

**(On the status of the team...)** “I think we are as prepared as we could be. We have some things we are going to do in Chicago tomorrow, but the physical part of the practice is over. I think the attitude is good, we’re prepared to play a really fine football team, we know that, but we will give it a go, we’re ready.”

**(On the status of Darrell Jackson and DJ Hackett...)** “Those will be Sunday decisions. They did not practice as you know, and they are going to have to show me on Sunday that they can do something. But I am hopeful that I will have one or maybe both of them on Sunday.”

**(On how this team is different than the one that played the Bears earlier in the season...)** “Well, some guys are going to be playing that didn’t play that first game. Some guys are going to be playing at different positions. From a practical standpoint, that is real. I think in the playoffs, when you are thinking about the finality of playoff football, I think probably both teams in their minds, may be a little different than a regular season game, but I am glad we have a couple guys that can play that didn’t play in the first game.”

**(On how the special teams practice went this week...)** “I think it went fine. That is a situation where we, I referenced it earlier in the week, where you are having to sign guys to come in and play, and you are having to move guys up because of different situations, we’ve lost a couple key guys on special teams, but we’re counting on the new guys to come in, fill in and do their jobs. I know this, we have a good punter, we have a good place kicker, we have guys that want to do it, and we can’t give up the big play on special teams.”

**(On leaving on Friday instead of Saturday...)** “Well, the league, they encourage teams to go in playoff situations, particularly when you are traveling back there where the weather, or coming to Seattle where you could have snow. The second thing is just to get in there and acclimate ourselves to the situation in Chicago, the time change, those types of things. We didn’t have to rush today, we are leaving a little bit later here, we could have a good solid Friday practice without feeling like we had to sprint to the airplane, so that was another reason.”

**(On Jeramy Stevens receiving the game ball...)** “Well, he came up big in a big game. I don’t have anything to do with the game balls, the offensive staff picks the offensive player, the defensive staff picks the defensive player, but I think he has had kind of a bumpy season in some respects, but he came up big in a big game and I think they wanted to reward him for that.”

**(On if they need to be near perfect to win on Sunday...)** “Well I think we have to play a good solid football game. When you are talking about perfect, or near perfect games, I think you are really referencing the things we talk about every week; turnovers, penalties, assignment breakdowns, those types of things. I don’t think you ever play the perfect game, but you shoot for that. You really do, you shoot for doing everything right. In playoff football, I think the teams that finally get to the Super Bowl, along the way, they

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have been pretty solid and don't make mistakes and don't turn the ball over. We have to have that type of game."

**(On if he senses that the defense is picking up momentum...)** "I hope so. If we ever got into a momentum, we really need it now. It has been well documented, we have some young people in our secondary that are playing with not a lot of experience, so our front seven really has to come through and continue to play well. It is no different."

**(On Marcus Trufant's progress...)** "I saw him, he was moving around. The thought was, he had a chance if we were fortunate to get there to maybe play in a championship game, with the timing. I was encouraged with the fact that he was out here doing some things. But, who knows, he can't play this week, I know that."

**(On if Gerard Ross is ready to play...)** "Well, we will see. He has worked with us, and worked hard all season long and now he gets a chance to step up and play a little bit. He has probably been thinking about this all year, and he has been preparing himself all year, we will see what he can do."

**(On if Ross will help on special teams also...)** "Yeah I think so."

**(On North Park University...)** "Well, it goes back a long ways. Cathy's family, her grandfather was the pastor of the North Park Covenant Church, which was right next to the university. Her mother and father, they all went to school there. Cathy went to school there, my kids went to school there, and it's our Church's school university. It is a really fine liberal arts college; it is right in the city. If a kid wants to get a pretty diverse experience, right in a big city and get a good education, it is a great little school. I was very happy with how they treated my children and I would recommend it highly. Expensive tuition though."

**(On if the Bears are harder to put guys in bad match ups because of their versatility...)** "You don't think about match ups that much when you play them because they play their defense, and they blitz, but they don't blitz like some teams blitz, but their very talented guys and you can move all over the place and they line up and they play. So the match up question isn't as big for an offensive strategy as you might have it against other teams."

**(On being able to play against the Bears this game since he was out during the season match up...)** “It is always exciting to play in the playoffs. It is always exciting to play against a team that is number one. This is what they playoffs are all about.”

**(On the Bears defense...)** “It is very good. If they are not stopping things that you are good at, they are causing turnovers right when you think you are good at something. We have a great challenge in front of us.”

**(On Brian Urlacher...)** “Being part of the Millennium Crew, which is all of the guys that were drafted in 2000, he fits the tone well. He changes the things that you want to do because he is so fast and so strong. He just makes plays. If you don’t focus your game on limiting some things that he does well, he will embarrass you.”

**(On if Urlacher has a mystique about him like Dick Butkus did...)** “I don’t know if anybody can get like Butkus. If he was playing, we would all start thinking about that. He is definitely one of the best in the game. If you don’t come ready to play, it is a long day for you.”

**(On being extra motivated to play the Bears after the loss during the season...)** “Totally. It doesn’t matter who you are playing against. Once you are in the playoffs, it is just it. You have to go play. We all, especially the guys in this building, we know what it feels like to get to the top of the mountain. It is great to be there, but we didn’t finish, so just playing against Chicago, it just adds to the great picture.”

**(On how important playoff experience is...)** “I hope it matters a lot. I don’t know. I think that everybody prepares different, everybody gets excited different. It is a game to go back to the basics, turn the ball over and making big plays. Hopefully the ball falls our way a lot.”

**(On what it is like to be the underdog and the defending NFC Champion at the same time...)** “I think with all that we have been through, on paper, I would say we deserve to be underdogs, but at the same time, we are a dangerous animal right now because we have been through so much and we still seem to be where everybody really wants to be and that is in the second round of the playoffs.”

**(On if he thinks they still haven’t played like they are capable of...)** “We haven’t even been even close to what we are capable of, that is why I am proud of our guys. We said from the very beginning, we’re not going to be guys who make excuses for injuries or drama or windstorms or rain storms or snow storms, we’re just going to go play and at the end of the day everybody do as much as you can and we’re going to be proud. We are, we’re standing here in the midst of it just like every other team that is in it still. We like where we are.”

**(On the advantage to playing with Jerramy Stevens...)** “Jerramy Stevens changes the game. When you have a good tight end, you automatically give yourself a couple more

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first downs and you give yourself chances to hold on to the clock. Playing against a team like Chicago, that is going to be very key.”

**(On how he and Stevens will change what the Bears have seen since last time...)**

“Well hopefully it will let us keep the clock a lot longer. They controlled the game. Our red zone, we kicked two field goals down there early, and then they were up 14-6. With Jerramy and me in, it gives us a great chance to score more first downs and also move the ball in the red zone a little bit easier. Hopefully it goes well for us.”

**(On how well the coaches have done this season...)** “I think top to bottom I am proud of everybody. Everybody is giving it all they got. I am sure if you looked at Matt’s (Hasselbeck) body, you would be like ‘wow, you are doing that with how beat up you are.’ Same with mine, same with Walt (Walter Jones), up and down, and everybody is sore at this time of the year. Everybody has had injuries at this time of the year, but it think that our guys keep on playing and when the buzzer goes off, the Seahawks have the win, and that is our only goal.”

**(On if he gets 25 carries and more than 100 yards, is there a chance they will lose...)**

“There is always a chance. Against their defense, if I get 100 yards, then we’ve done very, very well, because their defense is that good.”

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**(On the injury report...)** "I'll start with the injury report. Actually, we're in pretty good shape, considering. The only guy, he's listed as doubtful but probably won't play, is (Marcus) Trufant. (DJ) Hackett would be the next one and then (Darrell) Jackson would be the next one. Jackson is likely to play. I don't know how much he will practice this week. Everyone else, we're OK."

**(On Jackson playing at his usual high level...)** "It's hard to say. It's hard to say how he will be able to perform. He has an injury that at his position, it becomes bigger. As the game wore on, it became sore, so..."

**(On the cold weather at Soldier Field...)** "Well, the weather, the last three games we've played at home have been really cold and windy. I don't think the weather will be that much different than we've played in the last couple of weeks. Now, I don't think it's going to be around zero. Now, you get down to those things and it becomes a little bit of a survival thing. But if it's 30 degrees with flurries, whatever they are predicting there, that's expected. We've played in it. I don't think the weather will be an issue."

**(On new signings...)** "Well, we just signed a new guy today. I introduced myself to him downstairs, at lunch, just before I came up."

**(On coaching challenges with new players...)** "I think, from a football standpoint, obviously it's them learning a lot of things in a short period of time. And it's very difficult, for the player."

**(On new players taking night classes...)** "Yeah, they come in the morning ... Actually, it's kind of like that. They are being tutored. Remember when you were in college and had tutors? They come in early in the morning and have a lot of one-on-one before the players show up. Then they stay after at night, yeah they do. Then they have their breakdown meetings with their positions during the day. It's a crash course, asking them to do the best they can, we're not talking about a huge amount of players, but they are players who are going to have to play... The bigger impact on the special teams: injuries and the loss of key contributors or Bob Casullo spending more time working on his resume than preparing a game plan; there's very much a domino affect on special teams, maybe more than offense and defense. Typically we don't play a lot of the starters on special teams. Some guys are here really as special teams players. A couple of guys are key special teams players that are injured. (Josh) Scobey is one, Jimmy Williams being another, that were really valuable. (Isaiah) Kacyvenski when he was here. And they're not playing anymore. So you insert another guy and the depth at the end, it changes things. Honestly it hurt us on the return. But that's something every team goes through almost game to game and they have to be ready for that and coached to it and talked to about it. If you lose too many of your core special teams players, it sounds like it's easier to replace those guys but it's not. It's a bigger deal than people think."

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**(On Pete Hunter learning the system...)** “I think John (Marshall) did a great job, he and Teryl Austin and Larry Marmie of getting Hunter ready to play certain things and when he was in there we were going to do these things, not the whole deal, but these things. It would be really unfair to the player to ask him to, it wouldn't be his fault if something went wrong and he didn't get it. It'd be our fault, really, as coaches. But I thought the coaching staff did a great job of getting those kids ready to play...He's played. He's a football player. Your talking about the NFL so he's played in the NFL, so he can play football. What separates the Champ Bailey's of the world from every other corner in the league, there is spectrum of players. But he's playing, he's a good athlete, he's fast, he's tough. So, then it's a matter of learning a few things and being disciplined and he was in the right place at the right time. “

**(On Hunter being on ESPN's Cold Pizza...)** “Who? When? Today. Has he already been on there? I didn't know that. I need to talk to him about that.”

**(On the newest signee...)** “Gus Scott. He's a safety. Right now, that's about all I'm ready to say.”

**(On playing quality defensive football...)** “Defensive football, to me, and I've always looked at it from one side of the fence, of course, but so much of it is emotion. Of course you have to prepare and you've got to know what you're doing and all those kind of things, but then you just have to react and play with a lot of get up and go. And you get into the playoffs, and I think you see when you watch games in the playoffs, I don't know if you feel this way, but you watch the regular season, you watch all the games for 16 weeks and then all of a sudden you get into the playoffs and you go, sometimes the game looks faster. And it is. All of a sudden, they've kind of survived the season and now all the coaches are saying the same thing, all going into the playoffs knowing it's sudden death, knowing this could be the last game they play this particular season. And any reservoir they have of energy or whatever it is, they're going to expend it. They're just going to go. As long as you can still play smart, and it's not just emotion, then if you have enough players, you're going to have maybe not always the results you want, but you're going to have pretty close to the results you want.”

**(On pulling out all the stops on defense...)** “I think you probably study a few more games as far as film study. You might try a couple things now or show something that you hadn't shown before to see if you can goof up the other team's offense a little bit. Absolutely, you have to identify their best players.”

**(On problems that Bears LB Brian Urlacher poses...)** “Well, he's really big for a linebacker. He's big and fast. He's really very fast and very instinctual. So the physical part of playing the position, he's exceptional that way. When he tackles backs and rushes against backs it's really a mismatch, as much of a mismatch as I've seen in the league. He's a load. It's important for the linemen to get on him a little bit and try and block him because the other thing doesn't work so well.”

**(On Urlacher in pass defense...)** “Well, he was a safety in college, very athletic. He's

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really, I think, a pretty special player.”

**(On relationship with Bears Head Coach Lovie Smith...)** “I don't know Lovie very well other than he's been on teams that we've played a lot. He was with Tony (Dungy) in Tampa and so on. I've appreciated the fact that when I was in Green Bay, we started that golf tournament, golf for kids, in conjunction with North Park University along with the Chicago Bears because Brian McCaskey, who was one of the McCaskey kids, went to North Park. So he and I started this tournament, raised a lot of money for a really good cause. When I left Green Bay, Dick Jauron became the coach, and now Lovie, they've continued that association with the university. I appreciate that. They didn't have to do that. I appreciate that very much. So he's a good man and a great coach, but I really don't know him that well.”

**(On having Shaun Alexander this time vs. Bears...)** “In the first game, we got behind. And so the running game, even if we wanted to run the ball, and Mo (Morris) had proved that he could run the ball, in the games that he had played, we couldn't. We got so far behind we had to throw a lot, and that didn't work either; then they rushed us pretty good. In those situations when you get behind, you can run the ball and not get sacked. But then you lose 26-7 instead of 35-7. But I'm never going to do that. I'm going to try and win. I'm going to try and score. We never really had a chance to really establish anything running the football, I didn't think. Now, having said that, they did a nice job stopping the run. They're a physical group, and they did a pretty good job, and we didn't play very well. They're good. You couple that with the fact that we didn't play well, that's a bad combination. We didn't do anything very well in that game.”

**(On the October loss to the Bears being a motivating factor...)** “For me. For me. I did not like how we did that. It starts with me. We probably did a lousy job coaching, and it carried over into the players, and they kicked sand into our face pretty good in that first game.”

**(On not losing the players despite the adversity...)** “Steve, they're pretty honest. The players are pretty honest guys, really. This group, they'll look at film, and you can say what you see, and they see it too. I've been with groups that you feel like you're looking at a different movie. They don't see the same thing you see. This group sees it. And if we didn't play up to what we think our standard was, I didn't have to say a lot. Now, I might be upset in the locker room after the game or something like that, but I didn't have to say a lot on Monday after the film or on Tuesday. And I think the makeup of the team, the character of the team is such that they aren't give-up guys. They might lay an egg once in a while, but they give you effort. A lot of the inconsistency that people saw this year, and we felt this year, had to do with playing new people, assignment mistakes. It disrupted continuity, it disrupted scoring drives, it disrupted defense, all sorts of stuff. Those, people can understand that. When you lose games because of an attitude thing or because people are lazy or because guys aren't giving it everything they have, now there's more of a potential to lose the football team. The other thing is, if I just hammer them, if I just hammer, hammer, hammer – like with my own kids or when I was teaching in high

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school – you just kind of look out there, and you can see in their eyes that they're someplace else. So as a coach or a teacher, you don't want that to happen. You don't let that happen. It's part of understanding your team and trying to ... Keep the pressure on, but don't take away their spirit, I guess is the best way to say it."

**(On first impressions of Jordan Babineaux)** "I think Jordan's physical abilities popped out right away. The typical, 'Well, who's that? Where did he go to school?' You have a tendency to, you guys have seen our minicamps, and fortunately you have the names on the jerseys, because we have the draft choices, who we've invested heavily in, and then you have the free agents and you kind of fill up the 80 men with guys from all over. And somewhere in there, and it's happened every year, and I'm better now, much better, than I was earlier in my career, you learn those guys, you watch those guys, because somewhere in there, you have a little bit of a diamond in the rough. And it's happened every year. And he was one of those guys. Now, it helps if, at a particular position, you might be injured or something, or you don't have your first-unit guys and now all of a sudden you get a chance to play or show, and that helps. And I think that's what happened with Jordan. And then it's just a matter of – ok, he can play, physically he can play, now can he absorb what you teach him, can he tackle at his position. And once those things came into focus, you know you've got one. And he's made some big plays for us, no question about it."

**(On how big Bobby Engram has been...)** "I just feel better when he's playing. We're a better team. Matt has a lot of confidence in Bobby; Bobby does the right thing. He catches the ball almost every time. When he speaks in the locker room – I've asked him to speak before a game on Saturday night one time – the guys listen. They respect him; he has that kind of respect in the locker room. He's a good football player."

**(On first impressions of Engram...)** "The first thing you say, he's kind of little. But then he's a big man. He plays big. I've had bigger guys play little. I've had that to. At the ball, they're at the ball, and they lose. Bobby wins at the ball. Before he got sick, he was like the Energizer Bunny. He'd just go, and go, and go, and go. Then, all of a sudden, he couldn't. It was surprising to him. It was surprising to me. But now he's feeling better, and it just makes us better."

**(On worry that Engram wouldn't return this season...)** "Yeah, I did. Sure I did. The healing process took a little longer than I thought. Whenever one of these things comes up, I learn a lot about it. I didn't know much about it. Now I know a little bit more about his condition. But he's feeling good. His medication, I think he's back to where he was before."

**(On being worried that Engram had just hit the wall...)** "No. It had to be something more because he had a good training camp. Unless something's hurt, he practices and plays one way. He came in yesterday and looked at some film, then we were talking in the locker room. In the first Bear game, he had no energy. He got hit and it kind of started this process going the week before or two weeks before. He got in the game and didn't know what was wrong. He didn't know what was going on. On the plane ride home, we



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had the emergency landing with Ray (Rhodes). Darrell Jackson told me this story. He said, 'Hey, we've got an emergency landing.' Normally all the players are (looking around). Bobby just said, 'Good.' He had no energy. He had nothing. He's one of my favorite guys of all time. When I write my memoirs, he'll be one of the guys who will be in the special charter."

**(On Hackett's chances of playing this week...)** "I don't know. I really don't. What I'm hearing is, it's not ... it's like last week. I think I came in in my last press conference to you guys and said he was out. I went to the production meeting with the TV people and said he was out. Then all of a sudden there's a miracle that takes place. I'm not doing that this week. I'm not going to. Because you start practicing guys at other positions and all of sudden you come to the game and you so much want him to play, and he plays. Then you've got guys out of position. They didn't practice at that position. So I've got to see something during the week here for him to be ready. The ankle is the thing that will keep him out or allow him to play."

**(On this season following the Super Bowl...)** "I think everyone probably has a different opinion on that. The way I'm looking at it is, and I mentioned this last week, is that given what has happened and the unusual circumstances, I've never had a season quite like this, my coaches have done a really good job coaching. The guys playing who have had to play and the guys who have come back from injury, I think they have done a pretty good job filling in and things like that. To me, this season has been, and then throw in the idea about after the Super Bowl and all that kind of stuff, you know, which I discount a little bit, but throw it in there. I am not unhappy with where we are right now. In fact, I'm very happy. We're down to the last four teams in the NFC, last eight teams in the NFL. I am not unhappy with our position right here given what has happened. The problem is, you go to the Super Bowl and whether you win the Super Bowl or lose the Super Bowl, you go to the Super Bowl and unless you go back again, and I have been in that situation too, people have a tendency to say, well, you didn't have as good a year as you had last year. And by record, yes. But you throw it all into the big pot and I'm not sure, I know this year was harder, and I'm not sure that in some ways what they've been able to do to this point is even a little more remarkable. But, you are judged by where you wind up. But I'm not one of those people, I think you know that, that is not going to enjoy the journey and say, I'm going to write off this season because we didn't get to the Super Bowl and all that kind of stuff. I don't believe that. I think these guys have worked too hard. Take Bobby Engram. Use him as an example. He has a serious thing, misses all those games, it would have been easy for him just to kind of ride it out. But he came back, he wanted to come back, he is so excited about playing in this game and there are a lot of players like that. And that, to me, kept my spirits up during the season and this is a good group. I like this team. I don't know where we're going to wind up. I'm rambling here but this is, I think is important: It's not always, you can't be judged all the time, although this is a very bottom-line business, you can't be judged all the time by exactly where you finish at the end. But people don't know that. The only people that know really how it came together or what caused it are the people in the inner circle. That's hard for fans, that's hard for people to judge that on the outside. I get that. But this team has done OK."

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**(On sticking with Jerramy Stevens despite the distractions...)** “I want to be clear about this. You could probably say at one point in his life, the distraction issue comes into play. In the last three years, that's not part of the deal. He's our best tight end. He's our best tight end. Now, has he dropped a couple balls he would have liked to caught? Yeah. But, you know, it happens. Is he disappointed? Yeah. Do I get disappointed? Yeah. But that's not a distraction. That's just, I'm sorry he couldn't make the play or he's sorry he couldn't make the play. However, I'm glad he was playing last Saturday... That probably comes to my days teaching in high school. You see kids, most of them aren't going to play pro football, that's for sure. They come from all different, where I was teaching, all different backgrounds. You learn to try and understand them and help them, to create a vision for them, whatever you want to call it. That's what I do, whether it's Jerramy or Shaun Alexander or Hasselbeck. That's kind of how I work it still.”

**(On Stevens adding another dimension to the offense...)** “It helps. Like I said, we have to play all the way around for any of these guys to make a difference. He gives us a receiving threat from the tight end position down the field, and that's something in the first game. He does gives us another couple of things we can do with the offense.

**(On Stevens' confidence improving...)** “I think it is. And again, we're talking about Jerramy, but you can talk about any player you want. If you have a tough ballgame, and then you come back and have a good ballgame. That's good for the team. That's good for the players. Heck, Deion (against the Chargers) had a rough day that one game. He was anxious to redeem himself and come back and play, and then he did that. Players usually respond that way. They don't want to play poorly.”

**(On experiences at Soldier Field...)** “It's a tough place to play. Chicago is a great sports town, a great city. We have connections there. My kids lived there for a long time. In all those years we played there, we played them twice every year, they have a great home field advantage there just like we have at Qwest. Playing there during the season - I think it was a Sunday night game, wasn't it? - and the atmosphere of that game will help us in this one because I had never been to the remodeled version. Of course, a lot of the players had never been in there at all. So, of course, all of that stuff will not be brand new. I think that helps when you've been there.”

**(On special attention to Devin Hester...)** “Absolutely, everyone has to know where he is. We'll study him on film. He's a tremendous player, a phenomenal rookie player. They score points on special teams more than anybody in football. So it's a tremendous challenge for us. Our kickers, both Josh (Brown) and (Ryan Plackemeier) Plack, have a big job, they've got to kick the ball, punt the ball, very, very well. Then we've got to cover.”

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(On of the team feels like they are the underdog this weekend...) "No. Obviously this is a big challenge, their defense is very, very good and it is definitely the best defense we have played this season. They are going to be that much better, they have two weeks to prepare for us, they have had a week off, they're fresh, we're not, and it is going to be very, very hard."

(On playing with a healthy Shaun Alexander, Jerramy Stevens and Bobby Engram against Chicago...) "Well, those are little things that help, definitely, but at the same time it is not like that game was even close. We have some work to do. In my opinion, we have to play a perfect opinion offensively just to combat how good they are on defense."

(On what the perfect game offensively would be...) "Well, we just have to number one, be assignment correct to start, and then when we have opportunities, we have to take advantage of them. If you look at that game, we got down in the red zone a few times and we came away with field goals. Normally, that's ok, but against this team, they are 13-3 for a reason. They are playing at home and their defense is playing with a lot of confidence right now. They're creating touchdowns on defense. They're creating touchdowns on special teams. They're doing some special things right now. I think we just have to play our best football."

(On Brian Urlacher...) "To me it's just they play their defense very well. I think the question was about the two deep zone and how they don't really play it that way. They kind of have the best of both worlds because he is a middle linebacker that can fill the run with the best of them, and yet the guy was a DB in college. I mean he can run right down the middle with the best of them. And at the same time they can play aggressive. He can play aggressive because they guys around him are very, very good. Lance Briggs, guys like that, they're all moving with the ball. They're all moving with the quarterback's eyes. They're playing team defense, and it allows them to make some plays."

(On Ricky Manning Jr. being better in the slot...) "He is a very, very good slot player. He's a very smart guy. He guesses some, but they're very educated guesses, so he's very dangerous in that way. You see him on film making a lot of plays all the time. And he's really a solid player. He was a solid player when he was with Carolina. And to have him back in that role, and to have (Charles) Tillman and (Nathan) Vasher outside, you're not going to find three better corners

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**(Opening statement...)** “It’s pretty good, we’re still playing. I want to clear something up. Darrell Jackson probably will play. I read something on the computer that he would not play. What I said was he aggravated his foot in our game. I said this morning on my radio show and he had to come out. But actually he is feeling better now than he did Monday last week. So he’ll probably get to practice a little bit at the end of the week. (DJ) Hackett, more problematic, last week on Friday he could not play. And then when I got to the stadium and worked him out they said he could play. And he made some nice plays in the game, but then he hurt himself. It’s a basketball ankle, side. It’s not the high ankle, it’s the side.”

**(On Hackett’s hip being re-injured...)** “Not to my knowledge. He got through the game ok that way. The thing that he hurt was his ankle.”

**(On Darrell Jackson being back...)** “I got to see how productive. We have him back. He suited up. Now I would say he was less than a hundred percent in the game. It is good to have him back. The uncertainty of whether guys can play in your planning, and particularly at wide receiver when you have different combinations of three and four and everything, you want to try and get the guys who are actually going to be running the plays in the game to practice them. And we couldn’t do that too well last year. Seneca (Wallace) caught the first pass of the game. We were prepared to use him a little bit more prior to Saturday. We’ll see how it goes. (Bobby) Engram is ok. (Nate) Burleson is ok. (Deion) Branch is ok. Now we just have to see with the other guys how we fill in that.”

**(On if players who don’t practice will play...)** “If they’re healthy. With Darrell, with a veteran player you can do it. You can kind of do it sometimes because he knows. With a young guy or a guy new to your system it’s harder. As an example, Nate in the game there were a couple instances there in the game where he didn’t think he was going to have to play a certain position, but he got thrust in there and didn’t come out exactly the way I wanted it to. With a veteran player you have a chance to pull it off. With a young guy it’s hard.”

**(On Marcus Trufant’s chances to play...)** “No. Not really. If we were able to get to the next game he has a chance to play.”

**(On the fan support...)** “I went to dinner after the game and they applauded, which was nice. Wherever I was that particular time they were happy. They’ve been great all year. Our fans were tremendous in that game. But they have been great all year. My sense is that they’re pulling for the Seahawks, and routing for the Seahawks, and going to the games and filling the stadium; that’s more fun now and they’ve been doing that now for a couple of years. Now a game like we won certainly has to increase enthusiasm and new fans perhaps. They’ve been pretty good for a while. That’s my sense. But, heck, for those people that were in the stadium or watching it on television; if you were involved in that game the other night you had to ... I was able to go to church Sunday with my family, and I had more older folks come up to me and go ‘ughhh’, like I was going to be responsible for the last breath they took. And they were happy. But they were happy. It

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was very much like that. They're people that know us, and they're happy for us and happy for the team."

**(On Mack Strong's comments on being a team of destiny...)** "I did see that. I think it's a great way to feel. And Mack Strong is a pretty solid guy, and he's not quoted all the time and he doesn't say a lot. So when he says things he believes it. And I think when you win a game that way, you kind of have to believe 'heck maybe it's bouncing our way'. Call that what you want, a team of destiny, call it whatever you want. We kind of got one that maybe we didn't think we had, and all of a sudden we have it. Now that doesn't take off the challenge that lies ahead of us. Because we are going on the road, and because the other teams involved still in the NFC or playoffs are outstanding teams, we know what the challenge is. But all we can do is what we can do. I looked at the film. We can play with more efficiency and better than we played Saturday. We still goofed up a few things that I think we shouldn't of, but it was a great win for us. My goodness it was great."

**(On Lofa Tatupu making big plays...)** "That's why he goes to the Pro Bowl. That's why he's a young man, he's going to go to two Pro Bowls. He'll probably be one of those guys, like Junior Seau if he stays healthy, that goes every year because he's such a good football player. I don't know what else to say about him. The played he made, unfortunately it was stepping out of bounds that we got the safety on, in that sort of chaos to have the where-with-all to do what he did it's unbelievable. You can't even appreciate how wonderful a play that was to think about doing that when it's just wild. But that's him. I'm glad he's on my team."

**(On the review of the spot at two yard line before final field goal attempt...)** "I'm thinking more 'how we're going to do this last minute', because I'm kind of thinking they're going to score and we got to come back and score. So that's kind of where my mind's at. Then upstairs someone said 'I don't think he made it.' And I didn't know. I did not at that time do anything with the officials or anything to delay anything. I just said 'I hope they review it then'. I was at a different place what I was thinking about. The guys upstairs saw it. They were talking a lot. And then when he stopped play, I said 'are we going to win this?' And they said, 'yeah, we should, because it's pretty clear on the film.' And then it became fourth down instead of first down; huge play, my goodness, huge play. And then Dallas still had a decision, while I guess they didn't have a decision to make, they had to kick it."

**(On calling the final timeout...)** "What happened there was I thought they should have added at least ten seconds to the clock. So that was what I was talking to the official about. I said 'we have to get ten more seconds'. I had one more timeout left. And then the referee after the replay, after he said what he said, because I'm still thinking they're going to kick the field goal and we're going to need the time and the field goal. And then he came up to me and said 'I wind it now'. He goes, 'when I put the ball in play I wind it.' So Dallas could've just sat there. I had one timeout. They could've rolled it down to whatever, I think there was a minute and eighteen. They could've rolled it down to 40 seconds or 35 seconds. So I said 'ok, I'll take my timeout now'. That's what I did, and

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then we were out of timeouts... I said 'how about our ten seconds'. I remember saying 'how about our ten seconds'. And they said 'it's been factored in. That time is right'. And I never argue with the officials."

**(On when issuing a challenge if anything that happened on that play is open for review...)** "You have to tell them what you want to look at. But the play stands on its own. So if all of a sudden I'm challenging something, but they see something that's clearly wrong, they make the play right."

**(On if the referees could've ruled Terry Glenn's fumble an incomplete pass...)** "Sure, they could've. But it's very unlikely that upstairs they're going to overturn if that hasn't even been challenged by the other team. The challenge you have to see a lot of evidence to overcome. They're not going to overcome what's been called on the field if that's not even part of the original challenge, very unlikely. But if they're looking at it and they go 'hey, he didn't even catch it.' Yeah, they should do that. It's my way of thinking they should do it. The whole idea behind a challenge is to get the play right. Sometimes it hurts us, sometimes it doesn't. That's the whole idea behind it. And as long as they get it right and you can see it, then I say 'get it right'."

**(On if Matt Hasselbeck trying to do too much is behind him...)** "While I hope so, Steve, I hope so. He has done it all season really. We've been careless with the football all season. He has way more interceptions than he should being as bright as he is and understanding our system now the way he understands it. I think by his own admission he would say he tries to do too much. There are things in his head; I think the number of substitutions and injuries that we've had, the different combinations, I think that's had an effect on him. And really, he's human and I think he has a chance to be great. He's a good player, and he had a great season last year. But I think he has a chance to be great. And to be great, those things, you have to find a way, and I'm not going to coach it out of him – not at this stage, he's got to find a way to deal with those things that he has to deal with. Physically he does everything I want him to do. He really is very good. Now the two areas and we had this discussion before the season started; he doesn't play the game by himself – he doesn't have to. In his mind, he's a very bright guy and probably could be a lawyer because he likes to argue, but he goes 'that being said, if I'm not to have to play the game by myself, but I don't have everyone else, so maybe I have to do a little bit'. There's always a little bit of a give and take between us. But he's absolutely capable of shooting lights out. And it would be wonderful. Now the other guys have to help him. The quarterback is not out there by himself. He got banged around a little bit early in that game. I was not particularly pleased with our pass protection early. That's going to have a little bit of an effect on the quarterback."

**(On if they argue less...)** "Way less. Way less. Two, three, four years ago it was ridiculous. Now actually we don't argue very much at all. We really don't argue too much. We have a little discussion here and there. We're at the point in our relationship, and he's at the point where he is as a player that we don't have to do that anymore, I don't have to do that anymore. I don't have to bang him around anymore. We just talk about stuff."

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**(On importance of Branch and Hasselbeck being on the same page...)** “You look at the great combinations. The best one in the league now is (Marvin) Harrison and (Peyton) Manning, and they’ve thrown a million balls to each other. That’s real. That’s important and it’s real. Any good quarterback-receiver combinations do that. They kind of know what to expect. That’s one thing. And that will get nothing but better. They’ll be together for a while now and that will get nothing but better. Then what Deion has to do, which will also get better, now please understand what I’m saying. He is really good and he helps us a lot. There are three or four plays every game though, where he does something that, because he hasn’t been with us very long, that I wish he had done something else. And it happened Sunday. It’s not that he’s not trying hard. It might be a little subtle thing; his angle, how he’s doing something. And that will get better too. Nate Burleson falls into that category as well. But it’s all good. We’re kind of going through it now, and making an error here and there in that respect with those guys. But next year, I would think that it will be better, get better, because they’re talented men. And they want to win. They want to do it right.”

**(On having Jerramy Stevens for Chicago after missing the first Bears game...)** “Jerramy impacts things when he has a game like he had Saturday. And Jerramy’s thing has been consistency this season. I think he would say that. I pulled him aside before the game, when we were in warm-ups, and I said ‘listen, I’m going to you. Don’t let anything distract you. Don’t get in any little contests, verbal things. Be strong at the ball.’ By that I meant, ‘don’t worry about running after the catch, but catch it and be strong with your hands at the ball’. And I said, ‘we got to do this’. And he had a good game. Not just because of what I said, but he had a good game because clearly he was focusing in on doing it. I think he had a pretty good game. When he plays that way we’re better. Year, we are better, because in our system that’s an important role...I’ve had a number of frustrations this year. And Jerramy, I tease him about it, and he teases me about it. But the good thing, the good thing, is he wants to be good. He wants to do it. And if he can just focus and don’t let anybody drag him into anything, because he’s a very feisty, competitive guy, and some of these habits are tough to break, but you just have to.”

**(On being favored or the underdog...)** “It’s been a good thing for the teams I’ve coached; particularly if you’re confident in what you’re doing and you have to be playing well. I think the first year in Green Bay when we play New England in the Super Bowl and won, we had been an underdog going in there. Certainly I was the underdog coach. I was the new coach and coaching against Bill (Parcells). So I kind of played that up a bit. That type of feeling hungry and no one gives you respect, it can work on some players. After a while you think ‘the guy’s 30 years old, this isn’t going to work. But it does. It works on some players. The other side of the coin is you can be really confident and good and say ‘I don’t care who comes in here.’ The second year in Green Bay, that team felt that way. We lost the Super Bowl because I couldn’t get them to believe how tough a game it was going to be in my opinion. It was my opinion. They really had a confidence, because we had gone through the season, played well. We had a good year. Both ways. I don’t mind being below the radar. I thought, even after our game with Dallas, there didn’t appear to be much about the Seahawks on television nationally. It was about the snap or

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TO (Terrell Owens) coming back. One side of me, I say 'that's too bad' because we played a good game. But the other side, it's ok to be under the radar."

**(On playing a Bears team that beat the Seahawks 37-6 earlier in the season.)** "We have a lot to make up for because we didn't play very well. And we're going into the same place with the same fans, and playing the same team. And we had better be better, because that was not very much fun. I think we're capable of playing better. We have some guys who are going to be able to play in the game that didn't play in the first time. But the Bears are awfully good. There is a reason their record is what it is. And you can never discount the home field advantage; that's important."

**(On impact of not having Shaun Alexander in the first game vs. Bears...)** "I've told you, we don't change the plays that much. But we couldn't run very well against them. That I do remember. And since that time, now our offensive line has changed also, right when we get somebody back we kind of lose somebody else. The plays themselves won't change too much, but the player makes a difference."

**(On lack of running game allowing Bears to rush Hasselbeck...)** "Well the situation allows it more than the players, because they're going to play what they play on first down, second down, second and short, whatever they decide how they're going to do it. But you get in passing situations, or all of a sudden you feel like we get behind and we're going to throw more. Now that played into their hands with their home crowd and they're defensive line the way it was. They're excellent pass rushers."

**(On importance of breaking down game film from first game vs. Bears...)** "I want to show the guys how bad we played. No one wants to be embarrassed ever; good players or coaches. And if I think we played a stinker, that's ok to talk about that. I remember when I was teaching in high school or learning during my teacher training programs, 'be careful of negative reinforcement'. Every once in a while you have to hit them between the eyes and show it to them. Heck with that theory business, we're in the real world here."

**(On teaching high school...)** "I liked just about everything about teaching high school. I enjoyed that. I think I've told a number of you, I enjoyed that a lot. It gave me a chance to teach subjects and physical education and coach. I was kind of able to do two things; wear a tie sometimes, shorts another time. And then to see the development of young people; see them grow up and thinking that you make a little bit of a difference in their life. That's the gratifying part of teaching. One of my daughters is a teacher and an excellent teacher. She just lights up."

**(On if the same five guys will line up on the offensive line...)** "Yes."

**(On whether that is an improvement to first game's line...)** "That's a tough one Clare, because (Robbie) Tobeck is kind of the wild card there. And Robbie is still not playing. And (Chris Spencer) Spence is doing a pretty good job at center. But he's played now. And (Rob) Sims has gotten a lot of good work and played in some games and is getting



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better each week. Having (Floyd Womack) Chop around as a swing guy, who I know can play all the positions like he did a couple of years ago, it's kind of a comforting feeling. That's a good thing in a game."

**(On how Chris Spencer performed in his first playoff game...)** "Chris did fine. He's really a special man. His leg. I don't know if you had a chance to see his leg in the locker room, did you? And he played. He's a warrior, and he played well. He did."

**(On big plays being contagious...)** "I talked specifically about that in the meeting the night before the game. In playoff games, the teams most of the time, it can be decided by a couple plays in the game. The one play doesn't ultimately win the game for you. But when you have a chance, I talked to them about when you get the chance to be in the right spot to be the hero, the team that wins, those players make that play. Whether it's the great catch, or Lofa's play in the endzone, or Babineaux's play, or (Shaun) Alexander popping it out of there against an eleven man front, whatever it may be, and we needed every one of those plays to win. It was that close. Most of the playoffs are decided that way. And so I talked to them about it. When we look at the highlight film, I can show specifically those things based on what I talked about. It helps your credibility. It helps them believe that what you're telling them is kind of the way it is. That's all good."

**(On seeing any changes with Walter Jones this year...)** "Not to me. I think with Walt we have a tendency, the bar is so high, that if he plays a very good game sometimes we say it's not good enough. And I'm not sure that's fair. Saturday he was very good. He was All Pro Walter Jones. And he's about as consistent a player I've ever had. He's a very quiet guy. But he's very good. Every once in a while someone almost gets the quarterback or gets there or gives up a sack, people are just stunned. But it doesn't happen very often."

**(On different combinations on offensive line effecting Jones' play...)** "Maybe in the running game. Not in the passing game because tackles are kind of on their own. They'll make calls. Tackle end games, crossovers and stuff, they got to work together and there it might show up once in a while because you got a veteran with a younger guy and he's kind of learning. Sims is learning. But in the running game you have to make a lot more calls. And he's had four different people play next to him this year. And it's bound to have some sort of an effect. You'd never know it by him. He's the same. 'Hi Walt.' 'Hi Coach.'"

**(On Itula Mili being released...)** "You get into the playoffs and sometimes you have to do things that you don't really want to do, but you feel you have to do to put the right team on the field. And that was one of those things. We were so banged up and so uncertain at wide receiver that we wanted to bring up Ben Obomanu. And then you start looking at, how can we do this. The last couple of years, to no fault of his own, he's either been hurt or sick or something. And so, that was why we did it. It was unlikely he was going to be active throughout the playoffs, because we have the three tight ends that are playing now. Both Bennie (Joppru) and Will (Heller) are very valuable special teams players. And that really wasn't Mili's strength. So we had to make a tough call. I wish

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him well. He's one of the good guys and has done some really good things for us. But that's the reason and that's kind of how it came to be him."

**(On how footballs are used during games...)** "They've change it so much. The whole idea behind the kickers-ball bag, those had a K on them. They're marked. Balls would go to wherever stadium and then teams would do it with the kicking-balls, would do all sorts of weird stuff with them. Put them in microwave ovens. Put them in dryers. To get more, deflate them. Mess around with the kicking-balls. It was common knowledge it was bad. And so then on the competition committee said let's clean that up. The kicking-balls it's like they're coming at Brink's Truck. It's the darndest thing you've ever seen and their guarded. So those are the kicking balls. Now the kickers complained, but statistically nothing changed too much. We evaluate that. At least we knew it wasn't going to be filled with helium. So that was that. The quarterbacks have always complained about film on the Wilson ball. When it comes right out of the bag if you were to order one right from the factory, it comes right out of the bag, and I was a quarterback and I agree with this, there was a feel to it that eventually goes off of it after you practice with it for three or four days or kicked it. For the games they used to use brand new balls right out of the bag, the Super Bowl, and it would be kind of slick to be honest. At least it had a slick feel after playing with certain balls. So last year or two years ago they changed it so you could rub the balls down with cloth or brush that they'd send. And you'd have your training or equipment guys, that's what they're doing before the game, they're kind of getting this stuff off the balls. Then the balls get taken to the officials. They look at the balls and make sure that anything's wrong. They have to be inflated to 13 pounds. They do all that stuff. Then they go in the bag and those are the balls they play with. This year they changed it even more, that you can bring balls that you practice with. You can bring your own balls. The quarterbacks don't have any problems with it anymore. But the kicking-balls are the kicking-balls and that's the reason we did it with the kicking-balls."

**(On Jordan Babineaux's game saving tackle...)** "I did not see that play until this morning. I didn't see how close that thing. It's funny. I know we won. I'm looking at that play and I'm going 'get him...' It's unbelievable how close that was. I talked to the team and said 'hey Babs, unbelievable, heads up play.' (Tony) Romo did a nice job actually after the fumble, picking the ball up and trying to score. I mean that was close. It was kind of that type of game. I acknowledged him with his teammates today. And they love him and he kind of has that reputation now. He's a young guy that is still learning to play, but he has been involved with big plays for us."

**(On John Howell and Pete Hunter in the secondary...)** "It is what it is. We got these two young guys. They told me after the game. They both came up to me in the locker room and said 'thanks for the opportunity'. And I said 'thanks for helping us.' Now they have to do it again. Our situation in the secondary hasn't changed. It's the same situation."

**(On John Marshall's game plan...)** "Pretty good. I helped him a lot with that game plan. No, it was excellent. And John, both he and Gil (Haskell), as coordinators on this

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team do an excellent job. They really do, and I'm lucky to have them here. We had a meeting at the start of the week. I don't mess with them during the week. I don't think that's smart. But in the beginning of the week, I toss in my two cents, and want to know generally speaking at least what kind of approach you're going to take. Really what I wanted to do with John this last week was remove any anxiety. Every once in a while, I believe he does this, he might not, because if something's not working I'm hard on him. At times, I don't want him to think that he has to call something for me. I think that really inhibits any single caller in the game. After we talked in the beginning of the week, I said 'you do what you (do)'. After we talked about a couple things, I said 'ok, now we've talked about it. But when it comes down to it you do what you have to do'. And then if I want to blitz more or something I might toss that on the phone. 'Let's get after them'. And he did a great job. They all did a great job."

**(On absence of Craig Terrill and Marcus Tubbs and lack of size on defensive line...)**

"In fact I'm probably better to answer that question than John (Marshall), because typically if you are to ask the coordinator or a position coach, they're in the fox hole with their guys. I was, I know that, when I was a coordinator. In fact I was a little defensive about how my guys were criticized and so on. The simple fact is we are undersized on the defensive line. So they have to make up for it in technique and speed. And we cannot not do that. Typically, if someone pops a run on us, which has happened this year, it's because our technique wasn't just right. Because we got to be right, because we're not big. Russell Davis is a bigger man, but he was used to a different style of defense. We're a little more of an attacking defense, he was a little more of a lateral thinking there. And then (Chuck) Darby, heck, he's not the biggest guy in the world. So it hurts. It hurts. That's the other reason I'm proud of them. You go up against big lines like Minnesota, or Dallas, or Kansas City has a big line, Philadelphia has a huge line; those guys have to be right technique-wise, and then effort, tremendous effort. So that's how we're surviving."

**(On playing overseas...)** "It's my understanding you get one every 15 years or something. I could live with that. I'll be on the porch having a little pina-colada when they travel to wherever. Actually, I used to lobby, and I lobbied. I think that China game next year. I always like it in the preseason. In the preseason, I had the privilege of going to Germany, Japan a couple times, England; playing in those game in the preseason I always enjoyed it, particularly if you made the trip somewhat educational for everybody and fun. You got to play the football game, but give the players a chance to see something they might never see. That's why. And I like that. And then the game is not on your record. You play the game. Now regular season games, regular season games, I think that has to be thought through a lot, one man's opinion. Thought through a lot more, because there are tremendous revenue things to think about, your home fans which are so vital and pay the bills, you don't want to cheat them at all. I know they would like to do that. The league would like to do that and they probably will do it. I mean they will do it. But I kind of like the idea of playing at Qwest, myself."

**(On Bob Casullo being in the coaching booth now...)** "I didn't think we were seeing the whole picture well enough from the field. It's very unusual for a special teams coach. I know that. I talked to Bob (Casullo). Things were happening in the game and I couldn't

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get enough answers immediately on the field. And he goes 'well, there's no special teams, I can't think of one'. I said, 'I don't really care as long as we're functioning better'. And I did at after the San Francisco game. We had a punt blocked and we also had a fake work against us. And I said, 'right now I'm uncomfortable with not getting the information.' And now I think it's working out better."

**(On communication with Coach Casullo...)** "I don't yell at him. He's hooked up on a headset with John Jamison who is on the field. And John was in my wedding, so I don't yell at him too much. But those guys talk and they yell at each other. Now I'm out of it, but I can get information from John from Bob and it's much quicker, much more precise. It's working better."

**(On the return game...)** "So much of the return game is your returner. And I think Nate is doing a great job. I think our coverage teams were effected by the return they got the other night. The guys were losing. We've probably lost four or five real key special teams players this year. And special teams are built on a core. You have your core players that are going to play all the teams. Right now we're kind of mixing and matching just a little bit there. But, just like anything else that's happened this year, we got to do it. So a guy steps in and this is what you do and do it best way you can. But losing (Josh) Scobey, who was an excellent special teams players, (Isaiah) Kacyvenski before he left here was an excellent special teams player, Jimmy Williams – excellent special teams player. There was a joke, all those guys were captains and then they get hurt bad. So I try to get somebody to be a captain, they wouldn't do it last week. Said, 'I'm not doing that'. Then (John) Howell popped his hamstring. So Howell's done. So Howell hurt himself in the game and we just signed him. And Howell had been a dominant special teams player the year before. So yes, it has an effect. What's to likely happen is you take some of our starters and we're going to plug them into certain special teams."

**(On run defense vs. Bears...)** "We have to be better than we were in the first game, otherwise it's going to be a long day. Because they pretty much did what they wanted to do when we played Chicago the first time. We have a lot of pride on the team. And I'm sure the guys are going to look at the film and not like what they see, but they ran on us. So we have to be better. We must do a better job, otherwise it's going to be another long day."

**(On if there will be a roster move...)** "We could. By the end of the week it could happen."

**(On Shaun Alexander's status...)** "He's fine. In fact to this moment I really don't know what happened to his foot."