

Suffering and Success

1 ? This is the sort of situation a competitor dreams about.

- We're playing for a championship.
- All the events of this season and our combined character have lead us to this day.

2 ? Suffering and success ? they go together.

- Throughout this season we have experienced plenty of suffering.
 - Injuries, infections, illnesses
 - Disappointing losses
 - Players lost to other issues
- We have also experienced great success.
 - Big wins on the road
 - Players winning awards
 - Come from behind wins
 - Great achievements by the coaching staff
 - A conference championship
- Suffering and success have been closely linked. That is normal and even proper.

3 ? I see a similar situation in Romans 8:18 (read the text aloud).

- By comparison, the suffering is far surpassed by the success!
- The enduring success totally eclipses momentary suffering.

4 ? Examples from this team?s life:

- The pain of pre-season conditioning is far outweighed by the thrill of powerful second-half comebacks.
- The worry and anxiety related to a teammate?s illness or injury is greatly surpassed by the joy of seeing him restored to our team.
- The discomfort from injuries, concussions, infections, and illness pales in comparison when laid along side the victory we'll achieve this evening.

5 ? I encourage you to view this day?s pain and suffering as investments in the victory that awaits us. Make those investments again today and we'll celebrate our success together.

Bible Reference:

Romans 8



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