Read the next two selections and answer the questions that follow.

A History of Fearlessness

by Jeré Longman
The New York Times
August 24, 2011


University of Tennessee at Martin/USA Basketball

Pat Summitt . . . the Player


Photo by Doug Benc/Getty Images Sport

Pat Summitt . . . the Coach


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Pat Summitt . . . the Citizen

1. When Pat Summitt became head coach of the Tennessee Lady Vols in 1974, she drove the team van and began to shift gears on the long uphill climb for women's sports.

2. Not until 1982 would the N.C.A.A. begin sponsoring a basketball tournament for women. The gender equity law known as Title IX had been enacted in 1972, but it was force of personality more than federal mandate that forged Summitt's career and those of her contemporaries.

3. "Title IX gave us some clout, but it didn't give us our motivation," said Jody Conradt, the Hall of Fame former women's coach at the University of Texas.

4. In those early days when female athletes lacked scholarships and widespread respect—at reigning champion Texas A&M, the first women's basketball locker room was a men's dressing room with

camouflaging flowers placed in the urinals—Summitt survived at Tennessee on a coaching stipend of $250 a month and washed the team uniforms.

5. Those were the days, Conradt said only half-jokingly, that “if you had a car you made the team because we needed it to go to games.”

6. Summitt overcame athletic inequality with a stoicism and determination that came from growing up on a farm in Tennessee, chopping tobacco and baling hay as part of her sunup to sundown chores while her father admonished, “Cows don’t take a day off.” Basketball games were played at night in a hayloft with her three older brothers.

7. “They would just run over me,” Summitt said in a 2008 interview. “But that was O.K.”

8. She would not be run over for long. At 22, Summitt became head coach at Tennessee, barely older than her players. Thirty-seven seasons later, she has won eight national titles and more games (1,071) than any major-college basketball coach, man or woman, while avoiding scandal and graduating the vast majority of her players.

9. “In modern history, there are two figures that belong on the Mount Rushmore of women’s sports—Billie Jean King and Pat Summitt,” said Mary Jo Kane, a sports sociologist at the University of Minnesota. “No one else is close to third.”

10. Her stature made it all the more shocking Tuesday when Summitt announced that she had early-onset Alzheimer’s disease at age 59. Fellow coaches were stunned by the diagnosis of dementia but hardly surprised that Summitt approached it the way she confronted

everything else—head-on, open, resolute, determined to keep coaching.

11. “It might not be curable, but I’m sure she has a plan to deal with this,” said Tara VanDerveer, the Hall of Fame coach at Stanford. “All those things she has taught in sports—discipline—could be exactly what she needs. I give her a lot of credit for being so open in sharing this and being so courageous in continuing to coach. A lot of people would say, ‘That’s it,’ and do crossword puzzles. But she’s bringing visibility to something that a lot of people have a hard time talking about and dealing with.”

12. In an athletic context, this is precisely what Summitt has done for nearly four decades, bringing widespread attention to something that made many people uncomfortable—the ascendance of women’s sports.

13. She attended Tennessee-Martin where, she once told Time magazine, her team played three consecutive road games in the same unwashed uniforms because it had only one set. Early in her coaching career, the Lady Vols once slept on mats in an opponent’s gym because money for hotels was scarce.

14. “We played because we loved the game,” Summitt told Time in 2009. “We didn’t think anything about it.”

15. Her father, Richard Head, was a stern man, but he moved the family to a neighboring county so that Tricia, as he called her, could play basketball in high school. She played on the 1976 Olympic team and won a silver medal. And when Summitt lost her inaugural game coaching at Tennessee, her father gave her this enduring advice: “Don’t take donkeys to the Kentucky Derby.”

16. By this, he meant, the best teams have the best players. She became a fierce recruiter and motivator, supple enough with Xs and Os to change from a plodding, half-court style to a full-court style built on aggressive defense and rebounding. And she became an ambassador as much as coach, allowing television cameras into the locker room, willing to play almost any team on almost any court.

17. She is fearless, tough, even blistering, in her approach. This, after all, is a woman who dislocated her shoulder three years ago while forearming a raccoon off her deck to protect her Labrador retriever. At times, Summitt has had to have her rings rerounded after pounding them flat on the court. Yet she has also managed to be forceful without being considered shrill or arrogant, avoiding a double standard that often confronts women in the workplace.

18. “She was wildly successful but never was she too big for anyone,” said Doris Burke, a former point guard at Providence and now an ESPN commentator. “There’s a humility and groundedness that make her special. That Kipling line, ‘If you can walk with kings and still keep the common touch,’ that captures Pat Summitt.”

19. She is not without her critics. Summitt’s refusal in recent seasons to play archrival Connecticut—she was upset by what she considered the improper recruiting of Maya Moore—was met with disapproval even by some of her former players. But the balance of her career swings far in the other direction. Summitt brought record victory to women’s basketball along with something even more valuable—legitimacy. Attitudes changed. Coaching salaries elevated along with general acceptance. She made it O.K. to aspire and perspire.

20. “Pat Summitt is our John Wooden1 in the women’s game,” Baylor Coach Kim Mulkey said, referring to the U.C.L.A. legend. “There may

be coaches that win more than Pat, but there will never be another Pat Summitt.”

No Dream Is Impossible by Julie Adams

The Bob Edwards Show, NPR September 25, 2009

1. From the time I can remember, I have wanted to be an actress. No one in my entire family had ever had artistic yearnings, so they looked upon my girlish dreams as a rather silly and impractical phase, which I would surely outgrow and then settle down in Arkansas like my more sensible cousins. But the dreams were still there when I reached the age of twenty, and I came to a rather shaky decision that I had to try it.
2. In the years since that day, I've come to realize that whatever part of myself forced me to strike out rather haphazardly for Hollywood is the only real wisdom I possess. That part of me seemed to know that no matter how difficult achieving my goal might be, or even if I never achieved it, I would be happier striving toward my dream than if I tried to find security in a life I was unsuited for. This knowledge and quiet surety came from within me, and yet seemed to have its source far beyond comprehension of my wavering and indecisive personality. It alone kept me from quitting during that first year in which I discovered how right my family was in warning of the difficulties in store for me with no financial backing.
3. I found expensive dramatic lessons and living costs left almost nothing from my check as a secretary, with the very necessary clothes for studio interviews. But of course what really made me feel like catching the next bus for Arkansas was that in all the offices I managed to invade, not one casting man had looked at me with sudden interest and exclaimed, "That girl has something." My lovely air castles were quickly shattered, and I was forced to listen to the wiser, inner voice again. This time it had a new message: "Look at yourself honestly." Well this seemed simple enough, but it turned out to be very unpleasant indeed. One honest glance told me that only by unglamorous

hard work over quite a few years would this gangling, unsure Arkansas girl be transformed into my dream of a fine actress.

4. After I recovered from the first shock of this discovery, to my surprise I began to feel stronger and more hopeful about the future. Since then I've found this inner voice always spoke the truth or made me try to find it for myself. Of course, I wandered away from it at times or rebelled when it said "no" to something I wanted very much at that moment. But these excursions away from my wiser self led only to confusion and unhappiness. Strangely enough, now that I've climbed a couple of rungs of the long ladder up, sometimes I find it harder to listen to the inner voice than when I was alone and struggling. It's a very quiet voice and is easily drowned out by outside babble. But one word from it is worth a book of advice from the best-intentioned friends.
5. The voice seems very stern at times, as it makes me accept the responsibility for my failures and shortcomings, instead of excusing them or laying the blame elsewhere. But while it takes away petty egotism and silly pretensions, the voice whispers of things that send my thoughts and imagination soaring. It tells me no dream is impossible because faith in my inner self will guide me to its fulfillment. This belief in my inner self banishes fear and doubt and frees me to live and love and work to the fullest.