

# **NFL EXTRA**

## **Week 18**

Segment	TRT
Soundtrax Cowboys/Eagles	1:03
Soundtrax Vince Wilfork	1:10
Soundtrax Dalton & Green	1:37
Fitz	9:01

### **01:30:18 – COWBOYS/EAGLES**

HEY, WE GOT UIS A BALL GAME.

WE GOT US A BALL GAME AND 2 GOOD FOOTBALL TEAMS.

WELCOME TO THE EAGLE MOBILE. WE HAVE A PLACE WHERE ALL EAGLES FANS CAN COME TO EXPRESS THEIR TRUE FEELINGS ABOUT DALLAS.

THE EAGLES AND THE COWBOYS FOR THE TITLE.

THE BEAST IN THE EAST IN PHILA. EAGLES.

I KNOW THEY ...

YOU KIDDING ME?!!

DAMN, I HATE THESE EAGLES! I HATE THEM! I GOT MY BUTT KICKED AROUND HERE SO MANY TIMES!! THIS FEELS GREAT BABY!!

RADIO – THEY GIVE IT TO SMITH AND THEY STOP THEM AGAIN!! THEY STOP THEM AGAIN!!

### **01:31:30 – VINCENT WILFORK**

WIN UP FRONT! ALRIGHT? WIN UP FRONT! WE WIN UP FRONT, WE WIN THE BALL GAME.

YA ALL GOTTA STAY WITH ME ALL DAY BABY. HEY, YA ALL GOTTA STAY WITH ME ALL DAY BABY. THAT'S HOW WE PLAYED IT. THAT'S HOW WE SAID WE WAS GONNA PLAY IT NOW. WE

ALRIGHT. WE JUST GOTTA KEEP PLAYING. WE ALRIGHT. WE CAN'T GET TOO HIGH. WE CAN'T TOO LOW MAN. GET SOME SCORES OUT OF THIS ONE...IN GOOD SHAPE. THE DEFENSE, WE GOTTA KEEP PLAYING BALL. WE GOTTA BE ABLE TO RUN THE BALL IN THE RED AREA. GOTTA GET IN THE END ZONE THOUGH. I WANT 7.

RADIO – AT THE JET 3 YD. LINE, BRADY ON THE HANDOFF TO BEN JARVIS TO THE LEFT SIDE. DRIVING IT DOWN AND IN! TOUCHDOWN!

IT'S IN OUR HANDS!! IT'S IN THE DEFENSE HANDS BABY!! WHY WE LOOK LIKE WE GOT ALL, WE SAD?! IT'S FOOTBALL BABY!! LET'S MAKE A PLAY!!

RADIO – 3<sup>RD</sup> DOWN & 10 FOR THE JETS AT THE PATRIOTS 49. DIRECT SNAP TO SANCHEZ. HERE'S THE RUSH. HAS ... AND THE CLOCK CLICKS DOWN TO ZERO AND THE PATRIOTS WIN IT.

### **01:32:51 – DALTON & GREEN**

THE ORANGE IS A GOOD LOOK. THE ORANGE IS A GOOD LOOK. ORANGE DOES LOOK GOOD. IF YOU WOULD'VE LET ME WEAR MY BLACK UNDERNEATH IT. NO. WHITE. YOU GOTTA GO WITH THE SAME COLOR AS YOUR PANTS. WHATEVER YOU WANT BABY, IT'S YOUR DAY.

HEY A.J., LET ME KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING OUT THERE. IF IT'S SINGLE UP OR THEY'RE CLOUDING YOU, ALRIGHT?

RADIO – DALTON DROPS BACK TO PASS. QUICK THROW. INCOMPLETE.

I SHOULD'VE MADE THAT CATCH. SEE ANYTHING OUT THERE? THEY'RE PLAYING COVER 2.

HEY A.J., A.J., VERTICAL. WHAT IS THIS? WIDE SAIL. ALRIGHT.

BLUE 10! HUT!!

RADIO – DALTON TAKES THE SHOTGUN SNAP. HE'S LOOKING TO THROW. THROWS IT TOWARD THE END ZONE. IT IS CAUGHT! TOUCHDOWN BENGALS!!

YES SIR!!

RADIO – ADRIAN JEREMIAH GREEN!!

I SEE YOU'RE STEPPING YOUR CELEBRATION GAME UP A LITTLE BIT. DID YOU GET A GOOD SPIN ON IT? NO. NO? IT WENT LIKE THIS SOMEWHERE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE BALL WENT.

WE'RE ABOUT TO SCORE A TD. RIGHT HERE. PUT THE DAGGER IN THEM. HEY, BLOCK THEM HERE. HEY, DO IT GOOD.

RADIO – 2<sup>ND</sup> & GOAL FROM THE 1 YD. LINE. DALTON HANDS IT OFF. BENSON RUNNING LEFT!

TOUCHDOWN!! YES SIR! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!

YOU WANT IT? TAKE IT.

### **01:34:35 - FITZ**

CHICAGO AND FOOTBALL. A PROUD TRADITION THAT BEGINS WITH ONE POSITION, MIDDLE LINEBACKER.

I WAS 10 YRS. OLD. THE CHICAGO BEARS WERE IN THE SUPER BOWL, AND THAT WAS REALLY A CATALYST TO ME WANTING TO BE A FOOTBALL PLAYER. WATCHING MIKE SINGLETARY AND THOSE EYES.

PAT FITZGERALD WAS A STANDOUT MIDDLE LINEBACKER AT A HIGH SCHOOL JUST SOUTH OF CHICAGO. HE WAS BEING RECRUITED IN 1991 BY A UNIVERSITY JUST A FEW MILES UP LAKE MICHIGAN.

NORTHWESTERN HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN ACADEMIC POWERHOUSE BUT AT THE TIME, ITS FOOTBALL TRADITION WAS THAT OF LOSING. FROM 1972 THROUGH 1991, THEY LOST 179 OF 217 GAMES, INCLUDING ONE STRETCH OF 34 STRAIGHT, A DIVISION ONE-A RECORD. NOW THEY HAD A NEW COACH, GARY BARNETT.

HE WAS TELLING YOU, "WE WANT YOU TO HELP BECOME THE CATALYST TO CHANGE AND BE A PART OF THE GROUND FLOOR OF A PROGRAM THAT'S GONNA TAKE OFF, AND GONNA GO ON A PLACE IT'S NEVER BEEN BEFORE."

FOR FITZGERALD, WHO WAS ALSO BEING RECRUITED BY NOTRE DAME, BARNETT MADE ONE MORE UNUSUAL PITCH.

YEA. HE'D SAY, "WOULD YOU RATHER PLAY FOR NOTRE DAME OR BEAT NOTRE DAME?" TO ME, THAT RESONATED WITH ME A LITTLE BIT.

FITZGERALD COMMITTED TO NORTHWESTERN, AND IN THE OPENER HIS JUNIOR SEASON, THE WILDCATS BEAT NOTRE DAME. THE PROGRAM BEGAN A STUNNING TURNAROUND. AT THE CENTER OF IT WAS THEIR MIDDLE LINEBACKER.

IN HIS FINAL TWO SEASONS, FITZGERALD WON THE NAGURSKI AWARD, AND THE BEDNARIK AWARD, GIVEN TO THE TOP DEFENSIVE PLAYER IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL. HE'S THE ONLY PLAYER TO WIN BOTH AWARDS TWICE. NORTHWESTERN WON 15 OF 16 BIG TEN GAMES... AND MADE IT TO THE ROSE BOWL.

NEXT FOR FITZGERALD, A TRYOUT WITH THE DALLAS COWBOYS.

THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE HERE THAN THERE WERE AT MY SPRING GAME MY FRESHMAN YEAR. SO IT'S BEEN ..A BIG ADJUSTMENT BUT IT'S A LOT OF FUN. IT'S SO COMPETITIVE OUT THERE.

MORE TEACHING ..THAN COLLEGE HERE. YOU TEACH IN A CLASSROOM. YOU GO OUT HERE AND YOU HAVE TO PERFORM. SO YOU'RE EXPECTED TO KNOW EVERYTHING BEFORE YOU GET ON THE FIELD. OH SNEAK OUT. WEAK, WEAK, WEAK.

JUST REMEMBER, BALL CARRIER HERE, FREE AGENT, NEVER THOUGH... HE THOUGHT EVERY YEAR HE HAD TO TRY TO MAKE IT. BUT YOU STAY IN THERE WORKING. I WILL. I KNOW YOU WILL. I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ABOUT YOU. THANK YOU. THANKS MR. JONES.

YEA. I WAS A UNDRAFTED FREE AGENT FOR A REASON. I COULD NOT RUN AN ALLIGATOR. SO WHEN I RAN A 4.8 40 ON PRO TIMING DAY AND I TRIED TO DO THE WORST CARTWHEEL IN THE WORLD, THE SCOUTS WERE LOOKING AT ME LIKE, "WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS KID?" THAT WAS THE FASTEST 40 YD. DASH I'D EVER RUN.

BEFORE THE START OF THE SEASON, FITZGERALD WAS CUT.

I WENT DOWN TO NEW ORLEANS AND THIS GUY NAMES MIKE DITKA WAS THE HEAD COACH DOWN THERE.

GET THAT LACTIC ACID FLOWING!

I COULDN'T RUN TO BEGIN WITH AND NOW I'M GOING AFTER TRAINING CAMP TO GO RUN A 40 YD. DASH. WE'RE WALKING OFF THE FIELD. COACH DITKA PUT HIS ARM AROUND ME. SAID, "YOU WENT TO NORTHWESTERN FOR A REASON. IT'S PROBABLY TIME YOU START USING THAT DEGREE."

FOUR YEARS AFTER LEAVING NORTHWESTERN, FITZGERALD RETURNED, TO MEET NEW HEAD COACH RANDY WALKER.

HE SAID, "WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?" AND HE GOES, "WELL SOME DAY I WANT YOUR JOB." HE SAID THAT TO MY HUSBAND. SO HE THOUGHT THAT WAS REALLY COOL.

AND THAT GAVE ME THE CHANCE I THINK FOR COACH WALKER TO GIVE ME, IN MY OPINION, A SURREAL OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE YOUNGEST POSITION COACH IN THE BIG 10 AT THE TIME, AT THE SCHOOL YOU PLAYED AT, COACHING THE POSITION THAT YOU PLAYED. I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO BE 40, 45 YRS. OLD TO GET BACK HERE.

IN JUNE 2006, RANDY WALKER DIED OF A HEART ATTACK AT AGE 52. AT AGE 31, PAT FITZGERALD BECAME THE YOUNGEST HEAD COACH IN DIVISION ONE FOOTBALL.

HERE'S YOUR DREAM OPPORTUNITY. YOUR DREAM JOB BUT THROUGH THE WORST CIRCUMSTANCES THAT YOU CAN GET IT. I TOOK IT DOWN AS A CHALLENGE. PEOPLE THAT ARE A LOT SMARTER THAN ME, THAT ARE IN SOME VERY POWERFUL POSITIONS, BELIEVE IN ME. THERE WAS NO TIME TO ASK WHY OR ARE YOU SURE.

FITZGERALD'S FIRST GAME WAS AGAINST MIAMI OF OHIO, RANDY WALKER'S ALMA MATER AND WHERE HE WAS THE HEAD COACH FOR 9 SEASONS.

WELL THAT'S KIND OF WHEN THE WHOLE EMOTIONS I THINK HIT EVERYONE, AND THE REALITY SET IN, YOU KNOW, WOW, COACH IS REALLY GONE. THIS ONE GOES OUT TO COACH WALKER, HIS FAMILY. IT'S JUST WITH SUCH A HEAVY HEART. I MISS A GREAT FRIEND, A GREAT MENTOR. PLAYERS DO. AND WE USE THE SPIRIT OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> MAN TODAY TO FIGHT THROUGH IT. A TOUGH FOOTBALL GAME. SOMEBODY CAME AND GOT ME AND SAID, "PAT WANTS YOU TO COME INTO THE L.R." AND SO I WENT IN AND THEY GAVE ME THE GAME BALL.

FITZGERALD SURVIVED THAT CHALLENGE BUT STILL FACED MANY OTHERS WITH THE NORTHWESTERN PROGRAM.

WE NEED TO FILL THIS STADIUM UP AND HAVE IT BE THE WRIGLEY FIELD OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL. WE NEED TO WIN CHAMPIONSHIPS WHILE KEEPING OUR ACADEMIC REPUTATION INTACT. LOUDER MEN. LOUDER MEN.

WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY OF JUST 8,000, NORTHWESTERN'S THE SMALLEST BIG 10 SCHOOL BY ALMOST 15,000. EVERY BIG 10 SCHOOL EXCEPT FOR 2, NEBRASKA AND PENN STATE, HAS MORE ALUMNI IN THE CHICAGO AREA.

THAT'S WHY THEY ASKED ME AND DEMAND THAT WE DO THE THINGS THAT WE DO AS A COACHING STAFF, TO RECRUIT THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST STUDENT ATHLETES IN H.S. FOOTBALL.

THAT'S THE INTENSITY LEVEL THAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN. IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE. WE CAME BACK TODAY WITH A PURPOSE. THAT PURPOSE IS TO BE CHAMPIONS.

FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, THE PLAYER WHO HAS WORN FITZGERALD'S NUMBER AND PLAYED HIS POSITION IS ACADEMIC ALL BIG TEN MIDDLE LINEBACKER BRYCE MCNAUL.

I THINK I CAME TO NORTHWESTERN, HONESTLY, BECAUSE OF COACH FITZ. YOU TALK TO A LOT OF OTHER SCHOOLS AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND THE FIRST THING THEY'RE SELLING YOU ON IS, "WELL, THIS IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU INTO THE NEXT LEVEL."

BE A FINISHER. BE A FINISHER RICK! NICE JOB! NICE JOB RICK! THAT'S THE WAY TO START IT OFF. LET'S GO MEN!

COACH FITZ SAID FROM THE START, THERE'S 1 GUARANTEE IN FOOTBALL AND THAT'S THAT IT WILL END. AS A H.S. KID, 17, AND YOU'RE THE HOTSHOT COMING OUT OF YOUR STATE, AND YOU THINK YOU'RE THE GREATEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD, YOU'RE LIKE, "WHAT? I'M GONNA PLAY FOOTBALL FOREVER. I'M GONNA MAKE MONEY OFF MY NAME LIKE MICHAEL JORDAN WHEN I RETIRE FROM THE NFL."

THAT IS THE UNIVERSAL, "I'M GASSED" LOOK. HANDS ON HIP. LEG CROSSED.

HIS CHARISMA, AS A HEAD COACH, I THINK IS UNMATCHED.

1 MINUTE! IN SPANISH THAT IS UNO MEMENTO! REACH, REACH, REACH. YEA!

HIS ENTHUSIASM JUST PERMEATES THE ENTIRE PROGRAM.

HIT THROUGH HIM BUDDY. YOU WANT TO BE A BIG GUY? HIT ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIM. NOT JUST STOPPING HERE. HIT ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIM. YES!! YES!! YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE?! MUCH BETTER. WAS THE HIT HEAVIER? YEA!

AS A MIDDLE LINEBACKER, FITZGERALD TURNED NORTHWESTERN FROM A LOSING PROGRAM INTO A BIG 10 CHAMPION. AS A COACH, HIS IMPACT COULD BE EVEN BIGGER.

NORTHWESTERN FOOTBALL HAS THE HIGHEST GRADUATION RATE AMONG F.B.S. SCHOOLS. ATTENDANCE NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED 50 PERCENT SINCE 2009, AND FITZGERALD'S WINNING PERCENTAGE IS THE PROGRAM'S BEST IN MORE THAN 75 YEARS.

IN 2011, HE WON 4 OF HIS LAST 5 GAMES INCLUDING AN UPSET AT NEBRASKA.

LEARNED A LOT SO FAR? (YEA.) WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF? (AHH, I KNOW HOW TO KEEP PUSHING EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD.) GOOD.

WHEN I LOOK AT OUR STUDENT ATHLETES, AND I LOOK AT THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION THAT THEY HAVE FOR PAT, IT'S REALLY UNCHALLENGED. YES, THEY THINK PAT'S A GOOD FOOTBALL COACH; AND, YES, HE CAN PUT THEM IN THE POSITION TO HAVE SUCCESS ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD. BUT WHAT THEY UNDERSTAND IS HE HAS THE ABILITY TO PUT THEM IN A POSITION TO HAVE SUCCESS IN LIFE.

A YEAR AGO IF YOU WOULD'VE TOLD ME THAT I'D BE HERE RIGHT NOW I'D BE HAPPY AS HELL. THEN BE HAPPY AS HELL. I CAN'T COMPLAIN. YOU'RE PLAYING BIG 10 COLLEGE FOOTBALL NOW. EXACTLY.

FITZGERALD IS CONTENT WHERE HE IS AS WELL. IN AN ERA WHERE MANY COACHES CHANGE SCHOOLS OFTEN, FITZGERALD IS SIGNED WITH NORTHWESTERN THROUGH 2020.

IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT OUR FAN BASE HAS HAD SOMETHING TO TAKE PRIDE IN. TO LOOK AT AND SAY, "YOU KNOW WHAT, THAT'S RIGHT. I WENT TO NORTHWESTERN. YEA, WE'RE PRETTY SPECIAL ACADEMICALLY BUT WE'RE PRETTY SPECIAL ON THE GRIDIRON ALSO.

(END)