



## TROY AIKMAN (THANKFULLY) RESTORES ORDER

*Another Original & Exclusive Column From The Mind of DINO COSTA*

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*“Back to life...back to reality” -Soul II Soul*

Yeah, not only was Troy Aikman more than correct in pointing out that it is impossible (*and I'll add foolish*) to compare quarterback statistics in this day and age to when Aikman (*and others*) played, but let me take the handoff from Troy and also make the claim that if this was the year 1999, or 1989, or 1979, that a pint-sized Heisman winning quarterback out of Oklahoma would have been – at best – a 5th or 6th round pick in the draft instead of being selected number one overall.

Aikman, the three-time Super Bowl winner with the Cowboys, was responding to a tweet noting that Chiefs quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, already has 36 percent of Aikman's career touchdowns, in 8 percent of the games played.

Aikman responded with his own tweet by writing; writing, *“Talk to me when he has 33% of my Super Bowl titles.”*

Today's more recent NFL watchers (*See: Millennials*) are so wrapped up in their Fantasy teams each weekend and, of course, they play their NFL Madden video games over and over during the week – and then – they convince themselves that the same video game-like numbers that many of today's NFL

quarterbacks are putting up must mean that today's present-day signal-callers are much better than yesteryear's quarterbacks.

I think you know, but if you don't, allow me to reiterate what I've been saying for the last 10-15 years or so – playing quarterback in today's NFL has never been easier. Today's game is set up in a way that makes it conducive for a quarterback to enjoy success like never before – and today – the game's parameters are such that quarterbacks like Patrick Mahomes are able to put up eye-popping numbers with regularity depending on the offense their teams run.

Take Patrick Mahomes and put him in Troy Aikman's era, or take Mahomes and put him in Terry Bradshaw's era, and we're talking about a much different quarterback in Patrick Mahomes – as well as numbers that would be more in line with quarterbacks of those in the Aikman and Bradshaw eras.

Here's what I know: Troy Aikman and Terry Bradshaw could have played in today's NFL environment – however – the jury would be out if we asked ourselves if many of today's NFL QBs could play in previous era's.

It boggles my mind to think about the kinds of numbers that would have been put up by quarterbacks like Dan Fouts and Dan Marino had they been able to play in today's watered-down National Football League.

Can't hit the quarterback?

In most cases, unless a defensive player hits a quarterback in certain areas of their bodies – a penalty is called.

Not only can't you hit the quarterback – but today – if a defensive player's hand merely grazes the helmet of a quarterback a penalty is called – that's how ridiculous it's become.

Think that Brett Favre or Joe Montana would have loved to have played during their time in the league knowing that the rules protected them to the extent that the rules protect today's QBs?

Wide receivers are given clearance in today's game to roam free without much resistance.

Playing wide receiver is yet another position that has been made much easier to play in today's game.

Combined with the emasculation of defensive football, playing defensive back in today's game has never been made more difficult which is why your premium DB's are so valuable as well as highly paid.

Defensive holding calls are at an all-time high – and why? Because in many cases defensive players are placed at such a huge disadvantage by the rules employed today that every now and then they have to hold up an offensive player going downfield on passing plays simply to have a chance and take the risk that they can sometimes get away with it.

Comparing today's quarterbacks and their statistics versus quarterbacks from previous era's makes about as much sense as comparing the speeds of cars that were running at the last Indianapolis 500 – with the speeds of the cars that were in the race back in 1963.

This column is gonna be pretty short and sweet because not a lot of explanation or consideration really needs to be employed.

Troy Aikman was more than correct in his response to whoever this uneducated dope was who was attempting to compare Aikman to Mahomes based purely on what is printed on a statistic sheet.

Troy Aikman played in an entirely different National Football League – one where playing his position presented him and other quarterbacks with a completely different set of ground rules and protocols that today's QBs aren't asked to navigate.

If Mahomes had played 20-30-40-years ago his numbers would be more in line with other quarterbacks of those era's and a pint-sized quarterback coming out of Oklahoma would have been a much later draft pick...or he would have chosen the sport of baseball as his profession.