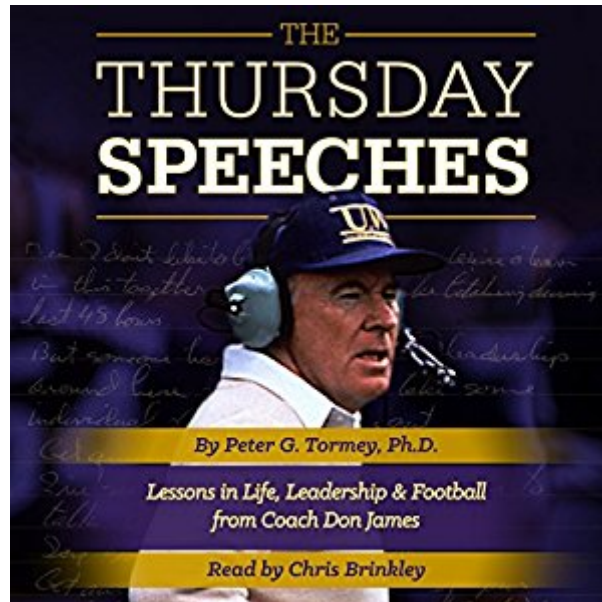


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# The Thursday Speeches: Lessons In Life, Leadership, And Football From Coach Don James



## Synopsis

The Thursday Speeches pulls back the curtain to put listeners in the room with exclusive access to the compelling pregame speeches from one of the best college football coaches in history. The book reveals the exact words James used to inspire the Huskies to slay the football giants of his day. It features the inspiring stories and invaluable life lessons that Coach Don James used to transform the University of Washington football program from obscurity to the national championship during his legendary 18-year UW career. Two days before Christmas 1974, Don James seized the reins of a Washington football program in disarray. Immediately James challenged players to do the hard work necessary to get to the Rose Bowl. Some players laughed, reminding James that Washington hadn't been to the Rose Bowl since 1963. James insisted on his vision. In his third season, the Huskies advanced to the Rose Bowl and - led by future Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon - beat the heavily favored Michigan Wolverines. As but one measure of his coaching skill, Sports Illustrated once named the three best college football coaches in the country: number one, Don James; number two, Don James; number three, Don James.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Review: Don James was the coach for the University of Washington football team from 1974 to 1993. In that time, he took a program that was in shambles and in three years, he led the Huskies to their first Rose Bowl in thirteen years and later was coaching the team to the 1991 national championship. Unlike many coaches, James didn't hold his biggest pre-game pep talks or

speeches just before the game. Instead, he would give the team a speech on the Thursday before the game and gave them the time off before Saturday. In these speeches, James would not only talk Xâ™s and Oâ™s, but also give many life lessons to the young men about topics such as leadership and attitude. A former player, Dr. Peter Tormey, obtained transcripts of many of the coachâ™s speeches and put them together in this book that not only gives the reader insight into Coach Jamesâ™ personality, but also lets the reader into the types of lessons he regularly gave his players. The book is divided into four main sections, each with distinctly different themes. For readers who wish to read mostly about the sport of football, then Part I will be their favorite section as it chronicles the Huskiesâ™ march to the Rose Bowl. Part II is where lifeâ™s lessons will be described through the various subjects of Thursday speeches spanning the entire length of Jamesâ™ coaching career with Washington. To learn a little more about the man himself, Part III contains segments from interviews with James. Finally, Part IV consists of tributes from various people, from his daughter to current Alabama head coach Nick Saban. The variety of these topics is what really sets this book apart from others about football coaches. By using his speeches instead of stories from other people, Dr.

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