

WHEN CROWDS ARE GONE

A tribute to Evan Fraser

*A rugby team is made of so many different folk
There are tough men; there are rough men and the ones who love a joke,
There are schemers; there are dreamers; there are those who need a start
And then there is a special breed; the ones we say have heart.*

*I call this man a warrior, he's easy to perceive
He wears his badge of courage and he wears it on his sleeve,
He's the one who gets the ground when the ground is hard to get
He's the one who stops the rot when the rot's about to set.*

*His greatest contribution is his yearning to succeed
Who cares the lungs are bursting or the body starts to bleed,
To take one single backward step would never cross his mind
In the vanguard of the battle; he's a very special kind.*

*Let's not assume all warriors are on the rugby field
For life can set you problems where the toughest men might yield,
When crowds are gone and all alone you face your sternest test
With fear and apprehension that is beating in your chest.*

*If you still can see the humour when you're fighting back the tears
When you want to kick the ball 'round like you did for twenty years,
If you still can love this greatest game that took your legs away
If you still can keep your chin up through the longest, toughest day.*

*If you know you're in a wheelchair for the best years of your life
And you battle on oblivious to woes and care and strife,
If you get back into battle when the doctor says you're done
When he wants to throw the switch and say, "You did your best old son."*

*When you overcome the greatest odds and still you come up trumps
True perspective comes to blackened eyes and simple rugby bumps,
There's a world most men don't get to see where courage stands supreme
Where just to have one painless day is more than man can dream.*

*So take your favourite Rugby team and all its toughest men
Now add their tons of courage and then multiply by ten,
You just might get to understand why this man stands so tall
Why our good mate Evan Fraser is a hero to us all.*

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