



Wanna Live Large? Dream Big.

I'm dedicating this month's column to big dreamers and doers — people like College Football Hall of Famer Lou Holtz and future National Basketball Association (NBA) Hall of Famer Mickey Whitford.

Real difference makers dream big. Equally important, they follow that up with action — driven by an unquenchable desire to achieve the seemingly impossible.

At age 28, Holtz was unemployed and had no money in the bank. It was the lowest point of his life. Holtz was feeling very sorry for himself, so his wife, Sarah, bought him a copy of "The Magic of Thinking Big." Sarah told Holtz his main problem was he didn't have any goals.

Holtz read the book, and one day soon after sat down and wrote a list of all the things he wanted to do: Go to the White House for dinner, meet the Pope, be on "The Tonight Show," be head football coach at Notre Dame, make a hole-in-one, parachute out of an airplane, etc. All told, Holtz created a list of 107 life goals.

When Sarah came home from work, Holtz

excitedly showed his bride his life list. Sarah — eight months pregnant with their third child — was not overjoyed her husband had spent the entire day making his lofty list, instead of looking for a job.

But after making his life list, Holtz went on to achieve almost all of the seemingly unattainable goals. Why? Largely because the list had given him clarity about his future and the things he wanted to be, do and have for himself and his family.

As Holtz — who led the Fighting Irish to the national championship in 1988 — frequently says, "If you're bored with life ... if you don't get up every morning with a burning desire to do things ... you don't have enough goals."

Another big dreamer and doer I really look up to is our 16-year-old son, Mickey. Filled with dreams and a burning desire as big as his golden heart, Mickey recently created a "Bucket List" — his list of things to accomplish before he moves from this life to the next.

Check out Mickey's goals in the sidebar below. Then sit down and jot down yours — and chase those lofty goals like you own them!

MICKEY WHITFORD'S BUCKET LIST

Eat a cake from Carlo's Bakery (aka "The Cake Boss").

Visit Spain.

Volunteer for a missionary trip.

Meet NBA all-star Kevin Durant.

Dunk on a 10-foot-tall basketball hoop.

Bench-press 200 pounds.

Watch a buzzer-beating shot from the stands of an NBA game.

Ride a jet ski.

Star in a movie.

Meet the President.

Attend the Summer Olympics.

Be in New Orleans for Mardi Gras.

Run with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain.

See the Golden Gate Bridge.

Visit all 50 states.

Be interviewed on a talk show.

Receive knighthood from the Queen of England.

Be listed as one of *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People."

Make the front page of a major newspaper.

Own a Chevy Camaro.

Stay in a log cabin.

Go to the Super Bowl.

Throw out the first pitch at a Major League Baseball game.

Eat Chipotle, Taco Bell and McDonald's all in the same day.

Hit a buzzer beater.

Make a half-court shot during a contest at an NBA game.

Eat in the world's fanciest restaurant.

Visit Dubai.

Pay for a stranger's meal.

Send a message in a bottle.

Ride an elephant.

Visit Alaska to view the Northern Lights (aurora borealis).

Be at Times Square on New Year's Eve to watch the ball drop.

Storm a football field after a major victory.

Storm the basketball court after a major win.