

NFL EXTRA

Week 8

Segment	TRT
Quarterbacks Blocking	5:45
Victor Cruz	8:33

01:00:00 - QUARTERBACKS BLOCKING

IN THE NFL, IT'S THE QUARTERBACKS WHO ARE THE PRETTY BOYS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY CAN'T GET DOWN AND DIRTY.

RADIO – PHILIP RIVERS MAKES THE KEY BLOCK ON WHITLEY. HE TAKES HIM OUT.

I KIND OF ENJOY GETTING OUT THERE AND GETTING IN THE MIX WITH THOSE GUYS. YOU DON'T WANT TO GET YOUR HEAD HIT OR GET A THUMB CAUGHT IN A JERSEY OR SOMETHING. I DIDN'T WANT TO BREAK MY THUMB. (THAT'S PRETTY DAMN GOOD!)

EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE YOU SEE A QB WHO ISN'T AFRAID TO MAKE CONTACT, AND THAT'S REALLY IMPRESSIVE. BUT, FOR THE MOST PART, YOU SEE GUYS WHO ARE JUST SORT OF PANIMIMING A BLOCK.

TOM USED TO TRY TO DO IT ALL THE TIME AND HE WAS TERRIBLE AT IT. HE JUST USED TO FALL AND PEOPLE'D JUST JUMP OVER HIM. AT SOME POINT I JUST TOLD HIM TO JUST STOP AND JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY. I THINK BILL TOLD HIM THE SAME THING.

IF A QB ON A BLOCK DIVES NEAR SOMEBODY'S FEET AND MISSES BY 5 YDS., MAN, HE WAS GRITTY.

RADIO – ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! BEAUTIFUL! HELL OF A BLOCK BY THE QB.

DID YOU SEE THAT GRITTY PLAY BY THAT QB?

EVERYONE MAKES IT BIGGER THAN IT REALLY SHOULD BE. I MEAN YOU HAVE LINEMEN HIGH-FIVING. NOW THESE ARE 350 LB. GUYS THAT ARE NOW JUMPING UP IN THE AIR HIGH-FIVING, AND THEY GET REALLY EXCITED WHEN YOU SEE A QB GO THE DISTANCE LIKE THAT.

I'LL TAKE YOU BIG DADDY! I'LL TAKE YOU BIG DADDY!

BACK IN THE DAY, QBS TRIED TO BLOCK. THERE WAS A SENSE OF MACHO TOUGHNESS ABOUT IT. IT'S A CHANCE TO SHOW YOUR MANHOOD. AND I THREW A BLOCK IN A GAME AGAINST THE GIANTS.

RADIO – HE GOT A BLOCK FROM THEISMAN! HE'S TO THE 5! HE'S TO THE END ZONE! TOUCHDOWN!

I BECAME A PIGLET. THEY ALLOWED ME IN THE SHED WHERE THE GUYS USED TO GO DRINK BEER ALL THE TIME.

RADIO – THEY'RE JUMPING UP AND DOWN BECAUSE THEISMAN THREW THE KEY BLOCK ON JOE WASHINGTON'S BROKEN PLAY TD. RUN.

TODAY, QBS WILL AVOID CONTACT AT EVERY POSSIBLE TURN.

MARK SANCHEZ WENT VIRAL LAST YEAR ON YOU-TUBE WHEN HE WAS PUT OUT WIDE ON A WILDCAT PLAY AND HE JUST ABSOLUTELY LOOKED PETRIFIED. WHEN THE CORNERBACK CAME UP AND LOOKED LIKE HE WAS GONNA CHUCK HIM ON THE LINE.

RADIO – OH MAN! THAT WAS AWESOME! HE FLINCHED. HE IS GONNA GET DESTROY...OH, BOY, THIS IS FUNNY STUFF. THAT'S GONNA MAKE HIGHLIGHTS. I'M SORRY MARK.

IN TODAY'S VIDEO ABILITIES TO BE ABLE TO STOP AND START AND STOP AND START, YOU CAN MAKE A DANCE NUMBER OUT OF IT.

OH MAN! OH MAN! OH MAN! OH MAN!

RED 25!

NOBODY WATCHES A QUARTERBACK'S BLOCKING TECHNIQUE MORE THAN HIS COACH.

DEPENDS ON WHO THE QB IS AND WHETHER I'M MAD AT HIM OR NOT. IF HE'S MADE A COUPLE OF BAD DECISIONS THEN I'M ALL FOR HIM GOING IN THERE AND GETTING SOME SENSE KNOCKED INTO HIM.

EXECUTE THE BLOCK BUT DON'T GET HURT!

YEA, YOU WANT TO MAKE CONTACT. YOU DON'T WANT TO SWING AND MISS. NOT TO GET ANY FINGERS JAMMED OR THUMBS BROKEN BUT, THEN AGAIN, DON'T MISS. DON'T WHIFF.

SOMETIMES THE QUARTERBACKS WHO ARE CONSIDERED "SOFT" ARE THE ONES WHO THROW THE HARDEST BLOCK.

RADIO – ED SMALL IS GONNA TAKE IT INSIDE THE 5 DOWN TO THE 2, HE'LL SCORE! WHAT A BLOCK! ... GOT A GREAT BLOCK. AND YOU'VE ACCUSED HIM OF NOT BEING TOUGH. I DID NOT! YOU DID.

BRETT FAVRE WAS A GUY WHO LOVED TO THROW BLOCKS AND WOULD REALLY PUT HIS BODY INTO IT. HE WAS A BIG, PHYSICAL, THICK-SHOULDERED GUY. NOT FRAIL AT ALL; AND YOU ALMOST GOT THE FEELING THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO BE A SAFETY OR A LINEBACKER.

RADIO – HE'S LIKE A PULLING GUARD BUT HE'S NOT JUST OUT THERE FOR SOME WINDOW DRESSING. HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HIT.

TRENT GREEN, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. AT THE END OF THE DAY THAT WAS ONE QB THAT WOULD STICK HIS SHOULDERS OUT ON THE LINE FOR HIS R.B. WHEN TRENT HANDS-OFF THE BALL, I'M RUNNING TO MY RIGHT. HE BOOTS OFF TO THE LEFT. HE KNOWS IN ABOUT 5 SECS. I WAS GONNA END UP CUTTING AGAINST THE GRAIN AND GOING BACK LEFT. AND, SURE ENOUGH, EVERY TIME I WOULD COME BACK WHERE MOST QB'S WOULD JUST KIND OF WHIFF AND MISS THE BLOCK; TRENT GREEN WOULD LOWER HIS SHOULDERS, DIVE AT SOMEONE'S ANKLES OR KNEES, MAKE THE BLOCK AND I'LL RUN IN FOR A TD.

RADIO – NEEDS A BLOCK. THIS ONE'S FROM GREEN!! LEFT INSIDE THE 5! TOUCHDOWN!!

IT WAS EVEN A QUARTERBACK BLOCK...SORT OF, THAT SPRUNG MARSHAWN LYNCH ON ONE OF THE GREATEST RUNS IN NFL HISTORY.

RADIO – HE'S DOWN TO THE 20! 15! HE COULD GO! HE'S GONNA GO! TOUCHDOWN SEAHAWKS!!

EVERYBODY ON OFFENSE BLOCKS. THE WIDE RECEIVERS, THE RBS, THE LINE, EVERYBODY EXCEPT THE QB. SO WHEN YOU'RE ASKED TO DO IT, WHEN YOU HAVE THAT CHANCE YOU HAVE TO CAPITALIZE ON IT.

AND THERE'S NO BIGGER BLOCK FOR A QUARTERBACK THEN THROWING ONE ON FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST STAGE.

ON THE REVERSE PASS WHEN I WAS A COORD. IN PITTS., THEY WENT FOR A TD. IN THE S.B. BEN HAD TO ACTUALLY BLOCK A GUY OFF THE EDGE WHICH WAS CRITICAL TO THAT PLAY. NOW HERE'S THE HANDOFF ON THE REVERSE TO ANTOWANE RANDLE L. HE'S GONNA THROW IT DOWN THE FIELD! THERE'S A MAN OPEN! TOUCHDOWN PITTS.!

EVEN THE REIGNING SUPER BOWL MVP HAS SHOWN THAT SOMETIMES THE BEST THING A QUARTERBACK CAN THROW...IS A BLOCK.

RADIO – LOOK AT ELI THROWING A BLOCK!

GOOD JOB E. DID YOU SEE ELI?! DID YOU SEE ELI?! DID YOU SEE ELI ON THAT?! HELL YEA, E! HEY THAT'S A HELL OF A BLOCK. THAT'S A HELL OF A BLOCK, BROTHER.

01:05:57 - VICTOR CRUZ

O.K., WE HAVE TIME FOR A COUPLE MORE QUESTIONS HERE.

HELLO MADONNA. THE N.Y. GIANTS HAVE A PLAYER NAMED VICTOR CRUZ WHO CELEBRATES BY DANCING SALSA IN THE END ZONE. HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? DO YOU HAVE ANY CRITICISM ON HIS MOVES? I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CRITICISM. IN FACT, HE'S INSPIRED ME. I'VE BEEN PRACTICING MY SALSA MOVES AND I'M GONNA SHOW THEM TO YOU AND YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OF THEM? O.K. HERE WE GO, AND WE'RE GOING TO GET VICTOR TO WATCH THIS TOO.

IF THERE'S EVER A MOMENT WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'VE MADE IT, IT'S WHEN AN INTERNATIONAL POP STAR SEEKS YOUR ACCEPTANCE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU THINK HE'D APPROVE?

IT'S A CALLED A "GAME CHANGER".

AN APPROPRIATE PHRASE FOR VICTOR CRUZ, THE WIDE RECEIVER WHO PLAYS THAT ROLE FOR THE GIANTS.

WHEN YOU'RE A FOOTBALL STAR WHO'S ENVIED BY MADONNA AND DEMANDED ON THE RED CARPET, A BOOK DEAL IS SURE TO FOLLOW.

DURING THE WRITING SESSIONS FOR HIS BOOK, "OUT OF THE BLUE," CRUZ AND CO-AUTHOR PETER SCHRAGER VISITED NFL FILMS TO RE-LIVE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS CAREER, ONE THAT BEGAN IN 2010 WITH THE UNDRAFTED ROOKIE JUST HOPING *ANYONE* WOULD REMEMBER HIS NAME.

ALRIGHT, FIRST TIME ON THE FIELD, UNDRAFTED, FREE AGENT. DID YOU THINK COMING INTO THIS GAME THAT YOU HAD A SHOT TO MAKE THIS TEAM; OR WERE YOU THINKING IT'S A LONGSHOT. I GOTTA REALLY GO NUTS AND HAVE A BIG GAME?

I KNEW I WAS DOING SOME GOOD THINGS DURING TRAINING CAMP, AND I JUST KNEW I HAD TO KIND OF TOP IT OFF AGAINST SOMEBODY ELSE. WHO'S #3? IS THAT A WIDE OUT? YEA, A WIDE OUT.

HE WAS ACTUALLY MY COACH, MY POSITION COACH AT U. MASS.

NOW WHO'S THIS?

IT'S BRIAN SMITH.

BRIAN SMITH WAS YOUR POSITION COACH AT U. MASS SINCE LIKE...

"OH, THAT'S JUST VICTOR CRUZ. I'VE SEEN HIM ALL THROUGH COLLEGE."

THAT'S FUNNY THAT YOU DIDN'T PREP HIM BEFOREHAND.

I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS AT THIS POINT COMING IN HE PROBABLY DIDN'T THINK I WAS GONNA BE MUCH OF A FACTOR.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. ALRIGHT.

RADIO – WHERE THE I-BACK BEHIND SORGY WHO DROPS BACK TO THROW. LOBS ONE DOWN THE LEFT SIDELINE AND IT IS CAUGHT WITH 1 HAND BY VICTOR CRUZ AND HE'LL GO THE DISTANCE!!

THAT'S A HELL OF A PLAY BY THAT KID.

RADIO – TAKES THE SNAP. DROPS BACK. LOBS ONE END ZONE. IT'S CAUGHT! TOUCHDOWN! AND AGAIN IT'S VICTOR CRUZ.

HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHO #3 IS BUT HOLY... I'M TELLING YOU.

LEBRON JAMES TWEETED ABOUT YOU AFTER THAT JET GAME.

YEA. WELL THE ENTIRE TWITTER NATION WAS BLOWING UP LIKE TWITTER AT THE TIME. SO IT WAS KIND OF ONE OF THOSE THINGS WHERE I KNEW I HAD THE TALENT. I KNEW I COULD DO ALL THOSE THINGS THAT ALL THE OTHER GUYS CAN. IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF GETTING MY OPPORTUNITY.

CRUZ WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIS CHANCE. AN INJURY KEPT HIM OFF THE FIELD IN 2010. IN 2011, HIS REGULAR SEASON DEBUT WASN'T SO MEMORABLE.

THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON VS. WASHINGTON, THE FIRST 3RD DOWN I THROW HIM A LITTLE HOOK ROUTE IN THE SLOT AND HE DROPS IT. THAT'S NOT THE WAY YOU WANT TO START THE SEASON, ESPECIALLY FOR A YOUNG

GUY. COACHES CAN QUICKLY TURN ON A GUY. THEY'RE GIVING YOU A SHOT AND IF YOU DON'T COME THROUGH, THAT CAN BE TOUGH.

IN THIS LEAGUE CHANCES COME FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, AND IF YOU DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM I JUST HAD TO STICK WITH IT AND THANK GOD THAT I GOT ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY.

GOING INTO PHILLY, YOUR FIRST NFL START, WHAT DOES YOUR COACH SAY TO YOU IN THE L.R.?

WELL COMING INTO THAT WEEK HE WAS TELLING ME, COACH SULLIVAN, OUR QB'S COACH AT THE TIME WAS LIKE, "MAN, YOU'RE GETTING YOUR FIRST START. THIS IS FAN ... MONTH. YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHING COOL IN THE END ZONE." AND I'M LIKE, "ALRIGHT MAN. I GUESS .. I MEAN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO BUT DANCE." HE WAS LIKE, "YEA, EXACTLY. WELL GO IN THERE AND DO LIKE A SALSA OR SOMETHING." I'M LIKE, I DIDN'T EVEN THINK I WAS GONNA A CATCH, LET ALONE A TD. SO IT WAS LIKE, "YEA COACH, I'LL DO IT. WHATEVER." YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

RADIO – CRUZ IN THE SLOT LEFT. MANNING BACK TO THROW. ZIPS ONE LEFT. CAUGHT BY CRUZ . RUNS OUT OF A TACKLE TO THE 40, UP TO MIDFIELD. MAKES ANOTHER MAN MISS AT THE 45. DOWN...!

ALRIGHT. SO NOW WHEN DO YOU THINK, "OH MY GOD, I GOTTA DO THIS DANCE"?

IT WAS PROBABLY AROUND THE 5 YD. LINE WHEN I'M RUNNING IN THERE. AND THEN I GET IN THERE. I'M LOOKING UP AT THE CROWD AND THEY LIKE...THEY WERE SO MAD. THEY WERE SO MAD AT ME. AND THEN I WAS LIKE, "YEA, I GOTTA MAKE THEM EVEN MADDER AND DO THIS DANCE."

RADIO – AND HE DOES A LITTLE SHIMMY TO FINISH IT OFF."

AND THEN IT JUST STEAMROLLED FROM THERE.

WHY'D YOU DO IT AGAIN? YOU SAID YOUR GRANDMOTHER LIKED IT THE FIRST TIME?

YEA. SHE LIKED IT THE FIRST TIME. I GUESS SHE GOT A BUNCH OF PHONE CALLS THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS LIKE, "OH MY GOSH, SHE'S CALLING ME." AND SHE'S LIKE, "YOU GOTTA KEEP DOING IT. YOU CAN NEVER STOP DOING THAT DANCE." I TOLD HER I'D NEVER STOP.

UH, OH, OH, #1 SALSA DANCER IN THE LEAGUE!

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE GIANTS FANS CAME UP WITH A SWEET SERENADE FOR THE TOE-TAPPING WIDE RECEIVER.

RADIO – HE MADE A SHOESTRING CATCH DOWN THE RIGHT SIDELINE!

CRUZ!!

WHAT'S THAT FEEL LIKE?

IT'S GREAT. I GET GOOSEBUMPS EVERY SINGLE TIME. EVERY SINGLE TIME I HEAR IT. IT'S THE CRAZIEST FEELING IN THE WORLD TO HAVE AN ENTIRE STADIUM JUST YELL YOUR LAST NAME LIKE THAT.

QUIETING THE CROWD AT MET LIFE STADIUM WAS CRUZ'S GOAL IN A LATE SEASON MUST WIN GAME AGAINST THE JETS.

2 MINS., 27 SECS. LEFT. 3RD & 10. BALL ON YOUR OWN 1. YOU JUST GOTTA GET WEATHERFORD SOME YDS. (SOME ROOM, YEP.) LET HIM PUNT. WHAT HAPPENS?

I JUST CAME OUT OF THE HOOK ROUTE. I SAW HE WAS COMING AT...COMING TO ME. CAUGHT THE BALL, MADE A MOVE, AND I JUST KEPT GOING 99 YDS.

RADIO – AND RUNNING OUT OF A TACKLE DOWN THE RIGHT SIDELINE IS VICTOR CRUZ, CHASED BY SMITH! HURDLES OVER HIM TO THE 30! TO THE 20! TO THE 10! TO THE 5! TOUCHDOWN GIANTS, 99 YARDS!! HALF OF METLIFE STADIUM ERUPTS.

THEY KNOW MY NAME NOW, RIGHT?

RADIO – WHOEVER PLAYS BETTER FOOTBALL OVER 60 MINS. WILL GO TO S.B. 46 IN INDIANAPOLIS.

WE'RE HERE NOW SO WE MIGHT AS WELL WIN IT, RIGHT? MIGHT AS WELL WIN IT.

CRUZ LINED UP AGAINST 49ERS CORNERBACK CARLOS RODGERS, A MAN WHO ONCE MOCKED HIS SIGNATURE MOVE.

YOU KNOW, AT THE TIME I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A LITTLE DISRESPECTFUL TO DO IT RIGHT ON OUR SIDELINE AFTER A PICK. I STILL HAD THAT IN THE FRONTAL LOBE OF MY MEMORY. SO I WAS LIKE, I'M GONNA MAKE SURE I WIN EVERY SINGLE ROUTE THAT I POSSIBLY CAN AGAINST THIS GUY.

HE'S GONNA HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO GET CARLOS RODGERS SOME HELP. CRUZ IS JUST HAVING HIS WAY WITH HIM RIGHT NOW.

AND I DID THAT THE WHOLE 1ST HALF. IT WAS JUST LIKE COMPLETE EVERY CATCH WAS JUST REDEMPTION. NOT TAKING IT FROM ME. HE'S NOT TAKING THIS FROM ME.

RADIO - EVERYBODY'S SET. SNAP IS LOW. KICK ON ITS WAY. IT'S GOT THE DISTANCE AND IT IS GOOD!!

WE'RE GOIN' TO THE SUPER BOWL! WE'RE GOING TO THE SUPER BOWL!! AT THIS POINT AFTER THE GAME I JUST HAD, IT WAS TOUGH TO EVEN SPEAK. (YOU'RE GOING TO THE SUPER BOWL.) I CAN'T EVEN EXPLAIN IT. AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH, EVERYTHING I CAME FROM, EVERYBODY BACK HOME, EVERYBODY THAT WATCHED ME GROW UP. IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE MAN. SUPER BOWL 46. MAN OH MAN. I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING MAN.

CRUZ WAS READY TO DANCE ON FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST STAGE.

YOU'RE IN MAN COVERAGE. ELI CALLS IT FOR YOU. ALRIGHT.

RADIO – SEE IF MANNING AUDIBILIZES AT THE LINE. ELI SAW THE MAN COVERAGE. HE SWITCHED THE PLAY. THROWS ONE. CAUGHT. TOUCHDOWN GIANTS! VICTOR CRUZ ON THE SLANT!

I KIND OF BOBBLED IT BECAUSE THE GUY KIND OF THREW HIS ARM OUT KIND OF THREW ME OFF. BUT I ENDED UP GRABBING IT AND I SCORED.

RADIO – WHAT A MOVE BY CRUZ, CARL.

IT'S A DREAM JUST TO BE ABLE TO PLAY THE GAME. BUT TO ACTUALLY SCORE A TD. TO BE ABLE TO DO MY SALSA IN FRONT OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THAT WERE WATCHING THE GAME. IT WAS JUST A SURREAL FEELING ALL THE WAY AROUND.

HIS BOOK HAD ITS HAPPY ENDING.

AT JUST 25, THERE'S BOUND TO BE ENOUGH STORIES AHEAD FOR VICTOR CRUZ TO FILL ANOTHER BOOK, BUT IT WILL AWFULLY HARD TO TOP THE ORIGINAL.

AND THEN TO WIN A SUPER BOWL AND TO BE HOLDING UP THAT TROPHY AT THE END WAS JUST A DREAM COME TRUE FOR SURE.

(END)