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## **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 secondhalf 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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