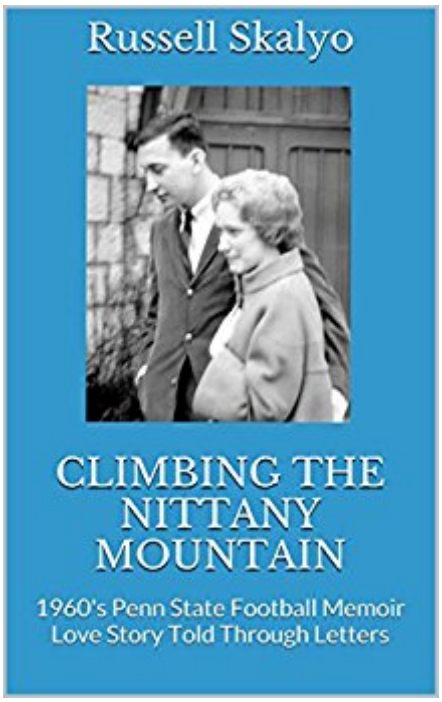
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Climbing The Nittany Mountain: 1960's Penn State Football Memoir & Love Story Told Through Letters



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Synopsis

Climbing the Nittany Mountain is part love story and part college football memoir. This book chronicles in the epistolary style, through the exchange of hundreds of handwritten letters over the course of two years, the budding romance between high school sweethearts, Russ Skalyo and Roanne Dansevich. They are separated when Russ attends college 150 miles away at Penn State University. The letters are a fascinating, intimate glimpse into the thoughts, feelings, insecurities, and dreams of the two young lovers. They were written from 1960-1962, and reflect the popular teenage culture and colloquialisms of western Pennsylvania during that time. Readers are invited to eavesdrop into their letters and personal feelings.This story is also a personal account of RussÃ¢â ¬â„¢s playing football at Penn State. It begins with his recruitment by Coach Joe Paterno, and includes many anecdotes and details of his football team experience.Russ had potential to contribute to the Nittany Lions as a football player. He was a starter as a freshman and as a sophomore in the annual Penn State, Blue vs White, Spring Practice Games. But Russ was immature and foolish. In 1962, his off-field missteps resulted in the suspension of his athletic scholarship.Climbing the Nittany Mountain is a glimpse into the beginnings of the lifelong relationship between Russ and Roanne. This story outlines Russ's struggles to juggle the pressures of football with his engineering studies, and his growing long-distance relationship with Roanne. There was very little money and not a lot of support. Roanne's love is exactly what was needed for Russ to get back on track. She provided the guidance necessary for him to achieve the maturity he needed to meet their common goal.

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