

SHHH! GIANTS HIT MUTE

Plan to let actions speak as Rex and Jets babble on



Giants' Deon Grant takes timeout from rivalry talk to join City Meals on Wheels' Beth Shapiro in packing boxes at group's warehouse. Jeff Bachner

BY EBENEZER SAMUEL
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THE GIANTS do their best not to talk trash. They are a veteran team with a no-nonsense coach, and most weeks, they spend most of their time tiptoeing around any inflammatory quotes.

So on Monday, while Rex Ryan was at his blustery best proclaiming the Jets as the Big Apple's best team and ripping the Giants for missing the playoffs for two straight years, Big Blue quietly disputed Ryan's chatter.

"I definitely disagree with him on that," said safety Deon Grant. Instead, the Giants reminded the big-talking coach that there's actually a game to settle this entire debate, one that will be played Saturday at MetLife Stadium.

"That's the beautiful thing is that we're going to find out real soon," linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka said of Ryan's rant. "I'm not worried about anything anybody says — especially somebody that's not going to have pads on."

To Kiwanuka and the Giants, there's too much at stake to waste the week trading barbs with Gang Green and its sideline mascot of a coach. They've lost five of six games, and they were just embarrassed by the Redskins at home.

It was a sobering experience, one that even silenced Antrel Rolle, the Giants' resident trash-talker. During his weekly paid appearance on WFAN, the safety was asked if he would predict how many times the Giants would beat the Jets if the two teams played 100 times. Coming off the loss to Washington, a team that Rolle had said his Giants would defeat 99 times out of 100, he declined to answer.

"I really think I'm done answering that question," Rolle said. "Washington made me put my foot in my mouth. I think it's still there."

Instead, the Giants will let Gang Green talk. The Jets must talk, Kiwanuka said, because they need a hype machine to get ready for the game.

The Giants don't need to engage in such wooing. As far-fetched as it may sound, Tom Coughlin claimed that he's never used an opposing team's trash talk as motivational material for his own squad. And Eli Manning promised that while he may hear a few snippets of Jets bluster this week, he will have far more important things to do than to pay attention.

"My focus is getting ready for their defense and getting ready for this game," Manning said. "You hear bits and pieces, but I am not going to go get the paper and read every quote that Rex Ryan is saying and take it to heart."

"I am sure some people will respond," Manning added. "But it is not going to be me."

The Jets, said Kiwanuka, may need the media circus to thrive.

"Some people need to do it to get themselves amped up," he said. "We're not that kind of team. You have to go out there and prove it. That's what we're about. We're about going out there and beating people up and making sure that they understand why we came to play."

The Giant do believe they are the class of the city, even after two playoff-less seasons.

It's the only mentality a team can have, said Grant. How else can a team expect to survive in the rough-and-tumble NFL?

"I'd be dumb and stupid to say that any team is better than (us)," he said. "Even the teams that beat us. I still think we had a chance to beat those teams."

And the Giants, as bruised and battered as they are, are absolutely certain that they can beat the Jets on Saturday.

They just don't plan to spend the week beating their chests about it.

"I know we're the better team," said Kiwanuka. "We just need to go out there and prove it."