

Field-Goal Dream Realized

What's more, now Vols' kicker has his scholarship, too

By John Valenti

Phil Reich spent Saturday night thinking about kicking the game-winning field goal against Iowa — a 67-yarder with no time on the clock. It all seemed so easy then.

But yesterday he was standing at the 20-yard line in Giants Stadium. There were six seconds remaining in the game, and his team, Tennessee, trailed Iowa by two points. "All I was thinking was, 'I can't miss this,'" he said later.

Nervous? He was in only his second varsity game. And in a contest that was expected to be a battle between quarterbacks and high-scoring offenses, he was, of all things, the place-kicker. Heck, he didn't even have a

FINAL SCORE

TENNESSEE 23

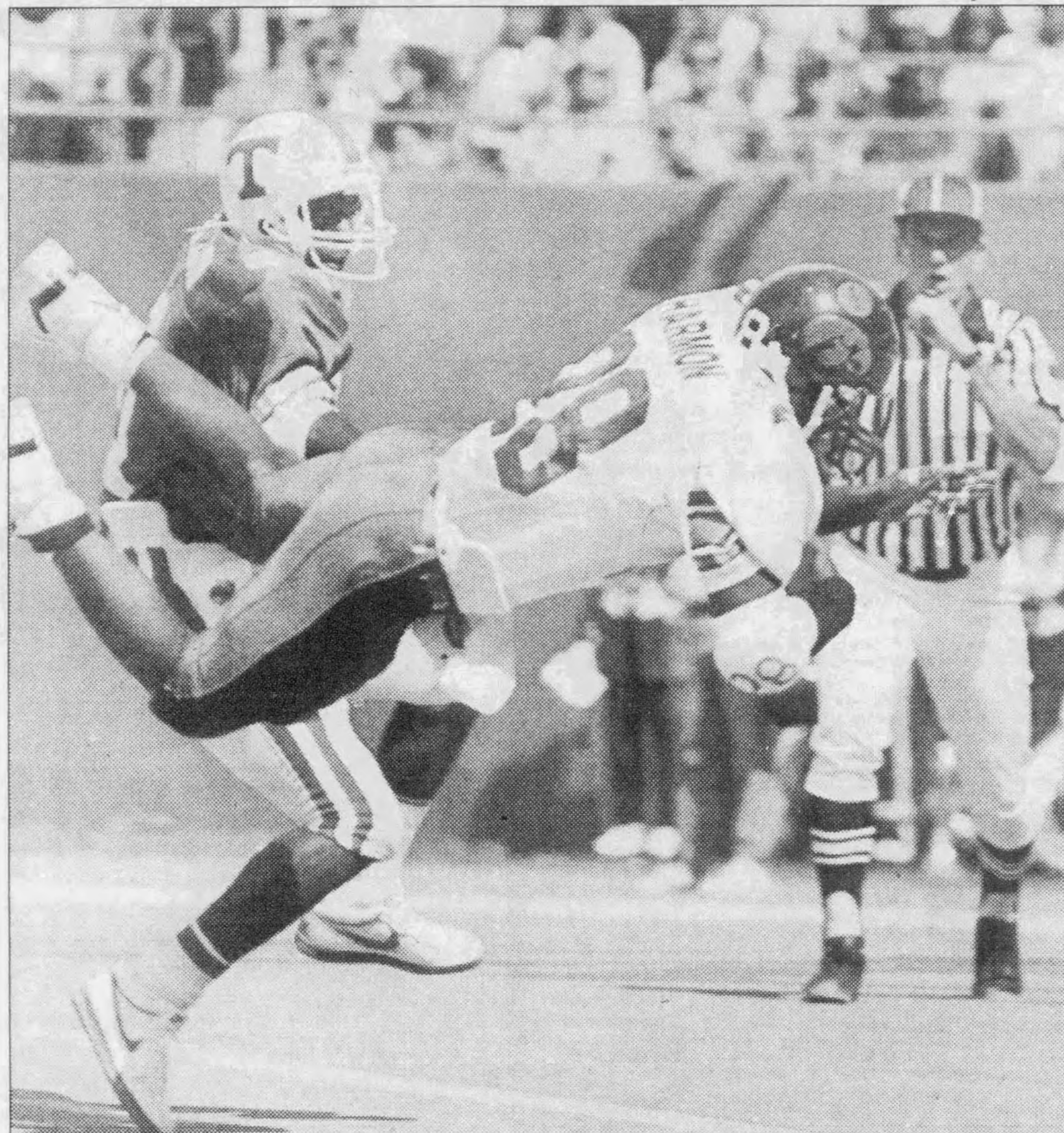
IOWA 22

scholarship, having made the varsity last season as a walk-on.

"You know," he said, "standing there, all the way over on the left side of the field the way I was, makes those goalposts look so much smaller. It kind of makes you a little bit uneasy."

Reich stepped up, swung his right foot and immediately realized he hadn't hit the ball all that well. But it managed to squeeze through the uprights, his third field goal of the quarter and the one that enabled Tennessee to come back from a 19-14 fourth-quarter deficit to defeat Iowa, 23-22, in the Fifth Annual Kickoff Classic before a crowd of 54,681. And so what if it wasn't pretty or if it was almost 50 yards shorter than the game-winner he had envisioned hitting the night before? After all, besides the victory, the field goal brought Reich another present. Tennessee coach Johnny Majors announced after the game that Reich had been awarded his long-awaited scholarship. "Kind of makes me glad I didn't miss," Reich said.

The game had been billed as a battle between Iowa quarterback Dan McGwire and Tennessee quarterback



Kevin Harmon, formerly of Bayside, scores a touchdown in second quarter

Jeff Francis. But it quickly turned into a game that hinged instead on the unexpected: grind-em-up running by freshman Reggie Cobb of Tennessee, who gained 138 yards on 25 carries, and an intercepted shovel pass that was returned for a 96-yard touchdown by Tennessee defensive back Darrin Miller in the second quarter.

And Iowa's missed two-point conversion attempt in the third quarter also proved to be a factor.

"There were times when we stopped ourselves," said Kevin Harmon, younger brother of former Iowa all-America Ronnie Harmon. The senior running

back from Bayside gained 52 yards on 11 carries and scored a 20-yard touchdown on a fourth-quarter reverse that gave the Hawkeyes a 22-17 lead.

"We had our chances, but we didn't take advantage of them," he said. "That's what makes a game like this even more frustrating."

Though McGwire completed 7 of 14 passes for 86 yards and directed Iowa to a 3-0 lead in the first quarter, the younger brother of Oakland Athletics rookie sensation Mark McGwire quickly became a non-factor when coach Hayden Fry removed him midway through the second quarter. Fry did it to test all

three of his quarterbacks — Chuck Hartlieb, Tom Poholsky and McGwire — in game situations. "I had to evaluate things," Fry said.

But it also interrupted the continuity Iowa had hoped to build on offense.

In his first series, Hartlieb attempted a pitchout to running back Rick Bayless on fourth-and-goal from the 1, but it was picked off by Miller. The defensive back took the ball at the 4, cut to the middle of the field, got a block from teammate Terry McDaniel at his 40 and returned it for a touchdown that gave the Volunteers a 14-3 lead.

Still, a 23-yard second-quarter touchdown reception by Harmon, a 27-yard field goal by Rob Houghtlin and the third-quarter touchdown run by Harmon gave the Hawkeyes a 19-14 lead. And though a 45-yard field goal by Reich cut the lead to 19-17, a 42-yard field goal by Houghtlin with 9:06 left put Iowa in good position.

"We had played so sporadically and couldn't get anything going ourselves," Majors said. "But there were some mighty big plays [at the end]. I couldn't be prouder of a team fighting for four quarters."

Cobb, using his quickness to consistently get outside on sweeps and off-tackle runs, kept Tennessee on track and countered for a disappointing performance by Francis, who went 11-for-23 for 151 yards and one interception. And when Cobb gained 21 yards on the final drive, in which Tennessee benefited from a 15-yard pass interference penalty, the Volunteers moved into scoring position for the final time. "There's no question people got their money's worth today," Fry said.

No one more than Reich, who had missed a 51-yard attempt in the first half, but was mobbed by teammates after the ball had split the uprights for the winning points. "A 67-yarder would have been more dramatic," he said. "But this was pretty good."

Iowa wide receiver Quinn Early, a senior from Great Neck, had nine receptions for 131 yards. . . Iowa wide receiver Jim Mauro suffered a broken leg, and Tennessee wide receiver Anthony Miller tore cartilage in his knee.

NFL Players Plan Sept. 30 Strike Date

Combined News Services

The NFL Players Association is expected to announce a strike deadline of Sept. 30 after its 28 player representatives meet in Washington today.

"The union printed a booklet last December outlining exactly what they were going to do, and they have done it," said Jack Donlan, executive director of the NFL Management Council. "They had a game plan. They stuck to it."

The five-year contract expires today. There have been no negotiations since Aug. 14. Donlan said the union has refused to negotiate.

"What disturbs me is the union seems to have different priorities than we do," Donlan said. "It disturbs me they don't think they belong at the bargaining table."

Dick Berthelsen, the union's general counsel, said there haven't been any meetings recently because union officials have been busy briefing players on the status of the talks.

A Sept. 30 strike would come after the third week of the season. By that time, players would be eligible for a full year of pension benefits.

Scalpers Asking \$300 for Bears-Giants

Chicago — The season-opening game between the past two Super Bowl winners is drawing super prices for illegally scalped tickets, with a good sideline seat going for up to \$300, it was reported.

One businessman who bought tickets after the

Sept. 14 game was sold out said he paid \$100 each for end-zone seats and \$300 each for seats near the 50-yard line. Tickets at Soldier Field normally sell for \$10 to \$20.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing, to see the two previous Super Bowl champions play," said the businessman, who wished to remain unidentified.

Cornerback Mike Richardson, who led the Bears with seven interceptions last season, ended his salary dispute by signing a one-year contract. . . Mike Tomczak will start at quarterback when the Bears take on the Cardinals tonight at Soldier Field. Starter Jim McMahon, who underwent shoulder surgery in December, had been hoping to play tonight but was unable to throw in practice last week. Chances are he will begin the season on injured reserve.

Marino Progressing; Clayton Hurt

Miami — Dolphins coach Don Shula had some good news and some bad news.

The negative was the news that wide receiver Mark Clayton has been hospitalized for observation of a thigh bruise. The move was precautionary, just to make sure the bruise doesn't calcify and become a big problem.

The promising news was that regular starter Dan Marino may be ready to play some in Friday's final preseason game against Buffalo. Marino has missed two games with a dislocated ring finger on his passing hand.

Cowboys Come to Terms With Top Pick

Irving, Texas — Danny Noonan, the longest rookie holdout in the Dallas Cowboys' 27-year history at 41 days, signed a four-year contract with the team worth an estimated \$1.6 million.

Noonan, the Cowboys' first-round pick and a former all-America at defensive tackle for Nebraska, will report to coach Tom Landry tomorrow.

Raiders Intercept 5 Cowboy Passes in Win

Irving, Texas — Vance Mueller broke open the game with a 40-yard touchdown run, and the Los Angeles Raiders intercepted five passes and beat the Dallas Cowboys, 34-10, in a preseason game. The Raiders' Lionel Washington returned a fumble 11 yards for a touchdown, and Stefon Adams ran 75 yards on a punt return for another score.

Colts' Hogeboom to Miss 6-8 Weeks

Indianapolis — Colts quarterback Gary Hogeboom will undergo surgery today to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb suffered in Saturday's game with Houston. He will be out for six to eight weeks, coach Ron Meyer said.

Jack Trudeau, who started 11 games when Hogeboom injured a shoulder early last season, again will be the starter, with Blair Kiel as his backup.

The Colts also lost backup fullback Owen Gill, who cracked a bone in his right leg and likely will be out for four to six weeks.