

An interview with:

REGGIE WAYNE
Wide Receiver
Indianapolis Colts

Q. When you have a game like the first two you have when you do corrections and all that as an offense, what is there to correct?

REGGIE WAYNE: There's a lot of things you can correct. There were a lot of third downs that we didn't get and a lot of technique moves that we didn't do. It's the little things as far as details that we didn't do correctly.

You may think that you played a perfect game, but the film never lies. Whenever we watch film, there's always something we can find out that we can do better.

Q. Can you tell us what it's like in the 30 seconds before the ball is snapped when Peyton is going through all his machinations and movements? What's it like for the players on offense?

REGGIE WAYNE: Have you ever prepared for the SAT test (laughter)? That's what it's like. You've got to know your Ps and Qs because he can give you something, and if you're not focused and paying attention, then you can miss it and mess up the whole play.

You have to be alert. You have to be down, ready for all the details. You just got to be ready to make something happen.

Q. Is it like a baseball third base coach? Do you change your signs up every game to keep the defense off guard?

REGGIE WAYNE: Off and on we do. Not all the time. Sometimes we keep the same. Sometimes we won't use it for that game. Once again, we're just preparing for everybody in a different way. We may change things on the sideline.

Q. How much of that stuff is real and how much of it is to just look good for the defense?

REGGIE WAYNE: It's about 50/50. There have been times where he's given me something, and I'm thinking it was real, and it actually was a decoy. He can do it whenever he wants to. Whenever he gives you something, you got to be alert and be ready to do it.

Q. How much more comfortable do you feel in the offense now than you, say, did a year or two ago?

REGGIE WAYNE: Well, it's a big jump. My first year I was struggling with injuries. Last year I was the third receiver. Now this year I'm here, I'm starting – I've started every game. I'm more in sync with the offense. Now I know what's expected of me. I know the combination of routes, how it's perfected against different coverages.

It takes time. Once you get those things under your belt, it comes easy.

Q. Peyton, in a post-game press conference on Sunday, talked about you've become more of a patient receiver.

REGGIE WAYNE: It just comes with time. There's not one receiver in the league that doesn't want the ball. I know what's expected of me. In due time the ball's going to come my way. I just have to be prepared, ready to make something happen.

Q. What has a healthy Brandon Stokley meant to the offense?

REGGIE WAYNE: More speed. More knowledge of the game. He's a veteran. He's also a guy who has a championship ring. He knows all the ropes. He's been there, he's done that. He brings a lot to the table.

The last two playoff games, I believe he has three touchdowns. He's kind of a like a sleeper. A lot of guys didn't prepare for **Stokley** to come out this way. We knew he had it in him. Now he's just showing everybody what he's all about.

Q. What do you think about the defensive backfield of the Patriots?

REGGIE WAYNE: They're good. They're very poised. They don't gamble much. It seems

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like when you watch them on film, watch them on TV, they do what they're supposed to do and follow out their plans. They force the offenses to beat them.

That's kind of something that the whole team takes part in. They kind of force you to beat them. If you get impatient with them, they can hurt you.

Q. Do you think they're going to bang you around a lot on Sunday, be real physical with you guys, or try to at least?

REGGIE WAYNE: Every team I've played with, tries to out-physical you. We go in, try to beat them up. That's part of football. That's why we wear pads.

That's nothing new. It's been like that since I stepped in the door.

Q. Could you describe your relationship with Tony Dungy and also why your team seems to respond so well to his style?

REGGIE WAYNE: My relationship with **Coach Dungy** is great. I think I can speak for everyone on this team, everyone on this staff, everyone in this building. It's great.

He's so laid back. A lot of the guys, they love him. He's almost like a father figure for some of us. He goes at everything at such a low-key pace, it's at a point to where you don't want to let him down. He wants to win. Everybody here wants to win. You just want to continue to win for him, try to put his name up there.

Q. Do you think there's a window of opportunity that when you get to this point, you're only going to have so many years to win it, and you better do it when you get to this point?

REGGIE WAYNE: Oh, yeah (laughter). It's so hard to get to this point. If you look at it, one year you can be good, the next year you can struggle. Look at the championship teams from last year, the **Raiders** and **Tampa Bay**. Those two teams were in the limelight last year; now this year neither of them made it to the playoffs. You never know.

Another example is our offensive coordinator, **Coach Moore**, the last time he was in a **Super Bowl** was the early '80s. So you never know when you're going to get this opportunity.

Q. Five No. 1 draft picks on your offense, a couple more on defense, does the team realize how rare it is for so many top picks to have played up to their potential and contributed to a championship team?

REGGIE WAYNE: Oh, yeah. It's key that once again we seize that moment now because with the way the **NFL** is now, you never know how long a guy is going to be on your team. We want to take what we have now and use it to our advantage, and just take it into each game, try to use it as momentum, just try to find a way to win.

Q. You watched that New England game last week, saw the cold and the wind, all that kind of stuff. Is there any trepidation about going up there and playing in that? Your schedule doesn't really look like you guys had a real cold weather game before. Does it cause a little concern to you?

REGGIE WAYNE: It's going to be something that we're going have to have adjust to. Seemed like all this year, **Buffalo** game is supposed to be cold. We went out there and it was 70 degrees. Went to **Tennessee**. It was supposed to be a cold game. We lucked up on that one. Lucked up last week with the **Chiefs**. All year it seems like we have been having breaks with the weather.

In some kind of way, we've got to be able to adjust on the run with this week. We've got to do a little bit of practicing outside, kind of get accustomed to that because it's pretty cold here. It's just something you really can't explain. Just got to adjust on the run.

Q. They say that dome teams just can't win outdoors in that kind of weather.

REGGIE WAYNE: Same dome team won last week. That's more of a mind thing than anything. Just because they don't play in a dome doesn't mean they're not cold. They're cold, too. So, I mean, it's just something that both teams are going to have on their back. Whatever team can adjust to in the fastest.

Q. Are you ever worried about how low-key Tony is sometimes?

REGGIE WAYNE: I love it. I don't hear the players complaining about it. Some players may want a coach that's all in their face all the time, but I don't think that those are the type of guys we have.

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We kind of have that low-key attitude. Kind of has us going into the game smooth, comfortable, relaxed. Just go out there and play.

Q. Especially in the wind, does it change the way you play at all, actually physically played the game on the field?

REGGIE WAYNE: One thing the wind could do is control the kicking game. Like last week, it's a little windy out, but we weren't able to play any. I'm not saying that's going to be the same thing this game. But field goals, kicking off, all that is a factor in the kicking game.

Q. As far as your game, does it affect you at all?

REGGIE WAYNE: No, no more than **Peyton** throwing the ball. We've just got to adjust on the run. We're going to practice out there in the wind today on our field. It's something that, you know, hopefully we can just work through.

Q. Can you take anything from that November 30th contest when you came from behind, down 31-10, were able to really exploit the Pats defense for the first time at full strength?

REGGIE WAYNE: One thing about that game, we didn't protect the ball. We had too many turnovers, we had too many mistakes. We had a lot of chances to win that game. Had a chance at the end to win it. But, you know, it just didn't work in our favor.

That's just something we've got to take advantage of this week. We just can't go in and turn the ball over. We've got to protect that. Just got to play our football. It's going to be a good game.

Q. Are there any preparations being made to prevent a drop-off from the two impressive offensive performances you've had?

REGGIE WAYNE: I think we can just do what we do, and that's go out there and play our game. We can't worry about the crowd. We can't worry about the weather. We just got to do the things we prepared to do all week and just take it into the game.

Q. How much has the complexity of the offense helped this year? You're stepping up, Stokley is stepping up. So many different weapons this year with Peyton.

REGGIE WAYNE: For one, we've got guys that are healthy. Everybody's comfortable with the offense. Everybody has a feel of what's going on, what's supposed to happen. It's nothing different than what we prepare from training camp, summer school sessions, all that. Now it's just everybody is healthy. We've just got to keep riding that wave.

Q. Do you notice a change in Peyton's approach to the game this year? He seems more vocal in the huddle and sidelines when you see him on television.

REGGIE WAYNE: It may be different to you guys, but it's the same **Peyton** that I know. He's always been vocal. He's always talking in the huddle. He's always putting in his two cents to everything.

Everybody's just comfortable. We just seem to be clicking at the right time. I don't know, it's just something special. Just got to keep going with it.

Q. I read that he apologized to you guys and said he'd never raise his voice to you again. Are you buying that?

REGGIE WAYNE: No, not at all (laughter).

Q. What do you say to all the naysayers that say Peyton isn't a big-time quarterback in the playoffs?

REGGIE WAYNE: They've been talking about that all playoffs. **Peyton Manning** and the **Colts** have had a monkey on their backs. Hopefully he can shut up some of those critics with his performance so far.

It's always going to be something. Talking he can't win a playoff game. He won a playoff game. Never won a playoff game away. Well, you know he never won away if he never won one in the beginning. There's always going to be something that come up. Everything they say, we just use that as fuel. I'm thinking he's going to do the same thing.

Q. When you are so close to the Super Bowl, you can lose focus on the game?

REGGIE WAYNE: Oh, yeah. And that's part of the distraction that's coming up. That's been our thing all year, just taking it one game at a time. Don't look forward to anybody else. Don't look forward ahead to the **Super Bowl**.

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You just got to stay focused. If we do what we have to do, the **Super Bowl** will take care of itself.

Q. In the last week against *Kansas City* with neither defense making any stops, how much pressure did you feel as an offense to keep scoring, not let any chance slip away?

REGGIE WAYNE: I was crazy. It seemed like as soon as you take your helmet off, put on your baseball cap, you're putting your helmet back on. So it was a lot of pressure.

Peyton told us before the game started, 'It's going to be a shootout. We've got to make everything count. Everything we do has got to count.' That was our focus for that game.

Kansas City had a great offense. It was pretty much No. 1 against No. 2. We knew what we were up against. We just had to carry that same intensity into this game.

Q. If you anticipated a shootout last week, what do you anticipate this weekend?

REGGIE WAYNE: Dogfight. I mean, it's the game before the **Super Bowl**, you know. Everybody's going to, you know, bite, scratch, crawl, do whatever they have to do to make it to the big dance.

Q. Coach *Belichick* is described by so many people as a defensive genius. What do you see from him that other coaches aren't able to do?

REGGIE WAYNE: I don't know. I think it's more of a mind thing than anything. Not taking anything from **Coach Belichick**. He's a great coach, I'm sure.

If we just go into the game, do what we do, not worry about anything from outside, not worry about anything from the other side of the field, just do what we do, we should be fine.

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