



**After leading the Bucs to a Super Bowl championship in his first season, Jon Gruden has established himself as the NFL's elite leader and galvanized the value of star coaches in a challenging climate. The scary thing is, he has only begun.**

**BY PAUL ATTNER**

**T**his one was about defense, of course. Fast and opportunistic, this Tampa Bay defense turned the NFL's best quarterback into a bungler, tormented the league's No. 1 offense with guile and execution, took hold of this Super Bowl and left no doubt about its excellence.

But look for a moment beyond this game, beyond the Buccaneers' 48-21 triumph, beyond their startling domination of the Raiders. Rather, understand the meaning of last Sunday's outcome to the rest of the league.

It says here that this will be the least potent of any Tampa Bay team over the next five years. It says here that the magic of Jon Gruden, which already has transformed these Bucs from wannabes to champions, has yet to reach full strength. It says here that this is just the beginning of what Gruden and this franchise will accomplish during the rest of this decade. It says here that his command of this team and of this game will have a huge impact on the quest for superstar coaches in this league, increasing their value and enticing more owners to go for the big coaching bang. Why not, if it means a Super Bowl?

**A relentless attack by the league's No. 1 defense pushed the Buccaneers and Gruden to their first Super Bowl championship.**