

NFL EXTRA

Week 9

Segment	TRT
Clearing Hurdles	6:55
Steve Weatherford	7:29

01:14:38 - CLEARING HURDLES

GIVE ME 18 HRS. OF DAYLIGHT. THAT'S ALL I NEED.

RUNNING TO DAYLIGHT HAS TRANSFORMED OVER THE YEARS. //
AND ITS LATEST EVOLUTIONARY HURDLE IS WELL, HURDLING.

RADIO - ... LEAPFROGS ONE MAN! HE'S OFF TO THE RACES!

RADIO - SIMPSON MAKES THE CATCH! HURDLES A DEFENDER.

RADIO - HE JUMPED OVER A TACKLER AND NEVER BROKE STRIDE.

WHILE THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLAYERS WHO HAVE PROVEN THAT THEY CAN
LEAP OVER DEFENDERS, ACCORDING TO SOME, LAGARRETTE BLOUNT IS THE
BEST.

I DEFINITELY SAY LAGARRETTE JUST BECAUSE, OVERALL, HIS TECHNIQUE IS
GREAT. WHEN HE GOT OVER THE HURDLE HE STAYED FORWARD WHICH IS
PROPER RUNNING FORM. YOU ALWAYS WANT TO JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE
SLIGHTLY FORWARD SO YOUR MOMENTUM CAN KEEP GOING AND YOU CAN
RUN FAST AND BE PREPARED FOR ANOTHER HURDLE OR, FOR HIM, ANOTHER
OPPONENT.

RADIO – AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT THE OFFENSE NEEDED. IT'S AN
ATTITUDE PLAY.

RADIO – AND HE JUMPED OVER HIM! HE HURDLED HIM JUST BEFORE THE 20
YD. LINE. MCCORDY DIDN'T EVEN GO FOR HIS ANKLES THERE. HE WAS
ALMOST WAIST-HIGH AND HE USED HIM AS A HURDLE.

IT'S JUST REALLY IMPRESSIVE. THE FACT THAT THEIR HURDLE IS A MOVING
OBJECT. IT'S NOT PREDICTABLE.

RADIO - ...LAGARRETTE BLOUNT.

HE'S REALLY GOOD.

RADIO – THIS JUST AMAZING ATHLETIC MOVE BY BLOUNT.

BLOUNT - WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THE “W”. WHATEVER IT TAKES WHETHER IT’S ON THE GROUND OR IN THE AIR. IT’S AN ADVANTAGE FOR ME. MOST PEOPLE THINK THAT SINCE I’M SUCH A BIG GUY, ALL I’M GONNA DO IS RUN STRAIGHT AND RUN GUYS OVER. I’M REALLY ATHLETIC FOR MY SIZE. I’M FAST. WHY NOT USE ALL OF THOSE TO MY ADVANTAGE?

THIS ADVANTAGE CAN CREATE THE SPARK NEEDED TO LEAD A TEAM TO VICTORY.

BLOUNT – WE WERE BACKED UP ON LIKE THE 5 YD. LINE AND WE NEEDED A PLAY TO GET US FROM BACKED UP; AND THAT WAS MY FIRST HURDLE SINCE I WAS IN THE LEAGUE. IT WAS A BIG PLAY THAT ENDED UP BEING LIKE A 50 SOMETHING YD. RUN.

RADIO – OUT TO THE 10. HURDLES TO THE 15! OUT TO THE 20! TO THE 30! TO THE 35, TO THE 40!

IT WAS AMAZING. I MEAN IT WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT KIND OF BOOSTED US UP ENOUGH TO WIN THAT GAME.

HE JUMPED OVER THE OPPONENT BUT HE WAS ALSO LOOKING AT WHERE HE COULD GO NEXT. IS THERE SOMEBODY ELSE HE NEEDS TO JUMP OVER? IS THERE SOMEWHERE ELSE HE NEEDS TO RUN TO? AND THAT’S WHY I THINK I WAS IMPRESSED WITH LAGARRETTE.

IF THERE’S ANYONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT WORLD CLASS HURDLING AND PLAYING IN THE NFL, IT’S RENALDO NEHEMIAH.

I GOT INTO HURDLING AS A DARE AND NOBODY IN 9TH GRADE WANTED TO GO OVER THE HURDLES. EVERYONE WAS AFRAID OF THAT. I STOOD ALONE IN TAKING THAT DARE SO I FELT SPECIAL, AND LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT I’D GROW SO FOND OF THAT EVENT.

NEHEMIAH’S NINTH GRADE DARE CATAPULTED HIM TO THE 1980 OLYMPICS WHERE HE WAS FAVORED TO WIN GOLD IN THE ONE HUNDRED AND TEN METER HURDLES.

WE BOYCOTTED THE 1980 OLYMPICS, AND THAT KIND OF RIPPED MY HEART OUT AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME.

HERE'S ... NEHEMIAH. WHAT A SURPRISINGLY GIFTED ATHLETE.

EVEN THOUGH NEHEMIAH LOST HIS SHOT AT A GOLD MEDAL, HE WAS SHINING IN THE SPOTLIGHT WHILE TAKING PART IN THE ABC SUPERSTARS COMPETITION A YEAR LATER.

I HAPPENED TO BE AT THE SUPERSTARS. GOT INVITED TO THAT. THE NINERS HAD JUST COME OFF THEIR AMAZING CATCH BY DWIGHT CLARK, AND DWIGHT CLARK WAS A FAN OF MINE AND ASKED ME IF I EVER PLAYED. AND I GO, "WELL I DID PLAY IN H.S. BUT I WAS ONLY 155 LBS." NEXT THING I KNOW BILL WALSH IS CALLING MY HOTEL ROOM THE NEXT MORNING. I HANG UP ON HIM BECAUSE I THINK IT'S A PRANK. THEN MY AGENT RON __ CALLS ME AND SAID, "DID YOU JUST HANG UP ON BILL WALSH?" AND I GO, "THAT WAS HIM?!"

BILL WALSH WAS WILLING TO TAKE A LEAP OF HIS OWN SIGNING THE UNPROVEN NEHEMIAH IN 1982.

NEHEMIAH'S SHORT CAREER WITH THE FORTY NINERS WAS BITTERSWEET. ALL THOUGH HE DIDN'T REACH THE SUPERSTAR STATUS ENJOYED AS A WORLD-CLASS HURDLER, THIS TIME HE WAS ABLE TO BRING HOME SOME HARDWARE.

THE LOW POINT OF MY NFL CAREER WAS OUR SUPER BOWL BECAUSE WE WERE SUCH A GOOD TEAM AND WE HAD SUCH CONFIDENCE, THAT WE WENT INTO THAT GAME KNOWING THAT WE WERE GONNA WIN. IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF WHAT THE SCORE WAS GONNA BE. WHEN THE GAME WAS OVER, AS A TEAM, WE ALL JUST WENT HOME. WE DIDN'T HAVE OUR CELEBRATION TILL LIKE MONTHS LATER. SO IT WAS THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST POINT EVER BECAUSE THIS WAS A S.B. AND I WENT HOME LIKE IT WAS A REGULAR SUNDAY GAME.

SUPER BOWL NINETEEN WOULD BE HIS LAST NFL GAME. IN 1985 HE WOULD RETURN TO THE TRACK AND REGAIN HIS WORLD-CLASS HURDLING STATUS. EVEN THOUGH IT'S BEEN CLOSE TO THIRTY YEARS SINCE HE'S STEPPED ON A FOOTBALL FIELD, NEHEMIAH'S NAME HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN.

RADIO – WIDE OPEN BRENT CELEK. CELEK TO MIDFIELD. LEAPS OVER A TACKLER AND OUT OF BOUNDS! BRENT CELEK IN HIS FULL RENALDO NEHEMIAH.

#1 HURDLER BACK IN HIS DAY. THEN WENT TO FOOTBALL. WHY DIDN'T HE HURDLE OVER SOMEONE?

WHEN I WAS PLAYING THEY TACKLED. THEY WRAPPED YOU UP. SO I WASN'T GONNA PUT MY LEAD LEG OUT THERE AND GET MY LEG BROKEN. TODAY

GUYS DON'T WRAP-UP. MOST OF THE GUYS ARE DARTING DOWN LIKE A TORPEDO GOING INTO THE GUY'S ANKLES. AND SO EVERYBODY'S HURDLING THESE GUYS BECAUSE THEY ALREADY GAVE THEMSELVES AWAY. THEY'RE NOT EVEN COMING AT YOU. THEY'RE DIVING DOWN AND GIVING UP THEIR BODY.

RADIO - ...'S GOT IT. JUMPS OVER A MAN. HE'S GOT THE 1ST DOWN OUT TO THE 15 YD. LINE AND THROWN OUT AT THE 18! AND CARL, THIS NOT A GAME FOR THE FAINT OF HEART. YOU CAN'T JUST DUCK YOUR HEAD AND TRY TO TRIP A GUY.

GUY DOING HIS IMPRESSIVE HURDLE TECHNIQUE AND YOU'RE THE ACTUAL HURDLE. IT KIND OF LIKE...OH MAN, YOU JUST GOT POSTERIZED ON NFL.

FEEL LIKE ONE OF THOSE BLANE GRIFFEN, LEBRON JAMES-TYPE DUNKS.

RADIO - YOU'RE GONNA TACKLE ME LOW! CATCH AIR! OH, AND PICK YOUR JOCKSTRAP UP WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

IT'S NOT TO EMBARRASS THE GUY BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, IT'S A WONDERFUL FEELING.

RADIO - DENNIS PITA, NEAR SIDELINE, 10 YD. LINE. HURDLES A MAN!! AND HE'S IN!! TOUCHDOWN DENNIS PITA!! CROWD LOVES IT. THE COACHING STAFF HAS THEIR HEART IN THEIR MOUTH.

AS SPECTACULAR AS THESE ARIEL FEATS OF ATHLETICISM ARE, NOT ALL HURDLES ARE CREATED EQUAL, AND SOME ARE NOT EVEN HURDLES AT ALL.

HE ACTUALLY IS A WINNER BUT OF THE WRONG CONTEST. I LIKE THE FACT THAT HE STICKS HIS LANDING. I DEFINITELY THINK THAT THE JUDGES WOULD GIVE HIM A 10.0. I GIVE HIM WINNER OF OLYMPIC GYMNASTICS FINALE. GOLD MEDAL. BUT AS A HURDLER, NO.

YEA, JIMMY GRANT. HE'S A STUD. BASKETBALL PLAYER HAS SOME HOPS. HE JUMPED A LITTLE BIT TOO PREMATURELY THERE.

RYAN LEONARD KIND OF JUST SQUATTED AND HE DIDN'T DO A RUN-THROUGH. SO NO HURDLER WOULD EVER HAVE A PICTURE LIKE THAT JUMPING OVER A HURDLE. HE'S OUT!

SEE, THAT'S A GOOD ONE EXCEPT THIS GUY WAS COMING TO MEET HIM WHEN HE WAS LANDING. SO HE CROUCHES TO PROTECT HIMSELF BECAUSE THAT COULD HURT TOO.

HE MORE LOOKS LIKE HE'S JUST JUMPING.

OH MY GOSH.

NO OLYMPICS FOR HIM!

WHILE THESE NFL PLAYERS MAY NOT HAVE OLYMPIC GOLD IN THEIR FUTURES, THEY MAY HAVE SOMEONE IN THEIR CORNER WILLING TO LEND A HAND.

I WOULD DEFINITELY WANT A CLINIC FOR THESE DUDES BECAUSE I THINK I COULD HELP THEM, YOU KNOW? I'LL BE THAT KIND. I'LL WORK HIM JUST FOR LIKE A DIAMOND OFF OF THE SUPER BOWL RING. HOW ABOUT THAT?

01:21:46 - STEVE WEATHERFORD

YOU MIGHT BE MORE TALENTED THAN I AM. YOU MIGHT BE TALLER OR STRONGER, BUT YOU'RE NEVER GONNA WORK HARDER THAN I DO.

HIS WEIGHT ROOM WORKOUTS ARE hardcore. IT PUTS PRESSURE ON DEF. LINEMEN. WE HAVE TO GO A COUPLE OF RACKS DOWN JUST TO SAVE FACE. IF THERE'S A PUNTER WORKING OUT WITH 80'S, THERE'S D. LINEMEN LIKE, "MAN, I GOTTA WORKOUT WITH 120'S OR 130'S." HE'S A GUY THAT WORKS VERY VERY HARD AT HIS TRADE. HE CONDITIONS ALL YEAR AROUND BUT HE'S IN GREAT GREAT FOOTBALL-PLAYING SHAPE.

STEVE WEATHERFORD'S WORK ETHIC CAN BE TRACED BACK TO HIS HIGH SCHOOL DAYS IN TERRE HAUTE INDIANA.

I PLAYED FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, TRACK AND SOCCER. MY DAD ALWAYS JOKES WITH ME THAT I WAS THE JACK OF ALL TRADES AND THE MASTER OF NONE. I WAS PRETTY GOOD AT ALL THE SPORTS THAT I PLAYED BUT I WASN'T EXTRAORDINARILY EXCELLENT AT ANY OF THEM.

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, WEATHERFORD PARTICIPATED IN FOOTBALL AND TRACK.

THE COACH SAID, "YOU KNOW YOU'RE A VERY GOOD HURDLER BUT YOU'RE NOT THE BEST ON THE TEAM. YOU HIGH-JUMP 6'10 BUT IT'S NOT QUITE 7 FOOT." SO I SAID, "WELL, WHY DON'T I TRY THE DECATHLON? THE DECATHLON IS PERFECT FOR THE JACK OF ALL TRADES." SO I COMPETED IN THAT, SET A SCHOOL RECORD, AND REALLY HAD A LOT OF FUN WITH IT BECAUSE IT WAS A GOOD OUTLET FOR ME TO COMPETE BECAUSE IN COLLEGE I DIDN'T REALLY GET THE ATHLETIC OUTLET OF, "MAN, I JUST

PUNTED THE BALL SO MUCH FARTHER THAN MICH. STATE'S PUNTER." IT JUST...IT WASN'T THE SAME FOR ME.

ONCE IN THE NFL, THE JACK OF ALL TRADES BECAME A MASTER OF MOVING.

BEING A PUNTER YOU'RE ALREADY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TOTEM POLE. SO I WAS LIKE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BUCKET THAT WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TOTEM POLE. SO I HAD TO WORK FOR EVERYTHING I GOT. I'VE BEEN ON LIKE 5 DIFFERENT TEAMS. I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A TEAM LONGER THAN 2-1/2 YRS.

WHEN WEATHERFORD LANDED WITH THE NEW YORK JETS IN 2009, HE WAS HOPING THE MOVE WAS PERMANENT.

OH HE'S THE BEST. I MEAN HE IS A GREAT GUY BUT HE IS A PHENOMENAL ATHLETE. FIRST YEAR WE HAD HIM HE WAS FAKING PUNTS ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE WERE LIKE 5 FOR 5 IN CONVERTING FAKE PUNTS.

RADIO – WEATHERFORD ON A FAKE! HE RUNS UP THE MIDDLE OF THE FIELD ACROSS THE 25 TO THE 30! HE'S AT THE 40 YD. LINE AND HE SLIDES DOWN TO THE 1ST DOWN!

WE NEVER CALLED ALL OF THEM. I THINK WE CLAIM WE DID. THAT WASN'T THE CASE.

REX IS THE TYPE OF GUY THAT YOU WANT TO POUR IT ON THE LINE FOR. YOU WANT TO WIN FOR HIM BECAUSE HE'S SO GOOD TO YOU.

REX RYAN AND WEATHERFORD APPRECIATED EACH OTHERS HUMOR.

I'M REALLY HAPPY AND PROUD TO HAVE THE SHAKE WEIGHT PRODUCT. I THOUGHT IT'D BE A REALLY GOOD IDEA TO GET EVERYONE OF MY TEAMMATES ONE OF THESE. A COUPLE DEMONSTRATIONS IF YOU WILL. IT'S VERY EXHAUSTING.

HERE WE GO. THERE IT IS RIGHT THERE.

THOUGH THERE WERE MANY GOOD MEMORIES, THE SCARIEST MOMENT OF HIS CAREER HAPPENED WITH THE JETS.

I'M WARMING UP BEFORE THE GAME, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN IT JUST KIND OF LIKE A LIGHT SWITCH, AND MY HEART WENT UP TO OVER 200 BEATS A MINUTE. I WENT INTO THE L.R., TOLD THE DOCTORS SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. THEY HOOKED ME UP TO A PORTABLE EKG MACHINE AND, AS SOON AS THEY DID THAT, THEIR EYES GOT BIG. WHEN THEY GOT NERVOUS THEN I GOT NERVOUS.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH STEVE WEATHERFORD? I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM.

RADIO – SO JAY FEELEY IS GOING TO PUNT. WE'RE TOLD THAT WEATHERFORD IS ILL.

MIDWAY THROUGH THE 1ST QUARTER OUR KICKER GOES OUT THERE AND PUNTS. IT WASN'T TERRIBLE. IT WAS LIKE A 32 YD. PUNT BUT IT WAS RETURNED LIKE 15 YDS.

PLAYOFF GAME AND WE GOT FEELEY PUNTING.

AND AS SOON AS I SAW THAT I RIPPED OFF ALL THE ELECTRODES OFF. I PUT MY PADS BACK ON, RAN OUT OF THE TUNNEL, WENT TO THE SIDELINE AND SAID, "I'M READY. I WANT TO PLAY." THE G.M. CAME UP TO ME AND SAID, "THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GETTING ON THE FIELD. IT'S NOT SAFE." AND THEN I STARTED TO THINK, "WHAT IF THIS IS A PROBLEM THAT WE CAN'T FIX AND MY NFL CAREER'S OVER?"

THAT OFFSEASON WEATHERFORD HAD HEART SURGERY AND CAME BACK STRONGER THAN EVER IN 2010. // DESPITE THE SUCCESSFUL SEASON THE JETS DECIDED NOT TO RESIGN HIM IN 2011.

I WAS MORE HURT THAN ANYTHING. I FELT LIKE I HAD SUCH A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH REX.

HEY, YOU GONNA PUNT TODAY OR YOU GONNA TAKE THE DAY OFF?

IT'S KIND OF LIKE THE GIRLFRIEND THAT BREAKS UP WITH YOU. YOU WANT TO MAKE HER JEALOUS. I FIGURED THE BEST PLACE TO DO IT WAS IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD. I WAS COMFORTABLE IN THAT STADIUM. I'D SKIPPED AROUND SO MUCH THAT I WANTED A HOME, AND I KNEW IF I PLAYED WELL FOR THEM THEY WOULD GIVE ME WHAT I WANTED.

IN 2011 WEATHERFORD AVERAGED ALMOST 46 YARDS PER PUNT...A CAREER HIGH, AND HE HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE GIANTS SUPER BOWL RUN.

AS A DEFENDER, HE'S OUR BEST FRIEND. HE PINS DOWN OFFENSES DEEP IN THEIR OWN TERRITORY.

IN THE NFC CHAMPIONSHIP HE PUNTED 12 TIMES, BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT PLAY HE MADE ALL DAY WENT ALMOST UNNOTICED.

RADIO – WEATHERFORD TO HOLD. DIASI TO SNAP FROM 31 YDS. TO PUT THE GIANTS IN THE SUPER BOWL AGAINST THE PATRIOTS.

I KNEW THAT IT WAS RAINY. IT WAS WET. IT WAS WINDY. SO I KNEW IT KIND OF HINGES ON WHETHER OR NOT ME AND ZACH COULD BE PERFECT FOR LAWRENCE.

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

WE WERE ABLE TO GET THE SNAP DOWN AND GET THE BALL THROUGH. THEN AFTER THAT HAPPENED I KIND OF BLACKED OUT. I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE.

RADIO – AND THE GIANTS, IN OVERTIME, HAVE WON THE NFC CHAMPIONSHIP.

RADIO – GOOD EVENING EVERYONE FROM LUCAS OIL STADIUM IN INDY INDIANA. IT IS SUPER BOWL 46.

IT WAS SPECIAL BECAUSE IT WAS IN MY HOMETOWN. 47 MILES FROM WHERE I WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL; WHERE I GREW UP; WHERE I WAS FORMED AS AN ATHLETE AND AS A MAN.

RADIO – WEATHERFORD IN TO PUNT.

I'M LOOKING AT WHAT YARD LINE WE'RE AT. I'M KIND OF LOOKING AT WHERE I WANT TO PUT THE BALL BECAUSE THERE'S DIFFERENT WAYS I CAN DO IT.

RADIO – USES THE REVERSE SPIN END-OVER-END.

IT WAS THE SUPER BOWL AND I WAS READY TO GAMBLE. SO I WENT FOR IT ALL.

RADIO – BOUNCE AT THE 3 AND THE GIANTS ARE GONNA DOWN IT AT ABOUT THE 5 YD. LINE.

WEATHERFORD'S PUNT ON THE GAME'S OPENING DRIVE LED TO A SAFETY FOLLOWED BY A GIANTS TOUCHDOWN, GIVING NEW YORK A 9-0 LEAD. THAT'S AS GOOD AS IT GETS FOR A PUNTER. THAT'S LIKE HITTING A GAME-WINNER.

HE PUNTED 4 TIMES THAT DAY WITH 3 OF THEM LANDING INSIDE THE 20 AS THE GIANTS WON ANOTHER SUPER BOWL.

FIRST OF ALL I GOTTA SAY, "STEVE, THANK YOU FOR MY RING! I APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR TEAM."

HE HAS REALLY DONE A NICE JOB OF DEVELOPING AS A DIRECTIONAL PUNTER AS YOU SAW IN THE SUPER BOWL.

DURING THE OFFSEASON WEATHERFORD SIGNED A 5 YEAR CONTRACT.

IN ADDITION TO PUNTING THE GIANTS WANT TO MAKE SURE HE LIVES UP TO HIS NICKNAME. SO THIS SEASON THE "JACK OF ALL TRADES" HAS BEEN NAMED THE EMERGENCY QUARTERBACK BEHIND ELI MANNING AND DAVID CARR.

I WANT TO PLAY LONG ENOUGH FOR MY SON TO REMEMBER THAT HIS DAD WAS SPECIAL. I TAKE HIM WITH ME TO WORKOUT. I WANT HIM TO SEE ME WORKING HARD. FOR HIM TO BE ALMOST 5 YRS. OLD AND COME DOWN ON THE FIELD, AND THE FIRST THING HE SAID TO ME WAS LIKE, "DADDY, WE WON IT ALL." IT WAS LIKE A STORYBOOK ENDING EXCEPT FOR I'M NOT DONE YET.

(END)