

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH FOR ED RUTKOWSKI

ALTHOUGH IT'S JUNE NOW, AND THEREFORE, NEARLY SPRING-TIME IN BUFFALO, THE WEATHER BEING WHAT IT IS, WE DIDN'T THINK IT TOO OUT OF PLACE TO PRESENT FOR YOU TONITE A SHORT FILM DEPICTING SOME OF THE ALL-TIME GREAT BLOOPERS IN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL, NARRATED BY A FORMER STAR OF THE BUFFALO BILLS, ED RUTKOWSKI.

OF COURSE, EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT THE FOOTBALL SEASON IS: IT'S THE ONLY TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN A MAN CAN WALK DOWN THE STREET WITH A BLONDE ON ONE ARM AND A BLANKET ON THE OTHER WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING RAISED EYEBROWS.

OUR GUEST TONITE HAS BEEN A DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANT IN SEVERAL SUCH FOOTBALL SEASONS. AND WITH HIS EASY GOOD LOOKS AND NATURAL CHARM, IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY, AFTER THE GAME, SO MANY BLONDES USED TO BE SEEN OUTSIDE THE BILLS' LOCKER ROOM DOOR -- WAITING WITH THEIR OWN BLANKETS.

THEY'RE OUT OF LUCK, THOUGH, BECAUSE ED WAS MARITALLY TACKLED BY HIS COLLEGE SWEETHEART AT THE 22-YEAR OLD LIFE LINE, LONG BEFORE HE HAD ANY CHANCE TO DO SOME REAL OPEN-FIELD RUNNING.

OH, HE WAS TRYING, THAT'S FOR SURE. IN HIS ROOKIE SEASON WITH THE BILLS, BUFFALO WAS IN CONTENTION FOR THE TITLE, AND THE STRUGGLE WITH BOSTON DRAGGED ON TO A FINAL PLAYOFF ON THE SAME DAY THAT ED AND MARILOU WERE PLANNING TO GET MARRIED.

WELL, A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TOOK PRIORITY OVER A CHAMPIONSHIP MARRIAGE, SO THE WEDDING WAS POSTPONED. NOW, WITH THAT KIND OF PROVIDENTIAL BLOCKING, A GOOD RUNNING BACK CAN SEE DAYLIGHT AND SCAMPER FOR NOT ED. IT ONLY TOOK TWO MORE WEEKS FOR MARILOU TO FINALLY AND OFFFICIALLY TACKLE HIM BELOW THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE.

SINCE THEN, THEY'VE COME UP WITH LOTS OF NEW PLAYS AND EVEN MANAGED TO SCORE THREE TOUCHDOWNS ON THEIR OWN -- ALL GIRLS. OF COURSE, ED HOPED FOR THE NUCLEUS OF A STRONG BACKFIELD, OR AT LEAST SOMEONE TO BE ABLE TO TOSS A FOOTBALL TO, BUT IF YOU COULD HEAR THE WAY THOSE GIRLS AUDIBILIZE AT THE DINNER TABLE...

PASS THAT BREAD...

HIT ME WITH THE CHEESE...

LATERAL THAT BUTTER...

DADDY, YOU TAKE OUT MOMMY...

WELL, IN THIS DAY OF WOMEN'S LIB, WHO KNOWS WHAT CAN HAPPEN BY THE TIME THEY START MAKING HIGH-HEEL FOOTBALL CLEATS?!

PAPA ED'S OWN FOOTBALL CAREER SPANS SIX SEASONS WITH THE BILLS AND IS HIGHLIGHTED —AS YOU'LL SOON SEE IN THE FILM— BY A PASS TO AN INELIGIBLE RECEIVER: COACH LOU SABAN — STANDING OUT OF BOUNDS.

WHEN HE WASN'T BENDING THE RULES SO MUCH, HOWEVER, ED DID MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE TEAM — ESPECIALLY IN '64 AND '65, WHEN THE BILLS WON THE A.F.L. CHAMPIONSHIPS; AND AGAIN IN '68 WHEN HIS EFFORTS MERITED HIM THE OFFENSIVE BACK AWARD, THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD, AND THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER ON OFFENSE AWARD — HONORS FOR WHICH THE BUFFALO FANS ARE HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE.

IN THE FILM, ALSO, YOU'LL SEE HIS HIDDEN TALENTS AS A DANCER IN A SHORT BALLET FOR A FUMBLE. I HEAR LEONARD BERNSTEIN PLANS TO WRITE A SCORE BASED ON ED'S INSPIRATIONAL, IMPROVISED CHOREOGRAPHY. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ED?

DURING HIS SIX YEARS WITH THE BILLS, ED GOT TO BE VERY CLOSE FRIENDS WITH TEAMMATE JACK KEMP. SO, WHEN KEMP DECIDED TO MAKE HIS END RUN FOR CONGRESS, ED RAN INTERFERENCE FOR HIM.

ED RAN THE CAMPAIGN IN CONJUNCTION WITH RICH ADVERTISING AGENCY, WHERE, BY THE WAY, HE DID SUCH A FINE JOB THAT THE AGENCY ASKED HIM TO STAY ON AS AN ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE. (AFTER ALL, SELLING AN ACTOR AS A POLITICIAN IS ONE THING; BUT A FOOTBALL PLAYER?! THAT TAKES REAL TALENT!)

ED CERTAINLY HAS THAT TALENT, AND THE PEOPLE AT RICH ADVERTISING RECOGNIZED IT RIGHT AWAY. THAT'S WHY THEY IMMEDIATELY PUT HIM ON THEIR MOST IMPORTANT ACCOUNT. ANYBODY GUESS WHAT THAT MIGHT BE? YOU GOT IT! RICH PRODUCTS: THOSE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO GAVE YOU RALPH WILSON STADIUM.

AS KEMP'S DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE, TOO, ED IS RATHER UNIQUELY QUALIFIED. FOR ONE THING, AT NOTRE DAME, HE STUDIED POLITICAL SCIENCE, THE SCIENCE OF INTERFERING IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

AND SINCE ED IS A GOLFING PARTNER OF MINE, I KNOW THAT, FOR A WALL DECORATION, HE HAS TACKED-ON HIS WALL A TEE-SHIRT UPON WHICH IS EMBOSSSED A REPLICIA OF THE POLISH FLAG. NOW, IF THE STORIES I HEAR ARE TRUE, ED'S PRINCIPAL FUNCTION AS KEMP'S DISTRICT REP IS TO WEAR THIS TEE-SHIRT WHENEVER HE VISITS THE PREDOMINANTLY POLISH AREAS OF THE CITY.

SINCE HIS RETIREMENT FROM PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL, ED HAS BEEN KEEPING IN SHAPE BY BICYCLE RIDING, GOLF, AND TENNIS. AND HE DOESN'T LET CLIENTS WIN, BELIEVE ME!

I HEAR HE ALSO GETS TO PLAY SOME TOUCH FOOTBALL WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS, WHEN THEY NEED AN EXTRA GUY, THAT IS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, BUFFALO BILLS FOOTBALL FANS, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER INTERFERENCE FROM ME, IT IS AN HONOR AND A PLEASURE FOR ME TO PRESENT TO YOU...

THE FATHER OF THREE GIRLS AND A DACHSUND...

THE DISTRICT BLOCKING BACK FOR CONGRESMAN JACK KEMP...

THE "FANTASTIC" SPORTS COMMENTATOR FOR W-K-B-W RADIO...

(YOU DIDN'T THINK I COULD OVERLOOK THAT, DID YOU, ED?)

FORMER STAR OF THE BUFFALO BILLS...

AND A WARM AND LOVABLE GUY:

ED RUTKOWSKI.