

Those Before You

Those Who Have Gone Before You

(What they have done for you, what you owe them!)

Tonight you find yourself surrounded by those who have gone before you. These gentlemen have defined this program and this winning tradition. Their sacrifices have made it possible for you to be here, for this program to exist.

They played the game with heart, passion, and purpose. They played through pain, through adverse conditions, and when they were over-matched. They played when they were hurt, when they were tired, and when others counted them out. They continued the winning tradition that was handed down from those who went before them.

They are here to support you. They know your sacrifice; they know what you are facing tonight. And, they know that you can succeed. They know, because they succeeded before you! You are walking in the same foot steps that they walked in.

You owe it to them to continue this winning tradition! You owe it to them to protect and enhance this winning tradition! Just like them - you know that you can succeed! And you will! Tonight, the winning tradition continues!

"Tradition" is an inspiring word. The word tradition comes from the Latin word "traditio" which means "to hand down" or "to hand over." You all know how important traditions are in families and in communities. The traditions that get passed down through the generations are the traditions that everyone enjoys. The traditions that have a place in our hearts and we look forward to them each year. That is the way it is with this program's winning tradition! We enjoy it! We look forward to it! Some of us live for it! Like the saying goes... "Tradition never graduates!" Tradition lives within each and every one of you. You are born into it, you continue it, and when the time comes, you hand it down to the next generation!