

NFL EXTRA

Week 3

Segment	TRT
Ray's Summer Days	4:58
John Amos	9:59

01:30:17 – RAY'S SUMMER DAYS

RAY LEWIS'S GAME DAY INTENSITY IS LEGENDARY.

(HUDDLE)

I LIKE THESE BIG BOYS. UPS AND DOWNS. PEAKS AND VALLEYS, BABY.

HEY, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, YOU BETTER PRAY YOU PLAY AS LONG AS ME BIG BOY.
OH MY GOSH! LOOK AT THE REPLAY! LOOK AT THE REPLAY! LOOK AT THE REPLAY!
LOOK AT THE REPLAY!!

RADIO – RAY LEWIS HIT HIM AND HE WENT BACKWARDS ABOUT 5 YDS. THIS IS A
PHYSICAL GAME. WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

SO WHEN RAY LEWIS LETS HIS HAIR DOWN, AT FIRST, THE CONTRAST IS
STRIKING.

I WAS THERE THE WHOLE TIME. I SHOULDN'T HAVE NEVER MOVED.

FOR THE PAST EIGHT OFF-SEASONS, RAY HAS SPONSORED A THREE-DAY,
FUND-RAISING FESTIVAL THAT HE CALLS... "SUMMER DAYS."

IT MAKES BALTIMORE A BETTER AND QUIETER PLACE. IF JUST FOR 3 DAYS, THEN
JUST FOR 3 DAYS.

THE FOCUS IS THREEFOLD: OLD-FASHIONED FUN.

YEA! COVER ME. COVER.

FANTASY.

PUT ONE LEG IN FRONT FOR BALANCE.

AND, OF COURSE, RAY'S FAVORITE PAST TIME...

YOU GOTTA PULL THAT KNEE HIGH.

FITNESS.

PULL THAT KNEE ALL THE WAY UP THERE.

COME HERE BEFORE WE START.

THIS IS THE WAY RAY LEWIS RELAXES.

HIT THAT PAD AS HARD AS YOU CAN. NOT TOO BAD. UNDER CONTROL.

IN THE END, IT'S AN EXTENDED FAMILY AFFAIR.

NOW, SEE WHAT I SAID ABOUT UNDER CONTROL?

HANDS UP LIKE YOU'RE BOXING. HEY, HANDS UP. LIKE YOU'RE BOXING. QUICK FEET. QUICK FEET. QUICK FEET. MAKE THEM FEET MOVE. MAKE THEM FEET MOVE. STEP THERE. NOW GO BACK. NOW STEP OVER. NOW GO BACK. STEP OVER. NOW GO BACK. I LOVE HIM! I LOVE HIM!

RADIO – MCNAIR HAS THE FOOTBALL. HAS A LOT OF TIME. THROWS UNDERNEATH AND IT'S PICKED OFF! RAY LEWIS HAS THE BALL! HE'S ON THE 40, 30, COULD GO ALL THE WAY! 20! STILL ON HIS FEET!

IT'S A CHANCE TO RENEW OLD ACQUAINTANCES.....

RADIO – TOUCHDOWN RAY LEWIS! ALRIGHT! 50 YDS.! HE TOOK IT AWAY FROM EDDIE GEORGE!

JUST WHEN WE WANTED TO PAY ATTENTION.

A CHANCE TO INITIATE NEW FRIENDS.

HE'S DOWN!

I WORE THIS ON THE TOP OF MY HEAD. HOW I GET SHOT IN THE TOP OF MY HEAD?

I SAW MY BABY DROP. I GO, "WHY YOU DROP?" HE SAYS...HE CAN'T EVEN TELL ME WHY HE DROPPED. OH MAN. MY BAD NEW. MY BAD NEW.

DUDE HIT ME IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD.

ERIC CAN'T SAY, OOOH. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG. I GOTTA KEEP GOING NOW!

RUN THIS WAY! RUN THIS WAY!

HE WORKS HARD – AND HE PLAYS HARD.

WATCH YOURSELF ON THAT ANGLE COMING OUT.

LEFT CORNER. LEFT CORNER HIGH.

IT'S COMING THIS WAY. IT'S COMING THIS WAY. IT'S COMING THIS WAY.

GOT HIM. I GOT HIM.

FOR RAY LEWIS, IT'S HARD TO TELL (COVER ME) WHICH MODE EXCITES MORE PASSION.

WHAT'S UP? HOW YOU DOIN'? YOU ENJOY TODAY?

THAT'S A BAD 2 STEP RIGHT THERE.

RADIO – AND RAY LEWIS, THE DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR IN THE NFL MAY HAVE SEALED THE DEAL FOR THE RAVENS. AND THE FAT LADY CAN ALMOST SING.

OH LORD. IT JUMPED BACK. I DON'T KNOW HOW IT JUMPED BACK. IT KNOCKED DOWN 5 PINS. THAT'S THE WAY TO FIGHT. SHOULD I SHOOT CAM AGAIN? HEY BABY! WAY TO GET OFF THAT! HOW'S THAT ROTATOR CUFF?

BALTIMORE'S SECRETARY OF DEFENSE NEVER REALLY RESTS HIS CASE.

01:35:25 - JOHN AMOS

CUE THE BALL. HEY, IF YOU CAN DO THIS WELL YOU MIGHT MAKE THIS TEAM.

RIGHT THERE, THAT GUY. IF HE DON'T LISTEN HE AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT. LAST NIGHT HE MADE MISTAKES. HE'S JUST NOT A LISTENER.

NFL TEAMS HAVE ALREADY CUT OVER 1,000 FOOTBALL PLAYERS THIS YEAR. YOU MIGHT THINK THE PLAYERS FEAR THE HEAD COACH, BUT THE REAL SCARY FIGURE IS THE TURK, THE MAN WHO SUMMONS PLAYERS TO THE HEAD COACH'S OFFICE.

COACH NEEDS TO SEE YOU. SO WALK UP THERE AND SEE HIM AND I NEED YOUR NOTEBOOKS.

O.K. SO, I SENT THE WORD TO GOLDEN TO COME SEE ME. WAS HE A LITTLE NERVOUS? HE'S SCARED TO DEATH. HE SAID, "DOES HE WANT ME TO BRING MY NOTEBOOK?" IT TOOK HIM ABOUT 10 MINS. TO GET THEM OUT. HE WAS SCARED TO DEATH.

TURNS OUT BEING SCARED OF THE TURK HAS BEEN AROUND FOR OVER 50 YEARS, AND **THIS MAN** WROTE A POEM ABOUT IT IN THE 1960'S.

IN EVERY PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL CAMP THERE'S A MAN WHO IS KNOWN TO ALL. NOW THERE'S NO ONE WAY OF DESCRIBING HIM BECAUSE HE'S HUSKY, THIN, SHORT, LONG AND TALL. HIS OCCUPATION IS CUTTING HEADS. ON THAT WE ALL AGREE. YOU ASK, "AMOS, HOW IS IT THAT YOU KNOW SO MUCH OF HIM?" MY ANSWER, "HE'S WALKED ON ME."

JOHNNY AMOS WAS A FULLBACK FROM EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, WHO GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL WITH VISIONS OF FOOTBALL GLORY.

I HAD WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A LOGICAL PLAN. I READ UP ON EVERY FOOTBALL BOOK, STREET & SMITH, LINDSY'S, ALL OF THEM; AND THEY ALL SAID THAT THE UNIV. OF SO. CALIF. HAD THE HIGHEST RATE OF PLAYERS GOING INTO THE NFL. SO I SAID,

“THAT’S A LOGICAL PLACE TO GO. SURE.” SO I WRITE AL DAVIS AND I SENT HIM OVER A COUPLE OF GOOD GAME FILMS. AND HIS RESPONSE WAS ENCOURAGING. HE SAID, “WE’VE USED UP ALL OF OUR SCHOLARSHIPS AT S.C. FOR THIS SEASON . HOWEVER, IF YOU WANT TO COME OUT HERE TO LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE, I’LL PUT YOU IN JR. COLLEGE AND IF YOU HAVE A HALFWAY DECENT YEAR, I MEAN IF YOU MAKE ALL UNIVERSE, WE’LL BRING YOU UP TO S.C. FOR CONSIDERATION FOR NEXT SEASON. SO I GO TO LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE. THE COACH I DID NOT GET ALONG. I GET CUT FROM LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE. I MEAN FROM THEN ON IT WAS A STEADY DECENT INTO THE SUBTERRANEAN BOWELS OF FOOTBALL HELL, MAN.

AFTER LEAVING LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AMOS ENROLLED AT DENVER UNIVERSITY. THEY QUICKLY CANCELLED THEIR FOOTBALL PROGRAM. HE THEN WENT TO COLORADO STATE, WHO WAS IN THE MIDST OF THE LONGEST LOSING STREAK IN THE NCAA.

I WENT TO COLORADO ST. UNIV. OF COURSE IN FT. COLLINS, AND THAT WAS THE BRONCOS TRAINING SITE. SO I LIVED AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE TRAINING FACILITY THINKING, “WHAT CAN IT COST TO BRING THIS GUY IN?” SO I WALKED TO TRAINING CAMP WITH A PULLED HAMSTRING AND LIMPED HOME 24 HRS. LATER BECAUSE I GOT CUT THE FIRST DAY. I COULDN’T RUN 40’S FOR TIME. SO I WAITED UNTIL MY LEG GOT A LITTLE BIT BETTER AND THAT’S WHEN I BEGAN MY ODYSSEY IN THE NFL, THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE, THE CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE. THE LEAGUES YOU’VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF FOR TEAMS YOU’VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF.

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, AMOS PLAYED FOR TEAMS LIKE THE JOLIET EXPLORERS, THE NORFOLK NEPTUNE’S, THE WHEELING IRONMEN, THE JERSEY CITY JETS, THE WATERBURY ORBITS, AND THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS.

ONE NIGHT DURING THAT STRETCH, HE WROTE A POEM ABOUT BEING CUT FROM A FOOTBALL TEAM.

TORN ACHILLES TENDON, A PINT OF JACK DANIELS AND A HOT BATHTUB FILLED WITH EPSON SALT. I JUST GOT A LEGAL TABLET AND I STARTED WRITING, AND IT WAS LIKE A STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS. NEXT DAY I READ IT MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE AND PUT IT AWAY FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

HIS BIG BREAK CAME IN 1967, WHEN HE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS AND HEAD COACH HANK STRAM.

WHEN I GOT TO K.C. I’M SURROUNDED BY GUYS THAT I’D BEEN READING ABOUT IN THE PAPERS SINCE I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE. YOU LINEUP AT R.B. AND IN FRONT OF YOU IS MIKE GARRETT, HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER. YOU LOOK TO YOUR LEFT. THERE’S CURTIS MCCLINTON, STRONG BOY FROM KANSAS. I SAID, “OH MAN, WHERE AM I? WHAT AM I DOING HERE?”

IT’S INTERESTING. FOOTBALL PLAYERS KNOW FOOTBALL PLAYERS. YOU KNEW AFTER 6 DAYS 90% OF WHO WAS GONNA BE ON THE TEAM. WHICH YOU THINK OF A JOHN AMOS. THE CHANCE OF HIM MAKING THE K.C. CHIEFS FOOTBALL TEAM, EVEN MAKING A TAXI SQUAD WERE SLIM AND NONE.

YOU GOT CLEATS ON YOUR SHOES? (NO.) WHAT? GEEZ, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU GOT BEDROOM SLIPPERS ON.

AFTER THEY GAVE ME THAT SHOT AT R.B. ONE DAY COACH STRAM SAID, "YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A HARD TIME CUTTING IT HERE IN THE BACKFIELD. I'LL SEND YOU OVER TO WORKOUT WITH THE LINEBACKERS FOR 1 DAY." SO WHO YOU GOT FOR LINEBACKER, LYNCH, ALL AMERICAN FROM NOTRE DAME; WILLIE LANIER, AMONGST OTHERS. SO THE FIRST PLAYER THAT THEY ASKED ME TO COVER WAS OTIS TAYLOR. OTIS WAS ABOUT 6'4, AND HIS FIRST STRIDE WAS LIKE A HALF-MILE LONG. WHEN HE TOOK OFF, I JUST LOOKED AT THE DEF. COACH LIKE, "YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT ME TO CATCH THIS GUY, DO YOU?! I MEAN LOOK AT HIM! HE'S THROWING UP ROOSTER TAILS AS HE GOES. SO I LASTED I THINK ONE SERIES OF DOWNS AT LINEBACKER. THEN IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF, "WELL HOW'S HE GONNA GET HOME? GREYHOUND? DID HE DRIVE HERE OR WHAT? WE CAN'T USE THIS GUY."

BEFORE LEAVING, AMOS TOOK OUT A COPY OF HIS POEM, AND WENT TO SEE HANK STRAM.

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT MY THOUGHT PROCESSES WERE WHEN I WENT TO HANK STRAM AND I SAID, "COACH, I KNOW I'VE BEEN RELEASED BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING I'VE WRITTEN AND I'D LIKE TO READ IT TO THE TEAM BEFORE I GET OUT OF DODGE." AND HE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID, "YOU WANT TO READ SOMETHING?" I SAID, "YEA . I WANT TO READ THIS POEM." "A POEM?!"

IN WALKED THE TRAINER. ON HIS FACE THE QUEEREST LOOK. HE SAID, "THE COACH WANTS YOU AMOS, AND BRING YOUR PLAYBOOK." THE COACH GREETED ME AND SAID, "HAVE A SEAT." HIS NEXT WORDS I STILL FIND IT HARD TO REPEAT. "SON," HE SAID AFFECTIONATELY, AND THIS MADE MY HEART GLOW. "I'M AFRAID WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO LET YOU GO." I PACKED MY FEW THINGS AND I STOLE OUT OF CAMP FEELING LESS LIKE AN ATHLETE AND MORE LIKE A TRAMP. MY PRIDE HAD BEEN SHATTERED. MY EGO DEFLATED. I WAS DEPRESSED. THE TURK WAS ELATED."

WHEN I READ THE POEM, IT HIT THEM IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES. I MEAN THEY LAUGHED IN SOME PLACES AND THEN THEY GOT TOTALLY SOMBER IN SOME OTHER PLACES; AND I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER VINNY __, AN OFFENSIVE LINEMAN WE HAD FROM MICH. ST. UNIV. WHEN I GOT TO THAT PART ABOUT, "HE'LL COME FOR YOU AMOS JUST AS SURE AS CAN BE. ALL YOU HAMSTRINGS, SPRAINED ANKLES, ..." THEN HE STARTED RUBBING HIS KNEES BECAUSE HE'D HAD ABOUT 3 OR 4 PROCEDURES, AND HE STARTED RUBBING HIS KNEES, AND I COULD SEE THE LOOK OF ANXIETY COME OVER HIS FACE. AND I SAID, "I THINK I GOT SOMETHING HERE." SO I KEPT GOING, AND AT THE END THE GUYS GAVE ME A STANDING OVATION.

OH IT WAS, ABSOLUTELY EVERYBODY LAUGHED LIKE CRAZY.

THE REACTION FROM THE TEAM WAS SO GRATIFYING. I MEAN THAT'S WHEN I SAID, "I THINK I CAN MAKE IT AS AN ACTOR" BECAUSE I HAD THEM. SO HANK CALLED ME DOWN TO HIS OFFICE AND HE SAID, "YOU KNOW YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE NOT A FOOTBALL PLAYER. YOU'RE A YOUNG MAN WHO HAPPENS TO PLAY FOOTBALL BUT I HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU HAVE ANOTHER CALLING."

THREE YEARS AFTER READING THE POEM, AMOS WAS IN HOLLYWOOD, PLAYING 'GORDIE THE WEATHERMAN' ON THE "MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW."

IN 1974, HE LANDED THE ROLE OF THE PATRIARCH, JAMES EVANS, ON "GOOD TIMES".

AND IN 1977 HE PLAYED "TOBY" IN THE GROUNDBREAKING MINISERIES "ROOTS".

YEA, YOU'D SEE HIM ON TV AND THINGS LIKE THAT. YEA, THAT'S THE GUY.

ONE OF HIS FAVORITE VIEWERS WAS HIS OLD COACH, WHO WROTE AND SAID, "DEAR JOHN.....WE SWELL WITH PRIDE EVERY TIME WE SEE YOU ON THE TUBE. YOU LOOK GREAT, AND ARE DOING A TERRIFIC JOB."

HANK HAD A NOSE FOR TALENT. HE APPRECIATED AND LIKED TALENT.

MAKE SURE YOU WISE JOHNNY. MAKE SURE HE'S ALRIGHT BACK THERE.

HE LIKED PEOPLE TO DO THE BEST THEY CAN DO AND FOLLOW WHERE THE TALENTS TOO THEM.

STRAM ENDED THE LETTER WITH, "HOW'S MY LITTLE MAN, K.C.?" A REFERENCE TO AMOS' SON.

SOME NATIVE AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD NAME YOUR FIRST BORN SON AFTER THE MOST POSITIVE EVENT THAT HAPPENS IN YOUR LIFE; AND THE MOST POSITIVE THING THAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME AT THAT TIME WERE THE DAYS, THE WEEKS THAT I WAS IN THE K.C. CHIEFS TRAINING CAMP.

AFTER OVER 100 TELEVISION AND MOVIE ROLES INCLUDING MEMORABLE TURNS IN "COMING TO AMERICA" AND "DIEHARD 2," AMOS STILL KEEPS HIS FOOTBALL PAST CLOSE TO HIS HEART, AND HE APPRECIATES HOW A SCARY TURK AND A HALL OF FAME COACH, CHANGED HIS LIFE FOREVER.

I REALLY GENUINELY LOVE THE GAME. I WAS NOT AN EXTREMELY TALENTED ATHLETE BUT I HAD A LOT OF PASSION, AND I THINK HANK SAW THAT PASSION AND ..BUT HE ALSO SAW SOMETHING ELSE IN ME AND THAT WAS TO CHANGE MY LIFE.

THOSE SURVIVING THE AXE NEED NOT FEEL TOO SECURE . THE TURK'S ALWAYS WAITING, OF THAT BE ASSURED. YOU THERE VET. YOU THERE ROOKIE AND YOU FREE AGENT, LIKE ME, THE TURK WILL HAVE ALL OF OUR HELMETS HANGING FROM HIS TREE. SO HEED THESE LAST WORDS AS I BID YOU ADO. LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER. WHO'S THAT REACHING FOR YOU?

(END)