

# Side Bar Content

## History

### The longest field goal in NFL history was kicked by a man who had only half a foot!

On November 8, 1970, an unlikely hero booted an unlikely field goal to propel his team to an unlikely victory. That man's name was Tom Dempsey, a 22-year-old kicker for the New Orleans Saints who was born without four fingers on his right hand and half of his right foot. The stage was set for Dempsey's dramatic kick shortly after his counterpart for the opposing Detroit Lions had made an 18-yarder to give his team a 17–16 lead with 11 seconds left in the game. The ensuing kickoff return and a short reception by Al Dodd left New Orleans with little hope of victory. Now with only 2 seconds remaining, Tom found himself trotting out to the Saints' 37 yardline to attempt what was thought to be impossible - a 63-yard field goal.

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### The NFL scores forfeits 2–0

According to the official NFL rulebook, a forfeit occurs: "... when a game is not played because of the failure or refusal of one team to participate. In that event, the other team, if ready and willing to play, is the winner by a score of 2–0" (the points earned in a safety). Why a two-point safety? Because those points are the league's only scores that are not credited to any one player.