

Reid breaks silence

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For the first time since both his sons were arrested in separate drug-related incidents, Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid is talking publicly about his family's problems.

In an upcoming interview in Philadelphia magazine, which hits the street on Dec. 26, Reid reveals his eldest sons Garrett, 24, and Brit, 22, have been battling addictions to heroin, painkillers and other prescription drugs since 2002 -- "through Super Bowls and championships," he said.

The family problems first emerged when the young men were arrested in January of this year on two separate drug-related offences, one involving weapons. The notoriously rabid Philadelphia media pounced on the story, but the 13-year NFL veteran remained silent.

The coach spoke out now because, as he said in a news conference yesterday, "It was a way to reach out to those who are going through similar situations."

In one of his more candid moments, Reid likened addiction to football.

He said: "In a game, once the whistle blows, and you're playing the game, now the human element is there, and it's how you've trained them. Some days they are going to throw an interception or miss a tackle. You didn't train them that way. But you live with it, and you keep on teaching them. That's why we're here, we're here to be teachers. And so you do the same thing at home, you teach them and then let them go. You blow the whistle and let them play. Sometimes it works out, and sometimes it doesn't."

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