



**BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN QUOTES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

**HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN**

**(On practice)**

"We had a good practice. I was very pleased with it."

**(On what he liked about practice)**

"I just liked the way we executed. We worked hard at fundamentals and execution, understanding our opponent. This is a tough game to prepare for, and the concentration was good and our execution in terms of what we're asking was very good today."

**(On if it was the best practice of the year)**

"Well, it was a good practice. I can't compare them; there's been so many the days kind of run together. But it was a very good practice and we need to practice well to have a chance in this game."

**(On how much of a quarterback-change decision is a gut feeling and how much is studying tape)**

"A lot of it's studying tape and studying the position. You have to have guts to be in this business. It's not for everybody. The decisions that we've made, whether it be at the quarterback position or who will start at flanker is going to be based on performance. We'll leave it at that. If it's 50-50, if everything's equal, I heard some people flip coins. I've never been in that position yet. We're basing it on all the information that we have, and God knows we spend enough time with these guys. We'll do what we feel is right and I don't expect everybody to agree with me."

**(On the Tampa Bay Rays' season)**

"It's unbelievable. I caught the last few innings last night and I was kind of in a hurry to get the game over with. You get nervous when you've got that lead. It's such a big game. And the crowd, I just get excited with the crowd. It's starting to really get the fever for the Rays. I hope it's really packed and really a hard place for the other team to play down the stretch. We've got such a great team, and Coach [Joe] Maddon has done a heck of a job. I'll be honest with you – I'm looking forward to going to Chicago and maybe seeing Coach [Lou] Piniella. He's a good friend of mine. I'm really hoping the Rays play the Cubs in the World Series. I think it would be the best thing that could happen."

**(On if there is more of an emphasis on such hits this year)**

"Every year player safety's big, certainly at the quarterback position, and that's for good reason."

**(On if the Bucs are assuming that Devin Hester will play)**

"Oh yeah, we're prepared to see Devin. You want to play against the best players. That's why you get into the NFL, that's why you want to be in this league. You want to see the best and perform

at your best against the best, see where you stack up."

**(On how Jerramy Stevens looks)**

"He's good. He's a good player. He's a good player and hopefully he's ready to play a little bit in the game. We're happy to have him back."

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