

# OPINION

## Cheering from the stands

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British actor Dominic Monaghan is credited with the quote: “I have a hectic schedule, but I wouldn’t have my life any other way.”

I definitely feel you, Dominic. Welcome to my life.

Some of you may know me as the guy with the camera standing on the sidelines.

And that’s where I’ve been for most of my life — on the sidelines watching everyone else playing the game.

But that’s about to change. In exactly 108 days, I get to marry my cheerleader.

Let’s rewind a little bit, and I’ll tell you how we got here.

For several years, my family in Azle/Springtown area have wanted me to meet this girl named Tiffany. And for some reason or another — pretty much due to work — that never happened.

On a dare by my cousin Aricka last December, I took a very unfamiliar step and agreed to give Tiffany my contact information, just to see if there was any mutual interest.

After talking for a few days and learning a little about her, I asked her to go look at Christmas lights in Decatur. However, I informed her it was also a work assignment, and I had to take pictures of the displays.

To my shock and bewilderment, she agreed. Still don’t know how I pulled that one off.

After a couple more dates, I felt this was something I wanted to pursue. After several failed attempts at dating in high school and college, I thought, “Why not?”

At that time, I was already making a few personal changes that were much needed. I was enjoying my job, but something was missing — actually, someone.

In April, I knew she was the one. We felt like God had ordained this for both of us and were already discussing future plans.

So I bought a ring and asked a group of friends and family to set up a proposal. One thing was an issue — we had about eight hours to get everything ready.

After work that day, she pulled up in our church parking lot and found a quickly put together proposal.

Despite putting up with my work schedule and me in general for four months, she actually said yes. Talk about a miracle.

Fast-forward to today. We’re a little more than three months away from the big day, and we’re very excited about the future.

She didn’t really care for sports before she met me. Her first Wise County sports out-

ing was the playoff seeding battle between Decatur and Bridgeport girls basketball last season.

That one game evidently flipped her switch. Now she can be found at the majority of the games with me, either in the stands or on the sidelines nearby.

I don’t think it’s really because she’s now fallen head-over-heels in love with sports. But she loves to support me in what I’m doing, and I love having my cheerleader in the stands.

We decided to wait until next year to get married because having a wedding during football season was going to be difficult. It’s been harder than we thought to plan the wedding during football season, but we have an amazing support group that’s been helping every step along the way.

On Jan. 22, 2022, we’re going to say our vows in front of God, our families and our friends. We know it’s not going to be easy. But we’ve come this far, and we’re ready to keep on going with each other.

She’s my cheerleader. And she tells me I’m No. 1 on her roster. I really like knowing we’re on the same team.

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*Micah McCartney is the Messenger’s sports editor.*



SUBMITTED  
TIFFANY JONES AND MICAH MCCARTNEY