

Kerry Rhodes: Standout NFL safety and Arena League owner

Q: What led you to become a part owner of the New York Dragons of the Arena League?

Rhodes: It's a good opportunity. The guy came to me a while ago about it, and I was like — ah, and didn't really think about it. Then I had my financial guy look at it and see if it was a good thing for me. They have new management and new owners, and they are getting things going in a new direction. It's a good thing for me.

Q: Did you have to invest, or are you just lending your name?

Rhodes: They just want my name right now (he laughs). With me putting my name on it, I get a percentage, so it's a good thing.

Q: What kind of owner are you going to be?

Rhodes: I'm going to be hard-nosed. No. We will see how it goes.

Q: You have to be excited about the secondary. You guys have a lot of talent back there?

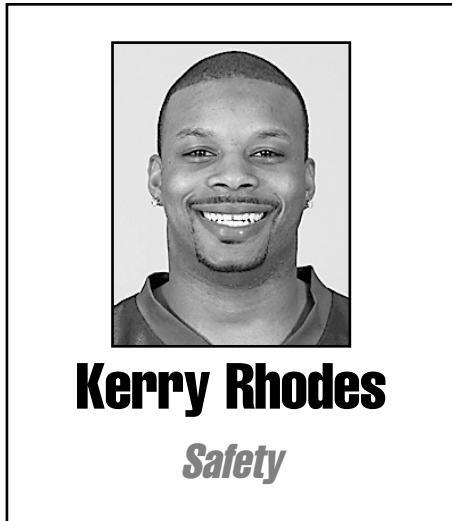
Rhodes: I'm definitely excited. Lowery is playing good. You can leave him over there to play one-on-one. You can have Revis play one-on-one. That frees me up to do more things. We've been consistent. That is the big thing.

Q: What makes Lowery so good, so fast?

Rhodes: For a young guy, he's not young. He is a guy who is all about football. It was the same thing when Revis came in last year. He's not a big talker. He doesn't talk about anything outside of football. He doesn't talk about where he is going out tomorrow night. He is all about football. He asks me questions. He just wants to be good.

Q: With the addition of a pass rusher like Calvin Pace, and Bryan Thomas stepping up his game, that has to be good for the secondary...

Rhodes: Real good. That stuff goes hand-in-hand. If the secondary is playing well, you can get a good rush. If the rush is going well, it helps the secondary. It all ties



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— Rhodes on Kris Jenkins

together. BT is playing well. He bounced back from last year. He admitted he didn't play as well as he would have liked. He has a chip on his shoulder and he doesn't want to relinquish his spot. He has bounced back.

Q: That is what guys from Birmingham are all about — bouncing back...

Rhodes: We always bounce back baby (laughs).

Q: You are clearly a rising star in the

league, but ever since Brett Favre arrived, the Jets coverage has been all Brett Favre all the time. It's not Brett's fault, but does it bother some of the other players who deserve notoriety like yourself?

Rhodes: Yeah, but it's also good. I have seen a lot of national guys come in, that I'm not used to seeing come around. So he brings more media attention and more fans, who really didn't care about the Jets. So a lot more people notice you, so that can be good.

Q: A reporter (Tim Cowlshaw), on one of those talking head shows on ESPN, said if the Jets have a great season this year, Favre will get all the credit. What do you think of that theory?

Rhodes: Hey, he's a Hall-of-Fame guy. If you add a Hall-of-Fame player to your team, it should make you a better team, I guess.

Before we got Brett Favre, we thought we were going to be a better team this year than last year. And now we have the addition of #4.

Q: How awesome has Jenkins been?

Rhodes: He's a beast. He can't be blocked one-on-one. Sometimes he can't be blocked with two or three people. He's been great so far. He's been everything we expected him to be. His work ethic has been good, and that was a knock on him before. But he's been a

great worker and a great locker room guy as well.

Q: It seems that when a 3-4 defense has a dominant nose tackle there is a positive trickle down effect through the whole defense...

Rhodes: When you can't single him up and run up the middle, it can be a long day for the opposing team.

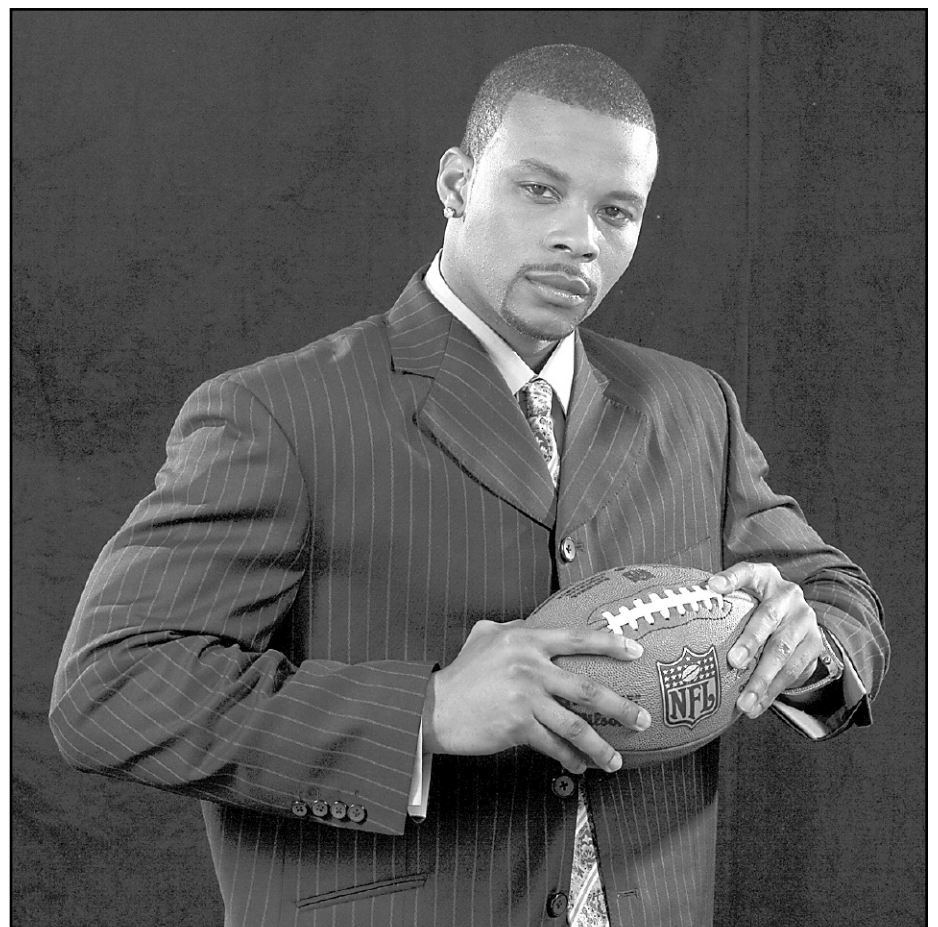
Q: How tough is it get to used to all the new faces around you on defense?

Rhodes: That is the NFL. There are going to be changes all the time. There could be a change tomorrow, there can be a change while we are practicing. We have become accustomed to it and just know that is part of the deal.

There is anticipation from everybody trying to see how we are going to be as a team. It's not just the new guys coming in. It's all of us as a team trying to get this thing together and trying to right the ship from what we did last year.

Q: How weird was it facing Chad Pennington and seeing him in that Dolphin uniform?

Rhodes: It's funny. I mean just seeing him out there in their colors of teal and white. Whatever they are, it's funny to see him out there running around out there. It's odd [playing] against a guy that you have been accustomed to being around, joking with and actually being a good friend.



Kerry Rhodes might be the Jets most talented player, but he has yet to get a lot of national notoriety. But that could change this year with all the attention Brett Favre is bringing to the Jets.
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