

Lost and Found Radioactive Capsule

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

A TINY RADIOACTIVE CAPSULE went missing in the Australian outback and was found after a two week search 870 miles away from the highway. It was believed that on January 10, the capsule fell out of a truck while being transported to its destination. When officials warned the public about the capsule, they described it as a round and silver capsule size six millimeters in diameter and eight millimeters long. The radioactive element in the capsule was Caesium-137, which is the amount of radiation equivalent to having 10 X-rays in an hour; prolonged exposure from Caesium-137 could cause cancer.

It has been reported that radioactive substances are transported throughout Western Australia routinely without any issues. In this instance, it seems that the protocols failed due to ineffective securing of radioactive substances. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Commissioner Darren Klemm said that when the capsule was found, it was in the best area possible because of the amount of space and type of environment— only a few people could have walked by it.

Emergency Service Minister Stephen Dawson said locating the Caesium-137 capsule was like finding a needle in a haystack. He also expressed that if a person were to find the capsule, they could



be at risk of having severe burns if there was contact with the skin. Chief Executive Simon Trott helped send further apologies to the public in Australia about the radiation panic throughout the country after the capsule was located. By 11:13 A.M. Australian Western Standard Time, the capsule was found just south of the small town of Newman.

Mining giant Rio Tinto Iron Ore apologized for losing the radioactive capsule and promised to continue their investigation of how it was lost in the first place. Authorities that were driving and using their detected equipment, which picks up radiation, were able to find the radioactive device. The radioactive capsule is currently in a 20-meter hot zone and has been placed in a lead container to shield the radiation from it.

According to Western Australia's Chief Health Officer, Andrew Robertson, no one sustained any injuries while the capsule was missing. In addition, Robertson also said that it looked like it was also not moved and that those responsible for losing the Caesium-137 capsule would be prosecuted for violating the radiation and safety laws from 1975. The maximum penalty for failing to handle radioactive substances is \$780 and \$35 per day. The offense would continue if the people responsible did not turn themselves in. The capsule was brought to a secure facility in the city of Perth and since has been kept there.

Tom Brady Retires...Again

BY THOMAS PRESNALL

This is not the same Brady retirement.

A BOUT THIS TIME last year, I wrote an article praising Tom Brady for the legendary career that he put together, collecting all the stats and summarizing the incredible story of a sixth-round pick who became the most accomplished quarterback to ever play the game. However, at the end of that article, I mentioned that the way Brady played before he retired (for the first time) showed that he was still more than capable of performing at a high level for a few more years.

As it happens, I was right. Brady reversed his decision and elected to return as the starting quarterback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, with rumors of his failing marriage following close behind.

What I, and many who also foresaw Brady's return, failed to expect was the diary of disaster that befell on the quarterback and his team. Along with a host of personal problems that plagued him, it didn't help that his team was riddled with injuries. Several key players were lost, some for the season and others for stretches of games, which essentially left the 45-year-old quarterback up the river without a paddle.

To show the drop-off in play in all its unfortunate glory, all one needs to do is look at the past two seasons. Prior

to his first retirement, Brady threw for 45 touchdowns and lost a close game to the eventual Super Bowl champs, the Los Angeles Rams. During this past season, Brady threw a measly 25 touchdowns--18 fewer than the year before--and was humiliated by the Dallas Cowboys in the playoffs by a score of 14-31.

The only reason the Buccaneers made the playoffs this past year was because of the abysmal performance of the other three teams in the NFC South division, not because they were a good team.

To put it simply, they were the best of a bad batch. Now I'm back, writing my second article about Tom Brady retiring, but this time, I will be leaving out my belief that Brady will return to the NFL because I don't believe that he will. Not because he just signed a lucrative deal with FOX to be a broadcaster, but because Brady does not seem like the sort of player who wants to let his career devolve until he's a shell of the player he once was. If he was going to leave, he was going to do so on his terms, not when there were no more teams who were willing to sign him.

What Tom Brady leaves behind is a legacy and a career that appears, at least for now, untouchable. In twenty-two years, he put up over 89,000 yards,

649 touchdowns, and 212 interceptions. He was 7x Super Bowl champion (2002, 2004, 2005, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021), 5x Super Bowl MVP (2002, 2004, 2015, 2017, 2021), 3x NFL MVP (2007, 2010, 2017), 2x NFL Offensive Player of the Year (2007 and 2010), NFL Comeback Player of the Year (2009), 15x Pro Bowler, and 6x All-Pro (3x First Team, 3x Second Team).

To cap it all off, he was named to two All-Decade teams (2000's and 2010's) and the NFL 100th Anniversary All-Time Team.

The NFL is stacked with stars, but for nearly two decades, Brady was the biggest and the brightest. It'll be interesting to see where players like Patrick Mahomes fall in the annals of NFL history, but if he or anyone else wants to leave a legacy like Brady's, they have a long, long way to go.

