

An Amazing Kick

It's the season of football, and one of my favorite stories of the sport came out of the game between the Detroit Lions and the New Orleans Saints in November 1970.

The outcome was decided in the final few seconds. The Saints had the ball, but they were a long way from the goal line. There was time for just one more play, and the fans gasped when they realized that the Saints were going to try a field goal of 63 yards – a feat that had never been done before.

The kicker was no Goliath, but he was unusual, even though some people didn't know it. He had no toes on his right foot and only half of his kicking foot. There were no fingers on his right hand. But none of that stopped Tom Dempsey. He gave it everything he had ... and the kick was good!

The beautiful aspect of the story is not that Dempsey won a football game, but that he did what he had been doing all his life. He accomplished something against great odds because he refused to be stopped by his disability.

What about you? Is there some physical challenge that stands in the way of achieving what you want to do? Maybe there is a psychological or financial or social obstacle to overcome. Success is only blocked when we allow ourselves to believe what we cannot do.

Who would have ever thought that Tom Dempsey, with only half a foot, could perform a kick that no one else had ever been able to do?

Well, he did.

--Beecher Hunter