

Poetry Anthology

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P.8 Creative Writing

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### **Preface**

This is his first season as a freshman as a football player at the University of Nebraska. He impressed his coaches so much during the offseason that they decided he would play as a true freshman this year. He is a wide receiver who has hands that can catch almost any football thrown at him. These poems go through this season for him and every obstacle he overcame. It starts out with the Tunnel Walk when he starts his first season. In the game, he misses one of the most important catches of his life. Can he make up for his costly mistake, or will he let his grief get the best of him?

## **Table of Contents**

### **Palace of the Victors**

This is his very first game as a Nebraska Cornhusker. He is now part of the tradition of a program that has placed itself among the highest in the country. As he waits, he gets a little bit nervous, not of fear, but out of excitement. He watches the opposing team come out, which is given a courteous applause from the Husker fans. Then, he and his team run out with the stadium roaring behind them and as well as every fan watching on T.V. or listening on the radio. Now he is not nervous. He is home.

### **So Close**

The Huskers are playing a very good team that is ranked very high in the standings. The Huskers are down by four points with just enough time for one more play. In the huddle, the quarterback calls the play and our player knows that the ball will be thrown to him. As he lines up, he sees that the player matched up against him is very tired after an exhausting game. When the ball is snapped, his opponent stays with him until his challenger slips and our player sees open field. He looks up and the ball is right there. Then, he drops it. He cannot believe it. He knows that he let down his team and his coach. They had all worked so hard for that moment and he blew it. He will not let it happen again.

### **The Effects of Failure**

After the game, he sees his mistake everywhere. The newspapers are critical as always and Twitter page has a lot of negative comments. Later, he hears about people saying jokes about him. For example, if he miss a catch, they call his name. Not very many people try to encourage him. He is the hardest on himself though. He is going to do everything he can to not let it happen again.

### **Determination**

This is about how he works as hard as he can every day. This is what he is telling himself every time it gets tough. He fights himself each time he thinks he might not be able to do something. He knows that it is difficult, but it is the only way to make up for what he did. He needs to earn back the trust of his teammates and coaches and, most importantly, have faith in himself.

### **Desperation Prayer**

Right before the game starts, he bends on one knee and prays to God. He asks him for strength and courage and for all the hard work over the last few months not to be in vain. He also wants to make God proud. He is a very talented young man with a bright future. God gave him his talents and our player wants to show God that He made a strong man that would do great things.

## **Second Chance**

The Huskers had done a great job this season and earned themselves a trip to a bowl game. They are facing a team that had great success over the course of the season and were ranked very high. They start the game and each team fights extremely hard. They trade scores and are still tied when it comes to the fourth quarter. Not very much happens until the Huskers have the ball with one minute left in the game. The Huskers do three plays, but it does not get them very far. It is still too far for a field goal, so they have to try and score a touchdown. When they are in the huddle, he realizes that the quarterback is calling the same play as the one in the earlier game when he dropped the pass. He lines up and faces a challenger who is not as tired as the last. The ball is snapped and our player makes a move but the other player is not fooled easily. In spite of that, he has a step ahead of him. He looks up for the ball and there it is. His opponent leaps for the ball, but our Husker snatches it first and scores a touchdown. The Huskers won the game and all his hard work finally paid off.

## **Palace of the Victors**

I enter the stadium

At my back lies the sea of red

The game is about to begin

My nerves start to tingle

Goosebumps spread across my body like the plague

The opposing side runs out onto the field

Accompanied by the courteous applause of the fans

And then we storm out

Joined by the roar of all of Nebraska

We charge the field

Adrenaline rushing

Hungry to start the game

No more fears remain

No more doubts

This is the beginning of something very powerful

A palace of victors

A sanctuary for the Huskers

I am home

## So Close

It's the final play of the game  
The season comes down to this moment  
Competing against an elite team  
Down by four

We break the huddle  
I know the ball will be coming for me  
Staring down my challenger  
He is tired; he is weak

The ball is snapped  
My instincts burst to life  
He and I are inseparable  
Until he slips

I break away  
The ball comes to me  
Begging to be cradled  
It could not be a more perfect moment

The pigskin descends slowly  
I am waiting  
It is right there  
And then it isn't

The ball bounces off my arm  
And falls despairingly to the turf  
I watch helplessly  
And know the game is over

I am in shock  
The opponents heave a sigh of relief  
But the difference between them and me  
Is that I have no sighs to breathe

I let down my coach and my team  
We didn't deserve to lose this game  
All of my teammates' faces are full of  
despair  
And my face becomes their mirror

Although some attempt to encourage me  
I know they don't mean it  
This can never happen again  
I will make certain of that

## **The Effects of Failure**

I have experienced failure before

But not on this magnitude

Newspapers are extremely critical

My Twitter feed is overflowing with negativity

Jokes bear my name

Very few are sympathetic

But I still carry the burden on my shoulders

I am my own worst critic

I know that it is my fault

I have placed that burden upon myself

It is up to me now

To right the wrong

I cannot let failure get the best of me

## **Determination**

**Desiring the highest possible outcome**

**Engineering a strategy to overcome my failures**

**Terminating my inability**

**Entering into a battle against myself**

**Rising above the challenges I thought would defeat me**

**Making every day worthwhile**

**Initiating a way to right the wrongs**

**Navigating through the lessons of life**

**Attacking every doubt**

**Trusting in myself**

**Impacting the rest of the season**

**Orchestrating a path to redemption**

**Never stop believing**



## **Desperation Prayer**

God,

Please help me now

In my time of need and distress

The weight of the world is on my shoulders

The burden is difficult to bear

I beg for the strength and courage

To live up to the best that you made me to be

You gave me my talents

Now I want to display them in front of Husker Nation

I cannot accomplish this feat on my own

I am in desperate need of your help

I have met you more than halfway

If it is your will

Please help me

And I will make you proud

## Second Chance

We have earned a bowl game

A result of the passionate efforts of the team

The opposing side has fought hard for this moment

Their efforts have not been in vain

We stare down our foes

And the kickoff is underway

Forty-five minutes pass

Deadlocked in an endless battle

Challenging the other's strengths

Searching for weaknesses

One minute left

We receive possession

There is no time for mistakes

No margin for error

No more second chances

Three plays come and go

Yet not much progress is made

One final opportunity

The quarterback calls the play

It's my play

Not unfamiliar

My greatest failure may transform into my greatest triumph

It's déjà vu

But this time, a stronger opponent

He will not tire as easily as the last

The ball is snapped

My body reacts faster than my brain

I don't even think anymore

I just go

I sidestep the defender and sprint

He is not fooled so easily

But I do have a step ahead of him

He knows it too

The thought makes me run faster

And before I now it

A spiraling football comes my way

This is it :

My opponent has gained on me

We both leap for the ball

His hand is there

But a second too late

The ball is in my hands

Football and man become one

And the game is finished

We have emerged victorious

And I have overcome my failure