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Hearing the Game and Listening to the Player

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Football is one of America's pastimes that have played a crucial role in my life along with many other people across the country. To the average person that might not know a lot about the sport it may bring negative vibes. Football may draw these vibes from the trash talking and violence included in the game. This game has so much more to offer though. On top of discipline, brotherhood, and a sense of pride for one's team, football can give so much more. Looking at faith through football may seem like a difficult task to an outsider, but for someone involved it is an easy task."



Chris Sawyer
Rest Club Treasurer



Hearing the Game and Listening to the Player

Football is one of America's pastimes that have played a crucial role in my life along with many other people across the country. To the average person that might not know a lot about the sport it may bring negative vibes. Football may draw these vibes from the trash talking and violence included in the game. This game has so much more to offer though. On top of discipline, brotherhood, and a sense of pride for one's team, football can give so much more. Looking at faith through football may seem like a difficult task to an outsider, but for someone involved it is an easy task.

When I was younger and first started playing football I had a different coach just about every year. They all meant a lot to me but the one that struck me the most was my coach from 6th grade. He told us there are only 3 things in life that are the most important. The first was your family. The next was your education. The third was your faith. He told us that through our faith everything was possible. That season we went undefeated. We also had team prayers before and after the game. This occurred from that time until my football career ended. I always enjoyed team prayer. It showed unity within our team. We were one voice, one heartbeat, under God.

Today, there are many stars on the gridiron that are not afraid to show their faith. A perfect example of this is Tim Tebow. Tebow not only excels on the field, but also shows that he is not afraid to

express himself through God. I had the pleasure of reading his book (*Through My Eyes*, by Tim Tebow and Nathan Whitaker – HarperCollins Publishers, 2011) over the summer and really enjoyed reading what he had to say. One of my favorite quotes from the book is:

People often seem to think that when you're following the Lord and trying to do His will, your path will always be clear, the decisions smooth and easy, and life will be lived happily ever after and all that. Sometimes that may be true, but I've found that more often, it's not.

This is so true when it comes to life and on the football field. There is never an easy decision on the field and what Tebow is trying to get at here is no matter what decision you make, you have to make the best out of it because the Lord's path for you is not something that you already know. It has to be found. I think Tim Tebow is great for the sport because of what he brings to the table. On top of all of the negativity that may be seen in football he is a bright spot that needs to be exposed. He is not the only one that expresses a positive image on the sport. There are many out there, they just have not been seen yet.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an organization that is not only found on Fisher's campus, but also found in youth programs all the way up to professional teams. It is an organization that focuses on using athletics to impact the world of Jesus Christ. It was established in 1954 and has been growing ever since. This not only uses football, but many other sports.

No one should judge a book by its cover. Football has meant more than just a game to me in my life. It touches people in more ways than the naked eye can see. It brings people together for more than just a game. It can bring people to faith.