

HEY RIVAL



HEY RIVAL,

BEFORE THE WHISTLE BLOWS AND THIS ALL
GOES DOWN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ME.

I'M A CHRISTIAN.

THIS SHOULD PUT YOU ON ALERT—FOR
REASONS I'LL GET TO—BUT IT PROBABLY
DOESN'T. AND THAT'S OK.

A LOT OF PEOPLE, CHRISTIANS INCLUDED,
HAVE BEEN FED A LIE THAT THE CHRISTIAN
ATHLETE IS SOFT. THAT COULD NOT BE
FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.



THE CHRISTIAN ATHLETE IS ~~SOFT.~~

#HEYRIVAL

@ATHLETESINACTION

WHATEVER YOU ASSUME ABOUT ME IS, AT
THIS POINT, YOUR BUSINESS.

HERE'S WHAT I KNOW ABOUT YOU—BECAUSE
IT WAS ONCE TRUE OF ME.

I KNOW THAT BEFORE THIS WHISTLE BLOWS,
YOU HAVE BEEN WONDERING WHAT YOUR
COACHES WILL THINK OF YOU.

MAYBE IT'S NOT YOUR COACHES. MAYBE IT'S
A SIGNIFICANT OTHER, TEAMMATE, PARENT,
SIBLING, AGENT, MESSAGE BOARDS, OR THE
INTERNET HEADLINES.

DID ONE OF THOSE STRIKE A NERVE?



*There's something
you should know
about me.*

#HEYRIVAL

@ATHLETESINACTION

IF YOU WIN TODAY AND NOBODY NOTICES
WILL YOU STILL BE CONTENT? I DIDN'T
THINK SO.

YOU ARE WEIGHED DOWN BY THE APPROVAL
OF OTHERS. WILL THE PEOPLE THAT CHEER
YOU ON NOW TURN YOUR BACK ON YOU
WHEN YOU LOSE?

PROBABLY. FANS HAVE A PRETTY GOOD
HISTORY OF LOVING THE WINNERS AND
CHASTISING THE LOSERS.

I KNOW THAT YOUR INTENSITY DURING
COMPETITION WILL RISE AND FALL WITH
HOW THE CROWD REACTS TO YOU. ONCE THE
NOISE SETTLES DOWN, MORE THAN LIKELY
SO WILL YOUR EFFORT.

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR JOY IN COMPETING
DEPENDS ON WINNING, AND THAT A LOSS
TODAY WILL DISRUPT YOUR IDENTITY IN
WAYS YOU DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT. A
WIN WILL VALIDATE ALL OF THE HARD WORK
YOU HAVE PUT IN. A LOSS WILL SEND YOU
BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD WONDERING
WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO BREAK THROUGH.

RIVAL, YOU ARE WEIGHED DOWN BY SO
MANY THINGS. ATHLETES WHO PLAY FREE
TEND TO COMPETE BETTER—AND YOU ARE
NOT FREE.

I DON'T SAY ANY OF THAT TO SHAME YOU OR
LOOK DOWN UPON YOU. I SAY THAT
BECAUSE ALL THESE INNER STRUGGLES
WERE ONCE—AND AT TIMES STILL ARE—TRUE
ABOUT ME.

BUT SOMETHING'S CHANGED.

MY CONFIDENCE IS NO LONGER BASED ON
THE ENORMOUS PRESSURE YOU FEEL TO
SUCCEED, BECAUSE I SERVE A GOD WHO
HAS ALREADY GIVEN ME EVERYTHING THAT
SPORTS AND THE WORLD PROMISE BUT FAIL
TO DELIVER.

IDENTITY. HOPE. JOY. PURPOSE.
PERSPECTIVE. LOVE. AFFIRMATION.

I DON'T HAVE TO WIN TODAY TO GET ANY OF
THOSE THINGS.

AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT MAKES ME A
BEAST.



*I have no reason
to fear failure.*

#HEYRIVAL

@ATHLETESINACTION

RIVAL, TODAY I AM GOING TO DO
SOMETHING IN THE MIDST OF COMPETITION
THAT WILL CHANGE THE WAY YOU VIEW
CHRISTIAN ATHLETES FOREVER.

TODAY I WILL PLAY MORE FREE THAN
ANYONE YOU HAVE EVER COMPETED
AGAINST BECAUSE I HAVE NO REASON TO
FEAR FAILURE.

TODAY I WILL COMPETE HARDER THAN
ANYONE YOU HAVE EVER COMPETED
AGAINST BECAUSE I'M COMMITTED TO
GLORIFYING GOD THROUGH MY INTENSITY,
ATTITUDE, AND PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.



TODAY

I will win

#HEYRIVAL

@ATHLETESINACTION

TODAY I WILL WIN BECAUSE NO MATTER
WHAT THE SCOREBOARD READS I WILL BE
BRINGING EVERYTHING I HAVE THE ENTIRE
GAME—EVERY PLAY, EVERY BREAK, EVERY
HEAD-TO-HEAD MOMENT—FROM THE SECOND
I ENTER THE ARENA UNTIL WE SHAKE HANDS
AT THE END.

TODAY, MY HOPE IS NOT TO HUMILIATE OR
DESTROY YOU.

YES, I WANT TO WIN TODAY. BADLY. BUT I
AM HOPING HOW I PLAY WILL DO
SOMETHING FAR DEEPER:



*You deserve
my best.*

#HEYRIVAL

@ATHLETESINACTION

I HOPE IT HONORS YOU, AND THE GOD WHO
CREATED US BOTH.

YOU DESERVE MY BEST.

AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET IT.

READY?



Ready?

#HEYRIVAL

@ATHLETESINACTION

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

DO YOU THINK GOD CARES ABOUT HOW YOU
COMPETE?

IF JESUS WAS YOUR OPPONENT, HOW DO YOU
THINK HE WOULD COMPETE?

IS IT POSSIBLE TO HONOR HIM THROUGH YOUR
LEVEL OF INTENSITY?

WHAT IS CURRENTLY WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

HOW DOES HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH
JESUS RELEASE YOU TO COMPETE FREELY?