

Greetings to Coaches' Wives

By Kathy Dudzinski
President

Hello everyone, I cannot tell you how honored I am to serve as your AFCWA 2010 president. We have such an amazing organization that continues to get stronger and bigger every year. Our membership in Orlando was larger than in Nashville and we all had so much fun.



Our Board of Directors did an amazing job of planning. The hospitality room was buzzing. What a fantastic luncheon with such a wonderful keynote speaker, Coach Lou Holtz. I felt the camaraderie from everyone.

Wives helping other wives with transitions. Conversations taking place with a "seasoned" wife to a "rookie" wife. What fun we had! The one thing that I really enjoyed seeing was the retired coaches wives reunion. They had such a wonderful time and the stories that our "founding mothers" have are such a treasure. I am already looking forward to our 2011 Convention in Dallas, Texas.

I want to send a special thank you to Beth Boyd, our past President. She did such a fabulous job during her time as President. We are forever grateful.

For those of you who don't know me, my husband Keith and I have been married for 15 years. He has been the Defensive Coordinator at the University of Massachusetts for a total of 11 years. We have 3 wonderful children who LOVE being "coaches kids." Jack is 14 and plays middle linebacker (like his dad). He has already put his stamp on wanting to be a football coach. Mary Kathryn is 12, and loves going to her dad's games in between her own soccer and basketball games. And, finally our little Elizabeth who is 7. She is her dad's BIGGEST fan. By the end of every UMASS football game Elizabeth finds her way onto the field with the cheerleading squad—through security and all. She is the first one after a game



to run on the field to give her dad a big kiss. She certainly makes us laugh.

As you know, the AFCWA is all about camaraderie, support, information, and service. We are such a unique organization. It doesn't matter what level you are at Division 1, 2, 3, or High School. WE ARE ALL ONE!!!! It is so nice to have friends to call on who know what you are going through. A friend who understands

that famous line... "we are moving...again." I really believe that this past convention focused on the many things that are occurring in our everyday lives. Carolyn Allen spoke to the coaches wives about "Dealing with Life as a Coach's Wife." Then our own Kelly Smith lead us in a discussion and gave us great ideas on how to strengthen our marriage and family. What a great response we had. And, the Hope family leading an interactive session on "why we love our coaches and how we manage our families and all the home responsibilities." We drew off of Jane Hoepfners strength when she spoke so eloquently about her story of surviving and thriving amidst adversity. Our breakout sessions were truly amazing, and I think every person benefited from at least one of these sessions.

For those of you who were not at our business meeting, we are very proud of the fact that we helped the American Basketball Coaches Wives Association start one for themselves. We assisted them in writing their own by-laws, and they are having their first convention in Indianapolis during the Final four this March.

I am so proud and happy to be a coaches wife, and am so proud to be a part of the AFCWA. Throughout the year if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to email me at kathdud@charter.net. For anyone who is going through a difficult time know that you have the support, and camaraderie from me and your fellow sisters in our organization. I am excited for this coming year and looking forward to serving you.

