

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue
Post-Owners Meeting Press Conference
October 6, 2005
Detroit, Michigan

Good afternoon. We had a very good meeting – a lot of substantive work done in a very short period of time. The main thing is that we extended the NFL Europe League for five years and have good support there from the Players' Association, which is going to be recognizing that it develops players. They are going to continue their support. The premise of the extension is that (development) will go forward on some basis in the future.

Any questions on any subject?

Re: The selection of South Florida for the 2011 Super Bowl.

It's really hard for me to read people's minds. I think that Wayne Huizenga made a very strong presentation that South Florida is a unique piece of America that is especially suited to the fans of the two teams and everybody else associated with the NFL in terms of good weather, good facilities stretched over a long segment – from Miami all the way up to Palm Beach. I think that was the main thing. It's a unique piece of real estate for leisure-time activities in America.

Q: Can you update us on the labor talks?

We are continuing to talk.

Q: How are the talks going?

Intensively. We're talking about some core economic issues, things that have changed in the league in terms of increased private investment in stadiums, increased operating costs for stadiums, and many other aspects of team operations that have become more costly. The costs that go into raising the revenues are growing in terms of people power that goes into staffing, customer service and other aspects of our operation. So we're working through all of these issues and others.

Re: NFL Europe League's five-year extension.

I think NFL Europe is an important piece of our international development. They had very successful years – this year and last year. We have concluded that concentrating the teams in Germany has been a real positive in terms of team rivalries, fan interest, fan support, business support, and media interest and that we should continue with that model and go forward. We have the prospect of

partnering with some German businesses in a variety of ways, possibly even as local operators of teams. It certainly appears there are lots of good reasons for going forward.

Q: Will the teams be confined to only Germany?

In 2006, we'll continue with the same alignment we had in 2005: five teams in Germany and the Amsterdam Admirals, who won the World Bowl game. That will go forward.

Re: Competition committee.

No competition committee report. Nothing on chop blocks; nothing on the Roy Williams tackling technique or any other aspect of what counts to football fans during the football season.

Re: Television.

There's the Saturday TV package. We've been in discussions with a bunch of different media companies. We're considering a number of different alternatives, anywhere from the NFL network to a football network to a multi-sports network. We'll be working on that intensively in the next several weeks.

Re: Possibility of a future Super Bowl in New York area.

I have not had time to think about Super Bowls in New York. Everyone thinks that the Jets and Giants getting together on a jointly-owned, jointly-operated stadium with the state of New Jersey is a real positive. Everyone is going to try to make it work for the two teams. The possibility of future Super Bowls depends on a lot of things, including the type of stadium it ends up to be.

Thank you for being here. Buy your tickets for NFL games and attend regularly.