

WHERE TO

A resource dedicated to student-athletes and their Life after Notre Dame.



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ENTHUSIASM, ATTITUDE, ACADEMICS, AND LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

By Tom Galloway (ND '87)



Although my playing days at Notre Dame were almost four decades ago, the values instilled in me then about the importance of family are still very much alive in me today. Coach Holtz significantly influenced my life from the moment of that first meeting with his players, when he commanded and demanded us to respect one another and instantly changed the atmosphere. He set the tone for the next 10 years of his coaching career at Notre Dame, when nothing short of excellence would be accepted.

In my weekly letters to Coach, as well as during my visits with him throughout the year, I update him on my family, the community efforts we're involved in, and the things happening in my professional life. It's so rewarding to continue to be guided by his lessons for living and giving to others.

Coach is often heard to say, "God didn't put us on this Earth to be ordinary."

Motivated and guided by this, each year my family chooses one word to remind us to be extraordinary in our thoughts and actions during the months ahead, as Coach encouraged. My word this year is "Inspire" and to be "Inspirational."

CONNECTIONS BEGIN

My connection to Notre Dame – and Coach Holtz – starts with my dad, John Galloway (ND '47). I am the youngest of seven children: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John, Anne and Mary, and little Tom! Although I was the only one of the kids to attend Notre Dame, all of my siblings realize how blessed we are to have had parents whose primary goal to educate their children was fulfilled.

My parents showed early fortitude with their concerns about injuries related to playing football, prohibiting any of us from playing the sport until high school. I earned the starting linebacker position on the varsity team as a sophomore and had the thrill of playing alongside my brother John, who captained us that year at Bishop Maginn High School in Albany, New York. I was later humbled to join two of my brothers in our high school's Hall of Fame.

As a walk-on at Notre Dame in the early 1980s, the double-session practices during pre-season were always difficult. Each day for two weeks in August 1983, I ended my lunch breaks with a knot in my stomach because back then, if you returned to your locker and found your equipment gone, that was the signal you were no longer a member of the team. After those initial two weeks, I was thrilled to see that my equipment was still there, along with that of other teammates like punter Dan Sorensen, kicker John Carney, Mike Seasley, Chris Kvochak, and Rick Michalak.

It's important to set expectations as a young athlete, regardless of the sport you play. I was with the best athletes in the country – a future Heisman Trophy winner and countless guys who would go on to have great careers in the NFL. I was excited for the opportunity to dress for one home game that first season and travel to one away game in sophomore year. Junior year, I dressed for every home game and made 11 plays (out of some 80 total, but I'll take it.) I was making progress, was more than halfway through my college football experience, and honestly, all I wanted was to earn my varsity monogram at the University of Notre Dame and become a member of the Monogram Club for life.

COACH HOLTZ ARRIVES



At the end of the 1985 season, Coach Holtz joined Notre Dame, and yes, those stories you hear about that first meeting are all true! The discipline he brought was exhibited in many ways, from the seating charts for meetings to how our lockers should be maintained to the implementation of mandatory 6 am workouts. I saw this change as an opportunity to start again, with only one year left in my football career. I remained eager to ensure that the new coaching staff knew who I was by trying to finish first in all of the drills. That discipline and attitude paid off when, at Spring Game in 1986, in front of 35,000 fans (including my brother and now wife of 35 years, Colleen), I was awarded the "Most Enthusiastic Player" award and sensed things were changing.

My summer months consisted of working 10-hour days on a high-rise bridge in upstate New York, wielding a jack hammer on a construction crew. One evening after work in late July, just prior to heading back to camp, Coach Holtz called me. He said he was contacting me not so much because of my talent, but rather for my attitude and enthusiasm. Coach then informed me that he was awarding me a full athletic scholarship to Notre Dame.

An incredible moment in the life of a young student-athlete in search of simply earning my monogram from Notre Dame! At the start of the season, the special teams were set, and I had the opportunity to play every game that last year.

THE FUTURE BECKONS

As that senior season progressed, I was asked by our captain, Mike Kovaleski, to speak at our last home game pep rally before the Penn State game, another memorable and amazing experience for me. Our last game was played in the Olympic Coliseum in Los Angeles versus USC, and John Carney kicked a last-second field goal to win the game – an incredible way for my teammates and I to finish our football experiences at Notre Dame.

My studies prepared me for what was to follow after football, and my first job was with one of the Big 8 accounting firms, Price Waterhouse in Baltimore. However, many of my fellow teammates left campus in May 1986 with their paths uncertain and without an adequate infrastructure to help them define their future. Some would go on and face incredible adversity, while others would suffer in silence. Today, many struggle with the wrenching loss of a spouse, a job, or their own physical or mental health.

Coach Holtz also said, "Show me someone who has been through adversity, and I'll show you a leader." I'm so grateful for the collaboration and unity of the Holtz's Heroes Foundation LLC and Project LAND, as we work together to coordinate resources for any former Notre Dame Football player, manager, or trainer who may need help professionally or personally, helping to ensure they have the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

I'm thrilled about our organizations' partnership, and in my weekly letters to Coach Holtz, he is very aware of this partnership and forever grateful to continue in the mission of doing good for others!

Tom Galloway (ND '87) was the first President and now President Emeritus of The Holtz's Heroes Foundation LLC (HHF). He remains an active board member and continues to serve on the Executive Committee, working closely with Reggie Brooks (ND '93), the HHF Executive Director, and other board members in setting strategy that ensures the HHF's longevity by fulfilling its mission of helping others. From the Lou's Lads Foundation to the HHF/Bread of Life Food drives and Forever Family program, Tom is an integral member of the team carrying on Coach Lou Holtz's legacy of Trust, Love & Commitment to Excellence. Tom walked-on to the Fighting Irish football team under Coach Gerry Faust and was a member of Coach Holtz's first class. After consistently demonstrating his commitment to excellence, Coach Holtz saw in Tom a leader of men and someone whose enthusiastic example could inspire others. Tom received a scholarship before the start of his senior year and played in every game that year. He and his wife of 35 years, Colleen, are grateful and realize how blessed they are that their children, Ben (ND '13), Brendan (ND '17, NROTC), and Kacie (Trine '21, ND MNA '23), graduated from the University of Notre Dame. Kacie was an original member of the Project LAND team. The Galloways continue to maintain deep connections throughout the University and its Alumni Clubs around the country. Tom served as a member of the Notre Dame Monogram Club Board of Directors and helped establish the original Monogram Club Network, designed to help transition student-athletes into the workforce. Active in their local ND Club of Maryland, Tom and Colleen chaired the Notre Dame Summer Service Project in Baltimore for 25 years. Tom earned his undergraduate degree in accounting and his master's degree in financial management from Johns Hopkins University. He has enjoyed a long-time career in financial services and is currently a Global Relationship Manager at Allspring Global Investments.