



New York Jets' Head Coach Eric Mangini, 1.8

Opening Statement

I spoke to the players this morning and I just talked to them a little bit about the game. As we had talked throughout the course of the week I knew that playing a team as good as New England, at their place, it was going to come down to execution. Our toughness was good, our effort was good, our level of preparation was very good and in the end it just came down to them executing better than we did and they made more plays than we did. With any win or loss, the important thing for us now is to take some lessons from this game, to learn from the mistakes we made and to make sure that doesn't happen moving forward. They are all things we could have all done better in all three phases, coaching. We need to learn from that experience. It really comes down to such a small margin of error. Such a small margin of error in a playoff game, you really have to play your best football. They just executed better than we did yesterday.

I thanked them for their commitment throughout the season, for their hard work throughout the season. We've talked about that in here quite a bit, how they worked extremely hard from OTAs, the off-season program, training camp. I appreciate and respect that.

We need to collectively understand we're no longer 10-6, we're no longer in the first round of the playoffs. Where we are right now is we're back to a clean slate. Each season is its own unique season. The things that happen in any given season are based on what we do, what we collectively do. It's not a function of just picking up where you left off; it's a function of doing all the same things that we did prior to this year and through the course of the year which is going to lead to success. That's got to be our position and the way that we view things moving forward. It's 0-0. We now control what happens based on the things that we do.

I told them to relax, enjoy the off-season. It's been an extremely long season. It's been a season where we've all worked very hard and need some time to recharge the batteries. I told them to appreciate their families. We spend a lot of time away from our families during the course of the season. This is the time where they can get to spend some more time with their families.

Also if they had any questions or feedback, anything they wanted to talk about, I would be here, would appreciate that. Anything that they can help me learn from so that I can be more effective as a head coach and our staff can be more effective, we can give the players the best possible chance to win, I would appreciate that. My door is open for that.

I want to thank all of you guys. I know it's been a long season for you. I appreciate your patience with me. I know I haven't been Don Rickles in here. I'm trying. I think I made some progress. I'll continue to try to make progress. I think the things that you guys do is extremely important. You're the conduit to the fans. I just appreciate your patience with me and your understanding and your support throughout the course of the season. Just wanted you guys to know that.

On finishing second in the coach of the year voting...

Whether it's Chad's (Pennington) award, Pro Bowls, coach of the year, any of those awards, they're all very nice and they all recognize the effort people put in. Those things are great. I really do appreciate and respect those accomplishments. Our goal collectively, and this is something I talked about in my first meeting with the team, that pro football can make you rich, it can do a lot of things for you, but you can't buy a championship. There are so many people that have a lot of personal accolades but don't have what ultimately everybody is trying to get. That's a really unique thing. What to me is most meaningful is the way that the team played throughout the course of the year and the progress we made. That's the most meaningful thing to me and I really think the most meaningful thing to the players in the room.

On Curtis Martin saying this was the best coaching job he'd ever seen...

I really respect Curtis. Curtis has been a great asset to me both personally and professionally. He's a really good sounding board when you have a question, whether it is from a player relationship standpoint

or on scheme or a way that you're viewing practice. He gives you great insight into what the players are thinking; into a player's thought process. He's just a really good person. To hear him say complimentary things is meaningful because I respect his opinion.

On whether this year is a foundation...

It really goes back to the message I told the players. This year was this year. This year is unique. It's what we've talked a lot about in here. It really doesn't matter what happened last year. Now at this point the season's in the books. We're 10-6. We had the first-round loss. That's 2006. Now 2007, whatever is going to happen there is a function of how we collectively work, how we collectively prepare and how we learn from the things that we didn't do as well as we could have. That's going to be unique because injuries could take place. So many things can change within the course of a year. What happened in the past really has no bearing on the future.

On having a second year with his system in place...

Having the system for a second year, having familiarity with the players, them having familiarity with the staff, all those things are positive. But the season itself is going to be a function of the adversity we faced and the approach that we take. You see it every year where a team doesn't do very well, and the following year does really well, or does very well, doesn't to very well the next year. It's just unique periods in time where you can't point to the past and say, Because of that, this is going to happen.

On how close the Jets are to the Patriots...

I thought throughout the course of the game, it was close. I don't think the score is completely indicative of the level of competition throughout the game. But it is, to quote a thousand guys, what it is. It's really a small margin of error between a lot of plays that will make the difference in those games. They're very good at what they do. They execute extremely well. They've got a lot of good players and good coaches. But there's going to be a lot of other good teams that we're going to have to play and win against in order to just get back into contention, into the playoff mix again. It really goes back to the original comments; we have a lot of things we have to do in order to be successful next season.

On competition at quarterback...

Well, you saw throughout the course of the year, every position was open throughout the year. You saw guys that were starting one week that didn't start the next week. The one thing I'll say is I have a lot more information on the players that are here now than I did when I first started. I think that Chad has done a terrific job. To come back from the things he came back from, to lead us the way he did, to be as effective as he was, is a real testament to who he is. Any competition that's there is based on a body of information. I have a very good body of information with Chad. But I essentially believe, as a core philosophy, competition is a positive thing. Regardless of your draft status, your contract, any of those issues, it's important that everybody knows they have the opportunity through hard work and those things to play.

On his view of Chad Pennington...

With all the different positions, we're a little ways away here, so we'll take the whole off-season. What I will say is I know Chad Pennington now. I didn't know him that way when I got here. I like so many things about Chad. I have that benefit now as a head coach, going through a full season with him. He did an outstanding job.

On Pennington being a championship quarterback...

Before we even get to any of those things, we have a lot of things that we have to do just to get back into the mix, into the tournament. Collectively we have to do things and start over and build back up again. But he won a lot of games for us this year. I thought he did a great job.

On his philosophy about position competition, even at quarterback...

I think Chad did a great job. Like with every position, we're going to evaluate it as we go. But I really believe in Chad. I just think as a core philosophy, that's what we believe in. In terms of competition, this

is no statement one way or the other, but I believe in competition. Furthermore, I really like what Chad did and who he is.

On altering anything for next season...

I'll go and look at the things we did during training camp, just like the draft and free agency. I've got quite a few notes to review. We changed the practice schedule throughout the course of the season. I'm not opposed to changing anything if it helps the team win. I believe in learning from the things that we have done and try to make it better the following year. What changes will be made, I couldn't tell you. But I know anything that I think will help us win, I'm more than open to.

On what changes will come in the offseason...

We'll meet as a staff over the next few days and go through not just scheme but through the players and discuss the players that we have currently on the roster. Mike (Tannenbaum) and I will meet. It's all a function of the evaluations and what's available. It's not just one element; it's a group of elements. Mike and I will talk about that quite a bit.

On upgrading the speed or physicality of the team...

As I say, we're really going to do a thorough look at the whole team. That will be not just the coaching staff but the whole personnel department. It will be a lot of different areas. It will be from head to toe. It will be strength and conditioning, the training room, how the players were in the games, in the classroom, in the walk-throughs and what their leadership ability was. It's really a comprehensive overview of our guys. We'll review that and see what's available, really target things after that research has been done.

On what team he was addressing this morning, 2006 or 2007....

It's the 2006 Jets. It's the team that we have. I've just been involved in too many circumstances where if you look at what you did last year in terms of what you're going to do next year and that's never really the case. It's all based on what you do at that time, that's how you're going to be successful. It was more recapping the game, recapping the season, then addressing the fact that we need to learn from this past game. We need to understand that moving into next year, you want to build on the things that you did, but it doesn't necessarily mean that without hard work and commitment and making progress that you're going to have the same level of success.

On considering the season a success...

There were a lot of positive things. I can't stress enough (the players') hard work. They worked extremely hard. They worked hard for a long time. I thought they supported each other well. I thought that they played really good team football. I thought that we made a lot of progress in terms of situational football, just the moving forward week to week. To me, that's what was most successful, is continuing to build on a weekly basis. That's what I was extremely happy with. That's what I thanked them for.

On what's next and how he feels...

Just a little tired, to be honest. It's kind of like every other phase. It's not like I went into yesterday thinking, "Okay, well, here is my speech for when we lose the game." I really didn't have any notes or anything prepared for any of this. I mean, my thought process was, "Okay, who do we have to get ready for the next week?" It's like every other phase of being a head coach for me. This is the first time I've experienced this. Trying to gather information and put together the best sort of answers for this time period. There's never a point where the mindset was, "What a great season. Okay, now, Mike, let's talk about what happens when we lose the game."

On it being harder to lose a game as a head coach...

Losing stings at whatever level really in whatever you're doing. I don't think anybody is happy losing. That's why being competitive is one of the key things we look for. If it's ping-pong, Parcheesi, whatever it is, we look for guys that don't understand to lose. If you're okay with losing, if it doesn't really hurt, then you really want the guy that it does hurt.

On change affecting the team...

You're always looking for that closeness of players. It's one of the difficult things about the job. Coaches leave, players leave. There have been different times where it could be guys on the staff I was extremely close. (Rob) Ryan would be a good example, Romeo (Crennel), Charlie (Weis), any of those guys, where these are good friends, you've known them for a long time. They move on. You're really happy for them at that point. But you spent a lot of time with them. That's difficult. I think it's the same from the players' perspective. As transition takes place, which it always does in the NFL, it's difficult. It's one of the things that are just part of the business that we all know.

On making changes to the coaching staff...

We're looking at everything. This the time of year where a lot of activity takes place. I'm not anticipating one way or the other. It's more just kind of seeing where we are collectively.

On the coaching staff...

I thought the staff did a really good job throughout the course of the season. This was a transition for all of us, too. We're getting to know each other, getting to know the players, implementing a system. They did a good job. We'll look at the group collectively, make evaluations once we have the full body of work.

On young players growing into roles...

I've seen a lot of young players grow into bigger roles than maybe you anticipated them having when you initially got them. It's a function of gauging that. As you go, you may think that a guy's a 10-play-a-game guy. As he takes more reps, he actually does a great job. You just keep building the role. That happens quite a bit at every position where maybe initially this is your mindset, but they create something bigger by what they do.

On needing to win to have his message accepted...

When I talked to the team in the first meeting, I outlined the things I believed in philosophically. The reason I believed in them was because I've seen them work, that's what I committed to. That hasn't wavered. It's good that when you do have success, it definitely reinforces the philosophy. That's positive. I think regardless of how we finished, the philosophy would stay the same because there were core things over time that I've seen work, and that's what I believe in.

On the players placing more stock in winning or his pedigree...

Players respond to knowing you can put them in a position to be successful. That was my experience, whether it was an offensive assistant, defensive assistant, a DB coach, a defensive coordinator. There is no age, experience. None of that matters if you can help them be successful.

On the running backs...

I think that all three guys did some good things. I think that Cedric (Houston), when he had his chance, did some really positive things. He had some impressive games. With Leon (Washington), growing into not really having much of a role to getting some carries, the screen play against Miami, different plays throughout the course of the season where you want to get him the ball more. But it's guys like Brad Smith, there are so many guys like that, where they go out there, this he do something really well, help the team. You want to give them the chance to do that again.

On how Kellen Clemens shows progress...

That will all be a function of his continued growth, how well he does in the off-season program, continuing to learn the system. He'll have great opportunities in the pre-season, training camp. It will be a function of how much progress he makes.

On carrying over this season's success...

When we head into the next season, we start over at 0-0. I really believe that. I think this season's in the books. Where we finished is really no indication of what's going to happen next year.

On the players using his open-door policy more as the season went on...

It didn't become like a lounge (laughter), a lot of guys stopping by to see how I was doing think some may still feel it has the air of the Principal's office. But it's very open. I think that comes with time and experience. I've learned a lot from the captains' meetings. I think those have always been very positive. Even talking to guys in the field, wherever you have the conversation, even if it's initiated by me, just to solicit that feedback. I think with any feedback, some you take, some you don't. But it's good to hear new ideas, be exposed to different viewpoints.

On players being in his office more when he was an assistant...

It depended. Some guys more so than others. Troy Brown and I spent a lot of time together because he was in other meetings. That was really our only time to kind of get caught up on the defense. Different guys. It's different each place as to how much interaction you have in the offense.

On seeing what Kevan Barlow could do this season...

I think the decisions that we made with Kevan were based on the decisions we made with all the running backs. (It had to do with) how well they practiced and whether or not we thought they could give us the best chance to win. I thought him taking the initiative to try to get involved with special teams was positive. But the decisions we made were coaching decisions.

On Kellen Clemens building a body of work to be evaluated...

It usually starts with the off-season program, OTAs, his initiative to continue to grow in the system, to really understand and grasp the nuances of the system. It will transition into training camp, the pre-season games. There will be plenty of opportunities for him to show his growth.

On Clemens not being able to overtake Pennington during training camp...

It's one of those things where Kellen has to continue to grow in his position. That's a tough, tough position to play, going from a college quarterback to a pro quarterback, all the things that go with it, not just from learning the system and competing at this level, but just operating the system, the presence, the leadership qualities.

On D'Brickashaw Ferguson...

I couldn't tell you his exact weight. We didn't have a weigh-in this week. I think it's like with all these rookies, the strength program is so critical in the off-season. You see jumps in rookie performances based on really good off-seasons where they get that much stronger, they have a better comfort level, and they're a year more mature. That to me is such a key part of progress, is continually getting stronger and faster and bigger - in some cases smaller. That's going to be key for all those guys.

On Ferguson needing to get bigger...

I can work with him there (laughter). I'm on the get-small program. I think especially offensive and defensive linemen, the strength of pro defensive linemen or pro offensive linemen week-in and week-out is just so different than college where you may get two or three weeks where you're just dominant compared to who you're playing against. But here, even if the guy isn't necessarily a marquee guy, he's usually pretty big, strong, fast, a good challenge.

On taking time to relax...

I'm definitely going to spend some time with the boys and with Jules. I'm going to go to Jake's swimming class at some point. That's got to work out with his schedule. He's got a lot of stuff going on that I don't know exactly what the times are, but I'm going to find out. He's fixated on going to Disney. When we went to the owners' meeting, we went on 'its A Small World.' That's a big focal point of his.

On fixating Jake on something else...

I'm trying. He's hit me on it four or five times in the last week. If he wants to do it, let's go.



New York Jets' S Kerry Rhodes, 1.8

On this being a foundation for great things to come...

He [Eric Mangini] came in and did a good job in his first year and the staff we had left over from Herm [Edwards] did a good job as well, so collectively as a coaching staff and a team we all had growth. Together, we can do good things here.

On this season...

We've grown a lot, these younger guys mixed with the vets here and we all jelled really well. It was a good team all year, a team that really cares about each other and really plays for each other, so at the end you can only say that we played as a team and we always played together.

On what he'll remember most about this season...

Not letting the outside world get to what we did as a team here. We always believed that we could be a good team, we had the make-up to be a good team and we didn't let the outside world come in and damper our parade and we always played tough together.

On how he wants this team to be remembered...

The biggest thing with this team is that we were a team and you can't say that with most teams around the league. There are people inside the locker room that disrupt their team, and we didn't do that as a team. Even if we made mistakes individually or on one side of the ball, we played as a team and we lost as a team.

On the next training camp...

We might not be looking for it, but we might be getting it. We definitely know how it was last year and we'll be able to handle it a little bit more this year.

On if it was worth it...

It's worth it. We got to a point where nobody thought we could get to and nobody gave us a chance, but we always played tough together and we played well together. The worked paid off.

New York Jets' WR Jerricho Cotchery, 1.8

On the past year...

It's been good. When you have a coaching change, sometimes it takes a lot of getting used to, but we grew as a team and we bought into everything that he was trying to get accomplished. In the end, that paid off for us. Now that we know what we were trying to get accomplished, we can build on it and get better in the off-season. Hopefully we can have a better year than we did this year.

New York Jets' G Pete Kendall, 1.8

On if this was a successful season...

Successful is such a relative term. We didn't win the Super Bowl, so I guess by that measure only one team has a successful season. Is that too extreme? I don't know. I'm disappointed, I still haven't made it and won the big game yet, but this year clearly was a more enjoyable year than last year. To be playing meaningful games into November and through December and then to qualify for the playoffs was certainly much better than last year. If that makes it a success, then I guess it was and if it doesn't, it doesn't.

On coming back to have another winning year...

That's always the hope, you try to maintain and carry over some momentum, but I think we've all learned first hand that what you did last year doesn't do anything for what you're going to do next year.



On the majority of players feeling on board with Coach Mangini's system...

There is always going to be grousing in the locker room, that's what players do. It's the way this industry works, but the one great thing about this team is when we go out and play, we play hard and we play for each other. We take the coaching, we take the game plan and we try to execute it to the best of our ability. We go out there and we play for the guys in this locker room, so I think there is a good group assembled here. There will obviously be changes, there always are, but I don't think Eric is facing a revolt, if that's what you're asking.

New York Jet's LB Matt Chatham, 1.8

On how close they were to beating New England...

It's not so much about the Patriots today, it's really where we stand towards our goals and I think we were extremely close to those. When you get close to goals, but don't reach them it just makes it that much more painful. To say, 'The game was close, but...' that's really how playoff football is. There rarely are games that aren't close in the playoffs, there's a reason we're all in that tournament. With that being said, the sting is there and it hurts to be close, but it is what it is.

On the one thing learned from this season...

I hope guys learned that this method works and that they've bought into it, and for the most part I think they did. There is a way to win, there is a formula and it's very important to stick to that formula. I'm as guilty as any that it's easy to stray, and we didn't all play perfectly throughout the course of the year, so the better we can stick to the formula and execute, the better off we'll be.

On being headed in the right direction...

You never convince everybody, and that's something you learn in the NFL. You need to convince the leaders of the team, you need to convince significant players and the people that want to be here. We had enough of those this season to be moderately successful. We certainly didn't reach our goals, but it's an ongoing system. You tend to learn in this league that systems don't go places, players do, so if you don't buy into what's going on, you may not be around. That's something that you need to know. We had a really good group of guys here that did care about and did buy in.

On another year in this system making the team better...

Like I said earlier, the NFL is a crazy beast; every year is a new system and there is really no such thing as momentum or carry-over. We have to go out and duplicate the things that made us successful, but we have to improve on them as well. If we don't learn from these lessons, we could just as easily be 4-12 again.

New York Jets' WR Laveranues Coles, 1.8

On what it's like to see the finish line...

At times, you ask yourself what you're going to do when you're done playing football, but I have a pretty good idea. I'm excited about everything I've done to this point in my career and I want to always be able to give 110% as long as I am playing and still be able to contribute at the level that I'm contributing. If I ever feel that the desire is not there and I'm not able to contribute the way I've been contributing, then I know it will be time.

On the future of this team...

We have an off-season to go through; Coach Mangini, this is his first year, I'm sure he's going to come in and shuffle some chairs around this off-season. This is the first time he'll be able to get a lot of his guys in, the people that he wants and actually put his stamp on this team. I'm sure that's pretty much what's going to happen this off-season. That's something you have to look forward to and see how things are going to shape up for us this off-season and see what guys he's going to keep, what guys he's going to let go and what guys he's bringing in. From there, we'll see what direction we're headed in.



On if it was worth it...

At this point no, because we didn't get the trophy that everyone goes after from the beginning. We had a winning season and some people might smile upon that and say, 'We were somewhere that they didn't expect us to be.' But with all the hard work that these guys put in, I don't think that just a winning season is enough.

On what Coach Mangini told the team...

He just stood in front of us today and said, 'Look guys, you all had a good year, but none of that means anything. We're starting off next year like everybody else does at 0-0. You see the hard work it took for us to get to this point, so you all know we're going to have to go back at it even harder next year.'

New York Jets' RB Curtis Martin, 1.8

On his future...

I've come to grips with the fact that my career is probably over. As I said, I'm grateful that I put in my all and I put my heart out on the field. I've done everything I can to help my team win games and at the end of the day, that's something I can leave the game with; no regrets.

On what he will do since life after football...

I've been planning that since I signed my second contract here. I've been doing that and mostly I get a chance to do it in the off-season, but I have a lot going on and you'll hear about some of it.

On making a formal retirement announcement...

I have to get with the team and coordinate with them. This year, my main concern was staying out of the team's way and not being a distraction. We said we'll settle everything in the off-season.

On any possibility that he will play again...

I think the competitor in me is always going to have a percent of hope, which probably isn't any good, but the reality of it is that it probably is [over].

On the Difference coach Mangini has made...

When you come into a team, the impact that you have, especially with the mentality on this team, it was like a fish out of water; the environment was totally different. The thing I was most impressed with was that he stuck to his guns, even when a lot of us didn't agree with the way things were changing so rapidly. It was that change that got us this far, I know we wanted to go further, but I think for this team to accomplish what we had this year says a lot. For me, it says a lot about the coaching, because I'm a player and I know exactly what goes on, I study the game from a coach's perspective, so I know the difference that Eric and staff has made this year.

On coach Mangini's discipline, attention to detail and extra studying...

Not to say that we we're not disciplined, but we weren't disciplined to the level that we needed to be to even operate in the system. For him to come in and implement that discipline as well as the right mindset to go out there and compete the way we did says a lot. It's one of the best coaching jobs I've ever seen.

On not being able to run in coach Mangini's system...

Richie Anderson and I were walking off the field the other day and he said, "Hey Curt, imagine if we were running in this system right here," because this system is structured around the draw play, even just the line of action which fits into my style of running. Plus, it's such a hard offense to read. There are a lot of advantages in this offense, Brian Schottenheimer has done a great job also.



On coaching for the Jets...

I don't think I want to coach. I really don't have time to coach and I don't think I want to coach, but there may be some way I can stay involved with the team. The team is like my family now, I've been here so long I feel more like a big brother figure to most of the guys here.

On going out on the sideline instead of on the field...

That wasn't the tough part. The tough part was accepting that my career is probably over. Other than that, everything was easy. Maybe a week or two ago I told them, "My enjoyment now is living through you all, vicariously," and with the way they performed this year, I enjoyed my year.

On stopping in the front office...

I'm not an office guy. I don't see myself sitting behind a desk and plus like I said, I have other things that will probably keep me too busy to even do that. If there is some way to stay involved with the team, I would probably do it.

On coach Mangini...

I don't know how many coaches that they could have hired that would have been better, regardless of whether they were available or not.



New York Jets' QB Chad Pennington, 1.8

On coming off a tough loss...

When your goal is winning a championship, and that is what Coach Mangini's goal is and that is certainly my goal as a quarterback, you are proud of how far your team has come, but at the end of the day there is something that still burns inside of you. You know there is still some unfinished business, stuff to take care of. As long as I play this game my goal is winning a championship. I think we all enjoyed this season. I know I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the ups and downs and being able to go through a whole season. I enjoyed the journey, but I know the journey was cut short. That is something that I will think about the whole off-season. I'll work both personally as well as an individual football player to do what I can to become a better football player.

On his emotions following the game...

During the season you normally have another opportunity. Once you are in the playoffs, once you lose, you don't have another opportunity. There is some finality that exists. It comes to an abrupt halt. It is tough to deal with. You work so hard during the season and all through the off-season, when it comes to an end like that, it's tough. It's such a string of emotions at the end. It is hard to deal with.

On change in the NFL...

The one thing that I have learned about this business is that the NFL is about change. That is probably the one constant with in the NFL. It changes day-to-day, week-to-week, year-to-year. What you have done in year's past has nothing to do with what you are going to do in the present. You know the future is going to hold some type of change. That is the one thing that is always going to remain the same with in the NFL, is changes. You have to deal with those changes as a professional and understand that part of being a professional is how you react to those changes and respond the right way.

On if he feels he has proved he is the guy to take this team to a championship...

I don't know what the organization's feelings are on that. My performance on the field over the last seven years speaks for itself, and I feel confident in that. I think my teammates feel confident in that. I feel like when I take the field, I give us a chance to win and I am going to do everything in my power to help us win. I think the record speaks for that. How coach sees that, how Mike (Tannenbaum) sees that, is up to them. They are going to do what is best for the organization just like they did last year. When they brought in Patrick (Ramsey) and they drafted Kellen (Clemens) they had to do what was best for the organization and make our team better. I have to focus on me, focus on what I can do to make myself better, which in turn makes my teammates better when I step out in the field.

On his confidence...

One thing I have learned over the past seven years is that you are not guaranteed anything in this league. No matter what has happened in the past, it does not guarantee a future. What I am guaranteed is another opportunity to show what I can do and to lead this team. I feel confident in that. I feel confident in my abilities, I feel confident in my abilities, and that is where we are right now.

On looking back over the season...

It has been fun to be able to see the hard work pay off. It's been fun to see what you believe in as a man and as an athlete work. That the work ethic, the attitude and treating people the right way, and having goals and dreams in front of you and sticking to those goals and dreams and focusing on those things; it's not just words and clichés, it's true. What I can really look back on the season and cherish are the hard times. A couple of days after surgery where I can barely brush my teeth. Or a month or two after surgery where I am starting to raise my arm above my head. Then we get into organized team activities where I am starting to throw the football and participate in OTA's. Then I get to training camp and feel even better to where I can compete to win and then the job. Then help leading us to the playoffs. It was a succession of events that was a lot of fun. It is tough to deal with when your season ends the way that ours ended yesterday, it's tough to deal with once you have gone through all of those things.

On if he will need more surgery...

No. The one thing that feels good on my body right now is my shoulder. That probably sounds awkward, but the best thing on me right now is my shoulder. I am proud of our organization for providing me with all of the



resources inside and outside of our organization to help me get better and to help me get over the hump and to stay healthy. To help me feel just as good as I did against Tennessee as I did yesterday. I felt like the ball was coming out crisp. I was able to step up and make throws. I can go into this off-season and know that my shoulder is doing fine. It is a blessing. Some may even say that it is a miracle. It's definitely a blessing. I am very fortunate to survive two surgeries and make it through another season healthy.

On competing for a job...

I was not surprised when I was told that I was going to have to compete for the job. I really didn't have time to feel insulted or sulk or complain. It was time to go. Time to prepare myself; to compete. I truly felt that the competition would make me a better quarterback. I didn't concentrate on whether I was going to be a starter. I concentrated on making myself better as far as becoming a better quarterback and a better professional. Coming out of that competition I really had a high sense of confidence. I felt confident in my abilities knowing that I went through that situation coming off of another shoulder surgery. I made it through and won the job. That was part of the goal; if Chad is going to be our starting quarterback, then he needs to go through this so that he can have the confidence and perform, and know that he earned it and it wasn't just given to him. I feel good about that, knowing that I earned that spot and I earned that position.



New York Jets' Head Coach Eric Mangini, 1.5

Opening Statement

Some good news: Anthony Clement and his wife had a little baby boy, Caleb, on Tuesday, which I should have announced, but we were waiting for Chris Baker, who had a little boy this morning, Chris Baker, Jr. Good to have some more additions to the family.

Today we're working on a regular Friday so it will be red area, it will be two-minute and it will be a review of the first and second down package and the blitz package. All the different elements that we normally do on Friday.

With New England, they've been excellent in the red area both offensively and defensively and they have been excellent in points allowed defensively and also points scored. That's another thing that I learned during my time there; that the most important statistic always comes down to points scored and points allowed.

In terms of two-minute, we've all seen Tom Brady win games in the two-minute package and in two-minute situations. He's very good at clock management and has excellent poise, really uncanny poise. Defensively, they've been doing a lot of good things there, as well.

We have some things that we have to clean up and some things that we have to really get installed and work on, but it'll be essentially the normal pattern that we follow here on Friday.

On what New England does in the red zone that makes them so successful...

They're very good against the run, so it makes it difficult to run it in, and in the passing game they have combination coverages, so it's not just a standard coverage. There's different ways that they can double team receivers. There's some variation in terms of what they present coverage-wise and recognizing the two, so I think it's the function of all the different things they do, the fact that they're very good against the run and very consistent down there, and don't make many mistakes.

On being successful on third down conversions...

A lot of it goes back to first and second down. The more you can manage those early downs and getting into the third-and-ones, third-and-twos, because percentage-wise it drops dramatically with the increased amount of yards. So a significant part of third down success translates back into how well you're performing on first and second down.

On if the Jets do something mentally that allows them to be successful on third down...

Chad (Pennington) does an excellent job with finding the open receiver, and we've had some third down conversions throughout the year that were just sheer effort plays, guys diving over the line. That to me is not just the effort, but the awareness of where the sticks are and what exactly is the yardage needed. On the field we have the yellow lines that you'll see that go across and that's something that (Offensive Coordinator) Brian (Schottenheimer) brought with him from San Diego. We use those lines as a guide. You have the sticks set up, which is great. We also have it all the way across the field, so defensively you know exactly where the ball needs to get to and offensively the same thing, and I think that's helped our awareness overall.

On when he decided to run the no-huddle offense regularly...

For me personally, it was working with Ted Marchibroda. When I was with Ted, Ted would do two-minute at the end of practice as part of conditioning, and we'd also run the two-minute offense during the games, and I saw how effective that was. As a defensive coordinator, a defensive back coach, it puts a lot of pressure on you to get the calls out quickly, to make the adjustments quickly. Even though offensively you're speeding up, it actually slows down the look that you get defensively because the variations can't be as great.

On needing special personnel to run the no-huddle consistently...

You really need everybody to work together. It's getting to the line of scrimmage, getting ready and in the position that you need to be in, hearing the call from the quarterback, understanding the difference between what's the real call and what's the bogus call he's giving, so you have to process that because there's a lot of that when you come up. You may give three things that mean nothing, then a trigger word that means, 'okay, here's what we're really doing.' So processing that information, and then being able to execute it in that hurry-up mentality.

On Laveranues Coles' injury being a jaw injury...

It's the same injury. As we looked at it more, it is more jaw than chin, just to clarify what it was.

On expecting Coles to be ready on Sunday...

With Laveranues I always expect him to be at full speed. When things bother him, it's not the normal effect that an injury has.

On what players compare to Coles in terms of toughness...

(I can't think of anyone) off the top of my head. He's pretty rare. I'd have to think about it. I've been around a lot of tough guys through the years, and one doesn't pop up. It's not that there isn't one of a comparative nature, but off the top of my head, I can't think of one.

On Coles' toughness working to his detriment...

He's very smart. He knows the difference between injury and pain, and he just has a very high pain threshold and very good mental toughness to deal with that where things that may be too great for someone else doesn't affect him the same way.

On Coles' response when asked if he's hurt...

'I'm fine.'

On using the bye week to correct mistakes from the first half of the season...

We didn't have enough time to cover all of them, but we went through as a staff and we evaluated -- first the offense and defense met and then we met collectively as a group and discussed the different things that had come up. Not just in terms of what the errors were but also personnel and how the personnel fit. Then we put together -- like you would with a game plan, the actual book of adjustments and corrections to the problems, handed that out, went through those things, addressed it on tape, went outside, walked through those things, then went to the field and actually practiced those things against very similar looks. Just the identification, the process of everybody seeing it, being able to look at it on paper, walking through it at a slow tempo and then executing it at a quicker tempo where you have to make the calls and those types of things. I think that whole process of going through it was very positive for us.

On the improvement after the bye week...

It was pretty similar to the experience we had last year in New England where statistically we weren't very good the first half of the season defensively, and the second half of the season we were pretty close to one or two in every defensive category. Some of that was a function of different personnel playing in there and that we had lost a couple guys who had thousands and thousands of reps in the system.

What I attribute that to is the players' hard work and the players' consistency. They've been working at this for a long time, and some of the problems that did happen the first week had already been corrected for the second week, right on down the line. It's their commitment to getting it right, their professionalism, all those things, and all of us working together. Even though it transitioned over at that point, it was a process that had been in the works for quite some time.

On the players ability to accept his coaching...

That's always the mark of true professionals because we all do things you wish you hadn't and you make mistakes. It's good to get the honest feedback of this could be better or this wasn't very effective, so the next time you're in that situation you can be effective. Everybody is so competitive, everybody wants to

do well, everybody has a lot of pride, and that feedback is an important part of being able to grow and get better.

On the difference between preparing for a team you have only seen on tape and a team you have played before...

When you have exposure to players, you have exposure to schemes, it's definitely a positive thing because you're not covering ground that you have to cover with a team that you have no exposure to. You have some more familiarity with their strengths, their weaknesses, those types of things, and you can dig a little bit deeper into some of the other things. Now, the reverse of that is true, they have that same exposure and they can dig deeper as well, so it's really offset a little bit by the fact that you both have the same advantage.

On traits like speed and strength translating from tape...

You do the best you can there, and the pro personnel department also writes up each player, and that's true for every NFL team where they'll go through multiple games prior to you ever facing them and give their assessment of the player, just like they would if you were looking at them in free agency. And you learn from that information as well, and you just try to gather as much as you can to get a true sense of who the player is.

On Pete Kendall's influence on D'Brickashaw Ferguson and Nick Mangold...

Pete has been a great influence. He's very smart, he's very knowledgeable, he draws from a lot of experiences, and he's right there in between the two, so he's a steadying influence, and I think that he's been very helpful to them. But I would also put Anthony Clement in there and Brandon Moore and all the work that the offensive linemen, all these guys work together. On the flipside, Bobby Hamilton, Kimo von Oelhoffen, Shaun Ellis, they work with those guys, too. When I'm pass rushing against you, this is what I like to do because of this, or when you have this stance, it gives me this key. So it's a little bit of feedback from guys playing their position as well as feedback from guys playing against them to give them both sides of the ledger.

On the role special teams will play against New England...

Special teams play a huge role in every single game that you're in, and a lot of those plays are game-changing plays. A lot of those plays take place after game-changing plays, so usually when you have the kickoff return team, it's the start of the half, the start of the game, or after they've scored, so if you can go out and get a big return and get some of that momentum back, those things are significant. Mike Westhoff does a really great job with our special teams, and on the other side, Brad Seely does a really great job with their special teams as well. That's going to play an important role.

On making special teams more important than other coaches...

It was important in New England and it was important here when I was with Bill Parcells. It's the third phase of the game, and it has equal importance to the other two. Philosophically we believe if you're tired, you take a break on offense and defense and not on special teams because those plays have the potential to be game-changing plays.

On the running game now versus at the start of the season...

Both our run offense and our run defense have made good strides from the beginning of the season, and a lot of that is a function of everybody being able to work together, getting a better sense of the runs that we run and the runs that are run against us and how to stop them or how to block them effectively. Also the running backs, the timing of everything, I think we've made some good progress there, but it's still something that we look to make progress on.

On it being to the team's advantage that Cedric Houston and Leon Washington did not play a lot in either of the two previous games against New England...

They've had good exposure in other games; and Cedric is a running back that we were familiar with last year and got ready for, so there's some background there. I think that you study quite a bit, and each

team has faced new running backs, and this really isn't a new running back. Maybe you don't have the same exposure, but it's still greater than if you're seeing a guy for the first time.

On Kevan Barlow's status for the game...

It all comes down to the end of the week; it all comes down to how we evaluate it. We have another day here, so it could be any one of those three guys. Derrick (Blaylock) has actually been doing a lot of good things, so we've got a good mix there.

On the evaluation for Barlow having more to do with game plan or injury...

Well, they all work in throughout the game plan, and that's part of the evaluation is how well, how effectively they do within the week within the context of the game plan.

On Shaun Ellis...

One of the most dramatic plays that stand out in my mind from the season is a play against Miami where they had the third down and they got it to fourth and one and decided to kick the field goal. Shaun on that play was on the backside of the play, pursued down, actually fell in front of the ball carrier and stopped them the yard short. During the course of the week Shaun had a really outstanding week in pursuit, and he's been very good at. That's something that we stress quite a bit, everybody getting the ball. I thought that play with how well he had done during the course of the week, the fact that it was really a pursuit/effort play where he falls in front of the running back, stops him short of it, now they have to kick the field goal. Without that effort, without that play, who knows where the game would have gone.

Things like that- outside of all of his statistics- things like that go a little bit unnoticed, and he's done a real good job with that element of leadership that he brings on the practice field and translates into the game.

On the situations in which Leon Washington is most dangerous...

Leon has done a lot of different things really well. He's caught the ball out of the backfield effectively at times, even if it's not necessarily a designed route. If it's just a check down where he's the outlet, and the fact that he can make things happen with the ball in his hands after he gets it in space. I think he's done some nice things on the perimeter runs and draws. The other thing I like about him is he's done some runs that traditionally big backs run and he's done well with that because he's got a good sense now of pressing the hole, where the cutback lane will be, and that takes some time and that takes some real effort to understand that and how it's all going to fit together up front, and that's part of his maturing and consistent work.

On what he's told the players about running the ball this week...

Hold it high and tight; protect the football.

On telling them anything about getting extra yards...

It's very important to always force them to tackle you, but a lot of it comes down to holding the football high and tight and protecting the ball.

On Washington reminding him of Patriots' running back Kevin Faulk...

There are some elements of that. He has some qualities that Kevin has and Kevin has some qualities that he doesn't have, but they're both really good people. They both work extremely hard. They're both good teammates. Kevin is obviously a lot more experienced than Leon is, but I think there are some similarities and differences. As people, they're two very, very good people.

On Hank Poteat...

Hank has done a good job and he's filled a lot of roles. We had him here early and had a visit with him and he got to play and then came back. Hank is a good example of when opportunity comes, being able to take advantage of it. One of the things that I've always liked about Hank is his toughness, his competitiveness and his professionalism. Doing things the right way, if he's supposed to be in a certain spot, really working to get to that spot and being consistent with that. So those are all things that I liked when I knew him prior to coming here and since he's been here.

On admiring Poteat's resilience...

That's something we talk about as a team all the time that there's going to be adversity through the season, there's going to be adversity in games, and really there's always going to be adversity in your career, your life, whatever the situation may be, and how you deal with that is so important, how you're able to move on from that and focus on the next thing, and he's done a good job with that.

On how having veterans on the team who won Super Bowl has helped...

(They are) another sounding board for people to ask questions to, but there's a lot of guys here who have won a lot of games, whether it be here or in college. How you draw from all those experiences and the things that they did well. There are a lot of similarities as to why you win at whatever level, and you're always trying to share things that will help you do that at the level you're currently at.

On Matt Chatham...

The fact that Matt was voted special teams captain is a real testament to him being a new guy, and he's very insightful; when he looks at opponents and the players, he does excellent reports on those things. He's tough, he's got experience in the system, and that was important, especially early on. Matt has been a good addition.



New York Jets' G Pete Kendall, 1.5

On Coach Mangini's "Player of the Game"...

Around here, that's considered as important as what you did on Sunday.

On Coach Mangini putting more stress on practice than other coaches...

Practice is different with Eric [Mangini], maybe as much because of the youth on this team. I've been part of some older teams as a younger guy and practice had a different feel than it does now.

On Coach Mangini's attitude in practice...

There is a lot of teaching, but it's also very competitive.

On what he has taught to Nick Mangold and D'Brickashaw Ferguson...

You'd have to ask them what they've been able to take from me that's been useful or hasn't been. Those guys came in pretty much ready to play.

On how much better Mangold and Ferguson are now than when first they came here...

The thing that they have now that they didn't have when this thing kicked off four months ago, is experience. They've seen quite a bit now, not everything they're going to see in their career, but they've got a good background now.

New York Jets' WR Laveranues Coles, 1.5

On what makes him so good at yards-after-catch...

I can't take all the credit. It has to do with the quarterback and the offensive coordinator designing plays that get us some space and I think that's what has really helped us get yards after the catch. You always want to make a play after you catch the ball, that's the fun part, that's the part that makes the game exciting, it's when you get the "ohhhs" and "ahhhs" from the crowd. Being able to make moves after you catch the football is one of the most enjoyable parts of it.

On preparing for a team that they have already beaten...

It doesn't help at all. We're playing against New England and any time you play a team like New England three times in the same year, it doesn't make it any easier.

On the five catches he had in the last meeting...

With the understanding that I have of their system and their coaches, each time you're going to get something different. The first time we played them, they played us four-down, the second time they played us three-down. I think every time you play New England, you can expect something different. They decide what they want to do and who they want to take away. If coach Belichick decides he wants to take a certain player away in a game, he does that. He really sets his mind to it and he does it. In that mind set, we don't know who he's going to take away or what mindset he's going to come into the game with. Right now, we're just going into the game prepared to make adjustments.

On how his mindset has changed as he's aged a little bit...

You try not to let the situation or the opportunity outweigh what it really is. You have to look at it and say, 'I am still playing a game,' and it is a game. I think if you allow yourself to get caught up in the moment, then it will take away from what you're doing or what you're trying to achieve and that is to play your best football. You don't want to overcomplicate things, you want to just continue to do what you do best and then hopefully focus on the job at hand. You can't do more than you can't do, you have to allow everybody else to do their jobs. If I take that same approach and allow everyone else to do what they're supposed to do and I do what I'm supposed to do, we'll be alright.



On blocking out all the hype...

It's very difficult. The media attention that you get goes along with the playoffs. I'm at home and all I can see running across the television is playoff weekend. It's something that's very exciting, I think it's great, but this a time of year when guys that have performed during the year and guys that haven't done much get an opportunity to make a name for themselves.

On the young guys realizing how precious this moment is...

It's good if they don't, because you don't want them to get overwhelmed with what's going on. You want them to take it as a week-to-week game and understand that this is just another game. If they get caught up in the moment, it takes away something from their game.

On where this team's confidence comes from...

We've been like this all year, nothing has changed. It's not just the Patriots, it's anyone. We go out and perform, that's all you can do. You can't control what anybody says or what anybody thinks. All you can do is handle what you can handle and that's control what's in between those football lines. That's the most important thing and I think guys understand that all we can do is line up on Sunday when those 60 minutes are up on the clock and try to control your own destiny.

New York Jets' C Nick Mangold, 1.5

On not feeling like a rookie anymore...

I'll be a rookie for another two years I think. It's always new and it's always exciting. It's one of those things that has been a fun experience going through it all, being a rookie.

On how far he has come...

I'll look back when everything is said and done and take a look at some films and check out how things went.

On where he expected the Jets to be at this point...

I had no idea. I came in expecting that I was going to have to learn a whole heck of a lot, and that has come true. After that, were things that I can't even worry about, because the first step is learning.

On where the team's confidence comes from...

It comes from the players that are in this locker room. Guys have a lot of heart and a lot of drive to be out there every day at practice, to be out on the field working hard and making sure everyone is working hard.

On not fearing New England...

It's one of those things where you go out there and play the game. They have great players across the ball who have done some great things and who are doing great things right now; that's our biggest challenge right now. Looking into the past and going into the history books isn't really going to help us coming up in this game. We have to focus in on what they're doing now, study hard, get out there and get after them.

On having D'Brickashaw around who is going through the same rookie experience...

It's been nice having a guy with the same problems and the same feelings. I can ask him the stupid questions that I would feel like an idiot asking the veterans. It's been a huge help having him.

On how he will react to his first playoff experience...

I have no idea; I didn't know how I was going to react to the home opener, to the first preseason game or to the 16th game, so it's one of those things that happens and you go with it. It's exciting, but I'm not sure what the reaction is going to be.



New York Jets' LB Jonathan Vilma, 1.5

On the pulse of this squad...

The pulse of this squad is the same, business as usual. We're obviously excited to in the playoffs, but we're not letting that overtake or intimidate us. We'll be ready to play Sunday and it will be business as usual.

On preparing for a team that they have beaten already...

To be honest with you, the fact that we split them 1-1 in the regular season was good for us, but aside from that we know they're going to do some things differently, so we're going to have to be ready for that.

On if the team realizes how precious this opportunity is...

Of course, the way we've been practicing, we've had good practices this week. We're going to follow it up with a good practice today and be ready and be sharp for Sunday.

On both New York teams being in the playoffs...

It's great for the fans in the city, I know they'll be excited as well as we will be.

On New England's running backs...

Both running backs are obviously, very good running backs, so we have to prepare. I like to say, "When either one is in on offense, what do they do differently on offense?" But they don't do much differently on offense, so we're preparing for the same plays, we just have to understand that the different running backs, Corey Dillon or Laurence Maroney, are going to play to their strengths.

On what they did last time against New England to contain the run...

The biggest thing was understanding our gap-fits, gap-assignments and tackling. That's the biggest thing and I think we did a good job of that last year.

New York Jets' LB Matt Chatham, 1.5

On their confidence level after getting to Tom Brady a lot in the last meeting...

We know we can get there. With that being said, you have to duplicate it and it's that time of year when you have those mistakes on paper and they're correctable, so I'm sure that's what they're trying to do.

On how difficult it will be to repeat the performance from the last meeting...

That's the difficulty, but I think one of Eric Mangini's strengths is his game plan too. In a one-game scenario, these are the kinds of coaches that think that's their strength. Not that they're not strong over the course of 16 games, but this is what they live for, this is what they thrive on.

On the "chess match" between Mangini and Belichick...

This is an exciting game. All the relationship stuff aside, we've got two division rivals, two city rivals, an extreme situation and two guys that like to butt heads on the field.

On teams going into New England games with a different mindset...

I don't know that, I can only vouch for us and we have an extreme amount of respect for them, especially since a lot of us in this room know a lot of guys in their room. We know how they're preparing right now, we know what they're doing. We know that they ratchet it up this time of year and it puts the onus on us to do it as well.



New York Jets' Head Coach Eric Mangini, 1.4

Opening Statement...

We placed Jaime Thompson on IR. We moved Ed Blanton up to the active roster and we signed Charles Missant, an offensive lineman that we had during training camp, to the practice squad.

Mike Nugent will be named AFC Special Teams Player of the Month. We are happy for him. He has done an excellent job. Chad (Pennington) was named the AP Comeback Player of the Year. It is a testament to how hard he has worked and all of the things that he does not just professionally, but personally to put himself in the best possible situation to succeed. We are very happy with that as well.

In terms of practice yesterday, overall we are off to a good start. There are some things that we need to address and fix. As you know, it is a very game-specific team, so there are a lot of things that we have to get ready for. Today will be a regular Thursday. We will be focusing on third down and reviewing some of the blitzes both offensively and defensively. We will also review and introduce some new things based on the first and second down packages.

On penalties...

It is a significant emphasis. We have the officials here every day and they call practice like they would call a game. We monitor that and when they do call a penalty we find out who it was on and what the reason was. With Mike Westhoff's understanding of rules, and not just the rules but also the interpretation, that gives us some insight into how the game is going to be called, how things are going to be looked at by the league and by the officials. We try to look at things that way.

On if there are ever good penalties...

One that saves an interception could be a good penalty. You could make that argument if it avoids a turnover.

On Pennington making a comeback...

Each injury is different and I don't know what others have had, but in Chad's mind there was never any doubt. He was extremely committed to doing everything that he could possibly do to put himself in a position to come back from those injuries. There was no precedent, so there was no formula to look at to say, 'this is what he needs to do to come back from the injury.' He consistently worked at it. Knowing Chad and his approach, that is what really drove him.

On Pennington's rehab...

The medical staff did an excellent job. The trainers, the doctors and Chad all worked together to put together a plan. It was a situation where everyone was open minded, trying to explore as many different options as we possibly could as to what was the best path would be. It worked so it was a good path in terms of what the formula was.

On Pennington's arm strength...

He has hit some deep balls. He threw a couple of nice deep balls last game that didn't quite hit. It is like anything else with Chad Pennington; if you underestimate him, he is going to end up hurting you.

On being impressed by Pennington...

Some of the best examples are him coming down to the training room. We had a new system in place. It didn't matter what time I was passing through, if Chad was getting rehabbed, he was multi tasking with his playbook. It was like a mobile-study-center where he was getting worked on and working at the same time. That is always impressive, where a guy is getting things done while achieving things. He was studying that playbook so that he would be ready for training camp. There was no doubt at any point.

On Mike Nugent...

We talked about it (Nugent's missed field goals at Tennessee) after that week. About his approach and his professionalism. A lot of times we go through different struggles, whether it is a bad call, a bad decision or a bad play. It is how you respond to those things. Mike responded the right way. He went back to work and he evaluated the things that he didn't do as well as he could have. His approach was to fix

those mistakes and move forward. That's what we are always looking for. When adversity strikes, how do you handle that adversity? How do you respond? Are you able to put it out of your mind and look at it as an opportunity for growth and learning or do you let it linger and effect your next opportunity to be successful?

On bringing players in for workouts...

We bring guys in all the time. Sometimes they are not particularly guys that we need, but guys that we want to get to know. We want to meet and work out and have a good sense of where they are at in case something does come out. You can see week-in and week-out that has been part of the program.

The case with all of these workouts is you need to have an answer in case the question comes up, and you always want to be proactive with that answer instead of responding to the situation after the fact and not having that information. Mike (Tannebaum) and JoJo Wooden (assistant director of player personnel) do a good job of bringing those guys through, keeping a list current, keeping the list detailed so that when a decision does come up, we can address it.

On if a kicker would have been looked at if Mike Nugent had not missed the field goals in Tennessee...

I'm sure there would have been a kicker, that's how Mike (Tannebaum) is. He always wants to stay ahead of the curve.

On the origin of Mangini's coaching methods...

Any time that you go into a new position, there are a lot of things that are borrowed and I borrowed a lot of information from great people along the road. I've been fortunate with the guys that I have been able to work with, and you're always going to draw on experiences to handle situations that you've never had to handle before. The important thing was taking what I liked from those experiences and then pulling it all together and trying to put together the best program for the Jets. As well as make decisions based off of the way that I viewed things, not necessarily the way that those people at that time viewed things.

On what Mangini has learned about Pennington...

It was more reinforcing what I had seen on tape. When you watch a player like Chad and his huddle presence, the respect that he gets from the guys on this team, the way that he's able to attack defenses, the way that he understands his offense so thoroughly. Immediately you see that he details everything and he's hard-working, because those things don't happen by accident. It's too complicated for it to be an accident. That was the impression I got from playing against him. As I came here and got to know him and got to learn more about him, it just confirmed all of the things that I thought prior to getting here.

On how Pennington handled the four-way quarterback competition during training camp...

It just reinforced his character. Throughout that competition, I thought all those guys handled it extremely well. They were competing with each other, but at the same time they were helping each other. They were being good teammates while the competition was going on, and that's what you look for in any position, but you look for it, especially, in the quarterback position. That character to go with the competitiveness that all of those guys showed.

On Pennington believing the quarterback job should be his...

Whenever you enter into a competition, you should always go into the competition with a mind-set of, 'I'm going to win this and this should be mine.' That's why you're competing, and if at any point you're willing to concede a position or a contest to someone else, then really, the competition's over before it ever starts. Part of that whole process was a process that everybody went through and it's a process that's ongoing. I believe that competition is extremely valuable and I believe that it helps get everybody better. It helps make everybody that much sharper. I was really proud of the way those guys all handled it in such a professional and team way.

On experiencing a moment where he didn't feel close with Belichick anymore...

I've never experienced that moment. The way I feel about Bill is the way I've felt about Bill since I first got to know him and it's not going to change. Really, it's the same as what we talked about in the first two games. My feelings have not changed one iota.

On Mangini and Belichick's handshake after the first game...

We do a lot of self-scout after the game, what we did well, what we did poorly, and I didn't really evaluate those things. I thought my handshake was strong. (Laughter) Firm. My dad always told me it's important to have a good handshake and I try to be consistent with that. I've experimented with a couple other different kinds that haven't worked for me.

On Mangini not being able to confide in Belichick...

We're in the same division, so it's harder to call people in the same division because you don't necessarily want to help someone that's trying to beat you. There are guys who are not in the same division that have been very supportive that I've talked to quite a bit. Bill Parcells has been outstanding in terms of offering advice or if I have a question, being able to call him. Guys like Charlie (Weis) or Kirk (Ferentz), Romeo (Crennel), also. Different guys throughout the years have been great. Lovie Smith called me the other day just to wish me luck and I thought that was extremely nice. Other coaches have done the same thing and I just think that sometimes in the division, it's tougher and there are a lot of people that are not in the division that are extremely good resources and have been able to bounce ideas off of them.

On lessons from his father...

He was such a huge influence in my life as your parents often are. He was very determined at everything he did. He believed in finishing things. I had two brothers, so he was good at conflict resolution. Whenever we would get into beefs, we would be sent down to the cellar to clean it up and you couldn't come up until it was done. Usually you'd spend the first half hour fighting; 'you get that side, I'll get that side.' Then it's just get this done and get out of here and you came up feeling really good about each other because now you had worked together. There are so many things: His kindness, his compassion for people who were less fortunate, I could go on and on. He was a very special man, and I hope that I can be the same type of father to my kids.

On if Belichick was a father-figure to Mangini...

Any time you have a mentor, there are elements of that. My high school coach after my father died, Graham Martin, was very supportive. My Uncle Frank was like that. There are a lot of people that fill a void when the void is created at such a young age.

On Belichick mentioning Mangini by name on a conference call...

It didn't really change anything. We're still going to be competing on Sunday and they are still going to be trying to beat us and we are still going to be trying to beat them and somebody is going home. That's really where we are. So what I want to do is get our team as ready to go as we possibly can. That's the important thing.

On if Nick Mangold should have received Rookie of the Year...

I don't really vote on that stuff. He got center of the year for us. (Laughter) I was happy with his progress and things that he's done. Any of those accolades that come out, any of these things that happen after the season, they are nice and you appreciate those things, but the real meaning is in what the team accomplishes. There are thousands of guys that would trade Pro Bowls and Players of the Year or whatever the case may be for team success because that's what's special.

On Nick Mangold...

He got a little bit of work yesterday and he'll get a little more work today. It will be like everything else, we'll just gauge it and be smart with the injury so that we don't aggravate it, but make sure that he's getting the preparation he needs to be as effective as possible.

On Andre Dyson...

He made a lot of progress last week and he's making a lot of progress this week. It's the same thing. You're monitoring it and making sure that you're building as you go and being smart to not reaggravate it and make sure that he's at his peak level for Sunday.

On some coaches being better suited for college...

I've never coached in college. I don't know what that experience is like. I could tell you about the Kew Colts and the Australian Football League. I would do that again. That was a great experience. Not looking to go to the Kew Colts. I'm happy to be with the New York Jets. (Laughter). I'm just telling you how I feel. It was a great experience at 22 years old, I couldn't have asked for a better introduction to football and a better group of guys. I don't really have a basis in terms of what the college experience is like, and I've really enjoyed being a professional football coach. So it's hard for me to give you a comparison.

On Tom Brady...

You can't say enough about Tom Brady. He's just an incredible person to go with the fact that he's an incredible player and he's another guy that came in, not very highly drafted, but he just worked and worked. After practice, he worked in the meetings; he's a great example of the combination of ability and hard work translating into great success. I'd group David Givens into that, as well. Those two guys would work every day after practice and sometimes it didn't look very good. But it looks pretty good right now.

On talking to Brady...

He called me when I got the job here. He did call to congratulate me. We had a good relationship and we have a good relationship. During the season, you don't talk to the players that are on other teams, but he's always been very supportive and nice. I really like Tom a lot as a person.

On Curtis Martin's situation going into the season...

We were always very hopeful that it could work out. It was one of those things where you wanted to give him the most time possible and keep all of the windows open.

We really liked Leon (Washington) in the draft and felt that he had the potential to do a lot of positive things, which he has done, and it was something that we had addressed in the draft and through the trade for Kevan (Barlow). The guys we had here, we understood that things may not be a traditional package but a package that we could definitely be successful with.

On if Dyson will play...

How we have him listed on the injury report is how he is.



New York Jets' QB Chad Pennington, 1.4

On being named the AP Comeback Player of the Year...

Understanding the process that I've gone through, understanding the journey that I've been through thus far makes it special knowing that hard work does pay and that having the right attitude and believing in working hard and treating people right and going about doing your business the right way, it actually matters. There are so many people who have been involved in this process, that have been selfless and provided me the resources and opportunities to get healthy it's definitely special.

On the quarterback competition in training camp...

When you're put in difficult situations, you have to fight human nature sometimes. Human nature sometimes, wants us to feel sorry for ourselves and come up with excuses and look for ways to get out of a situation. I just choose not to listen to my own human nature. I choose to look at it as an opportunity; I understand the business side of this league and of this team and I used it as an inspiration and as a challenge for myself and maybe as an inspiration to other people to say, 'Hey, take a situation, whatever that situation is, work very hard at it, have a very good attitude and make the best out of it and let things fall where they may.'

On having to prove himself again...

Sometimes during the rehab and sometimes during the competition, I think I had to look at it as if the slate was wiped clean and what I had done in the past did not matter anymore. In this business, the past is exactly that, it's history. It's about how you perform, how you produce, how you handle your business in the now. In this business, being an athlete, you have to learn from the past, you can't worry about the future and you have to really concentrate on the now. If this situation did anything for me, it showed me how important staying in the present and staying in the now is. That's the only part of your life that you can control at that moment. You can't control the past, you have no idea what the future holds, the present is what you can take control of; it's the part that you can affect.

On if he ever had any doubts that he could make it back...

The lowest point was the two weeks after the initial injury, the second time around, not having a goal, not having a challenge, not having a carrot out in front of you. As an athlete, that's a bad place to be, sort of like the *Twilight Zone*. You have no drive; you have nothing to go for. That was the lowest point, not knowing what direction I would go in. Whether it was good or bad, whether it was with football or without football, I had no idea. Once we had the surgery and the medical staff laid out a plan, then I had a challenge ahead of me, I had a goal, I had something to go after with my total mindset and my attitude changed and I was starting to get back to normal.

New York Jets' WR Jerricho Cotchery, 1.4

On what Chad Pennington has brought to this team...

Everything we've done this year is based on what he has done this year. He has come back from what no one thought he would come back from and to be able to go out there and perform and lead the team the way he's led it to get us in the position that we are in right now is unbelievable.

On the inspiration Chad Pennington has been...

Everything he has accomplished this year, he's earned it. He won the job [as quarterback], it was a difficult road ahead for him in the off-season to be able to fight through what he was going through. He's led this team in an incredible way this year and everyone on the team has fed off of him, not just the offense, everyone on the team has fed off that.



On New England's defense...

It's very tough and it's tougher in the playoffs, because those guys play well as a team. You have great guys here and there on defense, but these guys play well collectively. All of those guys can make plays, but you've never seen a team that's on one page like their defense is.

On New England's defense without Rodney Harrison...

The good thing about their defense is they can plug guys in and out. Obviously, if you lose a player of his caliber, it's going to hurt somewhat, but they do a good job of plugging guys in and I give credit to the guys that are stepping in and doing their job. We're going to have to go out, execute and not make any mistakes to put them in a position where they can run us out of the stadium.

New York Jets' RB Leon Washington, 1.4

On the confidence of the Jets...

We're confident, but at the same time we do realize the task that we have at hand. We're dealing with Super Bowl Champions in three of the last four years. We're dealing with a team that is very capable of beating us and we understand that, so we have to go out there and try to execute the practices throughout the week. Hopefully, executing practice will give us confidence going into the game.

On all the talk about coach Mangini and coach Belichick...

That's between the coaches. As players, we're going out there and trying to prepare ourselves during the week and leave all that to them [the coaches].

New York Jets' LB Victor Hobson, 1.4

On when he thought Tom Brady might be something special...

He was always one of those quarterbacks that no matter what the score was, if we were down, as a defensive unit and as a team, we felt confident that he would be the guy to bring us back. That was a feeling that we always had through college and obviously, it translated through his play in the NFL.

On Tom Brady being the best playoff quarterback...

I think his record speaks for itself. There aren't too many with winning records like that in the playoffs, especially when it's a tournament. If you lose, you go home and he's been able to move on.

On New England's running game...

Like you said, their running game does present a lot of problems. Corey Dillon and Laurence Maroney, those are two physical backs and they have a solid offensive line who has been together, who play together and work very well together. We're going to have to go out there, we're going to have to be able to execute and we're going to have to do different things to try and slow that down as much as possible.

New York Jets' WR Laveranues Coles, 1.4

On other people finally recognizing what Chad Pennington has been through...

I don't think it's enough, especially with everything he went through this off-season. For him, it's just scratching the surface, nobody can say what he's went through off the field as well as on the field to get to this point. I think he's well-deserving and there should be more to come along with that.



On being an underdog...

It doesn't bother me at all, it's just people making speculations about a game. Again, they didn't expect us to be here, they said we wouldn't be here in the beginning of the season, so how much weight can you put on any body that's putting anything on us now?

On whether Pennington and Coles thought the Jets would be successful this year...

Deep down inside I think him and I both knew that he would be here at this point. We talked all during last season and during the off-season, so personally we knew. It's just the people outside this locker room that don't know us personally that thought he wouldn't be here.

On New England's defense without Rodney Harrison...

I think it's pretty much the same. He has a lot of leadership skills and he gets guys pointed in the right direction, but each time we've played against them their secondary has done an excellent job with us.

On being comfortable going across the middle of the field without Rodney Harrison...

I'm never comfortable going across the middle of the field I don't care who's out there. That's just the way the game goes. It is what it is, it's a playoff game, if you can't get excited for this then what can you get excited for?

On the way New England covers him...

Most teams pretty much do the same thing, they try to role their coverage towards me basically to take away the reads. If you know an offensive game plan, there are different reads based on which way a defensive player rotates and if a defensive player rotates my way or the coverage predicates my way, it basically takes Chad off me and puts him on another progression. That's what a lot of teams try to do, not only them. It just gives other guys opportunities to make plays, Jericho Cotchery is making plays, Justin McCareins is making plays and Brad Smith is making plays, so it's one of those things where you decide who's going to make the play against you and I think other guys are stepping up and taking over that role just fine.

New York Jets' LB Jonathan Vilma, 1.4

On the insight coach Mangini has given as far as New England's game plan...

He hasn't given us much insight into their game plan, he's just made mention of what they've done in the past as far as how they've prepared for the playoffs. Aside from that, he probably knows a little bit more than most, because he's been there, but they can come out with anything. Especially with Brady back there, he's very capable of adjusting to new things and executing a new offense.

On why the defense began to click in the last New England matchup...

We knew what to do, it was really more that we wanted to take it to the offense instead of the offense taking it to us. We were at the point where as a team, we decided as a team or as a defense that we wanted to take it to the offense. We wanted to dictate to the offense how the game was going to be played. If they're going to hit a big play, fine, they hit a big play against us in New England, but for the most part, we want to put pressure on them and get after them. That's what we did last time. I don't know what Bob [Sutton] has in store for this coming Sunday, he might switch it around and he might not, but that was the big thing— that we wanted to dictate the offense.

On the confidence level of the Jets...

We're taking it as another game. Obviously, it's the playoffs and we're excited, but right now we're not in the Super Bowl and we're not down in Miami practicing. There's nothing to be, one, oh so nervous about and two, oh so confident about. We have to be even-keeled and be ready for whatever happens Sunday.



New York Jets' DE Bobby Hamilton, 1.4

On setting the blueprint for other teams to get at Tom Brady...

We know what type of quarterback he is. Tom is a great quarterback, he's going to see that and he's going to evaluate himself, but we can't worry about that the only thing we can worry about is what we're going to have to do to go out there and play. We have to go out there, execute and do the things we can to win the game. We know the coaches are going to give us a good game plan to go out there and play, but we know what type of game we're going into with Tom Brady. Tom Brady is going to be pumped and he's going to get his guys in the right direction.

On disguising looks on defense in the last matchup...

It doesn't matter about the game plan we used in the regular season. We went up there and got a 'W', they won one, but that's over with. It's a new ballgame right now, everybody is 0-0. We just have to go out there and do what we have to do to get a 'W'. Once again, I know Tom Brady is going to have those guys on the right road, but you have to understand they have three good backs too, so we know it's going to be a good game plan.

New York Jets' G Pete Kendall, 1.4

On Chad Pennington being named AP Comeback Player of the Year...

I feel good for him, that he's made it through 16 games and has had a pretty solid season for us, regardless of whether he won this award or not.

On Chad Pennington arm-strength making a quarterback...

I think that's part of it and clearly a lot of people think it's the biggest part of it. I agree with Laveranues [Coles], I don't think Chad Pennington gets enough credit. When a quarterback knows where he's going with the ball, he can throw it earlier than some kid with a big arm. There are plenty of guys with a big arm who were flamed out, because they didn't know how to run an offense. They don't know where to throw the ball, they can't diagnose the defense pre-snap and make an adjustment after the snap. A lot of the intangibles that Chad has, most quarterbacks don't have; his ability to lead an offense and to read defenses. He's so smart and determined that any perceived shortcoming in arm-strength, I think he's done quite a job overcoming.

On what Chad Pennington needs to do to get the recognition he deserves...

I don't know what it'll take, I think he took a big step towards that this year winning the award, playing 16 games and overcoming all the adversity. I guess it is a fickle thing, support from the public. Particularly here in New York, it's a 'what have you done for me lately' market, just like it is in Boston.



New York Jets' Head Coach Eric Mangini, 1.3

Opening Statement...

We released Andre Maddox from the practice squad and signed cornerback Alfonso Hodge. As far as practice today, we'll have the same schedule we've been following through the regular season. That won't deviate at all, meetings or the work we're doing on the field.

In terms of New England, as you look at them, it's pretty consistent with what we talked about on Monday. They're going to attack weaknesses, minimize strengths, and play to their strengths. They are extremely well-coached. Obviously Bill (Belichick) is going to the Hall of Fame as a coach. You can see that consistently in the level of play and the level of execution week-in and week-out.

Another guy going to the Hall of Fame is Tom Brady. He does a tremendous job of orchestrating the whole offense, getting them into good plays, getting them out of bad plays, understanding what the defense is doing, understanding what the offense is doing and directing the protection. He's a special guy in that category. They have several other weapons with three really good running backs and excellent tight ends.

The receivers have made tremendous progress throughout the season. I talked to you a lot about Brian Daboll and the work he does with the receivers. Regardless of who he works with or how it changes, they always perform at a very high level.

Defensively they're tough, they're physical, they're smart and they're disciplined. They do a lot of different things along the same lines as every other phase in terms of game plan specific things to attack the opponent and to win that game.

On special teams, I think their return game is outstanding. It's first in kickoff returns, third in punt returns. The coverage has gotten better and better as the season goes on. Again, I think Brad Seely is one of the best special teams coaches in the league. You see that year in and year out with whoever he has, how they perform at a high level as well.

On the Patriots correcting mistakes...

Whether it's the passing game, whether it's defense or special teams, if something's not working, if there's a weakness, they're very good at correcting that weakness and not making the same mistake twice and improving, making progress each week. You see that in any phase of the game. Very rarely do you get to exploit the same things twice.

On if this game is personal to Mangini...

This game is personal in the sense that I'm proud of the way our team has performed. I'm proud of the way our team has worked, the progress we've made to create the opportunity that we have. This is the opportunity that we have. That's what we're focused on. It's personal in the sense of the things that we're doing, not opponent-specific.

On the knowledge the Patriots and Jets have of each other...

The knowledge works both ways because there are obviously dramatic similarities between the two teams. The things we understand, they understand. The problems we have, they have. Some of the strengths that we have, they have. That's a positive and a negative because it can cut both ways. You can work on things that you may think they're going to exploit, but maybe it turns up somewhere else. You have to balance the knowledge with the understanding that it is truly game-plan specific, it's opponent specific, it's for that Sunday.

On New England's ability to correct mistakes...

That's something that we focus on as well as correcting mistakes. That's part of what we do week-in and week-out, learn from things that have happened and try to build on that. It's the same philosophical approach, being game-plan specific.

On if the Patriots are more dangerous considering their previous loss to the Jets...

Every game is its own specific event. What happened in the past really has no bearing on what's going to happen in the future. The key thing is how well we prepare during the week, how well we execute on Sunday. That's all that matters. Everything else is merely history.

On Kerry Rhodes compared to New England's safeties...

Those guys (Rodney Harrison), and Victor Green I'd add, Steve Atwater, they were a lot further along in their career when I coached them. I think Kerry has a lot of great qualities that you see show up in the games. His approach has matured quite a bit. As that continues to get better, which he's been working on, he'll continue to get better. There are a lot of positives from the season that he can continue to build on. I think as we move further along, those comparisons will work themselves out.

On Rhodes' ability to blitz...

There are times when he's done a very good job there. There have been some times where he's come clean. It's an ongoing process. You have to keep getting better in terms of when they do have a hat for you. How are you going to counter it? Are you going to go speed to power, throw a move? All those different elements of continually being able to evolve as the awareness of what you can do get better.

On respect...

My goal is the respect of the people that I work with, the respect of the coaches and the players, the New York Jets. That's what my focus is on. That's what I care about. How we play, how we perform, that's what we're all focused on. It's the New York Jets.

On having the respect of Belichick...

It's important for me to have the respect of the people that I work with here. That's my goal, that I am able to help our players get better, put them in the best position to succeed. That's really what my goal is every day.

On what separates Belichick from others in terms of success in the playoffs...

I don't think it's merely a case of preparing for the playoffs. One of the qualities I admire so much about him is, as smart as he is, as much success as he's had, his work ethic hasn't changed. He puts in the same amount of time and energy and effort and thought into the preseason games, the first game of the season as he does any other game. It doesn't matter whether it's three Super Bowl rings, Man of the Year, whatever the accolades are, it doesn't change.

On importance of this game changing the intensity...

We've been in a situation like that for quite a few weeks where every game was extremely important to get to the next stage. This is exactly the same scenario. There are 1,500 people in the NFL sitting at home, and there are not as many playing this week. We want to avoid sitting at home.

On how the Patriots will counter the Jets game plan...

You have to go into the week understanding that there's going to be some things you've practiced that show up. There's going to be some things that you practiced that have no relevance. There are going to be some things that happen during the game that you have to adjust to. A lot of different teams have that element to it. Oakland had some game plan formations offensively and plays, packages. Understanding that, you think through the different contingencies. You may not be able to practice them all, but you have a plan for what could happen. The players understand that it's so important to gather information during the game, come off the sideline, see the pictures, talk to the coaches, get the adjustments, be ready to move on to the next series. The next series could change as well. It's a constant evolution throughout the game.

On Belichick's halftime adjustments...

When I was at New England with Bill, I thought he made outstanding adjustments. That's a very good staff. He's an excellent evaluator of talent in terms of players and coaches. It is real. There is an element of an adjustment, fixing problems. That's why it's so important to understand that when adversity strikes,

which it always will, you have to move on from that because you have to have the presence to deal with the next series, the next event, the next moment. The second you get caught up in the 60-yard bomb, the fumble, whatever the case may be, you're losing the chance to continue to win the game.

On Mangini saying 'New England'...

We all evolve and change. I had a lot of great experiences at New England. We can say "playoffs" now, too. There are a lot of words we can talk about now (smiling). It's just part of the progress. I'm developing (smiling).

On if Mangini can say 'Super Bowl' now...

No (laughter).

On Chad Pennington compared to Tom Brady...

The parallels between Chad and Tom in terms of their work ethic, their approach, their understanding of the opponent, their understanding of their own system, are very strong. Even as people, they're very strong. Tom Brady, I had him in some early meetings when he was a sixth-round draft pick. He's the same guy in those meetings even after he's had all the success he's had. Chad is the same guy regardless of the success he has. Both of them give you the opportunity to do a lot of things offensively, to make a lot of adjustments. That's another reason why organizationally we're so committed to bring in smart players that can be adaptable and selfless players that are willing to play whatever role it takes to win that game on that day.

On the Jets' halftime adjustments...

The process at halftime is you come in and talk as a staff. You identify the problem plays, put those on the board and you talk to the players. The adjustments really aren't just halftime specific. Sometimes you come off, it's a scheme run that you hadn't seen the week before and it's different. Being able to look at the picture and say, 'Okay, we need to fill this gap, play this a little bit different in terms of where we fit with the linebackers.' It's not just a grand scheme in terms of the halftime; a lot of those adjustments happen on the fly. Brian (Schottenheimer) and Bob (Sutton) and Mike (Westhoff) have all done a good job at various points. But to give you one specific one, it doesn't do justice to the multiple ones that have happened.

On players' in-game feedback...

You always want to get the feedback as to how it was blocked, what the technique was. It's so important that on the sidelines. We have game film. We're going to see what the truth is. Sometimes someone went in the wrong gap. It's better to just say, 'I went in the wrong gap,' then, 'No, no, I was there.' Now you're chasing ghosts. Honesty on the sidelines it is extremely important to truly identify, is this a problem with the defense or did you make a mistake? The two are very different.

On specific players who contribute feedback in-game...

A lot of guys have done it in different points, whether it is Laveranues (Coles) sometimes seeing the corner sitting hard inside where now you have a chance to threaten the inside and go vertical, or Chad (Pennington) with some kind of look he's getting. Jonathan (Vilma), Shaun (Ellis), Eric Barton, Brad Kassell, Matt Chatham, or the safeties. You need to gather information from everybody because they're the best source; they've experienced it. The picture doesn't always tell the story.

On the defense taking to the coaching...

They've taken to the coaching throughout the process. There have been significant progress. It just doesn't always show up dramatically. Things that you see where you're getting better may not be the flashy items. We talked about it in here, the week before the bye week, having a really outstanding practice defensively where it's not just the fits, it's the level of communication, it's the working together, doing your job first, trusting the other guy is doing his job. There are a lot of elements that come into play. Then having the bye week, seeing some of the problems, being able to spend a good amount of time on those, really evaluating the first eight weeks, getting a lot of corrections. I think that helped as well.

On when it all came together for the defense...

No process ever comes down to one moment where you can point to and say, 'that was it.' It's accumulation of a lot of reps, a lot of time, a lot of work. What seems like a real transformation, may be a quick transformation, is the effect of a lot of time and effort to get to that point.

On the second half of the Cleveland game being the turning point for the defense...

That would not necessarily be the specific moment because, as you talk about blitzing, it's so important you have everybody covered, that you're hitting the right gaps. That comes with seeing it done correctly in practice, seeing it executed correctly in the games. There are a lot of times where we haven't blitzed very much but played really good base technique. Being able to do both is what helps you to really make progress defensively.

On how much time Mangini will spend picking a boxing match to show the team this week...

Probably the same as every other week. I'm getting a lot more feedback about what I should show now.

On whom Mangini is getting feedback from...

From everybody. I expect a call from my mom sometime this week. You all know what a big boxing fan she is. Hey, you should really show this, show this. I appreciate the input.

On Pete Kendall's contribution to the development of Nick Mangold and D'Brickashaw Ferguson...

It has been extremely significant but, I would put Brandon Moore, Anthony Clement, all the veteran guys, in with that process. Pete happens to be in between the two of them. They've all worked with those guys either during meetings, during practice or after practice.

Pete is excellent about studying film, then sharing that information, talking through the adjustments, being proactive about that, being a good example as to how you should prepare on a personal level outside of what's done here on a team level.

On Kendall as coach on the field...

Pete adds a lot of value. He would be a good coach. I think he's thought about it. I don't know at what level he'd want to do it. If he does at the high school level, it would be interesting to see how he deals with the parents (laughter). You appreciate Pete's sense of humor. I appreciate it as well. I know he's highly regarded in here. Two-time award winner (smiling). It would be good for him to get some feedback.

On appreciating what the team has accomplished...

I appreciate it in the context of how the players have worked, how they've controlled things by their actions and their consistency, their approach. That's what I really appreciate and respect.

On Mangini being viewed as his own man...

I never looked at it in terms of having to be my own guy. When I talk to different people before I took the job, that was one of the things they stressed, is to be your own guy. Whenever you had someone who has been an extreme influence on you, you definitely take things good and bad from that person. You develop into a role. To me it's important just to approach things the way I believe they should be done. I learned from Bill Parcells, Bill Belichick, Ted Marchibroda, Charlie Weis, Romeo Crennel, Kirk Ferentz and Nick Saban. There have been a lot of different coaches that have impact and have taught me a lot of lessons. I try to take all those different lessons, apply them to the way I believe things should be done.

On Nick Saban accepting the coaching job at the University of Alabama...

I really like Nick Saban. I respect him. That's how I feel. I have a high regard for him as both a person and a coach. It was great when I interviewed down there with him, I got to spend some time with him and his wife. I wish him nothing but the best.

On if one of Mangini's coordinators took a head coaching job at a division rival...

It's part of the nature of the NFL. People change and move on and through success opportunities are created. Sometimes those opportunities are at different places. That's just the nature of the business.



New York Jets' QB Chad Pennington, 1.3

On his emotions going into this game...

I feel the same. This is what we play this game for, to have a chance, to play for a championship. My feelings are the same. We're going into a Wild Card game, into a hostile environment. We have to make sure we're prepared and focused.

On what to expect from the Patriots defense...

You expect the unexpected. You expect something a little different. You expect a twist here and there. One thing you expect them to do is be very physical and be very tough. They finish. They play for four quarters. Another characteristic of their team and their defense, they capitalize on their opponent's mistakes. They're probably the best in the league at making you pay for a mistake. They don't let those mistakes slip by and give you a second chance.

On the advanced knowledge both teams have of each other...

Any time you play a team twice a year, then you have to play them for the third time in the playoffs, it gets pretty interesting. There's going to be some times during the game where there is going to be a chess match. Every game, no matter who your opponent is, comes down to the fundamentals of the game; who protects the ball, who is able to run the ball effectively, who is able to capitalize upon the opponent's mistakes. That's what I've said about New England: they just do such a great job of capitalizing on your mistakes. They don't let a mistake pass by without you paying for it. That's what we have to make sure we don't do, is give them easy ones.

On previously beating the Patriots in Foxborough...

This is a new season. It's a one-game season. We understand that. We understand that we're playing a veteran playoff team, a successful championship team that knows how to win these types of games. We have our work cut out for us. We have a big challenge ahead of us.

What we have to do is understand the importance of our practice reps this week, understand the importance of making sure we're getting all of our adjustments. We're communicating, we're taking notes, doing all the different things within your preparation to give us the best chance. If we don't do those things before the game, it's going to be very difficult.

On predictions that were made for the Jets for this season...

For the core veterans that have been here, we've always had expectations of ourselves. We've always viewed ourselves as championship-type players. We've had success. We've experienced playoffs. We've won Wild Card games. Our success this year was not a surprise. The reason it wasn't a surprise is because we believe in our hard work. We believe in our preparation. That's why it didn't surprise us. It may have surprised people on the outside, but for us inside the locker room, we expect to be successful. We don't come to work thinking we're going to be 6-10, pack it up on New Year's Eve and go home. We expect ourselves to work hard, to prepare the right way, then to watch this unfold on Sundays.

On if this is the beginning of the Mangini era...

Any time a new coach comes in, it's always the beginning of something, good or bad. It is the beginning of his coaching era. As players, we're just focused on taking the things that he gives us as a head coach, taking the things our coaching staff gives us, and putting those things to work.

On winning the game for Mangini...

We really don't look at it that way. It's a game between the Jets and the Patriots. It's a game between two division rivals. That's important. It's a big game because it's the next game, and it's a one-game season. Lose, you go home; win, you stay in. That's why it's big. That's why it's important. I don't think our guys have really focused on the outside hype or the outside stories because at the end of the day, it's what happens in between those white lines that really matters.

**On preparing for the Patriots...**

Any time you get into the playoffs, you have 16 games of film that your opponent gets to watch. On top of that, you're playing a division rival that you play twice a year. With this being the third time this season, the mental aspect is very important. There may be some plays that look a little ugly because the teams know each other really well. What you have to do is understand it's a four-quarter game. When you play a team like this, when you play a team for the third time, it's going to take all four quarters. It's going to take precise execution. Really in games like this, this is where the fundamentals come into play. This is where the turnover battle, the field position, things like that, become so important in games like this.

On not being content...

With our core veterans, we understand how fragile the playoff situation is for every professional player. Some professionals go through this league, play 10, 11, 12 years, and never reach the playoffs. When you have a chance to be in the playoffs, when you have a chance to be in a tournament, you want to take advantage of it. You don't want to be one-and-done. You want to be able to advance, go forth, really experience what it's all about. It's not like in high school or college where you're used to your team winning every year, being there for the championship-type games. This only happens every once in a while.

On what drives him the most...

The feeling of being the best. That's what it's all about. I know personally that's what I've tried to focus on. Whether it's been academics, athletics, whatever area of my life I've been in at that point, that's what it's about: Being the best, going out, being a competitor, laying it on the line, leaving it all out there and having no regrets. I think that's really what drives me.

On taking on Tom Brady...

What we understand and what you have to understand is that it is the Jets versus the Patriots. I think Tom would be the first person to say, 'Hey, it's not just Tom versus everybody.' It's always been a team effort up there. They've had great players, and Tom has been a catalyst for their success, no doubt about that. From our side of the ball, we look at it as, 'Hey, it's our team versus their team.' It's going to take all 53 guys this week to get the job done, to make sure we're communicating with each other throughout practice, preparing each other the right way, keeping each other on the edge, making sure we're ready to play.

On what it would mean to win a playoff game...

Whatever happens, happens. I truly believe it would be a special moment for me because it's been such a team effort. It would really be a team award in my point of view because it's been a total team effort from day one. The organization has been great in providing me to get back healthy, play at a high level. My teammates have been behind me since day one. For us to be able to put it together out on the field would mean a lot.



New York Jets' LB Victor Hobson, 1.3

On his confidence going into this game...

We have the confidence in ourselves that we know how to play football and we're going to have play our best football if we want to compete on Sunday.

On beating them once already...

That's in the past. This is the playoffs, it's a new start. We have to focus on what we have to do for this game.

On coach Mangini mentioning Belichick's name today...

The respect is there. You can recognize a great coach and a coach that prepares his team well.

On being able to pressure Tom Brady in the last meeting...

He's definitely one of the best pressure players in the game. Even going back to when I played with him in college, we always felt confident that he would be able to deal with adversity. The main thing is trying to present different looks and not allowing him to feel comfortable. If we allow him to feel comfortable, it will be a long day.

On facing a team three times in a season...

We know it's going to be physical and we know it's going to be a dog fight. We're going to have to be prepared to execute, be physical and definitely be ready to play. Of course, we played each other and we know each other to a certain extent, but we always have to expect the unexpected.

On the Jets' defense...

We've gotten more comfortable with it as the weeks progressed, and the coaches got more comfortable with us. That gives people a lot more freedom to do more things and give different looks.

New York Jets' WR Laveranues Coles, 1.3

On this being what he and Chad Pennington envisioned for their time in New York...

To be honest, no. We take more pride in and get more out of being able to play together. The fun we have playing the game together and the friendship that we have is the most important thing. There is a lot of emphasis in this business to win, but the performance part and the guys knowing each other and the relationships that you develop has been the most important part of our relationship.

On having a rare relationship with Chad Pennington...

It's just one of those things where we have a lot of things in common. We both like to win, we're both very competitive and we always strive to be good at what we're doing. I think that has also helped our relationship. We both understand, we have both been through quite a bit. He's dealt with it on another level, he's faced a lot of obstacles on this level that I haven't faced, but there are some things in my past that I've had to deal with. We're both people that had to be the underdog and fight our way through it.

On how his relationship with Chad Pennington developed...

I don't know. It was seven years ago when we were in camp, so I can't tell you how it happened, it's just something that happened.

On competing against Chad Pennington in bowling...

I don't think he ever came out bowling. I've bowled against everybody but Chad. Chad is a homebody, I get him out once a year and that's on my birthday.



New York Jets' DE Shaun Ellis, 1.3

On the intensity level for a playoff game...

It's increased, but we can't make the game bigger than what it is. It's the playoffs, we know we're in and we just have to go in and execute, do what we do and keep doing the things that got us here.

On knowing a team so well that it becomes a hindrance...

It can go both ways; it still comes down to execution, taking care of the football, not turning it over, limiting big plays and making big plays. Both teams will try to do that and whichever one does it best will win the game.

On what it means that the Jets have beaten New England this year...

It was a big confidence booster, but that was just one game. We split the season with them 1-1, so this is a totally different game, there is a lot more at stake. They'll be more prepared than the last game, so we have to adjust and try to take advantage of the things that we know will work.

On what makes Tom Brady a three-time Super Bowl Champion...

His poise and smartness; he doesn't make crucial mistakes in playoff games. We have to do a good job of getting to him and stopping the run.

On putting pressure on Tom Brady...

It's very vital; everybody knows Brady is very poised in the pocket, he could stay there, take the hit and throw the ball. He has a lot of confidence in his guys getting open and in his line. He does a great job of getting the ball off and making big plays.

On the aggressive game plan used in the last meeting with New England...

If you look at our game, that's how we try to play. We try to play aggressive regardless of who we face.

On what changed in the bye week...

Basically, during the bye week, we went back over all our mistakes and corrected them. We had a pow-wow to understand how teams were attacking us what we needed to do to fix the problem. We came back after the bye week and fortunately we played the Patriots and everything came together.

New York Jets' G Pete Kendall, 1.3

On the intensity this week...

This is quite a bit different than Week Nine, all the stakes have been ramped up. I think everybody understands that it's win or go home, and that's like I said, quite a bit different than Week Nine of the NFL.

On having an intimate knowledge of New England being a hindrance or an advantage...

It's probably a little bit of both. I think they understand that Eric [Mangini] hasn't suffered amnesia, so I think they understand on the other side what Eric might know. Sometimes, if you think you know too much, you really don't know enough. We've installed the preliminary part of the game plan, we'll go out and practice it today and whoever plays better on Sunday will win.

On beating New England on their home turf...

I don't know if the last game means anything. When we lost to them in Week Two, I didn't think that meant anything and when we went up there in Week 10. Again, the team that plays the best on Sunday will win the game. Whether that's us or them, I don't think the first two games have any bearing on that.



On the opportunity in front of him...

A lot has been written and a lot has been said about what last season was. We never felt like we were that same team coming into this season, so it's an interesting sub-plot or a storyline, but I don't feel like that's who we were. With that being said, we didn't start out the way we wanted to, but we've been able to string enough wins together to get to where we are and I think we're taking the approach that we don't want to be finished just yet.

On being a New England fan prior to his professional career...

I grew up there. There were some years the Patriots didn't give you many reasons to cheer, I do remember getting caught up in the '85 season in the run to the Super Bowl, the game against the Bears. Of course, it's always more fun living in an area when the home team does well.

On his friends back home being in conflict about who to cheer for...

No, unfortunately I've been wished good health more times than I want this week.

On choosing Boston College over Notre Dame to stay close to home...

That was a large factor.

On being a New England guy through and through...

There's not much debate in my house that's where I'll settle after this whole run is done. I'm hoping to get back there on a permanent basis either after this or a few more seasons, but not any time soon.

New York Jets' S Kerry Rhodes, 1.3

On the opportunity for this football team...

It's a great opportunity; we're in the tournament now, everybody is equal, everybody is 0-0 and everybody has a chance.

On beating New England on the road...

We're confident knowing that we can go in and play well. We know that we have a chance, everybody has a chance and we have a good chance to go in there and try to do something.

On the intensity rising...

The playoffs are another time of year. Everybody is banged up and everybody is feeling a little bit down, but once this time comes everybody turns it up another level. I've learned that from the best, and the best stress how important that is, so we know how important it is.

On feeling like this team was something special...

We always knew we had something special. We've worked so hard this year to get back to where we wanted to be, and that is the playoffs. Now we're here and now we can say, "The playoffs," and know that it's there in front of us and we have a good shot to do something.

On knowing New England so well...

It can be a hindrance a little bit, because we know each other so well we know the tendencies and we know what the other wants to do, but in this game it's going to be the things that are unexpected and how the team that gets hit first with adversity handles it.

On what this game will come down to...

We know each other so well that I'm sure we're both trying to do something that the other hasn't seen, so it will be a little unexpected. Like I said, the team that handles it well, gets hit first and bounces back will be the team that can pull it out.



New York Jets' CB/KR Justin Miller, 1.3

On any concerns about coach Mangini when he first arrived in New York...

No, I don't think there were any concerns. We all knew we had a job to do, regardless of who the coach is we have to go out there and execute and do what he asks us to do.

On gaining a personal connection with coach Mangini as the season went on...

We all understand what he likes and what he doesn't like, what he approves of and what he doesn't approve of. That's a part of getting a new boss and going along with the groove.

New York Jets' LB Jonathan Vilma, 1.3

On this opportunity...

I'm excited, this is my second time in three years going to the playoffs, but it doesn't stop there. We have a lot of preparing to do starting today with practice.

On coach Mangini and coach Belichick...

Who knows what goes on between him and Belichick. For us, it's us vs. New England and we know it's going to be a good game, it's going to be a tough game and we know it's not going to be an easy one.

On taking on Tom Brady...

Brady has a proven track record. We all know that he's been great, especially at home in the playoffs. He has a lot of good things going for him and it's just a matter of us going out there and playing hard.

On what makes Tom Brady so good...

His preparation and the way he approaches the game, especially in the playoffs. He knows how everything steps up a notch and of course, his level of play picks up as well. We know what to expect from him, we know he's going to come out and play well, so it's up to us to execute.

Taking on a team that has won three Super Bowls...

It's the same thing as when we played them right after the bye week. It's the same situation where they're one of the top-notch teams, they still are a top-notch team and we have to go into a hostile environment, so we're treating it the same way. It's just another game for us. Obviously, it's the playoffs and it's going to be more intense, but by no stretch of the imagination are we intimidated, because they won some Super Bowls.



New York Jets' Head Coach Eric Mangini, 1.1

Opening Statement

Happy New Year, everybody. I hope you got to celebrate a little last night.

I would like to offer my condolences to Darrent Williams' family. Obviously this is a horrible tragedy and a very difficult time. We just want them to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them in this period.

The players of the game; offensively Anthony Clement did a very good job against the pass rusher, Defensively; it was Shaun Ellis; and special teams; Eric Smith. Our practice player of the week, which is always our most important award, this guy probably takes more reps than anybody at practice and-- Wallace Wright was pushing him for a while when he was working on both sides of the ball-- is Wade Smith.

Overall, yesterday was another good, collective team effort, with all three phases contributing. We talk all the time about finishing, whether it be finishing a play in practice, finishing a period, finishing the practice itself, a meeting, whatever the case may be and how important that and yesterday was about finishing the regular season for us. I was proud of the way that the guys worked all season and proud of the way that we finished the season and earned the opportunity to play this week. That's what we've been working for a long time and they earned it.

What we're doing today is like every other week. We are looking at the corrections from the game, going through those corrections, making sure we got those fixed and we are able to make some progress and our full focus will shift to the Patriots.

On watching the Denver/San Francisco game last night...

I watched a little bit of those games. It took a little while to get home after the game. I saw a little bit of them. It was tough because Jake really didn't want to watch football. He had gotten his fill from the game that afternoon, and so it was in between that and we played a little Playdough and some Candyland. It was a split between the three.

On when Mangini knew the Jets would face New England in the playoffs...

Mike (Tannebaum) called me after the completion of the game, after he got the official call in terms of who the opponent would be and what the time would be. He gave me a call at the house.

On facing New England a third time this season...

We felt that anybody that we were going to play this week was going to be a very good football team, whether it was Indianapolis or New England or however the other scenarios could have worked out. This is a totally different level of competition now and a different challenge for us. Being a division opponent, there's some familiarity both ways. We are familiar with them and they are familiar with us and that has both positives and negatives.

On what Mangini was thinking after learning the Jets would face New England...

I was thinking it will probably be a busy week down here. There will probably be some questions I've answered before. I think it's great. I'm excited about the challenge of next week and going to Indianapolis was going to be a great challenge, too. It was an exciting day for us because of finishing the season, earning the spot and we knew whoever it was going to be, it was going to be a tough game. With it being New England, it's an opponent that we have two games against and some background on in a lot of different areas, which is good and bad.

On the previous two match-ups with New England...

There are definitely things that you can take away from it, the lessons from the first game, the lessons from the second game. But their approach is very opponent-specific and it's very game-specific. There may be some things they have seen since we played them last that they like offensively or defensively on special teams and that's not a set approach week-in and week-out. What's set is that their approach is unique to us, but it's important for us to go back and see the pluses and minuses of those two games as

well as what we have done since the last time we played them to anticipate some of the things they may do.

On the Jets taking a similar approach as New England...

The approach that we've been taking is very game-specific. Philosophically there are a lot of similarities, attack weaknesses, minimize strengths and play to your strengths.

On Bill Belichick...

My thoughts are exactly the same as they have been for the first few games. My approach is no different. My feelings are no different. I respect and appreciate all of the things that he's done for me throughout the course of my career and that's never going to change.

On I didn't know what to put here...

This is the first time I've been in this position, so there are a lot of things that for me are very new in terms of the whole job of being a head coach. Each week I learn something new, and I don't necessarily go in with an expectation of how anything is going to be, but as I said, my feelings are exactly the same.

On if New England dreaded facing the Jets in the playoffs when Mangini took the job...

That's the magic of the conference call. That's one of those things that is a better question for the other side.

On playoff teams...

Every team playing in the playoffs is a good team, whether it's us or whether they are playing somebody else. The level of intensity changes, the level of competition changes. Everything changes once you enter into the post-season, and whoever they (New England) played was going to be a good team.

On facing New England for the third time this season...

It's exciting. The Patriots have only played the Jets one time in their history in the playoffs. There's been a long history of playing each other, but not a long history of playing each other in the playoffs and whenever you get to play a division opponent for a third time, it's exciting.

On Belichick...

My feeling is exactly the same, personally and professionally. My family's feelings, we feel exactly the same way we have since I was here in '97 or in Cleveland and right on down the line.

On proving himself to his former mentor...

The group of guys that we have and the way that we have worked together and the way that we have grown together and shared the experiences that we've had. Earning this opportunity, it's us working together. That's what's important to me is us, and the things that we do.

On the danger of over preparing for New England...

As long as you do everything that you possibly can, so that by the time the game comes, you feel that you put your team in the best position to succeed. Whatever level that is, as long as you have a comfort level that you've done all you could to get to Sunday and the team is as well prepared as they could be to go execute, then that's really the guide that you have to use and that's the guide that I've been using week-in and week-out. That's really the approach I'm going to take here, too.

On Brian Schottenheimer's (offensive coordinator) contributions week-to-week...

Brian has done a great job. It goes back to that first meeting when we sat in the defensive meeting room. We watched a bunch of tapes, shut off the tape and we had lunch and we talked about a lot of philosophical ideas, such as, 'how do you feel about game planning? How do you feel about attacking weakness? How do you feel about getting outside the system?' Because a lot of people get so caught up in this is the system, this is the way it has to be run, that you lose so many opportunities to become a better unit, whether it's offense, defense or special teams and to take advantage of real weaknesses.

I could tell that he was excited about doing those things and that's how he was built. You can see it in his play calling and the multiple formations and really the whole offensive staff, they get in the room, they come out and I enjoy seeing the script because I like those, I like the double-reverse. I like the motioning Chad (Pennington) in and back out and running the quarterback sneak, taking the shots, the flip plays, all of those different things. Defensively when you have to sit back and get ready for those, it consumes a lot of time and it causes a lot of angst and I want to cause angst for our opponents and I think Brian does a good job.

In talking to different coordinators that we've played, especially Rob (Ryan) yesterday, Rob talked about the difficulties that he had getting ready for the offense; and that's the best gain for me is, how long did it take you? How much work did you have to do? How many mental errors were there? What kind of problems were created during the week so that you could not focus on just a small group of concepts and really hone in?

On the search for an offensive coordinator...

I went into the search wanting someone from the San Diego/Kansas City/St. Louis family, because those are offenses that always caused problems defensively as a coordinator and position coach. I wanted someone from that family. I wanted someone that was open-minded toward the no-huddle and I wanted someone that the things that I understood from a defensive perspective that caused problem, that was open to that feedback and could incorporate that. Sometimes I think that the way we view the world is different than the way offensive coaches view the world, but if you can incorporate the other perspective, it can add some damage or it can add some problems to an opponent. I liked his energy. I like the way that he's detail-oriented. I like the way that he relates to the players. All of those things were real positives for me. I like the fact that he was younger than me. (Laughing).

On Rodney Harrison possibly being out for Sunday's game...

Until you see that Rodney is not out there, we are going to plan that he is, unless we get some official word that he's definitely out. Rodney's tough. He's like Laveranues (Coles)-tough. Until I see that he's not out there, because there were rumors that he would not be out there before our first game and one play into it, he's out there causing problems. We'll have to hold off on that one.

On one thing Mangini learned from Belichick...

I don't think you can summarize it in terms of one philosophy or one approach. There have been multiple things that I took away.

I'd say the one thing I took away from that whole New England experience was the value of character. The locker room was filled with character. To me, character wins. Character is so important, not just when you're winning, but really when you're losing. When things are tough, when it's hard to come to work, when it's hard to sacrifice because it's not going the way you want it to go. Those are the guys that continue to fight. If you're down a lot of points, those are the ones that continue to fight. That's probably the thing that I learned, the one thing that if I had to summarize it from that experience was the value of character.

On what the first win against New England did for the teams confidence...

That was important, even if it wasn't New England, whoever we played after that point, that game was important. After the bye week we had done so much work as a team to evaluate the first half of the season, looking at what the problems were, fixing the problems. Whoever we played, to see the benefits of that work and to see that we had fixed a lot of things and not saying that we had fixed everything, but we had done some good work during that time off, so that was important. Whenever you can beat a division opponent on the road, that you have not had a lot of success with, that's important as well. Since the bye, I see consistent progress, not that there wasn't some before that, but I think that was a very good week for us collectively.

On the value of the NE win for Sunday...

It's a good thing. It's much better than the alternative. But it doesn't necessarily translate into anything this week. What's going to control the outcome on Sunday is what we do between now and Sunday, just like what we did between the previous game and that game. There's a lot of stuff that we took away from that and learned from that point that actually applied to a lot of games. What's going to matter now is going home and studying today, first of all, getting corrections from the Raider game, getting the intro to New England, the reintroduction, the study, the practice, the execution and the consistency of approach that we have had throughout this, because that's going to be key and the level of intensity is also going to pick up dramatically as we move forward.

On Belichick...

You know, my approach is not going to change one bit. My feelings are not going to change one bit, and they have not changed from the first time to the second time, this time next year, hopefully years in the future. It's not going to change.

On the veterans giving the rookies a sense of what the playoffs mean...

The benefit of the last four or five weeks is every game for us has been extremely significant, and each game has taken on more and more significance. We had to win those games to get to this point, and there was a sense similar to the sense that we have now. It's a one-game season and you need to win that game in order to move forward. That's actually been a benefit of the situation we've been in.

The young guys have done a really good job of listening to the older guys who have experience and they need to understand, too, that we are playing a team that's lived in the playoffs for quite a few years and that locker room is filled with playoff experience. That has value, as well. We need to match that intensity.

On turning the team around in his first season...

It's a great feeling to finish the season the way we did. To me, the accomplishment comes in with what we've been collectively talking about for so long, and to see these guys and the way that they have worked. That is the most satisfying thing, the way that we have worked, the way that we have committed as a group, the way that we have made progress. As a coach, that's what you're looking for is to be able to help that progress along. The whole staff has done a great job with moving the team forward.

On David Barrett and Andre Dyson in the cornerback position...

They did a good job. The play that I really liked that David made, and it's something we have been working on for quite some time, when they hit the slant, he came in and made the tackle and ripped the ball out. That's been a real point of emphasis for a while. We have the board up now at practice where we have monitored that throughout the whole practice and I saw two or three plays like that, which I really liked. That was the first one in the game where we've actually gone in and securing the tackle, and you can see the volume of force that he's putting on the ball to get it out. Hank (Poteat) is actually the guy that recovered that. I was pleased with them.

Justin (Miller) did a nice job when he was in, and Drew (Coleman) was spotting in there as well. Eric Smith got a little more time and made the pick there. That group did well overall.

On Nick Mangold leaving the game with an injury...

He came back in and he's a little sore today and getting treatment. I'll monitor that with John (Mellody-head trainer) and see where he is leading into Wednesday. It was good that he was able to go back and finish the game. He's gone through two or three tough injuries and comeback and I think he's missed two plays with three injuries; painful. He has the tough part.



New York Jets' RB Leon Washington, 1.1

On going into New England having beaten them once already...

Knowing that we had won before lets us know that we can win again, and that will give us a lot more confidence this time around playing this team. It will be tough; they're playing well, we'll be in New England and they have a lot of veterans that have been there before. Me being a young guy, I'm just looking for any kind of help I can get from my veteran players to go out here and play a good game against these guys.

On Darrent Williams...

I woke up this morning and saw that on television. Whenever you loose somebody in the NFL, it's tough, it's very tough. Jamie Thompson played with him at Oklahoma State, so he was definitely close to him. When you loose a guy like that, it's tough.

On New England...

They're a very disciplined team, a team that will take advantage of your mistakes when you make them. They're a very well-coached team and have players who have been in this position before and know what it takes to make big-time plays. We'll have our work cut out for us this weekend.

New York Jets' G Pete Kendall, 1.1

On Brian Schottenheimer...

I think that people can appreciate the energy and emotion that Brian brings to the preparation. He has a pretty calm demeanor on Sunday, as do most of the coaches, I think that's probably something that's stressed from the top down, but during the week there's a high level of energy from Brian.

On having fun in Brian Schottenheimer's system...

Like every system, there are some things that you like about the system and some things that present more challenges. As I was saying earlier, Brian is not particularly dogmatic in his approach, he's going to do whatever he feels is going to give us the best chance to win from week-to-week. Sometimes you get to a point where it feels different too. Again, I'm not here to argue with the results, I'm just saying philosophically, when you're the Denver Broncos you know you're running the zone scheme. We dabble in all sorts of things, not just in the running game, but in the passing game as well. That presents a challenge for us as players, but I think you've seen the results, and I think it's safe to say that we've all been pretty pleased with them. I think we've all welcomed the challenge.

New York Jets' LB Victor Hobson, 1.1

On Darrent Williams...

It just puts life into perspective. No one is promised tomorrow. To know something like that is sad, you never want to hear anything like that. I just sent my condolences out to his family.

New York Jets' WR Laveranues Coles, 1.1

On his reaction upon hearing they were playing New England...

I guess we didn't have much luck, any time you have to go play against the Patriots. They're an excellent football team and I really didn't want to play them in the first round; they're such a tough team. We have our work cut out for us and we know we just have to get back to the drawing board and we know they're going to be prepared for us.

On drawing confidence from beating New England earlier this year...

New England is a totally different team in the playoffs. When you watch them, they're the last team you ever want to see in the playoffs, because of the way you prepare and the experience



they have. We know we have our work cut out for us, it's something that we're just going to have to grit our teeth at.

On getting closer to Eric Mangini after the New England defeat...

At that point, it was something we all wanted to do. I think Shaun Ellis said it best, we hadn't beaten them in a while and we got tired of them basically taking our lunch money. Now, none of that matters, it's all out the window. You we have to try and play, because it's either one, or done. That's the way it works right now. I'm sure they know that, they have a lot of experience in the playoffs they've won quite a few Super Bowls and they're the team to beat.

On changing New England's perception of the Jets after beating them...

I think they look at us in the same facet. I just think they know that we can play and that's pretty much it, it didn't change anything. They always got ready when they came to play us and we always got New England's best and I think we're going to get their best again.

On having familiarity with New England...

It's tough I can say that, because I watch them on film and they play everybody differently, you never know what to expect. They have great coaches who come up with some excellent game plans, they also have some excellent players. Whenever you play against a team like New England, you're going to get something that's going to look different and you're always going to get their best.

New York Jets' DE Bobby Hamilton, 1.1

On playing his old team...

It was a great feeling seeing the guys back there with the Oakland Raiders, but it's just business when you're out there on the field. After the game was over, we shook hands and we talked, they told me congratulations and good luck in the playoffs. That's all you can do about that. Like I said, we're getting ready to go to New England, another big challenge for us. We know that we split in the regular season, they won one game and we won one game, so now it's all about business. It's the playoffs. The regular season doesn't matter right now, this is what we're going to try and do.

On his reaction upon hearing they were playing New England...

We have no control over that. The only thing we can do now is go play. When we saw that it was New England, we already played these guys twice, they're going to be ready. They're going to do the best they can and we're going to have to try and do the best we can to move on in the playoffs. It's going to be a very exciting game and we know that, we just have to go there and play.

New York Jets' CB David Barrett, 1.1

On not starting after being a starter last season...

It is what it is. When I'm in, I'm in and when I'm not in, whoever is in is going to take care of the job.

On emphasizing going for the strip on tackles...

It's something that we emphasizes every day in practice, trying to take the ball away and getting turnovers.

On feeling vulnerable with a starting corner injured...

We know whoever is out there is going to be a starter and hold up his end of the deal.

On that attitude stemming from Training Camp...



You have to know what to do out there, in order to be out there on the field. If you don't know what to do when you're in a different position it's going to be hard for you out there on the field. We just try to interchange our position and everybody tries to do everything.

On today being different from any other Monday...

I didn't expect it to be. It is what it is, you have to keep moving on and that's all we are doing, taking it day-by-day and moving on.

On being excited to be in the playoffs...

For me, I'm excited to be in the playoffs, it's only the second time in my career in the playoffs and you don't get here very often. For me, I'm very excited. These guys, they take it as it comes, and the young guys don't know how to act yet.

New York Jets' WR Jerricho Cotchery, 1.1

On beating the Patriots in Foxborough helping form a bond between the players and Coach Mangini...

It was definitely a big win, but I think it was just a stepping stone for us. To be able to get that kind of a win on the road, in a division game, being able to pull it out, that was big for us. They've (the Patriots) been doing it well for a while, so that competition level is very high, because they are the Patriots and they've been doing it well and we've been doing it okay. So we just have to go out and prepare the way we've been preparing and try to see what we can do.

On thriving on being doubted...

We haven't been worried about anyone else's thoughts about us; we have just been going out and do what we can do. As long as we keep believing in ourselves and continue to go out and try to execute our game plan and continue to play then we give ourselves the chance to be in some games. We're just going to continue to focus on ourselves and take our same approach each week and see where we can go from there.

New York Jets' S Jamie Thompson, 1.1

On Darrent Williams...

It was a devastating tragedy, because Darrent is a good guy. He came up hard and he worked his way up to the next level. To see that was tragic.