



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Postgame Transcripts

September 18, 2016



Martellus Bennett, TE

(On Jacoby Brissett's first career completion to him and his stiff arm run after)

"I talk to Jacoby a lot, you know? I actually rode here with him today. I was just trying to make plays, really. I feel like one of the best things I do when I get the ball in my hands is making things happen. We ran it earlier; we took a shot down the field and kind of got the same result. We came back to it later on in the game and it was still open again and that one we were able to complete and get moving down the field."

(On catching the touchdown pass)

"I'm a blue collar football player. Whether it's a 5-yard pass and you break two tackles and get 8 yards, whatever it is, that's what I do so. Man, I'm just here to play football and have fun. I'm just having a lot of fun right now with these guys. I love my teammates. I love the coaches. I love this environment and these fans and, for me that's all it's really about, just going out there and doing the things I love to do, and have fun doing it. I haven't had this much fun in a long time in the NFL and I think it's making a big difference for me. Because when it's fun, it's much easier to go out there and play."

(On being a multi-faceted tight end)

"Yeah, I mean, one of the things they say is the more you can do, the more they'll use you on the field. So I just tried to show them that I could do everything whether it's pass, block, pick up blitzes, you know, catch the ball, outside inside. Whatever it is, I just try to show them that I'm able to do every single thing that I can possibly do to so that way I could be on the field."

LeGarrette Blount, RB

(On carrying workload after Jimmy Garoppolo injury)

"I just try my best to work hard. Make sure I seize every opportunity that I get. Do everything I can that is going to work out best for the team. And I made sure I did my job. The offensive line played amazing, they're going to continue to do that, I'm sure. They opened up a lot of big holes for me to run through."

(On the hurdle down the left sideline)

"I mean, it's not magic, you know? It's just instinctive, you know? If a guy is going to hit you in your legs, you know I'm a big guy. You're going to either have to go over them, or go through them. Obviously, I can't get as low as he can, so..."

(On the team's great job offensively on the ground)

"My offensive line did an amazing job. They're great. They worked hard. They've done everything they've needed to do to make sure they can go out there and perform and do their assignments correctly and when they do that, it's easy to run behind them."

Jacoby Brissett, Quarterback

(On if today was a good example of why it is important to prepare as a starter)

"Definitely. Preparation is the key for us going forward."

(On how he felt out there today)

"I felt prepared and did enough for us to secure the win."

(On preparation with Jimmy Garoppolo during the last few weeks)

"Just preparing since I got here, when I got drafted, and just taking one day at a time."

(On reaction to seeing Garoppolo injury)

"He's a great guy and I hope he's well but you just got to, when it's time to go, you just got to make sure you're ready to go and hopefully get him back."

(On reflection of his performance)

"You know, did enough to win and obviously got to get better, but enough to, we did a great job on all phases of the game that helped lead to this victory."

(On quick turnaround for game on Thursday)

"Just got to go and prepare and go out there and do my job."

Julian Edelman, Wide Receiver

(On the reaction to the win)

"It's a good team win. Any time you get a divisional win, it's big. We'll have to see them again. We've got a short week ahead of us, so we've got to turn the page and get ready for Houston."

(On the injury to Jimmy Garoppolo)

"It's unfortunate, but Jacoby [Brissett] came in and he handled it pretty well. It's great to see that when we had to score and we had to get some points and we had to move the ball, we were able to do that. We could have done a little better on third down and we have to take care of the football. But thankfully our defense got some turnovers for us."

(On preparing to come into the game as the fourth-string quarterback)

"Nah. I was just focused on catching the ball and getting my eyes dialed in."

Chris Hogan, Wide Receiver

(On Jacoby Brissett playing well)

"Shout out to our offensive line, you know, for handling all those guys out front. That was a big part of our, you know, going into this week, was handling those guys up front and those guys did an incredible job all day, you know, and I think that we were moving forward the entire day and LeGarrette [Blount] and James [White], they all ran the ball really well today and that was a huge part of our success."

Chris Long, DE

(On the tempo changing during the 3rd quarter)

"I mean sure, they're a good football team. They're capable of getting out there and playing fast and changing up the tempo. And that puts stress on a defense. Any time a team like that with playmakers is able to push the tempo, I'm sure, you know, it makes things a little tougher. But, I thought guys at the end of the day, we made a play to win the game. And that's the bottom line is like, it's really hard to win football games and especially with a great team like that on offense that has a lot of weapons and putting that pressure on us with the tempo and we responded at the end and made a play to win the game."

(On the talk of the defense after Jimmy Garoppolo went down)

"It's next man up and our offense was doing such a good job and they continue to do a pretty good job. I mean, Jacoby Brissett did a really admirable job filling in, that's tough on a young kid like that. But, he just had a mentality and a mindset and he's had a mentality and a mindset preparing that he's ready to play. So we were confident in him and we just had to go out there and hold up our end of the bargain and we didn't always do that. But we'll fix those things and it's a short week and we got to fix them in a hurry."

Devin McCourty, Safety

(On reserve players filling in for starters)

"We've got a lot of guys that are chomping at the bit to get out there and show they can play, so it's always a next-man-up mentality and guys showed that today."

(On the team's performance despite losing players to injury)

"That's why it's a true team game, complementary football. Even the drive at the end of the game, we didn't get any points, but that was big. We got them to us all their timeouts and we moved the ball down the field, so it showed up big at the end of the game."

(On whether the team let up in the second half because they're human)

"We're not humans, we're robots [laughs]. We've got to play better. I think for us defensively, it's our mentality [that has to get better.] You never know. You come out here some days and the offense will be hot, other times we have to step up and make some plays. That shows by going out there and being consistent. When you get into touch games, you can rely on consistency. To come out in the second half and not play well shows that it's September and we've still got a lot of work to do."

Joe Thuney, Offensive lineman

(On the performance of quarterback Jacoby Brissett)

"Jacoby is a good player. He came in, had a lot of poise. We play with a next-man-up mentality."

(On the performance of the offensive line)

"We always just want to go out there and work together and be a physical bunch. We tried to communicate and work together and I think we did that well. The O-line always has a lot of pride when the running back goes over 100 yards, so it's great news. We just want to be physical out there."

(On watching the last play of the game)

"I was just trying to support the defense and trying to do the best I could supporting them. The whole team had their back."

Nate Solder, Tackle

(On the game)

"It was good to be a part of that group. I felt like we did some good things but we're going to have to watch that film because we got a really tough opponent coming and we got to be ready and it's not going to be easy."

(On Jimmy Garoppolo getting injured)

"You know what, we were all business. When Jacoby [Brissett] came in and called the play we got to the line and played it as we always do... Well you know you just got to be good, you got to play good, you got to like always, you got to protect, you got to run the ball, we got to do the things that we need to do and I think a little more weight fell on our shoulders for that."

(On playing for the first time in 11 months)

"It was very special. I have a lot of fun playing this game and it's not easy to get out there and I've been through our own struggles but I was really happy to be out there and it was a lot of fun."