



## PEYTON MANNINGIFICENT

Even during his MVP performance in Super Bowl XLI, Indianapolis Colts quarterback **PEYTON MANNING**'s philosophy was the same one he has always followed.

"Every time you drop back to throw, your goal is to possess the ball on the next play," Manning says of his simple approach.

Many plays later, Manning now finds his name whispered in the same sentences with the greatest to ever play at his position in the history of the NFL.

In 2007, the seven-time Pro Bowler can become the first quarterback to throw 25 touchdowns passes in a record-breaking 10 consecutive seasons, and also the first in NFL history to pass for 4,000 yards in eight different seasons during his professional career.

"Peyton Manning is the complete quarterback, and in my opinion, he has it all," former Colts head coach and current Colts radio analyst **TED MARCHIBRODA** says. "He has the passing ability, he's accurate, and he prepares very well. Another thing that makes him stick out is he's rarely fooled by the defense. He takes what the defense gives him. The toughest thing for a quarterback is to understand that he can't always connect with the deep ball. Peyton understands this."

Manning's intellectual approach and exhaustive preparation for each game has impressed his peers and coaches since his playing days at Tennessee.

From athletic ability to his more intangible strengths, the endless list of qualities that makes Manning a uniquely gifted player has catapulted the quarterback to the top of the league.

"Peyton is a tremendous player, a great leader," Colts head coach **TONY DUNGY** says. "He prepares, he works, he does everything he can do to win games and lead the team. If people think he needed to win a Super Bowl, that is just wrong. This guy is a Hall of Fame player and one of the greatest ever to play."

And as Manning re-writes history, those who preceded him find his influence on the sport nothing short of incredible.

"I've had some older quarterbacks, quarterbacks from my era come up to me and say things like, 'He's changing the game,' " Peyton's father and former New Orleans Saints quarterback **ARCHIE MANNING** says. "A couple even say he's revolutionizing the position."

Given Manning's rise to prominence and the club's history, onlookers around the league can't help but think about how much he reminds them of the legend who was in his position on the Colts many years ago.

"When you watch Peyton play, it doesn't appear he's taking any gambles," Marchibroda says. "That makes me think of **JOHNNY UNITAS** and his playing style. It's the best comparison I can make for Peyton."

Former Colts running back **TOM MATTE**, who won Super Bowl V alongside Unitas and even filled in for him as an emergency quarterback during the 1965 season, agrees that the similarities between No. 18 (Manning) and No.19 (Unitas) are undeniable.

"Peyton reminds me of Johnny Unitas," Matte says. "There is a great deal of respect by Peyton for Johnny. Johnny enjoyed watching Peyton. He thought he was a classic quarterback."

And even after all of the accolades, records and awards, this Super Bowl champion's main motivation is the same as it always has been — playing the game he grew up loving.

"I wouldn't tell the owner of the Colts this," Manning jokes, "but I'd play for free."

MANNING AMONG TOP PASSING LEADERS FOR FIRST NINE YEARS					
Games	Completions	Attempts	Percentage	Yards	Touchdowns
144 P. Manning	3131 Manning	4890 Manning	64.0 Manning	37,586 Manning	275 Manning
135 D. Marino	2798 Marino	4730 Marino	63.6 J. Montana	35,386 Marino	266 Marino
132 J. Kelly	2659 Favre	4518 Bledsoe	62.0 Aikman	30,894 Favre	235 Favre
132 J. Elway	2544 D. Bledsoe	4351 Favre	61.1 Favre	30,200 W. Moon	201 Kelly
129 B. Favre	2397 Kelly	4033 J. Plummer	60.8 Kelly	29,657 Bledsoe	187 J. Unitas
129 T. Aikman					