



**Old Lyme's Park & Rec Director Don Bugbee holds the Class S state championship trophy after his Lyme-Old Lyme High School girls' basketball team defeated Coventry on March 21 at Mohegan Sun. Photo and story courtesy of [www.LymeLine.com](http://www.LymeLine.com).**

An Open Letter to the Girls and all of those who supported our Girls Basketball Team.

I would personally like to thank everyone who supported the Girls Basketball Team, not only at the State Championship game, but throughout the entire season as well. Fan support is a vital part of the process and is always appreciated.

To say that the last few days have been exciting is an understatement. Playing for a State Championship at a venue like the Mohegan Sun Arena was an opportunity that, until this past weekend, had not been available to anyone. Playing in front of those thousands of screaming fans was certainly inspiring. Wildcat Nation was in full swing. Blue and White colors were abundant. Life is good.

The week or so leading up to last Saturday morning was great. Literally, everywhere I went around town, people were buzzing about the opportunity that lay ahead of us. The excitement was in the air...no doubt about that. "Good luck and see you at the game" became the standard phrase.

Coming away with the Championship made it all that much better. The congratulatory phone calls, e-mails and personal greetings have been a steady stream. This includes friends whom I had not seen in too many years to count, right up to Coach Auriemma and his coaching staff at UCONN. It is amazing when you realize that so many people had taken notice of what we had been striving for since November.

This team was a very hard working, competitive group of young ladies with a solid understanding of how basketball should be played. Going 25-2 in a Varsity Basketball season is an outstanding accomplishment. Our JV Team finished their regular season with an equally impressive record of 14-1. JV teams do not normally seem to get much attention from the masses, but I can assure you they are an integral part of it all. All of these girls accomplished a great deal this season. I had a feeling, and on the first day of practice, I admit, I challenged them with lofty goals, but my plan was simple. I presented it as, "If you do this...you can get that." They listened, understood and accepted my challenge. They worked hard for me, they goofed around and laughed when the moments called for it, they buckled down when they had to and they came away with great lifelong remembrances. Good for them. I tell them all of the time that it is my privilege to be their Coach. That feeling and my love for them has never been stronger.

Standing at center court and holding up the hardware was my way of saying thank you to all of you for your support. Looking up at the crowd and seeing that many smiling faces sharing this event with us will be etched in my memory forever. Thank you all for that.

State Champs...great job Girls.  
You made your mark and just like I told you...  
"It will be on the wall forever".  
Bugs

Go Wildcats !