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By Dennis Garcia

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It won't be long until children and adults alike run down the stairs or around corners in their homes to see a glorious holiday site as presents are stacked underneath the Christmas tree.

While Christmas morning is normally associated with the smiling faces of children, there are plenty of items Santa Claus could bring to the coaches, student-athletes, athletic directors and administrators of the eight high schools here in Randolph County to assure a fun, thrilling and exciting 2023.

So here's what I am hoping for in this magical season:

For every football player at Asheboro High School - those who have played, those who have thought about playing but never did and those who are trying to make that decision for the upcoming season: The realization that new football coach Calvin Brown is one of the top leaders in this area and your experience as a Blue Comet football player will not only be beneficial on the field, but in whatever path you chose after high school graduation.

For Trinity Coach Tim Kelly: To enjoy what will certainly be an emotional and well-deserved honor on Jan. 24 when THS dedicates the gymnasium in his honor. It would be very difficult to find a coach who has been more successful in any sport at the high school level than Kelly has been. Hopefully, he has many more years to walk up and down the court.

For the Southwestern Randolph High School boys basketball program - Each and every member of this team and its coaching staff deserves to know how fun it is watching this team play. Most teams work hard on the court, but the Cougars take this to a new level. SWR may not win every game, but it's guaranteed no team is going to work harder than they do from the start of the game to the final whistle. And that is a direct reflection of head coach Matt Kiser and his coaching staff.

To the basketball coaches and players at Asheboro High School - To experience the excitement of playing on their new gym floor at the school. Playing at the Asheboro Recreation Center has been fun these past two seasons, with a bit of nostalgia creeping into every game. But playing on your school's home floor has a very different feeling, especially for the seniors. Here's hoping the basketball team experiences that. And on that same line of thinking, here's to the AHS baseball team getting to play at McCrary Park sometime during their season. McCrary Park is going to be a jewel, one of the best ballparks in the region when all the renovations are completed. I sincerely hope this year's senior class gets to enjoy playing there before their season ends.

To the Wheatmore High School girls soccer team - The ability to always remember what they accomplished last season as the Warriors finished a perfect 25-0 in capturing the state championship. Coach Rick Maness molded this very talented group of girls into experiencing the ultimate in high school sports. You gave a lot of people memories that will last a lifetime.

To all the wrestlers in Randolph County - To eat a great Christmas dinner with family and friends without worrying about making weight. Randolph County is one of the top counties in the entire state when it comes to wrestling, and that doesn't come without sacrifice. The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are tough for high school wrestlers and here's hoping they can enjoy the traditional holiday goodies.

To those in charge of the 23rd Annual Bank OZK JV Holiday Classic - Great success in what has become one of the top jayvee tournaments in the region. A lot of work goes into preparing for this tournament and it gives the jayvee teams the opportunity to perform in a tournament setting against teams from around the area. Games will be played at the Randolph-Asheboro YMCA and at SWRHS from Dec. 26-28.

To the Eastern Randolph High School boys varsity basketball team - Continued success and enjoyment. The Wildcats, who have started the season 2-0 in league play and 7-1 overall, haven't had a winning season since the 2015-16 season when Seth Baxter led the team to a 21-6 record. From the 2016-17 season up until last year, the Wildcats were 44-89, including an 18-50 league record. This group of players is ignoring the past and is starting a new winning tradition. It won't be easy because the conference is full of talent. If the Wildcats can bring that athleticism, spark and teamwork to the floor every game, there's going to be a lot to celebrate at season's end.

To Brandon Varner and the girls basketball team at RHS - The ability to continue to perform with the bullseye on their jerseys. There haven't been too many teams in Randolph County in any sport that has enjoyed the success the Tigers have had under Varner in recent seasons. This team is loaded with talent and personality, and although it's going to be tough, the Tigers have all the ingredients to have another stellar season. Led by Gracyn Hall, Elizabeth York, Audra Petty, Gracie Beane and Jordan Booker, they must continue to work hard and improve every day.

To the athletic directors of the eight high schools: A big thank you note for everything you have done over the course of the year, knowing there's plenty more work right around the corner. Not a lot of people realize just how much work ADs have to tackle every day. Schedules, eligibility, parents and media are just a few daily chores that are dealt with. You are very much appreciated. On the same page, a big shout out to the coaches of the schools. Some will never know just how much of an impact you make.

To all the student-athletes in the county: Success and more importantly, having FUN and making memories that will not soon be forgotten.

To everyone at SportsTone: A hearty congratulations for another outstanding year of highlighting our local student-athletes and the teams we love to watch on the field, on the court, on the diamond and everywhere a high school athlete performs.

To all those reading this: Health, happiness, many victories for the teams you follow and a very Merry Christmas.