

No to *Playboy*

Ken Walker, writing in *Christian Reader*, recalled the 1995 college football season and the prominent play of Clay Shiver, a 6-foot-2-inch, 280-pound center for the Florida State Seminoles. He was regarded as one of the best in the nation.



In fact, one magazine wanted to name him to their pre-season All-America football team. But that was a problem, because the magazine was *Playboy*, and Clay Shiver is a dedicated Christian.

Shiver and the team chaplain suspected that *Playboy* would select him, and so he had time to prepare his response. Shiver knew well what a boon this could be for his career. Being chosen for this All-America team meant that sportswriters regarded him as the best in the country at his position. Such publicity never hurts athletes who aspire to the pros and to multimillion-dollar contracts.

But Shiver had higher values and priorities. When informed that *Playboy* had made him their selection, Shiver simply said, "No thanks." That's right; he flatly turned down the honor.

"Clay didn't want to embarrass his mother and grandmother by appearing in the magazine or give old high school friends an excuse to buy that issue," wrote Walker.

Shiver further explained his decision by quoting Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, of him much is required."

"I don't want to let anyone down," said Shiver, "and No. 1 on that list is God."

What about you? Are your convictions for sale? In the world today, the pressures are great. For Christians, the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit strengthens us in our resolve.

– Beecher Hunter