



## DON YAEGER

Award-Winning Leadership Speaker, Executive Coach & New York Times Best-Selling Author

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  - Longtime Associate Editor for Sports Illustrated
  - He is primarily sought to discuss lessons on achieving Greatness, learned from first-hand work alongside some of the greatest sports and business legends in the world
  - Has been retained by companies and organizations to coach their leaders on building a culture of Greatness
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As an award-winning keynote speaker, an eleven-time New York Times Best-selling author, host of the top-rated Corporate Competitor Podcast, Executive Leadership Coach, and longtime Associate Editor for Sports Illustrated, Don Yaeger has fashioned a career as one of America's most provocative thought leaders.

He is primarily sought to discuss lessons on achieving Greatness, learned from first-hand work alongside some of the greatest sports and business legends in the world. Additionally, Don has been retained by companies and organizations to coach their leaders on building a culture of Greatness, using the framework built through his exhaustive study of Great Teams in sports and business, discerning the lessons we can learn from them. In 2023, Real Leaders magazine acknowledged Don as a “Speaker to Watch” because of his success on stage. Throughout his writing career, Don has developed a reputation as a world-class storyteller, in fact, renowned thought leaders such as John Maxwell and Simon Sinek have called Don the best storyteller they have ever worked with! Because of these achievements, Don has been invited as a guest to every major talk show – from Oprah to Fox Business News, from CNN to Good Morning America.

In 2020 Don launched the Corporate Competitor Podcast, which Podcast Magazine quickly recognized as one of the Top 50 Podcasts in America. By 2022 Spotify had listed Corporate Competitor Podcast in the top five percent of the most followed and shared podcasts in the world. Among the guests interviewed by Don for episodes of the podcast have been former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the CEOs of Disney, Delta Air Lines, Bank of America, Hendrick Motorsports, KPMG, FanDuel, Chick-fil-A, Insight Enterprises, TopGolf, Mayo Clinic, BET Media and Ritz Carlton.

Few journalists can lay claim to as exciting and colorful a career as Don. In three decades of reporting, the breadth of his assignments has been astounding. He has traveled the world in pursuit of stories as diverse as:

- Walking into Afghanistan with the Mujahadeen as they fought the Soviets.
- Going into Baghdad with the victorious Iraqi soccer team as the battle between insurgents and the US Military waged around them.
- Visiting China in pursuit of underworld characters counterfeiting American golf clubs.
- Heading to Damascus to find the last living PLO terrorist from the 1972 Olympics.
- Living with football legend Walter Payton and his family as Payton was dying.
- Roaming the Middle East interviewing Iraqi athletes tortured by Saddam Hussein’s son Uday, chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee.
- Covering the first free national elections in El Salvador.
- Traveling with candidates from both parties during presidential campaigns.

Don began his career as a reporter for the San Antonio Light where he rose through the

ranks to pen investigative features for the daily. He later moved on to the Dallas Morning News. Following his stint in Dallas, he worked as a political editor for the Florida Times-Union. After four years, he decided to dedicate himself to the pursuit of writing books. Don's first book, *Undue Process: The NCAA's Injustice For All*, was published in 1990. In the 30+ years since, he has penned more than three dozen books, including an incredible ELEVEN New York Times Best-sellers. Among his Best-sellers are:

- *Never Die Easy: The Autobiography of Walter Payton* (with Walter Payton) October 1, 2000
- *Ya Gotta Believe: My Roller-Coaster Life As a Screwball Pitcher, Part-Time Father and My Hope-Filled Fight Against Brain Cancer* (with Tug McGraw) March 7, 2004
- *It's Not About the Truth: The Untold Story of the Duke Lacrosse Case and the Lives It Shattered* (with Mike Pressler) July 7, 2007
- *I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness, to the Blind Side, and Beyond* (with Michael Oher) February 27, 2011
- *Play Like You Mean It: Passion, Laugh, and Leadership in the World's Most Beautiful Game* (with Rex Ryan) May 22, 2011
- *Under the Tarnished Dome: How Notre Dame Betrayed its Ideals for Football Glory* October 3, 1993
- *Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain: How I Went from Gang Member to Multimillionaire Entrepreneur* (with Ryan Blair) August 21, 2011
- *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution* (with Brian Kilmeade) November 19, 2013
- *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates: The Forgotten War that Changed American History* (with Brian Kilmeade) November 22, 2015 (Paperback reached #1 in November 2016)
- *Teammate* (with David Ross) May 28, 2017
- *Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans: The Battle that Shaped America's Destiny* (with Brian Kilmeade) October 24, 2017
- Don also wrote *A Game Plan For Life*, with legendary UCLA coach John Wooden. It was published on Coach's 99th birthday in October 2009. Movie rights to *Turning of The Tide*, a book about the 1970 football game between the last all-white team at the University of Alabama and the fully-integrated team from the University of Southern California, have been sold.

After several years of freelancing for *Sports Illustrated*, Don joined the magazine's staff full-time in July 1996. Two years later he was promoted to Associate Editor, where his work was to cover not just sporting events but the off-the-field happenings which affect the world of sports. He took an early retirement from full-time work at SI in 2008. He also is

Forbes.com's most-read leadership columnist.

Don Yaeger and his colleague William Nack were finalists for the prestigious 2000 National Magazine Award in the public interest category for their cover story "Who's Coaching Your Kid?: The frightening truth about child molestation in youth sports." This important piece triggered Don's appearances on programs such as Dateline, 20/20, and The Oprah Winfrey Show. It also resulted in changes to the law in several states and several youth sports organizations, including Little League of America, to require background checks of coaches and volunteers.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Don has traveled extensively through his career. A graduate of Ball State University where he was selected as one of the university's "50 Graduates of Distinction" over its first century and subsequently was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2022, Don now resides in Tallahassee, Florida. He and his wife, Jeanette, have a son (Will) and a daughter (Madeleine).

## **TEMAS**

Don Yaeger tailors each presentation to the needs of his audience and is not limited to the topics listed below. Please ask us about any subject that interests you:

- Leadership
- Health & Wellness
- personal growth

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## **PROGRAMAS**

### **WHAT MAKES THE GREAT ONES GREAT**

As a sports writer and author of more than two dozen books, Don has had a front row seat with some of the greatest winners in athletics, including Walter Payton, Jimmy Connors, Michael Jordan, John Wooden, Pat Riley and Dale Brown. They are all legends in their own

right, but does anyone believe the athletes mentioned above are really the GREATEST athletes of their time, physically? Remember, Jordan wasn't even the first pick in the draft. Payton had to go to a small black college because bigger schools didn't want to risk a scholarship on him. Each became a champion through strength and skills that had nothing to do with physical prowess.

Using rich personal accounts gathered from more than twenty-five years of interviews with many of today's sports legends and business leaders, Don has distilled Sixteen Consistent Characteristics of Greatness. Don shares some of these characteristics with audiences, in an easy, engaging style, which helps participants realize that they, too, can achieve a higher level of personal success.

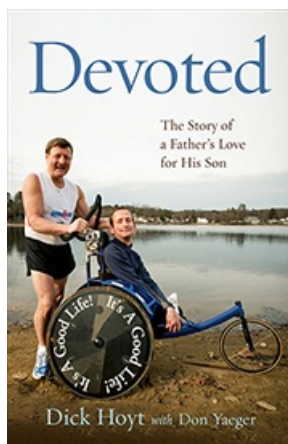
## **WHAT MAKES A GREAT TEAMMATE**

Every winning team has an MVP... And every MVP has teammates. The Great Teammates immerse themselves into the fabric of high-performing organizations. They accept and commit to whatever role is needed to ignite momentum and yield winning results! Through remarkable insight from the GREATEST Teammates of our time, Don teaches you how to be invaluable without being most valuable. This universal lesson is one that is applicable to anyone in an organization from those at entry level positions to top level management. Fly the 'W' with Don as he breaks down business-applicable lessons that can be learned from former Cubs catcher David Ross and a World Series for the Ages, and many more.

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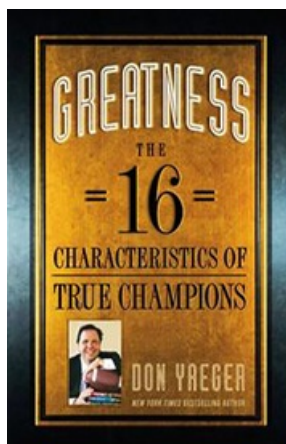
## **PUBLICACIONES**

Libros




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DEVOTED



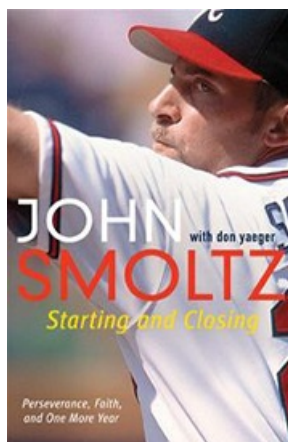

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GREATNESS




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I BEAT THE ODDS




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JONH SMOLTZ

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## CONDICIONES

- **Travels from:** USA
- **Fee Range:** Please Inquire

\*Fee Range:

Fee ranges listed on this website are intended to serve as a guideline. Please note: if a speaker has a fee range listed such as USD 20.000 to USD 40.000, it indicates that the fee falls within that range. Speakers' fees are subject to change without notice. Fees often vary based on several factors, including speaker's availability, length of presentation, supply and

demand, and event location, among others. Please contact us with your specific event details and requirements, and we will provide you with a precise quote.

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