

Fujita's Highlights and Low Points from Super Bowl Week

{ Scott Fujita details the highs and lows from the week leading up to his Saints' victory in Super Bowl XLIV. }

Author: Scott Fujita

Special to NFLPLAYERS.COM

The New Orleans Saints captured its first-ever Super Bowl victory on Sunday with a 31-17 victory over Indianapolis. Scott Fujita, an eight-year veteran linebacker and starter for the Saints, takes you back to the most exciting week of his career. Detailing the highs and lows from each day, Fujita's observations cover it all from funny moments to truly inspiring stories.

Monday, February 1, 2010

Highlight of the day: Being the first Saint to step off the plane in Miami.

Low point of the day: Not getting a Nike schwag bag in my hotel room. All the guys who are endorsed by Nike got sweet Super Bowl schwag, with about \$5000 worth of merch, including some products from their ACG line, which I love for hiking and for outdoor use. I was endorsed by Nike for seven years, but they voided my contract (after several warnings) for "spatting" my cleats on gamedays. Some of us spat, or put tape around our cleats, to keep them tight. Nike, apparently, doesn't like that their precious Swoosh gets covered up. Oh well. Wouldn't be that big of a deal if it weren't for every teammate rubbing it in my face, parading around in all their cool new gear.

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Highlight of the day: The Media Blitz. Talk about a platform to get your ideas out there...some would say it's every Berkeley grad's dream!

Low point of the day: The Media Blitz. It's really, really, really hard to answer the same question a hundred different ways.

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Highlight of the day: The stench in Miami's locker room. Two of my teammates and buddies, Jon Vilma (JV) and Jeremy Shockey (Shock) both played at the University of Miami, or the "U" as they call it (I refuse to call it that in front of them). People from the U are different; they have this passionate sense of entitlement. Every time we go somewhere new together, they act like they own the place (I hope you get that I'm being facetious, if even just a little bit). Anyway, JV and Shock are quite proud of the U, and they continually remind us of that. Well, we're practicing at the U this whole week, and I'm betting those two clowns have been pretty pumped up about it. So when we stepped into that place of refuse they call a locker room, the sense of joy, accomplishment, and togetherness the whole team (minus two players) shared at that moment took our team's bond to new heights. Imagine a combination of litter box, doggie kennel, and burnt hair...that's what the locker room smelled like. This is where all those vaunted National Championship teams were born? I make this vow: JV and Shock will never hear the end of this.

Low point of the day: Itchy corduroy. The Super Bowl gift in our rooms today was a big black Saints robe, made of corduroy. I love corduroy. Teammate Troy Evans says I'm like an anthropology professor with all the corduroy jackets I own. But this robe is itchy. Very itchy. Bummer.

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Highlight of the day: Joe Vitt getting un-Crunk. By now, I'm sure all you readers have heard the Saints' anthem of 2009 -- "Stand Up and Get Crunk." To say it's awesome when played in the Superdome would be the understatement of the year. Well, Joe our linebackers coach usually gives the guys a little pep talk before we start practice every day. Gregg Williams had one of our strength coaches play the song (at a really high decibel) to get the juices flowing, and to force us to concentrate in loud conditions. Apparently Joe couldn't hear himself think, and for the coach who regularly preaches "poise" and "composure," this was not his finest moment. All the LBs wished they had their little handy-cams with them to catch this tirade on film. The language used was



definitely too passionate for this column. It was pretty epic and we all had a good laugh after practice about it.

Low point of the day: No food waiting for us after practice. Talk about a disgruntled group of players. D-Sharp got on the phone to order a bunch of pizzas...pronto.

Friday, February 5, 2010

Highlight of the day: Jaclyn's email. My wife sent me an email this morning reminding me of all the things we've been through the last 10 years together. Pretty powerful stuff. Remember how cool Adrienne was in the Rocky movies? Well Jaclyn is my Adrienne.

Low point of the day: Bed check. Today was our first night of the week with curfew and bed check. Not a big deal...someone from the staff goes door to door, pokes their head in your hotel room, and makes sure you're in your room sleeping. We're used to this when we go on the road. But this guy, whoever it was, comes all the way in, blurts my name out a few times until I respond, and even turns my freakin' lights on! It took me at least an hour to fall back asleep. My offseason mission is to find that person and ruin a few nights' sleep for him.

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Highlight of the day: Seeing "Jawbone" crying like a baby. Anthony Hargrove, aka Jawbone (because he talks so much), is one of our defensive lineman. The story of his journey in the last few years has been well-documented this season. He's been through a lot, to say the least, and to see him come through all that and prosper is a testament to what a good man can do with a second chance. He broke down crying on the field during our practice today...again, another reminder of how big this moment is. I'm so happy for him.

Low point of the day: That I have to wait another 24 hours to play this game.

Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2010

Highlight of the day: Waking up and realizing that I'll be playing in the Super Bowl today.

Low point of the day: How could there be a low-point?...I'm about to play in the Super Bowl!