

"A Heart Still Beating" by Audrey Royall: The Cavalier Volume 38 Issue 2 December 2018

Joshua Boyd, the quarterback for Richland Northeast Varsity football team, had his life drastically changed when he suffered a heart attack on October 10th, 2018.

"When I got the call...the ambulance had still not arrived yet, so I was in panic mode. The first few hours that Josh was in the hospital were very difficult because we didn't have any answers," head football coach Bennett Weigle said.

After spending a night at Palmetto Richland, Boyd was taken to the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) on the 11th. The Twitter page for RNE football was updated to reflect this, reading "As you may know, our QB Josh Boyd had a heart attack yesterday morning and spent last night at Palmetto Richland. Happy to report that he has made it to MUSC in Charleston and will have surgery tomorrow. He has been awake and talking. Please continue to keep him in your prayers."

That's when the support from other teams started to come in, teams such as Dreher, Dorman, Dutch Fork, Lancaster, Ridge View, and Ben Lippen all responded with sentiments of "thoughts and prayers."

Wando football coach Tyler Williams commented, "Prayers from Wando. We're close to MUSC so let us know what we can do. Football is a family."

"The support from the community and other schools was amazing," Wiegle reflected.

However, at the same time, he wasn't surprised by the vast amounts of support that was given. "I know all of those coaches well, and I know that they are good men first and foremost," he said.

Support for Boyd did not stop there. Schools such as South Point created banners of support for Boyd when they played the follow Friday, October 12th, AC Flora's team wore "JB" decals on their football helmets, and York football players raised approximately \$4000 for Boyd's Cause.

Boyd said he felt like it was "great" for the amount of support the football community gave him.

"Even though we play against each other, we still have love for each other," he said. He said that the support made him more grateful for his teammates and the football community. "I would do anything for them now to repay them...Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way: cards, money raised, support, prayers."

"I have always placed an emphasis on the community aspect of our team and our sport, and this experience just validated everything that I believe in- that at the end of the day, people want to come together to help," Weigle said. "That's what high school athletics is all about—schools and communities rallying together for a common goal and teaching kids to be selfless."