

Debut Novelist Mark A. Williams Brings 1970s Small-Town Ohio Baseball to Life in *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother*

From backyard ballfields to a nail-biting championship run, the novel captures the community spirit of small-town Ohio.

SOME HEROES DON'T WEAR CAPES.
THEY TEACH, THEY LOVE, THEY STAY.

He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother

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Mark A. Williams



MARK A. WILLIAMS

Westlake, Ohio Sep 18, 2026 (IssueWire.com) - Author [Mark A. Williams](#) has released his debut novel, [He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother](#), a coming-of-age story steeped in the sights, sounds, and community spirit of small-town Ohio in the 1970s. The novel is now available in ebook, with additional formats to follow, wherever books are sold.

Much of the story unfolds in and around Saltmeyer's Field, an unassuming stretch of grass between two fence lines where the neighborhood kids of Woodland, Ohio gathered every spring, summer, and fall to play football, basketball, and above all, baseball. It was there that narrator Michael, alongside his brothers and neighborhood friends, developed a lifelong love for the game, a love first instilled in him by his older brother Dave.

That love of baseball carries Michael all the way to a high-stakes high school championship showdown against rival Athens, a game the whole town of Woodland rallies behind. Williams captures both the humor of team bus antics and the hush that falls over a town when its team takes the field for a game that matters. The result is a story that celebrates the particular kind of community found in small towns, where a Little League field can become sacred ground and a hometown baseball team can bring an entire community together.

"That field wasn't much to look at, just uneven grass carved out between two fence lines," Williams said. "But to us, it was everything. I wanted to bottle up that feeling of small-town Ohio, where a ballgame could bring the whole community together, and share it with readers."

He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother is available now on Amazon:
[View on Amazon](#)

About the Author

Mark A. Williams is the author of He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother. Drawing on his own upbringing in small-town Ohio, Williams writes stories rooted in faith, family, and the everyday moments that shape a life.

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