

FROM: 10157091

TO:

SUBJECT: #10 - My Thoughts On Tim Tebow. And God.

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I have been a Denver Broncos fan (I can hear the hisses already) since I was seven years old. That's nineteen years of blessings and turmoil in my as yet short life. I have seen many great things accomplished by my team: Two Super Bowls, three hall of fame inductions, Jason Elam's record-tying 63-yard field goal versus Jacksonville, and a 19-game winning streak which, thanks to the upset victory by the Chiefs today, still stands tied for second all time.

I have also seen many more not great things (or so it seems): Buffalo's three touchdowns in 1:17, Josh McDaniels, countless games of 40+ points allowed, and the worst full season in forty-one years. Fortunately, I'm not old enough to remember the '86, '88 or '89 Super Bowl seasons, but I know they happened as well as any other half-assed football fan.

But never have I seen anything so great and terrible for my team as Tim Tebow. Great because he is a leader. People look up to him both on and off the field. He is strong, disciplined, capable, and I believe he is an all-around good man. The most important thing to me as a Broncos fan is that he wins. However he does it. He takes his cast of supporting characters and wins.

I say terrible because my team is now involved in one of the strangest controversies in sports history. Upon discovering I am a Broncos fan, people will invariably want to talk about Tim Tebow. What do I think of him? His faith? Do I think God is really on his side?

Here's the truth: When Tebow was in Florida, doing that thing they call winning football games, I hated the man. I'm from Wyoming, where winning a meaningful football game is as foreign to the university as archaic empiricism. Check this year's New Mexico Bowl score if you don't believe me.

In Florida, as well as most of the south, football is a religion. Your life priorities go in this order: God (and football), family (and football), and football, and football. Tebow did things my team will never be capable of doing, and I was jealous as all get out, but I couldn't admit it. And then Josh McDaniels drafted him and I had never been so confused. How was I supposed to feel about this man I despised playing for the team I loved? And then McDaniels was fired, Tebow soon got the starting job, Orton was waived and the entire offense revamped. All was turmoil in Denver.

Then something strange began to happen. That thing Tebow was doing in Florida? Yea. It started to happen in Denver.

On a personal level? Tim Tebow makes me uncomfortable. When I tune into a game, I want to see football, not Falwell. Put quite simply, he makes me question my faith. Have you ever heard the man speak? He's just so happy and grateful and selfless, all characteristics I wish I could exhibit more of genuinely. He loves life, people and above all, the man loves God. Tim Tebow is an unmovable pillar of faith. I, like many others, am not.

I think this is why the media has blown him up. He hasn't fed into this much, if at all. He doesn't provoke anything, he barely even acknowledges it. Tim Tebow is just Tim Tebow, for better or worse, for great and terrible.

The bottom line is that I think he should go right on doing the same things. More importantly, I think people should let him. Who I am and how I feel about it is not his problem. Those are my issues. Who he is and how he feels about it...

You guessed it.