



**In His Own Words**  
**Raider Ben Leboutillier**

Would I could tell you all there was to tell. Where do I begin? Where do I end? I will be brief and sincere, wishing to you, my dear reader, hope and edification... from mine own words:

If I were given the chance to redo high school, Raiders would remain a constant. There is nothing for which I would trade my experiences with the team. The struggles, the agonies, the experiences, the rewards, the camaraderie... together they form some of my fondest SMA memories.

For me, joining the team was a mid-season whim during freshman year, and stepping onto that hot field littered with screams and sweat was life-altering. Each of my four years was different: The rules changed, followed closely by the sport and our ways of doing things. Before I knew it, that young, starry-eyed freshman I was became a mature leader who was helping run the team; those mean, ever-yelling Army Instructors whom I feared became my idols whom I revere most deeply; and those strangers standing next to me in formation on that first day of practice became my friends, and some became my brothers.

My time has come and gone; I've earned my state championships. Now it's time for you to do the same.

*Aude.* Dare. Have the courage to step out onto that field, to repel off of that wall.

*Conare.* Try. You've just got to go for it. If you don't try, then you'll never do.

*Contende.* Struggle. Never give up. Push through the pain, and do what you never thought was possible.

*Vince.* Conquer. Yourself, the challenge, life... conquer it.

Raiders is one of those things from which you get out exactly what you put in. It's tough, but it's worth it. And at the end of senior year, when you fall out for the last time, you'll step off that field and sigh contently, wondering how you did all the things you'd done and how you made it, thinking back to your first day as a Raider and of how far you've come, and then you'll continue forward into life, ready to conquer whatever challenges are in store, because you'll be fast and strong, hard and well-tempered, proud and humble, the best of the best, a Raider.

God speed and good luck,  
Ben LeBoutillier, class of 2012