

An Amazing Feat

Football fans are reveling in the array of college games as we near the middle of the season. For Southern men, in particular, other sports simply do not create the excitement of a Saturday afternoon on their favorite gridiron. Memories are created – by wins or by losses (especially those occurring when the favorite is upset) – that will last a lifetime.

As a devotee of the University of Tennessee, one such game will always linger in my mind. And it was because of a comeback engineered by a quarterback named Condredge Holloway, who is now an assistant athletic director at the university.



Holloway had many magical and amazing moments in his three years of varsity ball, quarterbacking the Volunteers to a 25-9-2 record from 1972 to 1974. His most amazing day of all, however, was one in which he missed most of the game because of an injury.

In the 1974 opener against UCLA, Holloway suffered a separated shoulder in the first quarter. He left the field in an ambulance, presumably gone for the season.

UCLA led 17-10 in the fourth quarter. Suddenly, an eerie hush fell over the assembled multitude, as if all 70,000 observers were struck speechless. Then came a murmur that rapidly exploded into a thunderous roar.

Amazingly, Holloway had returned to the Tennessee sidelines. Even more amazingly, he then trotted onto the field. For the Vols, their conquering hero had returned to the field of battle. He had arrived just in time to save the day.

And amazingly (there's that word again), he did just that. With an injured shoulder, Holloway led the Vols on an 80-yard march. He then scored from the two-yard line, acrobatically somersaulting into the end zone, landing head-first to tie the score at 17-all. It wasn't a win, but the Tennessee faithful who were there that day felt otherwise. We had witnessed something truly amazing.

The word *amazing* defines the limits of what you believe to be plausible or usual. The Grand Canyon, the birth of your children, that blackberry cobbler with ice cream all over it, those last-second football wins – they are amazing.

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The really amazing aspect of your life, though, is not the sights you've seen, the places where you've been, the people you've met and loved, or the things you have experienced. All that, and everything, pales beside God coming to Earth in human form, letting people kill Him, and then not staying dead.

Most amazing of all is the reason God did such things: because He loves you. Take pride in that, and approach your day with joy.

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen (Luke 24:5).

– Beecher Hunter