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high-step them to Japan. No one wants to be embarrassed by Prime.

**SPORT:** What are some of the other messages in your music?

**SANDERS:** That parents are role models, not athletes.

**SPORT:** You're pulling a Charles Barkley on us, huh?

**SANDERS:** Hey, this is truth. The problems in our society—all the killings and violence—are because parents don't know what they're doing out there. When I was a kid, I used to run home [in order to get there before dark] because I knew I'd get a whippin' if I didn't. Kids today are hanging out at *midnight*. Parents don't bear down on their kids anymore. Today, if you spank a kid, they'll scream abuse or try to sue you. Kids need discipline. *That's* the message.

**SPORT:** So you agree with Barkley?

**SANDERS:** Damn right. People can't expect athletes to be role models. All we are is entertainers. Do people talk about Sylvester Stallone as a role model? No. But Charles Barkley and Deion Sanders have to be? Just because he can slam a basketball and I can run back a punt 100 yards and hit a home run, we're suddenly role models? I've got a problem with that. I have my own kids to worry about. I can't worry about your kid *and* mine. Sure, athletes know kids look up to them, and it's important for athletes to be responsible—no drugs, no drinking. But [role modeling] starts—and ends—in the home.

**SPORT:** What about the Falcons? How much did their collapse last season—losing the final three games to Washington, Cincinnati and Phoenix after a 6-2 run that included wins over Dallas and San Francisco—impact your decision to give up football?

**SANDERS:** A lot. I was disgusted those last three weeks. It was sickening.

**SPORT:** What caused the collapse?

**SANDERS:** [The Falcons] don't have an attitude, and you gotta have an attitude to win in the NFL. You gotta be tough, mean. You gotta have confidence—and the Falcons don't. When it comes to a [critical point in a game], say, third-and-short,

*"[The Falcons] don't have an attitude, and you gotta have an attitude to win in the NFL. You gotta be tough, mean. You gotta have confidence—and the Falcons don't."*

when it's time to win or lose, you have to know you're gonna win. You can't have any doubts.... You gotta say, "Let's do it." The Cowboys have that attitude, that confidence. San Francisco has it. The Falcons don't.

**SPORT:** Will the Falcons and the NFL miss Jerry Glanville?

**SANDERS:** Jerry's a good man, contrary to what a lot of people believe. He just tried to do too much. He tried to call offense, defense,

special teams, everything. Can't do that. That's why you have assistant coaches.

**SPORT:** Is he the type of coach who can only last two, three years in a job before he begins to wear on everyone?

**SANDERS:** I won't say that, but I'll tell you this much: Jerry's gonna have to change some of his ways.

**SPORT:** Like what?

**SANDERS:** Jerry's problem is not being able to adjust to his players. The players shouldn't have to adjust to him. He has to stop putting his players into situations where they fail.... If [a player] can't cover [an opponent] one-on-one, for example, don't put him in that situation. You've got to put your players in the best possible position to succeed—and he doesn't.

**SPORT:** Give us a more specific example.

**SANDERS:** Chuck Smith, defensive end. He's a young kid who's gonna be a great pass rusher. But he was in and out, playing one game, not playing the next. He'd make a big play here, a big play there. He's the type of guy you have to leave in there. You gotta let him be, take the good with the bad. Don't punish him because he made a mistake. Jerry did.

**SPORT:** What about June Jones? Good move making him the Falcons' coach?

**SANDERS:** Great move. Great guy, a players coach. He'll do a fine job. He understands his players, what they're thinking, what they're capable of. And the man knows football.

**SPORT:** What can he do to get the Falcons to play at least .500?

**SANDERS:** He'll be the offensive guy and