

# **'TIS THE MIDDLE OF THE SEASON**

*Mark Horbinski*

'Tis the middle of the season  
for teams across the state -  
with games left on the schedule  
that will ascertain their fate

The gyms and sport equipment  
are all maintained with care -  
for use when student-athletes  
and spectators get there

Coaches are watching game film  
and studying their charts -  
while thoughts of state championships  
fill their minds and their hearts

But our season isn't going  
quite like in our dreams -  
too many losses have already  
sealed our fate it seems

The more I dwelled upon this fact  
it made me even sadder -  
If we can't win the trophy,  
does playing even matter?

And if we play will we be judged  
based solely on the score?  
What's there to gain by pushing through  
and risking even more?

I went upstairs into my room  
and put myself to bed -  
then nodded off to sleep  
with all those questions in my head

I hoped that in the morning  
all the answers would be clear -  
that I'd find the reassurances  
to eliminate my fear

Then like a lightning bolt it struck;  
while I was fast asleep -  
there are many lessons I can learn  
and reasons to compete

Winning's a desired result  
and one we all should chase -  
but you probably won't win every time;  
that's a fact you have to face

So be humble in your victory,  
gracious in defeat -  
be thankful for your health  
and the honor to compete

Appreciate your teammates  
and their role on the team -  
without them all you wouldn't be  
running down your dream

Respect and honor the game you love  
through sheer determination -  
be coachable, be approachable  
and serve as inspiration

A teammate everybody loves  
that helps the team to thrive -  
a role model for the younger kids;  
a goal for which to strive

Rise up above the bitter sting  
that comes with falling short -  
learn from the past and look ahead;  
that's the best retort

Don't rise too high, don't sink too low  
based on the final score -  
the story of how you compete  
will tell us so much more

Don't lose sight of the lessons  
athletics has to teach -  
because the conference title  
is now beyond your reach

While the scoreboard shows the outcome  
of the game you just completed -  
Your character and attitude  
can keep you undefeated!