



Johnny Majors

Former University of Tennessee head football coach (1977 through 1992), University of Pittsburgh 1976 national champion, 1956 Heisman Trophy runner-up—and, in 2013, as busy as ever.

JOHNNY MAJORS knows a thing or two about sports: He has been playing, coaching, and watching football for more than seven decades. Angelique Medow met Majors at his home to discuss his recent media projects, his proudest sports moments—and his take on UT Football: 2013.

Angelique Medow: You remain extraordinarily busy—and you will be on Twitter during Tennessee Volunteer football games this fall! Can you tell us about that?

Johnny Majors: My good friend [former University of Oklahoma and Dallas Cowboys head football coach] Barry Switzer, whom I worked with during the 1960s at the University of Arkansas, has been tweeting during Oklahoma Sooners games. He asked me if I would be interested in tweeting for University of Tennessee games. He introduced me to Mike Henry, CEO of Second Screen Sports Media and the Coaches Cabana, the company that has put the tweeting project together. Mike and I hit it off, so I became one of 14 coaches who will be tweeting during different games. [Coach Majors will be tweeting from the Tin Roof on Cumberland Avenue during all 12 (home and away) UT games.]

AM: What are some other projects you are working on?

JM: I am co-authoring a book that explains how to apply football plays to win at this game called "Life." The idea might sound like it's out of left field—but it works! Anything I can do to coach people to create a happier and more-winning life is good by me!

AM: You've said before: "It's never too late to learn." What have you learned lately?

JM: I am regularly reminded to never take life too seriously. You've gotta have a little fun—or you might as well give up the ghost.

AM: What are some of your proudest moments in football?

JM: 1. My first scrimmage as a player at UT. I was used to playing in cow pastures—and now I was playing for UT! Afterwards, I called home and said, "Daddy, they miss tackles in college just like they do in high school!" I really learned something that day. 2. The dedications of Majors Boulevard in my hometown of Lynchburg, Tennessee, in honor of my entire family, and Johnny Majors Drive on the UT campus. 3. Our 1982 victory over Alabama, 35-28, to stop Alabama's 11-game winning streak over UT. 4. Our victory over Miami in the 1986 Sugar Bowl. 5. The 1991 "Miracle at South Bend [Tennessee was trailing 31-7 against Notre Dame in the second quarter—and yet the Vols went on to win 35-34].

AM: What are the biggest changes you've seen in college football over the years?

ANGELIQUE MEDOW is a 2012 Cityview Entrepreneur and the Principal of Building Ideas, which provides design, decorating, consultation, and project management for commercial and residential properties. She also enjoys exercising her degree in journalism from Arizona State University.

JM: Equipment has changed for the better: we now have helmet suspension systems to reduce concussions and better shoulder pads and shoes. Rules have also improved: no spearing, no blocking below the waist on exchange of possessions, and no crack-back blocking. And players have gotten faster and bigger—I can't help but wonder *how big* and *how fast* people can get.

AM: Everyone wants to know: What are your impressions of Butch Jones?

JM: Butch Jones is the right man at the right time. He's got everything it takes to be a successful football coach. I like what he says, and I like the way he says it. He is earnest, sincere, and intelligent. He knows how to lead a practice and set the pace. Butch Jones will get the job done.

AM: What's the best advice you ever received?

JM: To be truly successful, we've got to have three things in life: something worthwhile to do, someone to love, and something to look forward to.