

**Film Title and Release Date:** *The Winning Season* (2010)

**Length of Film in Minutes:** 104 minutes

**Film Genre:** Comedy

**Reviewer's Name and Grade:** Benjamin W., 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** August 29, 2021

Bill Greaves is an alcoholic ex-husband and ex-basketball player who washes dishes for a restaurant. He has an awful relationship with his daughter and only knows how to make it worse. When his friend, a high school principal, offers him to coach the girl's varsity basketball team, he takes the job thinking it has to be better than the one he currently has. However, once he meets the team, he begins to have his doubts. There are only six girls in total: Abbie, Kathy, Lisa, Mindy, Wendy, and Tamra. Mindy has a broken foot so she can't play. Kathy is the only one who can really shoot but nobody passes her the ball. Tamra, the team's big girl, doesn't know how to post up. Lisa is a ball hog and Wendy cares more about her older boyfriend than basketball. Abbie wants to do well, but is missing the skills like most of the team. Greaves gives it his best effort, which is not much, to make the girls into a functioning team. By the time of their first game, he feels confident that they will win. However, he severely misjudges how skilled other girls can be and the team gets destroyed. Greaves realizes that a lot more work is needed and doubles down on his coaching. Under his watch, the girls improve and begin to win games. When their last game arrives, they realize that they have the same number of wins and losses, meaning that they have a chance of a winning season. They succeed in doing this and earn a place at sectionals, a tournament to decide the winner of the region. However, before sectionals can happen, Greaves gets charged with a DUI and gets fired. He is still determined to help his team win sectionals so he does whatever he can to coach the girls without getting arrested. Through this, the team succeeds in making it to the finals, where it will take all of the girl's skills and Greaves' coaching to win.

Now, I will answer some questions about the film:

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?* - I found this film through casual browsing. It was in the Newly Added Movies section.

*Did the plot keep you interested?* - This plot mostly kept me interested. The plot wasn't really suspenseful but it was very funny and engaging. There would always be a plot twist in the place you least expected it.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?* - I think the pace of this film was just right. The writers of this film expertly mixed in a couple of action scenes to keep the plot moving and to add some excitement.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?* - I think this book is appropriate for kids in grades 7-12. There is excessive cursing and drinking that wouldn't make this film appropriate for younger kids.

I would rate this film *4 stars*. The plot was pretty good and the acting was excellent. The film made me laugh many times and really feel for the characters. However, this film was predictable for the most part because it was a typical sports story about an underdog team becoming great.