



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

January 29, 2018

Program

Lion Charlie Childers gave a short introduction for two leaders from Cullman High School: Principal Kim Hall, who is the daughter of former Mayor Max Townson, and the new head football coach, Mr. Matt Plunkett. Principal Hall started by giving some details of the process she and a distinguished search committee of local citizens did in choosing Coach Plunkett for the football coaching position at Cullman High School. This committee was knowledgeable in leadership, teaching, and coaching. There were over one hundred applicants who applied. Ms. Hall continued with an introduction of Coach Plunkett, saying that she has no doubts that she and her committee has made the best possible choice, describing him as one of the most impressive leaders of young men she has known.



(L to R) Principal Kim Hall, Coach Matt Plunkett, and Mr. Jeff Knop, President of the Cullman High School Quarterback Club.

When Coach Plunkett took the podium, he did not talk directly much about details of specific football games, but described his

own football career path, major influences, and his values and beliefs that he applies in leading young men as a football coach. One granddad, Mr. Bill Andrews, was a Lion in Fairfield, an employee of NASA for 29 years, and a Cullman County Commissioner. His other granddad, Mr. Edgar Plunkett worked for the County Road Dept. Matt graduated from Arab High School, graduated from UNA, and got his Master's from U of A, was offensive coach at Pittsburg State in 2010, offensive coach & line coach at Magnolia, Texas, and was a recruiter at Carson-Newman University in Tennessee. In 2013 became head coach at Gardendale High School; there, he took his team to 4 State playoff games and averaged 10 wins each season. He was head recruiter and offensive line coach at Missouri Southern State University before coming back to Cullman. He talked a good deal about some of the things he learned and related wisdom gained from his granddads, his dad, his coaches and his own experiences along the way, such as "playing with class," "treating people right," and showing respect and character, as well as developing a respected program. He said that although he has bounced around quite a bit in his career, he had always wanted to end up back in the Cullman area, especially at its high school. Just prior to being hired at Cullman, he told about asking God to give him a definite sign regarding his future before going for an interview for the coaching job at Jasper. Just a few hours later, he got word that Principal Hall wanted to talk with him about the coaching job at Cullman, his dream job. He says that he really wants to settle down, have longevity here, and build a



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solid relationship with this community and his family – seeing his kids graduate from Cullman High – saying that his vision is to have members of his current team visit him a decade or so from now with their own families and stories of their success as leaders in their families and communities. He says he wants to be a “difference maker” in the lives of his players. He was an inspiring speaker, and I know we all wish him great success in achieving his vision and in his team’s success on the football field.

Other Business

Present tonight, as Lion Steve Singleton’s guest, was Mr. Jeff Knop, President of the Cullman High School Quarterback Club. He also was very effusive in his praise of our main speaker, Coach Plunkett. And he offered to buy a Ham & Fish Dinner ticket for every Quarterback Club raffle ticket (\$100 for a chance at \$10,000) purchased from him. Proceeds from his raffle tickets sale will go towards equipment for the football team.

Lion Wayne McCravy is still ill. Lion Lummie Speakman has recovered from his bout with the flu. Lion Jim Searcy’s wife is in ICU. Lion Jim Walker is in the hospital undergoing medical testing. Lion Casey Smith’s wife is recovering from surgery.

The Dodge City Lions Club is critically low in membership. Lion Barry Willingham requested volunteers to assist in rebuilding it. Contact him.

The February 12th meeting will feature a representative from Leader Dogs for the Blind.

There will be a BOD meeting on February 5th and a Fair Board meeting on February 12th.

February 19th will be the annual “Empty Bowls” night across the street from the All Steak at the 1st Methodist Church. No meeting will be held.

Most of us have our Fish & Ham tickets in hand. Let’s get them sold.

MD-35A District Convention will be March 16-17 at Joe Wheeler State Park.

Upcoming Programs and Events

February 12: Mr. Mike Dengate will talk about the Leader Dog Organization.

Lion Leadership training held for current Lion officers or those Lions who want to be one. Contact Lion President Bill Ruehl.

February 19: Empty Bowls Dinner at First Methodist Church. No regular Club meeting at the All Steak.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings.