

'TIS THE MIDDLE OF THE SEASON

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'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!