Tyler Kemp clutched his helmet and proudly walked out to the 50-yard line. After six years of playing football for the Lafayette Commodores, he had earned the right to be captain in the team’s rivalry game against Oxford in the Crosstown Classic.

“Being captain, it’s pretty cool,” Tyler remembered. “You know you’re representing the team and the school. It’s pretty nerve racking because everyone is watching you walk out to the middle of the field.”

“You’re trying not to make a complete idiot of yourself,” he laughed.

Tyler may not be a starter for the varsity football team, but he is a very important component. On any given fall Friday night, he can be seen showing great enthusiasm and spirit, encouraging his teammates and coaches on to victory.

“I think I get my spirit from just the love of the game. I’ve been going to Lafayette and Ole Miss games since I was a kid. I have loved the game ever since,” Tyler said

Coach Stan Robertson, Tyler’s position coach, only has good things to say about him. “I think TK is the most energetic young man I’ve ever been around in my life. He is very excited when it comes to any aspect of football,” Robertson shares with us. “He’s just a football fanatic.” It doesn’t matter if its the SEC or NFL, Tyler knows his facts.

His coach adds, “He is a very knowledgeable person of the game. He really keeps up to date with stats and people.”

“Tyler is probably the biggest football enthusiast on this campus. There is no doubt he is the number one fan, number one supporter, and number one cheerer all rolled into one.”

It’s not just his coaches and teammates that recognize TK’s immense pride and spirit. Student, Malia Carothers, also states “I don’t really know TK personally, but from his actions on the field during the games, I can tell that he’s a very motivated person. It’s enjoyable to know that I attend school with people with such great school spirit.”.

Tyler wears number 85 for the Commodores. While he doesn’t often get in the game, he never stops trying to motivate his teammates to do better. He has embraced that role and understands the word “team.”

“It’s unity,” he said.

“I think it’s just never giving up. Once you start something, you’ve got to finish it. Most guys, if they don’t have a starting position, they quit. Me, that’s not who I am. I want to play the game. I just try to be the positive guy on the team. Hey, we may be losing, but we can’t stop fighting.”

When asked what his most memorable moment during his career as a Commodore, Tyler turned back to his team.

“I would have to say last year playing for state. That was a pretty memorable moment. I wish we could have won, but it was still pretty cool,” Tyler explained.

Tyler also has a humorous side to him.

“I would have tried out for the cheerleading team if they had made me the mascot,” he chuckled.

Tyler is a member of the Class of 2015. His tremendous team pride and spirit will be missed by the Commodores, but his wonderful attitude will take him to great success in life.

As Tyler would say, “Go Dores!”