



FOX NFL SUNDAY NOTES - 11/8/09

Strahan on Riggins: He Just Needs To Shut Up
Johnson: Redskins Will Keep Working And Get It Right
Long: Falcons GM Thomas Dimitroff Has Hit With Every Draft Pick
Bradshaw To Bagram Airfield Soldiers: "We Love, Care About And Appreciate You"

****For new photography of FOX NFL SUNDAY's special trip to Afghanistan, please log on to www.foxflash.com****

Analyst Michael Strahan on former Redskins player John Riggins who criticized Washington and Owner Daniel Snyder: "John Riggins is a Hall of Fame football player and everyone knows the problems of the Redskins but he made it a bit personal saying Dan Snyder's heart was dark and all those things. I don't know if it had anything to do with the fact that Daniel Snyder's company bought a radio station where John Riggins had a show and then they cancelled his show. What John Riggins is saying now is personal and I think he just needs to shut up."

Analyst Jimmy Johnson added: "We've all questioned some of the decisions that have been made with the Redskins but you can't question the passion and you can't question the effort. Daniel Snyder will spend the money and they'll keep working to get it right."

During today's FOX NFL SUNDAY two-hour special from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, analyst Strahan was asked by Capt. Tabitha Stump of the Air Force about the woes of the Giants: "Right now they aren't playing with a level of confidence. They have all the talent that Dallas and Philadelphia have but in terms of confidence they're not keeping up with Philadelphia and they can't play with Dallas right now because I don't think in their minds they believe that they're as talented. Once the Giants beat a team or get back on the winning track that division is still wide open."

Analyst Howie Long responded to a question from Lt. Tony Migliorini of the U.S. Coast Guard on the success of the 7-0 New Orleans Saints: "The Saints are a pretty good football team. I think the biggest difference in the Saints this year is they've got a new defensive coordinator in Gregg Williams. They're playing great on that side of the ball and they're running the football."

Long on successful management of the Atlanta Falcons: "Falcons GM Thomas Dimitroff has hit on every draft pick, every free agent pickup and Head Coach Mike Smith and his staff are doing a great job down in Atlanta."

Co-Host Terry Bradshaw added: "The Falcons were doing well earlier in the year then they played New England, that was their measuring stick and they lost. They came back and have lost to the Saints and Cowboys but to their credit they are talented and they are confident. The losses didn't break them down; they still feel like they can win every game. Don't forget, they made the playoffs last year."



Johnson, Long & Bradshaw discuss the resurgence of the Dallas Cowboys.

Johnson: "Right now Dallas' offense is rolling pretty good. In a three-game winning streak, they've scored 101 points. They're clicking on all cylinders."

Long: "You talk about the quarterback friendly offense down in Dallas; the open receiver gets the football, what a novel concept. There's no pressure to get the football to T.O."

Bradshaw: "The great thing about Dallas the last three weeks has been the calmness by which they played. When you're uptight and feel the heat from the critics and everyone around you, you tend to get worse. You have to relax. I think Tony Romo in the last three weeks has finally figured it out. Just let it happen. Just play ball."

SSGT Nikki Irvin of the U.S. Air Force asked each of the guys who they think will win the Super Bowl:

FOX NFL Insider Jay Glazer: "Right now I've got to go with the New Orleans Saints."

Johnson: "How bout them Dallas Cowboys!"

Strahan: "How bout the Saints!"

Long: "I'm going to go with the Vikings."

Bradshaw: "I think we're going to see a repeat this year and that's because Pittsburgh is going to win."

Co-Host Curt Menefee: "I'd also go with Pittsburgh to repeat."

Bradshaw asked Major General Curtis Scaparrotti what he'd like to say to the American people: "I'd want them to know that you can hear it here in this crowd that your soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard serving here in Afghanistan are determined and confident in their mission and they appreciate the great support of the American people, their families and all of you here supporting them while they do their job."

During this week's edition of 'Fired Up' Glazer, Johnson, Strahan, Long & Bradshaw offered their thoughts to the servicemen & women of the military on what their experience this week in Afghanistan has meant to them:

Glazer: "Everywhere we went this week, we saw such incredible sacrifices from you guys, the troops. Make no mistake about it America, the bad guys are still out there and they're gunning for us. Back home, we feel so safe. We feel safe because of you people who sacrifice your lives for us, sacrifice your families, some of which you only get to see for 15 days a year. This week I met a young man who is recovering from the fourth time he has been hit by a bomb and he's trying to get back out there in the field. I said, 'why?' He said, 'my brother to my right and my brother to my left. I have to get back out there for them.' For your sacrifice, we will thank you forever."

Johnson: "Your attitude is amazing. A group of soldiers came in on the second day and wanted autographs. They were so upbeat and so positive. I got to talking to them and they hadn't had any sleep in two days because they were on a mission in Kandahar. I said, 'why don't you go to bed and get some sleep?' They said, 'we don't have a bed but I have a sleeping bag, I'm fine coach.' You think back to the States and a lot of people are saying, 'poor me,' complaining about the economy, one thing or another. If they want an attitude change, come half way around the world and see you guys!"



Strahan: "I've had a chance to hear about how you dodge bullets everyday and nothing really makes you nervous. I sat with the guys from the bomb squad they're telling me how if you haven't dealt with things blowing up three or four times you haven't really been out in the field. It is something that is hard for me and all of us to put our heads around that kind of commitment and that kind of sacrifice for other people. I want everyone to understand that you don't just do it for the U.S.A. but you do it for every country. That sacrifice and that love you have for yourself and every other country is something you can't help but admire. You can't but love it. We love you guys."

Long: "The first morning we were here, we had the privilege of getting a briefing from General Scott Barini and his staff about the mission here in Afghanistan, and how important that mission is. His eyes really lit up when he was talking about this generation of men and women who are serving here in Afghanistan and around the world. There are those fools around the world who would question the ability of this group of men and women to rise to the occasion like the so many previous generations in America. When you think of all that we ask of the men and women in our military, all the sacrifice they make; they're family, the courage they show, you can make an argument as the General did, that this generation of men and women standing in this room and serving around the world are our country's greatest generation."

Menefee: "While we sit back in America and watch newscasts that are filled with pop culture references, you've got to remember that we are in war on two fronts and halfway around the world someone's mother or father or brother or sister or son or daughter is in harms way. We should all send out hope that someday soon all of these men and women will be back on American soil safe and sound."

Bradshaw: "The thing that pushes everyone in this room today is about when you are going home and it's about seeing your family. It's about family. When you look up here, you see a FOX family and that means we love and care about one another. This is the FOX family and you are our military family. The bottom line is that it's all about love. We love you. We care about you and we appreciate you."

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