

January 20, 2006



An Interview With:

KEITH BURNS Denver Broncos

Q. You can't take the smile off your face. We've talked about what you guys are going through. You being a seasoned veteran, being around this ball club for quite some time. What are you telling the younger players right now about the moment?

KEITH BURNS: You have to seize the moment. I tell some of them that they're about to enter something that they sometimes dream about, but in order to dream you have to think big. And coming into the season, we knew it was going to be a lot of different people. So chemistry was going to be real big. And I think that's another reason why I was brought back, because I'm a big locker room guy. And my thing is I wouldn't look at it as being a locker room thing. I think it's about guys coming from all walks of life learning to do everything the right way for a common goal. And that's to win the whole thing. We did that in '97 and '98. I think I was coming back to make sure the chemistry was there, make sure all the guys got along, and going through the rigors of a long season you're going to have the ups and downs. My thing is to keep everything even keel.

Q. Obviously Rod Smith doesn't like to talk about himself. What kind of teammate is he and what makes him so special?

KEITH BURNS: I would think it starts with his work ethic. The fact that he never puts himself before anybody. He's a teacher, not only on the field but off the field. He talks a lot about football, but he teaches a lot of young guys about life. That's hard to find in a true friend. I was fortunate enough to be able to come in with Rod. I've seen his growth.

I remember in '95 that game when he made a catch over Darrell Green in Mile High. And from that day on I think he kind of took it upon himself to say I'm going to do whatever it takes to

be the best at my position. And does he get the credit for it? I wouldn't say he does. But at the same time that has never stopped him from being hungry and the person that he is.

Q. How big was the timing of that game last week, in terms of getting a couple of take aways and proceeding forward, given how big the moment was?

KEITH BURNS: Turnovers are always great. I think that's always the difference between winning and losing a lot of football games. Especially when you get into the tournament. And the biggest thing is it was the timing of the turnovers because anytime you can give our offense more touches on the ball than our opponents it's always great.

The timing when we kicked off, we had scored to go up seven to three. And to come down and get a turnover by Todd was pretty huge, because of the fact that it was getting close to halftime. Anytime you can go out there and get turnovers or create turnovers, I think that's something we have taken pride in this year, and something we've taken pride in the organization. Sometimes you get them, sometimes you don't. But for this year for whatever reason we've been on the plus side of it.

Q. Back in '97, '98, there was all the talk, especially '97, about winning one for John Elway. The Steelers have the same situation with Jerome Bettis. How much value is there in that? How much does it matter? Does it create anymore emotion or is that stuff all over rated?

KEITH BURNS: No, I wouldn't think so. Anytime you've played a long period of time with a certain guy and you know, he's been, unable to capture that one goal, and that is to win the Super Bowl. I think it's always beneficial. Especially if you've been in there through the blood, sweat and tears of the moment with the same guy. And I think that's what it was from John. When I got here in '94 it was always, will he ever win one. And I think as the years got on, he got a lot happier and he loved to play the game. I'm not saying he didn't then. But to have the opportunities to go out and win one was very beneficial.

...when all is said, we're done®

FastScripts® by ASAP Sports
t. 212.385.0297 f. 917.591.3417

visit our archives at www.asapsports.com

Keith Burns 1.20.06.doc

So I think it's more on the Pittsburgh side than it would be on the Denver side. Because the last thing we would want for Bettis is to win a Super Bowl at our expense. So I think it's more motivation for them. And like I say, League-wise a lot of people would like to see that. I would love to see it, just not at our expense.

Q. You've got a pretty clean shaven beard and bald head, have you given Jake any advice?

KEITH BURNS: I tell him to go with whatever works. Some people can wear the beard, some the bald head, some just not both.

Q. What is it about Invesco Field that makes it so hard to play? Is it the altitude or the fans? What's the difference between this one and Mile High?

KEITH BURNS: It starts with the fans. It's different than Mile High. It's modern, up-to-date. I think when INVESCO first opened a lot of people paid more attention to the seats they were sitting in than cheering for the game. I think they've settled in. To have the last week's playoff game there for the first time it was exciting. Since the cushions are a little worn now, since the stadium is open, they actually watched the game and cheered real loud. I don't think it's going to be different this weekend, because it's the first championship game at INVESCO. We're looking forward to coming out and giving the people what they want to see.

End of FastScripts by ASAPSports.....

...when all is said, we're done®

FastScripts® by ASAP Sports
t. 212.385.0297 f. 917.591.3417
visit our archives at www.asapsports.com

Keith Burns 1.20.06.doc

2