



# Losers Take All

*David Klass*

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*Who says winning is everything?*

There's a new rule at Jack Logan's sports-crazy high school: all students must play on a team. So Jack and a group of anti-athletic friends decide to rebel. They create a third-string soccer team whose mission is to avoid victory at any cost. 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.

## Losers Take All Details

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Author : David Klass

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# From Reader Review Losers Take All for online ebook

## Justine Ridder says

3.5 stars

All I could think about when I was reading this book was what would have happened if this really happened at my high school?! Jack Logan's high school recently got a new principal that requires all seniors to participate in at least one sport. Jack Logan's father is a famous high school football player who almost made it to the pros but a freak accident banished those dreams. His father has pushed Jack to try all sports, but nothing ever seemed to fit him. Jack is furious about this new rule along with all of his uncoordinated, unathletic friends. They decide to start their own soccer team, The Losers. Their goal is to have the shortest practices, fewest games and to simply have fun.

This book really did make me laugh out loud at parts with these quirky characters. Jack's team becomes proud of their art of losing which infuriates their principal. In their first soccer game, the goalie literally falls asleep in the middle of the match, there's multiple head on collisions with teammates, someone vomits on the field, someone falls into the nearby pond and almost drowns...just to name a few! Along with these hilarious moments, there is also a lot of serious issues going on in this book (divorce, bullying, friendship, violence).

I have a feeling this will become a favorite for many teens out there. I think this one will be a real competitor for the Golden Sower 2018-2019!

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## Kirsti says

I really enjoyed this random pick! I decided to grab whatever book from my to-read pile that caught my eye first, and it happened to be this. I haven't read any contemporary YA for a while, and I also rarely read sports books but this one was a whole lot of fun!

Jack is from a 'sporting' family, and with two older brothers ahead of him who both excelled at High School Sports, he should be a star himself. Except he's not. He hates sport, especially Football, but when his school chooses a Sports fanatic for a principal and HE decides all seniors must participate in team sports, Jack is forced into something he doesn't want to do. The Losers are created, and the book takes a hilarious turn.

Loved this, even if Sport is not for me. I appreciate the Losers so much. Four stars!

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## Tamia Hodge says

Losers Take All was actually a good read for me. I would recommend this book definitely if you like a small laugh, nerdy teens and a hint of family drama. If you love that small town sport drama then this book is for you.

Liking this book is such a shocking feeling because I'm not much of a sports reader. If so I prefer Highschool rival love books.

\*\*\*spoilers\*\*\*

The beginning was slow to me and the repetition of Logans family history and the Logan express didn't help. Maybe it felt slow to me because this wasn't the type of book I normally read. I'm happy that I kept with it though, because I can not deny that this book had its hilarious and shocking moments.

A lot of the reviews hyped this book up way, more than they should of. This book is good but not great.

Also this book did so-so with time management but It had just enough spotlight on Becca & Jack relationship. Wish it gave more spotlight to the characters but it did give enough to invision them on the field.

My only issue with this book was that they didn't resolve anything with the football team or the "muscle-head principle" Before Muhldinger passed the rule that all seniors must join a sports team. They supported there football team and was even at the track games/school sport events. Didn't like that Klass didn't give the football team a second chance. Maybe I'm just too sympathetic, but I felt that Muhldinger learned his lessoned and deserved a chance a redemption. They once cheered for this man as the coach why such hard feelings now? He lost his girl, so he married football, he lost football now what does he got now?

The ending was rushed, way too rushed. No matter how badly I wanted The Losers to win, not everything's a fairytale story. I get that, but the least klass could of gave us was the parents rushing the field. Jack dad telling Jack he was proud of him, the scout giving Jack the nod, Ed telling Rob he was proud but in a awkward dad way, Becca parents hugging her while Emily stood on the sideline looking uncomfortable. I don't know I just felt like the ending lacked that wow factor, but I'm not saying it isn't good just lacked in some places or I'm just picky. lol

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### **Rachel Rooney says**

Losers Take All is a 2018-2018 preliminary nominee for both the Gateway and the Truman Readers awards. It is about a group of seniors at a high school where sports participation is mandatory for seniors, so they decide to form their own team, dedicated to fun and the art of losing.

This was a fun read, although it does touch on serious themes: divorce, bullying, friendship, and what matters most. I really enjoyed it. Parts of it are a little over the top, but that's part of its charm.

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### **Amy says**

Extra star for exceeded expectation.

I grew up in a football home. Each year fell into three sections: high school football (where my Dad coached and my brother played quarterback), college football (where my cousin played in the Big Ten), and pro football (our house was divided into three camps: Packers, Jets, and Buccaneers.) The schedule drove me crazy. Just as one finished, another picked up. Between practices and games, I barely saw my Dad from June

to November. When it came to picking a college, I decided to get out of the football world. I went to a school where there was no college football team, where no one spoke of the Big Ten in reverent tones, and where their pro-football team was so bad they pretended they didn't have one (sorry, Tennessee.) I was going to escape football cold turkey.

Then I made a shocking discovery. I could run from one part, but there was no escaping sports as a whole. My lovely little get away school was *obsessed* with soccer and basketball and (provided they were having a good season) baseball. It drove me crazy.

Football didn't look so bad after a while.

Funny thing is, I'm now actually quite fond on the sport (GO PACKERS!) It just took stepping away from it for a while to appreciate *balance*.

I didn't expect Losers Take All to have balance. I expected a typical underdogs story where lovable scamps discover hidden talent and win state Mighty Ducks style. Or, as the book promised a truly horrendous team rebelling against a sports-crazy high school, a scathing review of sports in general. The book doesn't fit in one camp or another, though. Its subtle and funny and actually has a really good overall lesson about pursuing talents, having fun, and leading a revolution (of sorts.)

The story took a while to get started and I still couldn't tell Jack's two buddies apart by the end of the book, but I truly appreciated the ending. I appreciated the clean YA romance and lack of language. I appreciate teens struggling with real problems and expectations and learning to stand strong, but not in a cheesy way. I appreciate this one the way I appreciate Cricket Man and Good Enough. Its a book in the YA genre that connects the emotions and frustrations of teens but doesn't blow it out of proportion. It dramatically and yet realistically pulls together common experiences to create a wry, appreciative story about life and sports and what it means to win.

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## **Kian Cullen says**

Losers Take All by David Klass is a teen fiction novel about a group of nerds in an athletic powerhouse of a high school. When a football coach also becomes the principal the school policy is changed. All seniors must play a sport. The main character, Jack Logan, is the son of a Fremont High All Star football player. He never really played sports but with the new policy that changed, he got forced to join a school soccer team. The external problem is that Jack is forced to join a sports team while the internal conflict is his dad wants him to keep the legacy going of the Logan's being amazing at football but he hates sports. I liked this book because it wasn't just a ordinary sports book where the player is bad at sports and get good but instead puts you in the feet of someone who hates sports but gets forced to do them. In my opinion this is definitely worth a read even know it was a little slow at times. The one thing I did not like about the book was the ending, it just left us off like an unfinished thought, it just didn't feel right. This book is realistic fiction because it could happen but it's made up. I think middle schoolers would like this because it's not hard to read, and not that in-depth. Also I think this book is geared more towards boys because it's written about a boy and I just don't think that many girls would like this book

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## **Madison says**

Losers Take All is absolutely hilarious. If you love sport or hate it (or even sit somewhere in between) you will love this book. This is for all the people who sit and watch while others take the "glory" of the big win. Or maybe it's for those who have been burnt by sport, seen the darker side of competition. Whatever your

story, readers will love this fun-for-all, take-no-prisoners tale of friendship, family, high school and sport. I dare you to read it and not break into side-splitting laughter.

Jack's school is known for its dominance in sport, particularly football. But things go a bit far when a new school rule is introduced: all students must join a sports team. Jack and his friends, along with a band of athletically challenged misfits create a c-grade, co-ed soccer team. Their goal is not to win but simply be true to themselves, and maybe survive this school term without major injury. But no one is more surprised than the team when their style becomes an internet sensation and sparks a mini revolution against sport-based violence and bullying.

When I say this book is hilarious I mean it. And not just a few funny lines here or there, but total out of control laughter funny. Some parts read like the funniest blooper reel and that's just from the first two minutes of the team's first game. But while I knew this was going to be a fun read, I was surprised at its depth. There are some serious issues covered, everything from family breakdown and parental expectation, to addressing bullying, abuse and violence.

Jack provides the narration and is an authentic male teen voice. He doesn't set out to prove he has anything against sports. In fact, he comes from a family who has a proud sporting history. He's not some big hater. Actually, he wouldn't mind trying to win and has a fair bit of talent. So when the team becomes famous for losing it challenges him. It challenges his friendships, his relationship with his dad and even his goals for the future. I loved hanging with his friends and team mates, from Frank who proves he really can sleep standing up and Coach Percy, the ageing Latin teacher with surprisingly effective pep talks based on historic battles. They are a group of such interesting personalities and are totally loveable. High school crushes, laughs, injuries, mid-field collisions and confronting the school's whole social structure. Look out, here they come.

And then there is Principal Muhldinger. Self proclaimed sports god, high school football coach and now principal. It is from him that comes the new mandatory sport rule. Oh my gosh, what an absolute .... I don't have words for how awful and completely out of line he is.

There is a small touch of romance in this book. It's not a huge focus, but provides a sweetness and, again, a depth to the story. It perfectly compliments and balances this tale.

I was kind of worried about how the story would develop. How could it finish? Would the team get better and have to purposely lose? I was happy to discover that the whole thing flows perfectly. I loved the end. I loved every minute of this fantastic book, the characters, and the message.

This is the new thing in sports fiction, where being the losers is far cooler than it first may seem.

Find more reviews on my blog [Madison's Library](#).

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## **Ms. Yingling says**

E ARC from Edelweiss Above the Treeline

Jack Logan's school is nuts about sports, to the extent that their 70 year old principal tries to break a record at

the yearly "senior run", outpacing several of the high school senior athletes before dropping dead of a heart attack on the field that is named posthumously for him. To replace him, football coach Muhldinger is elevated to the position, and his first act is to proclaim that all seniors must participate in a sport. This doesn't make Jack happy. He's happy just getting by, trying to avoid the shadow of his father and older brothers' athletic prowess. His friend Becca isn't thrilled, either-- she just wants to work on her college essays and get into Harvard, thereby escaping the drama of her parents' fights. Along with several other unathletic friends, Jack and Becca manage to talk the part time Latin teacher into coaching their low level soccer team. Their change to fly beneath the radar is blown when they lose a game spectacularly and a video is posted online of game highlights, which include Jack making a goal and Muhldinger ranting at the team about their incompetence. It also doesn't help when Rob is badly beaten, and it is likely that his attackers were members of the football team. Jack is at odds with everyone-- his father, Muhldinger, and the football team. He is also good enough at soccer that he is asked to play on a men's team in a neighboring community, which makes him rethink, for a second, the philosophy of his new school team, which is to lose as badly as possible. The team becomes an internet sensation, and news reporters descend, some of them rooting up old secrets about Jack's father and Muhldinger. Jack is confused about a lot of things, but not about Becca, whom he likes a good deal. Will the "losers" cling to their legacy of bad sportsmanship, or will they come to an understanding about the true meaning of competition?

**Strengths:** First of all, I deeply appreciate the lack of vulgar language and high school situations in this. Since it is about seniors in high school, I was wary. This was quite brilliant on so many levels. Yes, many schools are excessively interested in sports, but the levels on which this affects Jack are brilliantly portrayed, even more so because he starts off being content not to care too much. The relationship with Becca is fantastic, because the two are very equal and play on the same team, AND they ride bikes everywhere! Double bonus points for best and most realistic high school Latin teacher in teen literature, even if Percy writing a sonnet to Becca is a bit creepy. Grandmaster has been hugely popular with a wide range of my 8th grade boys, and I think this one will be as well.

**Weaknesses:** Are basic school policies different on the east coast? Perhaps they are. I don't see Muhldinger being made principal unless he had his license, and the move to require all seniors to participate in a sport would take many months to hammer out with a school board in reality. Artistic license, I suppose, but that sort of detail always bothers me.

**What I really think:** I've always enjoyed Klass' sports books, but until I finished this one, I didn't fully understand how deliciously subversive his sports books are! It makes me want to go back and reread *Danger Zone*, although I remember that *Wrestling with Honor* also had that facet. Highly recommend for both middle school and high school readers!

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## Shae McDaniel says

Basically, a fun, quick read.

### THINGS I LIKED:

**-The premise.** I was lured in by the premise, honestly. Maybe because it sounded similar to the plot of Fall Out Boy's "Irresistible" music video? In any case, I thought the concept of losers who win by losing to be charming, and the story itself played out in a charming, 1990s kids sports movie kind of way. Actually, all I really want right now is to dig up a copy of *The Big Green*.

**-The characters.** Specifically, I liked the way the characters were depicted in that there were nice nuances and shades of gray. I was afraid the coach/principal/arch villain and Jack's dad were going to be clones of

each other--football-obsessed meat heads with a winning obsession and a short fuse--but it wasn't like that at all. Nor were the other characters, from Jack's friends to their nerdy coach Percy, allowed one dimensionality either.

**-The side glances at other issues.** I liked that the story looked at other issues as well, like bullying and media fanaticism and the like. Like those 90s movies I love so much, the story as a whole remained pretty light, so a full glare would've only bogged things down.

#### THINGS I DIDN'T LIKE:

**-The throwaways.** That said, I do think the text could've afforded to get its hands dirty in a few places and actually dealt with the emotional fallout. Like Jack and his dad's fight in the basement. Or the fact that there were at least two other school soccer teams that weren't mentioned. Ever. (Seriously, how big IS this school?) Or the fact that the moms were pretty much nonentities. Or the SONNET. Ugh, the freaking sonnet. Can't spoil what that one's about, but I haaaaaaaaaaaaate its very existence. All in all, I felt like there was a great deal of potential emotional heft that was being brushed aside.

**-The loose ends.** Some of the loose ends were really nice. Life isn't neat, and high school even less so. However, so many little things felt very unresolved, and it made the story feel sloppier than it should.

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### Clayton says

*Losers Take All* by David Klass is a teen fiction novel about a ragtag group of misfits in an athletic powerhouse of a high school. When a football coach also becomes the principal the school policy is changed. All seniors must play a sport. The main character, Jack Logan, is the son of a Fremont High All Star football player. He never really played sports but with the new policy that changed. He and his soccer team are determined to make a statement. And to do so they planned on losing all of their games in a comedic fashion. *Losers Take All* might be worth the read. The plot and beginning were good, but the book seemed a little lacking in the end. The book used basic words and made it seem a little boring at times. Along with that it seemed like there were too many unanswered questions in the final chapter about how things turned out for each of the characters.

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### Michelle says

**\*\*You can see this full review and more at Book Briefs: <http://bookbriefs.net>\*\***

*Losers Take All* put a huge smile on my face. It was funny, heartwarming, different, and full of love-ably quirky characters. At Jack's school, they are sports OBSESSED. Their last principal keeled over in the middle of a school run, and their new principal is even worse. He has decreed that all seniors must take part in a school sport team. Jack's friends band together to form a C soccer team, and make a pack that they will always lose. I thought their act of "rebellion" was pretty funny. And what happens after is even funnier.

Jack's father was a huge sports legend at his high school and he is still a town hero, so I know that must have



been hard for Jack at home. I really liked how David Klass used sports and social media/school politics in Losers Take All. It is a parody of sorts, full of humor but not so far removed from real life. I could see something like this happening today. The pressure from schools, parents and even social perception to join all the clubs and teams and to be well rounded, which means playing a sport, and doing something artsy, and something academic, etc. Don't get me wrong- I love sports, but I think you should want to play them if you are going to join a team. Call me crazy.

Losers Take All is a book that will have you laughing, have you cheering and rooting for the most love-able group of teens. I love that this book is told from a male character's point of view. Jack is great. And watching his act of rebellion turn into something more was really special for me. Watching Jack and the rest of the team play soccer was a highlight as well. They were a hoot. I think there is something for everyone in Losers Take All. Some romance, some sports triumphs, lots of sports fails, and so many laughs. Whether you are a sports fanatic or if you don't even know the difference between a tennis ball and a golf ball, check out Losers Take All. It will put a smile on your face.

This review was originally posted on Book Briefs

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### **Beela says**

This book was really funny, so I enjoyed it. But, the ending was really abrupt and I didn't care for that.

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### **Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says**

This is one of those books that will have you laughing so hard you will be crying tears and holding your stomach. I mean I come from a house of athletes and I played Soccer and did Track so I was always busy with practice and school work and games so when I read about Jack I laughed so hard because lord have mercy he hates sports and does not want to made to be a part of any team.

So he comes up with a great idea so he thinks and that is to create his own team and lose every game. Then they will not have to be locked into the whole school sports thing but it back fires on him and what unfolds is a hilarious story that will have you on the end of your seat waiting to flip the page to find out what happens next.

If you played sports or like sports or hate sports this is the book to read because it is hilarious and will have you picturing you are there with Jack and the team.

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### **Nicole says**

I received an ARC from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. I picked this book up because I'm always looking for something I think my guy readers can enjoy. I wasn't really looking forward to reading it, but, boy, was I in for a surprise. I finished this book in just a couple of hours, and for the first time in my life I preordered a book in June that wasn't coming out until October. My students have to have this book! Contrary to what I thought, this isn't a book that will just have a message for my guys - this is a

book that any YA reader can embrace. Are my sports readers going to enjoy a book about a team who is proud to lose? Why, yes, they are because there is actually a lot of sports action. Football and soccer games are tightly narrated with all the tension of a hometown game. So, will that alienate the non-athletes? No, because as my football/soccer coach husband can attest, I have almost no real knowledge of sports. I only had to ask one question. Translation: If I can read and enjoy this, anyone can. Yeah, but this is a guy book, isn't it? Actually, the narrative voice is male, but there is a strong female character that plays a significant role in the story. All of the significant characters have depth and that something that makes them feel like real people. Plus, the themes transcend gender and age. If you've ever attended a high school, you will relate to something in this book. So why would anyone want to read it? It's smart and really pretty funny, and it tackles a lot of issues that everyone could stand to think about. Of course this book asks what it means to win or lose, but it also tackles sports culture in American high schools, bullying, social media, living for yourself, and friendship. These kids are looking for a way to avoid a stupid school requirement, but they are pretty strong in the face of adversity. I don't think anyone could read this book and not end up cheering for this strange and hilarious mix of oddballs as they take losing to another level. This is a well written, well plotted book with complex characters and conflicts. It's not perfect, but I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I can't wait to share it with anyone I can get to hold still long enough to listen. Language and situations are pastorate for grades seven plus, but interest level is high school and beyond.

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### **Nina O'Daniels says**

Is this a cautionary tale for all those sports loving coaches and kids or just a reminder to all those sports loving coaches and kids that there is more out there? Jack Logan's family are sports legend at his jock heavy high school, that is all except him. He's just never really gotten into it and has plenty of other things that keep him busy and happy. So, when the school's principal suddenly dies in the middle of a race at school and the football coach is hired as his replacement, not being athletic isn't going to be an excuse anymore. Principal Muhldinger, a sports fanatic, implements a new rule at school: all seniors now have to participate in a sport in order to graduate. But Jack and his friends aren't going to just roll over and take it. They'll join a sport but don't expect them to try. No one ever said they had to win, right? Quick and easy feel good read.

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