

## Durant's Mom: The Real MVP

Mother's Day is this weekend. And most of us have personal stories about the sacrifices of a mother to give us the best that life has to offer.

That is true for Kevin Durant, basketball star for the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association, who has won an array of awards for his outstanding play. A Christian, Durant goes to chapel before every game, and He is very close to his mother, Wanda.

Durant's accomplishments in the 2014 season – when he played for the Oklahoma City Thunder – moved voters to bestow upon him the NBA's Most Valuable Player Award, easily beating out LeBron James. Durant, however, unabashedly proclaimed that there was another person who better deserved the honor – his mother. At the awards presentation, he gave a brilliant, heartfelt speech thanking everyone who helped him get to where he was. The best moment came when he talked about his mother, who was sitting in the front row. Here is what he had to say to her:

*I don't think you know what you did. You had my brother when you were 18 years old. Three years later, I came out. The odds were stacked against you. Single parent with two boys by the time you were 21 years old.*



*Everybody told us we weren't supposed to be here. We moved from apartment to apartment by ourselves. One of the best memories I have is when we moved into our first apartment. No bed, no furniture, and we just all sat in the living room and hugged each other because we thought we made it.*

*When something good happens to you, I don't know about you guys, but I tend to look back to what brought me here. You woke me up in the middle of the night in the summer times. Making me run up a hill. Making me do pushups. Screaming at me from the sidelines at my games at 8 or 9 years old.*

*We weren't supposed to be here. You made us believe. You kept us off the street, put clothes on our backs, food on the table. When you didn't eat, you made sure we ate. You went to sleep hungry. You sacrificed for us. You're the real MVP.*

Isn't it true that any real success we experience in our lives is due to the sacrifices of someone else? For most of us – and certainly for me – that someone else was Mama.

(more)

Never underestimate the immense influence of a mother's sacrificial love and care. Kevin Durant certainly doesn't.

Don't forget to give your mother the honor she is due this weekend. And if she has already passed on, as mine has, then celebrate this Mother's Day by telling someone how much – and why – she meant to you.

*She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all (Proverbs 31:27-29 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter