

NFL EXTRA

Week 3

Segment	TRT
Rodgers	1:31
The Serious Gronk	6:33
Runaway Balloon	7:37

1:30:34;20 - RODGERS

I'M MIKED-UP. YEA, ALRIGHT. HIT THAT TUBE. LET'S HAVE SOME FUN TONIGHT, ALRIGHT. LET'S MAKE THE PLAYS, DO A LITTLE DANCE. ALRIGHT, HERE WE GO AARON.

REF - O.K. AARON, WE'RE READY.

SET! LET'S GO! LET'S GO! COME ON HOMEY. WE'RE IN THE GUN, BABY.

RADIO - AND WHAT A THROW BY AARON RODGERS.

TOUCHDOWN! THERE YOU GO. NICE JOB BABY.

RADIO - THROW OVER THE MIDDLE. TOUCHDOWN! AND AARON RODGERS PUT IT RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

I THINK WE'RE PRETTY GOOD ON OFFENSE, YEA.

SO HOLLYWOOD, BRO, COMING OUT IN THE 4TH QUARTER. NOT EVEN FINISHING GAMES. SO HOLLYWOOD.

KEEP IT GOING! KEEP IT GOING!

THAT DUDE'S SPECIAL. THAT DUDE'S SPECIAL. THE FUNNY THING IS, OUT THERE HE BE HAVING FUN. HE BE LAUGHING AND JOKING.

RADIO - THROWS ON THE SIDE ON THE END ZONE. JAMES JONES LEAPING! TOUCHDOWN!

YOU REALLY GOT A SPECIAL PLAYER BACK THERE AT QB. OH YEA, WE GOT HOUDINI BACK THERE.

RADIO - STEPS UP. SCRAMBLES LEFT. THROWS THE MIDDLE. TOUCHDOWN!

...LIKE THAT IS WHY THEY CALL YOU A HEARTTHROB.

WE GOT THE BEST QB IN THE LEAGUE MAN.

YOU'RE INCREDIBLE. YOU'RE TOUGH TO BEAT, BUDDY. YOU'RE THE MAN.

YOU'RE THE BEST TOO. YOU'RE THE BEST TOO.

THAT'S A FUN WIN NOW. YEA.

1:32:14;06 - THE SERIOUS GRONK

WOULD YOU GO PARTY IF HE INVITED YOU?

AM I ALLOWED TO ANSWER THAT RIGHT NOW? OF COURSE I WOULD.

MOST DEFINITELY! NO QUESTION.

I'M GOING. HE PARTY LIKE A ROCK STAR.

THIS IS CRAZY!

GRONK LOVES LIFE AND LIFE LOVES GRONK. HE'S ALWAYS BOUNCING AROUND HAVING FUN. YO SOY FIESTA. HE'S THE CENTER OF THE PARTY.

IF WE WERE ALL A LITTLE MORE LIKE ROB GRONKOWSKI, THE WORLD WOULD BE A HAPPIER PLACE.

IT'S NOT A CHARADE. HE REALLY IS A GOOFBALL. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FOOTBALL, HE DOESN'T MESS AROUND.

RADIO - SPINS AWAY FROM A DEFENDER. STIFF-ARMS ANOTHER. CARRIES ACROSS THE 15, TO THE 10, TO THE 5! GRONK LEAPS TO THE END ZONE! TOUCHDOWN PATRIOTS!

HOW THE ... DID I DO THAT? I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I DID THAT.

WORKS HARD. PREPARES HARD. WANTS TO DO IT THE WAY YOU WANT IT DONE. HE ABSOLUTELY IS A COACH'S DREAM.

GRONK IS SERIOUS ABOUT HIS JOB. HIS PASSION ON GAME DAY IS PLAIN TO SEE. BUT IT'S HIS ETERNAL POSITIVITY THAT HAS HELPED HIM OVERCOME SEVERAL CRUSHING INJURIES.

RADIO - ROB GRONKOWSKI IS HURT. THEY JUST TOOK HIS KNEE OUT. GRONKOWSKI WAS DRILLED IN THE LEGS AFTER MAKING THE OVER-THE-SHOULDER CATCH.

GRONKOWSKI TORE 2 KNEE LIGAMENTS.

RADIO - LOOKS LIKE IT ENDS ANOTHER SEASON FOR ROB GRONKOWSKI WHERE HE DOESN'T MAKE IT THROUGH AN ENTIRE SEASON.

DEFINITELY PUT IN PERSPECTIVE HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THE GAME AND HOW QUICK IT CAN BE TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU. JUST IN A SPLIT-SECOND THE GAME COULD BE GONE. ONE ARM INJURY LEADING TO ANOTHER ARM INJURY. COMING BACK. HAVING BACK SURGERY. COMING BACK AGAIN THE FOLLOWING SEASON. HAVING THE KNEE SURGERY. A LOT OF ADVERSITY THAT I JUST HAD TO KEEP OVERCOMING AND JUST KEEP WORKING THROUGH. MAKES ME APPRECIATE THE GAME EVERY TIME I STEP OUT ON THE FIELD.

HE'S THE MOST POSITIVE PERSON I'VE EVER BEEN AROUND. COMING BACK FROM A DEVASTATING KNEE INJURY, HE'S ATTACKING REHAB EVERYDAY. HE NEVER LET IT GET HIM DOWN; AND THAT'S THE ESSENCE OF ROB GRONKOWSKI.

I SMELL A BIG BAD GRONK COMING. THE HULK.

LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER KNEE SURGERY GRONK WAS BACK.

THE WAY HE CAME BACK FROM THE ACL WAS REMARKABLE. EACH YEAR HE HAS REFINED AND IMPROVED HIS GAME TO A SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER LEVEL. THE BIGGEST THING ABOUT ROB AND THE PASSING GAME IS, NO MATTER WHAT PATTERN YOU HAVE CALLED, ROB'S REALLY A RECEIVER THAT'S ALWAYS OPEN. EVEN WHEN HE'S COVERED BECAUSE OF HIS BODY FRAME AND HIS ABILITY TO CATCH THE BALL AWAY FROM HIS BODY, HE'S ALWAYS OPEN. WHEREVER THE DEFENDER IS, THERE WAS A SPOT SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM THE DEFENDER TO THROW THE BALL THAT ROB CAN GET TO AND DOES GET TO. EVEN IF THE OTHER GUY'S IN THE SAME SPOT AS HE IS, HE CAN JUST GET FURTHER. HE HAS THE ABILITY TO STRETCH, EXTEND AND CATCH THE BALL. YOU DON'T SEE A LOT OF BALLS GO OFF HIS HANDS.

RADIO - TOM ..HE THROWS DOWN THE MIDDLE FOR GRONKOWSKI. SOMEHOW MAKES THE CATCH!! BRINGING IT IN WITH HIS LEFT HAND!!

DUDE, THAT WAS UNBELIEVABLE. HOW THE ... DID YOU CATCH THAT? UNBELIEVABLE. UNBELIEVABLE. THAT WAS ONE OF THE BEST CATCHES I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.

GRONKOWSKI'S IMPACT ISN'T JUST FELT WHEN HE GETS THE BALL. ON THIS 3RD DOWN HE BLOCKED VON MILLER AND DREW COVERAGE FROM AQIB TALEB, ACCOUNTING FOR 2 PRO BOWLERS ON 1 PLAY.

WHEN IT COMES TO FOOTBALL I.Q., THE CLASS CLOWN IS AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS CONSTANTLY WORKING TO IMPROVE HIS GAME AND HIS SYNERGY WITH TOM BRADY.

EVERY SINGLE TIME YOU STEP OUT ON THE FIELD WITH HIM, YOU GOTTA BE READY. YOU GOTTA BE BRINGING IT TOO. YOU GOTTA BRING YOUR BEST TO GO OUT THERE AND BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH HIM. IF IT TAKES EXTRA TIME AFTER PRACTICE, THEN THAT'S WHAT IT'S GONNA TAKE.

GRONK, YOU GOT THE POST-UP. IN THE END ZONE? JUST LIKE WE WORKED ON LAST WEEK.

IT'S JUST KNOWING THE GAME INSIDE AND OUT. NOT JUST HAVING THE SKILLS BUT GOING OUT THERE AND KNOWING WHAT IT TAKES TO GET OPEN.

GRONKOWSKI UNDERSTANDS THE NUANCES OF ROUTE-RUNNING. HERE HE KNEW THE THREATS TO HIS ROUTE WITH THE LINEBACKER AND SAFETY. SO AT THE SNAP HE WIDENED TO GIVE BRADY A BIGGER THROWING RANGE.

RADIO - BRADY GOES BACK TO GRONKOWSKI FOR A 1ST DOWN! 3 GUYS AROUND HIM.

IN S.B. 49, BRADY AND GRONK WERE THINKING THE SAME THING WITH LINEBACKER K.J. WRIGHT IN COVERAGE.

YOU JUST KNOW WHEN HE'S COMING TO YOU. IT WAS, MAN, I JUST HAD A FEELING HE WAS JUST GONNA THROW IT UP AND LET ME MAKE A PLAY.

RADIO - SNAP TO BRADY. DROP BACK. HE LOBS IT. GOING UP. TO THE RIGHT-SIDE FOR GRONKOWSKI. HAS A TOUCHDOWN! PATRIOTS!

I JUST HAD TO MAKE A LITTLE MOVE, GOT AROUND MY GUY AND BRADY PUT THE BALL RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

IT'S HARD TO QUANTIFY WHAT GRONK MEANS TO THE PATRIOTS, BUT IT'S EASY TO SEE THAT FOR THIS FUN-LOVING GUY, FOOTBALL IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

1:38:51;03 - RUNAWAY BALLOON

TODAY, MINNESOTA VIKINGS FAN RICK SNYDER IS TAKING HIS CHILDREN ON THEIR FIRST HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE.

40 YRS. AGO, RICK SHARED A BALLOONING HOBBY WITH HIS PARENTS.

WHILE OTHER FAMILIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WERE GOING ON REGULAR VACATIONS, WE WERE DOING THINGS LIKE GOING AROUND THE MIDWEST, PUTTING UP A BALLOON AT A COUNTY FAIR. WE WENT UP NORTH TO A LAKE AND INSTEAD OF JUST SWIMMING AND PLAYING IN THE LAKE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, WE'D SOAK SOME REED AND WOVE A BASKET FOR THE BALLOON.

DON'T BE SCARED.

THE FIRE'S GONNA BE GONE.

NO, THE FIRE DOESN'T GET YOU. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WE WENT OUT TO A COUNTY FAIR. WE WOULD PUT IT UP ON A TETHER AND TAKE IT UP 100 FT. AND COME BACK DOWN. SO I WAS ABLE TO DO THAT MYSELF. AS LONG AS IT'S CONNECTED TO THE ROPE, THERE WAS NO PROBLEM.

IN DECEMBER OF 1969 RICK WENT TO HIS FIRST VIKINGS GAME. BUT HE WASN'T THERE SOLELY TO GET SWEEPED UP IN THE ACTION AS A FAN. RICK WAS ALSO PART OF THE ON-FIELD ENTERTAINMENT.

THE HALFTIME SHOW WAS THE PROMOTION FOR THE ST. PAUL WINTER CARNIVAL. SO THERE WAS VARIOUS EVENTS FROM THE WINTER CARNIVAL THAT WERE ON DISPLAY DURING THE HALFTIME. WE WERE THERE TO PROMOTE THE HOT AIR BALLOON RACE THAT TAKES PLACE. THE PLAN WAS THAT MY MOM WAS GONNA GET IN THE BALLOON AND TAKE IT UP TO THE END OF THE ROPE, WAVE TO THE CROWD AND COME BACK DOWN; AND MY MOM JUMPED INTO THE BASKET AND TURNED ON THE BURNER, AND IT WAS SUPPOSED TO LIFT. FOR SOME REASON, IT WASN'T LIFTING THAT DAY. SO THE IDEA CAME UP, WELL MAYBE WE PUT SOMEONE LIGHTER IN THE BALLOON AND WE CAN GET IT ALOFT. AND SO MY MOM HOPPED OUT, AND THAT'S WHEN I HOPPED IN THE BALLOON.

THE 11 YR. OLD INITIALLY GOT OFF THE GROUND BUT STRUGGLED TO STAY ALOFT. RICK TOUCHED DOWN, THEN STARTED TO ASCEND ONCE AGAIN.

SO THE BALLOON STARTED LIFTING OFF THE GROUND A LITTLE FASTER, A LITTLE FURTHER THAN I HAD EXPECTED, AND I DIDN'T FEEL THE TUG AT THE END OF THE ROPE LIKE I WAS EXPECTING. AND I LOOKED DOWN AND I

REALIZED THAT THE ROPE WAS NOT CONNECTED TO THE BALLOON AND THAT I WAS OFFICIALLY FREE-FLYING AND WATCHING THE GROUND DROP AWAY UNDERNEATH ME.

THE LIGHTS ARE ON IN THE STADIUM AND I WAS REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT FLYING INTO THAT BECAUSE IT'S 2000 DEGREE LIGHTS, AND THAT WOULD'VE BEEN THE END OF IT. I REALIZED THAT I WAS GOING TO ACTUALLY FLY BETWEEN 2 OF THE LIGHT STANDARDS, AND I WAS GONNA BE O.K. BUT THE BALLOON KEPT RISING AND I THOUGHT, AT SOME POINT IN TIME, I WOULD START TO COME DOWN BUT IT KEPT RISING AND RISING AND RISING.

EVENTUALLY IT GOT HIGH ENOUGH WHERE I WAS IN THE CLOUDS AND I COULDN'T SEE THE GROUND ANYMORE.

1:42:30;12

WHEN I LOOK BACK ON IT NOW, THERE WAS A LOT OF DANGERS INVOLVED IN THE TRIP, AND I DIDN'T REALLY APPRECIATE IT AT THE TIME WHEN I WAS 11 YRS. OLD. BUT THERE'S HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES. THERE'S THE AIRPORT THAT WAS NEARBY. I NEEDED TO GET THE BALLOON DOWN, AND IT WASN'T RESPONDING. SO I THOUGHT I HAD TO TAKE SOME ACTION; AND I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A GOOD IDEA OR NOT BUT I OPENED UP A HOLE AT THE TOP OF THE BALLOON AND SORT OF LETTING SOME OF THE HOT AIR OUT. SO I STARTED TO COME DOWN, AND IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS GONNA BE HITTING INTO A ROW OF TREES THAT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF A RIVER.

I THINK IT'S TIME TO GET OFF ... THE PROBLEM IS, IS THAT AS I STARTED TO DESCEND, I WAS I WAS PICKING UP SPEED. YEA. EVERYONE OUT THE BACK. O.K. AND I COULD SEE THAT I WAS HEADING TOWARD SOME TROUBLE. SO I TURNED THE BURNER BACK ON TO TRY TO GET SOME MORE LIFT TO BRING THE BALLOON BACK UP SO I WOULD GET OVER THE RIVER AND OVER THE TREES. I WAS ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL THAT I WAS ABLE TO GET ENOUGH LIFT TO GET OVER THE TREES SO I WASN'T HUNG-UP IN THE TREES. BUT THE BALLOON ENDED UP LANDING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER; AND AS SOON AS THE BALLOON HIT THE WATER I WAS THROWN FORWARD OUT OF THE BASKET AND INTO THE WATER. AND THE BALLOON, WITHOUT MY WEIGHT, TOOK OFF IMMEDIATELY AND FLEW AWAY. I KNEW I HAD TO SWIM TO SHORE AS QUICKLY AS I COULD, BUT I WAS FULLY CLOTHED AT THE TIME. THE WATER WAS LIKE I WAS SWIMMING IN A BIG SLUSHY. I FINALLY WAS ABLE TO WORK MY WAY TO THE SHORE. THAT'S WHEN I LOOKED UP AND I SAW A GENTLEMAN TAKING MY PICTURE. IT HAD SNOWED, AND SO THIS GENTLEMAN WAS OUT TAKING PICTURES OF THE LANDSCAPE, AND HE SAW THE BALLOON COME DOWN AND HE CAME OVER. HE WAS A LIFESAVER FOR ME. HE WAS ABLE TO TAKE ME BACK TO THE STADIUM. IF HE HADN'T BEEN THERE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE. HOW I WOULD'VE GOT BACK TO THE STADIUM.

RICK RECOVERED IN THE VIKINGS LOCKER ROOM. HE PESTERED TRAINERS FOR GAME UPDATES UNTIL HIS PARENTS RETURNED FROM THEIR RESCUE SEARCH.

RADIO - 52 YDS. DOWN THE ... AND THAT'LL BRING THE GAME TO AN END!

MY MOM CAME RUSHING IN AND STARTED JUST CRYING, AND THREW HER ARMS AROUND ME AND WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE ME. I WAS A LITTLE BIT EMBARRASSED BECAUSE ALL MY CLOTHES WERE OFF AND I WAS UNDER SOME COMFORTERS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. I TOLD HER, JUST BE REALLY CAREFUL THAT YOU DON'T KNOCK OFF MY QUILT HERE!

A LOT OF REALLY NICE SPIRITED PEOPLE WERE SENDING ME CONGRATULATION NOTES. NO ONE KNEW WHERE I LIVED. SO THESE LETTERS CAME IN, "THE BALLOON BOY."

WE GOT A CALL FROM THE "TO TELL THE TRUTH" SHOW WHICH WAS POPULAR AT THE TIME. SO I ENDED UP BEING FLOWN OUT TO N.Y. THIS IS THE YEAR THAT THE VIKINGS MADE THEIR FIRST SUPER BOWL APPEARANCE. SO THE FLIGHT ENDED UP GETTING SCHEDULED, WITHOUT CONSULTATION BY ME, DURING THE ACTUAL SUPER BOWL. SO WE WERE FLYING DURING THE GAME. SO I DIDN'T GET TO SEE THE GAME.

THE PREGAME SHOW THAT DAY FEATURED A TETHERED HOT AIR BALLOON. A VIKING SHIP THAT MAYBE COULD'VE USED A FEARLESS YOUNG CAPTAIN LIKE RICK.

GET IT UP IN THE AIR!

YOU THINK AFTER 2 INCIDENTS, THE VIKINGS ARE DONE WITH BALLOONS AT FOOTBALL GAMES NOW?

IF THAT HAPPENED TO US, WOULD YOU STILL ...RIDE IN THE BALLOON? OR WOULD YOU NOT ALLOW US IN THERE EVER AGAIN?

I WOULD ONLY FLY IN A BIG BALLOON LIKE THIS.

(END)