



# FOOTBALL PLAYERS SHOW EMPATHY FOR TEAMMATE

deenahelm {reporter}  
kyliemank {reporter}

TG.  
Two letters that mean nothing to a regular person. However, these two letters mean the world to a certain football player and his team.

"TG" stands for Tina Green, Teryn Brown's, jr., mother.

Brown is a center for the football team, and his mother has cancer.

The football team is conscious of this, and a couple of weeks ago, two players, Elijah Shelite, jr., and Will Burrows, sr., wrote Brown's mother's initials on their tape for a game. Soon, the entire team was wearing stickers made by the coaches on the back of their helmets to honor Brown's mother.

"My friends started it, and it's pretty cool how they support it," Brown said of his teammates.

Green has cervical cancer, a type of cancer that attacks the cervix and has no warning signs or symptoms. Approximately 12,000 women every year in the United States are diagnosed

"We're like brothers, a family. His mom is like our mom."

with cervical cancer (according to cdc.gov).

"It's a lot of moral support," Burrows said. "We're like brothers, a family. His mom is like our mom, and I know if my mom was in trouble, he (Brown) would do the same for me."

Shelite was the first person to write the initials on his tape, and he spread the word through Facebook and Twitter.

"People support it, but they don't understand the reality of it," Burrows said. "Like, people will make 'your mom' jokes, and it's all fun, but they don't understand how it affects people like Teryn."

It's apparent that Green has had an impact not only on her family, but also on Brown's teammates.

"She's the person I've known since I was three, Shelite said. "I don't want anything to happen to her as much as I don't want anything to happen to my mom. And if I was in trouble, I know she's the first person I'd go to. They're like a second family to me."

The coaches are behind the honor as well.

"I think it's good," Enefiok Akpan, assistant football coach said. "I think they're having a whole team show their emo-

tions and show that they're backing him up. I mean, having 70 people back you up morally is a lot better than having one person shoulder the weight."

William Coffman, football coach, shares the same idea.

"Anytime someone goes through something hard, it helps to have a lot of people behind you, almost like they're trying to go through it too," Coffman said.

Green supports her son fully and backs him up no matter what.

"My mom only has a few months," Brown said. "She's come to a couple of games. She doesn't always feel the best, but she supports me all the way."

Brown's coaches and teammates continue to show their support on and off the field.

"It's important because they're all teammates, and they're going through a real rough time," Brian Byers, football coach, said. "It reminds him football isn't real life, it's just a game. That's real life."



Teryn Brown, Jr., poses with mother, Tina Green, during halftime at the football game against South, Sept. 21 carlybahner {photographer}



Keith Hayes, soph., Elijah Shelite, jr., and Teryn Brown, jr., stand behind helmets with 'TG' stickers on the back. carlybahner {photographer}

## SOCCER MEMORIAL

A beloved coach is now forever in the memories of past, current, and future soccer players of East High.

From 1981 to 2007, Anderson coached boy's soccer, and from 1981 to 2007, he coached girl's soccer from 1987-2007, connecting with the players and instantly turning the teams into a family.

In October of 2006 he was diagnosed with lung cancer, and died months later in January of 2007.

Both teams were devastated as they lost not only a coach, but also a friend.

After Anderson's death, James Griffis took over as head coach and was determined to ensure that Anderson's legacy would forever live on in the memories of East High soccer.

"I wanted to make sure that we had something lasting that current and future players could hold on to," Griffis said.

Griffis set out to establish a memorial on the soccer field. This is the first season that the memorial has been completed, and before every home game the soccer team walks through the grass field to touch the memorial and pay their respects.

All current soccer coaches played under Anderson and admired his dedication to the program along with his coaching style.

"He created dedication in the three coaches right now," Dylan Gruntzel, head coach, said. "We have put that dedication back into the program and created success with it thus far this season."

The memorial will keep Anderson in the hearts and minds of all soccer players and coaches.

"He taught us that hard work and dedication can turn anyone into someone special," Gruntzel said.