The following letters were received by DBU after the Patriot Men’s basketball team played in several away games. One is from a man who happened to be eating in the same restaurant as the team, and the other is from one of their bus drivers. DBU President Dr. Gary Cook wanted to express thanks to all of DBU’s student athletes, as well as share these notes of affirmation with the DBU family.

The mission statement of DBU’s athletic department is to provide a Christ-centered quality athletic program, and it is expected that the athletes honor that mission both on and off the court. Head basketball coach Blake Flickner expressed, “As we train the young men to excel as a basketball team, we also strive to train them to excel in life. The way they study, dress, serve, socialize, and compete we put into the larger context of life, eternity, and the gospel.”

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**From:** Larry Howard  
**To:** DBU Athletics  
**Date:** 1/14/2011 1:13 PM  
**Subject:** DBU Basketball Team

At noon today my wife, her mother, and I entered Schlotzsky’s Deli in San Angelo to be met by the DBU basketball team, who had entered just before we did. I spoke to one of the team members and learned where they were from and that they had just played a game in our area. I just wanted you to know that the young men conducted themselves with courtesy and respect. They talked and laughed, but they were not rowdy or annoying. They treated the other customers with a kind manner and wonderful smiles. Thank you for the excellent representatives of DBU.

As a former Dean of Missouri Baptist College, I have some insight here. It’s nice to know from a complete stranger that your teams are well received while they are on the road.

Larry Howard  
San Angelo, TX

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**Received on January 17, 2011**

My name is Dana Rutter, and I am a bus driver for Village Tours and Travel in Oklahoma City. This past week I had the privilege and pleasure to drive your men’s basketball team to Odessa and Austin. I can honestly say that in the eleven years I have driven a bus, this was absolutely the most pleasurable sports trip I have ever driven. Your young men were so very polite and courteous, and you have the best men for coaches. Great role models. You must be doing something right at that school, because it certainly shows. Thank you for the opportunity of getting to know them and to learn about your great school. (I told them I wished my 14 year old son had been with me to observe these nice young men).

Thank you,  
Dana Rutter