

January 20, 2006



An Interview With:

JAKE PLUMMER Denver Broncos

Q. After all you've been through this season and all that you went through the last two years, do you consider this game as your ultimate test to prove that all this talk about you handling the pressure is all behind you?

JAKE PLUMMER: Regardless of what I've done in the past, this is a big game, carrying a lot of pressure. We all know what's at stake, here. I've never been one to look much at the past. I learned from it and moved on, and this is another situation where I'm looking more at what's in front of me, and this opportunity. We all see that. We all see the great opportunity we have, and the things that have happened for us, getting us to play an AFC Championship game at home in INVESCO. I'm not looking back at the past two months, and I am not worrying about anything that is done. I'm looking forward to going out and playing the best I can, preparing as hard as I can this week to go out and have fun and hopefully win the game.

Q. From an athletes' perspective you're always going to have confidence in yourself no matter what anybody says. But it seems game by game this season that you were getting more credit, more national recognition, especially for your mental play and decision making skills. Did that boost your game at all, did that translate directly to your success on the field this year?

JAKE PLUMMER: If I was getting confidence from what they were writing about me positively, I'd be in the tank sometimes when they write about me the other way.

I don't go week-to-week by what people are saying in the media. I go by how I play and how my teammates are doing. The confidence

that I have in my guys around me, especially on offense, that is what matters, especially this off season when Coach Shanahan and Mr. Bowlen made the commitment to me. They made a statement that I was their guy. It was a big boost of confidence, and I know I've got the guys behind me. The guys that came up, John and Rod and Tic (Keith Burns), they've got my back, and I've got theirs. My confidence has been high this year. I've never been down on myself from day one in the NFL. When you play big games in a city like Denver, the city take gets this much notoriety and press. I'm playing ball and having fun and enjoying it.

Q. Your offense is predicated pretty much on the success of the run. With The 3-4 the Steelers play, how tough is it to run, and what kind of challenge will that be on Sunday?

JAKE PLUMMER: They're a great defense. They've been playing the 3-4 for a long time. We've been lucky this year to face some 3-4 defenses that are pretty good. This is probably the biggest challenge that we'll face all year.

They've got very strong guys in the middle, of their line, and their linebackers are very fast. They can cover the backs and tight ends and their secondary is physical and will get after you.

It's a challenge for us. What we did last week against New England, we didn't run the ball well. If you looked at the game, you wouldn't be very impressed, but we stuck to the running game. In the playoffs you have to do that. You have to stay third-and-five, and third-and-four. You don't want to be in those long-yard situations. We were able to do that last week. It's not going to be easy, but what we do is run the ball, and we're going to do everything we can to have some success there, and make plays otherwise.

Q. When you looked at the film of what Pittsburgh did against Peyton Manning, what specifically did it do to attack him and how were your guys able to -- equipped to handle the blitz this week?

JAKE PLUMMER: They did a great job of getting some miss matches and disguising some blitzes to get some guys free on Peyton. That's

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what this defense will do. They'll keep coming until they get a guy free. They're not going to give me a lot of time to stand back and go through progressions and hold the ball. For me preparing this week, we run a somewhat different offense than the **Colts**. They do a lot of stuff at the line, changing plays, and Peyton is great at doing that. With us, we get up and go, and hopefully have the right scheme to protect me and pick up those blitzes. If not, hopefully I can make the guy miss. That's what you have to do against the defense. You don't want them to catch you in a bad protection, and cause a big play or turnover.

Q. Can you talk about the asset of you having quick feet? My other question is how often are you going to notice Polamalu on the other side of the ball.

JAKE PLUMMER: Having quick feet is obviously something I've had all through my career. Hopefully it can come into play this weekend. If the opportunity arises I want to get out and make a play with my feet. I've been able to do that some this year in certain situations, but none as big as now. When I get out of the pocket now, hopefully it will be for some positive yards, get out there and hopefully get some good yardage.

About Polamalu, he's a great player. He's a guy that's fun to watch. If I played defense and played safety, that's the way I'd like to play. Run around and diving all over the place. He's a fun player to watch. Hopefully we won't give him many opportunities to make many plays. We've got to be focused on where he is. A lot of times he'll come down, you'll think he's coming, and he'll run back and play half the field. He'll try to confuse you. He's going to be a fun player to play against. Hopefully we can get a body on him and do some things.

Q. Talk about Gary Kubiak, and how has his role -- what kind of role has he played in your development is the first part. No. 2, how do you think he would fair as the head coach with the Texans?

JAKE PLUMMER: Gary has been great for me, He played the game. As an offensive coordinator, I want a guy that can relate to me, especially me as a quarterback. He's been in the situations he's putting me through, and he knows how tough it is. He's really smart. He and Mike work so well together on game planning. It's been fun working with him. He keeps it loose. He lets us have fun out there, as long as we're getting our work done. With him as the head coach, I don't like thinking about it. One of the main reasons I

came here to Denver was to be coached by him. With him as a head coach, I think he'll do a great job. I definitely believe he'll be a great head coach. His time has come. I think he's had opportunities in the past, but this is one that feels right. We'll miss him.

Q. You're obviously more comfortable in the locker room than you were two years ago when you arrived here. How important is that to the chemistry and the success of your team?

JAKE PLUMMER: Growing up and obviously watching the game as a kid and not being in the League, I always wanted to do it and it was my dream of doing it.

When I got here, I realized it's still just football. Sometimes it can be way too serious. For me as the quarterback, as much as I don't like to think about it, people look at me to see my demeanor during the week or how I respond to things or how I react. I don't react the best way every single time to certain situations, but I think people see that I'm genuine and true and they appreciate that.

As far as joking around goes, I've got to stay loose. If I'm tight and nervous and not being myself, the guys will feel that. The guys will see that. I'm not a jokester who is going around playing practical jokes. I'm just myself. I try to keep the guys loose. There are a lot of guys in this team that do that, Kyle and Tic and Ron, we all like to have a lot of fun. For me that's what it's about. The moments you remember are those times when you're having fun in the locker room and enjoying a period like we're going through right now, especially this week. We've got to keep the guys loose and let them know it's still football. It's still about what we do on Sunday. How we prepare for that, the work we put in, it's all going to come down to the players on Sunday making the plays. The guys that do that on Sunday are part of the team that's going to win.

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