

Lightning bolt strikes brave little soccer player in the head

Miracle boy Nicky Schneider survived insurmountable odds and lived after a near-deadly blow to the head — by a bolt of lightning.

“He’s a snowflake,” said Dr. Avril Rush, an eyewitness to the freakish accident. “There will never be another one like him. Statistically, people don’t survive direct lightning blows to the head.”

The 11-year-old youngster lit up like a human torch when he was zapped while playing soccer near his home in Arlington, Tex.

“Nick just exploded off the ground,” Rush said. “He was silhouetted in this brilliant flash of light about 12 feet off the ground.”

“I remember looking down at his sneakers. The uppers were blown

ZAPPED BOY BEATS THE ODDS!



HUMAN TORCH: Nicky Schneider, 11, was hit by lightning during a soccer game. Delighted docs say he’s making a one-in-a-million recovery.

Filthy lucre

An airline passenger became hysterical after she took a trip to the toilet on her New York to London flight, forgot she’d hidden \$4,000 in her panty hose — and lost the loot down the john.

The woman reported her loss and TWA service workers volunteered to search for the money when the lavatories were pumped out after the flight.

Fortunately, the filthy lucre — a bundle of \$100 bills — was found.

apart.” Doctors credit Rush and a nurse, both skilled in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, with saving the boy’s life.

For 12 days after the electrifying ordeal, Nicky lay in a death-like coma in a hospital. He responded to nothing.

‘Nick just exploded off the ground’

Miraculously, he regained consciousness on the 13th day, but faced endless weeks of delirium, pain and tears struggling to regain use of his arms and legs. Nicky suffered massive burns over 12 percent of his body, across his chest and down his legs.

The child couldn’t talk, walk or stand and had lost much of the hearing in both ears.

“It hurt whenever I did anything,”

said the gutsy schoolboy, who often hid his shoes so that he wouldn’t have to practice walking because it hurt so much.

With the help of his loving mother, Bonnie, the courageous lad was walking on his own 50 days after his brush

with death. On that special day Nick and his mom wept tears of joy.

“If I didn’t want to get up and do it (walk) myself, it would have taken longer,” Nicky said. “I was tired of having to crawl in front of my friends.”

His doctors no longer predict what Nicky will or won’t do on his amazing road to recovery.

“He passed our expectations when he left,” said Dr. William Parker, med-

ical director at Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation. Nicky spent five grueling weeks there undergoing therapy four hours a day learning to crawl and then walk. The brave boy still wears a hearing aid in each ear and doesn’t have full control of his left foot and left hand. He weighs only 64 pounds and has lost some sense of taste.

Doctors say it will take one to three years to determine the full extent of his recovery.

“It takes time,” said Nicky.
— ALEX JACKSON