



BETTER ATHLETES
BETTER PEOPLE

Discussion Guide: *The Rookie*

The Rookie, based on a true story, follows the life of chemistry teacher and high school coach Jim Morris and his quest to make it to Major League Baseball after struggling to do so earlier in his career. This film includes themes of overuse injuries in sports, burnout, effective teamwork, second chances, successful parent-athlete relationships, and seeing the bigger picture in sports.

Take advantage of the teachable moments presented in *The Rookie* by using these questions to help guide a discussion with your team or children.

- 1.) Jimmy was a very skilled pitcher as a youth, but faces injury and burnout problems. How could this have been avoided?
- 2.) Clearly, Jimmy's passion as a young boy was baseball, but his father cared more about his own military career. How did this impact their relationship?
- 3.) As a High School Coach, Jim coaches several skilled but unmotivated players. What does he do to motivate his players?
- 4.) Why does the community care about baseball again?
- 5.) Jim allows his team to have fun and has fun with them. Is this part of what allows the team to win district's?
- 6.) Why is Jim more successful as a 35 year old pitcher than he was at a younger age? What changed?
- 7.) What do you think of Jimmy's relationship with his son? Is he a caring father?
- 8.) Does Jimmy give his own father a second chance at being a caring dad? Should he or should he not? Explain.
- 9.) Jimmy's father finally admits he is proud of his son. How does this impact Jimmy and do you think it will impact his success moving forward?

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