

Super Bucs

SUPER BOWL XXXVII
Game roundup

48 Bucs **21** Raiders

Passing yds.
215
250

Rushing yds.
150
19

Total yds.
365
269

First downs
24
11

Penalties/yds.
5/41
7/51

Sacked/yds. lost
5/22
0/0

Time of possession
22:46
37:54

Source: Associated Press AP

Super Bowl XXXVII
At San Diego

Oakland	3	0	12	—	21
Tampa Bay	3	17	14	14	48

First Quarter
Oak—FG Janikowski 40, 10:40.
TB—FB Gramatica 31P7, 5:1.

Second Quarter
TB—FG Gramatica 43, 11:16.
TB—Alstott 2 run (Gramatica kick), 6:24.
TB—McCardell 5 pass from B. Johnson (Gramatica kick), 3:0.

Third Quarter
TB—McCardell 8 pass from B. Johnson (Gramatica kick), 5:30.
TB—D. Smith 44 interception return (Gramatica kick), 4:47.
Oak—Porter 39 pass from Gannon (pass failed), 2:14.

Fourth Quarter
Oak—E. Johnson 13 blocked punt return (pass failed), 14:16.
Oak—J. Rice 43 pass from Gannon (pass failed), 11:11.
TB—Brooks 44 interception return (Gramatica kick), 5:11.
TB—D. Smith 50 interception return (Gramatica kick), 0:2.
A—67,603.

First downs	11	24
Rushing-yards	11-119	42-150
Passing	250	215
Punt Returns	3-29	1-25
Kickoff Returns	9-149	4-99
Interceptions	1-12	5-172
Comp.-Att.-Int.	24-44-5	18-34-1
Sacked-Yds. Lost	5-22	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0-0	0-0-0
Time of Possession	7:51	37:14

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Oakland, Garner 7-10, Crummett 2-6, Gannon 2-3, Tampa Bay, Pittman 29-124, Alstott 10-15, B. Johnson 1-10, Stedler 1-1, Jurga 1-0.
PASSING—Oakland, Gannon 24-44-5-292, Tampa Bay, B. Johnson 18-34-1-215.
RECEIVING—Oakland, Garner 7-51, J. Rice 5-77, Jolley 5-52, Porter 4-82, Brown 1-9, Reddie 1-7, Whiteley 1-7, Tampa Bay, E. Johnson 6-69, Alton 5-43, Hernandez 4-76, McCardell 2-13, Degeer 1-12.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA
SUPER BOWL XXXVII
SUNDAY JANUARY 26 2003

2002-03 NFL Playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 4

AFC
N.Y. Jets 41, Indianapolis 9

NFC
Atlanta 27, Green Bay 7

Sunday, Jan. 5

AFC
Pittsburgh 30, Cleveland 33

NFC
San Francisco 39, N.Y. Giants 38

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11

AFC
Tennessee 34, Pittsburgh 31, OT

NFC
Philadelphia 20, Atlanta 6

Sunday, Jan. 12

NFC
Tampa Bay 31, San Francisco 8

AFC
Oakland 20, N.Y. Jets 10

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19

NFC
Tampa Bay 27, Philadelphia 10

AFC
Oakland 41, Tennessee 24

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
At San Diego

Tampa Bay 48, Oakland 21

Tampa defense proves too much for Oakland in Super Bowl XXXVII rout

SAN DIEGO (AP) — They were the laughingstocks of the NFL, maybe of all pro sports. They had garish orange uniforms with a winking pirate on the helmet. Losing 10 games came automatically. Wasting high draft picks was a given.

Those Tampa Bay Buccaneers were buried Sunday with a flourish. Led by a fearsome defense, a suddenly dynamic offense and a coach who brought the final fiery touch, the Bucs routed the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in the Super Bowl.

Laughingstock? Try champions.

"For all this franchise has been through, nothing could be sweeter," veteran safety John Lynch said. "Super Bowl champs. Wow!"

Yep, wow. As in five interceptions of league MVP Rich Gannon, three of them returned for touchdowns — two by nickel back Dwight Smith, a Super Bowl record, and one by NFL defensive player of the year Derrick Brooks. The other two pickoffs went to Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson.

As in holding the game's No. 1 offense to 62 yards and three first downs in the first half, which ended 20-3.

As in staging consecutive touchdown drives of 77 and 89 yards, both concluding with passes to Keenan McCardell, a 5-yard score and an 8-yarder.

Whatever the Bucs tried seemed to work. It was as if coach Jon Gruden, acquired from the Raiders last February for four high draft picks and \$8 million, had drawn up the game plan for both teams.

In a way, he had.

"Jon Gruden was Gannon," said Bucs defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, whose unit also had five sacks and yielded all of 19 yards rushing. "Nobody can be like Gannon like Gruden can. He



Tampa Bay Buccaneers' head coach Jon Gruden shouts to his team during the third quarter against the Oakland Raiders during Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego Sunday.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Dexter Jackson, the most valuable player of the game, holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Bucs beat the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in the Super Bowl XXXVII.

He was in Gannon's head."

But Gruden played down that apparent advantage.

"That was all overrated," he said. "I stayed away from the defense. That's a credit to our players. We've got a great defensive club."

So great that All-Pro tackle Warren Sapp was willing to proclaim it the best ever. Before he attempted to light a foot-long victory cigar, Sapp compared the unit that allowed only 196 points

this season — and just two touchdowns in the playoffs that were not tainted by special teams gaffes — to the legendary defenses of the Ravens and the Steel Curtain.

"We had to have that championship before we could say anything," Sapp said. "Now you can put us in the same sentence as the Ravens and the Steel Curtain."

"But I don't think any of them faced the kind of offense like we did. None of them went into the Super Bowl and played the No. 1 offense. And we put a stranglehold on them."

Almost from the very start. Brad Johnson was hit as he threw on Tampa Bay's third play from scrimmage. The ball fluttered short of a wide-open McCardell to cornerback Charles Woodson.

Just like that, the vaunted Oakland attack was at the Bucs' 36. But Tampa Bay held the Raiders to Sebastian Janikowski's 40-yard field goal.

The next 34 points belonged to the Bucs.

Martin Gramatica tied it with a 31-yarder, and Jackson got his first interception near the end of the opening quarter. That led to Gramatica's 43-yarder.

While Jackson's second interception on the next series did not lead to points, the defense had

fully asserted itself.

"Give them a lot of credit," Gannon said. "They performed exceptionally well on defense and we couldn't do what we wanted to do. The turnovers obviously killed us."

"It was a nightmarish performance."

It was the kind of performance people expected from the old Bucs, the ones who lost their first 26 games (0-14 in their debut season of 1976) and, in one 14-year stretch, had 13 seasons with at least 10 losses, including 12 in a row. On Sunday, it was the Raiders who were inept on both sides.

The worst came after Tampa Bay took a 13-3 lead on Mike Alstott's 2-yard run that Karl Williams set up with a 25-yard punt return. Looking to get back into it, the Raiders wound up punting, and the Bucs went on a 77-yard drive to McCardell's first touchdown catch.

After an Oakland three-and-out to start the second half, Tampa Bay covered 89 yards in 14 plays and nearly eight minutes, with McCardell scoring from the 8.

Two plays after that, Smith cut in front of Jerry Rice and stole a poor pass from Gannon, sprinting 44 yards to make it 34-3.

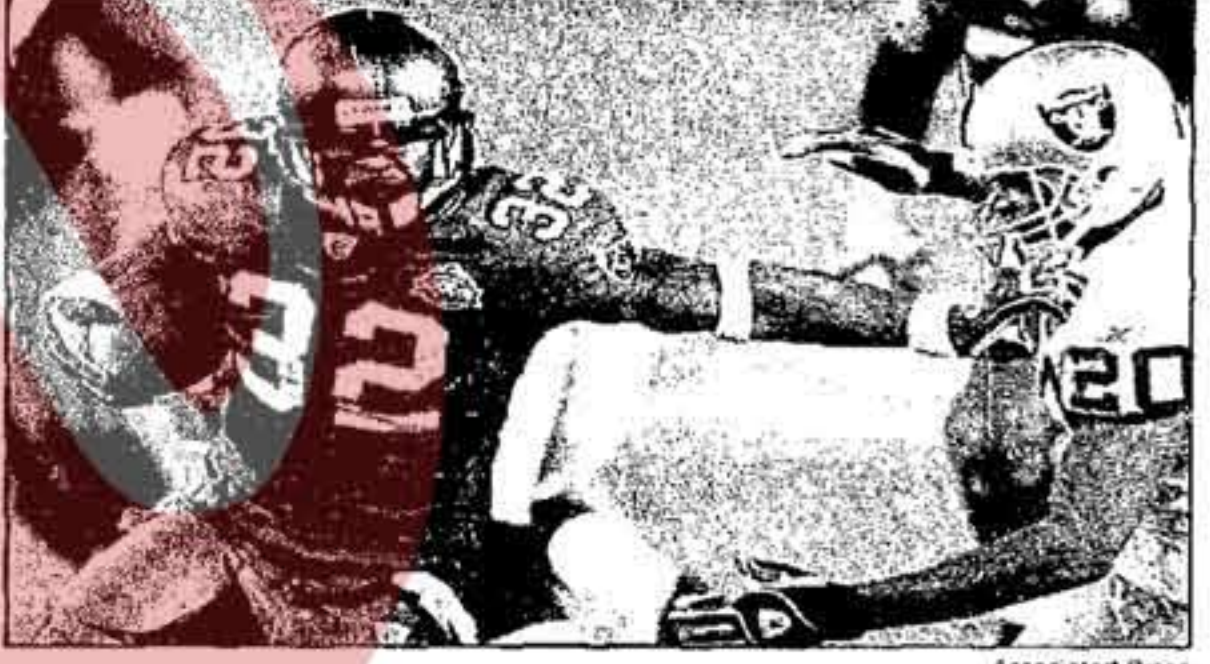
"This is the thing. I've been doing for 17 years of my life," said Smith, one of the least-heralded Bucs defenders. "Play football and make plays was what I was known to do."

Better known for doing it are Sapp, Brooks, Lynch, Simeon Rice (two sacks and relentless pressure), Ronde Barber and Brian Kelly. But Smith and Jackson got many of the accolades this night.

"When I first came to the team I knew they had some great players like the Sapps, the Lynchs and the Brooks," Jackson said. "These guys came from nothing and came together as a championship caliber team."

That they came together on offense, as well, made this rout even more impressive. Many expected the Bucs to outdo the Raiders defensively. But to also have the game's most dynamic offense before 67,603 fans — none of them wearing that awful orange — might have been too much to ask.

"It's so awesome after what this franchise has been through," Lynch said. "You got to go prove it, but we knew that we had it, and that's what Jon did so well, make us believe it. One of his first words was that we are going to win a world championship. We never wavered from that fact. ... It's unreal."



Tampa Bay Buccaneers' running back Michael Pittman carries the ball as Oakland Raiders' Tony James defends in the third quarter during Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego Sunday.

Gruden buries Raiders in match with former team

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Add one more impersonation to Jon Gruden's repertoire.

The coach known as "Chucky" — for his striking resemblance to a bloodthirsty doll from a horror movie — also does a crack job of playing Rich Gannon.

Gruden knew so much about his former team and its quarterback that he designed a perfect game plan that his Tampa Bay Buccaneers used to rout the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

"Jon Gruden was Gannon," Bucs defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin said. "Nobody can be like Gannon like Gruden can. He taught Gannon. He was in Gannon's head."

Gruden got into Gannon's wheelhouse so much that the NFL's MVP threw a season-high five interceptions, three of which were returned for touchdowns by Tampa Bay's stifling defense.

In Thursday's practice, Gruden even took over as quarterback on the scout team and ran several plays.

"The film illustrates that I did complete two or three passes. It was very intimidating under center," Gruden joked after the game, surrounded by his wife and three young boys.

"I've got great respect for Rich Gannon as a quarterback. I wanted our team to just get a feel for what it was going to be like with him in command. He's a special guy and I wanted them to try to feel it a little bit," he said.

"He's still bragging about it," strong safety John Lynch said. "He took it down the field. It was probably because we were laughing so much."

Seriously, though, "he gave us a tremendous scouting report," Lynch said.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers' head coach Jon Gruden shouts to his team during the third quarter against the Oakland Raiders during Super Bowl XXXVII in San Diego Sunday.

Lynch was miked for TV during the game. "Every play they've run, we've run in practice," he said on the sideline before halftime.

Linebacker Derrick Brooks said Gruden's practice appearance "was a huge key for us, to try to give us a small glimpse of how Rich Gannon sees defenses."

"We were embarrassed because he completed two passes," Brooks said, laughing.

The lesson paid off, though. Brooks, the NFL's defen-

sive player of the year, scored on a 44-yard interception return with just more than a minute left in the game.

After coaching the Raiders for four seasons, Gruden was effectively traded by Al Davis to the Buccaneers last February for two first-round draft picks, two second-round picks and \$8 million.

The deal proved to be worth every penny — and pickoff — to the Bucs.

When the Raiders and Buccaneers made it to the Super Bowl, it was advantage, Gruden. The best pirates on the field were the ones dressed in red and pewter, not silver and black.

Gannon was one of Gruden's best friends on the Raiders. He downplayed Gruden's insider knowledge, saying that Oakland's coaches knew his tendencies, too. Most of them worked under Gruden, including Raiders head coach Bill Callahan.

"I don't know if that was a major factor," Gannon said. "I just think their defense played really well and we didn't play well offensively. As a team we didn't play well."

Still, Gannon called it a "nightmarish performance. You hate to have an exhibition like that in this kind of something."

Gruden's knowledge of the Raiders was probably best illustrated when cornerback Dwight Smith stepped in front of Jerry Rice for a 44-yard interception return and a 34-3 lead with 4:47 left in the third quarter.

As Smith raced toward the end zone, Gruden was a few feet out on the field, running along behind the play, pumping his right fist and then thrusting both arms in the air, a huge smile on his face.