

Tebow Talk
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I have to admit I have a special interest in Tim Tebow, not just because I am a Florida Gator and my wife affectionately calls him “Timmy”, but because I have been impressed with his faith on and off the field. As a Denver Bronco, Tim still gets press because of his faith statements and lifestyle. One newscaster commented that “The Denver Broncos' Tim Tebow might very well be the most talked about backup quarterback in the history of the National Football League.”

In an interview with Denver Post columnist Woody Paige, Tebow commented, “I’m relying as always on my faith.” The amount of “Tebow Talk” that grew in Denver and spread nationally over that statement is surprising. Tebow has been labeled everything from being an inspiration to being a fanatic. One writer even called Tebow’s statement “blasphemous.”

The headline that really caught my attention was, “Is Tim Tebow not starting because he’s a Christian?” It’s been claimed that new coach John Fox has chosen Orton to start as quarterback because Tim Tebow is a strong evangelical Christian. Personally, I have a hard time buying into that for the simple reason that a coach’s main goal is to win, regardless of whether or not his players are people of strong faith or of no faith at all.

Professional athletics does provide a great forum for genuine faith expression, and some media people are uncomfortable when this happens and some players may even be disliked because of their faith. It doesn’t, however, seem to me that’s the case when it comes to quarterback decisions with the Broncos.

One of the enjoyable aspects of sports is the inconsequential nature of it all. Before you pommel me with a wet jersey, let me explain. We root and cheer for our teams, and sometimes we get real emotional and excited. We have our loyalties and some put out big bucks, but when all is said and done, the outcome really isn’t as important in comparison to the most significant things in our lives. Show me someone who cares more about their team than their relationship with the Lord, their spouse, their children, and their job, and I’ll show you a person who is in serious need of professional help.

One final note: I’ve noticed Tim Tebow hasn’t said a negative word about his role on the team and, in fact, has affirmed his coach and his fellow players, including Kyle Orton. I believe that’s because Tim has a firm grip on perspective. Football, while important, is not the most important thing in his life – and that is refreshing.