



**Ned Hickson**

# Scorpions could improve some boring spectator sports

Like millions of red-blooded, unathletic men across America, I will be spending a good portion of my Saturdays sitting on the couch, eating handfuls of assorted snack foods and whining every time a player from my team makes even the teeniest mistake. It doesn't matter that these men are performing feats of athletic skill I can only achieve in my dreams (after which I usually wake up with a pulled groin muscle).

And it doesn't matter that each of these men possesses more muscle mass than my entire body weight plus a mid-sized SUV.

The reason these things

don't matter to us men is because we know THOSE men can't actually hear us. If they could, football parties as we know them would cease to exist:

"Did you guys see number 42?! That IDIOT completely missed the tackle!"

"Hey, Bill — I think he's looking at you."

"What...?"

"Try moving over by the cheese dip. Oh yeah, he's definitely looking right at you, Bill."

"What's he holding up?"

"I think it's some kind of fancy GPS device."

"Why's he smiling and pointing at us like that?"

"Quick, Bill! Change the channel!"

This exaggeration was done to make a point, which is that, aside from leaving for work one morning and being

tackled through the screen door by a 310-pound linebacker, nothing can keep us from shouting at the TV during a sporting event.

In fact, I have a friend who owns a giant flat-screen TV with picture-in-picture viewing who has taken this to a new level by learning to yell at four different games at once. While this is certainly an impressive display of multi-tasking, watching a game with him is like watching a game with a sports fanatic suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder.

I should clarify that not all sporting events fuel our primal need to yell at the TV.

One example is bowling.

The reason is simple:

There's no element of physical danger involved.

True, there's always the

underlying risk of someone's fingers getting pinched between two bowling balls, but it just doesn't evoke the same level of danger as it would if bowlers — like basketball players — had to actually compete for the ball in a tip-off before each frame:

"...The ball goes UP-and-now-down, off the head of Czechoslovakia's Sirius Kunkussion, and onto the foot of Floppy Sesamoid, who is now gasping for air from the hand blower..."

It's pretty much the same thing for golf and tennis; no real danger involved.

And even though golf does use exciting terms like *Water Hazard!* *Sand Trap!* and *Sudden Death!*, we all know the only real danger is Peter Jacobsen forgetting to pack a sweater for the senior tour.

However, in both sports, a few well-placed scorpions could make all the difference:

"What a beautiful shot by Rory, eh Tom?"

"Yes it was, Frank, but he seems a little hesitant to get his ball."

"Well, Rory's a smart golfer. He knows there's a good chance that one of the three remaining scorpion hazards is probably in that cup."

"That's a good point. But remember: He does still have one last caddy-option left. The question, of course, is whether to use him here, or save him for the sand trap."

Or tennis:

"In case you're just tuning in, it's advantage Williams, which means Sharapova must win this next point if she wants to stay alive — no easy feat, I must say."

"That's right, Tom. As you

can see, they have just released the scorpions on Serena's side of the court. One wrong step, and she could — WHOA! I think we've just lost another ball boy..."

Now, before we get a bunch of angry comments from bowlers, tennis players, golfers and scorpions, I have nothing but the utmost respect for those sports (and for scorpions in general).

In fact, the last thing I want is to offend anyone with a racket, golf club or good enough aim to drop a 7-10 split.

Especially since I just had the screen door fixed.

*Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of Life," is available online at Port Hole Publications, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com.*

## Author in live simulcast at Cross Road Church

LifeWay Christian Resources is slated to simulcast well-known Bible teacher and best-selling author Beth Moore live from Wichita, Kan., on Saturday, Sept. 12.

Cross Road Assembly of God, 1380 10th St., in Florence will be serving as a host location for the Oregon coastal area.

Living Proof Live, sponsored by Nashville-based publishing company LifeWay Christian Resources, will feature Moore's dynamic storytelling and passionate Bible teaching.

"Beth's teaching is some of the most profound I've ever heard," Kim Trobee, associate pastor to women at New Life Church in Colorado, said. "Her knowledge of the Word and her passionate delivery never fail to get right to the heart of the matter."



COURTESY PHOTO

**Beth Moore**

The event both challenges and encourages women to grow deeply in their faith. Join 250,000 women around the world for this live, global, Internet streaming event.

The simulcast gives each church a front-row seat to one-of-a-kind Bible teaching and life-changing worship.

"I have served in women's ministry for over 20 years now, and there is just no other event like Living Proof Live," said women's ministry leader Missy Kintzel. "It is one event our women do not want to miss."

Moore has authored dozens of published Bible studies, books and devotionals specifically for women for

nearly two decades. Her newest LifeWay-published study, "Children of the Day: 1 & 2 Thessalonians" (released May 1, 2014), is a Bible study

that "equips women to let the light of Christ shine brightly."

Moore's organization, Living Proof Ministries, is based out of Houston.

Dove award-winning musical artist Travis Cottrell, who also serves as worship pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., is slated to lead worship for the event.

The Living Proof Live Simulcast kicks off at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 at the door. Tickets include one full day of music and worship, sessions led by Beth Moore and opportunities for fellowship with other women from the Florence and coastal communities.

Women may purchase tickets by registering at the church during the week or via the Cross Road website at [florencecrossroadag.org](http://florencecrossroadag.org).

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