



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.5, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

08/06/08

Program 49 "Drop Kick Me Jesus (Through The Goal Posts of Life)" © Paul Craft

I've heard of the "drop kick" my whole life -- still, I've never seen one. No wonder! Until quarterback Doug Flutie booted one for the New England Patriots in their season finale on January 1st 2006, it had been over 60 years since anyone in the National Football League had converted one! There was nothing "dispensational" about it, as the play has remained viable in the NFL's official rule book for all these years.

Officially speaking, a dropkick is defined as, "a kick by a kicker who drops the ball and kicks it as, or immediately after, it touches the ground." It can be used for both the point-after conversion (i.e., the extra point kicked after a touchdown), or for a field goal.



Football haven't always been shaped like they are today – they were much more rounded, like a rugby ball prior to the mid-1930s. But the ball was made "pointier", and dropkicking quickly went out of style.¹

Somehow, some way, this all-but-forgotten feature of the game of football inspired songwriter Paul Craft to pen this humorous description of how he wanted to get to Heaven!

The Song ² –

- "The world's only Christian-football waltz"
- Reached #17 on the Country charts in 1976 – nominated for Grammy award
- Written by Paul Craft who wrote and recorded "It's Me Again Margaret" in 1974

The Artist ³ – Bobby Bare

- American country music singer and songwriter born in 1935 in Ironton, Ohio
- Father of Bobby Bare, Jr., also a musician, with whom he tours
- Other hits include – "Marie Laveau" (#1), "The All American Boy", "Detroit City", "500 Miles Away From Home", "(Margie's At) The Lincoln Park Inn", "Sylvia's Mother", "Come Sundown", "Please Don't Tell Me How The Story Ends", "Daddy, What If", "Lullabies, Legends and Lies"
- Dabbled in rock 'n roll, and a couple of acting roles
- Formed the band *Old Dogs* in '98, with friends Jerry Reed, Mel Tillis & Waylon Jennings
- Highly successful 50-year career; he still records and tours today

Drop kick me Jesus through the goal posts of life
End over end neither left nor to right
Straight through the heart of them righteous uprights
Drop kick me Jesus through the goal posts of life.

"Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil" – Proverbs 4:25-27

¹ http://www.profootballhof.com/history/release.jsp?release_id=1481

² <http://www.paulcraft.com/bio.php>

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobby_Bare

Make me, oh make me, Lord more than I am
Make me a piece in your master game plan
Free from the earthly tempeston below
I've got the will, Lord if you've got the toe.

Jesus does give us roles in His "master game plan" --

"It was he [Jesus] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" – Ephesians 4:11-12

God wants us to grow in the faith...

"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity... and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so" – Hebrews 6:1-3

"tempeston" is not in the dictionary, but the writer still "makes his point"

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End over end neither left nor to right
Straight through the heart of them righteous uprights
Drop kick me Jesus through the goal posts of life.



Here, Jesus is portrayed as a drop-kicker. Other works liken Him to a...

- Train engineer, conductor (Song: "Life's Railway to Heaven")
- Ship's captain (Song: "Jesus Savior, Pilot Me")
- Possibly a telephone operator (Song: "Jesus On The Main Line")
- An airplane co-pilot (Book: *God Is My Co-Pilot*)

Bring on the brothers who've gone on before
And all of the sisters who've knocked on your door
All the departed dear loved ones of mine
Stick'em up front in the offensive line.

Having godly friends and relatives who pray for you is a blessing – a great "offensive line", but if they've departed and are in Heaven, they're occupied in a post-game celebration!

(Chorus repeats)

A lowly benchwarmer I'm contented to be
Until the time that you have need of me
Flash on the big scoreboard that shines up on high
The big Super Bowl 'way up in the sky

Who really and truly wants to be "on the bench" when it comes to serving the Lord? Sure, we need to rest sometimes to avoid burnout. But consider Paul's drive and determination when he says...

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

-- Philippians 3:14

I don't want to be on the bench. Do you?

Final thoughts:

Hey, wouldn't it be great if the NFL, NCAA and high school football encouraged return of the drop kick? How about awarding 2 points for a drop kick conversion, and 4 points for a drop kick field goal from 25 yards out and over? I think that would do for football what the 3-point shot has done for basketball!

One thing about the drop kick that stands out is the fact that it involves only one player – the kicker. There's no 3rd party to catch, position and hold the ball (me) for the kick! In other words, if I'm going to trust Someone to get me through the Pearly Gates of Heaven, I choose Jesus! No stumbles, bumbles or fumbles!

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