

COMMISSIONER TAGLIABUE ON PANTHERS OWNER JERRY RICHARDSON'S INDUCTION TO CHARLOTTE HALL OF FAME

On the factors leading to the selection of Jerry Richardson as the owner of the Carolina Panthers expansion franchise:

The biggest factor was the leadership Jerry Richardson demonstrated in his meetings with our committees and owners generally. He's an imposing person to begin with, but in the expansion process it was clear to everybody he had a passion for the NFL and the game of football and for his community and all NFL communities. I think all of that came through loud and clear. He also had a vision for a stadium that has turned out to be one of the finest in America. He had a plan for financing it. A lot of it was about Jerry Richardson and his family and the respect he had for others in his community and the respect they had for him.

On the contributions Jerry Richardson has made to the NFL:

From my perspective, his unique contribution is he frequently puts himself in the shoes of other owners and works directly with them in helping them to solve their challenges in their communities, whether it's an ownership situation, whether it's a stadium situation or any other challenge. Beyond that, he serves on some key committees. He was very instrumental in getting our Collective Bargaining Agreement done with the Players' Association. I think his qualities are candor, integrity and thoughtfulness, but the one I mentioned at the beginning about putting himself in other people's shoes is maybe what strikes me the most.

On what makes Jerry Richardson a strong owner:

There are many, many things that make Jerry Richardson a strong owner. To some degree it starts with the fact that he played the game, and he has been following the National Football League for over four decades. I think the clarity of his expectations is one thing. The willingness to understand that everybody in the organization is part of the team and his determination of what the role of all of those individuals is. I've seen this not only with Jerry dealing with the players and coaches, but dealing with the team physicians and Jon and Mark in terms of their respective responsibilities. To some degree, it's understanding the importance of team, and providing leadership and clarity to the team.

On the fact Jerry Richardson was a player contributing to his success as an owner:

I think the fact that Jerry Richardson played in the NFL is a very important thing for many, many reasons. In some ways, the fact that he was a player and had that work ethic, commitment and dedication to play in the NFL is just part and parcel of his broader character and broader set of traits that he brings to his leadership and to his ownership. The fact that he was a player at this point in his life is transcended by other things, including his leadership qualities, integrity and his candor.

On how much of the Panthers' success should be attributed to Jerry's involvement:

The success of every team in the league depends on leadership not just at the top, but at all levels of the organization. For me, what Jerry provides with leadership at the top is a big part of the reason the Panthers have been to three NFC Championship Games and one Super Bowl game. It's the

leadership ethic that he instills in the whole organization, the sense of responsibility and the sense of accountability. So in the case of the Carolina Panthers, the leadership comes from not just Jerry Richardson and his family, but from everybody in the organization who he expects to be leaders, and then they turn out to be leaders.