



TEXAS HAVE COURAGE

Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-14.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong" (v. 13).

Mack Brown started the tradition in 1998: As the Longhorn football players trot onto the field for a game, on their way they touch a photograph of Freddie Steinmark to remind them to play with the courage that he showed in his own life.

Steinmark was a starting safety for Texas as a sophomore and as a junior in 1968-69. He snared five interceptions while the Longhorns won 20 of 22 games and two SWC championships. He led the team in punt returns in 1968 and was a significant part of the "Game of the Century," the 15-14 win over Arkansas that propelled the undefeated Horns to the 1969 national championship.

Steinmark had played for some time with a nagging pain in his left thigh, and when he visited the team doctor the Monday after the Arkansas win, the diagnosis was swift, sure, and devastating: He had bone cancer. Less than a week after the Arkansas game, Steinmark's leg was amputated. The safety's courage and attitude drew national attention. President Richard Nixon phoned after the surgery for an update. More than 10,000 Arkansas fans sent get-well wishes. Texas A&M wired a telegram 60 feet long.

Less than a month after his surgery, Steinmark amazed his doctors and his teammates by showing up in the locker room for the Cotton Bowl against Notre Dame. "It was like the old Fred-