

## **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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