my understanding it is more a translation of the very heart of the Bhagavad Gita and the Six Workhorse Principles which are the core of the Gita, which is all about change, Being and becoming, change in the direction of our Reality, our Self or spirit, i.e. becoming more like what we truly are: Spirit, Satchitananda (Being /Consciousness/ Bliss), Self, with a capital S, and away from self, small "s", the ego self, the unreal ghost with which we mistakenly identify. That is what this book is really about: change. Change initiated by Paster Joe E. in the hopes that these football players, the recipients of the coaching, will be changed and make a better world. It is a wonderful project, and book about this project.

This is an outstanding book, so outstanding that my daughter and I are going to have a book discussion group with my two teen grandsons with the book as the focus. My younger teen grandson is passionate about football, plays on his high school team. In fact it was the Senior Coach at his high school that recommended this book. But the book is more than about football, it is about building character in young men. This is why both boys need to absorb the lessons that this book teaches. The author is a Pulitzer Prize winner; that exemplifies the book's quality. It is very easy

to read, with great stories told from life. The lessons taught though are like a secular Sunday school without being preachy. It's all about learning what true manhood is, building real character and integrity. As a big plus, the author shines a light on the false values of professional football and society in general. Really excellent, highest recommendation.

It is difficult to pick up a newspaper or watch TV news without seeing some story about a young man in serious trouble with the law. It seems that too many of our male youth are growing up without good role models. There is a direct connection between the way a young man is raised, the values instilled in his youth and the type of life he leads as an adult. *Season of Life*, written by Jeffrey Marx, is the story of Joe Ehrmann, a former NFL star with the then Baltimore Colts and his journey from football to an outstanding mentor for young men. Mr. Ehrmann's life was profoundly changed when his younger brother died at an early age from a rare form of cancer. His brother's death caused Mr. Ehrmann to totally rethink what was important in life. Joe became an ordained minister. He has devoted his life to helping young men get a better chance in life by providing a different style of coaching at the high school level. Most coaches focus on the Xs and the Os of the game, and the won loss record. Joe focuses on teaching the young boys to become the kind of men that will lead a highly productive life as an adult. As of the writing of this book, he was coaching a high school football team. He was also very active in coaching other coaches in his approach. According to Mr. Ehrmann, there are three major myths that most boys are taught about becoming a man. The first is that athletic ability is the initial step. The second is that sexual conquest is a big part of the process and the final myth concerns financial success. Relationships and love are downplayed. Men are taught to be stoic, to hide or suppress their emotions. Mr. Ehrmann teaches his players that the won loss record is not what matters most. What matters most is learning to be a man. Developing 360 integrity - that is integrity all round at all times. Even for those boys who have a good father role model, there are often emotional issues that need addressing. Most men teach their sons to be strong - they were taught not to be emotionally sensitive and that is the way they raise their sons. Too often the father is hiding behind a facade and is afraid to open up emotionally to their sons. As a result, many sons never really know their father. This book is short and easy to read. It is well written and filled with lots of emotional moments. You will come away with a different perspective on what it means to be a man. You will also have a better understanding of why the normal focus of raising boys has been wrong. You will see the connection between the way boys are raised and how they turn out. There is a large segment of our male youth who do not have good father role models. As a society we are paying a very high price in terms of social problems for these young

men. This is a great way to improve the problem with a minimum cost.

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