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.

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