



# MIAMI DOLPHINS

## Postgame Transcripts

September 18, 2016



### **Isa Abdul-Quddus, Safety**

(On defense in the first half)

"We had some miss fits, they capitalized on our mistakes. It wasn't one person or one play every time. They just found our weaknesses and capitalized on them."

(On trying to come back)

"You just have to take it one play at a time, you can't think about the scoreboard anymore, you just have to put your head down and play football."

(On the team's mindset when Jimmy Garoppolo went down)

"We knew they would get more basic, it was just about keeping our fits and fitting everything up right. They still made plays I can't say it was defeating. We tried to stop the run and they just made plays."

### **Jay Ajayi, Running Back**

(On his performance and being ready to play)

"Besides the fumble, I think I did pretty well. I was just prepared to play no matter what. I was just ready to hear what happened on the sidelines and when they call my number, be ready."

(On the fumble)

"Just have to hold on to the ball, just a mistake."

(On getting more playing time)

"It is the next man up mentality, whoever is on the field is going to play. You just have to play to best of your ability."

(On the Miami Dolphins offense playing better in the second half)

I think we just got in a rhythm and the first initial first down and were just able to keep our offense on the field and make plays. We started slow in the first half and the second half we got it going. We were able to showcase the kind of offense we can be. I still think the sky is the limit for we can do."

### **Kiko Alonso, Linebacker**

(On the hit to Jimmy Garoppolo)

"He came out of the pocket and I got out there and he just landed on his shoulder."

(On the mindset of playing against a rookie quarterback)

"We figured they were going to run the ball, just like they did. That last drive we have to get off the field."

(On whether the performance on defense was good enough)

"No. How many points did we give up? Thirty one is too many points. That last drive we have to get off the field. Luckily they missed the field goal but we used up all of our time outs. We just have to get them off the field."

### **Jordan Cameron, Tight End**

(On the slow start)

"I don't know, we have to look at the film and see what the deal is. We have to find a way to come out and keep the defense off the field. It's hard for them when we go three and out and they have to keep going out there."

(On Ryan Tannehill's performance)

"He was awesome. He definitely had control in the huddle, he was making plays and we were moving fast and got the ball rolling. You got to see what we are capable of doing in the second half."

(On what the message was after being down 31 to 3)

"Keep going. I mean I've never understood why people talk about giving up or quitting. No one has that in their body or their system on this team. We are going to keep playing; we have fighters on this group, in this room and on this team. We are proving that we are never going to just lay down. We just have to get it going earlier."

### **Kenyan Drake, Running Back**

(On scoring his first NFL touchdown)

"It was pretty exhilarating. I was trying to do everything I could to help the team win. Unfortunately, we were not able to come out on top this time but we can only improve from this point. "

(On what he was told before today's game)

"I wasn't told anything. I just have the same mentality regardless of whatever the case may be. I just try to go out on the field throughout the week and give my best effort on practice and when my number is called in the game I just go out and make the most of my opportunity."

(On what he proved)

"I know as a team we proved that we can go out play with the best, no matter what the deficit was. I know there is a lot of stuff we can improve on throughout this process. The last two weeks have been some tough losses, we are just going to come out next week and try and get another win."

(On the Miami Dolphins offense playing better in the second half)

We were not able to convert on third down. We probably only converted one time in the first half and we put our defense in not very good situations. The second half we came out and were a lot more efficient and run the ball, pass the ball and show that when we can be an efficient offense, we can be a successful team. We just have to start better."

### **Reshad Jones, Safety**

(On the game)

"We just kept fighting and we were fighting against a good football team in their home. We just put our head down and kept fighting. We didn't quit. This team [the Patriots] could put 50 points on you any time they get a chance. We were down 24-0, it shows the kind of guys we have in this locker room. They made plays and you have to give credit to them. They ran their offense and they made plays. We didn't make enough plays early on and it took us until the third quarter to wake up."

(On why the Dolphins struggle in New England but play the Patriots well in Miami)

"I'm not sure. I think the Patriots are one of the better teams when they are playing at home. There is no magic to it, they have done a great job. They did enough to win this game and we didn't make enough plays to win."

### **Byron Maxwell, Cornerback**

(On the first half)

"They [Patriots] ran some boots, but at the end of the day it all falls on us. We didn't have our eyes in the right place. They had the right technique. So any time you do that against the Patriots it's bad weakness."

(On the Patriots running a lot of sweeps)

"They were piling it up in the middle and then just running sweeps, so they did a good job switching it up."

### **Anthony Steen, Offensive Lineman**

(On the slow start)

"We just went to a no huddle, speed tempo and it really got us into gear. We got in a rhythm and moved the ball. I really don't know [the reason for the slow start]. It may be one of those things where we need to train harder or come out and start practice faster, I don't know. A lot of teams would have given up but our team didn't. We came back and had a chance to win. It says a lot about our team. This is the first time I've played here and it was a tough game and a tough loss."

### **Ndamukong Suh, Defensive Tackle**

(What were they able to do to get the tough yard running and keep moving the chains)

"In my personal opinion, I think we did a good job in the first half. I think we held them to about 56 yards in the first half. In the second half they came out with a good scheme. They did a lot of cracking and got to our edges. We didn't rally to the ball like we needed and make the plays, but at the end of the day you have to give them credit for their scheme and obviously LeGarrette [Blount] making plays."

(Did he feel like the defense had a lot of pressure in the first half due to the offense struggling)

I look at offense, defense and special teams, but more importantly as a defense, we gave up 21 points. There were no turnovers, no short fields. They moved the ball on us and we allowed them to score. Give them credit for making plays and moving down the field, but that's on us."

(On the mood at halftime)

I think guys understood the position we put ourselves in, especially on the defensive side of the ball. After we settled down, we understood what we had to get done. We had to go out there and get the ball back to our offense to give them opportunities to make plays. When we did that, they went down and moved the ball and scored points. We got a chance to get back in the game but we just didn't complete it."

### **Michael Thomas, Safety**

(On talking with David Ortiz at the coin flip)

"It is always good to see somebody who is a legend, a future Hall-of-Famer. I was just saying, 'Congrats on the career', and he said, 'Congrats on being a captain'. That was pretty cool. It was pretty quick and pretty natural. It was respect. My dad grew up Yankee fan so I watched plenty of Red Sox versus Yankee games. I was neutral [as a fan]."

(On the game)

"You have got to give a lot of credit to this Patriots' organization, no matter who is in there at quarterback for them. They always have a great game plan. It was a whole different game once Garoppolo went out. Kudos to them, they made plays and we had to find some ways to get stops. You have to give credit to them. They are a great organization and they find a way to make plays. It showed how much fight this team has and is a testament to how hard we worked in the offseason. This is a one week league. Nobody cares what you did last week. This is going to hurt for 24 hours, then it is on to Cleveland."

(On why the Dolphins struggle in New England but play the Patriots well in Miami)

"I wish I could answer that. We have had some success against them [in Miami] so it is tough that we didn't come away with a win today."

### **Cameron Wake, Defensive End**

(On how he feels leaving the building after fighting hard to get back in the game)

"I'm disappointed. This league is not a league where you can spot points. You can't go out there and start slow and then kick it on later on. We played well at times, but again, that's not going to get it done in this league, especially as tough a game that those guys played on the other side. You can't go out there and play catch up. It

would've been nice to play the way we played in the second half in the first half. Obviously things would've been differently, but that didn't happen."

(On what the Patriots were able to do that allowed them to build such a big lead early)

"Well, I think when things like that happen it's something that you have to look at yourself and say 'What is it that I'm doing that's allowing that.' Again, in this league the margin is very slim so I think there's a lot of things that, again, I'll have to watch tape but things that we probably did to ourselves whether its miscommunications or people being out of leverage, whatever it may be, but again you can't come out there and start off that way and then turn it on. The guys, again, came in at halftime and we fought out of a hole but again that's the bed that we made. Again, that's the part that's disappointing because you show that you can play with the team. Everybody went out there and did their job in every facet but to start off slow, that's the part that's kind of disappointing."

(On if Jimmy Garoppolo's quick release made it difficult to put pressure on him)

"Well, I'd like to think that that would be smart of anybody standing back there with the kind of guys that we have, but that's something that we have to know going in. We have very talented front guys that get after the quarterback and if I was a quarterback I wouldn't hold on to the ball either. That's something that, again, you have to know going into the game we have to play accordingly. Again, trying to force their hand into our situation instead of the other way around is something that we have to do going forward."

(On if you were surprised by how much confidence Jimmy Garoppolo played with)

"No, it's the NFL. I don't know anybody in this league who's not confident or you wouldn't be in this league. Everybody in this league should have pride or else you probably wouldn't be taking snaps. So, whether it's him or our fourth-string quarterback, anybody that puts on a jersey on Sunday, I would expect that you would have a certain level of pride about yourself and a certain level of pride in going out and doing your job, so that's not going to be surprising to anybody."

(On if it was frustrating watching Jimmy Garoppolo escape from some would-be sacks)

"No, he's a football player like any other. I think people – generally – people fail to realize how small the difference is between a number one, and a two, and a three, and a four. This is the NFL; everybody here is the best in the world. So, I don't know if people think that the number two guy is going to be a bum. That would be silly. I don't think our number two guy at any position is a bum and it's probably the same thing across the board of any team that's in this league. To expect that he would've come out and laid an egg, I don't understand that."