



**BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008**

HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

(On practice)

"It was a good practice today. Hot...good practice."

(On what he expects from Jeremy Zuttah)

"We expect him to not play like a rookie. We expect him to play like a seasoned veteran; he's going to have to for us to win this game and I think we all understand that. He's going to see some really good players. They have Sedrick Ellis and [Brian] Young, they're very talented. They're going to put [Charles] Grant in there in the nickel. We're just counting on him going out there and playing the way he's been playing and doing the best that he can. But we're real confident in him and he's had a good week of practice."

(On if he's getting used to starting rookie linemen)

"We've played rookie quarterbacks here, okay? Rookie tailbacks. We played a rookie fullback last year. We've played rookie receivers, rookie tight ends. We've played rookie centers and rookie guards. We've played rookies everywhere. I like young players, I want to be perfectly clear on that."

(On if conditioning is a factor in the opening weeks)

"I think it is, I think it really is. You're used to having 80 guys dress for a game, and no matter what team you're talking about a lot of the guys that do play played eight or 10 or 12 plays. At the end of camp, some guys play 47 plays and some guys play 14 plays. It's not a big difference, but the sustained drives, the long pursuit plays, where you've got to chase a guy that has the ball on a screen play and then you've got to come back and rush the passer – it will take its toll on you. But our team is in good shape. We've just got to go prove that. There will be some guys challenged, no question, in the opening ballgames."

(On Jonathan Vilma)

"He's a hell of a linebacker. His career speaks for itself. When he was at Miami... He's a ringleader, he's a real leader, he's an inspiring guy, he's instinctive, a sure tackler, he's got coverage ability. I don't think they want him off the field, ever. Jonny Vilma fits on anybody's team. He's a great player. Coming back from a serious injury, he deserves a lot of credit."

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