

An Interview With:

ROGER GOODELL

(At Giant Practice)

Q. What brings you out to Giants Stadium on your first day of official duty?

ROGER GOODELL: My first day was last Friday and this is my first opportunity to be able to get out and see the team and to be able to have a conversation with some of the players and coaches and the media today for the first time.

Q. A lot of people around New York have been talking about maybe getting a Super Bowl one day. Now that you're in charge, what are your feelings about that?

ROGER GOODELL: Well I was involved in a lot those discussions, about the interest of New Yorkers in hosting the Super Bowl and those are some of the things that we'll have to look at going forward, but I haven't spent any time on that in the last several months.

Q. We know there's a new stadium to be built in the Meadowlands. Do they need to have a roof to even get consideration because of weather conditions?

ROGER GOODELL: Well, that's an issue that the ownership has often debated about, whether we need to have in northern sites a closed stadium. And I think the general sense of the ownership is that that is beneficial for our fans in the northern climates when the weather can be inclement. I think that's a big issue for our fans.

Q. One of the things you've seen a lot over the last few years is international play, a lot of exhibition games and so forth, how do you feel about that and do you wish to see regular season games overseas, too?

ROGER GOODELL: We did. We played in Mexico last year and it was very important for us and I think that's a sign of things to come.

I think we feel like that was a great opportunity for us to be able to play a regular-season game in Mexico and give our fans something wonderful to cheer about, so we think that's the future for us and we'll continue to do that and preseason games.

Q. 24 hours until the opening of the season, do you feel like this is sort of your opening night?

ROGER GOODELL: No, because it's not about the commissioner. It's about the season and the players and the coaches and the guys the fans really want to talk about.

So I don't really look at it as my opening night at all.

Q. Do you feel nerves, adrenaline, what goes through your mind on a day like this?

ROGER GOODELL: Well, I've been doing this for a long time. Obviously this is a new title and a new responsibility, but from my standpoint, it's keeping the focus on football and making sure that fans get more football because that's what they want and that's what you guys do and make sure they understand and they get an opportunity to get closer to football and that's what they like.

Q. If you're a player or a coach and you follow a legendary guy, they always say, hey, tough act to follow. Obviously Paul's legacy is secure; is he a tough act to follow?

ROGER GOODELL: I've got a double problem. I've got Pete Rozelle before. I think we've got two great commissioners and I think I've been fortunate to work with both of them. They are great acts to follow and the *National Football League* is a great league.

Q. How much change will we see in the first year or will there be much as all?

ROGER GOODELL: Well, I was fortunate to be able to be there for several years. So I've been part of the change that we have been bringing on internally in our organization. And with the NFL, one of the things that keeps the NFL great is we never become complacent. We always try to figure out how we can do things better and we'll continue to do that.

Q. Any coincidence you're here with the Giants today?

ROGER GOODELL: No. They are close by and I was meeting the media and we thought this would be a good place to spend some time with you all.

Q. The NFL has helped franchises in

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building stadiums; will they be helping the Giants in any way?

ROGER GOODELL: I think the hallmark of the league since the mid 80s is that we have been able to be partners in trying to get these stadiums built. They are good for the communities, good for the teams and they are good for the fans and I think we'll continue to find creative ways.

Q. Does the league help finance?

ROGER GOODELL: Yes, we do.

Q. How exciting is that for the Giants -- inaudible?

ROGER GOODELL: It's a great way to kick off the season, great players, great people, a great family and it will be an exciting Sunday night for NBC to start their season. We thought it would be a great way to start the season, and obviously tomorrow night's game -- the Dolphins -- inaudible.

Q. Shaun has been very out spoken in terms he's not happy about how the league is keeping steroids and stuff out of the game, any thoughts on how you move forward in that particular area?

ROGER GOODELL: I just had a nice chat with Shaun and I know the importance of drug testing and the drug programs of the players and that will continue.

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