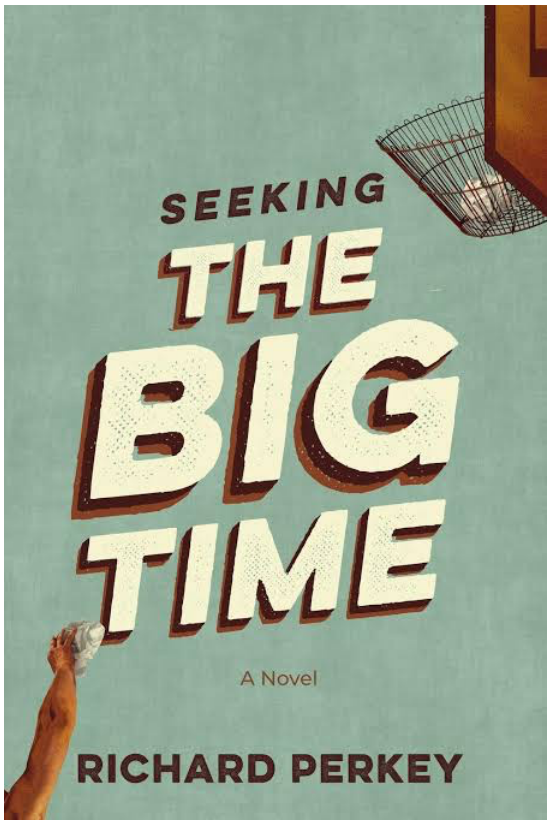
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SEEKING THE BIG TIME

A Novel by Richard Perkey

"One of the funniest sport novels I've ever read. Perkey's self-deprecating wit is as good as his hoops game, probably better." — Robert Dzik, Author of *The Cigarette Ballet*



Growing up in 1960s Virginia, aspiring basketball star Dickie Perkey sets his sights on the big time with one goal in mind: a crowd roaring his name. His secret weapon? His signature "granny shot," flung skyward from between his legs, which narrowly avoids the gonads of whichever neighborhood boys are unfortunate enough to guard him . . . most of the time.

Determined to play Division I college ball, Dickie rebrands himself as "Rich" and trades neighborhood rivalries for Davidson College, balancing pickup games with picking up trash on the campus grounds crew. Rich barely makes the Davidson Wildcats as a walk-on, but when his practice triumphs against folding chairs meet the harsh reality of elite college sports, Rich must face the ultimate trial. As the clock ticks down on the basketball fantasy he's dreamed of his whole life, the buzzer sounds. Will Rich make the cut? Or will he realize the big time means something entirely different?

"A heartwarming and funny throwback to a bygone era, *Seeking the Big Time* balances the brashness of youth with the harsh realities of chasing the biggest dreams. It is fast paced, sometimes unbelievable, and oftentimes irreverent! Ultimately, it captures a true underdog story of a boy who had to make the big time, no matter what." — Chris Clunie, VP & Director of Athletics, Davidson College

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Paperback: $20.95 ISBN: 979-8897473403 • eBook: $9.99• ISBN: 979-8897473427 • 342 pages

MEET RICHARD PERKEY

CONNECT WITH RICHARD ONLINE

Official Website: RichardPerkey.com | Facebook: /richardperkeyauthor
Instagram: @richardperkeyauthor | LinkedIn: /Richard-Perkey



Richard Perkey is the author of *Seeking the Big Time* (Koehler Books, November 11, 2026), a laugh-out-loud, big-hearted sports novel drawn loosely from his own unlikely path from Davidson College grounds crew to Division I basketball. The story follows Dickie Perkey, a young player determined to reach the big time, who arrives at Davidson and discovers that the dream he has spent years chasing looks very different up close. Beneath the comedy is a story of three generations of fathers and sons, and a question that has followed Rich his whole life: *"What does "making it" really mean?"*

Rich knows the answer is complicated because he lived it. He grew up in Lynchburg, VA, shooting hoops on a neighbor's driveaway and dreaming of playing for John Wooden at UCLA. He landed at Davidson instead, where he joined the men's varsity basketball team as a non-scholarship walk-on, quit, came back, played 30 minutes against a No. 1-ranked Duke squad and finished as team captain under an assistant coach named Bob McKillop who would later go on to coach Steph Curry. Decades later, his son walked on at Davidson, too.

Rich earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Davidson in 1980. Shaped by his years on the scout team and as the program's go-to recruiting host, he translated his ability to read people into a career as one of the nation's top executive search consultants, with more than 400 search engagements over more than 30 years. He has also served as a color analyst for Wildcat Basketball radio broadcasts.

Rich lives in Atlanta with his wife. *Seeking the Big Time* is his debut novel.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- The walk-on is disappearing, and college basketball will be worse for it
- Before NIL, there was a seven-dollar envelope
- Playing for Bob McKillop before he was Bob McKillop
- "I played 30. Minutes against #1 Duke, then couldn't get out of bed
- Three generations of fathers and sons on the court
- Reading the game, reading the room: what a scout-team walk-on taught him about executive search

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IN PRAISE OF SEEKING THE BIG TIME

"While Rich may not have been an all-league point guard, he is an All-American humorist and storyteller. He captures perfectly the unforgettable cast of characters who starred in the highlights, the low lights, and the unexpected twists and turns of an interesting and, at times, simply zany, period of Davidson basketball and college athletics. Whether a hoops junkie or not, this is a wildly entertaining read." — Dr. John Gerdy, Founder & CEO, *Music for Everyone*, member, Davidson College Sports Hall of Fame, and 2nd All-Time Career Scoring Leader, Davidson College

"From serving as co-captain of the Davidson Wildcats with Rich, reading his story now is no surprise. Rather, it's a revelation of his talent for capturing the moment-the details, the humor, and the words people use that make those times memorable. Rich writes like he's been doing this for years. I can't wait for his next book!" — Ernie Reigel, Managing Partner (Emeritus), Moore & Van Allen, PLLC and Davidson Wildcat Point Guard, 1976 to 1980

"When I was covering Davidson basketball back in the day, I thought of Rich Perkey as a nice guy and a middling player when I thought of him at all. Now, more than a half century later, he has dramatically changed that perception with a humorous and thoughtful first novel. On the surface, it is about basketball, but dig deeper, and it is about the maturation of a young man and a unique take on fathers and sons." — Stan Olson, Charlotte News/Observer Sportswriter (ret.)

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