



# BLAKE *Mc*MEANS

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# BLAKE McMEANS

2128 HARDING PLACE • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37215 • 615-665-1369 • [BLAKE@BLAKEMCMEANS.COM](mailto:BLAKE@BLAKEMCMEANS.COM)

Hello,

Thank you for receiving this package of information. It contains a brief biography that I hope will help you understand why public speaking is so important to me.

Despite a terrible and incapacitating drinking-and-driving accident when I was 17 that nearly took my life, and that ended a very promising tennis career, I've been fortunate enough to turn this adversity into a positive message that reaches people of every age and walk of life.

Being able to bring this message to groups of people has been extremely rewarding, and I've been gratified to have reached and touched the lives of many individuals.

If there is any way I can be of service to you, please feel free to contact me any time. You can e-mail me at [blake@blakemcmeans.com](mailto:blake@blakemcmeans.com), or call me at 615-665-1369. If for any reason you can't reach me there, my cell number is 615-804-3778. If all that should fail for any reason, please contact Devron Scott at 615-438-3127, and I will be in touch with you shortly.

Sincerely,

Blake McMeans

# BLAKE McMEANS

*Blake McMeans knows first-hand the consequences of drinking and driving. Now he's devoted his life to helping others avoid making the mistakes he made.*



I started playing tennis when I was 3 years old. As I grew older, I played tennis along with basketball and soccer. I really liked basketball

and for a while I thought I was going to pursue it, but decided that I wasn't big enough, and chose tennis as something I felt I could be successful in through college and beyond.

By the time I was 12 I had won my 2nd Southern regional title in tennis, plus the Sportsmanship Award in Tennessee and in the 11-state Southern section. In all I ended up winning 5 Southern titles, and soon was being exempted from playing in the state and regionals, going right on to the nationals.

It was a grueling schedule of school, practice, and work-outs that began two hours before school started and went for two hours afterward. But I loved it, and worked hard at it, even taking extra classes so I could graduate early.

Then, unexpectedly, in June of 1994, my father died of a heart attack. He had been an athlete, too, like me.

## **"BEFORE MY ACCIDENT, I WAS A TENNIS PLAYER RANKED NUMBER 4 IN THE NATION."**

Losing him so suddenly was not something I was prepared to deal with.

It was only about 5 months later, on 13 November 1994, a cold night, that I was out at a bar, and I drank, and I decided I could drive home. It turned out to be the biggest mistake of my life. I made it to the road I lived on. And then I ran off the road and hit a tree. I was as close to death as a person can be.

I was airlifted to a local hospital and there was in a coma for three and a half months. The doctors at first didn't believe I would live, then believed I would be entirely paralyzed. Well, I had different ideas.

So here I am, hoping I can help others from making the mistakes I made.

It would be very difficult for any person who hasn't experienced what I've experienced since that tragic mistake to understand the adversity, the hardship, the enormous struggle,

that I, and my family, have had to go through. By speaking in public, I hope to bring home to people the reality of what drinking and driving can do to a person's life.

I'm someone about whom the cliché "he had it all" is true. I did have it all, and I'm fortunate to have a loving family who has stood by me and helped me through this adversity.



Now my wish is that I can reach out to people, young and old, and keep many others from ever having to experience the consequences of drinking and driving.

### **BLAKE McMEANS**

*Blake is currently Assistant Tennis Coach at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. A compelling public speaker, his message reaches people of every age and walk of life.*

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*For booking arrangements, please call:*  
**615-665-1369 or 615-438-3127**  
*or send e-mail to Blake:*  
**BLAKE@BLAKEMCMEANS.COM**

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## *Partial List of Previous Speaking Engagements:*

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT KNOXVILLE

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

ONEIDA SCHOOL, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

WEBB SCHOOL, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

MARYVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

FARRAGUT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

BEARDEN SCHOOL, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

HALL'S MIDDLE SCHOOL

SOMERSET SCHOOL, SOMERSET, KENTUCKY

TELLICO HIGH SCHOOL

*See a video of excerpts from one of Blake's frank and moving talks to students. It's on the web at: <http://www.blakemcmeans.com/video.html>*



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