

# Remember the Titans

(<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0210945/>)

Note: While this movie includes race issues as part of its core tension, a “deep dive” into this subject is beyond the scope of our purpose of understanding the stages of team development.

This document is intended to provide a quick introduction to the film “Remember the Titans” as part of a larger process of looking into the stages of team development.<sup>1</sup>

There are multiple examples of team development in this film (e.g., the Titans, the coaches, their families, the school, the city). For the purposes of this discussion, we’ll focus mainly on the Titans themselves.

## Overview

(1971: *Alexandria, Virginia*) The school board has been given a court order to integrate the schools.<sup>2</sup> The town’s high school football team, the T.C. Williams Titans, is the town’s most popular team. The white head coach is demoted and replaced with an imported black coach. Many of the new black students are hoping to make the team, perhaps even as starters. Some of the white students from the previous year think they may not make it off the bench this year. Conflict is evident just about everywhere.

The coach(es) must build a team out of players that don’t want to be a team (and do it quickly!) if the Titans are to win any games this year.

This film is based (loosely) on a true story. It starts at the end (1981, with Sheryl Yoast narrating) but quickly moves back to 1971.

## Cast of Characters

	Herman Boone	Head Coach, moved to Alexandria from North Carolina
	Bill Yoast	Assistant Coach, former Head Coach
	Coach Herb Tyrell	Coach of “Special Team”, cuts himself from team, AKA “Hank”
#81	Julius Campbell	Defensive end, “Strong-side” linebacker
#42	Gerry Bertier	Captain, All-American, “Left-side” linebacker
#40	Petey Jones	Running back, quits in Regional game
#10	Jerry ‘Rev’ Harris	Quarterback, prays all the time, likes The Temptations
#73	Louie Lastik	Offensive lineman, sings too, likes The Temptations
#12	Ronnie ‘Sunshine’ Bass	Quarterback, California import
#76	Blue Stanton	Asks for water during practice, sings, wears leopard-style underwear
#48	Alan Bosley	Sings country/western
#87	Ray Budds	Gets cut from team, Gerry’s buddy, offensive lineman, AKA “Dean Martin”
	Sheryl Yoast	Daughter of Assistant Coach
	Nicky Boone	Daughter of Head Coach
	Emma Hoyt	Gerry’s girlfriend

## **Watch for the scene . . .**

. . . near the beginning when the players are making noise and bragging about what position and how well they're going to play this year.

- What's the team's Morale level?
- What's the team's Productivity level?

. . . in which Gerry and Julius get into an important argument (see Quotes, below).

. . . when Coach Boone runs the team into a battlefield at Gettysburg (one of our Civil War turning points).

- What message is he sending them?

. . . in which Gerry gets on Ray's case for not blocking (see Quotes, below).

. . . in which Julius and Gerry break up the hallway fight.

- What happens to the team at this point?

. . . late at night when a meeting is called in the empty gym (following Game #1 with Hayfield).

- What's going on?
- Who called the meeting (the coaches or the players?) and why?

. . . in which they play Herndon (Game #2).

- Did they step back a stage or two?

. . . (the many scenes) in which the team is by itself (no coaches) in the locker room.

. . . in Game #3 (Groveton) when Sunshine takes over for Rev after his wrist is broken.

- What do his actions show about which stage the team is in?

. . . when Gerry cuts Ray from the team.

- How important is it for a team to be allowed to determine who is on the team and who is not? (idea of self-selection)

. . . in which Julius visits Gerry in the hospital (after the NoVa Regional Championship Game)

. . . where Alan gives Petey his spot at the State Championship Game (vs. Marshall).

## **Quotes**

(<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0210945/quotes>)

### *Coach Boone at the Gettysburg battlefield*

Coach Boone: Anybody know what this place is? This is Gettysburg. This is where they fought the battle of Gettysburg. Fifty thousand men died right here on this field, fighting' the same fight that we're still fighting' amongst ourselves.....today. This green field right here was painted red, bubbling with the blood of young boys. Smoke and hot lead pouring right through their bodies. Listen to their souls, men. 'I killed my brother with malice in my heart. Hatred destroyed my family.' You listen and you take a lesson from the dead. If we don't come together right now, on this hallowed ground, we too will be destroyed just like they were.

I don't care if you don't like each other or not, but you will respect each other. And maybe, I don't know, maybe we'll learn to play this game like men.

### *Gerry and Julius get to know each other*

Gerry: Listen, I'm Gerry, you're Julius. Let's just get some particulars and get this over with.

Julius: Particulars? Man, no matter what I tell you, you ain't neva gonna know nothing about me.

Bertier: Listen, I ain't running any more of these three-a-days

Julius: Well, what I got to say you really don't wanna hear 'cuz honesty ain't too high upon your people priorities.

Bertier: Honesty? You want honesty? Honestly, I think you're nothing, nothing but a pure waste of God-given talent. You don't listen to nobody, man. Not even Doc or Boone. Shiver push on

the line every time and you blow right past 'em. Push 'em, pull 'em. do something. You can't run over everyone in this league and every time you do you leave one of your teammates hanging out to dry, me in particular!

Julius: Why should I give a hoot about you? Huh? Or anyone else out there? You wanna talk about a waste, you're the captain, right?

Bertier: Right.

Julius: You got a job?

Bertier: I got a job.

Julius: You been doing your job?

Bertier: I' been doing my job.

Julius: Then why don't you tell your white buddies to block for Rev better because they have not blocked for him worth a plugged nickel, *and you know it!* Nobody plays. Yourself included. I'm supposed to wear myself out for the team? What team? No, no what I'm gonna do is look out for myself and I'm gonna get mine.

Bertier: See man, that's the worst attitude I ever heard.

Julius: Attitude reflect leadership, *captain.*

*Gerry and Julius come to an understanding  
{Ray misses a block}*

Gerry: What was that, Ray? Whatever it is, it ain't blocking'!

Ray: Give me a break, Gerry.

Gerry: You want a break? I'll give you a break!

Coach Yoast *{to Coach Tyrell}*: Wait a minute, wait, wait. Let them handle this.

Gerry: If we get to Rev once, just one time, I swear to God, I'm gonna hit you so hard, by the time you come to, ooh, boy, you're gonna need a new haircut. You understand me? Uhh!  
*{Laughs}* Ha ha ha ha! Let's play, fellas!

Boone (blows whistle): On the ball. Let's run it again.

*{Titans—and Julius—finally block wholeheartedly}*

Julius: You all right, big Petey?

Gerry: You really stuck him, Campbell.

Julius: Yeah, I love me a little contact, Petey!

Gerry: This is left side!

*{Julius isn't sure how to respond}*

Julius: Strong side!

Gerry: Left side!

Julius: Strong side!

Gerry: Left side!

Julius: Strong side!

Gerry: Left side!

Julius: Strong side!

*Julius and team perfection (halftime, State Championship Game)*

Boone: It's all right. We're in a fight. You boys are doing all that you can do. Anybody can see that. Win or lose . . . we gonna walk out of this stadium tonight with our heads held high. Do your best. That's all anybody can ask for.

Julius: No, it ain't, Coach. With all due respect, uh, you demanded more of us. You demanded perfection. Now, I ain't saying that I'm perfect, `cause I'm not. And I ain't gonna never be. None of us are. But we have won every single game we have played till now. So this team is perfect. We stepped out on that field that way tonight. And, uh, if it's all the same to you, Coach Boone, that's how we want to leave it.

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<sup>2</sup> The Alexandria school district had three full high schools: George Washington (GW), Hammond and TC Williams. Under a court order to integrate these schools, the school board uses forced busing to make GW (primarily black) and Hammond a mixture of freshmen and sophomores. TC Williams takes the remaining juniors and seniors.