



To All of my Friends and Colleagues,

On Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup>, I will walk out the doors of Apex High School for the last time as a Teacher, a Coach and the Athletic Director for the Cougars of Apex High. To even start to thank the many people whom I have come to know and love, is impossible. So, know when I say that my life over the last 15 years has been both successful and rewarding. It is because of the people I have been fortunate enough to work with. Please also know that I did not do it by myself. Many of you presently, and many people from my past have shaped and molded me to the person I am, and also given me the successes I have experienced. I have had incredible administrators in the counties where I have worked. For the Principals at Apex High, Dr. Dixon, Matt Wight, Dr Kearney and Mr. Williams, I thank you. For the many Asst. Principals whom I have worked for, I hope I have done a good job. I hope I made a difference. My attitude, my work ethic, my principals and my Christianity comes from the Lord and the discipline I developed having a great man as a Father, Willie Phillips.

Dad was a man who grew up in the depression and he told me once, "We were poor, but we didn't know it". You see he and his family had the necessities of life and they were a family who loved each other. All that was needed. People say I am a person who wants thing done right or I have no grey in my world of black and white. They are right, but at least they know where I stand. Are there things I would do different? Yes. Not that many though because my Dad taught me to think things out and then apply your best. Most nights, I laid my head down and slept good about my decisions. That is all you can do. I have said many times over the past few months, "God will reward you for your Efforts, not your Results" It's the Journey not the Destination.

With the many State Titles, Conference Championships and Conference Cups that We have secured over the last 15 years, I have been fortunate to be a part of it. I have been blessed. I am starting a new part of my life, in a town where I know no one, waking to a different kind of morning, with different decisions to make. I am excited, yet I am somewhat intimidated. I will trust in the Lord to protect me and give me guidance for you see, faith and doubt can not live in the same body. I will choose faith. Forgive me for singling out some people, but I need to thank my ticket ladies and my "Work Wives". You have no idea what you have meant to me. From the morning after a "Crazy Parent Night" to the highs and lows in my personal life, you have always been there. I love you all so much and will miss you greatly. There were several times where someone was foolish enough to not be kind to you while selling tickets. Not a good move.

Coaches, thank you for all you do that people do see and especially for what they don't see. You are special. For the many AD's I have worked with, God bless you. Anyone outside of education has no idea what your job involves. Thank you also to all the "Booking Agents", second toughest job. To Bobby Guthrie, Deran Coe and Ed Tindal, thank you for allowing me the opportunity. To my children, Bryan, Taylor and Brooke, thank you for turning out to be Great people, I love you. To Dad, thank you for showing how to play ball, showing me what to be, and how to be it. Thank you Mom. You were always there in the many roles you served as a Mother, Wife and Grandmother. So, I hand over the keys, to the gates, to the doors, to the mowers and to a great part of my life. I will continue to pray and love each and every one of you. May the Lord bless you Greatly. The Beach is Calling!

Del

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