

"Dear Todd,

Emily Post, the etiquette expert, would blow the whistle on me for writing a thank you e-mail instead of writing one by hand. I just don't have it in me to write each member of the GTOA personally, so please share this e-mail with the entire membership.

Sports officiating was Lance's passion. He certainly devoted much of his time and energy to an activity that brought him great satisfaction as well as a sense of community service. We all know how necessary the rules are to any game and the strength of character it takes to enforce the rules. Friday nights spent with his crew were some of the happiest times of his life. I want each member of the GTOA to know how grateful I am for your support of Lance over the years. I never really got to know "the guys." I always thought of your group as a brotherhood that didn't need much of my attention. I see now that I missed out on knowing some really terrific fellows. You all rallied around Lance during his initial diagnosis and the difficult journey that followed. Just days before Lance died, he asked me to take a picture of him in his ref's uniform. He took so much pride in wearing the black and white! The cancer was so advanced by then that I had to dress him-- it was my honor to do so. Thankfully, he was able to stand for the picture. It breaks my heart that he did not get to make his appearance at the state championship game for the coin toss. But he did know that it was planned, and that he would finally get to be on the field for a Jenks vs. Union game. Your efforts to arrange this very special recognition for Lance is greatly appreciated. The family will treasure the letter from the OSSAA, the plaque, and the game coin. Thank you, Dan (Leader), for presenting these items to me.

I also want you to know that the lovely house plant given to me by the GTOA is thriving. The peace lily has bloomed and it continues to leaf out. Thank you, Don, for arranging the delivery. To each of you who attended Lance's memorial service, please know that your presence was appreciated. It brought us so much comfort to see his "brothers" sitting together in the front of the church. Your warm hugs and kind remarks will stay with us. Your thoughtfulness didn't stop there. The Lance Memorial Fund was a most generous collection that will help defray travel expenses for our boys (one lives in Minnesota and the other lives in Connecticut). My thanks goes out to each donor.

You certainly are a wonderful group of men. I just hope that Lance's life has touched you in some way. You have touched my life in a very meaningful way.

*With the deepest gratitude,
Becky Agnew"*