



BUCCANEERS HEAD COACH JON GRUDEN - SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

(on the passing of Matthew Tryson Bryant, infant son of K Matt Bryant)

"We had a terrible tragedy this morning. We lost a key member of our family. Matt Bryant and Melissa lost their youngest son. I don't have a lot of details but...it's hard. Our prayers go out to the Bryants."

(on if it was unexpected)

"Yes. And again, I don't have a lot of details. I would just appreciate it if we could give Matt some privacy right now. Obviously the details will come later but it's just a horrible tragedy and I can't explain it. Again, I just ask the fans and the people that know Matt to keep him in their prayers. It will be hard for him to overcome this but we've got to do the best we can right now."

(on incorporating tight ends into the offense)

"We always have, always will I guess. Those are three good players; we thought Ben Troupe was a good player, too. They're a big part of what we do. We've gotten into some more three or four-receiver sets lately and some of those guys deserve to play as well. We'll look at the opponent, get all the information and determine which personnel grouping serves us the best."

(on Griese's two-minute proficiency)

"I don't know, he's a pretty proficient guy. He's been pretty proficient since he's been here. I don't think that's a mystery. He's won seven or eight of his last nine games here. He's a good quarterback. He can function in any situation. He got hot. He got streaky hot and made some plays, and the guys around him made some plays, too."

(on if the Bucs will use the hurry-up offense at other times in the game)

"It's a possibility. It sure is a possibility. Do you want the whole game plan now or should I wait until Sunday?"

(on everything Aaron Rodgers has had to shoulder)

"It's a lot to chew off, there's no question. But I think there was a mentality that they've had all along. This guy's a first-round draft choice. They selected him, I think, with the intent that when he's ready he's going to be our future quarterback. They've been very fortunate in Green Bay, they've had tremendous play at that position for some time."

(on putting a big win aside)

"We've got to do that. Whether you have a tough loss in New Orleans or a dramatic win in Chicago, it's a long season. You have to stay even-keeled. This is a Final Four football team we'll see this week. They're outstanding on offense, defense and the kicking game. They're coming off a tough loss and they've got a lot of pride. We've got to stay focused on the task at hand and move on, get ready to go. I don't think it's a problem. The guys turn on the tape, they know what they're dealing with."

(on being able to succeed in several different ways on offense)

"I think we're pretty good. I think we've got some pretty good players. Our offensive line is playing well. We've got some good runners. We've got some very creative players at the running back position, Earnest [Graham] and Warrick [Dunn]. I think Antonio Bryant has come in here and helped us. He runs all the routes, he's a finisher, he's a good football player. Jerramy Stevens has given us some deception now and some things that we can do. And Brian Griese is a good quarterback and he's played really well here for us. People can say what they want but the films prove it and that's a fact. And he's helped us. He's really helped us the last couple weeks."

(on if Clayton could handle more kickoff returns)

"I think Mike has the ability to do a lot of things. I'd like to let him zoom in on a wide receiver position. He's playing pretty good right now and I think he can play better this week. I just don't want to put too many things on his plate right now because he is a very physical player and that's the way we like him."

(on if splash plays on defense make up for giving up a lot of yards)

"Yeah, I think so. Stats are such hogwash; you can't even turn on the TV now without reading your stats. Winning and losing is the number-one stat. Turnover ratio, to us, is a big stat. We've really improved our red zone defense and played better down there. But we do look at turnovers and impact plays as game-breaking plays. Usually when you score on defense or special teams, you win. Statistics prove that. At the same time, we'd like to play better on defense from coast to coast, from start to finish. We won a Super Bowl here by scoring nine defensive touchdowns and that was a big reason for that."

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