

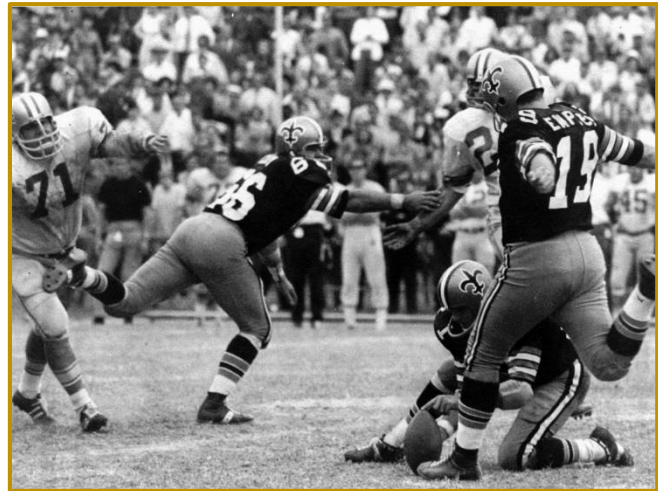
A Record-Setting Kick

On Nov. 8, 1970, a classic, hard-fought football game was played between the New Orleans Saints and the Detroit Lions at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans.

The game was nip and tuck, and it came down to the final two seconds to determine who would win.

The crowd, cheering for the home team, gasped as the fans realized that the Saints were going to try a field goal of 63 yards. To attempt something that had never been done before in the history of the game would certainly take a Goliath of a person.

Instead, they saw a different kind of man run onto the field – a person with no fingers on his right hand, no toes on his right foot, and only half of his kicking foot.



But when Tom Dempsey kicked the ball, he set history for professional football and a world record that stood for more than 40 years. (On Dec. 8, 2013, the record was finally broken when the Denver Broncos' placekicker Matt Prater kicked a 64-yard field goal as time expired in the first half during a home game between Denver and the Tennessee Titans. Before that, Dempsey's record-breaking kick had been equaled three times – by Jason Elam of the Denver Broncos against the Jacksonville Jaguars at Mile High Stadium on Oct. 25, 1998; by Sebastian Janikowski of the Oakland Raiders against the Broncos at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver on Sept. 12, 2011; and by David Akers of the San Francisco 49ers against the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field on Sept. 9, 2012.)

The beautiful thought about the feat is not that Dempsey won a football game, but that he refused to see his physical condition as an obstacle.

What about you? Is there something holding you back – keeping you from becoming all that God intended you to be, fulfilling the plan He has for you?

Maybe it is a physical impairment, as it was for Dempsey. Perhaps it is an emotional struggle of some kind that is a distraction. Or maybe it is an incident from your past that God has forgiven you for, but you can't seem to put behind you and move on.

Trust God that He has your best interest at heart, and seek His strength.

(more)

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter