

NBC Interview Gives NFL Kicker a Chance to ‘Spread the Love of Jesus’

Move over Kurt Warner ... there's a new rags-to-riches NFL story taking the world by storm.

Now, obviously a kicker isn't worth the same to an NFL team as a quarterback, but that doesn't make this story any less cool.

To wit, the once-moribund Detroit Lions team continued its path to relevancy with a gutsy, come-from-behind road win on Sunday night, beating the Houston Texans 26-23 to improve to a sterling 8-1 record—including a perfect 5-0 on the road.

It was a big win that clearly cemented the Lions as probably the team that can best topple the reigning Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs (who are undefeated despite some apparent chemistry issues), even if the win was a bit ugly.

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The Lions won despite poor play throughout most of the game (quarterback Jared Goff threw an unfathomable five interceptions) and directly thanks to the foot of kicker Jake Bates, who just barely made the game-winning kick.

You can watch the tense moment for yourself below:

JAKE BATES WALKOFF. 

LIONS COME BACK AND WIN IT! #OnePride

– Sunday Night Football on NBC (@SNFonNBC) November 11, 2024

It's a big win for Detroit, and Bates could've easily celebrated the enormity of the win itself in a post-game interview.

(It can't be stressed enough that the Lions are enjoying this success after losing standout defensive end Aidan Hutchinson in gruesome fashion on Oct. 13.)

Instead, Bates showed the world that his priorities—even with euphoria and adrenaline blasting through him—were in the right place.

In one of NBC's far less controversial post-game segments, interviewer Melissa Stark spoke to Bates and cornerback Carlton Davis, who notched a pair of crucial interceptions against standout Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud.