

Notes from Meeting with Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner
February 13, 2008
(Taken by Danny Fisher)

Present: Senator Specter, Roger Goodell, Jeff Pash, Stephanie Middleton, Ivy Johnson, Danny Fisher

General

How far back did the destroyed materials go? Goodell says tapes went back to 2006-2007 season and notes went back to 2002.

In Sept. 2006, there was a letter sent to Patriots and Belichick warning him of filming from the sidelines.

Goodell said Belichick "knows the rule, but just had a different interpretation."

Green Bay Packers Game

When did Goodell become aware of the Green Bay situation? Goodell was not aware of Doug Collins (Packers Director of Security) removing Estrella until it was in the media in September 2007 because Green Bay did not report the incident.

According to Goodell, teams ask personnel to move all the time, and the fact that Doug Collins might have asked Matt Estrella to stop filming from where he is, was not itself indicative of something wrong.

Super Bowl Walkthrough

When did you first hear about taping of a the Rams walk-through practice? Goodell first "got wind" of it in Sept. 2007. At that time, the NFL looked into it and found no credible evidence.

The NFL interviewed Rams and Patriots video staff who were at the Superdome around the time of the Rams walkthrough. Each said no taping went on and if it had, the Rams video staff surely would have reported it.

They spoke to 4-5 video people associated with the Patriots and the Rams staff also.

When did Goodell first hear about Matt Walsh?

Goodell first heard Matt Walsh's name a few days before the Super Bowl. During the course of their investigation into the allegations that the Patriots videotaped the walk-

through practice, the NFL interviewed Matt Estrella and Jimmy Dee. Dee categorically denied ever filming a walk-through practice.

Walsh was fired in 2003. Goodell and Pash were unsure if anyone attempted to question Walsh because he was fired in 2003.

Detroit Lions

Goodell first heard of allegations of videotaping by the Patriots in a game against the Lions when it was made public in the media in the fall of 2007. The Lions never reported it to the NFL officially.

When Belichick admitted to videotaping, he also admitted to the incident in the game against the Lions. It was based on his misinterpretation of the rule.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Goodell first heard about the Tampa Bay Buccaneers incident after reading the article about it in Sports Illustrated.

Goodell said again, in September, the Patriots admitted stealing signals back to 2000 and illegally taping back to 2002. The Patriots did not deny taping during the game against the Buccaneers.

Philadelphia Eagles

Goodell spoke to Eagles owner Jeff Lurie and Eagles coach Andy Reid. Both said the outcome of the 2005 Super Bowl was legitimate.

Goodell left open the possibility of signal stealing in Eagles v. Patriots games, but did not have any knowledge either way.

Destroying Materials

Despite an internal investigation, Goodell could not figure out how the original tape filmed by Matt Estrella during the game against the Jets in September 2007 was leaked to the media. (When the Senator said "destroying tapes has the overtone of something to hide," Goodell was defensive.)

The tapes that were destroyed were "recent vintage," only dating back to 2002. Among the destroyed tape there were no tapes of the Rams, including no tapes of a Rams walk-through practice.
