

An interview with:

## **BERTRAND BERRY**

THE MODERATOR: We have **Bertrand Berry** on the line. We'll start with questions.

**Q. What is the hype inside the team about this game in Mexico City? Is the fact playing outside the US and with all the problems you've been having during this season, is it difficult for the team to keep away from all the distractions of playing abroad?**

BERTRAND BERRY: No. There is a lot of hype around this game, but I don't think any outside distractions are going to deter us from doing what we need to do. We need to come in and do everything we can to win it.

**Q. What is your relation with Rolando Cantu?**

BERTRAND BERRY: Rolando is a great teammate. I consider him a friend of mine. He's definitely a guy that comes in and works hard every day. He does everything that the coaching staff asks him to do.

I have a lot of respect for him. He comes in and he's very professional about everything he does. He's just a great teammate and a great guy to be around.

**Q. You will be a situation like the Saints during their home opener. You will play here in Mexico City perhaps in front of an audience that will root for the 49ers. How do you feel about that?**

BERTRAND BERRY: I'm not really worried about it. It's a football game. One way or another, you can't really worry about the crowd because they don't affect the game. We're just going to have to go out and make sure we take care of our own business. If we do that, we should be fine.

**Q. Do you think most NFL players would be open to having this be a permanent thing where you played one game a year on**

**foreign soil? Do you think most players would go along with that or do you think there's concern about the travel, interrupting your normal routine?**

BERTRAND BERRY: I don't really consider it too much of a distraction. We travel eight times a year anyway. This is going to be like a business trip. We're going to treat it as such. There's no reason to treat this any differently or approach it any differently. We're just going to be in a neutral site. We're going to go out and try to get a win. That's what's most important.

**Q. Is there a certain amount of excitement about being the first time to play on foreign soil?**

BERTRAND BERRY: There's an excitement to be the first to do anything. Whenever you are the first, you want to put your best foot forward. I think both teams have that mindset and we're going to come to Mexico and we're going to put out our best effort. I'm sure San Fran will do the same thing. Hopefully we'll come out on top and it will be a good game and the two teams can represent the league very well.

I hope the people in Mexico City and in the entire country of Mexico will really enjoy what we put out there on the field.

**Q. What was the reaction personally, the other players, after the remarks of the coach about some frustration for putting on the schemes and not having it done on the field?**

BERTRAND BERRY: There wasn't really much reaction. I think guys understand there's going to be a certain amount of things that aren't going to be in our favor or things that aren't going to go our way necessarily.

But we're professional and everybody treated it as such. We're just going out and we're going to try to get things done the best we can regardless of what obstacles may come to us. That's just part of it. When you're on the road, you're traveling, it's not going to be quite the same as playing at home. We're just going to try to go out and do the best we can.

**Q. When the New Orleans Saints had to play a game at Giants Stadium, a lot of players and coaches complained afterwards that they had to do that. A home game has been taken**

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**away from you. Are you upset about that?**

BERTRAND BERRY: A little disappointed about that, but at the same time somebody had to give up a home game. It really doesn't matter. It's another game that we get to play in the NFL. It's a blessing. I'm going to try to go out and play as hard as I can and try to represent the Cardinals as best I can.

Regardless of where we play, we need to win. That's all that really matters at this point.

**Q. Are you looking forward to the atmosphere? There are going to be probably twice as many fans at this game as a normal home game.**

BERTRAND BERRY: The fans are going to be big. It will be good to have a lot of people out there, but at the same time they don't affect the game either way. Whether they're cheering for us or San Fran, just to have enthusiasm around this game will be enough to get us through. We're going to try to go out and do everything we can to win the game.

**Q. When you say you are disappointed for giving up a home game in Arizona, do you mean you will be uncomfortable playing in a country where the 49ers have more exposure?**

BERTRAND BERRY: No, not really. It's not about that. I just like the idea of playing at home, being in a home environment, sleeping in my own bed before the game. There's certain advantages to playing at your own home as opposed to being on the road. That's the part that I'm really disappointed in.

But on the other hand, this is a first. That is very exciting. We're looking forward to that. We're going to go out and put on a show for everybody and hopefully it will be a product that everybody will enjoy.

**Q. Before your trip to Mexico City, have you received any kind of schedule and warning sheet where people from the NFL warned you about maybe not drinking the water, going out at night, something like that?**

BERTRAND BERRY: No, we haven't received those warnings yet. We're going to have a meeting with our security guy tomorrow. I'm sure he's going to brief us on some of the things to be expected. We'll take that information and we'll apply it to our different schedule. Hopefully everything will go smoothly, without any hitches.

**Q. Is this a regular security meeting, even if you play inside the US?**

BERTRAND BERRY: No, this will be kind of a different meeting. We understand that it is a unique situation. It's going to require a little extra attention. Everybody is going to be minding their Ps and Qs and be professional about what they have to say and try to apply or go along with whatever they say and tell us to do.

I don't anticipate any problems. Just kind of an informative sort of meeting. I look forward to what they have to say and getting on with it.

**Q. What is it going to be like playing in the altitude in Mexico City?**

BERTRAND BERRY: It will be a lot like playing in Mile High. I was fortunate enough to play in Denver for three years, so I know a little bit about altitude. When we had camp previous years, we practiced seven thousand feet above sea level. Guys have been exposed to that kind of altitude, although we haven't been exposed to it this year.

I don't really see it being a big problem. But at the same time, they'll be in the same altitude. Both teams will be exposed to it. I don't really see it as an advantage or disadvantage for either team.

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***B. Berry – 09.28.05***