

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE - DEC. 4, 2011

Reflections

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

'DROP KICK ME JESUS'

BY REV. MARK MILLER

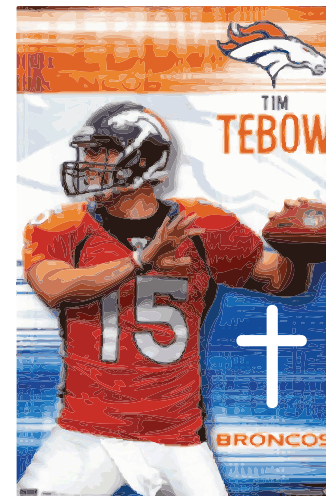
I remember, although not in detail. A good friend, Sam Smith, at the time [more than ten years ago], was the National Basketball Association sportswriter-editor for the Chicago Tribune. I always admired Sam...if for no other reason he valued integrity above politics. To wit: he wrote a book, *Jordan Rules*, that revealed the underbelly of Michael Jordan...and the manner in which he cajoled and intimidated other players—on his own team in addition to the opponent. Whoa.

Point here being Sam called me once because he was doing an article on, something like this: does prayer benefit in winning?

My less than expansive answer was *No, Sam. Prayer doesn't benefit winning. Prayer benefits living fully. When pitching in college my-before-the-first-pitch prayer was not for victory...it was for full effort. That I would give everything with every pitch...and if the ball is still in orbit when being hit...so be it. I even recalled when pitching my last game...in Battle Creek, Michigan...my manager told me it would be interesting because the Georgia pitcher was a Southern Baptist Minister. [I was headed to my first seminary year after that national series.]*

I told the manager that my primary hope was that the umpire was not Southern Baptist.

As many if not all of you are aware, the place of prayer—make that specifically “Tebow-ing,” is highlighted in almost every sports page and television sports-talk-show these days. The genesis of same started when Tim Tebow, probably the most polarizing professional sports figure of all time...certainly current day...makes no hesitance to announce his faith in almost every interview...and bends a knee to the ground in victory. Since they've won five straight the question poses: Does prayer bring victory?



- Mark Miller is a retired UCC minister who formerly served Lakewood UCC and Broadmoor Community Church and recently has published several books. For more information about Mark go to: www.drmarkhmiller.com

Interested in submitting your own Reflection for the RMCUCC to use? contact us:

www.rmcucc.org / chance@rmcucc.org