

January 18, 2007

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (opening remarks) *January 18, 2007*

"Yesterday was a pretty good day for us. I think we got the work done that we needed to do. Most of our guys were able to work and practice. We rested a couple of guys routinely. That's what we've done the last four or five weeks. Bob Sanders practiced and did well. Joseph Addai practiced and did well. It was a good start to the week. The more you watch the Patriots and the more you look at them, the more impressed you are at how they play. It should be a tremendous game, and it's going to be a great challenge for us."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on the Patriots' defense) *January 18, 2007*

"They're playing well. They play very smart. They play fundamentally sound. They are tough to score on. They play very good football in the red zone. That's what our practice day is all about today—our specialty situations, (such as) short yardage, goal line, two-minute. That's where they have really shined. They score an awful lot at the end of the half and get that momentum going in. They stop people in the red zone. They do the things they need to do to win games."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on the Colts' relationship with the city) *January 18, 2007*

"I haven't been here the whole time, obviously. When I came here in 2002, I would have classified it as probably a basketball town, more of a Pacers town and IU basketball. In the last four years, you're seeing much more of the blue around, and people in Colts gear and paraphernalia. I don't know that that was the case early on before I arrived. But it's been great. People have embraced this team. I think we have some players that are easy to embrace. It's been a two-way street. We enjoy playing for them, and they have certainly supported us."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on whether the Colts, being a team that plays indoors, is built for this type of game or not) *January 18, 2007*

"We wouldn't say that. That's something that, for five years, we've been trying to dismiss — that's the label everybody has been trying to put on us. We take a lot of pride in the fact that we've been able to win on the road, we've been able to win in tough places. We don't think we're a dome team. We don't look at ourselves that way. We just think that we're a team that shows up and plays every week. We like to play at home. We like the noise factor. All of those things help you at home. But we've never looked at ourselves as really being tailored to play inside."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on the challenge of playing the Patriots' tight ends) *January 18, 2007*

"They mix up what they do. Down-and-distance-wise, you're not going to get a read on them formation-wise. Those guys are good blockers, they're tough guys, they can catch the football, they can run deep routes, they throw screens to them and they use the middle of the field very well. They're good players."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on how his coaching style has changed since coming to Indianapolis) *January 18, 2007*

"It really hasn't changed. My goal has always been to have a team that was fundamentally sound and doesn't beat itself, a team that plays well, kicks well, plays well on special teams, doesn't have many penalties, doesn't turn the ball over and takes it away from the other team. We've been plus in the turnover ratio the last four years. We've been pretty good with penalties most years. So that part is really never going to change. You play to your strengths, and we've had some great offensive players here. You definitely have to play to that. As far as how you're building the team, and the personality of the team, I don't think that it's been that much different."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on how you should judge Peyton Manning as a QB) *January 18, 2007*

"I don't think you judge him until his career is over. I can remember walking through the stands in Green Bay when I was a defensive coordinator at Minnesota, and people complaining after the games, 'We'll never win with this guy. He's too spacey. We'll never win. We have to get rid of Brett (Favre).' I can remember people talking about John Elway for years and years about how he wasn't able to win the big one. And after they win one, at the end of their careers, we canonize them because we realize how good they were. Peyton is probably halfway through his career, so we'll see. I arrived (in the league as a Steelers player) when Terry (Bradshaw) was winning (Super Bowls), but the jury was still out on him in Pittsburgh. You've got to wait until it's over."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on if that's fair) *January 18, 2007*

"It's reality. It goes with the territory. Those guys know that when they sign up for the job."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on how important it is to be able to run the ball like the Colts did at the end of the game at Baltimore) *January 18, 2007*

"It's important at that stage of the game. If you have to close it out and win the game, you don't want to have to rely on throwing. That was a very good run defense with physical guys. I thought Dominic (Rhodes) ran fantastic, and our line came off. That's not easy to do. That was a testament to those guys getting it done. That was huge, to be able to take seven minutes off (the clock), and we only threw one pass on that drive. That was what we needed."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on having two different running backs that can carry the load) *January 18, 2007*

"They have worked together very well. They're really interchangeable parts. We run the same plays for both guys. When one gets winded, the other one is going in, no matter how the rotation goes. So we just feel like whoever is in there has to do the job, and we have confidence in both guys. That's big this time of year."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on if the Colts are playing less Cover 2 this season) *January 18, 2007*

"I'd probably have to look at the stats. We like Cover-2, but every game and every situation is different. We've played games where we haven't played very much. In those games where we were struggling in the middle and everybody was running the ball on us, we certainly didn't play as much of it at those times."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on how much stronger the offense is with TE-Dallas Clark back) *January 18, 2007*

"Dallas makes a difference for us because he's so versatile. He can do a lot of things. We can have him in the lineup and play a three-wide receiver type of game or a two-tight end type of game. He can catch the ball and block at the point of attack. He helps us tremendously. It was a great blessing during the middle of the year when he was hurt. We thought he was going on IR, but a couple of days later, they reexamined him and he didn't have a torn ACL, and that's been huge for us."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on what kinds of motivational tools he uses with players before this kind of game, if any) *January 18, 2007*

"I guess you'd have to ask the team. I'm not too much into that. This week, I talked about the moment, how this city feels, and the fact that you don't get this opportunity very often. We left the locker room in Foxboro after the championship game (after the 2003 season) and said, 'Hey, it was a tough loss, but we'll be back.' Three years later, we're back, but we don't have the same guys. We only have 18 of those guys (still with us). It's not like our window is closing. I hate to hear people say, 'Well, the Colts only have this window.' The window closed for 35 of those guys, but it didn't close for the team. That's the point that I tried to get across this week. We have a group that really should seize the moment."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on the hug he and DT-Booger McFarland had after the Baltimore game) *January 18, 2007*

"We were talking on the sideline. It was a nervous game. Everybody kept saying, 'Boy, if we can get one more score and get a lead ...' After the game, we just laughed and said, 'We've had a lot of these' — that we were probably the only two that just felt like, 'Hey, let's go out there and play.' It was fun. I'm happy for him because when they (the Tampa Bay Buccaneers) made their championship run, he was hurt. He got to experience it, but didn't get to play. Now, being part of it, I know how much it means to him."

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on if Fritz Pollard was an inspiration to him) *January 18, 2007*

"I think so. I'm a historian. Everybody knows about Jackie Robinson and breaking the color barrier in baseball. And Fritz Pollard was an exceptional player, a smart player and a smart coach. Not many people would equate Fritz Pollard in the NFL with Jackie Robinson in baseball, if you're talking about (whether) the average person on the street. I think

most of the guys of my generation — in the 50-year-old category — would know about Fritz Pollard and what he meant to African-Americans in football.”

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on Peyton Manning as an actor and his commercials) *January 18, 2007*

“He is everywhere right now, and he does some things that I wouldn’t do. That’s one of the things that most people don’t know about him; he has a great sense of humor. He’s a funny guy and he enjoys life. I think you get to see that side of him in those commercials. For that reason, I think it’s good. People see him — and we see him here — as the serious guy, and the driven guy. But he enjoys life.”

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on how the topic of the Super Bowl came up at dinner with he, Herm Edwards and Lovie Smith) *January 18, 2007*

“We talked about starting in ’96 in Tampa and some of the things that we remembered — the positives and negatives — and now how, 10 years later, all three of us are in the playoffs, with two of us definitely going to meet in the playoffs and how two of us could meet in the Super Bowl. It’s not something you think about, but you realize it would be awesome if it did happen, and hopefully it will.”

HEAD COACH TONY DUNGY (on if he and Bears Coach Lovie Smith have talked this week) *January 18, 2007*

“I talked to Lovie on Monday. I congratulated them on a big win. We talk periodically on Mondays throughout the season. We didn’t really get into much more than, ‘Congratulations. Now we have to move on and get ready for this week.’ ”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on being compared to (SS) Rodney Harrison) *January 18, 2007*

“If they think so. To me that is a good compliment. He is definitely a great player. He makes a lot of plays, is the leader of their defense and does a lot of great things and has done a lot of great things for them.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on what the difference of the defense is) *January 18, 2007*

“I really don’t even think about it. You’ll hear a lot of things, people have their own thoughts on how they think our defense has turned around, but our thing is just making sure we do the things we need to do to get the job done. I think everyone has just been excited about this opportunity. We are in the playoffs now. Regardless of what our record was, regardless of what our rush defense was during the regular season, it’s a new season. It’s ’07, and we really don’t focus on (the past) too much. We just make sure we do the things we need to do today and take care of today.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on playing at home as opposed to on the road) *January 18, 2007*

“We play a lot faster. It’s our turf, it’s our home and just the support of our fans, the way they stand behind us is great. You want to play at home and whenever you have the opportunity to play at home, it’s a good thing. We look forward to the challenge and the opportunity.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on how he gets ready for the game) *January 18, 2007*

“I keep it simple. I don’t really do too much. I kind of relax during the week, prepare, study hard and let things take care of themselves. As long I go into it knowing that I know exactly everything that I need to know about what they may do and what they are going to do to us, I don’t really get too amped up about it. I just try to stay calm.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on having a good feel for what the Patriots are going to do) *January 18, 2007*

“I’ve played them several times since I’ve been here so I have a good idea, but you can’t really look at that. Every week they are a new team and they do a lot of good things. You just have to prepare as much as you can for them. You don’t know what their game plan will be and you just have to hope for the best and hope that your game plan fits what they do.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on how difficult it was to watch the team from the sideline) *January 18, 2007*

“Just being here, knowing we can be a lot better, knowing that the yards we gave up this year, we are a lot better than we were at that point. We just weren’t getting it done. Just being a guy that wants to help, who’s very committed and just wants to do the things to help this team as much as I can. It was tough for me, but I finally got over it. It’s something that happens. Injuries happen and you don’t expect them when they come and you have to deal with it.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on (QB) Tom Brady being 12-1 in the postseason) *January 18, 2007*

“That’s excellent. That just goes to show that he’s definitely a leader. He’s done a lot of great things and they know how to win. They find ways to win. They do everything they need to do to get the job done. Sometimes it’s not pretty, sometimes it’s tough for them, but (12-1), you couldn’t ask for a better record. He’s done a great job for them.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on what makes (QB) Tom Brady so great) *January 18, 2007*

“He’s so poised. He doesn’t get too out of whack when things go bad. He may throw two or three picks or possibly give you three or four more you may drop in the game. He’s always confident, he never gets down, he’s always upbeat and just knowing that, you have to let it go and have a short memory and go onto the next play. He’s done a great job at that.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on being surprised to see the success of the Patriots in the last couple weeks) *January 18, 2007*

“Not at all. I think they are right where they need to be. I mean, they are the type of team, they are different every week. They may lose one game and come back the next week and people expect them not to win and they pull it out. You should never be surprised by a team like this. They won three Super Bowls in four or five years. That just goes to show they are a great team and they know how to win. They have a lot of veteran guys who lead their team and help.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on the Patriots mystique) *January 18, 2007*

“You think about it. You don’t want to take any team lightly. They’re definitely a great team in the playoffs and like I said, they know how to win. They have veteran guys who lead them and they don’t back down to any challenge. They are going to come in here with their A-game and we have to definitely be sure to be prepared and study hard, and we know everything they are going to bring to us.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on facing the duo of (RB) Corey Dillon and (RB) Laurence Maroney) *January 18, 2007*

“They definitely are a good group of guys. They are real strong runners. They run hard, they have real deceptive speed. (RB) (Laurence) Maroney, he’s a great inside runner and he also can run outside. He likes to bring it up the middle and then break your leverage by running outside. And also, their third-down back, (Kevin) Faulk is a good receiver type back. So they have three good solid guys that have driven them to where they are today and they have just done a great job.”

DB – BOB SANDERS (on what (DT) Anthony McFarland brings to the team) *January 18, 2007*

“He’s a definitely a presence in the middle. He’s a smart player. He knows exactly what’s going on. He’s a leader. He’s been around and he has played with some of the best in the league and has been on a great defense before, so he knows how it is, he knows how to lead us and keep us on the right path. He’s just a good guy to be around...fun in the locker room, fun off the field. I’m excited he’s with us now and he’s helped us a lot.”

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on how did they maintain confidence during tough defensive times) *January 18, 2007*

“It’s pretty simple for us. We just have to go back. We always come in the day after the game and watch the film. You get confidence when you can visually see something as far as what you are doing or whether you’re making mistakes. And for us, just taking a look at the film and going over it and knowing, ‘Okay, here’s the mistakes we make and here’s what we need to do a little bit better.’ It’s just give you satisfaction that you can fix the problem, and it gives you confidence when you can go out and do it. It took us a while to get some of our problems, some of our issues fixed. The last couple of weeks we have done a pretty good job fixing those, going back to the Miami game.”

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on a different mentality in the post-season) *January 18, 2007*

“I think it’s a little bit of all of that. Obviously you know in the post-season it’s kind of win and go home. Everybody steps the level of play up. It’s a different level from the preseason to the regular season and it’s even more from the regular season to the post-season because it’s a different format. And when you throw those factors in there and plus after you’ve seen some of the plays we’ve seen over and over and over, you kind of get used to them. You’re still watching film, still learning, still getting better. For this defense, we still haven’t, and it might sound funny, but we still haven’t played the type of game we know we can play. And I think as a team, as a whole we’re looking at ourselves to

know that we haven't put together 60 minutes of football on our end in all three phases. We have had one, we've had sometimes two, but we haven't put all three phases, and that's exciting because when you put all three phases together it's going to be something to see. "

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on fitting in with the Indianapolis Colts) *January 18, 2007*

"I was very, very blessed to become an Indianapolis Colt and just take advantage of the opportunity. A lot of times things happen in life, sometimes we have no control of them you just adjust to change. It's your ability to adjust to change that truly defines who you are in life and that goes over to the football field also. When you just get around good people and everybody's on the same page, it just gives you the opportunity to be successful. The minute I walked in here I knew we had the opportunity to be successful whether it's the regular season, post-season, whatever, because everybody's on the same page. When you get everybody in one accord, it can be fun. It's just a fun place here to come to work, a fun place to work and I'm just enjoying it."

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on the chance that two African-American coaches could be going to the Super Bowl) *January 18, 2007*

"That is a bit premature. One of them said it best; 'One of these days, that's not going to be a question.' If you look at us as black players or players in the NFL alone, we can be talked about as players and they can be talked about as coaches. And I think when we get to that point, if we ever do, it's been a long time since we've tried to get there, but we are making progress slowly. Hopefully that won't be a big topic if that scenario plays out, but I'm sure it will. It just shows for them to have come this far, how much confidence the organizations have had in these coaches and not only them, but some of the others around the league."

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on how you counter (QB) Tom Brady whether he is playing poorly or well) *January 18, 2007*

"Just look at our defense. We struggled for part of the year and then we came back and played good. In order to play in this league you have to have a short memory. I don't care what position you play because the team on the other side is going to make plays. I don't care who you play or what Sunday you're playing, (QB) Tom Brady is a warrior. Any time you have won as many championships as he's won, you've been MVP, he's a gun-slinger. He knows there are going to be certain situations where he gives his team the best opportunity to win and they are going to put the ball in his hands. They put it in his hand 51 times last week because of who he is. That just shows the confidence that not only he has in himself, but that the team has in him."

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on capitalizing on mistakes) *January 18, 2007*

"I don't care who you play, where you play, when you play. There are always going to be five or six plays that decide the game. You can watch every game this past season and look at it. There are five, six, seven plays that decide the game. Whoever makes those plays and some of the plays may be a dropped pick, it may be a double team blocked and nobody notices, but there are going to be five or six plays in the game Sunday that whatever team makes the majority of those plays, is going to win the game. And it's been that way every game this year and it truly will continue to be that way. That's the type of league this is. They have stressed parity for so long. If you look at the playoffs, since the playoffs started, it was a 12-team showing. Any 12 of the teams basically have had opportunities to win their game. There really haven't been any blowouts if I'm not mistaken, as far as the playoffs are concerned. It's because the teams are so evenly matched. When you get teams that are evenly matched, whoever makes the most plays on Sunday is going to win."

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on (QB) Peyton Manning having to get past (QB) Tom Brady) *January 18, 2007*

"I don't look at necessarily as Peyton (Manning) getting past (Tom) Brady. I faced the same issue as a team down in Tampa. Philadelphia was our nemesis. We never could get past Philly in Tampa. Lo and behold they knocked us out one year. I think the next year maybe they beat us in the regular season. We had to go up to Philly, in 32-degree weather and we had to beat them in order to get where we wanted to go. When you are playing for an opportunity to go to the "Show," it really doesn't matter what's happened in the past, what people may say because it's about going out there and realizing that you have an opportunity put before you to get where you want to go. How better to do it than a team who you have history with, than a team you have a rivalry with. I liken this situation to the same one we faced down in Tampa with the Philadelphia Eagles. In order to get where we wanted to go, we had to beat them. And in

order for us to get where we want to go, we have to beat the Patriots. The game earlier this year doesn't matter. The game two or three years ago doesn't matter. All that matters is the game on Sunday. If we play better, we win."

DT – ANTHONY MCFARLAND (on a change in the confidence of the defense) *January 18, 2007*

"Well, you get confidence when you make plays. It's kind of hard to get confidence when you're not making plays. The more plays you make, the more confidence you get, and I think that's just attributed to going out there playing hard and making plays and not missing as many tackles. I've said all along, our biggest problem this year is we missed a lot of tackles. When we play fast and tackle the football, I like my chances every Saturday and Sunday we play, just because that's the type of guys, that's the type of talent we have. If we continue to do that this Sunday, we'll be fine."

RB-JOSEPH ADDAI (on what it's like playing on a big stage) *January 18, 2007*

"I know everybody's going to step their game up in the playoffs. I've been told that since preseason. So, I think the biggest thing for me is to keep doing what I've been doing and not trying to go out there and be a hero and trying to make something big happen. Just keep doing the small things I've been doing and I think I'll be alright."

RB-JOSEPH ADDAI (on if playing in the playoffs on a stage like this has hit him yet or he has stopped and said, 'wow') *January 18, 2007*

"It hasn't really hit me yet. Just seeing players like Peyton (Manning), Marvin (Harrison), Reggie (Wayne), just being around people like that, because I've seen them playing for a while and actually being in the same room with them, being on the field with them, that's like, 'Oh.' But at the same time, you have to put that aside and do your job. They expect you to do the same thing. Once you're around those guys, it's like, 'Okay, it's a job now.' The only difference is we play on Sundays. I kind of look at it like it's a job, but at the same time, I respect the game and I understand the players we have around us. But like I said, I've been watching them for a while, and I have to put that aside."

RB-JOSEPH ADDAI (on how he adjusted so quickly) *January 18, 2007*

"The Colts and LSU do a lot of the same things, but at the same time, the NFL is faster, a lot of bigger players, faster players. I'm not saying it was an easy thing for me...I still have to learn. When I made mistakes, I corrected myself, the coaches and players corrected me and I didn't make the same mistakes twice. Just asking a lot of questions, I think that's what helped me a lot."

RB-JOSEPH ADDAI (on how much fun it is to play in this offense) *January 18, 2007*

"You have so many weapons. You love to watch how Peyton (Manning) marches down the field when he needs to score. Just being on the field and experiencing that, that's a lot of fun. And just watching Marvin (Harrison), you see this guy, just walking around you wouldn't think he plays football, but the things that he does on the field are amazing. So, just being in this type of offense is a lot of fun."

RB-JOSEPH ADDAI (on what having TE-Dallas Clark back in the offense does) *January 18, 2007*

"It helps out a lot. He's very versatile. He can block, catch the ball, he's really smart and understands the offense. Having him around helps us a lot."

RB-JOSEPH ADDAI (on following QB-Peyton Manning's career) *January 18, 2007*

"Each year is different. You have to put the past behind you and just really focus on what's going on in front (of you). This is a new ballgame. We play here Sunday. If we just carry out what we've been doing, each week playing to the best of our ability, we'll be alright."

RB-JOSEPH ADDAI (on if appreciates what an opportunity this is, playing in the AFC Championship as a rookie) *January 18, 2007*

"The season is long. I've really had to sit back and take it one game at a time. Now, I'm starting to feel excited because I'm starting to see the light now. We have to take it one game at a time. We can't get ahead of ourselves like, 'Okay, the Super Bowl, that's the next step.' We have to take it one game at a time, and being a rookie, you kind of get anxious, but at the same time, you have to relax yourself."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on if it is fair that not winning a Super Bowl title may define Peyton Manning's career if he doesn't) *January 18, 2007*

"That's ultimately the highest goal a player wants to achieve. And Peyton and his situation with all of the records that he has broken and all of the records he has, unfortunately a lot of that stuff (would) be overshadowed by not winning or not making it to the big game. (Dan) Marino and several ex-players have had to go through that. That's something that they live with. He's young in his career. Hopefully he won't live with that."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on if he can be a difference-maker) *January 18, 2007*

"I don't know. I'd like to be. I'd like to be involved in the game plan and just making some plays out there and helping the team move the chains, score points, whatever. So, it would definitely be a fun situation, but a difference-maker? I don't know. I'm just excited to be healthy and being able to play in this game."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on how does playing at home help the Colts) *January 18, 2007*

"I think it helps out great, but we also know as players and the people inside this locker room, we know that it's not the ultimate factor. We just went out on the road to Baltimore and won in a tough environment. We just know it's going to raise havoc for New England, but we have to give (the home crowd) a reason to (raise) a little havoc. So, we have to do our part to make it tough for them. The crowd is going to help us with motivation and momentum, but we definitely have to give them reasons to cheer. We have to give them some plays to cheer about and get excited and get loud. I think if we do our part, it can be a hostile environment, but they've been in this situation before, so it's nothing like we're banking on it. (New England) will be able to handle it."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on if the city will be excited or holding its breath) *January 18, 2007*

"I think they're excited. I think they're definitely going to forget about just how close we've been and all of that. I think everyone realizes this is a new team and we have a lot of special things going on here. I think they're definitely getting into it, and as players, you try to do the opposite. You try to get away from it or you try to not to read everything and get into the whole hype because you want to realize that it's still Xs and Os. It's still that we just have to do what we've been doing in the past and let everything take care of itself. We don't want to get into the hype where, 'Man, we have to try a little harder, we have to do this a little more or a little better.' We just have to go out there, continue to get better and let the game take care of itself. I think the city is really pulling for us and they're definitely very enthusiastic about it."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on his comments Wednesday about the perception of QB-Peyton Manning and the post-season and how that discourages him) *January 18, 2007*

"That's one thing that is kind of a pet peeve of mine, and why I make it a pet peeve, I don't know. I think it's just so unfair for him. I think it's something that he shouldn't deal with, because there are so many factors that go on throughout a game that it's tough to put it on one person. But that's why quarterbacks are always taken No. 1 in the draft—that's what you build your team around. They're always, 'If they win, it's because of him. If we lose, it's because of him.' And it's an unfair situation. When you're four years old and either running routes or throwing the ball, you'd probably want to run routes so you don't have to, down the road, put up with that. That's what he's had to deal with his whole life as a quarterback, and he's handled it very well, but I think it's unfair for an entire game or an entire season to be put on one person. He has a lot of responsibility, but he doesn't have that much."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on if it is discouraging to Peyton Manning) *January 18, 2007*

"I don't know how he handles it, but if I was in his situation, I would get angry because he can only do so much. And he does it the best of anyone at his position. He puts in all of the study and film, getting us in the right play; he's doing everything he can do. And then after that, he should be able to go home and be like, 'You know what? I did everything I could.' Win, lose or draw, that's what makes him the best. He always gives his 100 percent effort. And then after that, he can't do anymore."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on if Peyton receives so much criticism because he is perceived as 'larger-than-life' and with his family background) *January 18, 2007*

"Yes. Just the legacy of his dad and his brothers, and it's just a real special thing that they have. I think that's why there's so much hype with them and there's so many demands that come from them. They expect them to be winners."

He's very competitive and he's very successful....Again, he's grown up in it, so it's nothing new to him. He can handle anything people throw at him."

TE-DALLAS CLARK (on missing four games with the knee injury and if he came back stronger and more refreshed) *January 18, 2007*

"I think fresher. Stronger? I don't know, because I wasn't lifting a lot with my legs because of my knee. But definitely fresher, and I think that has helped. When you take a vacation from your job, you come back and you just have that extra bounce in your step, and I had a four-week layoff, so was just able to get refreshed and come back. And the way I came back, I didn't think I was going to be able to come back this year, I enjoyed it a little more because I realized how quickly it can be taken away from you."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on the importance of being able to run out the clock against good defenses) *January 18, 2007*

"Doing it against Baltimore was a great way to finish the game. We didn't have a great day of punching it in once we were in the red zone, but we knew we could eat clock up. That game was a grind to begin with, so being able to put the (game) away and rush the ball that many times, obviously, we were extremely excited about it. I thought the backs ran very hard. They saw holes, little seams in there, and they would hit them for three or four (yards). The reality is that that is what you have to do in the playoffs. There are going to be a lot of runs that are two yards or three yards here and there, but you never know when you're going to bust one for eight or nine (yards), or even break it out (for something) bigger than that. That's really just the grind of the playoffs."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on how he would characterize Peyton Manning's postseason career) *January 18, 2007*

"I think he's a great quarterback in the regular season and the postseason. When he plays well, he gets an amount of credit. And when he doesn't play well, he gets slaughtered. The reality is our team wins and loses. (In the) games that we've lost in the postseason and regular season, there have been 22 guys who are playing and participating who aren't getting the job done also. I think he pulls his weight every time we play. I think he's a great quarterback all the time."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on the perception of Manning's postseason career) *January 18, 2007*

"I think Peyton understands his role. He's one of the most notarized players in our game. Everybody knows him and everybody knows what he's about. He has been so successful that he gets a lot of pressure placed on him from outside sources. But I think he does a good job of understanding that he can only do one man's job, and that is playing the quarterback position. I think he does it great. I think he puts us in great plays. He has a lot of responsibilities in our offense that are above and beyond just throwing the ball. I think he does a great job managing the game. I've heard people criticize what he's done these last two weeks against Kansas City and Baltimore, but he has done a great job of managing the games, changing up tempos and doing a lot of things to keep defenses off (balance), and he didn't get credit for stuff like that because no one knows or talks about it. It's all about what he does with his arm. But the reality is that he has helped us win both of those games."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on whether the offense is ready to join the defense in putting up impressive postseason numbers) *January 18, 2007*

"I sure hope so. I hope we bust out. I hope we score 40 points. But the reality is, in playoff games, defenses usually tend to decide those things. Defenses play tight ball games. Our defense has done a great job both weeks. It sure takes a lot of pressure off the offense. When you can punt the ball away and the defense gives it back to you after a three-and-out or after a drive with no points (by the opponent), it's extremely exciting and motivating for an offense. I sure hope the defense continues to do what they're doing. When we (the offensive players) do our part and get in the red zone, I hope we improve and score more touchdowns than field goals."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on whether he feels the pressure to get to the Super Bowl) *January 18, 2007*

"Absolutely. That's what my goal is every year, to get to the Super Bowl and win it. When you're this close, when you're in the AFC Championship Game, you're one game from what your goals are. I'm excited right now. I hope we take advantage of it."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on the Patriots' defensive line, including Vince Wilfork, Richard Seymour and Ty Warren)
January 18, 2007

"I think it's the best in the NFL. Those three guys in particular do a phenomenal job of giving offenses all kinds of grief. They can rush the passer, and they're all big, physical players. It's not that they're just pass rushers or just run stuffers. They can do pretty much both. That presents any offensive line with issues and problems. I think their front seven does a great job of getting pressure and mixing up blitzes. And they're a very smart defense. I think a lot of times people think that schemes do this or do that, but the reality is players are what make a difference. And they have a great group of players over there who make plays when they have the opportunity. They can turn the momentum of games around. They can change games."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on whether the Colts see different things from the Patriots' defense each time the teams face each other) *January 18, 2007*

"Not really. They're a pretty consistent defense. You don't get a bunch of junk from them. When you line up, you know what they're going to do and they know what you're going to do, and you just play it out. What they do well is stay consistent. They don't beat themselves. They're not going to leave a guy running wide open down the middle of the field. They're not going to leave a guy (open) on the sidelines. They all tackle extremely well and they play their gaps. They understand that one man has a specific responsibility, and that he does it — and if he doesn't, they'll bring somebody in who does."

C JEFF SATURDAY (on how impressed he has been with RB Joseph Addai coming in as a rookie and playing the way he has) *January 18, 2007*

"I've been real impressed. I think he has done a great job of complementing our offense. He hasn't been a guy that has come in and wanted all of the carries. He does a good job rotating with (Dominic Rhodes). I think he has picked up our pass blocking scheme very well. He does a good job of picking up blitzers. And then, when he catches the ball in the open field, he gets first downs. As an offensive linemen, one of the goals is to always keep drives going, move the chains, move the ball, stay on the field to try to tire a defense out. He does a really good job of doing that. He's not doing a lot of juking. He puts his head down and gets the first downs and keeps the chains moving."

RB-DOMINIC RHODES (on what kind of challenges the Patriots pose for the Colts defensively)

"This is a smart defense. We're going to have to be ready to execute, hold on to the ball and make plays, because they'll be in the right places to stop us from doing what we want to do. It's a sturdy defense with tough, physical guys, smart guys, who always execute their game plan. We just have to execute ours."

RB-DOMINIC RHODES (on whether you have to be careful not to get frustrated against that type of defense)

"We're going to have to move the ball down the field. There aren't going to be many big plays against them. It's all about staying under control, being ready to execute our game plan and not letting them dictate what we do."

RB-DOMINIC RHODES (on whether there has been more energy in the locker room the past two weeks)

"I don't know about everybody else. I just know about me, and I'm hyped. I'm ready to go. I wish we could play today, tomorrow, the next day. It's an overwhelming feeling of excitement right now. You don't get very many opportunities like this. If you're not excited, then you don't love football."