



View from the Couch

Bill Wende

Section6Runs Chief Cook and Bottle-washer

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End of Summer But New Beginnings

Geeez! Where did the summer go? I know everyone says this each year but it seems as this was by far a very quick one, at least through my eyes anyways. The end of summer rituals begin, school supply and clothes shopping, the last ditch family vacation to visit Aunt Millie and Uncle Frank in some obscure town because your parents have been promising a visit to them for the past five summers and speed reading through all the books you were supposed to have read by now.

But for some, it's a new beginning...incoming freshman from middle schools moving up to high school, seniors staring at the end of four years of high school and the incoming college freshman truly starting adulthood.

Going into high school can be scary to say the least. You're at the bottom of the pile, the seniors look so old and intimidating and let's face it, you still act like a goof (of course I've seen some seniors, well for that matter some adults too, act the same way). But it's a time to take the big step. It's a different environment to adjust to but yet there is a familiarity to it. You suppose your middle school teachers, parents and Board of Ed knew what they were doing. Naw, just a coincidence, right? Oh, you have some good days and some bad but you've developed some pretty solid friends in middle school and you can use those friendships to springboard into the high school scene. Learning new ways, more challenging academics, new social activities, school pride, all play into the four years of high school. Believe or not you will make friends with upper classman, more likely if you are involved in sports or clubs. After the first semester, it becomes second nature.

At the other end, you're a senior and you've got a lot of decisions facing you, specifically what are you going to do for the next four years...college, go directly into the work force or god forbid, hang out at home and figure out what you want to be when you grow up (again, some adults...awww never mind!). It's also a time to reflect back at your high school career, your teachers and coaches who have help to mold you into the person you are and set the course towards your future. Hopefully you've developed an interest in a subject matter so you can possibly pursue a career in it. Your core friends will most likely remain your core friends when you leave high school and hopefully will be for the remainder of your days. Along with your family, they are a link to your past. You will obviously have some goals to attain during this year, academically, socially and athletically. The strive for a personal best, earning a varsity letter, setting a school record, just having fun with your classmates/teammates or maybe just graduating!

College...this is it kids. You've worked your tail off in high school, spent some pretty good times with your friends during the summer and now you are either commuting to a local college or you've shipped off to an unknown city or town to begin your first steps into adulthood. You may think you are already one but being dropped off by the parents at school and not having the family and friends support system nearby is, let's say, unsettling. And just to make you feel not so alone, your parents are having a hard time adjusting to life without you...or they are celebrating to the wee hours of the morning. Either way, we do miss you!

But in all scenarios described above, you get through it, trust me. There is a whole new world of opportunity and its all there for the taking. No one will make you do it (there are those who will give you advice until they're blue in the face) except yourself. You make the decisions and you go for it. You may make the wrong decision but we do learn from our mistakes. That's how we learn.

Yeah, all this sounds "preachy" but trying to convey thoughts based on experiences always does. You try to make it entertaining but it always comes out sounding philosophical. So be it. You guys are experiencing some exciting times that some wish they could or could over again. Carpe diem.

Lost time is never found again. ~*Benjamin Franklin*