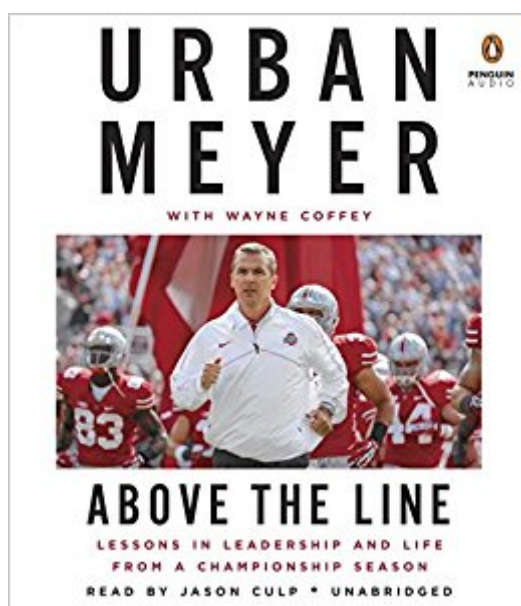


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# Above The Line: Lessons In Leadership And Life From A Championship Season



## Synopsis

Remarkable lessons in leadership and teambuilding from one of the greatest college football coaches of our time. In only thirteen years as a head football coach, first at Bowling Green and then at Utah, Florida, and Ohio State, Urban Meyer has established himself as one of the elite coaches in the annals of his sport, with three national championships and a cumulative record of 142 wins and only 26 losses. But sheer statistics are not the measure of his true accomplishment, nor do they speak to his own extraordinary learning journey. Now, in *Above the Line*, he offers to readers his unparalleled insights into leadership, team building and the keys to empowering people to achieve things they might never have thought possible. Despite winning two national championships at Florida in only six seasons, Meyer stepped back from the game at the end of the 2010 season, amid health concerns and a growing awareness that his almost maniacal pursuit of perfection was distorting his priorities, distancing him from his family and taking him away from the reasons he wanted to coach in the first place. When he returned to the sport in 2012 as the head coach at Ohio State, the school he grew up rooting for, Meyer did so with a renewed sense of the deeper purpose of his work and a profound commitment to life balance that had previously been lacking. What remained constant was his passion for leading, teaching and motivating, forging his football teams into a cohesive whole, playing for one another with selfless commitment and uncommon intensity. Ohio State's 2014 season was in many ways Urban Meyer's master class in leadership. The world knows how the story ended: with the Buckeyes capturing the inaugural College Football Playoff Championship with a 42-20 victory over Oregon, with the team's third-string quarterback at the helm, in only his third collegiate start. Few remember how it began: with a bad early season loss that sent OSU out of the Top 20, season-ending injuries at the most important position on the team, and then, infinitely worse, the tragic death of a teammate. But this team's resilience was no accident. In *Above the Line*, Urban Meyer shares with readers OSU's groundbreaking game plan—the game plan he followed every day in the Buckeyes' historic 2014 season—for creating a culture of success that engages and inspires the people around them. A student of psychology long before he became a coach, Meyer believes that trust is the bedrock of great achievements and healthy relationships, and explains how to build it, step by step—whether in a team, a family, or a Fortune 500 company. With trust in place, a deep bond unites us in common purpose, and cultivates what he calls "Above the Line" behavior—a learned, empowered response to the challenges we face every day. Writing with his customary candor and humility, Meyer delivers insights both practical and

profound and applicable far beyond the football field. Packed with real-life examples from a storied season, *Above the Line* offers wisdom and inspiration for taking control and turning setbacks into victories.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Urban Meyer is the head football coach of the Ohio State Buckeyes. In 2014, he led the Buckeyes to their first Big Ten Conference title under his tenure as well as the program's eighth national championship. Meyer served as the head coach of the Bowling Green Falcons from 2001 to 2002, the Utah Utes from 2003 to 2004, and the Florida Gators from 2005 to 2010. He is one of only two coaches to win a National Championship at two different schools. Wayne Coffey, an award-winning sportswriter for the New York Daily News, is the author of three New York Times bestsellers, including *The Closer* (with Mariano Rivera) and *Wherever I Wind Up* (with R. A. Dickey). From the Hardcover edition.

Thought this book would act as a little "salve"! If you want to talk about bleeding scarlet and grey (and - apparently and begrudgingly - predominantly black now for one game per year!), there's no one who lives for the Buckeye games more than my husband. Believe it or not, PRIOR to our grandsons' first birthdays, he had trained them - at the conclusion of our singing the Ohio State fight song - to say "Go Bucks!" So given the expectation (with the football program's #1 ranking at the beginning of the season) that they'd be able to head back to a National Championship game this year, the fact that the OH-SO-CLOSE loss to Michigan State not only lost them the Big Ten title, but

also has them headed to the Fiesta Bowl instead has made this one of those "ouch" years for him (a "double ouch" since our niece is a Michigan State alum, which prompted an immediate post-game call to said niece, reminding her of her treasonous college choice!) He really lives and breathes this stuff, with his "man-cave" reflecting those loyalties, so I knew I'd have to tread lightly this year when it came to Christmas purchases. I've definitely lost track of the number of Ohio State football-related books on his shelves - a million, give or take! - so I thought maybe, just maybe he'd want to dive into one of the other half dozen sports bios I'd had under the tree for him this year first. HA! This book - focused on last year's championship season (and all of the great memories it holds for my husband) headed to bed with us Christmas night (I'm thinking about instituting a "no reading past 11pm" rule), and each night since I've been "treated" to a summary of the latest insights, situations, etc. from yet another OSU book he's devouring like it was a steak dinner in front of a man who hadn't eaten for a month. Urban Meyer really does seem committed to living a more even-keeled life, more mindful of his health, while re-committing himself to his family and finding terrific ways to encourage/inspire/motivate the young men who call him "Coach", and my husband's really enjoying this latest offering. I had to kid him last night though... "Now Hon, is this the SAME guy you couldn't say enough negative things about when he was coaching the Gators?" ;-)

Hey, as far as I'm concerned, Coach Meyer and the team had another terrific season this year (I actually hate it when our favorite teams are ranked #1 right at the beginning of the year... can't imagine what kind of pressure that puts on players and a coach, with every opponent coming in ready to "leave it all on the field" against the top-ranked team.) Really think this book is helping to take the "sting" out of the late season turn of events this past year, and now my sister and I need only to survive New Year's Day (with her hubs being as big of a Notre Dame fan as mine roots for OSU)... I think one of us is going to have a much easier time of it than the other! (GO BUCKS... PLEASE!!!)

I love coaches books. They are living on the edge of societal changes. In this book Urban Meyer is transparent and honest. It is extremely well written and easy to read. He weaves in his entire career but not in an overbearing way. His life, coaching and leadership lessons are well worth the price of the book. Some people live thirty years one year at a time. Others live 30 years investing year 1 into year 2 and so on. Urban Meyer learned his lessons along the way and share them, pain and all. One of the best leadership books I've read, and I've read a lot.

A good read as noted by an avid OSU Buckeye Fan.

Great guy and awesome book!

My husband loves this book. Thanks!

Incredible leadership nuggets in this book. I especially like BED (no Blame, Excuses, Denial) and E+R=O (Event +Response=Outcome). I'll use these!

Great read, sons even read it!

Great book - very insightful culture building information. Perfect for anyone who coaches.

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