



**BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN QUOTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008**

HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN

(On the quarterbacks and injured players.)

"We're going to start Brian Griese in the game. I've talked to Jeff [Garcia], I've talked to Brian. It's just my opinion, and we've talked about it a lot with our coaches, [that] Jeff right now is not himself. We're going to give him a week off and try to get him ready to go. Brian Griese's a guy that's had a good training camp. We're going to give Brian the ball and we'll rally around him. Hopefully Jeff can get back ready to roll soon. Derrick Brooks did not practice today. His status for the game will be questionable. And obviously we have some rotations we're looking at; I have no announcement as to who would start if Derrick doesn't play."

(On what Griese brings to the table)

"He's a good quarterback. Everybody who was at training camp and saw us playing in the preseason realizes that he's sharp. He's a good player, he's had great success here as a quarterback and the team's confident in him. We'll do the best we can and we're excited about seeing Brian Griese. At the same time, we're hoping to get Jeff back soon."

(On if Griese is showing more than he did two years ago)

"Brian did a lot here. If you consider all the elements. He didn't have this offensive line when he played. He did not have some of the weapons, I think, that we possess now. Statistically, and from a functional standpoint, he did some great things here and won a lot of games for us. His won-loss record was quite impressive. Like I said, he's a guy that will lead us this Sunday and we've got to rally around him."

(On if Michael Clayton will be active against the Falcons)

"We hope so. Again, we had some tough calls last week, we'll have some tough calls this Sunday. Again, we think Dexter Jackson gives us something in the return game. It's hard to get six receivers active. Sometimes last year we only had four. We were afforded five last week. When you work with Monte Kiffin, man, sometimes it's hard to get any offensive players active."

(On if Griese has an opportunity to prolong his starting stint)

"Life is all about making the most of your opportunities, who are we kidding? We are very fortunate to have him. I don't want to underestimate the things Luke McCown has ahead of himself, either. We don't have a lot of controversies to speak about at this point in time. We're doing what we think gives our team the best opportunity to win this game, this Sunday, and we'd better be ready to go because the Falcons, they're pretty impressive on the tape I've seen."

(On how different the Falcons are from a year ago)

"Well, they've added a different scheme. Last year they were four and five-receivers a lot, they were wide open, they were stretch-oriented on offense. Here, this film they just produced was a

power, authoritative way of running the ball behind a big back in Michael Turner. They already signed a heck of a fullback [Ovie Mughelli] last year; he really didn't play a lot for them, given their one-back situations. Their offense, structure-wise, is a lot different. They have a heck of a quarterback. This guy's a promising superstar, I think, in the league. And defensively they've always had talent, and that hasn't changed."

(On how urgent the situation is)

"It's urgent every day. Every week you feel urgency, you know what I mean? Who are we kidding? You've got to win every time you strap it on. We need to win this game; so do they. We need to get some momentum going and we're excited about it."

(On Michael Turner)

"I think he's got a lot to prove to you and prove to me and everybody else that he's an every-down feature back. This is his first opportunity to really showcase his skill as an every-down back. He's a home run threat, he's a power guy, he's a real, real dude. I wish he would have signed somewhere else, personally."

(On playing at Raymond James Stadium)

"We love playing at home and we're disappointed, obviously, that we don't have a victory to show for our season right now. But I think our fans are going to like our team. They're going to play hard. We've got some really good players. Like I said, if we can clean up a couple aspects of our play we'll be okay, but we've got to coach better."

(On needing the 12th man)

"Yeah, we sure do. I can't wait to play at home. There's a certain thrill that comes to strapping on your home uniforms and playing in your own stadium. It's going to be awesome. We're looking forward to it."

(On how strange it would be not to have Derrick Brooks in the lineup)

"I was thinking about that driving to work. I asked him when he was on the treadmill trying to get ready, 'Derrick, what am I going to do? What are we going to do?' It's such a blessing and a luxury that we've had. You're fortunate to come across a guy like that. We just hope he can keep his string alive because we need him. I know if he doesn't play, it will really disappoint him, just to put it mildly. At the same time, I know he'll be one of our biggest coaches on the sideline, helping the guys that are his replacement."