



TAKING THE TROPHY: The sunshine glistens against the Battle of The Rock trophy that Austin Kimball '21 hoists up to the sky to celebrate the teams victory. The joy on Kimball's face was not there a month ago when his father, Brian Kimball, passed away midway through his senior football season, Kimball came back and played out his season with support and love in dedication to his dad. "It felt good to take the trophy home, It was amazing to show it off and he definitely would have been proud and smiling," Kimball said.

this season is for **HIM**

AFTER THE LOSS OF HIS FATHER MIDWAY THROUGH THE FOOTBALL SEASON, AUSTIN KIMBALL '21 FINISHES OUT HIS SENIOR SEASON WITH A WIN, A SMILE AND HIS TEAM

Brandishing the Battle of the Rock trophy on Dec. 14, Austin Kimball '21 grins, surrounded by his ecstatic teammates and fresh off the win.

A month ago, he talked to his dad for the last time.

After his father passed in November, Kimball's life on and off the field was drastically changed.

Kimball struggled with supporting his mother and siblings while also battling with his own emotions.

"I felt confused like 'Why did this happen to me out of all people?' and I didn't play as well for the game after because I just couldn't but the next two after that I played harder for him," Kimball said.

Even though stands were full and loud, there was a certain silence without Kimball's father shouting encouragement and yelling, 'hey, white hat that was a dumb call.'

"The next day after my dad died and I went to practice, I knew it wouldn't be the same,"

Kimball said.

After his father's death, Kimball was left feeling like he had to fill his shoes- everything from supporting his mom brother and sister after the devastating loss to taking out the trash and helping his siblings find peace over who gets to use the TV.

As a high schooler, taking on the part of the "man of the house" is not easy and requires support which Kimball received from his team, parents, coaches and more.

"The team helped me as much as they could on and off the field.

They also helped my family with food and just supported us in ways I can't even explain," Kimball said.

With the support and adjustments, Kimball was back on the field and ready to beat Douglas County again for the final game of his high school career.

In the end, the coaching staff allowed him to take home the prized football-shaped trophy in honor of how hard he worked through the tough times.

"I feel like he would have been proud to see it," Kimball said.

"I'M JUST TRYING to be the MAN OF THE HOUSE for my family."
austin kimball '21



Q HOW DID IT FEEL FOR YOUR LITTLE SISTER TO STEAL THE SHOW?

A "It was definitely funny to see her waving to everyone in the stands, and it was very fun for her," Kimball said.



Q WHAT WERE YOU FEELING WITHOUT YOUR DAD SENIOR DAY?

A "It was hard because he wasn't there standing beside me, but I had my mom, sister, and the team there which was nice," Kimball said.



Q HOW DID THIS EVENT IMPACT YOUR SEASON?

A "It was very unexpected. I had to take some time to adjust to it and try to play a few days later," Kimball said.

THIS IS HOW HE PREVAILED AUSTIN KIMBALL'S FINAL GAME IN HIS SENIOR YEAR WAS FULL OF TRIUMPHS AND MEMORIES