



CLEVELAND BROWNS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM Sep. 25, 2016 | 1 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Cleveland Browns Quarterback Cody Kessler (transcribed by Taylor Scott)

(Cody, thoughts on your game and your performance?) – “Yes, I started a little slow and I got some of the nerves out of the way and I thought the guys had battled hard and they kept believing in me and I kept believing in them and it was a great effort and the guys kept fighting when we were down 11 and no one second guessed themselves. We just kept going and I was trying to stay positive on the sideline and keep the guys going. We made a great effort to come back and give us a chance there at the end but it’s tough and it hurts ... it hurts to lose and I hate losing and I know these guys hate losing but (Head) Coach (Hue) Jackson told us after that he loved our fight and he loved that the guys kept going all the way to the end but we just came a little short. I was so proud of the team and how they just kept supporting me and staying with me and like I said the effort was there.”

(Cody, the in and out with QB Terrelle Pryor, was that as expected or did it get on a good role and keep doing it?) – “Yes, we did it during the week a lot. We worked on it and practiced it. I felt that it was good for our offense to mix it up a little bit and kept the defense on their toes. It was different looks we worked on all week and just stayed in rhythm and it helped me when we rotated in and out and I felt that Terrelle did a great job going in there.”

(Have you ever seen a player single handedly do so many different ... Inaudible) –
“For us offensively, it’s stuff that we can control. What we control is how we prepare and how we go out and execute the plays that were called, no matter who is in there. Even with me, the guys believed in me all week and the guys stuck with me and kept working with me. It was great to have that support from your teammates and it makes you have a lot of confidence going into the game and. we obviously came up a little short but the effort was there and the guys really rallied around each other and kept working.”

(What do you do when you start your first NFL series with a delay of game) – “Yes, I wished it went a little bit better but I think it’s something to build off of. That first series, we went out there and it didn’t go as planned, and we’ve got to help our defense out. they did a great job getting that turnover and we have to capitalize on that; but I think after that first hit, I took a deep breath and settled in. That first hit kind of knocked the nerves out of me a little bit. Obviously we want to start faster and that’s on me to start faster and do better. But like I said, that first series kind of woke me up a little bit and got me going and knocked the nerves out of me. From then on, I felt like we did a good job of putting some long drives together offensively.”





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(You kept receiving pressure from your right side, did that weigh on you as the game wore on?) – “No, no. I trust our guys completely – the whole offensive line – whoever is in there blocking, I trust them completely. For me, I have to get the ball out of my hands a little faster and make quicker decisions and I thought as the game went on, I started seeing it better and realizing that. But that’s football. They have some great players on their defensive line and they’re going to get to the quarterback but, I have to help the offensive line out too of getting the ball out of my hands a little quicker, and I was holding onto the ball sometimes.”

(Was there much that caught you by surprised that they did?) – “No, no. Like I said, I spent countless hours all week getting prepared and getting ready. I wanted to be ready to go and have no hesitation in the game. I have to do a better job of getting in and out of the huddle and speeding up a little so we can have more time on the play clock to change protection. But there were times where I changed protection, there were times that we didn’t need to do any of that, and I just felt the flow of the game offensively went really well after the first series. But I wish at the end there that we put a drive together and gave ourselves a chance in overtime. But Miami did a great job and that’s a great team and they really battled hard; but our guys gave everything that they had.”

(Cody, can you talk about that you were checked on the sidelines for a concussion. What happened? How did you feel? Did you think you were going to have to come out?) – “No, that was new to me. Obviously I’ve never had the concussion protocol but I took the shot there and it was in my arm. And I laid there for a second and was just holding my arm. The referee just said ‘Hey, by rule you laid down there for a little bit longer and you took a big hit, so you have to come out and get checked real fast.’ Obviously, I didn’t want to. I wanted to stay in there and keep competing, but it was protocol. I didn’t understand that completely at the time but I came out and they asked me a couple of questions and I answered them spot on and I told them it wasn’t my head, it was my arm. I took a shot and it started bleeding a little bit but that’s just the rules. The referee was doing his job and keeping the players safe and I respect that. Obviously, just being a competitor, I didn’t want to come out. But I came out, answered a few questions, and got to go right back in.”

(So you’re fine?) – “Yeah, yeah. I’m fine.”

(You made the 2-point throw to TE Gary Barnidge when you came back in. Was that your best throw of the day you think?) – “We had an opportunity to make it a 3-point game and I wanted to give a ball to Gary. We worked on that play all week. We worked on that as our 2-point play all week. We got the look we wanted with man (coverage) on Gary and I just wanted to put it up there and give him a chance to catch it. Obviously, we cut the lead down to three. We did that and things kept rolling





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after that. We went down and made another field goal and tied the game up. We had a lot of momentum at times but we just have to finish.”

(Do you leave here thinking, I mean you lost and all that, but the people you left in Bakersfield and USC – do you think you made them proud today?) – “I hope so. It meant a lot to me this week the support I got from my hometown people in Bakersfield. Not a whole lot of people know about Bakersfield or have been there or really understand, but it’s a great town. It reminds me a lot of Cleveland. There’s a lot of blue-collar people who just work hard and everything they get in life, they’ve earned. And I took that attitude into my football career. Hopefully I made them proud and USC has been behind me since Day 1 also. The support I got from my former teammates and people that I’ve made relationships with there really gave me a lot of confidence this week knowing that they were supporting me.”

