

"Relaxed-Rules Football"

In the background, we hear continuous football-game ambience. Additional sound effects are as noted.

JOHN

Tonight it's brains versus brawn,
with the Capitol Locomotives
taking on the New City News. I'm
John Ferris, with me in the booth
is Danielle Gillick.

DANIELLE

Hello, and welcome to an exciting
game of relaxed-rules football.

JOHN

That's right, Danielle, there's no
telling --

SFX -- Cheer!

DANIELLE

Hold on, John, that's the kickoff!

JOHN

Parais has caught it and -- what
is he doing?

DANIELLE

Ah, the Locomotives have coated
the ball with buffetin, a powerful
hallucinogen found in Amazonian
tree frogs.

JOHN

Parais looks pretty confused.

DANIELLE

He's being pursued by creatures of
the id that no one should ever see,
John.

JOHN

'Creatures of the id?' Do you
even know what that means?

DANIELLE
(laughing)
What does it mean to you, John?

JOHN
It means Parais is running like
hell for the exit.

DANIELLE
Taking us to first down.

JOHN
And now Lofton's approaching the
Locomotive huddle, and --

SFX: Boom!

JOHN
Wow.

DANIELLE
I did not expect to see a suicide
bomber -- *this* early in the game.

Pause.

JOHN
While they're cleaning up the --
um, our referees are now enjoying
themselves at the French Lounge,
for the absolute finest in
gentlemen's entertainment.

DANIELLE
... and while we're taking care of
announcements... ahem... this will
be my last broadcast here at SRN.

JOHN
What?

DANIELLE
And game on! They're trying to
sneak Ritter down the left side.

JOHN
(overlapping)
D., are you quitting to take
another job?

DANIELLE
Didn't quit. Got fired. That's
Parais back on the field, and --

JOHN
(overlapping)
Got *what?* What did they do?

DANIELLE
Looks like he has a puppy and --
yes, there's the big knife.
Parais is making sure the other
team can see it.

JOHN
Those idiots!

DANIELLE
We saw how this gambit turned out
in Green Bay last month, so the
Locomotives know Parais isn't
making an empty threat.

JOHN
Hey you radio execs -- can you
hear that? The smarts? The drama?
You're gonna fire this person?

DANIELLE
Please, John. And... nope, Parais
is having an acid flashback, and
that dog is just going wild on him.

JOHN
You hear that professionalism, you
goddamn bean-counters?

SFX -- Cell-phone beeping.

DANIELLE
John?

JOHN
Mr. Clark?

DANIELLE
Oh this is embarrassing, John.

JOHN
(overlapping)
I don't care what time it is.

SFX -- gunshot.

DANIELLE
Oglevie has shot one of the fans!
And...

SFX -- BZZT!

DANIELLE
(cont'd)
... he gets taken out by the Giant
Space Laser.

JOHN
If you fire Gillick, I quit.

DANIELLE
Both teams regrouping now.

JOHN
(overlapping)
You tell *her* that, Mr. Clark.

DANIELLE
I -- um -- hello?

JOHN
(overlapping)
Some sort of hold-up on the field
now.

DANIELLE
Why? Because I'm the best
commentator you've got. Except
one. Maybe.

JOHN
I guess this is a time-out.
(whispered)
What's he saying?

DANIELLE
(whispered)
He's replacing me with a stand-up
comic.

SFX -- Fist pounded on table.

JOHN
CLARK, YOU RAT BASTARD!!

DANIELLE
And because I live and breathe
football -- and if you don't
understand that, you're in the
wrong business. Sir.

SFX -- paper ruffling.

JOHN
This just in -- Mrs. Gillick?

SFX -- paper ruffling.

DANIELLE
Sir, there are players on the
field right now threatening to
kill you if I get fired.

JOHN
That's why there's the break in
play -- the News and the
Locomotives have the big guns out.
They're making some real
threatening gestures with 'em.

DANIELLE
(overlapping)
Okay. Okay. Good-bye.

SFX -- cell phone beeps off.

DANIELLE
This hold-up is reminiscent of
Denver in '03, when --

JOHN
What did he say?

Beat.

DANIELLE
I get to keep my job.

SFX -- Cheers!

JOHN
And the crowd is going wild! This
is a good day for the game.

DANIELLE
I owe everyone a big -- oh, it
appears that the Locomotives were
caught napping there, and the News
have encased their opponent in a
giant block of ice.

JOHN
And that's our game -- News, giant
block of ice, Locomotives, zero.

DANIELLE
As always, this has been Danielle
Glick and John Ferris bringing you
relaxed-rules football. Have a
good night.

Pause.

JOHN
God, I love this game.