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**For fans of:**

- Nostalgic, small-town stories
- Underdog journeys and the will to win
- Hometown spirit
- 1960s life in Michigan's Upper Peninsula
- High school sports sagas



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# Bring One Home

**A Memoir of Boyhood, Basketball, and Hometown Spirit**

*By Thomas L. Pelissero*

In the 1960s, the biggest dream for many young boys across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was to play for their high school basketball team. In the small town of Bessemer, this meant one thing: wearing the blue and gold of the Speedboys. The two obstacles standing in every young Bessemer boy's way were bitter winters of endless snow—and a padlock on the doors to the only good gym in town.

One day, when a young, inexperienced coach is hired to lead the team, the Speedboys' usual aspirations of winning championships suddenly become far humbler: they merely want to win a single game. Mired in an epic losing streak, the team's declining fortunes come to mirror those of the town itself. Mines are shuttered. Jobs are lost. What transpires is nothing less than a test of the town's soul and the character of its people.

*Bring One Home* is an irresistible trip back to the days when boys played basketball on snow-covered driveways, drank chocolate malts in the Tip Top Café, and got their news in the local barbershop. Told from the viewpoint of a young, anxious boy striving to fulfill the expectations set forth by the adults in his life, this is an underdog story as heartwarming as it is heartbreaking. Filled with historical insights and laugh-out-loud moments, *Bring One Home* is a tribute to the author's beloved hometown and their undeniable determination to win.

*"An inspired folktale of American life and days gone by. Pelissero weaves a warm and graceful tale that connects friends and family with a small-town and its basketball team that are both determined to win."*

*- J. A. Fiorelli, author of The Renewal*



## THOMAS L. PELISSERO

is a gifted storyteller who was born and raised in Bessemer, Michigan. He graduated from A.D. Johnston High School in 1973, where he was a multi-sport athlete for the Bessemer Speedboys. In 1978 he paid tribute to his hometown by penning the lyrics to the song "My Bessemer." He earned a B.A. from University of St. Thomas and an MBA from Concordia University, both in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 2019, he was named a Distinguished Alumni

of his high school alma mater. Tom is known for his sense of humor and regaling friends and family with colorful stories. When he retired, he and his wife, Joy, moved back to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where they enjoy skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting, family gatherings and preserving local history.