

Weekly Wisdom

Grow the Green for You and Your Team



“Stumpy strikes a deep chord within everyone who has ever felt like an underdog, trying so hard just to be good enough,” -- Doug Smith

Why We Love an Underdog

We were already thinking about underdogs because of March Madness, but a Peer Champion shared the delightful story of Stumpy, a cherry tree at the Tidal Basin facing its last season before getting the ax.

Stumpy, a humble (hollow) cherry tree has become a local celebrity, and people are coming from far and wide to honor it and say good-bye. It has generated costumes, memes, and even a Lego replica tribute.

Why do we love the underdog?

Psychologists have studied this question. (Of course!)

We root for the unlikely heroes because “we can empathize with them and identify with their struggles.” When we see someone else rise above a challenge, it gives us hope.

When we see an underdog win, it inspires us, boosts our optimism and faith in humanity.

We feel a sense of emotional connection with underdogs, and that is oh so good for our hearts and minds.