

## BY GAIL WOOD

Maybe he should just change his nickname from “LT” to “TD.”

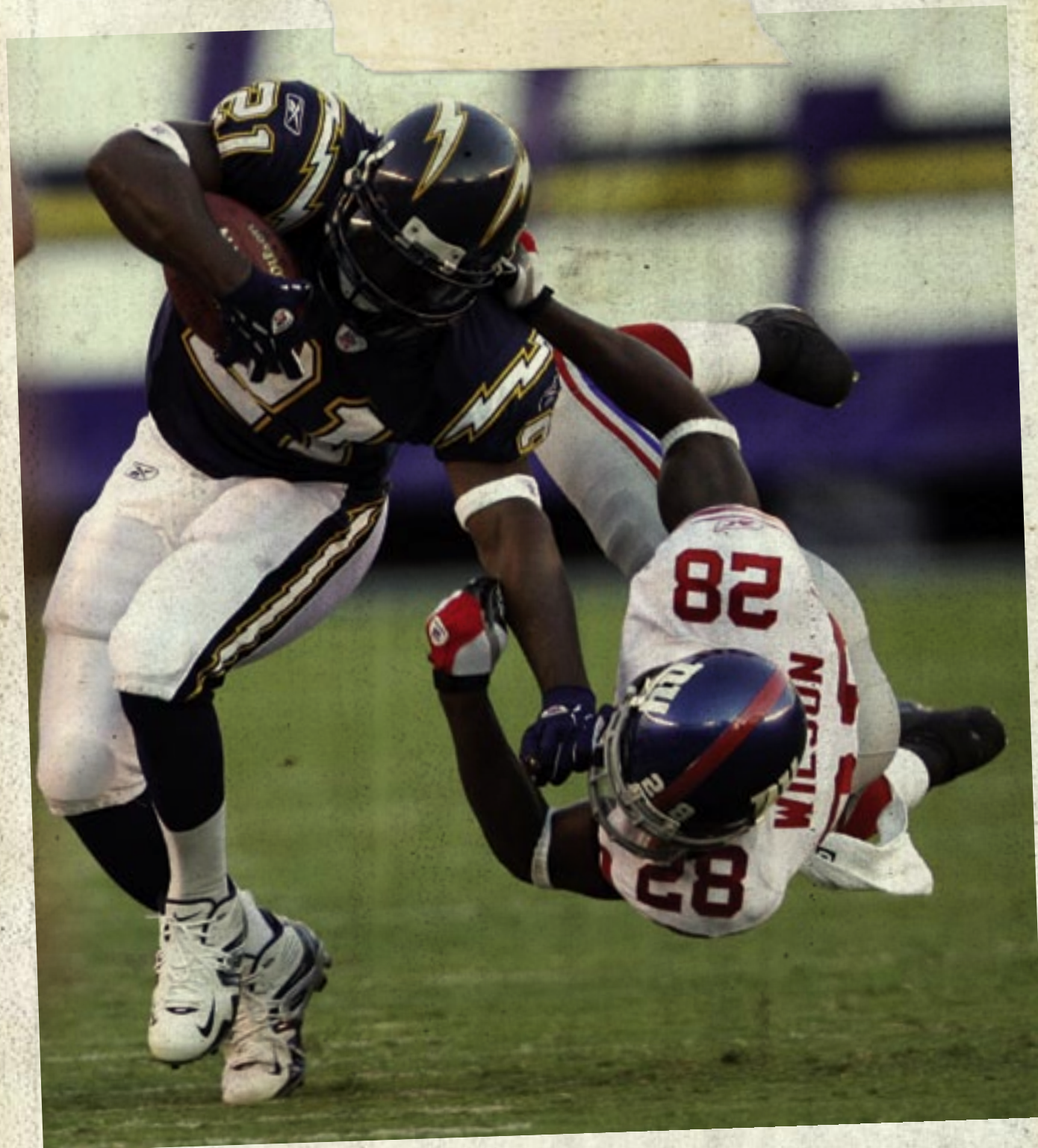
LaDainian Tomlinson, the San Diego Chargers tailback, is a virtual touchdown factory.

Against the Oakland Raiders in game 6 of the 2005 season, Tomlinson accounted for three touchdowns. In a remarkable 27-14 Chargers win in Oakland, he ran for 140 yards on 31 carries, threw a 4-yard TD pass and grabbed a 35-yard TD toss.

In that game, he equaled Lenny Moore’s NFL record for consecutive games with a touchdown at 18, but he didn’t score the following week.

“I used to reference him as one of the best I have ever seen,” Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer says about

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**FAST (4.3 SECONDS FOR 40 YARDS)  
AND STRONG (BENCH PRESSES 440 POUNDS),  
TOMLINSON IS A MIX OF POWER AND SPEED.**

# LADAINIAN TOMLINSON

Tomlinson. "Now, I believe he is the best running back I have ever seen in professional football."

Tomlinson is convincing.

Fast (4.3 seconds for 40 yards) and strong (bench presses 440 pounds), Tomlinson is a mix of power and speed. His senior year at Texas Christian University, he ran for a NCAA Division-I record 406 yards and six touchdowns on 46 carries against the Texas-El Paso Miners. As the Chargers' first-round draft pick in 2001, he hasn't disappointed.

"The best part about it," says Schottenheimer, "given all the success he has had, he is absolutely driven by one thing and that is a pride that he wants to be the best."

In Tomlinson's first four seasons with the Chargers, he rushed for 4,564 yards and scored 42 touchdowns. In 2003, Tomlinson became the first player in NFL history



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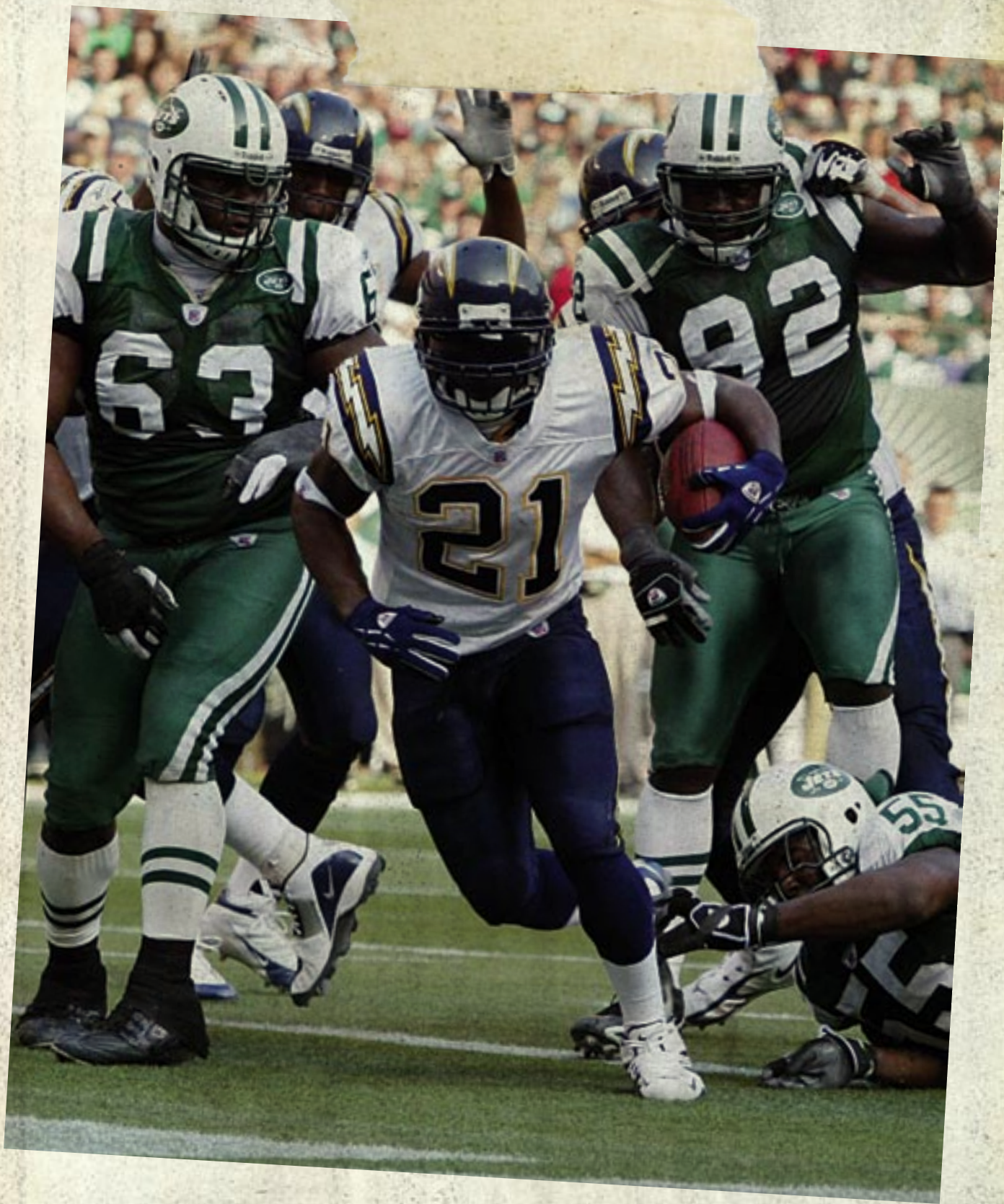
Strong  
Academics

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**TOMLINSON'S MESSAGE IS OF A  
LOVING GOD WHO KNOWS AND  
CARES ABOUT YOU.**

## LADAINIAN TOMLINSON

to rush for more than 1,000 yards and catch 100 passes in the same season.

He joined David Patten (2001), Walter Payton (1979), Harmon Wages (1969) and Dan Reeves (1967) as the only players to score on a run, throw and catch in a game.

But behind the touchdowns, the records and the headline-grabbing performances is a humble man who credits God and his mother for his accomplishments.

The middle of three children, Tomlinson grew up in Waco, Texas, playing football, basketball and baseball. On Sundays he was in church sitting next to his mother, Loreane Chappell.

“My mother always had a good heart; I guess that’s where I got mine from,” Tomlinson told a Texas Christian University publication. “She always kept us in church, and in my freshman year of high school I realized that Jesus Christ is for real. Without Him, I can’t do anything.”

Tomlinson’s message is of a loving God who knows and cares about you.

“He knows how many hairs are on your head,” he added.

To Charger fans, he’s LT. To his wife, LaTorsha, he’s the encouraging word in times of trouble. Last year the couple suffered a miscarriage. Tomlinson doesn’t blame God. Instead, his faith is unwavering, recognizing that God is there during the good and the bad times.

While good in basketball and baseball in high school, Tomlinson had a special knack for carrying the football. In his senior year at University High in Waco, he rushed for 2,554 yards and scored 39 touchdowns.

Recruited by Baylor and Kansas State, Tomlinson, who was born June 23, 1979, in Rosebud, Texas, chose TCU, determined to make it to the NFL. At TCU, he became only the second player in college to rush for 2,000 yards in a season and 5,000 yards in a career.

While Tomlinson has seemingly been given all the world has to offer, he dodges feelings of self-sufficiency like he does defenders and reminds himself of the power of the Cross.

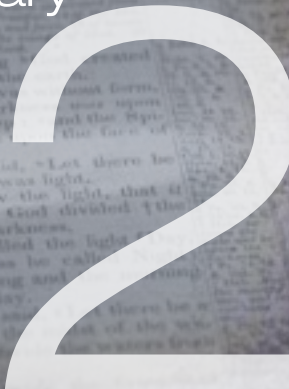
Like everyone else, he needed the forgiveness only Christ can grant. **tpe**

GAIL WOOD is a freelance writer living in Washington state. E-mail your comments to [tpe@ag.org](mailto:tpe@ag.org).

- 1 Leviticus 1-4
- 2 Leviticus 5-7
- 3 Leviticus 8-10
- 4 Leviticus 11-13
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- 6 Leviticus 16-18
- 7 Leviticus 19-21
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- 21 Numbers 22, 23
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- 23 Numbers 26, 27
- 24 Numbers 28, 29
- 25 Numbers 30, 31
- 26 Numbers 32
- 27 Numbers 33, 34
- 28 Numbers 35, 36

BIBLE READING

february



*IN the beginning  
1 And the earth was  
2 And the earth was  
3 And God said, "Let there be  
4 And God saw the light, that it  
5 And God called the light  
6 And the darkness he called  
7 and the evening and  
8 was the first day  
9 And God saw that the light  
10 was good  
11 And God separated the  
12 waters from the earth  
13 And God called the firmament  
14 heaven  
15 And God said, "Let the  
16 waters under the firmament  
17 be gathered together into  
18 one place, and let the  
19 dry land appear  
20 And God called the dry land  
21 earth, and the gathering  
22 together of the waters  
23 seas  
24 And God called the  
25 firmament heaven  
26 And the earth was  
27 complete  
28 And God blessed the  
29 earth, and said, "Be  
30 fruitful, and multiply  
31 and fill the earth  
32 and subdue it  
33 and have dominion  
34 over the fish of the  
35 sea, and over the  
36 fowls of the air, and  
37 over every living  
38 creature that  
39 moveth on the  
40 earth  
41 And God said, "Let  
42 the earth bring forth  
43 living creatures  
44 according to their  
45 kind, and the  
46 beast of the earth  
47 according to his  
48 kind, and the  
49 creeping thing  
50 according to his  
51 kind  
52 And God created  
53 the great whales  
54 and every living  
55 creature that  
56 moveth on the  
57 earth, and every  
58 beast of the earth  
59 according to his  
60 kind, and every  
61 creeping thing  
62 according to his  
63 kind  
64 And God blessed  
65 them, and said, "Be  
66 fruitful, and multiply  
67 and fill the earth  
68 and subdue it  
69 and have dominion  
70 over the earth  
71 and over every  
72 living creature  
73 that moveth on  
74 the earth  
75 And God said, "Let  
76 the beast of the earth  
77 be subject to the  
78 dominion of man  
79 and let him have  
80 dominion over the  
81 fish of the sea, and  
82 over the fowls of  
83 the air, and over  
84 every living  
85 creature that  
86 moveth on the  
87 earth  
88 And God blessed  
89 man, and said, "Be  
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96 fowls of the air, and  
97 over every living  
98 creature that  
99 moveth on the  
100 earth*