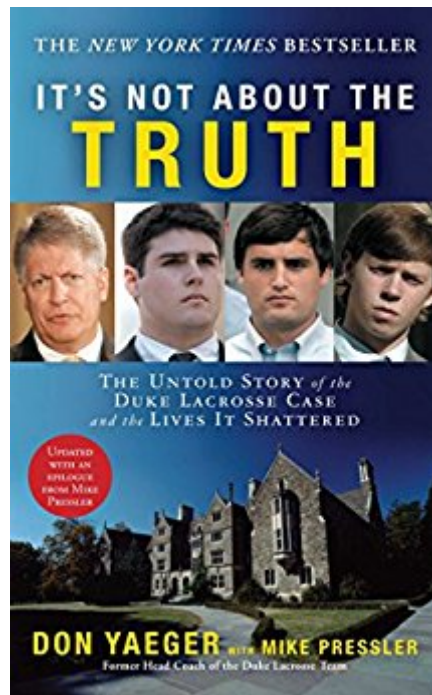


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# It's Not About The Truth: The Untold Story Of The Duke Lacrosse Case And The Lives It Shattered



## Synopsis

Mike Pressler walked into the bottomfloor meeting room of the Murray Building and, as he had done hundreds of times over a sixteen-year career at Duke University, prepared to address his men's lacrosse team. Forty-six players sat in theater-style chairs, all eyes riveted forward. It was 4:35 P.M. on Wednesday, April 5, 2006. The program's darkest hour had arrived in an unexpected and explosive announcement. Pressler, a three-time ACC Coach of the Year, informed his team that its season was canceled and he had "resigned," effective immediately. While his words reverberated off the walls, hysteria erupted. Players cried, confused over a course of events that had spun wildly out of control. What began as an off-campus team party with two hired strippers had accelerated into a rape investigation -- one that exposed prosecutorial misconduct, shoddy police work, an administration's rush to judgment, and the media's disregard for the facts -- dividing both a prestigious university and the city of Durham. Wiping away tears, Pressler demonstrated the steely resolve that helped him win more than two hundred games. For the next thirty minutes, Pressler put his personal situation aside and encouraged his players to stick together. He also made a bold promise: "One day, we will get a chance to tell the world the truth. One day." This is that day. Pressler, who has not done an interview since the saga began, has handed his private diary from those three weeks to New York Times bestselling author Don Yaeger, exposing vivid details, including the day Pressler was fired, when the coach asked Athletic Director Joe Alleva why the school "wasn't willing to wait for the truth" to come out. "It's not about the truth anymore," Alleva said to the coach in a signature moment that said it all. In addition to Pressler, Yaeger interviewed more than seventy-five key figures intimately involved in the case. The result is a tale that defies logic. "It is tough to be one of fifty people who believed a story when fifty million people believed something else," Pressler said. "This wasn't about the truth to many of the others involved. My story is all about the truth."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It's Not About the Truth" by the former head coach of the Duke lacrosse team, Mike Pressler, is an engrossing and enlightening read. I thought that I had paid attention throughout the process, and still learned a great deal and picked up some keen insights. The book chronicles the events from the phone call to escort service up to declaration of "innocent" and the start of the 2007 lacrosse season. Major and bit players in the drama are profiled and their actions recounted in a documentary/narrative style that is easy to follow and comprehend. The University bureaucrats (starting with President Brodhead) showed no profiles in courage and abandoned the team, its season and Coach Pressler in a show of politically correct CYA. The AD is revealed as a cowardly marionette whose word was not his bond. The 88 faculty members (20% of the Duke staff) who took out a full-page "social disaster" ad in the student newspaper openly flew their agenda flag. A huge rush to judgment before the facts were known. As egregiously as the university acted in forsaking the team and coach, the actions of the DA (Mike Nifong) and the Durham PD were enough to prompt two ethics charges from the North Carolina State Bar. Trial starts this week. Nifong's rush to judgment was motivated by his desire to be elected in the 2006 DA race. The book points out that he never spoke to the escort (complainant) until about eight months after the supposed incident. The book does show where the profiles in courage reside. Ironically, it is James Ammons (Chancellor at the historically black college NCCU), who was the initial public voice of reason...being the first to say "don't rush to judgment."

Books about contemporary events can be potboilers. It's Not About the Truth is absolutely not in that category! Author Don Yaeger has formidable credentials. He is a former associate editor of

Sports Illustrated, the author of seven books, co-author of the New York Times bestseller, Under the Tarnished Dome, and the critically acclaimed Pros and Cons: The Criminals Who Play in the NFL. His honesty, expertise, skills, and perception are highly significant in a crisis in which those attributes have been and are so often missing. Yaeger's style is clear, revealing in both detail and perspective, consistently lively, producing a story hard to put down. He states his opinions as well as rendering them through detailed reporting, a considerable amount either missed or not available before even in Durham. The very extensive interviews from many differing angles and his work with Coach Mike Pressler are especially valuable, often strikingly to the point. Coach Pressler kept a diary from the first days of the drama. These sources are very extensive, exciting to read, and illuminate the events from innumerable directions, often of strategic value. The Duke Lacrosse Case, although a media phenomenon, is by no means a new aspect of institutional life, here and elsewhere, whatever the endeavor. This story shines another powerful beam upon management style and mentality, and how some, far too many, regard the groups and individuals subject to their power. A foxhole attitude, refusal to acknowledge mistakes, and a callous disregard for individuals and groups, however valuable their contributions have been and could be, are widespread. Here one thinks of Lee Iacocca's Where Have All the Leaders Gone?

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