

To The Vol Nation and the University of Tennessee Football Family:

It's hard to believe it's been four years. This Saturday is my last home game and my last chance to run through the "T" and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me live my dream of playing football at the University of Tennessee and becoming a small part of what is UT football.

First, I would like to thank the Volunteer fans. Your passion for Tennessee football has inspired me and your encouragement has kept me going, over the past four years. After playing in stadiums all over the country, I can honestly say there is nothing like playing in Neyland Stadium in front of the UT fans. You are the greatest fans in college football!

To Coach Fulmer, thank you for believing in me and for giving me the opportunity to live out my dreams. I came to Tennessee because of you, and knowing that you believed in me made all the difference.

To Mrs. Fulmer and the Fulmer family, thank you for making me feel welcome and like a part of your family. California never seemed very far away, when I knew that you all were nearby.

To Coach Sanders and Coach Chavis and the rest of the football staff, thank you for your encouragement, your confidence and your trust. To my man, Johnny Long and his staff for their countless hours, making me the best player I could be, thank you. I could have never done it without you.

To all my teammates, including those who have already graduated, it's meant so much to play along side you and be a part of your life. Your competitiveness inspired me every Saturday to compete at the highest level.

To those UT legends who have shared their time, their wisdom and the benefit of their experience to make me a better player especially; Peyton Manning, Heath Shuler, Bobby Scott, Jeff Francis and Tee, thank you. The things I learned from you have made me a better player and a better person in the game of life.

To everyone associated with the Medical staff at UT, thanks for taking such good care of me.

Special thanks to Carmen Tegano and Judy Jackson for their guidance and to Fernandez West and the team at Thornton center. You've all made me a better student. While the Coaches were pushing me on the field, you and your staff motivated me to succeed in the classroom.

To Gerald Harrison, you've been my advisor, my friend and my brother.

How would I have made it through these past four years without you?

I know I'm forgetting an awful lot of people. To them, thank you. It has been a wonderful four years and each one of you has played a special part in making this possible.

Finally, to all the young kids I've met during my time at Tennessee; don't ever give up on your dreams because dreams do come true.


Casey Clausen



photo by Patrick Murphy-Racey/www.pmrphoto.com