

# Dreams Come TRUE



Along with advice from some of the most successful men in modern times, Napoleon Hill's inspirational masterpiece *Think and Grow Rich* told the tale of a discouraged prospector who walked away from a fortune, not knowing he was only three feet from gold. Now the Napoleon Hill Foundation has partnered with Greg Reid to carry on the tradition by inviting today's most successful leaders to share the principles, values, and attitudes they use to continue drilling toward their goals.

## A Story: Rudy Ruettiger, motivational speaker

Everyone loves a great story. Everyone loves having someone to cheer for. When you combine the two, you have the ingredients to create magic!

Not too long ago, I had the opportunity to sit down with a man that captured hearts across the globe. As a young man, like many wide-eyed kids of his time, he wanted to become a football player at the University of Notre Dame. The problem was, he was too short and too thin. Simply put, he wasn't "built" for the game of football.

That didn't stop him though. He earned a place on the practice squad and showed up each day at practice. With every "no" and obstacle he faced, his determination grew larger. Although he clearly



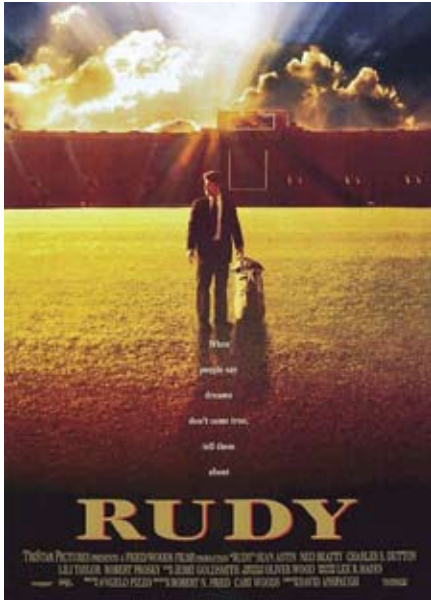
understood he was never going to be a star athlete, nothing would keep him from his dream, and others around him began to take notice, especially the other players.

During the final home game, in the final minutes, in his final year in school, his opportunity came. With only moments left on the clock, the coach finally gave him his chance. Lining up with the Fighting Irish, taking his place on the field, the crowd went nothing short of wild. Everyone had learned of his commitment toward living the life he loved.

On his second play, the ball was snapped, he burst by his opponent, and made the tackle of his life. In mere seconds, his entire life would forever change. As the gun fired to end the game, his fellow teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders and carried him off the field while thousands of adoring fans chanted his name.



“...his fellow teammates hoisted him onto their shoulders and carried him off the field...”



It's been said that if you listen real hard while walking the halls of this immortal campus, you can still hear the chants of this young man's name that would become a movie classic to transcend the generations...

"Rudy. Rudy. Rudy."

Yet as great as this story is, it's a lesser known story of Daniel E. "Rudy" Ruettiger's life that is even more impressive; the story behind the story, if you will. You see, Rudy had another dream. After his historic moment in uniform, he thought that the story would make a great film; a warm family friendly movie to inspire others to stay with their dreams.

Unfortunately, others did not agree. It seemed he faced even more adversity and rejection pitching studios than he did from his old football coach.

Yet, he was not discouraged. In true

“Where would we be in our own lives if we followed our hearts rather than allowing outside influences to determine our limitations? Only you know what you are capable of.”

Rudy style, he kept pushing on through every closed door he faced, until finally, one day, his moment came. He learned about a man who wrote screenplays, and became determined to meet him. He set up an appointment with the man and set off for Hollywood.

On the appropriate day he waited; thirty minutes passed by and his lunch date was nowhere to be seen. Then another thirty minutes passed; and then another. Becoming a bit frustrated, Rudy walked outside to get some fresh air and strategize his next steps. That was when he saw the smiling mail carrier. Looking over at the man, Rudy said, "Thanks for the smile brother. I needed to see that! Why are you so happy anyway?" The postal worker's grin grew brighter as he said, "That's easy. I just moved here a few weeks back. Look around, I'm in shorts, in Hollywood, the news said it was eighteen below where I just moved from...who wouldn't be smiling?"

Then he asked Rudy, "What's your story? Why are you here?"

At that moment, just like that moment on the football field, his life went in a completely new direction.

Rudy shared his story, his passion, and his dream for making a film. He

detailed the outline of how it would inspire others to stay the course through difficult times. Hearing the message, the mailman became inspired himself and asked his new friend, "So tell me, who were you here to meet?" When Rudy told him, the mail carrier's eyes expanded like huge balloons, and he said, "You're not going to believe this, but I just delivered mail to that guy right before I came here." And then he gave Rudy the man's address.

Going to the location Rudy rang the bell. There was no answer, so he rang it again. After a few attempts there came a voice from the intercom "Who is it?"

Replying, he said simply, "It's Rudy, and you're late for lunch."

As Rudy Ruettiger tells the story today, when you watch the film (ital)Rudy, make sure you check the credits. You'll see the name of that person who stood him up. He wrote the screenplay.

### The Lesson: Perseverance is Key

The one secret to true success is to never let another person steal your dream or dictate their beliefs. Rudy never let anyone else tell him what he could or could not do, and in the end, the world stood up and

applauded his efforts. Where would we be in our own lives if we followed our hearts rather than allowing outside influences to determine our limitations? Only you know what you are capable of.<sup>22</sup>

—Gregory Scott Reid

Greg Reid is a filmmaker, entrepreneur, author, and speaker. Learn more at [www.alwaysgood.com](http://www.alwaysgood.com).

