



Let's "Cut" To The Chase... This Guy Is Unbelievable. How Come I've Never Heard of Him?

By: Austin Rader

January 20, 2020 — Nowadays, kids are given ratings and spotted by scouts at a very young age. We are so quick to define the next Tom Brady when we see a 6'4" gunslinger light it up on Friday nights. We say things like "guaranteed Heisman candidate," "first rounder", or MVP."

But not all football players come with these big expectations. Some barely start in college. Some don't get drafted. Some make the practice squad, but never see the field. Others keep trying, but get cut from one team after another. Again and again and again.

And then, after being "cut" so many times, they somehow inspire enough belief in at least one coach to get on the field. Maybe in the biggest game of the year. And then to be fed the ball 29 times in the game.

You can't make this stuff up.

This past championship Sunday, the 49ers were playing Green Bay, and committed to a game plan that focused on running the ball. And they turned to their famous running back - wait a minute, no one has heard of this guy - to win the game.

Derrick Henry? Nope. Kareem Hunt? Not even close. Zeke? Really? His team didn't even make the playoffs!

No it was Raheem Mostert, who had such an amazing game, he may only need to be known by his first name. Peyton, Odell, Julio, Raheem.

The first game of the double-header featured Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs in a similar situation. One win away from the Super Bowl. At home. But this time, he came through, scoring four touchdowns in leading the Chiefs to their first Super Bowl in 50 years. Now I could marvel about Mahomes “magician-like” performance all day. But that’s not the story from the weekend.

Let me “cut” to the true story of championship Sunday.

“What’s On The Radar” is about finding the real story from a fabulous championship weekend of football. It’s about spotlighting a no name, low 3 star recruit who only had a few offers out of high school. He only putting up 881 total yards and six touchdowns in his college career (759 rushing, 122 receiving). This guy hasn’t been a starter since his senior season at Purdue University. He went undrafted in the 2015 NFL draft and bounced around among seven different teams within one year before getting his shot with the San Francisco 49ers.

That guy is Raheem Mostert.

The Florida native started his professional career signing as an undrafted free agent to the Philadelphia Eagles. Even though he excelled in the preseason (2015-16 season), he was cut by the Eagles.

Mostert had short stints with six teams (Philly, Miami, Baltimore, Cleveland, New York Jets, Chicago) and only appeared in thirteen games before getting his shot with San Francisco. From 2016-2018, the Purdue product was mostly on special teams

But he finally had a chance, when Kyle Shanahan saw something in him during the 2019 season. In fact, he lead the 49ers in rushing yards in the last six games of the regular season 49ers fans knew all about Mostert and his story. But on Championship Sunday, he introduced himself to the world and now he might be the hottest name in the NFL.



Stepping in for an injured Tevin Coleman, Raheem Mostert kicked off the night with a 36-yard touchdown run just under 6:00 minutes to go in the 1st quarter. Mostert's celebration was surfing, something he grew up doing back in Florida.

Mid-way through the second quarter, Mostert scored on a 9-yard run stretching the Niner lead to 17-0. After an Aaron Rodgers interception, Mostert scored on an 18-yard scamper to put San Fran up 27-0. The announcers were marveling at

Mostert's performance.

In the biggest game of his life, Mostert had three touchdowns before halftime. The Packers defense had no answer for Mostert's blend of speed and vision and great blocking by the 49er's offensive line. The Kansas City Chiefs have their work cut out for them.

Late in the third, Mostert laid the hammer down, lowering his shoulder through Green Bay's defensive back Tramon Williams on his way to his fourth touchdown of the night. Jimmy Garoppolo only threw the ball eight times. Mostert and company were unstoppable.

He said after the game that he looks at the dates of those six times he was cut by those teams before every game for motivation.



"I got immune to being cut. I wanted to show the world what I can do. And honestly it was just one of those things where I really had a talk with my wife and I was saying, what do you think should happen after that cut? And she basically say, hey, if you love your job, if you love this sport, you will do anything for it. And if you love what you do, you would do anything for it. And that was my philosophy from here on out."

Mostert trusted the process and worked hard. And now he is the poster boy for perseverance in sports. I'm sure the 49ers are happy they kept their faith in Mostert, who was fourth on the

depth chart entering the season. He is no longer fourth on the depth chart of Niners fans!

He is now the lead back for a Super Bowl team playing roughly three hours away from his hometown of New Smyrna Beach.

I'm sure Mostert's family and close friends will be in attendance for what could be his first start since his senior year in college.

Rasheed was told "no" by teams in four different divisions. And here he is saying "no" to every defender in his way. He's now the one making all the right "cuts" on the field, straight to the end-zone.

This feel-good story will be one of the main headlines before the start of Super Bowl LIV. I'm looking forward to "cutting" to his highlights.

Have you heard of Raheem now??