

MAUPIN MESSAGE

Leadership, Teamwork, Integrity, Character

What a two-week stretch for the ministry FCA has been granted by God to have here in Central Arkansas. As I wrote about last month, Central Arkansas FCA hosted the first of several Fields of Faith student-led events throughout Arkansas, the U.S. and around the world this month. Over 300 students attended as three student athletes (football players from three different schools) shared a significant verse, why that verse is important to them, and how they apply that verse to their lives. As a result of their presentations, the compelling life-story of our main speaker, US Olympic Gold Medal winner and WNBA All Star Ruthie Bolton, and the clarity of the Gospel invitation by our MC, Pastor Michael Loudermilk, 16 students came forward to make a 1st-time decision to make Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior! Another 38 stepped forward to commit to grow in their relationship with Christ. To God be the glory! He hears our prayers and responds (Psalm 116).

Also, in last month's Maupin Message I wrote about the titanic tussle between two 5A division rivals, the Robinson High School Senators (where Brian played in high school and where he's coached the past eight years) and the Maumelle High School Hornets (where Brian is the new head football coach). Maumelle was in the game throughout and scored their final touchdown with just 21 seconds left. However, they didn't recover the onside kick that could have given them a final, Hail-Mary opportunity to win it so Robinson gets the victory, 35-30. It was a very good game, back-and-forth until Robinson put two scoring drives together around a defensive stop in the fourth quarter to get up by 12 with just under 3 minutes left to play. The Hornets played well and it was by far the Senators toughest game of the year. In fact, except for their season-opening charity game, Robinson, who moved up in class to 5-A this year, had "mercy ruled" (up by at least 35 points) every opponent and came in 5-0 vs. the 2-3 Hornets.

This game brought for me a field of mixed emotions. Susie and I have been cheering for Robinson for the past 22 years. In addition, for the past two years, I've had the privilege to lead FCA's huddle with the Robinson football team from August through graduation in May. The head coach, Todd Eskola coached Brian as a player and brought Brian on as his defensive coordinator and Robinson won two of the past three Class 4-A state championships.

In January I was asked to lead a huddle at Maumelle High. As only God can do, Brian was hired in February. His heart for building into young men and preparing them for life through the experience of high school football and his compassion, instilling discipline, the value of hard work and the rewards of doing the right thing vs. the easy thing, has resonated with his new squad. And his fingerprints were obviously on the upperclassmen at Robinson—as well as the coaches—as the many pregame and postgame hugs and handshakes indicated. I am grateful that I get to come alongside both of these schools—and especially to serve with Brian—by emphasizing Leadership, Teamwork, Integrity and Character to these student athletes and coaches. This fulfills FCA's mission to lead coaches and athletes to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. To God be the glory. Thank you for your faithful partnership. I appreciate you!

