



JIM HARSHAW JR.

Revealing Failure as the Path to Success

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #318

Ryan Leak

Ryan Leak is an author, speaker, executive coach, and filmmaker. He is widely known as the groom who pulled off *The Surprise Wedding* where he proposed to his girlfriend and married her on the same day.

The number one question he still gets is, “What if she said no?” It was a risk he was willing to take.

The video going viral led him to think about what others would do if they weren't afraid of hearing “no” or of being met with failure.

Ryan realized that many people never pursue their hopes and dreams because they pre-calculate their own failure. They quit before they ever even try.

So, he asked himself: What would he want to do if he knew he could not fail? The answer was easy— he'd be in the NBA— and since the only way to know if that dream could be a reality was to try, that is exactly what he did.

In this episode, Ryan joins us to amplify why our show is called Success Through Failure. Listen in as we talk about procrastination, “perfection pressure,” how chasing failure will take you further than chasing success, and of course, his stories of success BECAUSE of failure. Tune in now!

Top Quotes From This Episode

“I don't think our real fear is the fear of failure. I think our real fear is the fear of rejection.”

“You should be willing to fail and learn from that and live with the results.”

“Don't be foolish but be willing to take some risks at the level that you can take it.”

"Be intentional about your future because it's your story, so you might as well give your best to it."

"You can't see step 10 when you're at step zero."

Show Notes

This episode touches on the following key topics and ideas:

- **The NBA dream (4:15):** Ryan talks about his dream and the struggles he faced in trying to get a tryout at the NBA.
- **Chasing failure (11:40):** How chasing failure took Ryan further than chasing success ever did.
- **The third jump (14:51):** Ryan believes that the more you do something, the easier it gets. *"Mistakes happen. You learn from those mistakes and you just keep going."*
- **Take it from Kobe (16:50):** On Kobe Bryant's take on failure; the Mamba Mentality.
- **Dealing with intimidation (19:53):** To deal with big, intimidating goals, celebrate your daily wins— the small victories that, when combined, create big victories.
- **Overcome inertia (23:05):** Ryan on struggling with procrastination.
- **Ready, aim, fire... and fail! (26:05):** Letting go of the "perfection pressure" and focusing on helping and giving value to other people.
- **"Move. You are not a tree" (27:13):** *"Be intentional about your future because it's your story."*

What's an action item the listener can take in the next 24-48 hours? (28:42)

- Figure out just your next step— not your 20th nor 30th nor 100th step— just your very next step.

List of Resources Mentioned in the Episode

Ryan Leak's ["Chasing Failure"](#)

[Chasing Failure](#) and [The Surprise Wedding](#) (documentaries)

[Why I teach my children to fail | Jim Harshaw | TEDxCharlottesville](#)

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Other Episodes Referenced

[#176 Finding Your Place in the World: From Rock Bottom to World Champion with J'den Cox](#)

[#314 Accelerating Your Success: A Framework for Decoding Greatness with Dr. Ron Friedman](#)

[#161 The HARD Truth About Your Commitment Level: An Elite Boxing Coaches View On Success](#)

Guest Website and Social

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