

**Head Coach Andy Reid Press Conference
1.5.07**

Injuries/opening remarks:

“Really, the only injury is [LT] William Thomas. He just had a bit of a swollen knee and we went on the turf today, so we wanted to rest him with that. He should be fine for the game.”

“Again, we look forward to the challenge of playing the New York Giants, an NFC East rival. We understand it will be an intense football game. It is very important that everybody is focused in and handles it that way.”

On whether the swelling in LT William Thomas’ knee happened today:

“No. It was irritating him yesterday.”

On whether the situation is like what RB Brian Westbrook dealt with during the season:

“It’s just being a little bit older. I don’t think it’s a big thing. Something just swelled up on him overnight.”

On whether he expects S Michael Lewis and CB William James to be available for the game:

“We’ll see. We’ll see how they do tomorrow and how they made it through this practice on the turf. It looked like they did pretty good though.”

On whether he worries about James being up to speed after being inactive the last couple weeks:

“I’m not too worried about that. Again, if he is in there, we’ve got the confidence that he would do a nice job.”

On the problems Giants WR Plaxico Burress presents a defense with:

“He’s a heck of a football player and he’s a big guy that can go up and get the football. He runs good routes and he does have good speed mixed in with all that. He’s got great leaping ability and great timing to go up and snatch the football.”

On whether Burress is different to prepare for because of his size and speed:

“His size is unique and his athletic ability along with his size is very unique. It’s important that we do a good job on him. He’s a tough one to stop.”

On whether he is a guy that they need to take on at the line of scrimmage and disrupt his route as much as possible:

“I think any great receiver - like he is - if you give them the same picture over and over, then they are going to figure it out. You have to make sure you mix things up and surely just not give him one look.”

On how he thinks the team is holding up physically after their run to close out the season:

“I think we’re okay. It was good to be able to give the guys a breather the other day. It looks like they are moving around pretty good this week.”

On FS Brian Dawkins approach to practice this week:

“He’s done a nice job all year. You’re talking about a future Hall of Fame player. This guy is tuned in everyday and he is meticulous with his preparation.”

On whether the season would be a success if they were to lose this Sunday:

“I haven’t thought about that. I really don’t want to think about that. I’ll answer that after the last game.”

On whether S Michael Lewis will slot back into his role on defense if he is able to go:

“Yeah, it would be basically the same thing if he can go.”

On the situation surrounding how many quarterbacks they might activate:

“There’s a slight risk there, but at the same time you don’t want to slight the rest of the special teams also. You’re not going to have three quarterbacks in there; it is not going to help you much in the special teams area which is also very important. There’s a little bit of a risk there, but [QB] Koy [Detmer] should be fine if he has to get in there for a couple plays.”

Special Teams Coordinator John Harbaugh
1.4.07

On why the change in holder's now:

"Well, I think you want to be as good as you can in everything you're doing and now is the best time to make the change, make yourself a little bit better. I think [head] coach [Andy] Reid feels like he's got the spot on the roster and [QB] Koy [Detmer] is a great holder so let's make the change and see if we can improve that area a little bit."

On when they started talking about making the move:

"Last week. I know coach had been thinking about it for a while, but we started talking about it last week."

On whether the move would have been made if K David Akers hadn't missed the 30-yarder against the Falcons:

"Possibly. I think that coach had been thinking about it and we all had been thinking about it a little bit. You just want to be as good as you can be. It's not so much [P] Dirk [Johnson], or it is not so much the new operation or any of those factors. You've got a guy that can do it as well as anybody can do it and he's out there, he's available, that can make us a little better in one little area that could be the difference. Why not do it?"

On how QB Koy Detmer has done with LS Jon Dorenbos so far:

"He's been great. We were 46-of-49 in practice on Tuesday when they came in and did it on their own. Koy is a really good holder. I don't think it is all that complicated and it was very smooth."

On whether just anybody could come in after not doing it for so many months and do the job flawlessly, or is Detmer in a rare class:

"Well, yeah, because he is so good, that's why he can do it. He's probably a better holder than I have seen. That'd be the reason."

On the Giants return game:

"They've got some different guys doing it. [CB R.W.] McQuarters has always been really good. When he was in Chicago he was dangerous. He's a north-south, hard running guy. He just wants to catch it and go. And then the other guy, [WR Sinorice] Moss, is a guy that has a lot of talent. He didn't do it a lot at Miami because they had [Bears DB/KR Devin] Hester doing it, so it wasn't that he couldn't do it, it was just that they had a guy there that was really good at it and Moss was playing wide receiver. He's very talented and you can see it on tape. He is capable of taking it all the way at any time. We'll have our hands full in coverage."

On whether he thinks wind might be a factor on Sunday:

"I hope not. I hope it is not windy at all. Have you seen a weather report? In the Linc[oln Financial Field] it could always be a factor, so we'll just see what happens when we get out there before the game. Dave has seen the wind before and Dirk has seen it in there. We've had a windy year so we're used to it."

On the special teams unit in general as they head into the playoffs:

“I think in a game like this every play is important – really like in any game – but our guys have been in kind of playoff mode for a couple weeks and it has been good to see the development of a lot of young players the last three, four, five weeks. In terms of doing the right thing, being in the right spot and really making plays, making tackles and getting off blocks and doing things like that. The progress has been good. But now again it is another level you’ve got to notch it up to and a lot of those guys will be doing it for the first time. But we’ll get great leadership from [S] Quintin Mikell and [RB] Reno Mahe, those guys that have been around for a little while. I think our young guys will latch on to those guys.”

On whether he feels it is important to talk to the young guys on his unit as they head into a game like this:

“No question. I mean, we’ve been in these situations before where – especially guys who haven’t been there before, they are almost too hyped up early in the game – and they oversee things, they overplay things and they jump on things that are kind of illusionary. They’re overanxious to go make a play sometimes and I think they just have to play with discipline and with poise and be in the right spot.”

On S Quintin Mikell’s year on special teams:

“He’s the one guy we’ve got that’s a real veteran guy that’s been out there a bunch and really knows what he is doing from the get-go. And he’s made a ton of tackles. I think he leads the NFL in special teams tackles this year. More tackles than we’ve ever had anybody make here. He’s been all over the field. Plus, he is doing it on defense and he’s doing it while he is playing a lot of defense. Last week he played a whole game of defense and still made a whole bunch of plays. He’s been our leader. He’s been kind of the guy we’ve leaned on, especially when the other guys are learning to play around him. He’s always been in the right spot doing the right thing. He’s done a great job.”

On whether Mikell has grown into that role:

“Yeah, definitely he has grown into that. I think he has grown into that leadership role. He’s always been a good player. He’s made plays since the day he got here. But this year, probably more than any year, he has kind of taken over that spot, leadership wise.”

On whether he has sympathy for a guy like Bruce Perry who was cut from the roster and has been shuffled on and off the roster throughout his career:

“Yeah, you know, Bruce has really done a good job here in practice and when he has played in games, special teams wise, he’s done a good job. It’s kind of been a hard-luck story for him because he’s been that guy that has been in the wrong spot at the wrong time as far as the roster goes. Obviously, him getting released has nothing to do with anything he did or didn’t do. It is just the fact that we wanted to strengthen our holding situation and that was the spot. Bruce definitely has a bright future in the NFL and it might be right back here. We’ll just kind of see what happens.”

On whether he thinks his unit has mirrored the year of the entire team:

“I don’t know if I have thought about it like that. I just know we’ve been struggling and fighting and trying to get better every single week. Some weeks have been better than other weeks. We get better, we ascend and then we kind of drop and then we ascend a little bit. It’s been pretty steady but it hasn’t been as good as you’d want it to be for sure. We’re just fighting week-to-week to try and play well.”

On how much of the situation surrounding K David Akers and the holding situation is a mental thing:

“I think a big part of it is mental for those guys. Just feeling confident, comfortable and in a rhythm. You know, you’re playing golf, you’re playing well and you get confidence. You hit a couple bad balls and all of a sudden you start questioning your swing. He just needs to focus on the thing that he can control, which is his swing, and then let those other guys do their job and he’ll be okay.”

**Defensive Coordinator Jim Johnson Press Conference
1/4/07**

On match up problems with Giants WR Plaxico Burress:

“I don’t think we’ve got anybody close to tall enough to match up with him right now. The guy is 6’6”, so it’s always going to be a little bit of a problem. I think there are times guys just have to make sure they’ve got great position on him. He’s tough when he gets down in the red zone. There is no question about it and there are some things we’ve got to do. But, it’s not an easy match up, there is no question about it.”

On whether he anticipates being able to use CB William James on Sunday to match up against Burress:

“I’m going to have to see how he practices today and tomorrow. I’m not sure he’s quite 100% yet. I think today’s practice and tomorrow, we’ll just see how he’s coming along. If he’s healthy, there might be a chance we might do that.”

On whether he worries that he can’t keep a guy like Giants RB Tiki Barber down for a third time:

“Yeah, we’ve been going up against him a long time over the years. And he’s had some great games. The thing that we’ve kind of kept down the last couple times we played him is the big runs, which he’s had before against other people and us. That’s been part of it; we’ve kept [him] to no long runs. But, he’s capable of breaking one anytime. That’s what our guys have got to emphasize all week. We emphasized it. He’s going to run the football. I don’t know how many carries he is going to have, but we know he is going to run the football and we’ve got to make sure there are no big plays out of him.”

On what they saw in DE Juqua Thomas that made them bring him back:

“We saw a great competitor. We liked him last year there was no question about it. Of course, we had [DE] Jevon [Kearse] last year, so he didn’t get as many reps as he does this year. But, we knew that he was a great competitor. He played well for us, played that joker for us when Jevon was banged up a little bit. So, we knew he was a good football

player. And he's a great special teams player, [he] helps out [special teams coordinator] John [Harbaugh], and he does a great job in a lot of our packages."

On whether S Quintin Mikell has taken the same step forward on defense that he has taken on special teams:

"Yeah, he's had a great opportunity ever since [SS] Michael Lewis went down in injury. Now Michael is going to be playing this week and we will probably use both of them a little bit. But, he took advantage of an opportunity and was very productive."

On Giants TE Jeremy Shockey and his injury status:

"I cannot imagine that Shockey will not play. Right now we are going into the game saying that Shockey is going to be there. He is such a great competitor. [Giants TE Visanthe] Shiancoe played well against the Redskins. So, we are preparing for both of those guys and that's part of our game plan. Like I said, I've got to believe [Shockey] will be there on Sunday afternoon."

On what the Giants offense misses if Shockey can't play:

"I think they miss a fiery competitor, a guy who just brings some enthusiasm to the game. Of course, he still is one of the lead receivers. He still is one of the go to guys that [Giants QB] Eli [Manning] is going to go to. But, there's a lot of toughness there and a lot of spirit right there. So, we'll see."

On whether he senses that his players respect Eli as much as they did last year:

"Yeah, I think so. I think they still know what a good quarterback he is. All quarterbacks are going to have a little rocky road some games. You look at certain games [like] against Carolina and he's on fire. He can get on fire. I think our guys watch film [of him] against us that first game in that 4th quarter when he got on fire, so I think they have respect for him and I know I do."

On the leadership roles of FS Brain Dawkins and LB Jeremiah Trotter:

"They've always been good leaders, I think they stepped it up a little bit more. I think they knew that there were some things that we weren't doing quite as well and they showed their leadership and it was good to see. But, they've always been [leaders]. Trotter has always been a vocal leader and Dawk is by example. But, they've kind of stepped it up and it's kind of paid off a little bit."

On what he expects to see from the left side of the Giants' offensive line:

"They moved [Giants G David] Diehl out there to the tackle position. Like I said, you've got to look at last week's game when they made the switch. They had a good game plan, ran the ball well. So, I'm sure you are going to see the same line-up and I think they might try to do the same thing. I know there are some injuries they have. And we'll just have to see how they are going to shuffle that line-up other than that. But, I expect to see Diehl at left tackle."

On whether he sees a drastic difference in the Giants' play calling after the change they made:

“I think they got ahead. I think they felt that Tiki was hot and they kept feeding the ball to Tiki. He had a lot of production, a lot of long yardage and they stayed with it and they were ahead. It might have been a little different. But, I think before they wanted to run Tiki too. It’s just all of a sudden, he got hot and they kept feeding the ball to him and that was their game plan, especially in the second half.”

On the things he saw from DT Brodrick Bunkley last week and whether that gives him confidence to use him more:

“Yeah, there were some plays that he made that showed his strength and his ability. He is still learning. He’s still fighting certain things, as far as gap control. But, he’s got a lot of ability. He might play a lot more next year or he might play a lot more this Sunday. I don’t know. It just depends on injuries. But, he did show some of the abilities of his strength. He’s still a rookie that makes a few mistakes and he knows that too.”

On whether he is going back to look at what Giants’ QB coach Kevin Gilbride did in other places where he was responsible for calling plays:

“Yeah, we went back. Of course, I’ve gone against him before, [when Gilbride was at] San Diego and Buffalo. But, I don’t think they are going to change that much. It’s hard to put all of the stuff he wanted in a couple of practices and stuff like that he might put in. We kind of know him a little bit, but we think he will kind of stay with what he’s been doing this last week.”

On whether LB Omar Gaither has as high of a football IQ as any rookie he’s ever coached:

“Yeah, I think he’s made that transition pretty good for a rookie. [He’s] playing two positions, the other night, of course, he played the middle linebacker. He did a good job. [He’s] played at WILL linebacker. He still makes some mistakes, but you expect that from a rookie. He’s got to learn both positions. But, he’s done a good job and he shows some good leadership also. So, he’s got a decent future ahead of him here.”

On whether he still considers Gaither to be a MIKE linebacker down the road:

“He’s done a lot right now at WILL. But, I think he eventually will be a MIKE linebacker.”

On whether he expects big plays from Dawkins at this time of year:

“Seems like it. He’s always been a big play guy. Again, here’s another guy that all of a sudden is kind of in a good groove now, making big plays. He’s got the ability. Like I said before, turnovers come in bunches, sacks do too. All of a sudden, everything that is in the air now, he wants. So, he’s playing with great confidence again, making plays. But, you expect that out of Brian Dawkins.”

On whether this has been one of Dawkins’ best stretches:

“I think. Yeah, I can’t remember a better one where he has made so many plays and big interceptions and stuff.”

Offensive Coordinator Marty Mornhinweg Press Conference

1-4-07

Opening remarks:

“First of all, last week, great job by some of the backup players. They got great experience to get in a football game and they battled through it and did a pretty good job.”

On whether playing a lot against the Falcons last week helps the younger guys in terms of an experience factor if they have to get in the game in the playoffs:

“Sure, absolutely. Some of our offensive linemen played different positions and we got some of the young guys in there as well and that will certainly help us down the road.”

On what he has seen from WR Hank Baskett:

“He’s played well all year. He’s done a heck of a job with his preparation and hard work. He certainly has some skill and ability and when you combine those three, it typically turns out pretty good. He’s done a heck of a job, especially for a rookie because normally rookies hit a little spell in there where they get fatigued and he just fought right through that.”

On what kind of pressure the Eagles offense puts on an opposing defense with all the threats that they have:

“It certainly does [put pressure on defenses]. You mix in a little run with a host of different people catching the football, it usually turns out pretty good.”

On how much advanced notice G Shawn Andrews and G/T Todd Herremans had that they would be switched from guard to tackle in the Falcons game:

“None. Now, they practice sets and things like that and [offensive line coach] Juan [Castillo] does a heck of a job with them, preparing the offensive line and preparing them mentally, and then simply taking pass sets before and after practice throughout the whole season.”

On whether Andrews and Herremans looked good at tackle:

“Yeah, both of them did a pretty good job.”

On whether it’s fair to say that the offensive system they have is one of the reasons for QB Jeff Garcia’s success:

“Most quarterbacks can play pretty well in this system. Certainly, Jeff has some gut instincts and has always had those and always will, and then his decision making, his accuracy and timing. All three of those are important and all three of those Jeff has and he does all three of those at a pretty high level. You combine that with those instincts that he has and usually you get a pretty good player.”

On whether the offensive line is the best in the NFL:

“I would think at least it would be one of the best. I think it would be up there. I have not had the ability to study every offensive line in this league, but that was certainly our goal. And the guys up front, that was their goal going into the season and I would think that

they're right up there with any offensive line. [They are] certainly the best offensive line I've ever had the fortune to coach."

On what T Jon Runyan brings to the offensive line:

"Jon brings toughness and consistency. He works through many different injuries that he's had throughout the years and every season. We've been fortunate where all five of those guys are very tough individuals both mentally and physically. None of them have missed any extensive period of time this whole year. That's been a big plus for us and our offensive line gives us a chance to have some success."

On whether there is a common thread in the success that they've had offensively against the Giants in the previous two games:

"I think the fellows played pretty well in those two games and we'll see what happens here Sunday."

On how he sees the personal tragedies Garcia has gone through in his life shaping his football career:

"You'd have to ask him that because I can't feel the things that he felt from those incidents. However, I do know that he's very, very tough physically. He's very, very tough mentally. He's been through a lot, both in his personal life and his football career. He's certainly had some ups and downs there and he's come off the other end and it may very well have made him stronger."

On how he sizes up the twelve playoff quarterbacks:

"We don't concern ourselves with any other quarterback or any other team. We concern ourselves with what we're doing right now and our total focus is what we need to do on Sunday. We've talked about this before. We need to prepare hard and we've got to double our preparation in some cases and we have to work extremely hard on the practice field because we're so young. We've talked about our center's starting basically for the first year. Our right guard is [basically] in his second year starting. Our left guard really is in his first year [starting at guard]. Our fullback is in his first year of starting. We've got two rookie receivers that play. Our starting flanker is in his second year and [WR] Donté [Stallworth] was new. And then we were forced to make a quarterback change. So, we have to prepare. We have to work extremely hard each and every day to have any chance of success on the football field offensively."

On how important it is that Garcia is playing so well heading into the playoffs:

"That's an important thing going into the playoffs. It's important for your football team to be pretty hot going into the playoffs. We've made a pretty good stretch run here and we'll see what happens here Sunday."

On how big it is to have TE Matt Schobel playing better to give them two options at tight end:

"That is a good point. That's one of the things that I wanted to get done going into the year and throughout the year and I just didn't get it done. I'll try to do a better job of that, getting Matt more involved because when you give him enough opportunities he certainly

has made the most of those opportunities. He's a fine player. He's athletic and typically he catches the football pretty well. He certainly adds something to our offense."

On what role he played in bringing Garcia in:

"It was a long time ago. I do know that [head coach] Andy [Reid] and [general manager] Tom [Heckert] both liked Jeff Garcia very much and then I had some experience with him from the past. So, all that combined and all of a sudden we signed him and it's worked and it's been good."

On whether the dropped passes Schobel was having was the reason he wasn't playing as much in the middle of the year:

"He had the one drop in the end zone over there and that certainly was not the reason that he hasn't shown up, or I should say he's shown up sporadically during the season. It certainly was not the reason, but it didn't help and he certainly has caught the football very well as of late."

On whether his time as a head coach has shaped him into the coordinator he is now:

"I haven't thought much about that. However, that experience in Detroit, that cup of coffee I had, man, it was a good experience looking down the road. I probably am a little bit different. Everybody changes with experiences that you go through. I thought we were pretty good in San Francisco when I was coordinating, too, with [former 49ers QB] Steve Young and Jeff [Garcia]. We were pretty good back then. We had some great, great players like we do here. So, I probably have changed a little bit."

On whether this offense works best when they spread the ball around:

"Yeah. That's a good point too. You can do it both ways. I've been in those situations where you have a go-to guy and man, that's fun and creative, and you've got to be creative to get that particular man the football a little bit. I've been in other ones, including here, where you spread it around a little bit and that's fun too. You have to be creative to pop people open that way as well. I think both ways puts a tremendous amount of pressure on defenses. And so, you can do it both ways. There's no question about that."

On whether he prefers spreading it around or having a 'go-to guy':

"I like great players. That's what I like. I like great players."

On whether RB Brian Westbrook is reaching the level of a great player:

"Brian Westbrook's been there. Brian Westbrook is one of the few elite players in this league. Now, I'm biased towards Brian a little bit. Brian Westbrook in fact, I think of all the starting running backs, he has the highest yards per touch. He helps us in many, many different ways. He does about everything you can ask a running back to do at a very high level. Pass protect, run block we don't ask him to do very often, but when he has he's an excellent run-blocker. Certainly, running the football I think he's one of the very best. And then his route-running and adjustments and catching the football, he's one of those guys that puts a lot of heat on the defensive structure."

On whether he gets into a flow as a play-caller like a player can get into a flow:

“There are two things that go into that. One is all of your preparation. That’s the biggest thing and the biggest key is the preparation. And then, once the game unfolds, certainly we’ve got to counterpunch and get into a flow and some of it is a little bit of instincts.”

On what the biggest challenge is in facing a team they just played three weeks ago:

“The biggest challenge is in many cases you’ve played them twice. You played them just a few weeks ago and then you tend to think that you know them and we just can’t do that. We’ve got to mentally think we’ve got to double our preparation, so we’re just right on. Like you guys know, the local guys know, we have to prepare at a high level to have a chance.”

On whether he sees his success this year as redemption for his time in Detroit:

“No. We went to a Super Bowl just a couple years ago here. And that’s a long time ago. To be honest with you, for probably six months to a year I was checking on them a little bit. But, that’s a long time ago. It’s in the past. I don’t look back very often. We tend to look forward here. And so, when you have that mentality I think it works a little bit better.”

On whether Garcia or another player on offense that has surprised him this season:

“Jeff didn’t exceed my expectations. We’ve talked about that. He hasn’t surprised me one bit. I think he’s playing every bit as well as when he was in his prime. He’s with some pretty good players here. Our defense certainly has helped as well as our special teams. When you have a defense and special teams playing at a high level then you’re quarterback tends to play a little bit better. Those things go hand-in-hand. And our focus really is we try to cut out any of the outside influences and we’re just focusing specifically on the New York Giants here for this Sunday. That’s what we’ve done all year. Our preparation and our hard work on the field has got us to this point. So, we have to remind each other that we have to continue to do that to have a chance to win this ball game.”

On whether Garcia gets after guys in the huddle more than other quarterbacks he has seen:

“That’s a good point and Jeff has always been that way. As an offensive coordinator, you never or rarely have to concern yourself with the tempo of practice because he starts the tempo and he continues his tempo through practice. That is one of his responsibilities as a quarterback and he does it at a high level and he keeps it going during the game. And he certainly has given us just a little bit of juice. When he came in we were in a little bit of a lull. That’s a credit to him. It’s a credit to [the fact that] he’s a coaches son. That has a little bit to do with it. And he’s got a great personality. He’s a winner. He’s been a winner. He’ll always be a winner. He’s tough. He’s physical. So, all those things combined give us a little shot in the arm.”

LB Jeremiah Trotter Press Conference

1.4.07

On the things that Giants QB Eli Manning does well:

“He definitely has a strong arm and he knows the offense very well. He knows where to put the ball and he is very capable of coming out and putting up some big numbers. He is definitely a guy you have to get after. We have to put some pressure on him early.”

On where he thinks the defense is at right now as far as getting pressure from the front seven:

“We went through a stretch where we weren’t doing anything well, we weren’t getting pressure on the quarterback, couldn’t stop the run to save our lives, weren’t getting any turnovers and couldn’t get off the field. But at some point things started to click. We started to get together.”

On whether the team was thriving off of the ‘back-to-the-wall’ mentality and how that changes with them as the favorite:

“Well, you know, when you go through tough times man, sometimes you’ve got to really take a step back and really look at yourself – each individual player and what you are doing wrong, what can you do to get better. I think when we went through that stretch where we were losing a lot, losing some close games – it was tough. We just have to take a step back and take a scope on things.”

On whether the way he felt after their loss in Indianapolis was the lowest he has been in a while:

“Yeah, it was tough. I hadn’t been that low since I was in Washington.”

On why this team has been successful minimizing Giants RB Tiki Barber’s success this season:

“You know what, I think we are just getting a lot of guys around the football and right now we are dominating the line of scrimmage. That is one of the most important things. When your front four is dominating the line of scrimmage it allows your linebackers to make more plays. You just have to keep an eye on him. You always have to know where he is, wherever he lines up. He can hurt you in so many ways. We are very aware of what he can do. I think it helps that they are in our division - we play them twice a year. When you play a team twice a year you get a feel for the offense and how they want to get Tiki the ball.”

On whether it is hard to not return the barbs in the media from the Giants players:

“No, it isn’t tough man. We don’t worry about people talking to us. We just go out and put our work in. We talk on Sundays, in between the white lines.”

On how he helped keep the team together during the rough stretch of the season:

“You know, I just tried to stay positive, even through the tough times - continue to stay positive. Just say ‘listen, we’ve just got to keep working.’ And I watched the film. I would see guys, during the week that were working their butts off, literally, just giving it everything. And on Sundays they were fighting hard, things just weren’t going our way. I just – myself and [FS Brian] Dawk[ins] – we just tried to talk to them and say, ‘listen

man, you have to keep working, keep doing the things that you know got you here, things that worked in the past and sooner or later it will come together.”

On whether he has found it to be easy to get back into the rhythm of preparing for the playoffs after missing the playoffs last season:

“It’s pretty easy because right now it is do-or-die. Either win or go home. You’re playing a division rival, so it doesn’t take much to get up for a division rival in the playoffs.”

On whether this might be the best team he has been on heading into the playoffs:

“That team we had in ‘04 was pretty dang good. You know what, I don’t know. It remains to be seen. We’ll see on Sunday.”

On how tough it was for him to watch the playoffs from home last year:

“It was tough. It just kind of went along with everything else that happened during the course of the year, with the off the field situation and injuries and then not making the playoffs. It was just one thing added on top of the other. But what could you do? You just needed to re-focus in, work hard and get ready for the next year.”

On his relationship with former Giants and Hall of Fame LB Harry Carson:

“Harry and I, we’re good friends. We talk at least twice a month. He’s getting ready to get married. I don’t know if I should have said that or not, but he’s just a good friend. He’s a good role model for me to call and get advice on different things, not just about football, but about life in general. He’s a great guy.”

On what he makes of this season:

“I just think about ups and downs, a roller coaster season and just testing your leadership, testing your character. I think everybody’s character, our leadership, our play and our coaching ability has been tested this year. I think when it is all said and done we will be able to look back and say we withstood all the trials, all the ups and downs, the bad media attention and that is one thing that really makes a person, makes team. When you go through tough times – anybody can come out like we did in ‘04 where we were blowing people out. In ‘04, we were expected to win. It wasn’t a case of if we were going to win. It was how much are we going to win by? This has been a season of uncertainty. You never know what you’re going to get on any given Sunday. We just fought through all that and came together as a unit. Like someone said earlier, we are, I think, a better team right now than we have been in the past because everyone has to do their job, do their part and has a role to play.”

Head Coach Andy Reid Press Conference
1.3.07

Injuries/opening remarks:

“[DE] J.T. [Juqua Thomas] has a calf strain and we’ll just see how he does today. He’ll practice and we’ll see what he can do. [DT] Darwin Walker has the flu, so he’ll be back, most likely, tomorrow.”

“We look forward to playing the Giants. We know that anytime that you play a rival it is going to be a dogfight and when you add the playoffs into it, it should just be a heck of an atmosphere for a football game. We’ve got to make sure that we prepare ourselves the right way and detail our work and so on.”

On how important it is that they approach this week like any other week:

“I guess that is part of it. The guys are going to have a little bit of energy – more energy than normal at the end of a season – just because of the playoffs. I think the routine - we are all kind of creatures of habit so routine is good.”

On RB Correll Buckhalter’s injury:

“Buck’s okay.”

On whether it is easier or hard to prepare for a team that they will be playing for a third time:

“I guess you know each other. It is important though that you go back and you detail your work so that you don’t sit there and go, ‘I know this group and I know what they are going to do.’ If you start doing that then you’re not going to detail your work and you’re going to miss something. Those things have a tendency to get magnified when you’re in the playoffs, so you have to go back and kind of start from scratch and make sure that you really focus in on it.”

On whether you have to make sure you aren’t too predictable against a team you’re familiar with:

“Yeah, you have to have a little changeup here or there. You’re not going to change and they’re not going to change their whole scheme, offensively or defensively, and we’re not going to do that either. But you’re obviously going to have a few little wrinkles in there for them.”

On whether he is surprised with what QB Jeff Garcia has done since taking over the offense:

“Well, we felt very fortunate that we were able to lure him our way in the offseason. We knew a little about him because of [assistant head coach/offensive coordinator] Marty [Mornhinweg] and we had him over at the Pro Bowl a couple times. And we know he is a guy that keeps himself in great shape, so we didn’t think that there was going to be that much of a drop-off [from] when he was a Pro Bowl player. He’s kind of doing what we expected him to do and knew what he could do from the past.”

On their reasoning behind bringing back QB Koy Detmer:

“I just thought that whole situation with field goals – I just want to tighten it up just a little bit. On top of that, it allows [P] Dirk [Johnson] to just focus in on his punting right now, which I think is huge. Field position becomes a big thing in the playoffs. When you’re in the playoffs it’s truly a one game at a time approach and we want to make sure that everything is just right.”

On whether he will activate all three QBs for the game:

“No, I won’t. A.J. [Feeley] will probably be the third one.”

On how he stayed even-keeled during the rough stretch of the season:

“[Jokingly] I give you guys [the media] a lot of credit for helping me stay even keeled. You know, I’ve always been that way. I’m not going to change. You’re going to have highs and lows during the season and I think if you start panicking everybody’s going to panic around you and normally, good things don’t happen when that takes place.”

On the leadership of LB Jeremiah Trotter and FS Brain Dawkins and how they helped keep things together:

“The leadership in the locker room – and those are two of the guys, but there are a few of them in there - they did a nice job of encouraging guys. They weren’t questioning coaches and they kept everything very focused on what needed to be done during the tough times there.”

On what they would do if something was to happen to Garcia and they had Feeley listed as the third QB:

“I’ve got a little plan there, I mean I am not going to get into it, but I have a little plan there. It’s also important that Dirk has held and done a decent job at it. We do have that flexibility.”

On whether their approach might change at all now that they are the favorite in the game as compared to their situation over the last month of the season:

“No, this team is best – and you can’t help but feel this way in the playoffs – you’re best when - this group is - when they have that back-to-the-wall mentality. That’s kind of what has got them to this point and when you’re in the playoffs, you’re truly in the back-to-the-wall mentality because it is one game at a time, single elimination. I expect them to come out and play hard do the things they’ve been doing.”

On whether this recent stretch has been one of the best stretches in Dawkins career:

“Yeah, he’s done a great job. You’re talking about a future Hall of Fame player and that’s the way he’s playing right now.”

On whether he had any message for the number of young guys who will be making their first start in the playoffs:

“We talked a little bit about that as a team this morning. The young guys, they need to watch how it is done. Everything is a little faster in the playoffs – I’m talking about the

game speed – but there is obviously more media coverage. Everything is magnified. You try to give the guys a head's-up, but until they live it that is the only thing you can do.”

On how well RBs Brian Westbrook and Correll Buckhalter played this season:

“They’ve both done a nice job. Brian had his first 1000-yard season and he’s been very solid all the way through the year. With Buck, you’ve seen him get better every week with the more trust he has in his leg. He’s doing a nice job right now.”

On whether he has noticed whether Buckhalter has a sort of omnipresent leadership role:

“Well, yeah, he’s got a great personality. That omnipresent, that’s big [jokingly]. But he does have that affect in the locker room.”

On whether K David Akers said anything to him that might have led to bringing Detmer back:

“David never said a word about it. They’ve done it for so long, so obviously I looked at that. Koy is one of the best in the business at that and has been over the years. I just wanted to make sure that part was sound and I felt comfortable with Koy, so that’s the direction I went.”

On whether that was something he had been thinking about doing:

“Over the last couple weeks, yeah.”

On whether LS Jon Dorenbos has done what is expected of him:

“Well, that’s part of the new in there. David had two new people around him and I thought maybe I could just ease one of those things. I would put more of the emphasis on Koy than I would the lack of production – or whatever you’re looking at there with that position. Koy is just real good at it and I feel very confident in him.”

On how much a player like Dawkins brings to a game with this magnitude:

“He loves playing in big games and any game you play in the playoffs is a big game. When you’re playing the New York Giants, it’s even a little bigger. That’s a rival. He’ll be fired up and ready to go.”

On whether the Giants facing Garcia a second time this season will be a factor in this game and what they do:

“I do. I think they’ll make changes. However, they also know that they went into the fourth quarter of that game with the lead, so they did a pretty good job. But they’ll make changes in there, just as we will.”

Quarterback Jeff Garcia Press Conference

1/3/07

On what it feels like to go from not knowing if he’s going to be able to take a snap in a game to being on the cover of Sports Illustrated going into the playoffs:

“I guess it’s never too late in your career to all of the sudden show up on Sports Illustrated. It’s an honor, but it’s not something that I attribute to just my own success. It’s definitely related to the team’s success and I just happen to be the guy pulling the trigger right now, being able to represent the team in that sort of way. But, it’s something that has created a lot of excitement within myself. I’m so thankful for the opportunity that I’ve been able to have; playing football here in Philadelphia, being able to be a part of a great organization, being able to be a part of [a] great locker room atmosphere. The guys that I play the game with; I truly appreciate. So, in those sort of ways that is why this experience has been so awesome to me.”

On how he liked the picture that is on the cover of Sports Illustrated:

“Not a bad photo. I liked it. I give an approval of it. There’s no jinx, I don’t even know what that is all about.”

On whether he buys into the ‘curse’ of being on the cover of Sports Illustrated going into the playoffs:

“No, that’s something you guys want to promote. I think it’s 70% the other way. It’s a positive thing, not a negative thing.”

On the recent spark and fire of the Eagles’ offense:

“I think that comes with a comfort of being around players that you truly enjoy being around. A comfort of being confident in the offensive system, the scheme and what I have to do. Being comfortable and confident in my own abilities and what I can bring to the table and knowing that I only need to concentrate on myself. I don’t need to concentrate on what everybody else is doing because I know that they are doing their job[s], that they are accountable. And when you can do those things, it allows you to play freely and it allows you to bring the most out of yourself. And I think for myself, to play with excitement, to play with emotion – that’s part of my game, that’s part of how I know that I’m in a zone. And when I’m in a zone like that, I feel like it’s going to be tough to beat our team.”

On how this team compares to other playoff teams he’s been a part of and what he remembers about the playoff game he played against the Giants as a 49er on 1/5/03:

“I don’t think there really has been a team like this one that I am experiencing, as far as how we are going into a playoff game playing just good, quality, solid football. The way that we’re playing right now is how you want to enter into the playoffs, just really hitting your stride. And that’s something that I really didn’t experience anywhere else, as much as I did have two playoff experiences in San Francisco. There was one where we somewhat coasted in late and didn’t necessarily hit the playoffs playing the best football, even though we did play that first playoff game against the Giants and we were able to have a great comeback. That was just one of those games where it will always be a part of my history, a part of my memory in the sense that it was just a great game at home, a great football game. It was a game where we had to overcome a large deficit. That’s attributed to our defense and making the stops when they needed to make the stops and then our offense putting some drives together and scoring some points. But, it was just one of those days where you would love to be able to bottle that up and savor it forever.”

On his unexpected day off this past Sunday and whether he thinks it has benefited the team:

“I think it benefited a lot of guys. It definitely gave some of our offensive linemen and defensive linemen some much needed rest. Those guys bang every single day, so when they can get a break from doing that, I think it really allowed them to heal up and get healthy. And our running backs - the same thing, it allowed them to get a break from taking the pounding. I think those are good things. I think as far as everybody is concerned, it was a great game in the sense that we did rest some starters and the other guys who had an opportunity to step in didn't drop the ball. They kept the ball moving in the right direction and we really played well as a team. And it was great to see the young guys get opportunities out there and do some successful things.”

On what part of his game makes him so comfortable in this system and how this system compares to the offense in San Francisco:

“The system is near identical to what I played in. There are some variations that have changed over time, I think anybody who works with the west coast system may start to put their own little wrinkle into it. But, as far as West Coast systems are concerned, it is very similar to what I had dealt with in the past. And that is what made it so comfortable for me to come here to Philadelphia, knowing that I would be playing in a much [more] similar situation, much [more] similar system as I had in San Francisco and even in Detroit last year. As far as my game is concerned, I think that balance is essential. I think that utilizing [RB] Brian Westbrook in the way that we have is only going to benefit our passing game. I'm just one of those guys, I'm willing to do anything and everything that is going to allow this team to win football games. If that means handing the football off 40 times because we are being effective, then I am more than happy to do that. If it means passing the ball a larger percentage of the time, I'm willing to do whatever it is that will give this team an opportunity to win because I feel that I'm prepared no matter what. I feel that I'm mentally and physically prepared for whatever we have to offer and I feel great about our game plan every single week. And I'm just ready to execute it.”

On how much they have tweaked the offense from what they did with QB Donovan McNabb to fit his abilities:

“That's a question that is asked every single week and it's not like the plays have necessarily changed within the game plan. I think so much of what we do or what is in our game plan is what was in our game plan from week one. It's a matter of execution. I think what has somewhat changed a little bit is giving Brian Westbrook the opportunity to get more touches on the ball, to get his hands on the ball a few more times in a game. And experiencing a little bit more balance as an offense and I think that's just the major change. I don't think that the throws down the field or anything like that have changed. That's all adapting to what we face as far as defenses are concerned.”

On this being the first time he will play a team twice since he has become a starter for the Eagles and whether he thinks the Giants will make some adjustments for this game:

“I think they are going to adjust based upon what we were able to have success [doing] in the last game. I think they are definitely going to make their adjustments, but I don’t believe that they are going to change a whole lot. This is game 17 for both teams, we are who we are. It’s about execution now and it’s about them lining up and trying to do the best possible job to execute and stop what we are going to do. And then us trying to do what we can do to overcome how they are going to try to stop us. I don’t think that teams are going to necessarily change their colors just because it’s a playoff week. We realize that it’s about intensity and it’s about emotion, it’s about feeling good about what you’re doing. So, I think that teams are going to come in with a comfort zone, as far as what their offense is or what their defense [is], and then just try to let it fly and execute the best way possible.”

On where he thinks character ranks in determining a team’s success:

“I think character is a huge part of success on a team. I think teams who have players with a lot of character - who understand the difference between right and wrong, who understand what focus is all about, who understand what determination is all about and overcoming and exceeding expectations, especially their own expectations. I think that plays a major factor as far as how a team comes together and plays together like a family, and excels on the field, and is able to do the things that allow them the best opportunity and the best chance to win on any given Sunday.”

On what head coach Andy Reid did or didn’t do to keep the team together when they were 5-6 earlier in the season:

“I just think Coach Reid did an excellent job of maintaining the focus within this team. And making this team realize that we were only a play or two plays away from having a much better record then we were showing at a certain time, especially when we were 5-6. We were a team that was just plays away from separating mediocrity and greatness. That’s where I think it allowed this team to continue to focus and just reach deep within themselves and try to find a way to be more accountable every single week and do the necessary things in order to create a more winning, more positive situation. I think the fact that Coach Reid stayed so even keel with us, he didn’t ride an emotional rollercoaster with the team. He maintained his focus that allowed us to maintain ours and we were able to get things turned around.”

On that expectations of the team have changed within the past month and whether that has changed the pressure:

“I think we definitely still continue with [an] our backs are against the wall type of mentality. I think you have to. I think even though we finished strong, it’s now a 0-0 season for everybody. There is no, ‘Well, next week we’ll get it together.’ It’s one week at a time and the focus has to be at an ultimate high. Of course, there are expectations now because of the way things went - that this team is playing much better football, playing amongst the best football in the NFC. But, I still believe there is room for improvement. There are still ways that we can be better on the field and there are still ways that we can be more focused and play tighter as a group and do the necessary things that allow a winning attitude to still be represented and still be strong.”

On how much the loss of Giants DE Michael Strahan changes the Giants' defense:

"That's something that they are going to have to be concerned with. I think that they've had a young guy [Giants DE Mathias Kiwanuka] that has stepped in for Strahan that has now had a lot of experience. He's had a number of games under his belt. That's just something that their team is going to have to make an adjustment to and I'm sure that they are going keep rolling the best they can without Michael."

On what kept him going the last couple of years and whether he ever thought this could happen:

"I think that what really kept me going was that there was always hope for a better situation. There was always hope for a better team atmosphere, a better team environment. And fortunately for myself, I was able to land in that sort of position this year here in Philadelphia. I don't think that I ever lost sight of the fact that I could be a starter. I always still maintained the work ethic that would prepare me, just in case I did get that opportunity on the field. And I think just having an offseason where I traveled back home and was back on the West Coast, helped rejuvenate my own personal spirits, as far as getting myself ready for football, getting myself ready for what was to come this year and just refocusing my own self to get football back to being fun again. And I think that was just a major factor, as far as being able to turn my own personal career around."

On the leaders on the team and what they did to keep the team together:

"We're fortunate to have some great leaders within this locker room. I think anytime you have some veteran leadership like we have, guys who have experienced the winning tradition or the winning wave here, [FS] Brian Dawkins, [LB] Jeremiah Trotter, Brian Westbrook, the offensive line. Guys like that, that were able to stay focused, continue to work hard. And then a bunch of young guys who were just following their ways and I think that it is just so important to have leadership that leads by example. Not just by the words that they say, but they go out there every single day, they work hard. They work hard in the weight room, they study their film, they practice hard every single day. And I think by doing those things, it allowed us to get out of that slump. It allowed us to turn things around. It allowed this team to become cohesive again or to come back together as a team and grow as a team. Now there is just so much respect for each other. There is so much support for one another and I think that is what has created such a great atmosphere, a great attitude around the facility."

FS Brian Dawkins Press Conference

1.3.07

On how this Eagles team is different from the other Eagles teams he has played on that made the playoffs:

"Different, I guess, because we have so many young guys on the team that are playing right now and playing well for us. I think that would be the only difference. As far as confidence, the confidence is where it needs to be. We are playing our best ball at the right time and I think another thing that is different than other years is we locked up everything by this time, so we were resting. In this year, we've had to play our behinds off to play this type of ball and to win to get in. I think that is another difference."

On whether he feels like having rest last week was more important than keeping momentum going into the playoffs:

“I would say maybe more so, I think we still have momentum. [Head coach] Andy [Reid] does a great job of understanding the guys he had in the locker room in past years and he believed we could get it done by resting and we did. This year was completely different. We had to scratch and claw and play this type of ball. But I think that all being said is one of the reasons why we are playing this way, because of the back-to-the-wall mentality and having to do it. Either you’re going to do it or you’re not going to do it. We circled the wagons and let all the negative talk stay outside of our circle and we played hard for each other. That’s what it is all about, playing hard for that cat next to you.”

On whether he has taken it upon himself to let the young guys know the playoffs are a whole new ballgame:

“I think Andy does a good job of that, first of all, of letting them understand that and kind of speaking about that a little bit and understanding the tempo, understanding the pressure, having to play through their butterflies – the young guys are probably going to have a little [butterflies], that you’re going to have to work through – and those are the things that they are going to have to understand. But for the most part I just go out and play. I go out and practice the same – I turn my practice up a little bit if I can - and those guys will follow. But it definitely picks up and hopefully they’ll believe what we are saying.”

On what he recalls about his first playoff game:

“My first one, oh man, I was a rookie and I was just happy to be in the situation. I think we went to San Francisco. I was just happy to be out there. I thought this was an easy thing, that we we’re going to do this every year. That, as you know, quickly turned and was not the case. But my first year, I was just really happy to be in the situation.”

On whether he remembers if there was a noticeable difference in how the game was played during that first playoff game:

“Everything was fast, regardless, for me that first year. If it picked up in speed I couldn’t tell because it was fast in the beginning. That first year was almost a blur for me.”

On what he remembers feeling like after that first playoff game:

“Basically what if - had we made those field goals and had we not given up those late touchdowns we had given up. That’s what I was thinking about after that game. But then again, I was also thinking, like I said, ‘okay, next year we are going to get to this point again and we are going to win it.’ But like I said, we didn’t and that wasn’t the case.”

On whether it was difficult for him to watch the NFL playoffs last year:

“Yeah, it was hard for me to watch the playoffs last year. I think the only reason I may have clicked on the games is because of the way [Steelers S] Troy [Polamalu] was playing. He’s a safety, a young guy and I really like the way he plays the game, so I was kind of anxious to see what he was going to do week in and week out. That was one of the reasons that I watched. But for the most part it was hard for me too look at TV,

period, as far as sports go, because I knew that at some point we were going to be put in there in a negative fashion and I didn't want to hear that crap."

On whether they are going into the playoffs with as much momentum as any other Eagles playoff teams:

"You know what, that is really hard because in years past we had locked up so much that Andy rested a lot of guys, so I think we still had momentum – it was just a different momentum. We were so confident, and Andy was as confident in us as leaders that we would be able to not miss a beat if he did rest us. This year is completely different. We've had to claw. We've had to scratch. We've had to buckle our belts a little tighter and play for that cat next to you, to get to this point where we are. I think another thing that we have continued to talk about is not taking your foot off that pedal. No matter what is said and what we have accomplished, we haven't accomplished what we set out to be. Yes it was a great ride. Yes we have come through adversity, but every team has come through some type of adversity, so that doesn't separate us. What will separate us is how we take this from here on out. What we are going to do in these playoffs. I think that will then be able to separate us and when this year is over with that we can look back and then talk about all those good things, bad things or whatever."

On whether his body feels different today than it normally does since he only played a few snaps against the Falcons:

"Oh yeah, I feel great right now. It was definitely a blessing, hearing about Dallas losing and as far as guys being able to rest. That was really our bye week. I know Chicago and [New Orleans], those guys got the official bye week, but for us, that was our bye week - that we were on the sideline, we didn't take any hits, any bangs and we were able to rest this past weekend. For a lot of us, we are going to feel good for this game. Injury wise we are pretty healthy. But for me, I feel great right now."

On playing against a RB like Giants RB Tiki Barber:

"Man, I've always respected him, even back in the day when everyone was calling him a fumble artist. That was really the reason he wasn't going across the water every year, because of the fumbles. Even back in the day when they were saying he couldn't be an every down back, when he was just a third-down back and a punt returner. I've always respected him because I played against him [when he was] at Virginia. I've always had respect for him and what he brings to the table. He's always been a guy that has been slippery as far as breaking tackles and you saw that last week against Washington. People say he may be slowing down and I heard people say they need to draft a running back because he can't do it anymore, but yet every year he comes up and puts up the numbers – rushing and receiving out of the backfield. I've always respected that cat and that won't change this game."

On whether he thinks RB Correll Buckhalter has proved a lot of people wrong in his comeback:

"At some point people are going to form an opinion of you and they are going to stick with it. He's going to prove who he is going to prove wrong, but they are still going to believe what they want to believe, regardless. That goes for all of us. At some point people are going to form a certain opinion of you. As a player you can't worry about that."

You can't think about that. The thing that Buck had to do was have confidence in himself. Did he prove to himself that he can go out and do it and not think about it? He's done that. I think early on everybody was saying he needed to get more carries. But once again, everything happens for a reason and he didn't get all those carries in the beginning, but I'll tell you what, he's getting them now and he is being very productive for us – with those two guys coming out of the backfield and the things they both can do for this team. Everything happens for a reason.”

On whether he finds Buckhalter's comeback to be remarkable:

“Oh absolutely, he's a blessed man and I know he understands that. To be able to comeback from the injuries he has come back from and a lot of times when running backs come back, the things they have to fight against is their mind. Everybody does, but especially a running back because they cut all the time. So, he's come back from those things. He's running strong and hard now. I'm talking about running through people. I'm not talking about running around - I'm talking about running through people – and I think that is something the old Buck does and I think the old Buck is back.”

On how head coach Andy Reid was different, or the same, through their rough stretch this year compared to last year:

“I think Andy has always been the same. He's always a certain way. He's always even-keeled. He tells you what you need to hear as a team, what he feels like we need to work on to get better. But you won't see too many fluctuations and emotion – if any – even on the sideline. Absolutely he is going to get after a guy every once in a while, but through down times he is the same way. Through up times he is pretty much the same way. I mean, he jokes around with us more than he does with you guys, but you won't see too many negative emotions coming from him. And that's a good thing, especially for these young guys, to see the head coach – if he is not wiggling out then maybe this thing is going to be alright.”

On whether he could imagine being somewhere else where that might not be the case:

“I can imagine that and I think as a player you'd have to adjust to the coaching style, but you could only imagine what a young guy would have to go through if he saw his coach, on a consistent basis, as the game goes up and down he is going up and down. You never know who to kind of grasp hold to say, 'I'm going to follow his lead.' If you follow his lead you'll probably be tired by the third quarter if the coach is going up and down like that.”

On whether it is an advantage or disadvantage to play a team three times in one season:

“I think there are really only advantages if you learn from your mistakes in the past, if you learn from things that they tried to do against you in the past and also, if you understand that they are going to try some things that are different. On top of that, when you play a team that is in your division and you have already gone through wars with them and you know what type of physical ball to expect – which I believe this is going to be a hard-hitting game. It's going to be a trash talking game on the field. And it is going

to be a game where two teams that respect each other, but probably don't like each other a lot, are going to touch the field. It's going to be a war. I think with all that being said, it's a game that after you play a team that many times I look at it as being a positive as far as understanding that team."

Head Coach Andy Reid Press Conference
1/1/07

Injuries:

[RB] Correll Buckhalter and [DE] Juqua Thomas both have calf strains. Juqua's is probably a little bit worse than Correll's. But, both of them have a chance to be back for practice on Wednesday. We'll have to just see how it goes. The rest of the guys are healthy and can play."

Opening Statements:

"Congratulations goes out to the organization, like I mentioned yesterday, any time that you can win the NFC East, that's a great compliment to everybody. I know the players and the coaches, they get patted on the back a lot, but it really starts at the top with [owner] Jeffery Lurie and [president] Joe Banner and so on. Especially when you go through some tough times, their support is very important and they never wavered during the tough times. Obviously, the job is not done. This is just a step, we've put ourselves in a position to be in the playoffs and to have a home game. But, we understand that it's still a one game at a time approach with everybody in the playoffs. It's single elimination. We've got a New York Giants team coming in here that we know and they know us. Anytime we get together with them it's always a good game and a big challenge and a very physical battle. I think our guys look forward to that, as their players do. It was good to get some of the young guys reps yesterday. It's something that could pay off for you down the road. I thought, for the most part, the guys did a nice job. It was good to see [DT Brodrick] Bunkley get in and get some reps. He did a nice job, he got a little tired, but he played some really good snaps. [DT] Sam Rayburn, I thought did a nice job. And I could go on. The offensive line, we really had to jimmy-rig that thing and the guys handled it. I had not given them a heads up before the game, nobody had a heads up, coaches included. I just really wanted them to concentrate on playing their best against the Falcons and not worry about anything else. So it was an on the moment fire drill there and I thought the guys handled it well."

On whether the toughest part of the game was to plan for one scenario and then go with another:

"Really we weren't thinking that Dallas was going to lose to Detroit. We didn't think that would happen. But, still you had to be ready for it just in case something happened. I wanted to make sure that my plan was well thought out; at the same time I really didn't want the coaches or the players to be worried about it. They had to worry about trying to beat the Falcons and anything that takes away from that would be a problem. So, once it went down, [assistant to head coach] James Urban gave me the heads up on it – and the fans. Once it went down, we were able to get out of it pretty quick. Obviously the coaches are very competitive, the coordinators, they want their number one's in there. But, in a case like that, they understood."

On whether he considered keeping the starters in to keep their momentum going into the playoffs:

“I didn’t and I thought about it, I thought about it during the week. But, it really was pretty easy to do. I have a lot of trust in these guys. With a little time off, it will pay off for you down the road and maybe help us a little bit this week and give them fresh legs and so on. We’ve got a couple guys that are a little bit older and I think it was good to get them some rest. [RB] Brian Westbrook was coming off a sickness and I think the rest helped him.”

On whether he sees G/T Shawn Andrews and G/T Todd Herremans as guards in the long term:

“They sure give you some flexibility and we’ve got some young guys behind them that aren’t dressing up. There would have been a chance if I had a heads up what was going to happen in that game a little sooner, maybe I could have dressed a couple of the young guys, let them get in there and do their stuff. But, it didn’t work that way. But, to answer your question, they give you a little flexibility.”

On the progression of the offensive line since the beginning of the season:

“They’ve kind of grown up together. We’ve been very fortunate that we’ve had that group together in there. We haven’t had a major injury in there to give you setbacks. So, they’ve had an opportunity to work together and build continuity. And they are getting better. The guys who haven’t played much are getting better every week and the older guys are kind of feeding off of those younger guys. I thought they played pretty well.”

On whether he is concerned about going into a playoff game without Juqua Thomas if he isn’t able to play:

“I’ve got to see how he does. I think he’ll be alright. Even if he were to miss Wednesday practice, I think he’ll still be alright – as it looks right now.”

On what kind of feeling he has after winning five straight games and overcoming everything:

“It’s a positive feeling, but it’s one that you can’t rest a lot on right this minute. I think when the season is over and maybe you think back on it, you have time to think back on it, then you can get a little satisfaction possibly. But, right now you don’t have time for that. We’re in here and we’re heading on to the Giants, so the mindset is already set with coaches. The players will enjoy it for a day or two and then when they get back in, they will be focused in on the Giants. There is not a lot of time [to think about that].”

On what he did to motivate the players during their tough times this season:

“They are going to get plenty of negative feedback outside of this building, so I thought it was important that you found things for them to stay optimistic about. And there were plenty of those things; we were just a hair off. In this league anything is possible. There are enough examples of that every year that anything is possible as long as you stay relatively healthy and that ball bounces your way once in a while, you stand a chance. But, you’ve got to keep playing hard. The things you can take care of, you’ve got to take care of. I thought the guys did. A lot of credit goes to the assistant coaches and the leaders on the football team, the players, and the young guys for being willing to listen to the older guys and coaches.”

On whether he feels that they are going into the playoffs with more momentum than any other team:

“I don’t know. I think our guys, they are confident. But, at the same time, they know they have a big challenge. But, everybody has got to be confident going in, you’re in the playoffs. They have won a couple games down the stretch, but you’ve got to keep things fresh. I guess that atmosphere, that’s good as long as you maintain your focus.”

On having former defensive line coach Tommy Brasher coming in recently and helping out:

“Really Tommy has been great for us all year. What I did – and I’ve always kind of wanted to do this – I took a defensive guy and had him write a report from an offensive standpoint. So, he analyzed all of the defenses that we’ve played and then put down, freely put down, ideas and weaknesses of the other team’s defense. It was kind of a neat experiment and it worked. We were able to use a lot of the things that he gave us and share with the offensive coaches. Right now, we’ve got a jump start on New York, so while we are out coaching he’s breaking down New York. He’s helping a little bit with [defensive coordinator] Jim [Johnson] and helping a little bit with [offensive coordinator] Marty [Mornhinweg]. It’s good to have. He can always stay a week ahead and not lose his focus, where coaches have got to not worry about what’s going on the next day or the next week.”

On how difficult it is to face a team for the third time in such a short period of time:

“It’s tough from one point that you’ve got to come up with new ideas and so on. But, the other side of it is it really is going to come down to we know them and they know us and those normally lead to pretty good football games where both teams get after each other. They don’t have to worry a lot about knowing, they know the guy over there. So, most of the studies are going to go into looking at the different formations and schemes and that type of thing. It should be a great atmosphere. I know that our fans, they will be out of their minds. Not only is it a playoff game, but it’s against the Giants. So, we look forward to that and I think both teams will be fired up and it should be a heck of a game.”

On the Giants recently giving the play calling responsibilities to Giants quarterbacks coach Kevin Gilbride and what kind of wrinkle that presents for them:

“I don’t know. It looked like they ran the football a little bit more. [Giants offensive coordinator John] Hufnagel is a pretty good football coach and he’s kind of taken the brunt of this things. But, [Giants head] coach [Tom] Coughlin, he knows what he’s doing. They came out and they played pretty good.”

On Green Bay QB Brett Favre’s career and whether he thinks he will retire:

“His career, it speaks for itself. The guy will go down as if not the greatest, one of the greatest quarterbacks ever to play the game. Then I don’t know. I’m not sure he knows right now exactly what he’s going to do. He’s going to take some time and think about it and mull it over. I know this; he’s still a pretty good player. He can still sling that ball around and he had a heck of a game yesterday. I was glad to see him go out, if he does

decide to hang it up, go out the way he did. I know there are a lot of coaches that are sitting there saying, 'boy, I wish we had Brett Favre.'"

On whether it is oversimplifying it to say that if they can handle Giants RB Tiki Barber then they can handle the Giants:

"He's pretty good. He's coming off a 200 plus yard game against a pretty good defense. So, you have to be concerned with him. Again, you are talking about a guy that is a potential Hall of Fame player. He's that good. He's had some good games against us and we've had a couple of good games against him. Our guys will have to be real sharp and very aware of him all of the time."

On whether he has a better feeling about their run defense then he did a month ago:

"We are getting a little better. We are a little bit more disciplined. I told you before it was a matter of the guys doing their job and not worrying about the guy next to them and make sure they stay in their gaps and so on. And it looks like we are doing a little better job there. We've got plenty of room to improve and we'll need to do that for this week."

On whether being in the playoffs this year personally feels different for him then previous years when they were the top seed in the conference:

"Maybe missing last year, when you don't have a chance to – when you're sitting there and you're not very good. Maybe you appreciate this a little bit more being in this position. I guess when we were rattling those things off back to back; maybe you took it a little bit for granted. But, after last year, I think all of the guys; they are not taking it for granted. They respect the position they are in and they are going to try to enjoy every minute of it and work very hard to maintain it."

On having a lot of young players in the locker room who have never been in the playoffs before and whether he has to remind them to stay focused:

"I was a little bit worried about that coming down the stretch, but they did a pretty good job of feeding off of the veteran players which I thought was important. A lot of times young guys will put up a wall and say that they kind of know everything. This group didn't do that, they listened to the veteran players and hopefully they [will] continue to do that throughout the playoffs. We all know it gets a little faster every playoff game that you play in. It's funny how the tempo picks up; they'll have to get used to that once they get in there."

On what he sees from the rest of the NFC teams in the playoffs:

"You know what? I really haven't looked around. I'd like to answer that."

On whether he knows who is in the playoffs:

"I know Dallas is in it. Dallas and Seattle - that should be a good game too."

On whether he coaches any differently in the playoffs:

"No, I try to get the guys out of the building for a few days, a couple of days, and then get them back here for Wednesday. And then we will try to keep it as normal as possible. What you see here is the energy level is up a little and you kind of forget that it's week

17. That's almost like the beginning of a new season. Everybody seems to get their battery recharged and ready to go and get more focused and so on. We are going to try to keep it at that level."

On whether he is relieved that they are playing on Sunday and not Saturday:

"Yeah, I was glad that we got the Sunday game - coming off a short week last week. I don't think that hurts you at all."

On why he thinks the young players on the team haven't hit the wall that he referred to earlier:

"I think it's the way the veterans approach it and then the makeup of the guys. I know [general manager] Tom Heckert spends a lot of time working on what kind of people he brings here. I'm sure a little bit of that is part of it also."

On what he has added to the sidelines now that he is not doing the play calling:

"A big body (jokingly). It allows me to see a lot more. I'm not constantly looking at that play sheet, so I can keep an eye on what's going on on the defense. I can keep an eye - this isn't always good, but I can keep an eye on everything. It's a little different perspective on things and I'm enjoying it. Marty is doing a great job with it and we are able to communicate during the game. I have a lot of confidence in him, so it makes it a lot easier to do. If I didn't have the confidence I probably wouldn't have done it. He is one of the best in the business for what he does and he probably doesn't get enough credit for that."

On giving up the play calling responsibilities:

"It's tough. The tough part is that that is something that you really enjoy doing. But, at the same time, I knew I had a guy that could come in and do a great job. So, it made it a little bit easier."

On how often Marty asks him for input during a game:

"We are on the same headset, so we talk back and forth. But, he's doing it. Marty is doing the thing, so we talk as much as when I was calling plays. We always communicate back and forth. But, he's the one that is doing it and deserves the credit for it."

On whether he finds it better now during a 4th and 1 decision or a timeout because he has more time to think:

"Normally if we call a time out we will talk and bounce something off of each other, 4th and 1, we normally bounce something off of each other. But, again, he's taken that thing by the reigns and run with it and done a great job with it. Again, I have full trust in him, complete, full trust. So, he's just doing a super job with it."

On whether his input on the defense has increased:

"No, Jim handles the defense. I do the same thing with special teams [and special teams coordinator John Harbaugh] and I'm trying to do the same thing with the offense, just letting their personalities show through their coaching. I'm not handling them at all. I think then they are able to show their talents. So, I don't want - and he doesn't do this - I

don't want Marty to have to look over his shoulder any more than Jim has to look over his shoulder. When you start doing that then you are not going to do your best job. They put a lot of time and effort into getting things right for the game and they've got to call what they see and feel. The same thing goes with John Harbaugh. Now do I talk to all of them during the game? Absolutely, but they know that they are free to do what they need to do."

On whether he went into the season intending to take this approach with Marty:

"I experimented with it last year with [former offensive coordinator] Brad [Childress]. I felt comfortable with it. Then Marty and I kind of tag teamed it early in the season. I would go the first half and he would go the second half or vice-versa. And only because I enjoyed doing it and then I got to the point – and Marty was doing a great job with it - I saw that I could see some things, I started feeling more comfortable with it. I just thought the best way – and we went through a little funk there when things weren't going very well offensively and I just thought a little change would be good. So, that was the change."

On whether they were still experimenting or he had already made up his mind to have Marty call the plays when they played the Redskins on November 2nd:

"Yeah, basically my mind was set that he was going to be the guy."

On whether having a quarterback that can't do as much physically as QB Donovan McNabb pushes them to examine the capabilities of everyone else on the offense:

"I think that's probably the primary thing that has happened. And I mentioned that to the team when Donovan went down. I said, 'Hey, you are losing a potential MVP of the National Football League who also is a big personality on your team.' So, like they did a couple of years back, I just felt like everybody needed to step it up a notch and that included the guy that had to come in and fill in those shoes. I thought it was very important that [QB] Jeff [Garcia] was himself [and] that he didn't try to be Donovan or anything else. He came in and lent his personality to the offense and did what he does best. So, that's what took place. I thought it was very important that everybody else around him picked it up, that's coaches included, everybody around him needed to do a little better job."

On it being awhile since Jeff was in a playoff game and whether he will have to make sure he is relaxed and ready to play:

"I'm not going to change his red hair (jokingly). He's got it, so he has a little fire to him. He's mature enough and been in league long enough and seen enough things to know when and where to do things."

**Eagles vs. Falcons Post-game Quotes
12.31.06**

**Head Coach Andy Reid
V. Atlanta Falcons**

December 31, 2006

“As far as injuries go [running back Correll] Buck [Buckhalter] has a calf strain and [defensive end Juqua Thomas] J.T. also has a calf spasm. I don’t think they are too bad, but we’ll see how they are tomorrow.

Credit goes out to the organization, everybody hanging together and doing a nice job of mustering up another NFC East championship. My hat goes off to everybody, I might even include you guys.”

On whether this division title had special meaning:

“It was a good one. We’re not done. It’s a nice one to have right now. We don’t have a lot of time to think about it because we’ve got the Giants coming in and we know how those games go.”

On how he found out that Dallas had lost:

“[Assistant to the Head Coach] James [Urban], I just had him on the look out for it”

On whether there was a plan for the team should Detroit beat Dallas:

“Well I watched the game up until we went out. I knew it was a pretty good idea that it was going to be close. It was just a matter of keeping an eye on it. Tom Heckert and I had met and we had a plan if it did go Detroit’s way, what we would do, so that’s what we did.”

On moving the two starting guards to tackle:

“I rested the two tackles. We kind of did it by age. Those guys wanted out.”

On the performance of quarterback A.J. Feeley and wide receiver Hank Baskett:

“I don’t know what A.J.’s final numbers were, or Hank’s, but it looked like both of them played very good. I don’t know exactly what there numbers were.”

Commenting of the final statistics of Feeley and Baskett:

“That’s a good day.”

On the quality control and preparation for the New York Giants:

“We flew Tommy Brasher (former Eagles defensive line coach) in here. Tommy’s been doing breakdowns for us the whole season. He’s working on getting caught up on the Giants even though we just played them a few weeks ago and the other possible teams in the playoffs.”

On the goal line stand:

“That was a good play. We had a couple of those and that was a good one. I was proud of the young guys for stepping in, some of the guys who don’t get a chance to play. They stepped in and had an opportunity to play and it looks like they did a respectable job.”

On whether he would have not started players had he known Detroit had won prior to the start of the game:

“I would have if there had been a little bit of time before. There wasn’t going to be a chance of that unless there was an absolute rout.”

On whether the personnel decisions were made today solely out of concern for health of the starters:

“Right.”

On how the team felt about the underdog role:

“They’ve done a nice job at climbing back into the thing. They’ve taken a ‘back to the wall’ mentality and they seem to have kind of rallied around that. We’re a little bit like zombies, we’re back from the dead. We’ll see how it goes.”

On what it feels like to be a “zombie:”

“It feels good right now.”

On whether they would take more from the first or second Giants game:

“There going to do what they do. They kind of know us and we kind of know them. There might be a little wrinkle here or there. It’s going to be a heck of a football game.”

On whether or not he had to warn the team about the Giants given their 8-8 record:

“They know. They know. They know what to expect. They know these guys. Once you get into the playoffs anything goes. I’m sure Tom’s telling his team the same thing.”

On whether he was surprised by the team being in its current position:

“I liked the chemistry from training camp. I liked the football team, it was just a matter of, some things change around quick. When we weren’t going too well there, we had some games that were close and those can take a little energy out of you when you come up on the wrong side of the stick. The guys hung in there. They hung in and they kept battling and the breaks came around back to us and we had a couple of things happen there.”

On whether the team remained energetic after they found out Dallas lost:

“I want to win every game man. I don’t care who is in there we want to win.”

**Selected Quotes from QB Jeff Garcia Press Conference
12/31/06**

On what he has seen from QB A.J. Feeley in practice:

“A.J. is a competitive guy. He has some years of experience under his belt. He knows this offense very well. He’s mentally sharp and he has the athletic ability and the skills, the quarterback skills to be able to carry that through. He did a great job today. He made some outstanding throws, some great reads and just really continued doing what this team had been doing, being effective, being efficient and putting ourselves in a position to score points.”

On what it was like to get pulled out of the game after winning the NFC East:

“Bittersweet in a sense. No, it’s great. I don’t know. I don’t know how to answer that. I want to be able to compete; I want to be able to play. We prepare all week. I think it’s great to get the young guys and the guys who don’t get opportunities to play as much, like A.J., like a [WR] Jason Avant, like [RB Ryan] Moats and [RB] Reno [Mahe], some of the offensive linemen. I think it shows the depth of this team and it shows that this team is strong through and through. Defensively, a lot of guys got opportunities to play. You do prepare, you do want to be in the game, you want to have something to work for and work toward. I only say that because we want to go into these playoffs playing full stride. Not to say that that doesn’t happen, on a day like today, it almost turns into somewhat like a bye week for us in that sense that we are able to rest many of the guys and give them a chance to heal up and those sort of things. It’s one of things where we’ve worked hard over this past month to scratch and claw our way back and we expected to come out here and earn that NFC East Championship tonight. [But], great for Detroit and doing what they did and giving us a chance to somewhat coast into this situation. But, I want to play. I want to be out there. I want to do what A.J. was able to do today and I commend him. He had a great game and I was happy for him.”

On how much more special this experience is for him considering his past few years:

“It’s very special to be amongst a group of guys like we have here that just continue to battle, continue to prepare, continue to focus week in and week out, to do the necessary things on and off the field, allowing yourself to really concentrate on your position, your responsibilities and not worry about outside distractions. It’s just a very positive thing for me to be in a place like this and have that sort of situation with my teammates. And the quarterback room that I’m in is amongst the best that I’ve been around with A.J. and with [QB] Donovan [McNabb] and [QB] Omar [Jacobs], the other quarterback that is with us right now and [quarterbacks] coach [Pat] Shurmur, just the group that we have together is just a great group. We get along awesome and no matter, as you saw tonight, every guy takes their responsibilities very seriously and prepares very seriously. So, we aren’t missing a beat when another guy steps in, which is a great situation to have.”

On what it says about head coach Andy Reid’s success to have won five NFC East divisional championships in the past six years:

“I think just his way of staying even keel throughout. He never got caught up in the emotional rollercoaster of this team and what this team was going through. He maintained his focus, he maintained his integrity and didn’t get down on the players and didn’t lose faith in the players. He kept his hopes and thoughts and focus alive week in and week out. And I think that starts to carry over to this team and how we respond and how we continue to focus week in and week out.”

On Reid’s influence on the team:

“I think that’s big. I think Andy does a great job of implementing a certain sort of discipline and accountability amongst the players. I think he expects the veterans of this team to run this team in a lot of ways. He’s not as hands on as far as that is concerned. He believes that veterans should take control and the young guys need to follow the steps of

the veterans. Guys like [FS] Brian Dawkins and [LB] Jeremiah Trotter and [RB] Brian Westbrook and [TE] L.J. Smith, these guys have been here for a good number of years. They have experienced a great amount of success and the young guys are following their lead. That's just a great thing to have when you have quality like that and dependability like that. It takes some of the pressure, some of the babysitting so to speak, away from Andy and not forcing him to do that. I think I've seen Andy smiling a little bit more often these days too, so that's great to see that he's enjoying this experience, this ride and now it's only going to get more fun."

RB Brian Westbrook
December 31, 2006

On how important it was for you to get a day off:

"It's always good to get a day off especially after being NFC East champs. We worked long and hard and it's definitely a great job for us to go out and get a day off."

On whether this team is now after what they've accomplished this season:

"Well, we really haven't accomplished much of anything. We've accomplished one of our goals. We still have a lot of our goals ahead of us. We're still climbing up that mountain. We're still hungry. We're still a team that has more things that we want to do. We're getting better every week and hopefully that will continue going into the playoffs."

On the New York Giants:

"It's always tough to play a team three times. I'm glad that we won the last time we played them. It will be a tough game again against them. They won yesterday, so they do have a little momentum. So we have to go out and prepare for them. They might do something totally different than they did the last time we played them, so we have to prepare for basically everything. We just have to get ready to play."

On whether he treats the Giants like any other team:

"We treat them – they beat us early on in the season. We beat them the last time. You know, but we treat them just like any body else. We have to go out there, execute and play Eagles football. We can't let up now. We have to keep our foot on the gas and keep fighting."

On the play of the offensive line:

"Well, continuity is big for the offensive line. They've played together all season long and they've gotten better. We have some new guys in there with [C] Jamaal [Jackson] and [LG] Todd [Herremans] but they've gotten better every game. They continue to fight and they're getting better. When you run the ball more and more, you get better at it and that is what we've had the opportunity to do this last part of the season. They have continued to be good at pass blocking but the running game has continued to develop and I'm proud of those guys, and I'm happy that they are there to block for me."

On whether there is a special formula to the Playoffs:

“You have to take your play up another notch. Play goes up from the pre-season to the regular season and from the regular season to the post season. Everybody has to take it up another notch and be prepared. Everybody’s going to come out and give you their best shot. It’s their last chance. You know, it’s lose you go home. So we have to come out and play Eagles football and that’s executing every play.”

MLB Jeremiah Trotter
December 31, 2006

On whether you expected things to turn out the way they did after the way the season started:

“No we definitely didn’t expect it to go this way. Sometimes you think things are going to happen the way you want them to and they don’t. But the goal was to win the NFC East and though we’re excited about it, we didn’t do much celebrating because, this is just the first step in where we are trying to get to.”

On how this NFC East Title is different from past titles:

“I think this is a little bit more special. The reason being what we went through in the middle of the season, no one expected us to be here. And you know, we had some really really low points during the course of the year, but we just continued to fight through those and we’ve built some momentum here the last five weeks, and got a little winning streak together and built a lot of confidence also.”

On Giants RB Tiki Barber:

“Well they have a lot of weapons but he is about 60%-70% of their offense. Between running the ball and screens. Sometimes when you pay too much attention to him, other players can beat you, but the guy is so good. You have to give him a lot of attention.”

On how difficult it is to play a team three times in one season:

“I think it is tough from the standpoint that you get to know each other’s tendencies and it really comes down to who wants it the most. They pretty much know what we’re going to do and vice-versa. I’m pretty sure the coaches already have the game plans together, they just might have to tweak a few things here or there. So it comes down to whoever wants it most and whoever stays more disciplined within the scheme.”

On how this team kept the faith:

“You know what, I think it just shows the character of the guys on the team. Guys just continuing to fight no matter how bad things got, just continue to work. Number one, you get paid to a job and number two, you have to have some pride in your work. After the Indianapolis game, I think we were at the lowest point in our whole season, but we just continued to work. Myself and [FS Brian] Dawkins. We just continued to preach to the guys to ‘continue to work hard and the ball is going to bounce our way.’ And slowly but surely we started to gain confidence, and we won one. Then we went on the road for a three game stretch and every week it just continued to build our confidence. The offense played great and here we are.”

On whether there is something about Tiki Barber that keeps him going even though he is retiring after this season:

“I think that’s just it, there is no quit in him. He announced his retirement earlier in the season but he still understands there is a job that he has to do and he has continued to fight right up to the very end. So we don’t expect him to come in any different than he always has. You know, ready to play and running hard. We just have to do a good job of containing him, especially running the ball and screens.”

**Brian Dawkins post game quotes
12/31/06**

On whether he feels a sense of satisfaction that the team rallied to win the NFC East this season:

“Absolutely, this is something we have been working for, and even through the mist of that struggle in the middle of the season, we still had this as one of our goals. Our main goal has not yet been reached, but this is one of them. I believe we are playing our best ball right now.”

On head coach Andy Reid’s message to the team after the game:

“It was brief. There were not a lot of congratulations in there. He said, ‘congratulations, big time and see you Wednesday.’”

On whether he has ever been through a season of ups and downs like this one:

“No, I have never been through a year like this. It is hard for me to say, at this point to think about all the years I have been here and been on an NFC East championship team. This is certainly a different year with all the downs and low points during that stretch. For guys to hang together, stick together, and not point fingers, we continued to fight and stay together says a lot. I think there are a lot of character guys in the locker room and you can see it when we touch the field that we expect to do special things on that field, on offense, defense and special teams. As a unit, we expect to do special teams.”

On the Giants still being dangerous:

“Any time you have a running back like Tiki [Barber], any time you have a TE named [Jeremy] Shockey and any time you have a big time receiver on the outside like Plax[ico Burrell]. Even if they had lost this last game, they would still be dangerous because of those weapons. We know that we have another dogfight coming up. It’s the playoffs and we welcome that. It’s like I said last time we played the Giants, it’s going to be a fighting game. There are going to be a lot of hard hits and big plays made and hopefully we will come out on top.”

On watching the young guys during that goal line stand:

“Those guys were tired. Those big guys up front were winded. I think that allows them to get a little game experience and that is going to help us at some point. Sometimes, I tell the young guys that they are going to have to do something for us to help us win a game. Tonight they got some real good playing experience and they will be able to get coached up on some things they can improve on. For those guys to stand up and help us win this

game, keeping the momentum going as far as getting a win going into the playoffs, I am sure those guys are excited right now.”

**Selected Quotes from Quarterback A.J. Feeley Press Conference
12/31/06**

On whether he got a lot of snaps during the week:

“Actually I didn’t. Actually this was probably one of the weeks where I got the least amount of snaps because how we do things here is that the number one quarterback gets all of the snaps with the number one offense and the number two quarterback takes the snaps with the scout team. Being that we were playing Atlanta, we were facing [Atlanta QB] Michael Vick, we inserted [WR] Greg Lewis to play quarterback against our defense. So, my reps this week were actually limited in the fact that I wasn’t getting any with number ones nor was I getting any with the scouts.”

On how he and WR Hank Baskett and WR Jason Avant seemed to have a good rhythm during the game:

“Yeah, I throw to these guys everyday during practice. It might not be in the team scheme, but we throw in one-on-one’s and we warm up. We do throw the ball to each other, so I don’t know who got all of the catches or who didn’t. But, if it was Hank then that’s awesome.”

On whether he was surprised by what he was able to do today:

“Am I surprised? I’m not surprised. This is the one offense, like I’ve said before; this is the offense that I feel comfortable in and it kind of shows I guess. So, regardless I take a lot of mental reps during the week and a lot of playing quarterback is preparation. With that comes studying your plays and studying film. So, with that being the case, I don’t need a lot of physical reps I guess.”

On whether he wonders if he could have done what QB Jeff Garcia has done with this team this season:

“Do I wonder? I don’t wonder. Do I think it could have been different? Do I think I couldn’t have won those games? No, I think I could have won those games. I think as a quarterback if you don’t consider yourself the guy and capable of winning games, you probably shouldn’t be here. So, for me, not to count anything away from Jeff – but do I think I could have done the same thing? Yeah. I think that is the case with any quarterback who’s in the league.”

On how big it is for them to win this game going into the playoffs:

“For us it was big. You know what? Being the fact that it was meaningless and the fact that we had already clinched the NFC East, but to go into the postseason with a win and a win at home and to know that you are going to play at home and to kind of give the fans a little something to feed off of for the next week. I think it says a lot and we are going to feed off of it for the next coming postseason [game].”

Quotes from the Eagles locker room

**WR Hank Baskett, WR Donté Stallworth, RT Jon Runyan
RG Shawn Andrews, C Jamaal Jackson
12.31.06**

WR Hank Baskett

On whether his performance in the game was a nice way for him to end the season:

“Oh man, tonight was just an opportunity. We had to have all the young guys step up because once we found out Dallas lost and we had the NFC East [division title] – we did the right thing and took the starters out, let them rest up because we plan on making a long playoff run. We needed our young guys to step up and that’s what we did. It was just an opportunity. That’s all you got to look at it as.”

On whether this year was a learning experience for him:

“It’s my rookie year. Everything has been a learning experience. You have the ups in the season and you have the downs in the season. It’s going to happen. It’s something that is good to happen because you learn how to come back against adversity. When everyone counts you out and then tonight, we finally came through when we were expected to win and we didn’t come out and slack off and let anything happen. We came out and played like we should.”

On what the hat he is wearing says:

“The NFC East champions. That’s tight right there - to have your first year, to have one of those.”

On how sweet it is to have come back and won the division in the manner they did:

“It’s just awesome to have a chance to go to the playoffs, especially in your first year. You hear about the playoffs and as [LB Jeremiah] Trotter said earlier, it is playoff atmosphere time and you have to come to work everyday. That’s one thing this team has been good at. We treat every game like that. We learned early to stop looking ahead in the season, to just take one practice and one game at a time.”

WR Donté Stallworth

On whether there is any concern that the starters might lose the rhythm they were in having not played much tonight:

“No, because just the way this team is right now, the way we are playing, guys have stepped up and made plays. That really showed a lot today with a few of the starters being pulled and the other guys stepping right in, being able to make plays and being able to win this ball game.”

On whether he has any concerns about losing the flow they have developed over the last month:

“No. We practiced all week and we were ready for this game. We started out well. We got the win and that is all that matters. We are fine. We’re perfectly fine.”

On what type of challenge the Giants defense presents to them next week:

“The Giants are really a team that can jump up and bite you if you let them. We played them twice this year, obviously, with them being in our division, so we know what kind of team they are. They’re a good team. They’re a team that can make some plays. They’ve got some guys on offense and defense that are Pro Bowlers, been to the Pro Bowl, going to the Pro Bowl this year. Nothing they’ll do surprises us and the same thing with them. They’ll be ready for us. Like I said, it will be an exciting game and a big challenge for both teams.”

RT Jon Runyan

On their familiarity with the Giants:

“Yeah, but in the same light, like I said it is playoff football. Certain people step up big time in those games and you have to be aware of that stuff. You can’t have any let downs.”

On whether making the playoffs always feels the same:

“It never feels the same. As you get older it hurts more and all that stuff [jokingly]. Looking at it from where we were a month and a half ago, it is pretty amazing we are here. It’s a matter now of you just have to tune it up and get out there and play.”

On whether he could have imagined anything worse than missing the playoffs two years in a row:

“Well, having a career ending injury would have been worse than that [jokingly]. That wouldn’t be the end of the world, but that’s not how it is done around here. Stuff happened last year that was out of your control and this year didn’t look to well, but guys stepped up and started making plays when we really needed to.”

RG Shawn Andrews

On whether they could ask for a better mindset going into the playoffs:

“The mindset here is great because the fact that we have been through so much this season and going on that few game losing streak, people writing us off, and to get back on top like this is such a tremendous feeling. We just can’t emphasize enough just staying together and that’s what we did and that’s what got us here.”

On whether he ever changed positions in a game before:

“[I’ve] never changed position in the middle of the game. I was a little bit puzzled at first. [Head] Coach [Andy] Reid came over, he said, ‘you go to tackle, you go to guard,’ yada yada yada and I was like, ‘okay, I have to readjust myself.’ I was like, ‘okay, it is going to be fun.’ Just make fun out of it and try not to give up any sacks, which I didn’t and that was great. I don’t think I even gave up a pressure, but it is not about me it is about the team.”

On the progression of the offensive line from the beginning of the training camp to now:

“We had a real tough training camp. We emphasized consistency and we were hitting almost every day and just doing the different drills. One thing our position coach Juan

Castillo emphasizes is if you can't play here he will get you in a position where you can play somewhere. He did a great job with us."

C Jamaal Jackson

On the second unit getting a chance to play today:

"That was big for us. It was just a chance for the young guys to go out there and get their feet wet so to speak. Last time they played was preseason. Tonight was big for them."

On what they will have to do against the Giants:

"I know we have to win. Win or go home. We know they have a very aggressive defense and we just have to come with our 'A' game. The last game kind of came down to a couple of plays late at the end. This time we just need to take what the defense gives us and just do what we do."

On whether the way the Giants made the playoffs makes them a bit more dangerous:

"Right now it is one and done. You're not looking at how they got into the playoffs and the games that they lost coming in. We were the same way. We were 5-6 and everybody was saying we weren't going to make it to the playoffs. We basically had a playoff game every week since then and that is the same attitude they've taken. They are in the playoffs and we have to deal with them next week."

Quotes from the locker room

Defense

**DE Juqua Thomas, CB Lito Sheppard, CB Sheldon Brown,
DE Darren Howard, DT Darwin Walker**

DE Juqua Thomas:

On whether it's possible for the Giants to turn things around against them:

"Man, they're going to come out playing hard. It's the playoffs so everybody's got to step their game up. They're going to come out playing hard and we aren't going to come tip-toeing in like we're going to win the game. We're going to come out hard."

On what it is that they've done this year to be able to stop Giants RB Tiki Barber:

"Just us playing up front, the front four, man. Just getting off blocks, penetrating gaps, stuff like that, man, to stop Tiki Barber. Penetration kills, so if we can play on the other side of the ball we can stop Tiki Barber."

On whether he's surprised that the Eagles are in this position:

"I'm not surprised. I felt we were going to come together because we have so much talent on this team. We came together and we fought through it and we've got to continue fighting out there."

CB Lito Sheppard:

On whether facing a team for a third time is always harder:

“You know what? I think it’s a little bit harder each time. Let alone, they’re in our division and we’ve definitely seen them a lot over the year. But, it’s going to be an interesting game and hopefully we can come out and execute like we plan on doing and get this game out of the way.”

On whether they do anything differently in terms of filmwork:

“You do. You try to go back and look at what they try to do to you, as far as their success, and just capitalize on what we’ve been doing good and keep doing it. But, each play, each game is definitely magnified to this point, so every little thing counts. So, you want to definitely try to be perfect in the playoffs.”

On whether Giants WR Plaxico Burress will be the guy the Giants have to go to:

“You know that they definitely try to get him in jump ball situations. Really, the thing to prepare for in that aspect is making a play on the ball. He’s definitely a big guy, but we’re just going to have to play physical and hopefully minimize some of his big plays.”

On whether this is Head Coach Andy Reid’s best year as a coach:

“I think as far as the adversity, yeah. He’s done a great job of keeping this team together when everything was going downhill. You lose a guy like [QB] Donovan [McNabb] and the way the record was going, we lost some close games. But, the way he’s pulled the team together, kept everybody focused, along with the veteran leaders on this team, I think he’s done a good job.”

CB Sheldon Brown:

On whether Reid ever wavered with his emotions or showed doubt in the team:

“No, even when we were 6-10 last year he was the same guy and that’s what’s so great about him. Most of the time when he does his interviews he’s not the most spirited guy, but he is what he is and that’s why we like him as a coach.”

On whether the consistency of Reid is something he appreciates as a player:

“You can appreciate that because you know what you’re going to get out of him and he expects the same out of you. And I think that’s why we have a consistent group in this locker room.”

On playing the Giants for third time:

“It is what it is. It doesn’t matter. It’s going to be a totally different game from the first two. It’s a playoff atmosphere and it’s going to be a great contest, another NFC East rivalry and it’s going to be a great football game.”

DE Darren Howard:

On whether they can go into the Giants game feeling comfortable:

“You can’t feel that way. You start feeling like that, you start to sacrifice the kind of things that you did to get to this point. We’ve got to keep working hard, keep practicing the way we’ve been practicing and keep taking care of business and everything else will take care of itself.”

DT Darwin Walker:

On whether they will have a bullseye on Tiki Barber:

“If there’s a team that doesn’t have a bullseye on Tiki, he’ll hurt you every time. You have to put a bull’s eye on him. You have to try to figure out a way to get him stopped.”

On what it means to have a home playoff game next weekend:

“It’s a wonderful thing. It just makes this season that much sweeter. We’re not finished yet though. We really want to get to the next level. We really want to get to the Super Bowl.”

On where this division championship ranks of all the ones he’s been a part of:

“I’ve been a part of five. That’s amazing. When the fireworks were going off I was on a knee just giving thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to be in the NFL, to be on this team and in this city. I love playing in this city and I love being here and to have won that many championships, who would have ever thought? To me, it’s a wonderful thing and this one has to rank right up there at the top because we had to work our butts off to get it.”

On whether there is a part of him that wants to say ‘I told you so’:

“No. We have leaders out there and we believed in each other and that’s what’s important. And the leadership on this team, myself being an older guy, I just try to step up and really make an impact on this team and figure out a way to help us get over that hump. And I think that we got over it and that just shows a lot about the character of the team, to come back and have this type of season. Even though it’s not over, to get to this point, it shows so much about the character of this team.”