

Curveball

a story by Les Perrin



Film Summary

Curveball is a heartfelt coming-of-age sports drama about family, ambition, and second chances. Nathan Williams, a gifted 17-year-old shortstop, spends his days bouncing between sandlot baseball games and helping his older sister Cat raise their three younger brothers after their parents abandoned them. Baseball is Nathan's escape, but with bills to pay and a fractured home life, his dreams of playing at the next level feel impossible.

When Nathan catches the eye of Coach Jim Peterson, a disgraced former MLB coach seeking redemption, he's offered a shot at real training and the chance to play for SoCal Pacific, one of the top college programs in the country. With the mentorship of Curtis Hamilton, the team's star player, Nathan is pushed to his limits on and off the field. But every opportunity comes with a cost: his family needs him at home just as much as he needs baseball to find his way forward.

At its core, Curveball is about the tension between loyalty and ambition. It's a story of a young man learning that family and dreams don't have to be at odds, and that resilience, on the field and at home, can turn life's toughest pitches into something worth swinging for.

Main Characters

Nathan Williams

Age: 18

Nathan is a talented shortstop with natural instincts for baseball, but he's weighed down by family responsibilities and financial hardship. Living under the guardianship of his older sister, he often hides his dreams behind a wall of sarcasm and avoidance. His skill on the field sets him apart from his peers, but his lack of confidence and family obligations keep him from seizing opportunities. Nathan's journey is about learning to balance family loyalty with personal ambition, as well as finding his voice both on and off the diamond.



Main Characters

Cat Williams

Age: 26

Cat, Nathan's older sister, is the glue holding the Williams household together after their mother's departure. Acting as both sister and guardian to her three younger brothers, she is perpetually overwhelmed but resilient, balancing household responsibilities with emotional caretaking. Her relationship with Nathan is especially tense; she pushes him to step up while simultaneously protecting his ability to be a teenager. Beneath her toughness, she wants Nathan to succeed in baseball, even if she fears losing him to a future outside the family.

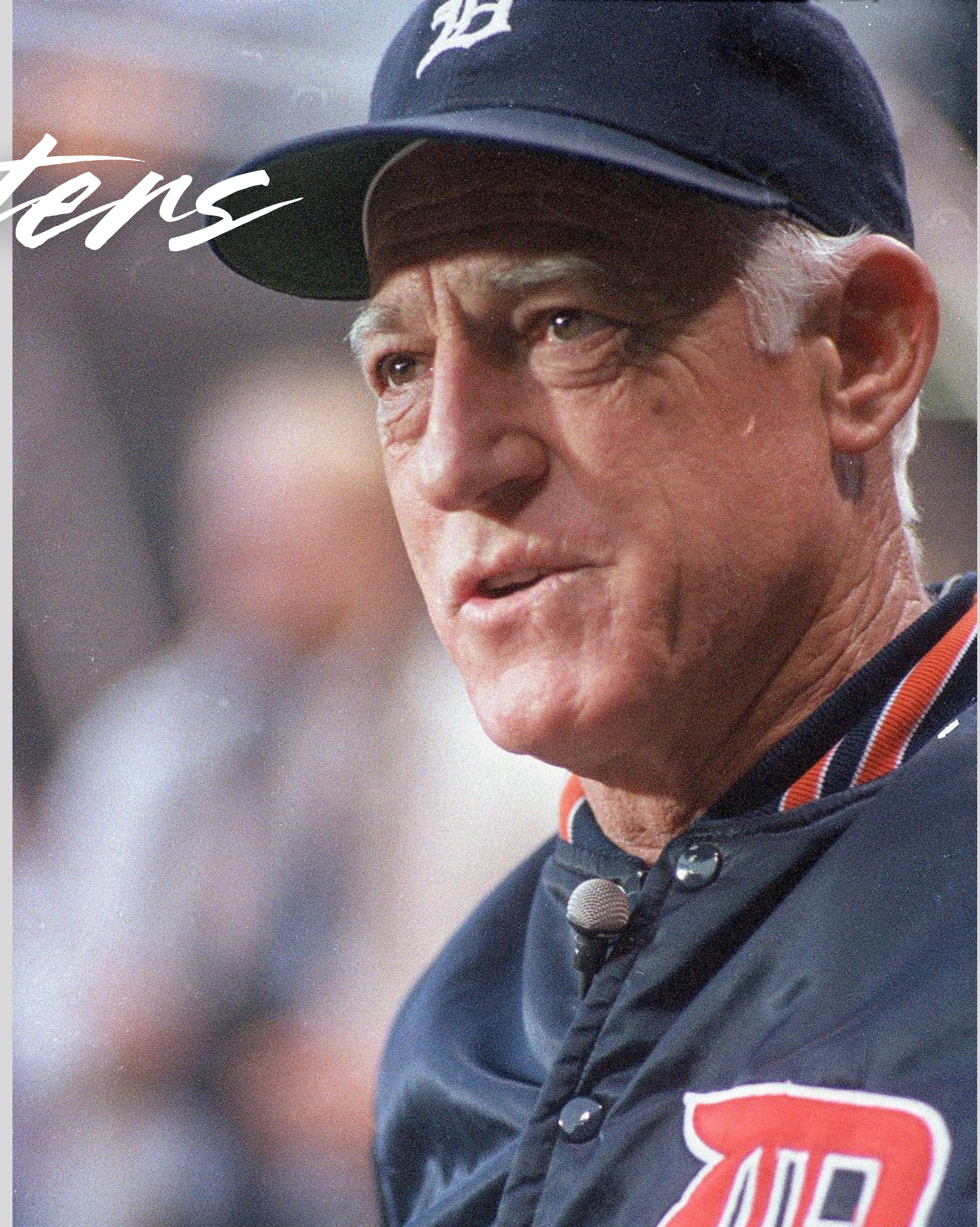


Main Characters

Coach Jim Peterson

Age: 50s

Once a promising MLB coach whose career was derailed by scandal, Coach Peterson now carries the weight of regret and loss. He sees in Nathan the raw potential and passion he once nurtured in others, and mentoring the boy becomes both a redemption arc and a surrogate fatherhood role. Gruff but compassionate, Peterson blends hard-nosed coaching with deeply personal lessons about family, sacrifice, and legacy. His mentorship forces Nathan to confront the crossroads between responsibility at home and chasing his dreams.



Main Characters

Curtis Hamilton

Age: 25

Curtis is SoCal Pacific's star shortstop, a gifted athlete whose career has been delayed by injury. At first, he treats Nathan like an annoyance, unimpressed by a teenager being offered serious training time. Over time, however, he becomes a reluctant mentor and foil—pushing Nathan with tough love and teaching him the discipline required at the next level. Curtis represents both what Nathan could become and what he might lose if he fails to commit to the game fully.



Supporting Characters

Danny

Age: 17

Nathan's best friend and teammate, Danny provides comic relief and loyalty, often cracking jokes and hyping Nathan up. Though scrappy and mischievous, Danny is also one of the few people who sees Nathan's natural gift clearly. His lighthearted nature sometimes clashes with Nathan's moodiness, but his friendship anchors Nathan in the neighborhood and reminds him of the joy the game of baseball can bring.

Riley

Age: 17

Riley is Nathan's rival on the sandlot team, smug and competitive. Always ready to take Nathan's spot if he slips, Riley pushes him through antagonism more than friendship. His teasing about Nathan's absences and family life hits sore spots, making him a source of insecurity. Still, his talent on the field forces Nathan to sharpen his own skills, giving their rivalry a constructive edge.

Matt

Age: 17

Matt is another teammate in Nathan's circle, less defined by rivalry and more of a typical teenage goofball. He tags along with Danny and Riley, participating in pranks and trash talk. Matt adds texture to the friend group dynamic, serving as a reflection of the carefree life Nathan struggles to live.

Supporting Characters

Marty Williams

Age: 6

The youngest sibling, Marty adores Nathan and constantly seeks his attention. His innocence and comic moments bring warmth to the household, and his dependence on Nathan deepens the pressure Nathan feels to remain present at home.

Bobby Williams

Age: 11

Bobby is spirited and mischievous, often caught in sibling antics with Marty and Wesley. He's loud, curious, and sometimes a troublemaker, adding chaos to Cat's already heavy workload. His relationship with Nathan is playful but competitive, as he begins to look up to his older brother's example.

Wesley Williams

Age: 12

Wesley is quieter than Bobby but still very active, often tagging along in the trio's adventures. He mirrors Nathan in some ways—awkward, impressionable, and in need of guidance. Wesley's presence emphasizes Nathan's role as a role model in the family, even when Nathan resists it.

Supporting Characters

Scotty Edwards

Age: 22

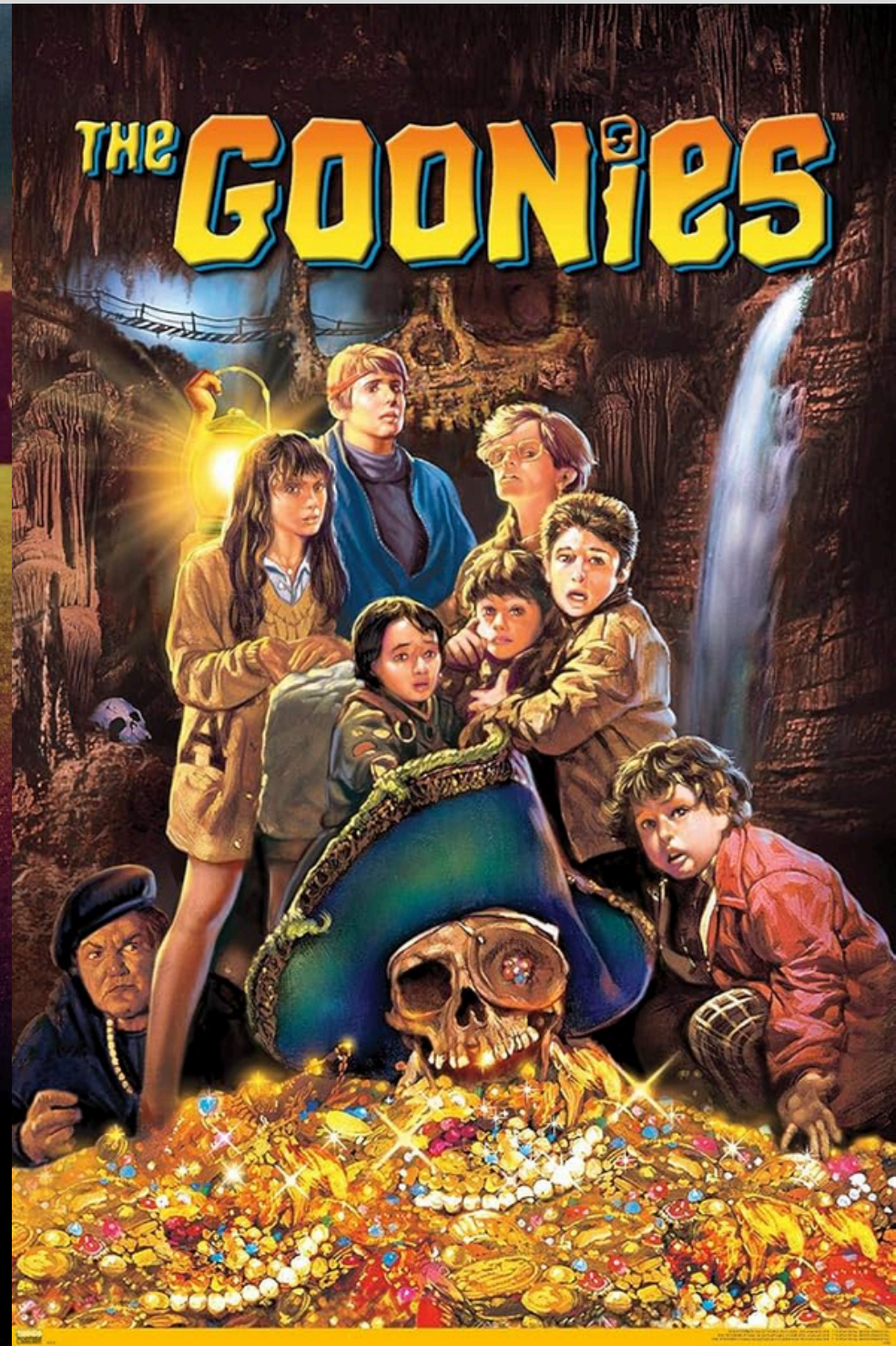
A cocky, rough-around-the-edges player at SoCal Pacific, Scotty serves as the stereotypical loudmouth teammate. He taunts Nathan and acts as a minor antagonist in the team setting, embodying the challenges of fitting in with older, more experienced athletes. His presence forces Nathan to prove himself on the field through resilience rather than words.

The Landlord

Age: 22

A small but memorable role, the Williams' landlord is stern but understanding, representing the family's ongoing financial struggles. She underscores the instability of their home life and provides a grounded adult perspective outside of Cat and Coach Peterson.

Comparables







Afterword

This is a story that is particularly close to me - as much of it is inspired by my own journey. While I took several artistic liberties to tell Nathan's unique story in *Curveball*, this story is the classic and endearing coming-of-age story we all lean on to get us through hard times.

Making difficult choices usually requires the most painful sacrifices - but we do not have to do it alone. In telling this story, I hope to show audiences, young and old, the power of kindness and perseverance in the most difficult of circumstances. Hope is in all of us.