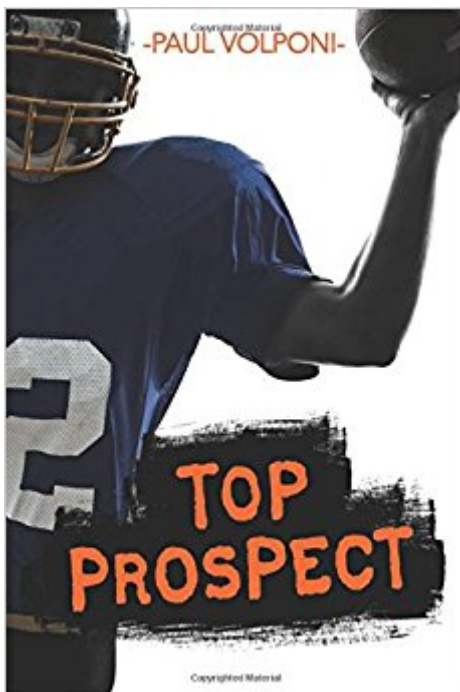


The book was found

Top Prospect



Synopsis

Travis Gardner lives to play quarterback. He's a standout QB by the middle school, and he's prepared to put everything he has into the game. Then Gainesville University's head coach makes Travis a promise: Travis will have a place on the team, and a scholarship to go with it. He just has to get through high school first. As Travis starts ninth grade, he'll have to earn his teammates' trust and dodge opponents aiming to sack the star quarterback. But his biggest challenge might be staying focused in the face of sudden fame. Because now the pressure is on, and Travis has to prove himself with every pass.

Book Information

Hardcover: 280 pages

Publisher: Carolrhoda Books (September 1, 2016)

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ISBN-10: 1467794333

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Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.2 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #444,245 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Football](#)

Customer Reviews

Gr 6-8 • Eighth grader Travis Gardner is a standout quarterback in his Pop Warner league. Besides coping with academic struggles and making fumbling attempts at romance with best friend Damon's twin sister, Lyn, Travis also deals with his parents' divorce and a strained relationship with an absent and distant dad. Shortly after his older brother, Carter, is awarded a football scholarship to Gainesville University (a barely disguised University of Florida), Travis receives his own scholarship offer from the storied Gators coach, possibly as a distraction from an NCAA investigation. Readers follow Travis through his first season of high school football, his budding celebrity status via an ESPN appearance and a popular Twitter account, a flirtation with steroids as the result of an elbow injury, and shady interactions with a deep-pocketed Gators booster offering "money handshakes" to players. The narrative is told mostly by Travis, though brief interludes from Carter, in addition to news articles from The Gainesville Sentinel, offer different perspectives. Descriptions of the teen's games are dense with football talk and would be difficult for

a nonfan to follow, though they might serve as a hook for gridiron junkies. Despite some compelling drama, the exposition is awkward at times and metaphors are often clichéd ("butterflies did cartwheels inside my stomach"). An afterword relates that the novel was inspired by the stories of several middle school athletes who have been recruited by top colleges in recent years. VERDICT Purchase where there is a high interest in football and where books for reluctant readers are needed. —Bob Hassett, Luther Jackson Middle School, Falls Church, VA

Paul Volponi is an award-winning author who lives in Queens, New York. He holds an MA in American Literature and regularly makes school visits and holds Skype conferences.

My students absolutely love this book! I have actually had to take it away from kids to make sure they did not read ahead since we read it for Book Club. Although the boys were more interested than the girls there is enough focus on the family story which captivated the interest of the girls in Book Club. Great read for middle school students.

Very pleased with our purchase.

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