

**January 19, 2007**



**An Interview With:**

## **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: Well, again, on behalf of the organization, the football team, it's an honor for the New England Patriots to participate in this championship game against the Colts. We have all the respect in the world for the Indianapolis Colts and what they've done. Their organization -- Bill Polian, Tony Dungy and Jim Irsay, coaching staff, players, have had an awesome year. We caught them in the middle of a long winning streak in the season. They had an excellent game against us and certainly deserved to win that game. So we have a lot of respect for them in all three phases of the game. Offense, defense, special teams, they do everything well and are playing their best football here in the last two games.

They can score, they can defend. They can return, they can cover. And they're just an outstanding football team, and we know we're going to have to play our best game of the year to be competitive here at the dome on Sunday.

So the players are excited to play. As usual, difficult week to prepare. Tough team to get ready for. They're very good at everything. So it was a tough week of preparation, but nevertheless I think we got to the point we need to be at, and we'll get on the plane tomorrow and go up there and be ready to go Sunday afternoon.

**Q. Bill, you guys have a few players with the flu or a little sick right now. How much has that affected preparations and how concerned are you with that?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: Well, at this time of year those things can pop up. We had a couple of them this week. We'll see where things are on Saturday, we know it can turn around

quickly one way or another, 24 hours or so. We'll see how it plays itself out.

**Q. Bill, how can having a reliable kicker affect your two-minute offense and maybe the way you call plays and everything else, in those situations?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: Well, I think you have to have confidence in all of your players. Whoever is on the field, you have to have confidence in them doing their job.

So it doesn't matter what position it is. The situation comes up, the player needs to come in and perform in that situation. That's what you've got them for. And I'm sure both teams feel that way about their kickers.

**Q. With having Adam [Vinatieri], or now Stephen [Gostkowski], the way he's played over the last few weeks, do you sometimes feel like you may be offensively -- do you think maybe the players feel like maybe we don't have to get inside the 20 to have a legitimate shot for him to make that kick?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: I'd like to think the players go out in the field offensively and look to get the ball in the end zone. That's what our goal is. Unless it could be a strategic situation at the end of the game, we're playing with the clock. But we go out there to try to get the ball in the end zone. That's what we do when we walk out on the field. That's what the offensive team is there for. Not to go out there and get stopped and punt. So we always try to do that. And then you play the field position game. Sometimes you punt it, sometimes go for it on fourth down if you're in field goal range. Sometimes you kick it. But those are game situations based on the field position.

**Q. At this time of year when everything intensifies, do you talk to the younger players how to deal with it or do you let the veteran players to show them the way?**

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COACH BILL BELICHICK: We talk every week about what we need to do for that particular game in terms of our preparation and it varies week-to-week with the opponent and sometimes with the situation we're in. So I think that's something that extends across the board and certainly on an individual basis, the veteran players, the coaches, myself will talk to players periodically, on a daily basis and in some cases on a particular situation if we feel like it's relevant and helpful to the team.

But I think there's always -- there's challenges for us every week across the board. Veterans, rookies, head coaches, everybody.

So we try to address those challenges on a week-to-week basis.

**Q. Getting back to Stephen for a second. When you were evaluating him in college and his competitiveness, how much weight did you give to his baseball career and the fact that he had been a pitcher?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: I don't think we're going to ask him to throw any pitches, but I think the fact he's been a competitive athlete, I don't think that hurts.

**Q. With a pitcher being the center of attention, did you feel that gave him a leg up on the microscope that he would be under here?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: Again, in the overall scheme of things, we're playing football, not baseball. So the most important thing is his ability to kick the ball.

**Q. How pleased are you with the two-minute offense? You scored touchdowns in the last minute of halves each of the last two playoff games?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: Obviously they're critical situations in the game. To be able to produce points when they know you have to throw, when they know it's kind of a one-dimensional situation you really don't have time to run your full offense. That stresses your offensive unit and of course it's pleasing to get those points there. They're critical points in the first half in the first game and obviously critical in the second game. And in half time the second game as well.

So that's an important aspect being able to play good situational football no matter what side

of it you're on is very important in games of this magnitude.

**Q. Bill, could you talk about Richard Seymour and how his importance goes beyond just sack totals?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: I don't really put a whole lot of stock in those numbers anyway. But Richard's been a good football player for us since he's gotten here in '01. He's one of our team captains. He's one of the most respected players in the locker room and certainly on the defensive side of the ball.

And you know he's a smart kid. He works hard, and he's had a lot of success, but I think he handles it with a good level of humility and respect. And I think he's well respected on and off the field, in our locker room and in our entire organization.

**Q. Coach, if you were preparing a defense to oppose Tom Brady, what would you most be concerned about?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: You think I want to answer that question?

(Laughter)

I'm glad I don't have to play against Tom Brady.

**Q. Bill, it seems like a dozen times you guys have faced that Monte Kiffin cover-two scheme. I guess there's two questions here. One, does it help to have played those games in the past against this type of defense so many times, and two, how much do they vary from team to team?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: I think that's a great question. I think that it definitely helps to have played similar styles of defense and there are certain plays that I think have application throughout those systems. On the other hand, each system is different, even if it was exactly the same, the players would make each one unique and make each set of -- each defensive team different because of the specific skills that the players on that team have. So I think there's certainly a variance from team to team, even if every call was exactly the same.

So I think it's a combination of things. There's good experience, but on the other hand, you know, you've got to attack each team and each individual differently because they have different skills. But inevitably each team and each defensive coordinator has its own personality. I

think in a lot of cases they're more like cousins than brothers.

There are variations of them again because of personality, because of particular preference that one coordinator would have from another one, even though they're basically the same overall system.

**Q. Bill, have you noticed at all having Rodney [Harrison], even if it's just been stretching, he's been out at practice, what has that meant to other players, have you noticed anything from the players and what has Rodney been able to do out at practice?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: Well, it's great to have every player around. And Rodney is getting better. Certainly his presence is a positive influence on our entire organization, certainly our football team.

You know, he's getting closer. He's making progress, and we'll just have to see where that ends up. But I think that right now everybody is very focused on doing their job, and with all due respect to all of our players, I think each player, each coach, each individual needs to focus on the job that they're going to do and not worry too much about what everybody else is doing, because there really isn't too much we can do about somebody else. We have to do what we have to do and try to do it well.

**Q. Coach, you say you don't put a lot of stock in records and stats. But if you look at all the records that [Peyton] Manning has and now that you faced him three times in the playoffs, is there any way you can explain why he's fallen short and struggled in these playoff situations, especially facing you guys?**

COACH BILL BELICHICK: Well, I think Peyton Manning is certainly one of the best players we play against on a year in year out basis. Play him every year, Most Valuable Player in this league a couple times. He's beaten us the last two times we've played him and I think he can do everything that a quarterback needs to do. Make all the throws, control the team at the line of scrimmage and they won as many games as anybody has in the -- since Tony [Dungy] has been there throughout the course of the league. I have tremendous respect for him. Their entire football team. And it's not just Peyton Manning, it's their entire offense, it's productive as well as entire football team that's winning games. I have a great

deal of respect for him. I think he's one of the toughest players we have to compete against on an annual basis.

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Quarterback Tom Brady.

**Q. Tom, is there any advantage that you guys get from having played so many of these Tampa two schemes and how much difference is there between one and the other?**

TOM BRADY: In all honesty, I don't think they play a whole lot of cover two against us. I think that's traditionally that's probably what they've done. But there's not a whole lot of that against us anymore.

They try to get Bob Sanders down there and bring him into the box and get a defender down there to stop the run.

It's a challenging defense. I said that on Wednesday. I think they're good all the way around. They cover well. They rush the passer. They played much better the last few games. It's going to be a great test for us.

**Q. One more thing on that. When you look at it, is it just against you that you -- when you look at it on the tape, is it just you that you're seeing a departure from the cover two? And having seen it, you know they have it in the arsenal, maybe you're a little ready for it?**

TOM BRADY: I think you go against a team like this, and, like I said, I don't think their scheme is particularly complicated. I think they allow their players to be in the best positions to make the most amount of plays they can on that defense.

So you're right. We've had quite a bit of, especially this year, playing against this type of scheme and two cover and some cover three and some weak rotations.

So they kind of do it all well. So it's just a matter of us identifying it and trying to get our best matchups as well.

**Q. This is a question by phone from Indianapolis. How would you describe Jabar Gaffney's role in the playoffs? Is he turning into the best-kept secret on the team?**

TOM BRADY: Jabar has done a great job. obviously since he's been in the starting role he's really -- he's done a great job. So he's found a nice role for himself and he's catching a bunch of passes and making guys miss after he catches it. He's got a lot of great qualities receivers would love to have. He's very competitive. And I'm glad he's on our team and I'm glad he's playing as well as he's playing. He's going to need to play his best game this Sunday and I think that's what I expect and I know that's what he expects.

**Q. Tom, is this any more rewarding a season for you given what you had to overcome earlier in the year, losing Deion [Branch] and getting through that and still doing what you do best?**

TOM BRADY: I think it's rewarding for a lot of reasons. Each season is entirely different. We did have some early-season struggles as an offense, centered around a lot of issues.

The departure of other players is on every team. That ends up being a factor. And I think the guys that we have now, the guys that are playing have been in this offense for the entire season are really doing great.

So we're excited about what we can accomplish. We're one game from the Super Bowl. So a lot of teams would love to be in this position. I'm certainly glad we have this opportunity. They don't come around too often. So you really have to take advantage of it when you get them.

**Q. Tom, I know you've watched a tape of them all year long and you've seen them with Sanders, their defense with Sanders, without Sanders. How much of a difference**

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**does he really make in terms of how well this defense plays, now that he's back and playing with them?**

TOM BRADY: Yes, I think he's one of their best play makers. I just found a few bucks in my pocket, isn't that nice (chuckling). That's a good feeling, isn't it? About 40 bucks.

**Q. It might not be your suit?**

(Laughter)

TOM BRADY: Might not be. Lucky day.

Sanders is a terrific player. He tackles well. He brings a level of consistency to that defense. You see him when he's in there. There's guys, there's not a lot of plays because when he's down there to make a tackle he usually makes it.

So a lot of those, the game against Jacksonville where Jacksonville rushed for a bunch of yards, he wasn't in there. So it will be interesting to see. You can never tell, but Jacksonville wouldn't have run for that many yards if Bob was in there.

**Q. Tom, in 2004 Tedy Bruschi had a wonderful season, made the Pro Bowl. Has he played that well this year or is that something -- level of play that's just difficult to repeat, in Tedy's case, perhaps?**

TOM BRADY: I think there's a lot of things that factor into players having Pro Bowl seasons and not Pro Bowl seasons. As far as I'm concerned, Tedy's had a great year leading the defense that's set a scoring record. Been in there every week. This defense has played great all year. They've set the tone for this team and they've given us a bunch of positions, great field position as an offense. I mean, he's kind of the centerpiece of that defense. And he makes a lot of great reads and probably a lot of guys benefit from Tedy's play.

So I think he's a great -- he's just a great player on this team and a great friend and a great teammate and a great captain.

**Q. Tom, you've had a fair amount of success when it comes to the final few minutes of the game especially when it's on the line, where does that confidence come from? You assume there's a confidence level there. Where does that come from?**

TOM BRADY: I've got a lot of great players I play with. I look in the huddle, I've got Reche [Caldwell] and Jabar and Dan [Graham] and

Kevin [Faulk]. There's a lot of reasons to have great confidence. Those guys have all come up big this year, and the offensive line the way they played, you couldn't ask any more of an offensive line than what these guys have shown. They've got so much stability and we've been healthy all year at that position.

You get into those situations where it's the most critical time of the year like last week, whether it before halftime or at the end of the game where they step it up. Makes my job pretty easy at that point.

**Q. Tom, if and when the day comes, how much will you miss not having Troy Brown around? What does he mean to you?**

TOM BRADY: Well, Troy's been -- when you look up the New England Patriots in the dictionary, there's a big picture of Troy's face. He's just -- he's everything that we stand for. I think when guys come in here and they're trying to figure out what it means to fit in, all you have to do is look at Troy and the preparation that he puts in each week and the way he lays it on the line. The play last week on the interception, it was the best play I've ever seen.

It saved our season. That's the only reason why we're here today working this week is because of his effort and his awareness and his sense of what it takes.

We talked all week about playing for 60 minutes and playing every single play. And a lot of people would be let down by something like that. Troy's out there, he looks at the guy, the guy's holding the ball in one arm. Troy reaches in, rips it out and makes the play that hopefully if we take care of business this week sends us to the Super Bowl.

So he's a great player, and I think he's along the lines of a lot of other great players that we have here, the Tedys and Vrabels and Richards and the guys you heard from today.

**Q. I have two questions.**

(Laughter)

You don't have 20 bucks I can borrow?

TOM BRADY: Let me look. I already spent it.

**Q. There's a lot of jokes about the way your coach dresses and stuff like that. But how does his appearance really let his**

**personality show? He's a real workaholic and not really concerned about how he comes off. Do you see it that way, that it is his personality, just kind of shows that way?**

TOM BRADY: I think the last thing he cares about is what he dresses like on the sideline and how he presents himself when he does his press conference. I think he just likes to coach football. He likes to lead us, and he likes to spend all of his extra time that he might have trying to prepare and find ways to stop opposing offenses and coach his team.

Like I said, the stuff you guys see is ten times better than a lot of stuff we see during the week. His old knit sweaters he brings in that are extra small that don't look so hot. But we try to change it up. We let him know, too. He doesn't escape kind of our -- especially Vrabel, Vrabel lets him know everything.

**Q. Tom, you this week talked about how much you've watched Manning and the respect you have for him. And of course you're preparing to face their defense in your own matchups, but is there anything you can give your defense, any tendencies from a quarterback's perspective, help the guys out, anything you saw in November here just to give that little extra about Manning?**

TOM BRADY: They face him so often, it's hard for me to communicate what I see. I watch him and I try to learn things from him to do myself.

In terms of how to stop him, it's tough to stop a guy like that who he throws it to everybody on the field. He's got great vision. He always gets his team to the right play. Pretty similar to us, you go to the line with a couple of different calls and he always seems to get his team the best call. But he's a great player.

So our defense knows they have their hands full. But the great part is that they accept that challenge and this offense accepts the challenge to go out and play against a great defense and we're playing for the AFC championship. Couldn't ask for much more than that. Wouldn't have it any other way.

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### **Defensive Lineman Richard Seymour**

**Q. Can you comment on having Ty Warren back after the last couple of days?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: Yeah, Ty went out to take care of his family. As much as we all are football players, we're fathers and husbands and friends first and foremost.

So he had to go and take care of his family, which the team was in support of that. And now he's coming back clear headed and ready to play.

**Q. Who is the reigning champion right now among the last few games?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: I Think it switches back and forth, but I think defensively we didn't give out our belt last week giving up 100 rushes. We're putting it on hold right now.

**Q. (inaudible)**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: They're doing a lot of things. Not just myself, but you just don't account for myself. You have to look at Vince Wilfork, Roosevelt, Colvin, Mike Vrabel. It's a lot of guys who bring a lot of pressure for us defensively. We give a lot of looks. We're not just rushing four guys all the time. We mix it up. With three or four teams, like Pittsburgh and San Diego, that caused a few problems. So I think defensively we have the ability to bring a lot of guys from a lot of different areas.

**Q. When you guys played them here last time you guys came very close, within an inch sometimes, of getting to Peyton Manning. A, how frustrating is it when you don't get to**

**him and how important is it this Sunday especially in the dome to get to him?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: I think that's going to be one of the keys to the game. I think, you know, we definitely have to apply pressure on Peyton. He's the guy, if you let him stand in the pocket, he's just as good as anyone standing in the pocket, he can pick you apart.

So I think defensively we're putting the pressure on ourselves to not only just -- we don't always have to get sacks, but calls, bad throws, throws where our guy has a chance at an interception or whatever the case may be.

So I think, up front, we're definitely going to have to do a good job. Because if we allow him to sit back there, he'll, you know, Peyton to Harrison, Peyton to Wayne. It will be that all day, to Clark. So they have a lot of different guys that get the ball.

So defensively, like I said, it's one of our bigger tasks and it's an opportunity for us to do some great things this year and finish our ultimate goal.

**Q. Richard, what do you see the biggest reason behind Ty's emergence this year?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: I think Ty always did a good job of working out and doing the things in the off season that it takes to prepare. When you see us throughout the season it's not just show up on Sundays and get the job done. I think it's a lot of preparation that goes on into being a complete football player, and I think he's done a lot, just like myself, listening to older guys like Willy and the guys who are here before we came. And like I said, I think he's taken on that role of trying to give that back to some younger guys as well. So we're going to need our best effort all the way around the board, myself, Vince, Ty. Outside linebackers. We'll all have to have a big game. And the guys up front, we're going to have to take care of the run and the guys in the secondary,

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they'll have to take care of the pass. We can't get another guy down in the box to stop the run because the secondary is -- they already have their hands full.

**Q. When you look at quarterbacks around the league, where does Tom Brady's confidence level rank in the final few minutes of the game when it's on the line?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: I think I know where you're going with this one. But I think in this game Sunday you'll see the best two quarterbacks in the league. However you want to rank them, one-two, two-one, doesn't matter. Both of them are elite quarterbacks and lead their teams to victories.

So I think even when you look at Peyton this year, it's not just Peyton trying to carry that whole football team, I think it's a collective group all the way around the board defensively, special teams. They're a handful and they're fast and they're fast at home. And they create a lot of opportunities and good field position for the offense.

So it's not just Peyton Manning. It's an array of a lot of defensive players as well.

**Q. Richard, I know you guys all take pride in the way you play together. Up front when you look at it, and guys maybe like Anthony Pleasant or Bobby Hamilton that were here before you, how much is your guys' success being leadership passed down maybe from generation to generation, where they pass it to you, you pass it to Ty. Maybe Ty will pass it down to Mike Wright, things like that?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: I think that's one of the big reasons for our success here. I think it definitely comes from the veteran leadership. I think when we get in tough situations and tough times, I think we can lean and depend on and can account and we have accountability along the defensive front and along the defensive unit as a group.

So it's not just, you know, I'm going to take care of my responsibility. Of course, you know, you want to take care of your responsibility. But I have confidence in the guy beside me that he's going to do his job.

And I think, first and foremost, we have good people in our organization. We really don't have a lot of guys that cause a lot of problems. But that doesn't mean that we don't have

arguments with one another or whatever the case may be. We have problems just like anyone else.

But I think for the most part, you know, we're professionals and we have a professional attitude and approach to the game that, you know, we can put all our differences aside to get to the ultimate goal. And that's, I think in my opinion, that's what it means to be a professional.

And we have a lot of guys on this football team that have embraced that, and we definitely are going to need that on Sunday.

**Q. I know that when most college schemes play one gap up field, for a D-lineman where so many people view you guys based on your sacks, is it difficult for a young player to come in? I know Vince had some trouble and Mike had some trouble with it at first, to swallow your pride and play this game that's taught to you here?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: Well, I think you definitely have to put on the back burner and understand what's most important. I think you have to put your own personal accolades aside for the team. We have the attitude where we would rather have a bad game and the team wins rather than you have a good game and, you know, just a selfish attitude where I did my part and we lost.

So I think we all have bought into the team concept and what it means to be a team player. And like I said, I think it comes from the veteran leaders that we have in our locker room ultimately now from just the organization and a first class team.

So that's very important to us.

**Q. Richard, who is a better short yardage fullback, you or Dan Klecko?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: I'm done with offense right now. Dan, he's a bowling ball back there. Me and Dan, we kind of switched off time at fullback while we were here, while he was here. And it was fun. I think as a defensive player you always want to go on the other side of the ball.

But, you know, I don't see that in the near future for me.

**Q. Richard, could you envision a Patriots team without the likes of a Tedy Bruschi or Troy Brown given how much they embody what the Patriots mean?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: Well, I haven't had

the opportunity to. They've been here and Troy has been here. Tedy has been here. And until I hear otherwise, I just go about our daily business.

**Q. Do they embody what the Patriots mean in your mind?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: No question. I think definitely both of them are fathers, husbands and, you know, men of character and integrity. And I think as much as the Xs and Os count, and you have to know where you're supposed to be and know what you're supposed to do on the football field, like I said, just as men in general, whether they were playing football or not, they would be the type of men that you want to be around and the type of men that you want to raise a family and have kids or whatever the case may be.

So you just switch that over to the football field. They're hardworking guys that does what needs to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the situation. So they're guys that you can count on, that's dependable, whether you're playing football or not.

So I think that aspect is a major part of what we've built.

**Q. Richard, going back to Tom Brady, I don't want to compare him to anyone else, so irregardless of that, why do you think he's even more effective in the post season?**

RICHARD SEYMOUR: Well, I think it's a one-game season. You know it's hard to say -- obviously we have more games during the regular season. So being the post season, I think Tom's a guy that he's a competitor. He doesn't like to lose no matter what it is.

So he just has that attitude that you want and leading your football team. Like I said he's a guy that doesn't like to lose. And he's the ultimate competitor and he loves to prepare. He doesn't leave any stone unturned as far as preparing.

And I think from the quarterback position, he's a fiery guy at times, but then he has the poise to be cool and calm in pressure situations.

So I think he has that element of having the best of both worlds, so to speak. He knows when to turn it on and he knows kind of when to relax as well.

So I think from the quarterback position, I think that's what you want. He's definitely a playmaker.

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Linebacker Mike Vrabel.

**Q. Mike, as a defensive player, facing this type of offense is this the kind of challenge you really look forward to kind of measure yourself?**

MIKE VRABEL: Well, I'll go back to what Peyton said the other day, you have to be careful what you wish for. You might get it. And you know we've seen them at their best and we've seen them at times where they haven't been. But we're going into this game preparing for their absolute best and for them to be hitting on all cylinders.

**Q. What do you get from having playing a team so many times and what do you maybe pick up from that? Or is it just every game is different?**

MIKE VRABEL: I think you can look and see how they tried to attack, how they attacked you and how they attacked 3-4 teams and how they play and how they block, how they try to get their angles up to guys and where they're trying to get the ball.

Passing-wise, I think it's a little tougher, because man coverage, they're going to get one thing. A lot of those routes, a lot of those routes they're just converting, the receiver and the quarterback are coming up with those, and they do such a great job with Peyton being able to read the receivers and the receivers being able to run the right routes.

**Q. Because of the relationship that Peyton's got with Reggie [Wayne] and Marvin [Harrison] and because he can throw the ball before they go into their breaks and that's so hard to defend, is disrupting timing very much key in defending this offense?**

MIKE VRABEL: You look at timing, and timing could be getting them off the spot that he is five or six yards behind the center. Timing is getting your hands out, tipping a ball, making them hold it a second longer.

There's a lot that goes into it. It's not just beating the guy and getting a good pass rush.

So you're not going to get free. You're not going to come free every play in this league. And so you have to try to do other things as a player to try to help that ball disruption or that timing.

**Q. Mike, this is a special run for this group of guys, this core group of guys, it could be the fourth Super Bowl in the last six years. Are you guys so focused on the mission at hand or do you take a time when you, Ted, Tom, talk about what it is that you're doing to enjoy what is around you at this point in terms of how special this is?**

MIKE VRABEL: I don't think we have to actually have meetings on it. I mean, we understand that we're in a moment. We've prepared each week very similar to how we do in a regular season. We give everything, we put everything into it that we can. We don't hold anything back.

It's not Little League where you try to save the best pitcher for the championship game. We're trying to get there. We do everything we can to get to that next game. And then you take inventory. You see who is healthy. You see how much you've got and then go from there.

And we try to do that every week. And we've done that with the Jets and going out to San Diego, that being a tough challenge. Coming back here and seeing who we got and making a game plan, and then going to Indy tomorrow.

**Q. Mike, Colts have that new pass catching threat in Dan Klecko. I'm wondering if you were his inspiration?**

MIKE VRABEL: Dan did that when he was

here. You know, he's a kid that's athletic, even though he's on the shorter, chubbier side.

(Laughter)

He's still got some athletic genes in him. He does a good job. That's a role -- with the type of offense they run, they just can't really carry a fullback, true fullback to be in there just a couple plays a game. So they've got Dan in there and he does a good job.

**Q. Did you see the one score he had where he put the ball around the pile?**

MIKE VRABEL: We were watching that, trying to figure out what he was doing. Dancing around there. So that's Dan for you.

**Q. Mike, if you were preparing to oppose Tom Brady, what would concern you the most?**

MIKE VRABEL: You know, it's so funny because we joke about it like just how we would -- we see him in training camp, it gets competitive. It gets tough. It's not really fair that we know their checks and their cadence and everything like that. So it would be a little difficult I think from that standpoint.

But you just have to play 60 minutes against guys that are competitors. And Tom and Peyton [Manning] and guys like that are competitors. And the game is never in the bag. It's something that you have to -- you have to play the whole game and finish it.

**January 19, 2007**



**An Interview With:**

## **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

### **Defensive Lineman Ty Warren**

**Q. Maybe the success keeps going even after some guys leave?**

TY WARREN: It helps out a lot. The guys you mentioned, the players and Bobby, those are guys that have been in the league eight, nine, 10 years plus, before I even got in here. And they were vital in my transition and my improvement. I learned a lot from those guys and you kind of take that and you just pass it on. Like you said, to guys like Mike Wright and Le Kevin Smith and guys like we have and whatever you was told that helps you, it's different strokes for different folks.

But you talk to them. You kind of get a feel for what a guy wants to learn or what he's trying to learn and you just pass it down to him. And it is -- it's like that, it's a cycle.

**Q. Ty, Richard mentioned that none of you took the heavyweight belt this week, the championship belt. Because you allowed a 100 rusher. How much do you measure yourself by that stat?**

TY WARREN: Well, maybe it's pretty simple. We went into the season saying that we didn't want, you know, any 100 yard rushers. It is the NFL. And that was [LaDainian Tomlinson]. So they had some success against us. And we felt like we didn't play our best game, our A game, and that's why nobody got the belt.

But the good thing is we have another opportunity to go out there and put our best work out on the field and with a chance to advance.

**Q. Can you just talk about the importance of pressuring Manning on Sunday?**

TY WARREN: I think it's very important that you try to get to Manning as quickly as possible. I mean as big as it is to get to him, you have to get to him as quick as possible, adjust because of the fact that him and his receivers are probably the best tandem as far as them complementing each other and knowing where each other is going to be and it's kind of on the timing type of deal. And that's the way the system ran.

So it is very important to try to get to him, distract him, even if it's not sacking him, just trying to hit him and just get him off the spot, make him uncomfortable back there so you can mess their timing up.

It goes hand in hand. It's like a domino effect. The D-line has to do their job first and then everybody else behind is cover.

**Q. Ty, how difficult was it not being here for a few days this week? And while we respect your privacy, is there anything you can tell us about the situation? Is it resolved? Is your mind clear for this game?**

TY WARREN: Yes, it was a situation where my mother got a little ill and she was hospitalized. But she's doing a lot better now. And she was actually released last night.

**Q. Ty, Dallas Clark obviously has come along as the season has gone on. How important is it for the middle backer, Tedy maybe in particular, to shut him down so you kind of take away that option to some extent?**

TY WARREN: I think that's going to be one of the keys, one of the missions this Sunday is trying to stop that guy right there. I mean, he's an awesome player. He's very athletic. He's almost like another receiver out there in a sense, the way he runs his routes and gets open and catches the ball and runs after the catch. He's a tough guy.

You see him getting hit pretty good back there. So he always gets up. He's a competitive

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guy. So that is one of the missions that we have to try to accomplish this Sunday is Dallas Clark.

**Q. Ty, how much does going through a family situation like you've had this week put things in perspective when you come back to be part of this football team going into a game like this?**

TY WARREN: I'm a strong man of God, so everything is always in perspective for me. When it happened, I never -- sometimes when things happen bad to you, that hit close to home, sometimes you wonder why it happened to you or why it happened to them.

But my faith allows me not to really get unraveled and ask why. I just stay calm. I went down there and prayed over it and everything is copasetic. So we're not really...it's not that big a deal. And I've dealt with it in college, staying with my grandparents, I had a grandparent pass away, I had two uncles pass away that lived with my grandfather.

So it's really nothing new. That gave me a certain sense of wisdom and made me a little wise so I can handle situations like this that happened.