



**CHRIS RYBURN**

*Athletic Director*

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A picture is worth a thousand words and this one says it all.

But 1,000 words is not quite enough to describe what it means to me so I'll need to add a few here.

The 18 other people in the foreground of this photo (and several more off-camera) will always hold a special place in my heart. Over the last 72 hours we have had some special moments together, and I've had the chance to tell them, face to face and filtered through tears, what they mean to me.

All I can say to you now is thank you. Thank you for being so dang tough and resilient and giving our school the tremendous pride we all feel right now.

I also want to thank the many former players who laid a foundation of hard work and selflessness for the players who got to wear a State Championship medal around their necks on Saturday. This could not have happened without you.

To Carlos Rodriguez, I am so thankful for your friendship and presence in my life over the last 8 or so years. Your friendship has been such a gift from God and sharing this with you was one of the highlights of yesterday.

Malik Brooks, I don't know what we would've done without you this year. I had no idea what we were getting when you came to MCS! We could not have done this without you.

And to Trent Langford, all I can say is "wow". Trent has been the engine of our basketball program for 8 years. I am in awe of your toughness, capacity to work, and pure heart. Every time I dreamed about winning a State Championship, I always hoped I would get to do it alongside the man who has become one of my best friends in life.

The impact you have had on MCS is immeasurable.

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*for God. like Jesus. for Life.*



If you read this and try to offer Trent a job, I will give Jon Day a crowbar and send him on a visit to your house.

Don't worry, he's really a big teddy bear and will probably use the crowbar as a lever to help you lift something you couldn't lift on your own. But still, don't try to hire Trent or I'll be really mad at you and so will Jon.

Jon, if you try to hire Trent...not really much I can do about it.

To the parents of our players: we will talk more at the banquet, but I cannot imagine a more supportive group.

Travis Thompson, you're the best AT in the business, and I'm so thankful for your servant heart.

Amanda Friday, you are an absolute force. Thank you for your nonstop love of MCS and for hitting the turbo button on our fanbase.

To our admin, staff, and students, thank you for making this a great place to go to work every day.

Last thank you I promise. To my wife Amy and 3 kids, you are the absolute best. Amy, I'm amazed by you and love that you make our family a part of my work.

Back to this photo.

My favorite part is actually the background. It will always remind me of my favorite moments from the past weekend:

Looking behind our bench and into the crowd of people I love. The support was simply overwhelming. The Midland Christian community is incredible.

I love pulling this picture up on my phone, pinching together my index finger and thumb, then spreading them apart to zoom in and see friends, family, students, staff, and former players.

You can see generations of people who bleed MCS.

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A support system like this is not grown overnight. It cannot be manufactured or fabricated.

Much like the root system of a towering oak, the roots of Midland Christian School have grown deep and wide. They have been watered and nurtured day by day.

A lot of people are responsible for a root system so strong.

I think especially about Eddie Lee, Jared Lee, and Greg McClendon. Over 70 years combined of tireless service. It is important to me to thank these men publicly for the lifetime of nurturing that root system and for giving me a chance at Midland Christian.

Plenty of droughts and storms have come along the way, but Midland Christian still stands tall and serves as a refuge for many people who are weathering storms of their own.

It is not a perfect school (as I'm sure at least one person will take the time to point out in the Twitter comments :)

But so much good happens here every day.

God's favor has been on this school. I pray that He continues to shower His favor on us and that we honor Him with the good things He gives us.

Thank you to everyone who helped us win this Championship that means so much more to us than just a trophy.

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A MUSTANG!!

Pony Up,  
Coach Ryburn

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