

The Frogs-Football-Faith Issue

Smart Performance: Frogs Take it to Another Level - with HEART!

New TCU head football coach Sonny Dykes felt pretty good about being able to exceed pre-season expectations that placed the Horned Frogs as the seventh-best of the 10 teams in the Big 12 last summer.

He gave the prognosticators heartburn by sweeping the vaunted Oklahoma Sooners, Texas Longhorns, and every opponent in an undefeated regular season. Even with a disappointing loss to Kansas State in the Big 12 Championship, TCU impressed College Football Playoff voters enough to earn a spot in the four-team playoff.

Max Duggan's gutsy Big 12 Championship performance, particularly in overtime, was just inches short as he left the field with a bloodied arm and tears in his eyes.

One of the season's highlights was the last-second field goal that featured the offense running off the field and the field goal team sprinting onto the field in what Coach Dykes called "The Bazooka", which looked more like a fire drill. Kicker Griffin Kell's walk-off 40-yard kick split the uprights for the win at Baylor.

The Fiesta Bowl win over Michigan validated the Horned Frogs as being a **legitimate** contender, as did the selection of Quarterback Max Duggan as runner-up for the Heisman Trophy and winner of the Davey O'Brien Award as the best quarterback in America.

Coach Dykes was named Big 12 Coach of the Year and the Walter Camp National Coach of the Year, and Offensive Coordinator Garrett Riley received the Broyles Award as the top assistant coach in the nation. In total, 21 TCU coaches and players won awards from this amazing season. The reason? Heart!

The team was a close-knit family driven by unselfishness. The players and coaches wanted the team to win, and they did everything possible to encourage one another.

After all, Max Duggan only played because the starter - Chandler Morris - was injured in the season opener. Max never considered quitting or transferring. Instead, he committed to serving the team the best way that he could - as a back-up.



TCU's on-field success – combined with the team's involvement in the TCU Fellowship of Christian Athletes program – helped create a bond of faith that unified the team.

More on faith in a moment.

Playing in the College Football Playoff Championship game was a branding extravaganza for TCU. Forget about the disappointing final score and consider:

- The Hypno-Toad captivated fans and drove massive engagement on social media
- TCU received MILLIONS OF DOLLARS worth of media impressions
- New Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark – with his background in the entertainment industry partnered with TCU to launch the takeover of a Los Angeles area called Frogtown that even featured purple beer on tap
- Early results show that fundraising and student applications are on the rise with the excitement around Frog Football

And the fun continues. Just a week ago, TCU traveled to Lawrence, Kansas, and handed then top-ranked Kansas Jayhawks a decisive defeat in men's basketball. The Frogs are nibbling at the Top Ten of NCAA rankings.

And the Big 12 baseball coaches have just named the Frogs as the favorite to win the league championship this spring.

Apparently, nobody wants to predict TCU to finish #7 in any sport ever again.

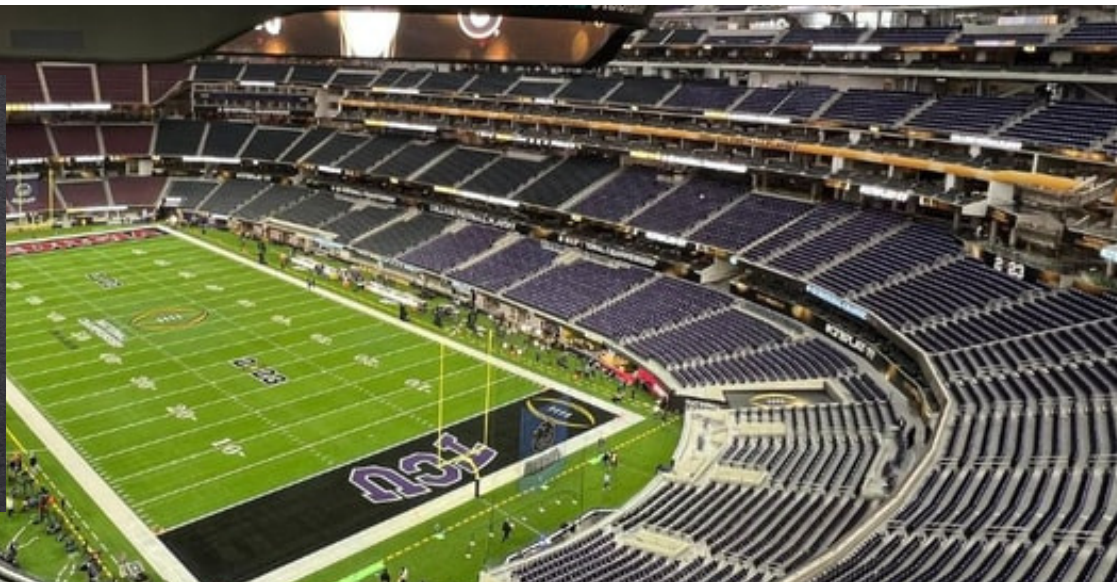
Oh yes... and all this is taking place on the 150th anniversary of TCU. Using the phrase from author **Squire (no, that's NOT a typo!) Rushnell** – author of "When God Winks at You", God is "winking" at TCU!

By the way, I have my own two special ties to my alma mater, TCU

- I was chairman of the last bonfire on the TCU campus (I won't tell you how many years ago!)
- I joined with former TCU football player **Bill Kinder** – better known as Big Billy Kinder from the Big Billy Kinder Outdoor Show on WBAP and Sirius/XM Radio – as we worked together at KJNE radio in Waco in 1984 to produce the song, "I Was Purple When Purple Wasn't Cool." The song featured 1982 Miss Texas **Gloria Gilbert** and then TCU head football coach **Jim Wacker**

[Click here](#) to see the news story that News 8/WFAA reported during that production session (alert: Coach Wacker tried to sing where he should have talked!) – *Thank you to my friend Doug Boehner from WFAA for retrieving the story*

[Click here](#) to listen to the song



Spontaneous Faith Demonstration: NFL Stops to Pray

Prayer took a front seat on Monday night, January 2, when Buffalo Bills safety **Damar Hamlin** collapsed suddenly after tackling Cincinnati wide receiver **Tee Higgins**. He had suffered a cardiac arrest on the field of a stadium filled with football fans and a nation of football TV enthusiasts.

Suddenly, everybody stopped. Football stopped. As the New York Post wrote, if legendary director Frank Capra (who gave us the "It's a Wonderful Life" movie) was alive today, this would have been his next film.

The NFL canceled the rest of the game and prayers poured out throughout our nation for a football player that most of us had never previously heard of.

That's what makes this such a beautiful story.

For a moment, nobody was arguing about whether or not to be vaccinated. Nobody was complaining about politics – **OK, for just a few minutes**. People stopped and cared. And prayed!

Sitting in front of our TV sets, or reading or listening to the story, we suddenly were reminded of the fragility of human life. We realized that "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

The nation responded with prayers and with an outpouring of money. Hamlin had on December 14, 2020, established a GoFundMe page earlier to raise money for Chasing M's Foundation Community Toy Drive.

That foundation's goal of \$2,500 had not been reached. Until Damar Hamlin's life-threatening injury. That total now exceeds... get ready now... **over \$9 MILLION with over 247,000 donors**.

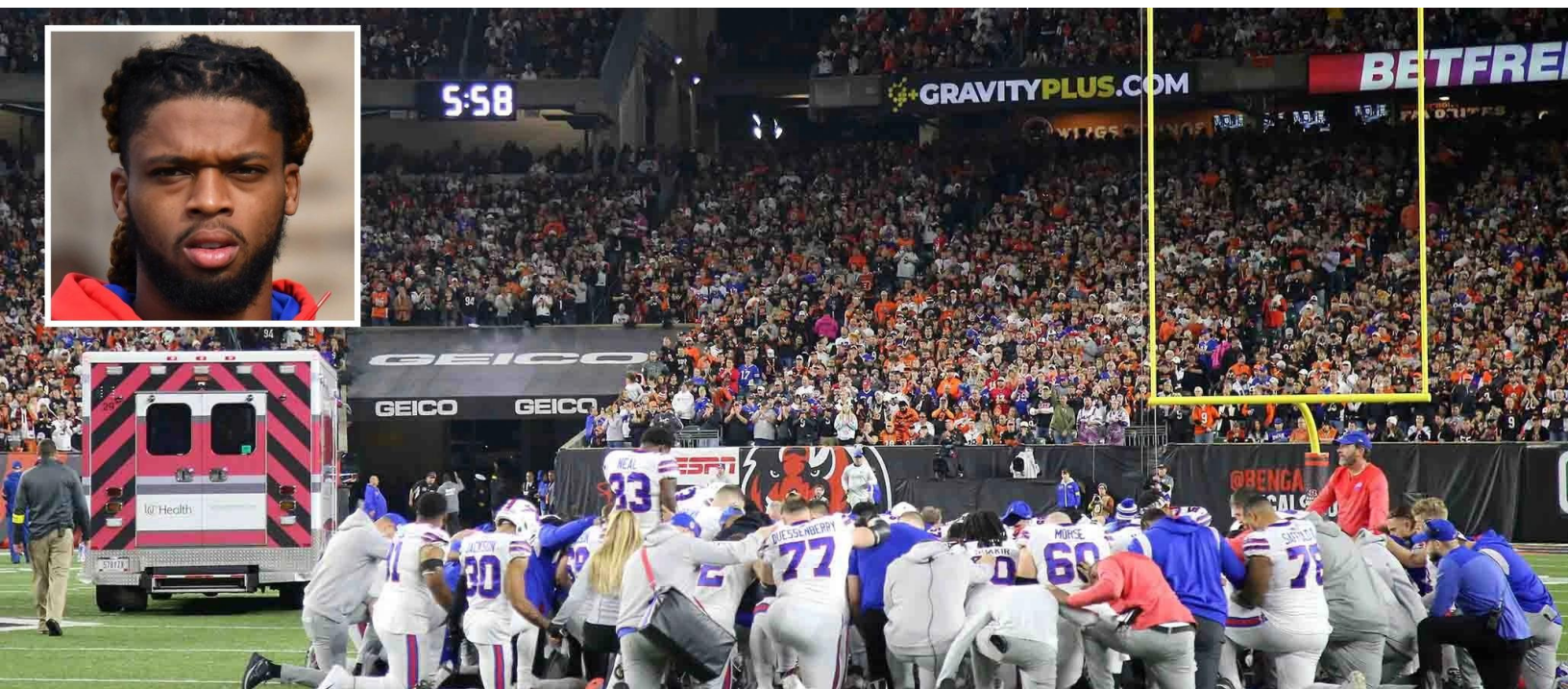
On a local level, prayers are going out for my friend **Hal Jay**, who has hosted the morning show on **WBAP-News/Talk 820** for over 40 years, (all the way back to when they played country music). He was notified earlier this month his heart is worn out.

Hal is waiting for a heart transplant.

Listeners and non-listeners alike are praying for the "Fun Guy" as I like to call him. I was visiting with Hal at his home on January 9 – the day of the National Championship game – and he had a heart episode the following night.

Life is precious, and it's also unpredictable. Please join me in praying for **Damar Hamlin and Hal Jay**, along with the special people in your life (yes, you too, **Howard and Rochelle!**) who mean so much to you.

So yes, this is a time of Frogs, Football, and Faith.



Tiebreaker: Chewy Sets a New Standard

I buy as much as I can locally but often use Amazon and even Chewy for Doc the puppy and Snowball the kitty. It's just so convenient.

I recently set up an auto-ship order and found myself with way too many boxes of cat broths to top Snowball's food. I went online with Chewy to cancel the auto-ship, then I clicked on the "Chat" button to set up a return and refund.

The customer service agent (Jacory) cooperatively confirmed the refund. When I asked how I could return the product, he wrote: *There's no need to send anything back this time. Instead, please feel free to donate this to a local shelter or rescue.*

That kind, thoughtful comment just made me a Chewy customer for life!

What are you doing to:

- listen to your customer
- show you care
- show generosity
- make it easy

**Today is Tuesday, Jan. 31:
National Hot Chocolate Day.
I hope you enjoy yours!**

