



Above Bill Cowher succeeded Chuck Noll, becoming only the second head coach since the NFL merger in 1970.

and scored one of the great ones. A.B. has such great athleticism. He's a fantastic footballer and possesses the ability to make many great plays.

The Steelers dynasty gave so many special years and provided so many standout moments, including winning your third Super Bowl in 1978, becoming the first team in the NFL to ever achieve this. What made that season so special?

Well, we had great players, both on offense and defense. Franco was very much key to the success. Terry Bradshaw won the passing title in that season and we had the best receivers in Swann and Stallworth in the league. We also had the best coaching staff, led by Chuck Noll, far above anyone else. We had Chuck's vision and his total commitment to making the team the best they could be. And, of course, we had real closeness. Without this element success is very difficult. We had players who cared about each other. They cared about the team, not just about themselves. This was a key ingredient. Yes, this was very much one of the four elements I believe are vital in terms of building a team that goes on to achieve greatness: talent, coaching, management and closeness. It's closeness that turns a group of talented individuals into a team. You know this from Manchester United. When a team comes together and matures, so its values stand out.

Does retaining the tradition of using Saint Vincent College — where the players still sleep in the dorms — for preseason training help to keep this togetherness?

Absolutely. We have been going to Saint Vincent College for over 50 years. It's a very special place and really important, not just to the players and coaches, but to everyone in the organization and with the fans, too. We have a real community feel at Saint Vincent College and it really sets us up for the hard season ahead. It's a place I've always loved to be at. It gives me a lot of pleasure.

This togetherness was apparent again at Super Bowl XIII when you beat the Cowboys.

We'd ended the season 14-2, and we beat the Oilers 34-5 in the AFC Championship Game at Three Rivers Stadium, so we got to the Super Bowl confident. I remember we scored first with a Stallworth touchdown. Then Dallas scored the next two but I recall Bradshaw being so determined that day and he threw to Stallworth again for our next score and we led 21-14. Bradshaw was MVP and passed the record of over 300 yards and four touchdowns. The Cowboys put up a good fight on the day and with only 20 seconds remaining we lead 35-31. Winning three times was a great achievement and I think by then the Steelers had really come of age.

Great teams need great players. You have always cited Joe Greene as one of your true greats. In fact, you asked Joe to present you at your Hall of Fame induction. Why was Joe so special?

Joe had a desire to win like nobody I had ever known. His commitment to winning was second to none. He hated losing. No Steeler gave more to his team than Joe Greene because he never left anything on the field. I have never said that before. He was a leader of men and a hugely positive force in the locker room. He also led by example. There's no question the example he set helped create the closeness within the team that took us to so many Super Bowls. He also entered the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility, which says everything about Joe Greene.



Above Chuck Noll received his award for Coach of the Year, May 14th, 1990.