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Diaries of an NFL Hopeful

[Back to current article](#)

Q&A WITH RAVENS LS MATT KATULA ~ January 13, 2007 *The pressures of a meaningful extra point in the playoffs...*

By [Matt Katula](#)

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Tony Lombardi: You successfully journeyed the path from UDFA to an NFL roster. This year you've journeyed from a losing team to a team with Super Bowl possibilities. Talk about and compare those feelings.

Matt Katula: Going from UDFA to making a team was a blessing and was totally worth it. I knew the Ravens would give me a shot so I took advantage of it.

TL: How different is the atmosphere in the locker room this year compared to last?

MK: Going from a losing team to a winning team undoubtedly changes the locker room. I think because we were 6 & 10 is why we are so successful this year. The whole demeanor of the team has changed. We were embarrassed last year and it added fuel to our fire.

TL: Who is the worst dressed player on the Ravens? best dressed?

MK: Hmm... I'm going to plead the fifth on that one. But on game days, the best dressed player is definitely Ed Reed with his 3 piece suits.

TL: How superstitious are you? What about Matt Stover?

MK: I'm not superstitious but I have certain routines. For instance, I always put on my



left sock then my right sock; then my left shoe then my right shoe; and finally I tape my left shoe and then my right shoe. As far as Stover goes, he just hangs out before the game and listens to his i pod. I don't think he's superstitious. He does talk to himself when he's out there but that's just to get his head right.

TL: We've seen some mishaps late in the year between snap, holder and kicker. One by the Bengals in Denver and one in the post season by Dallas in Seattle. That play is something that the fan in general takes for granted. Do you expect such a play, one that you could probably make in your sleep, to be any different in the post season?

MK: That's what I have to do. I have to make sure it's the same as I did in practice, in the regular season as in the playoffs. It doesn't matter - I have to fight the urge to make anything more than what it really is. That's my job. The same goes for Sam and Matt too.

TL: There's 3 seconds left in the Super Bowl and the Ravens are down by 2. Brian Billick sends in the field goal unit to attempt a Super Bowl winning 45 yard field goal. The opponent calls a timeout to ice Matt Stover. What's going through your mind? Does the icing affect Matt?

MK: Will it affect Stover? No definitely not! He's kicked in the Super Bowl before and has 17 years experience. He has ice water running through his veins. For me, we'll just joke around and try and stay loose. I don't think about it anymore than it needs to be thought about. The game winning kick is what my job is made of.

Thanks Tony. Please tell your readers just come out and support us because it is going to be a great show. We all just want to play Ravens football and get to the next step.