

NFL EXTRA

Week 7

Segment	TRT
Slackliners	4:42
Doug Plank	9:22

02:31:51 - SLACKLINERS

THIS IS ANDY LEWIS.

A MAN ON A LONG CLIMB TO BRING RECOGNITION TO A SPORT THAT PUSHES THE BOUNDARIES OF BALANCE.

THE MOST POTENT FEELING IN SLACKLINING AND HIGHLINING ESPECIALLY IS THAT BORDERLINE BETWEEN WHERE YOU'RE COMPLETELY IN BALANCE ON THE GROUND AND YOU SHIFT YOUR BALANCE ONTO THE LINE AND MOVE OUT PAST THE CLIFF EDGE WHERE YOU'RE ACTUALLY COMMITTING TO BALANCE. I'M ENTIRELY BY MYSELF, AND THE ONLY FEAR IS AM I GONNA DIE?

PERFORMING CLOSER TO EARTH ON THIS THIN STRIP OF WEBBING KNOWN AS A SLACKLINE, IS ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS DEATH DEFYING.

ITS CALLED TRICKLINING, AND IT NOT ONLY REQUIRES IMPECCABLE BALANCE BUT ALSO STEEL...RESOLVE.

PATIENCE IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT VIRTUE WHEN NURTURING A FLEDGLING SPORT.

I'VE BEEN SLACKLINING SINCE 2004 AND NOBODY KNOWS IT. USUALLY YOU'RE JUST IN PARK BY YOURSELF AND LIKE MAYBE SOME KIDS COME UP AND WANT TO LEARN HOW TO SLACKLINE. YOU HOLD THEIR HANDS AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE ONLY CROWD YOU GET. PUSHING MYSELF TO THE PHYSICAL LIMIT. PUSHING MYSELF TO THE MENTAL LIMIT. PUSHING MY GEAR TO ITS LIMIT. PUSHING MY FINANCES TO THEIR LIMIT. AND IT'S JUST LIKE, DOES ANYBODY KNOW ABOUT IT? NO. DOES ANYBODY CARE ABOUT IT? NO.

TURNS OUT PEOPLE WERE PAYING ATTENTION. AND AMONG THE SPORT'S FANS WAS A POP STAR, KNOWN FOR TAKING RISKS OF HER OWN.

I'D REALLY SOLIDIFIED MY POSITION IN THE TRICKLINING WORLD AS LIKE THE FATHER OF TRICKLINING, THE INNOVATOR OF MANY TRICKS. AND BECAUSE

OF THAT MADONNA WAS LIKE I WANT THIS GUY. HE'S GOT THE CHARACTER TRAITS THAT I WANT IN A SHOW. BUT IT'S NOT JUST A SHOW. IT'S THE SUPER BOWL.

THE FEAR OF WALKING ON STAGE IN FRONT OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IS EERILY SIMILAR TO WALKING ALONE, ATOP A MOUNTAIN.

IT'S 2 DIFFERENT THINGS ENTIRELY BUT IT KIND OF PORTRAYS THE SAME FEELINGS. ALTHOUGH ONE IS PORTRAYED BY DEATH AS THE FACTOR OF FALLING, AND THE OTHER ONE IS YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD BECAUSE YOU JUST FELL IN THE SUPER BOWL, AND EVERYONE'S GONNA REMEMBER YOU AS FAILING.

A LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT CAN GO A LONG WAY.

EVERYDAY IN REHEARSAL SHE CAME IN AND KISSED ME ON THE CHEEK. THAT AS WONDERFUL AND THAT KIND OF GAVE US A SPECIAL LITTLE RELATIONSHIP THERE. SHE KISSED ME MORE THAN MY GIRLFRIENDS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL. SO I PRETTY MUCH DATED MADONNA!

NO ONE'S SEEN SLACKLINING BEFORE. ALL I HAD TO SHOW THEM WAS JUST HOW FUN IT WAS TO BE A SLACKLINER, AND THAT'S ALL I DID. I WENT OUT THERE AND I JUST HAD A TON OF FUN. IT WAS THE PINNACLE OF AN ENTIRE JOURNEY, MY ENTIRE CAREER; AND WHEN I BACK-FLIPPED OFF I WAS LIKE THIS IS THE BACKFLIP THAT IS GONNA MAKE HISTORY FOR ME. AND WHEN I STUCK THE LANDING THE CROWD ROARED SO LOUDLY. AND IF IT WAS JUST FROM DIRECTION I WOULD'VE BEEN BLOWN OVER BY THE SOUND. BUT SINCE I WAS IN A STADIUM AND EVERYONE WAS YELLING, IT ALL HIT ME AT ONE TIME AND I WAS KIND OF LIKE SHAKEN INTO POSITION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CROWD JUST BY SOUND. JUST LIKE HELD IN THE MOMENT. AND THAT WAS JUST...IT CAN'T BE DEFINED BY WORDS.

THANKS IN PART TO HIS SUPER BOWL PERFORMANCE, LEWIS AND HIS FELLOW SLACKLINERS AREN'T SO ALONE IN THE PARK ANYMORE.

IT'S COOL BECAUSE NOW SLACKLINING'S A THING, AND IT'S LIKE THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO FOR YEARS. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BRING SLACKLINING TO THE WORLD. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO SAY, "HEY, LOOK, THIS IS A SPORT. THIS IS AWESOME." IT'S 35 SECS. BUT THAT 35 SECS. CHANGED THE SPORT OF SLACKLINING FOREVER.

02:36:43 - DOUG PLANK

FOR DOUG PLANK, THE HEAD COACH FOR PHILADELPHIA COMING INTO THIS GAME 0 FOR 4 IN ARENA BOWL AND IT'S NOW GONNA BE 0 FOR 5. I'M SURE THIS ONE IS GONNA STING FOR QUITE AWHILE.

I WANT TO TELL YOU THANKS FOR A GREAT SEASON. I MEAN THIS IS THE MOST FUN THAT I'VE HAD COACHING IN MY LIFE, AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. I KNOW EVERYBODY'S DISAPPOINTED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WORDS TO USE RIGHT NOW.

AT AGE 59, DOUG PLANK IS STILL LOOKING FOR HIS FIRST FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ON ANY LEVEL. HE PLAYED 8 SEASONS WITH THE BEARS AND NEVER WON A PLAYOFF GAME. BUT TO THE TOP DEFENSIVE MINDS IN THE SPORT, PLANK'S PLACE IN FOOTBALL HISTORY WILL ALWAYS BE ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED.

REX RYAN - OH PLEASE, DOUG PLANK. OBVIOUSLY HE WAS A FEROCIOUS HITTER. THE THING THAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT DOUG PLANK IS HE NEVER LEFT ANYBODY STANDING. YOU CAN HAVE THE BALL OR NOT. HE WAS GONNA COME OVER THAT PILE. HE WAS GONNA HIT SOMEBODY.

FISHER – WELL DOUG DID THIS. SO, AND THAT WAS IN PRACTICE AND I WAS HIS TEAMMATE. HE WOULD PLAY THE GAME VERY HARD, AND HE WAS ALL ABOUT HITTING YOU AS HARD AS HE COULD.

JAWORSKI – THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND, WHEN YOU PLAYED AGAINST THE BEARS, THE HEART AND SOUL WAS DOUG PLANK. DOUG PLANK HIT ME ON A SCRAMBLE. IT WAS GAME OVER FOR ME. LOOK OUT MAN. YOU BETTER COMB YOUR HAIR!

PLANK – YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE.

THIS YEAR, RON JAWORSKI TEAMED UP WITH PLANK. FIRST, IN THE ARENA LEAGUE AND THEN TO DISCUSS HOW PLANK'S STYLE OF PLAY WOULD BE VIEWED IN TODAY'S NFL.

PLANK – I PROBABLY WASN'T THE BEST THERE. I THINK THIS IS PROBABLY A PENALTY TODAY TOO.

JAWORSKI – OH NOW, YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS ONE! UH OH. AH!!

PLANK – IT WAS A DIFFERENT ERA. WHAT CAN I SAY? IT WAS PRE-GLOBAL WARMING AND ALL THAT KIND OF STUFF.

JAWORSKI – SINCE FRANCO WAS HEADING BACK TO THE HUDDLE IT WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE BIT LATE I THINK!

PLANK – LOOK, NO PENALTY FLAG!

FISHER – SOME OF US WOULD PAY THE PRICE BECAUSE I HAD GUYS CHASING ME OFF THE FIELD AFTER EXTRA POINTS THINKING I WAS DOUG PLANK.

AT OHIO STATE, PLANK WAS FAR FROM SOUGHT AFTER. HE STARTED ONLY 5 GAMES AND PLAYED PRIMARILY SPECIAL TEAMS. HIS STANDOUT PERFORMANCE CAME AT NORTHWESTERN, JUST NORTH OF CHICAGO.

PLANK – I DIDN'T REALIZE IT AT THE TIME. 2 CHICAGO BEAR SCOUTS CAME TO THAT GAME.

CHICAGO THEN DRAFTED PLANK IN THE 12TH ROUND TO COVER PUNTS AND KICKOFFS.

PLANK - THEN THE FREE SAFETY GETS INJURED IN ONE OF THE PRESEASON GAMES. THEY ASKED ME, "DOUG, HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED FREE SAFETY?" "OF COURSE I'VE PLAYED FREE SAFETY. I'VE DONE IT ALL MY LIFE." I'D NEVER PLAYED FREE SAFETY BEFORE. BY THE TIME THE PRESEASON WAS DONE, I WAS THE STARTING FREE SAFETY FOR THE CHICAGO BEARS.

PLANK LED THE BEARS IN TACKLES, AND WAS NEAR THE TOP IN INTERCEPTIONS. BUT HIS UNIQUE PLACE IN NFL HISTORY, HAPPENED AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR BUDDY RYAN.

PLANK – BUDDY CAME TO CHICAGO AND HE LOOKED AT WHAT WE HAD.

BUDDY – THIS IS WHAT I WANT TO DO. WAIT A MINUTE.

PLANK – AND WE WERE NOT A VERY GOOD FOOTBALL TEAM. HE SAID, "WHAT CAN I DO TO MANUFACTURE, TO CREATE PRESSURE ON THE QB?" AND ON THE BOARD HE HAD THIS SCHEME. I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I DON'T THINK ONE PERSON IN THE ROOM THOUGHT THAT THIS THING WOULD EVEN WORK. I THINK IT WAS OTIS WILSON, A LINEBACKER. HE SAID, "BUDDY, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA CALL THIS?" HE CIRCLED MY NUMBER 3 TIMES. HE SAID, "WE'RE GONNA CALL THIS THE 46-DEFENSE."

REX – IT'S NAMED AFTER DOUG PLANK JUST BECAUSE HE HAD THAT JERSEY #. THEY JUST PUT IT IN BECAUSE THEY BROUGHT DOUG DOWN BASICALLY PLAYING A LINEBACKER POSITION, AND THAT'S WHY HE CALLED IT THE 46.

PLANK – NOW, NO ONE JUMPED UP, CAME OVER, STARTED SLAPPING ME ON THE BACK SAYING, "DOUG, THIS IS FANTASTIC. THIS THING IS GONNA TAKE THE BEARS TO THE SUPER BOWL."

FISHER – WE DIDN'T REALLY GIVE IT MUCH THOUGHT. HE HAD A LOT OF COVERAGE'S AND A LOT OF THINGS NAMED AFTER A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PLAYERS ON THE DEFENSE.

PLANK – ONE OF THE JOBS THAT I HAD DONE IN THE OFFSEASON, I WAS A COLLAGEN WATER SOFTENER REPAIRMAN AND, GUESS WHAT? THE WATER SOFTENER WAS NOT WORKING WELL. BASICALLY WITHIN A FEW MINS. IT WAS UP AND RUNNING, AND HE WAS SO HAPPY. SO I ALWAYS LAUGH. MAYBE THAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING IT CALLED THE 46-DEFENSE OR THE 24 DEFENSE BECAUSE JEFF WAS RIGHT NEXT TO ME JUST A FEW FEET AWAY.

RYAN UNLEASHED THE 46 DEFENSE MIDWAY THROUGH THE 1981 SEASON AGAINST THE HIGHEST-SCORING TEAM IN THE LEAGUE, THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS.

PLANK – IT HAD TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST UPSETS THAT YEAR IN THE NFL. STATISTICALLY, I KNOW THAT WAS ONE OF DAN FOUTS WORST DAYS.

THE HALL OF FAME QUARTERBACK WAS 13 FOR 43 WITH 2 INTERCEPTIONS, AND THE BEARS WON.

BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 1985 THAT THE 46 DEFENSE RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION.

YOU HAVE A BASIC DEFENSE HERE YOU CALL A 6. WHAT IS THAT COACH? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO IN THERE?

BUDDY – OFFENSIVE COACHES, THEY LIKE TO THINK THEY'RE GOOD. THEY RUN PEOPLE ALL OVER THE FIELD AND PUT THEM IN MOTION AND DO ALL THIS, AND THEY WANT TO STAND OVER AND LET THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT TO, AND DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU DON'T!

THE 1985 BEARS ALLOWED JUST OVER 12 POINTS PER GAME.// SHUTOUT THEIR FIRST TWO PLAYOFF OPPONENTS.// AND CRUSHED THE PATRIOTS IN SUPER BOWL 20, A GAME WHERE THE BEARS SCORED EXACTLY 46 POINTS.

JAWORSKI - IT'S HARD TO ARGUE THAT THAT '85 DEFENSE WASN'T THE GREATEST DEFENSE OF ALL TIME.

THE 46 DEFENSE WAS IMMORTALIZED.// BUT NUMBER 46 WAS LONG GONE.

HE HAD RETIRED FOLLOWING THE 1982 SEASON AND BY 1985 WAS SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME MANAGING HIS FAST FOOD BUSINESS.

PLANK – I DID NOT GET A CHANCE TO EVEN WATCH EVERY ONE OF THOSE PLAYOFF GAMES BECAUSE SOME OF THOSE DAYS I WAS ACTUALLY WORKING AT THE RESTAURANT.

PLANK DID FOLLOW THE TRAVELS OF BUDDY RYAN AND IN 1994, PLANK FOUND HIMSELF LITERALLY AT A CROSSROADS.

PLANK – I WAS DRIVING TO A BURGER KING RESTAURANT THAT I OWN IN TEMPE ARIZONA AND I HEAR ON THE RADIO, “BUDDY RYAN’S THE NEW HEAD COACH/G.M. OF THE ARIZONA CARDINALS.” AND I’M THINKING, DO I WANT TO GO DOWN THERE AND CONGRATULATE BUDDY? OR SHOULD I GO BACK AND HELP IN THE DRIVE THRU?” NOBODY ELSE NAMED A DEFENSE AFTER MY JERSEY NUMBER! I SAID, “YOU KNOW WHAT, I AT LEAST OWE HIM THE RESPECT TO GO DOWN THERE AND CONGRATULATE HIM.” THAT’S WHAT I DID. 5 MINS. LATER I WAS OFFERED AN ANNOUNCING POSITION FOR THE ARIZONA CARDINALS, AND I STARTED REALIZING HOW MUCH I LOVED THIS GAME OF FOOTBALL.

PLANK WAS AN ASSISTANT WITH THE JETS WHEN REX RYAN FIRST BECAME HEAD COACH.

PLANK – WHY DIDN’T YOU GET DEEP? YOU WENT DEEP? I SEE.

AND HE’S COACHED EIGHT SEASONS IN ARENA FOOTBALL.

PLANK – IT’S RIDICULOUS! THIS IS WHAT REALLY STRUCK ME, ONCE I BECAME A COACH. I DON’T REMEMBER EVER CRYING IN MY LIFE. LET’S GO B. ROBB. LET’S GO! BUT WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND THEN HAVING THAT CULMINATE IN A FOOTBALL GAME THAT YOU ACTUALLY WIN. YEA!! YEA! YEA!! B. ROB MAN, GO! I MEAN LITERALLY TEARS MANY TIMES ROLL DOWN YOUR FACE. WAY TO GO PERK. WAY TO GO JOE. I DON’T KNOW OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT YOU GET THAT SAME SORT OF A REACTION FROM.

IN THE NFL, DOUG PLANK’S NUMBER, NAME, AND THE DEFENSE HE HELPED CREATE LIVE ON.

REX – HEY, I’M THINKING ABOUT PLAYING 46...RECEIVER. LET THOSE SAFETIES PLAY DOWN.

PLANK – PERK! PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU ONBOARD!

IN ARENA FOOTBALL, PLANK WILL COACH AT AGE 60 IN ORLANDO TO TACKLE THE ONE GOAL THAT HAS ELUDED HIM.

PLANK – I’VE GOT A MESSAGE TO TELL FOOTBALL PLAYERS THIS DAY. SHOCK YOUR SYSTEM! TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT! DON’T GIVE US 50% EFFORT OR 75%

EFFORT. GIVE US 100%. WHEN I CAME IN HERE UNDERSIZED, NOT FAST ENOUGH, NOT BIG ENOUGH, DOUG PLANK SURVIVED IN THE NFL BECAUSE HE BROUGHT HIS A-GAME EVERYDAY.

THE IMPACT PLANK MADE AS A PLAYER IS UNDENIABLE.

BUDDY – THIS IS WHAT WE CALL 46 5 BLITZ.

BUT OF ALL THE THINGS HE HAS RECEIVED CREDIT FOR, SHOULD THIS HIT ON RON JAWORSKI BE ONE OF THEM?

IS THAT DOUG? THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN GARY. IT'S FENCIK, YEA. SEE, ONCE AGAIN. COACH, I APOLOGIZE. I AM NOT GUILTY OF THE CRIME. I APOLOGIZE! I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER NOW. I CAN TELL YOU'RE BEAMING. YOU SAID IT WASN'T YOU.

(END)