

# SHOWNOTES - Norris Hilton (01/50)

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

dad, game, quarterback, integrity, play, daddy, church, day, years, thought, remember, ended, story, alabama, proud, sat, kids, usc, reputation, man

## SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Norris Hilton (Guest)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:00

I want to tell you a story about something that changed my life forever. On October the 8th, 1977 - it was a beautiful fall day. And my dad had gotten up early and it's one of those days when he had to do all the honey do lists, which included raking leaves and mowing grass. It was that time of the year. And he got up early and did all of his tours because it was a very special ballgame coming on. It was the University of Alabama Crimson Tide and the University of Southern California. I think Alabama was ranked number eight that year and USC was ranked number one, they had the Heisman Trophy winner Charles White, Alabama had guys like Tony Nathan and Jeff Rutledge and Mike major Ogilvy and Gaza, we all looked up to there are heroes as little boys, I was 11 years old. Daddy got everything done that day. And as happened on every Saturday and Sunday in the fall, the guys in my neighborhood set it up. And it was time for a we called the NFL, the neighborhood Football League. And sure guys all over the country had their own neighborhood Football League. And so it was time for us to have a game. But it was also time for Alabama and USC to come on. And the guys gathered at the little yard across the street, the lat cross street from my house where we played our games, and we had some rules. And so on this particular day, only four of us showed up. And so we were as little boys debating on how we're going to have our regular Saturday game and one of the guys suggested that we get an all time quarterback. That was one of our rules that you could have an all time quarterback. So basically that meant that one guy could be the quarterback for both teams. And that way both teams could have two receivers and that way you could do picks and crosses and Noctus do out of each. It was just a lot more fun that way. But we didn't have anybody to playoff time quarterbacks. So one of my buddies made a suggestion. He said, Hey, Scott, why don't you get your dad he's a good quarterback. And he's played with us before. So we'd like for him to come out and bear all time quarterback and I said No guys, you know, he got up early this morning. He's already raked the leaves. He's mowed the grass, Alabama and USC is coming home. My dad can't wait to see it. He's excited about the game and I don't I really don't think we need to bother. Yeah, don't get him. He'll do it. He'll do it. So peer pressure was sir. Oh, man. So I went in to do I really didn't want to do and I walked into the the living room. And I remember walking in, Daddy was sitting in his green Lazy Boy recliner. He had his feet propped up. And he had a big bowl of Orville Redenbacher popcorn. That was just for special occasions. Big glass iced tea. And I walked in the living room. And right at the minute I went in, and I said Daddy, I know you I know you don't want to do this. You don't have

to do this. But the guy's I told him I would at least ask you if you would be the all time quarterback. The game is just fixing to come on and that it did something that day that I'll never forget. As long as I lay off, he reached over and grabbed the handle of that Oh, lazy boy. And he plopped the foot rest down. He said his popcorn and his iced tea down. And he got up and he walked out of the house with me and through the yard and crossed the street over to that empty lot. And Daddy was our all time quarterback. That day my dad didn't just step on to the empty lot across the street from my house. That day, my dad stepped into a platform. And I remember that day specifically has been the day that my dad became one of my heroes, my biggest hero. So funny thing happened. He was the all time quarterback and of course I was the Russian guy. And so that it was an old man, he was in his 30s So I thought surely I can catch the old man. I was 11 years old and so I kind of did Mississippi's I've times as fast as I could count, and arrest him. And he shot a move on me. And it was bad. And it was in front of my friend, though, man, juke me out of my drawers. And he got around me. And by the way, we didn't play tag, there was guest rooms play tag, you had to play tackle. So there was a barbed wire fence. On one side line, there was a paved road on the other, there were three oak trees for a touchdown, and there was a telephone pole on the other end for it. And Daddy took off running down the field after he dropped me off, and I get up and I'm chasing him, but he's running down along the barbed wire fence. And I remember thinking, Man, I really want to catch him. This is embarrassing. But at the same time, I was saying, Wow, that's my dad. That's my dad. He's out here, when he could be watching the best game of the year, the biggest game of the year, he chose to come out and spend some time with his son, and he's scoring a touchdown. And as I chased him down the field, I didn't want to catch him. But in my mind, I will say that's my dad. That's my dad. And really, all the things that I've done with my life, since that, since I got old enough to do something, I've really gone back to that moment, I've devoted my life to try to help kids to have moments like that where they had someone who loved them enough to give up something important. So that's the origins of the that's my dad project that we're now working on. So we thought it would be appropriate that for the very first interview, we bring in the guy who really is at the heart of it all. And that is my dad, who's here in studio with us. So welcome to the studio day.

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Norris Hilton (Guest) 06:56

Well. Thanks, God, I appreciate that story, too, is there's only one thing about it. You couldn't have called me if you'd want.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:05

And are you pretty fast? I don't know how that happened. Because I was I wasn't particularly slow. But I do remember church a couple times when we have those recreation nights and, and we raised a couple of times. Yeah. I think when I was 15. And I caught up we Yeah, that's when I quit racing. Yeah, you're you're a pretty fast Oh, man. 35. But I've told this story. Hundreds and hundreds of times. And you've heard I think have told it and an audience for years, when I would do speaking engagements at churches and civic groups and so forth. And every time I told it, it literally hundreds of times, there'd be some poor guy in the audience who would break down and cry. And some of them I think were crying because they they remembered things about their dad and things that happened. And it reminded me that that stories are very important. And sometimes it would be because guys didn't didn't have that experience. So one of the things we're going to do here on this podcast, just tell that it's my dad's stories. That's

the original. That's my dad's story. I don't know if I've told you that but in front of God and the internet, and everybody I want to tell you, thank you. Thank you, Scott. I am. You know what I am? Yeah. Because you and I don't mean to be emotional. It's probably not a good way to start. But I do appreciate Shakira. So do you? Do you remember that day by any chance?

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Norris Hilton (Guest) 08:56

Part of it. I don't remember the fact that I got up from watching Bear Bryant, that was a real challenge.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:07

That was like man heaven.

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Norris Hilton (Guest) 09:10

But I do remember playing football with you guys. And it was a lot of fun. But I enjoyed showing them that a left handed old man could still get out there and have some fun. And that's what it was all about having fun.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:26

It was about fun. We had so much fun. And you know, the podcast and the channels. As I said last week was 85% inspiration and 15% instruction. So I think stories are are inspirational. I think in fact, I was looking at the Greek word for stories that if you translate literate means to know enough to know and some someone has said that God created humans because he likes stories. Yeah. So I think stories are important and they build a bond and you and I If we can sit around and tell the same old stories over and over, and we have I wrote in my book about teaching your, your son to have integrity, and you did something one day that I've just never forgotten a lot of things you did, I've never forgotten, but I had gotten hurt at football practice. And I must have been 16 or 15, or 16, and Coach College, and so he needs to go to the hospital. So you can pick me up from practice, and we were headed to the hospital. And I guess we're both a little excited, because my guess was messed up. And you went through a school zone, then 30 or 40, I guess. So the policeman lit you up, and was gonna pull you over. And somehow or another, you ended up pulling into the sales station, right there by the school, and the policeman lost you. He got mixed up in traffic, I still don't know what happened. But you pulled over into the sales station, and just sat there. And as a 15 year old kid, I thought, we just lost the cops, this is gonna be a great story for my friends. All we had to do was go up the street a little bit and take a left and go down another street, he would have never gotten back to finance. But he did something that day, that's stuck in my mind. And I want to ask you, if you remember it, or what's your thinking, but you stopped at that gas station, and just sat there? And I believe I said, Daddy, we we could we lost him. We can get we can get by and used to No, no, you just sat there, you didn't give me an explanation. You didn't make a lesson out of it. And the guy came back and gave you a ticket that spoke so much to me, because it was just a matter of integrity. And I'm sure the ticket was \$25 at the time. But it was it was one of those things where we as dads have to teach our kids integrity. And it's the little things we do

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Norris Hilton (Guest) 12:13

that to limit Let me just jump in there there for a minute. You're, you're talking about me as your dad. My hero as a as a child was my dad. And And the truth was, I knew that I could never live up to his reputation. He had a reputation of being honest. I never in my life heard my daddy say one curse word. I don't think there's many people that can say that. And he had such a reputation. In our church, He very seldom spoke, but when he did, everybody listened. So part of what you're saying about me stopping with a white no macaque. It come from the idea that, hey, if I leave here, I'm disappointing my dad. Because my dad believed in integrity. And being honest, always.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:18

And I guess when you invest in your kids, they they naturally want to please you? Yeah. And that's, you know, that's one thing I would say to young dads out there, your kids want nothing more than to please you. And to make you proud. Yeah. So you know, everything you do you, you got to remember that. But when you invest in those kids that I call it having a little change in your pocket, you can always catch them, but they will want to do everything that they can do to please you and to make you happy and to bring honor to you. And I've experienced that with you. And my granddaddy, your dad was absolutely that way. He had a phrase and Granny and I remember when when he would leave? They would what was it? They would say I know, when you leave the house, I'd say remember who you belong to?

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Norris Hilton (Guest) 14:09

Always I always said that. I always wondered, What are they talking about? Part of it was living up to that reputation. And I was just saying, but then as I got older, I realized that when I became a Christian God became my father. Yeah. And always had to remember that I belong to Him. And so all my actions had to be pleasing not only to my earthly father, but my heavenly Father.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:40

You don't want to do anything to embarrass you, Daddy never heard nobody ever hears. You know how to there's a young man I still work with, you know who he is. And he accomplished something last week. And he looked at me and he said, Mr. Scott, are you proud of me? And this guy's 30 years old. Yeah, is it Mr. Scott? Are you proud of maths and I'm absolutely proud of us it is your data gonna be proud of me is your sister gonna be proud of MCs kids and that they want their parents to be proud of the footnote to the speeding ticket story is that many, many, many years though, my guess 30 years later, you're appointed to the school board. And you ended up being the chairman of the local school board. And y'all ended up closing that school, or Yeah, you did you close that very school, y'all ended up closing. And during your tenure there built a \$23 million facility, I think. And you were the guy that was entrusted to oversee, that, I think is a great story of, you know, doing the little things right. And God, God gives you more responsibility and more as you go as you go. So I've I've never forgotten that. You did something that was rather unique, you would, you know, role model in the community

and the Christian leader, pastor of a church. And back in those days, we had revival services. You know, he had a was it a fall and a spring, it was kind of a tradition that was expected. So you plan the fall revival services and brought a preacher in and the song leader and it was kind of done that way, then you always tried to have him on Monday through Thursday night, during the fall, because I was playing football Friday night, high school. And, and it turned out that the game got rescheduled, for some reason. I don't remember. But anyway, we ended up having a game on Thursday night. And you told me that you just weren't gonna be able to make it to the game. You were the preacher. You had to be at church. And so I understood that that was a big deal, you know, but you never missed a game. Did you realize that? Yeah. I played for 11 years, three sports. You never missed a game. That's, that's pretty incredible. I when I was the director of Eagle Rock Boys Ranch, I went to hundreds and hundreds of ballgames. I remembered, as I was going to all those games, many of which were very boring, many of which my kids weren't playing, but I remember what it felt like to see you in the stands. And I knew that these kids wanted to see somebody in the stands. And I drove all over the state, going to ball games. And oftentimes, the kids didn't, didn't even get to play. But every time after the game, they would want to know what I thought. And that was all because you were always at all my goodness. And I remember but this one particular incident. That that year, it's a revival service on Thursday, Thursday night, and the game was on Thursday night. And so I was kind of brace myself on, you know, I told you that was fine. It was I wasn't gonna be upset. But when I would come off the field at halftime, I would always look in your set about 50 to 40 yard line about halfway up. I always knew exactly where you set you set with my buddies friends and and I looked up in stands expected not to say you a mama. Yeah. And y'all were there. Yeah. And it's amazing to me that of all my great memories of high school football, and just wonderful friendships that I made. That one moment is sealed in my mind. But I thought when I saw you, I thought, oh, no, he's a Baptist preacher. They fired him. You know, we're gonna have to move. We don't have a church anymore. And so, when I went on to play the game, and after the game, I said, Daddy, how did y'all get here? So I took care of it, you. You didn't really go into detail, but I did find out later that you had instructed the song later, that he was the only thing the first and last stanza. And that the invitation was only to be one stanza. If somebody needed to get saved, they better do it on the first because you were going to head to my blog. I mean, you cut the service, you cut the revival service. Sure. Do you remember that?

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Norris Hilton (Guest) 19:42

Oh, yeah. What were you thinking? I love to watch you play. Like I say you were real quick. And you usually beat the guys in front of you. And never knew when he was gonna make an outstanding play. I mean, do you is a gorgeous don't intercept passes. But yeah, you know, there's certain thing about being a proud dad, you've got the sun there that's, that's my dad. Well, I never wore the sun. But sitting around your those people I always want to say that's my boy. That's my boy. Proud of you. Yeah.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:25

What do you think it takes to be a great dad

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Norris Hilton (Guest) 20:33

number one is love. We need to love our children with all of our heart. The other one is to live that example before them. I don't know if you remember. If I told you, you, you are never to say, I've got to do this because I'm a preacher's kid. Right? You got to do that because you're my kid. And there's a big difference. So the fact that we live before children. And so I promise God when he gave you to us, that I give you back to him. And I promised God that I would always do my best to just be the example. So that you would never be embarrassed by your dad

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:33

and we open the ranch. There were so many people who stepped in to help us because they know you. And they know your integrity. I know of one. One person in particular is an organization that they ended up giving us well over a quarter million dollars. That was all based on I never even met the people. The whole thing was based on the fact that they knew you were a man of integrity. And this guy told this guy this day after this guy ended up way off in another state that your reputation preceded and that affected me so badly. Let me just thank you for being here. It's been an honor and really a privilege for me to get to do this. Appreciate you and know that so this is the best my dad podcast where we're here to break cycles of generational fatherlessness and help you go on to become a great dad. Until next week. See ya