

Dateline: RIT – The Podcast (Feb. 14, 2008) (Season 2, Episode 8)

ANNCR: Welcome to Dateline: RIT with Mike Saffran.

HOST: Dateline: RIT (Feb. 14, 2008)

More than 40 former RIT Tigers football teammates who played under head coach Tom Coughlin in the early '70s gathered on Feb. 3rd to watch the Super Bowl featuring the Coughlin-led New York Giants battle the previously unbeaten New England Patriots. One of the players was ex-linebacker, defensive end and co-captain Mark McCabe, who, along with RIT Athletic Director Lou Spiotti, was a driving force behind the impromptu reunion. Mark, how did the reunion come about?

ACTUALITY [MARK MCCABE]: I talked to Lou Spiotti and said I know he'd been talking about it for years. I asked Lou, "I want to get the guys together, will you give me a hand?" He said, "Yeah." And so, I just started calling people, reaching out. It was amazing calling guys after probably 35 years or so, and everyone was really receptive. So that's kind of how it got together, and I just kind of got inspired after starting to talk to the guys. I felt bad we hadn't talked in so long. We were such a tight group, and you build such a bond at that time of your life—everybody's away from home at college trying to figure out what you're doing in your life—and that bond just, after 35 years, it was still there.

HOST: But, as I understand it, the reunion was more than just an opportunity for ex-teammates to reconnect—how so?

ACTUALITY [MCCABE]: Tom Coughlin had a great team of coaches—assistant coaches. I mean, it was one cohesive group of coaches that all had the same philosophy. They were great, and to honor them while they were there. And that's what it was about, honoring them and getting back together, and then honoring Coughlin.

HOST: Now, prior to the Super Bowl, when he was undoubtedly preoccupied trying to figure out a way to beat the Patriots, Coach Coughlin was informed about the RIT reunion and said he was touched by it. How did that make you feel?

ACTUALITY [MCCABE]: He never forgot his roots. Everyone asked us, "Did it surprise you?" It didn't because that was who he was. His whole life was about the team, about his players. Great philosophy and maybe that's what helped to win the Super Bowl. Teamwork, it's all about teamwork, and especially when you're young and impressionable at that age. My whole life, I carry that through now.

HOST: Coach Coughlin also has a bit of a reputation as a strong disciplinarian. But, from your experience—albeit from 35 years ago—do you think that's somewhat undeserved?

ACTUALITY [MCCABE]: Here's an example that his whole thing was about the team.

As hard as he was, he'd never swear at you, he'd yell at you as a team, sometimes he'd get on individuals, but then he'd come back and praise 'em. It's always the balance. And he's a guy that if you have problems in school, he must've gone to professors and told them, "If any of my players are failing anything, I want to know in advance," because sometimes he'd call you and say "Hey, I hear you failed a math test." And you'd go, "How the hell does he know that?" And, he goes, "You need help, you want tutor? We'll help you out, we'll get you a tutor to get you through, to make sure you got through those courses." So he had a great balance. He wasn't just interested in you working as a team and the sport. He was interested in you in life, and that's how exceptional that unit—Coughlin and his coaches—were. As we said, from RIT to the Super Bowl. If you ever thought anyone deserved it and had earned it, it was definitely him.

HOST: That's former RIT football player Mark McCabe with recollections about football at RIT and one-time Tigers head coach Tom Coughlin, now the top coach of the Super Bowl-winning New York Giants. Coughlin's head coaching career began at RIT in 1970. To read news articles about the RIT football Super Bowl reunion, visit "RIT In the News" at www.rit.edu/news/inthenews.

On the RIT campus this week . . . Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty has details on RIT President Bill Destler's 30-city national tour and more about this spring's Imagine RIT festival . . . and News & Events managing editor Vienna Carvalho has highlights from the latest issue.

SEGMENT [BOB FINNERTY]: This is Bob Finnerty. RIT goes west. President Destler is back on campus after traveling to California, where he met with alumni groups. Destler is in the middle of a 30-city national tour engaging alumni from Boston to San Francisco. RIT has nearly 4,000 alumni in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and San José. Destler will return to California July 9th through 12th with the Board of Trustees. The summer board meeting will be held in Palo Alto. RIT leaders and the trustees will meet with dozens of companies in the Silicon Valley to further build relationships and enhance RIT's image on the West Coast. . . . The inaugural Innovation and Creativity Festival—Imagine RIT—is less than three months away, but deadlines are fast approaching. If you want to enter the poster contest, the deadline is Feb. 15th. Judges will select one poster design and the winning artist will receive a certificate good for the purchase of \$500 in merchandise at any Barnes & Noble location. The Festival marketing team is also looking for creative 30- to 60-second video commercials to promote Imagine RIT on YouTube. The winning entry will also earn a \$500 Barnes & Noble shopping spree. Contest deadline: March 17th. For more on the May 3rd festival, visit rit.edu/imagine. . . . This is Bob Finnerty on the RIT campus.

SEGMENT [VIENNA CARVALHO]: This is News & Events Managing Editor Vienna Carvalho. In the current issue of News & Events . . . RIT is launching a new Master of Science degree in human-computer interaction, the study of design, evaluation and implementation of interactive computing systems to benefit the end user. The curriculum for the degree includes studies in software development, learning and knowledge management, cognitive psychology, industrial design and game design. . . . Also in the

current issue of News & Events, we focus the spotlight on two gallery shows. Gallery r in Rochester features an exhibit documenting culture in Croatia based on the experiences of a study-abroad group. And Bevier Gallery is showcasing the work of young artists at the Rochester-Finger Lakes Regional Exhibition through Feb. 27th. . . . And, read our Viewpoints essay written by Therese Mulligan, a professor in RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, who offers a tribute to the life and work of photojournalist and RIT alumnus Bernie Boston. . . . Read more about these stories and other RIT news in the Feb. 7th issue of News & Events. This is Vienna Carvalho on the RIT campus.

HOST: This has been Dateline: RIT (Feb. 14, 2008). I'm Mike Saffran on the RIT campus.

ANNCR: For more on these stories and other RIT news, visit www.rit.edu/news.
Dateline: RIT is produced by RIT University News Services.

NOTE: Dateline: RIT (Feb. 14, 2008) audio podcast available at:
http://www.thetigerbeat.com/rss/podcasts/Dateline_02-14-08.m4a and
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