

Two-time Super Bowl Champion, Ben Roethlisberger developed his resiliency on the field as a quarterback at Miami University under then-head coach Terry Hooppner. Coach Hep, who died of brain cancer in 2007, remained a main source of inspiration for Roethlisberger through his favorite poem, "Don't Quit."

Roethlisberger on Coach Hep: "He just was an amazing person. More than a coach, I really was like a son to him."

"Coach Hep would read it to us once or twice a year. He would get really into it and emotional about it. It was really something special, especially when he passed, so I put the poem up in my locker so that every day I could see it and know that no matter what, don't give up, don't quit."

### **"Don't Quit"**

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest! if you must; but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As everyone of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about  
When he might have won had he stuck it out;  
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow;  
You might succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than  
It seems to a faint and faltering man,  
Often the struggler has given up  
When he might have captured the victor's cup.  
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out;  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt;  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems afar;  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit;  
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

~ Anonymous