

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



503 How the NFL Fumbled with Super Bowl 54

It was a great Super Bowl. The refs didn't ruin it. But what about that halftime show? I'm Jerry Roberts and today we'll talk about the NFL and dirty dancing, next on The Extra Point.

In the aftermath of the Super Bowl, three stories seem to have received more coverage than any others. One, that Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes is the new face of football and his Chiefs could become a dynasty.

Two, that San Francisco coach Kyle Shanahan choked again with a championship well within his reach. He received the bulk of the criticism after the Atlanta Falcons lost a 28-3 lead to New England a few years ago, and he was the Falcons' offensive coordinator.

The third item was the halftime show, starring Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, which has been alternately hailed as extraordinary by their supporters, and called pornographic by others. I only saw about five minutes of the 14-minute performance and had to go back yesterday to watch the whole thing, to fully understand what the show's critics were saying.

The performances by the two women were as high energy as it gets and featured bold special effects. While Jennifer Lopez did her best, it was clear that at age 50 she can't dance at the level she was attempting. That said, when you surround yourself with a couple dozen twenty-somethings who have limitless energy, you can get away with it. She did. Shakira, on the other hand, at 43, was able to keep up. Not just that but she showed some versatility in playing the guitar and drums. That's the high point.

On the flip side, come on NFL, pole dancing — really? Shakira and JLo bumping and grinding away for minutes. It was as close to a strip show as you'll get on over-the-air TV. It was also the first time I've watched the Super Bowl with my son, age 14, and this wasn't what

I was expecting. A lot of us have kids and grandkids who are dancers. Do we want them thinking, "Well, if it's good enough for the NFL and the Super Bowl, it's good enough for me"? Family viewing it was not.

If you're going to do something like that, how about slapping an "R" rating on it and giving parents advance notice?

What I thought was a bit surreal was that after Lopez did most of her booty-shakin' stuff, then she brought her pre-teen daughter on stage to sing with her. It was a nice moment for the girl, but first she witnessed mama go through her sexual gyrations. Was this JLo's version of mother-daughter quality time?

I looked up the history of Super Bowl halftime shows. Through 1992 it was mostly good but not top-level singers and marching bands. Then, in 1993 they handed the keys to Michael Jackson and it changed forever. From that point forward the NFL has focused on major acts and there have been some good ones. Yes, some clunkers as well. What we haven't seen before is the type of suggestive performance we got this year. Maybe it's a sign of the times.

JLo and Shakira have millions of fans around the world and I know a lot of people liked what they saw, male and female alike. I get it. You know, the best thing about this game was that the referees didn't mess up a call to decide the outcome. Still, when it came to the halftime show, somebody should have thrown a flag.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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