

An Interview With:

BOBBY TAYLOR

Q. The Eagles defense, when you get down in the red zone maybe even inside the 25, it looks like a completely different defense. Why does this team's personality change when you get down near the goal line?

BOBBY TAYLOR: We have been a defense first -- those aren't our goals as far as giving up as much yardage as we have been giving up, especially from the rushing standpoint, when we set goals for ourselves as far as points that we want to be allowed for the opposing team's offense. We know how important when teams get down in the red zone, not letting them score touchdowns and that's something that Jim **Johnson** preaches day-in and day-out, and I think truthfully, a lot of teams around the League don't practice red-zone defense enough and we put a lot of emphasis on that. I think it shows out there on the field.

Q. When you played the Panthers in the regular season to now, their offense seems to be clicking on all cylinders. Any differences; do you notice any difference between them?

BOBBY TAYLOR: Yes, those guys are making a lot of plays. They can do it running the ball, passing the ball with Muhammad and Steve Smith. Our work is going to be cut out for us. It's a big challenge for myself, for Troy and Mike, everybody that is on the defense. I mean we can't just solely focus on the pass or solely focus on the run. We know that those guys have a total team offense and they can hit you both ways.

Q. You got hurt in the first game. How were you able to stay positive from that time being 0-and-2?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I think the way I stayed positive is there were a lot of other guys that were in the same situation than I was as far as being hurt. And I would be one of the guys that would you know, kind of try and encourage them to stay positive, keep your head up, stay on top of your treatment because we need everybody in the locker room. You wouldn't be here if we didn't need you. I mean, a lot of guys they told me the same things, and I knew with the younger guys that we had, despite people on the outside not having a lot of confidence in their skills but I knew the type of talent that Lito **Sheppard** and **Sheldon**

Brown had and to keep everything glued together back there on the back half.

BOBBY TAYLOR: Tried to stay positive as possible. I knew I couldn't play but from my experience playing on the field and stuff like that, experiences I have been through in different games, I just tried to give it my all to those guys when they stepped out there on the field.

Q. What does it mean for you Bobby with Troy coming back and starting?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I mean, that's my dog. We played together for eight years. We have been able to have a lot of success together and just the type of talent that he has, the type of savviness, the leadership, and a lot of guys look up to him. I look up to him, we have a special bond with each other, and I mean, he's a Pro Bowl player, five time Pro Bowl player so having somebody on the team like that it definitely helps you out. This is a Playoff situation; it's do-or-die. You want all your bullets when you step out into that war.

Q. How different a player would you be now if you never played with Troy?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I am not sure. I think he's definitely, you know, made a big impression on my life. Not just football-wise, but off the field also because we share a special bond off the field also. It's not just about football. From the football standpoint of it, the guy works hard. Great work ethic, and he's always been successful, wherever he has been; when he was in Wisconsin, Miami, and when he came here. To have someone like that that's a technician because I feel like I am a technician myself as far as being able to you know, break down what opposing teams do and things like that, it definitely helps you out on the field. I think it's definitely -- I mean he's definitely helped me out a great deal.

Q. Is it hard not to have mixed feeling knowing you guys could be playing last game --

BOBBY TAYLOR: Not really. Because whatever happens after the season happens, that's something that's not really a concern of mine. I feel like that it will be even more special if we take care of our business as far as doing what we feel like we can do against this team and getting a victory and going onto the Super Bowl and being able to fight for national -- I mean, world championship. So as far as us possibly not playing anymore after this season, that's not a concern of mine. We have put a lot of time in together for

...when all is said, we're done®

FastScripts® by ASAP Sports
t. 800.992.1889 f. 212.385.0349

visit our archives at www.asapsports.com

B. Taylor - 1.16.04

these eight years that we have been fortunate enough to play with each other, and along with Brian also, so I mean I am not really focusing on that whole deal at all.

Q. You just mentioned Super Bowl. Is it a plus in any kind of curious way that you did lose those other two games that there's no thought of looking ahead that you are more focused?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I would love to win -- to have won those games in the past, but you know, that's the past. But I think now even more so than any of the other years, we realize that I mean, this team, -- all the guys in the locker room right now are not going to be here next year. That's a fact. Just with free agency and all of that, so we have to take full advantage of this opportunity that we have right now. We are playing at home and we feel like we're not getting a lot of respect from the opposing team, things like that, so we'll see about all of that on Sunday. I can't wait.

Q. What makes you think you are not getting enough respect from the other team?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I think it started first off from the head coach when he said Green Bay is going to beat us and they are going to be hosting the NFC Championship. He was wrong about that. So there are some other things that have been said. I don't necessarily want to bring it up right now, but we know about all of that, and first we don't need that as far as fuel to our fire because I, me personally, I already had a certain anger as far as the way I wanted to try to approach whoever we play, regardless, to be ready for each and every game. But coming from the head coach and then particular players saying different things, I mean, that can't get you ready to play, you don't need to be there on Sunday.

Q. (Inaudible)?

BOBBY TAYLOR: If you say it, say it. If that's what he believes, that's what he's -- you know, saying to his players, then so be it. But you know, we'll see about all that on Sunday. He can't get out there and play, I know that.

Q. Playing cornerback in the city of Philadelphia, visible defensive position, a lot of scrutiny from the fans, how have you dealt with that over the eight years?

BOBBY TAYLOR: Regardless of where you play cornerback it's a position where defensive linemen sometimes, no pun intended to **Corey**, sometimes you may miss a tackle and no one sees it and as a linebacker sometimes, you may miss a tackle. No one sees it but a lot of times at corner back it's just you and the receiver. It's very visible, and everybody wants to kill the guy who let the

opposing receiver get in for a touchdown. So I think it's definitely toughened me. I am hard on myself and I set certain goals for myself and I feel like if I even get halfway close to some of the things that I set for myself, the people on the outside will definitely be satisfied.

Q. What is the biggest thing you could have learned from playing in this game the last two years?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I know I don't want to be on the losing end. That's the most important thing (laughs). As far as preparation, the way we approached it, I mean we have always been a team. Since Andy has been here we have always worked hard, practiced hard. Maybe we should have been a little bit looser in some of those past instances, but right now I feel like I have a pretty good, I guess, regiment as far as how I want to approach the game on Sunday and I think my teammates do also. Hopefully it will work out for us on Sunday.

Q. Did you guys have less distractions this week than maybe -- particularly last year?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I think so. Because for one, regardless of -- I mean, both teams last year had to prepare as if you were going to the Super Bowl, as far as getting rooms taken care of and ticket requests; all of that kind of stuff. This year it's two weeks in between the Championship game and the Super Bowl. You don't have to really worry about all of those things. I think that, you know, for one, I think it takes a lot off of you. You don't have to crawl before you walk so to speak. We don't have to worry about all of those things. It's just been football, football, football. Guys have been showing up early, staying late and just trying to do all the extra things to get their bodies and their minds right for a battle on Sunday.

Q. Does it seem different from last year, all the noise and all the glitz, Sapp, Keyshawn; does it seem quieter this year?

BOBBY TAYLOR: I am not sure. Because I don't really think you know, those guys last year were kind of making predictions and saying what they were going to do and saying what we weren't going to do. A lot of that's coming from the camp in Carolina. It may be even more noise this year than it was last year.

FastScripts by ASAP....

...when all is said, we're done®

FastScripts® by ASAP Sports
t. 800.992.1889 f. 212.385.0349

visit our archives at www.asapsports.com

B. Taylor - 1.16.04