

Summary: *Jack Samuels Television In-depth interview*

Found: The interview is screened on TV with some weight in the post-Superbowl period.

Description: Abridged Transcript follows.

((Note: The player has *no idea* how to write a serious discussion about the game. If anyone wants to do it to add verisimilitude, tell me, and I'll let you edit this piece, but it seems less important.))

I: So talk to me about the 98 Percent movement.

JS: Well, it's pretty astounding. I mean, I started it and pushed it along based on fundamental principles of fairness - I'm really excited and happy to see how it's going! It's going good, it's going good.

I: It's been suggested that this shouldn't be a movement pushed by people within the game - that it should be being determined from the top down. What do you say to that?

(pause)

I: Jack?

JS: No, no, I was just thinking about that. I mean, all the thoughts that like, leapt to mind were things like Jackie Robinson, and uh, the Tuskegee Airmen and stuff like that. You know how it goes? But you don't want to make those comparisons because it's ... kinda insensitive. I mean, we're talking about, about a movement that ultimately is about protecting the fairness of the fundamentals of the sport. I mean, I can't imagine it's really a bother - I mean, how likely do you think it is that one of these people wants to play with us?

I: I'm sorry?

JS: Think about it. If you can fly and throw trucks, how boring must it be to, to run around a field and throw a ball?

(laugh)

I: And what about Clay Rathen?

JS: Oh, I just knew you were going to put me on the spot about that one, huh.

(Laughter)

JS: Okay, okay, I know, this isn't funny, it's a serious thing. But we're talking about... you know what it is? This is a workplace safety issue. Now, I wasn't happy that the testing made Rathen

sit the superbowl out. That really unfortunate, especially since, apparently, he's not superpowered? I'm not sure about that, I'll have, I'll have to get some people to double check that for me, or talk to him myself.

JS: I like Clay! I've met him a few times, he's one of those guys who'll never back down. So I can understand him being so mad about what was going on. But there are some of these guys who don't even realise they've got these powers. And some of these powers are dangerous - really dangerous. I'm strapping on the pads, I'm doing it for safety. We wear helmets to protect ourselves, and we're doing it because, because this is our workplace!

JS: That field is my job. I go out, I'm working as hard as I can. And I need to be able to think about what I can do, and what I can't do, and how hard that's going to hit and the best path to the end for my guys. I don't want to have to worry about what'll happen if someone tackles... tackles, say, Positron, and cracks his suit. Or or-

I: That's a flawed example, though, isn't it?

JS: Yes, yes, but the thing is, the underlying idea is right. I don't want someone turning up at your workplace with a gun or a knife or drunk or high, right? We have the same thing. It's just because our work is so physically intense, we have to be even more careful with something that could misfire.

I: Interesting, interesting.

JS: Yeah. Clay did get an unfortunate hit here, and I'm really glad that he and the union were able to work something out that works out okay for him. I'm sure he'll be back next year.

I: Alright, alright. Well,-