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#### **POSTGAME QUOTES**

### Miami Dolphins Head Coach Adam Gase (transcribed by Michelle Stone)

(Two games, very similar. Is this becoming a pattern for your football team?) – "This was the way we thought we were going to have to play this one. We knew it was going to be this style of game. We wanted to make sure that we established the run game as early as we could. (We) tried to do the best we could as far as ... We wanted to move Ryan (Tannehill) around a little more, but they did a really good job of shutting down the edges, which caused some problems as far as getting him outside the pocket. We were trying to do the same thing, make it a shorter game for our defense. If we could have got them ... We let them kind of make it a one dimensional game. We could never really pull ahead early."

(How much did it help you in that first quarter when RB Jay Ajayi went for 49 yards and was ripping holes and ripping yards through the line of scrimmage?) – "Anytime that happens early, it gets everybody's confidence up knowing that, 'Alright, we have a good rhythm,' really before you anticipate it. He did a good job of running through arm tackles and our line did a good job as far as sticking on guys and finishing blocks."

(What can you say about back-to-back games over 200 yards? Only the fourth in the NFL to accomplish that.) – "I think it's a great job of those guys up front opening holes, and then he has done a great job of being decisive and hitting it and just getting every inch he can. He has done a great job with his ball security. He has done exactly what we've needed him to do."

(You seem to be very patient with the running game – staying with it, staying with it, staying with it. Was that your plan going in?) – "Jay just seems like ... He's really a rhythm-type guy where it might take a second sometimes for us to get some of these runs going, but he has popped a few earlier than I anticipated. For myself, I keep reminding myself to stay with him, because he seems to find the right hole and pops it, and it becomes a 10-, 12-yard gain. That's my biggest challenge is always just staying with it. Sometimes it's easier to start throwing it around, because the yards come quicker, but staying with him and letting him get into a rhythm is really critical for us."

(You spent the first five games looking for a go-to back to step up to the plate. You got one now? Do you feel comfortable with Jay carrying the load now?) – "I think we're just going to look at each week differently. We'll see how it plays out (and) what's best versus that team. Obviously, he's the guy that has done everything that we've needed him to do, especially these last two games. We're going to into the next game, we'll see what the best thing is for us that week."





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(To talk about the next game, after two good wins like this, is it almost disappointing that you have a bye week coming up?) – "No, I don't think so. It's pretty late in the season for us right now. Our guys have been practicing hard and playing hard on Sundays. Our guys are probably ready for that bye week. We've been pretty banged up. We finally got a little bit healthy, but after every game, our guys are hurting. They're coming out to Wednesday's practice, and they're still not right. We probably need this week."

(What do you think is happening on third down – the last two weeks being so much better on third down conversions?) – "Quarterback has got a nice pocket. That's the only difference. He's not on his back."

(Is it sometimes that simple, the difference in your team the last two weeks?) – "Yes. It makes a big difference when he can actually take a three-step drop and not get smoked."

(What did you see on RB Damien Williams' go-ahead touchdown run? It looked like a couple of guys carried him in.) – "That's how he runs. This is every game. Every time he plays, you just know – especially in the fourth quarter – you give him the ball, the first guy is not going to get him. He's going to take two or three guys with him."

(Your team's disposition today, its physicality – without S Reshad Jones – specially on both sides of the ball, what did you think of it? Was it the best it has been all season, the most efficient? How would you describe it?) – "I think the last two weeks, our guys are trying to come out, they're trying to hit. We're running the football. Their team is going to run the football. Our guys are doing a better job as far as assignments on defense and trying to make sure that we're not having huge plays, and we're tackling better, because we're gang tackling. I think it really comes down to guys are playing with energy, effort, physicality. They're trying to make sure everything they do, it's about physicality for us right now."

(They went ahead 17-6, and you got the ball and you ran eight times in 10 plays on that touchdown drive. Were you tempted to pass? What was going through your mind when you went out in the second half?) – "A lot of times when you get into those situations, my brain almost goes to, 'Stick with what's working.' You're trying to think, 'Okay, what was successful?' The one thing I do know is that every time that No. 23 (Jay Ajayi) kept getting the ball, he was popping a run. It was just leaning on him, leaning on the offensive line. I'm sure (Mike) Pouncey walked by me like 25 times and said, 'Keep running it.' That might have gotten into my head after a while. I trust those guys up front. Those five together play well together, and then Jay just seems to have a good feel for how





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they're blocking things. And our tight ends did a great job as far as covering up the edge and doing everything they could to either seal it off or widen the guy out to where Jay could hit it."

(Your defense, especially in the second half, really kept you in the game. You had some opportunities. You had some good field position. They really weren't able to come up with anything until that last touchdown.) – "That's what we're trying to do as far as just playing a little bit of complementary football. We're still a little spotty at times to where one side gets hot and the other side kind of fizzles out. It would be nice if we could play together a little bit better. But that was the big thing. We kind of stalled out there in the third quarter and our defense did a great job as far as making sure (we were) holding them, whether they punted or a field goal on a short field. (Defensive Coordinator) Vance (Joseph) did a great job getting those guys ready and making sure all the things that they do ... It's a tough offense to stop, especially when the running game is rolling."

(A lot of penalties. Do you disregard that because it's a victory?) – "No. It's dumb. The penalties we have, they're not the kind of penalties that you say, 'We had a holding call, because the guy stood back inside and he held them.' The things we're doing right now, it's just absolutely dumb."

(Special teams – you had the punt blocked. What went wrong?) – "We'll take a look at it. It's hard, for me sometimes to tell right after the game. When you're in the moment, when you're trying to communicate with (Special Teams Coordinator/Assistant Head Coach) Darren (Rizzi), I'm flipping all over the place as far as offense, defense. We had the punt. We had a couple of things that didn't quite go the way we wanted to on kickoff return. I know he'll take a close look at this and try to figure out, 'Okay, who are the best guys to have out there?' I know he has lost a couple of guys the last couple weeks as far as now they're playing more on defense. It kind of puts him in a bad spot. He has got some new guys playing on a lot of his teams. So, we've got to get some things cleaned up and this will be a good week for us to do it."

(The home stand – overall, now you're 2-1, the bye week, and then the Jets. What have you thought about this home stand? Have you protected the home? Have you established an identity? What have you done in these three games?) – "How many games have we played? Seven. We've got a ways to go."

Miami Dolphins Running Back Jay Ajayi (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(What has been the difference in the last two games for you?) – "I think it's just have been kind of Coach head coach (Adam Gase) trusting us, trusting the offensive line and me, (and) other runners to





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kind of get the running game going. We know we want to be more balanced on offense and throughout the week in the practice, we really put an emphasis on finishing blocks, finishing downfield and just doing a good job of being physical. I think that it has shown on game day."

(For you personally said after the Browns game you wanted to redeem yourself and these two last games you have proven that you can be an every down back.) – "Yeah, I've always had the faith and the confidence in my ability for these performances to happen. It's kind of surreal for me all glory to God. First thing's first just for being in this position and it's kind of crazy, it's kind of surreal. Just got to keep working, keep grinding."

(You know the stat fourth running back in history, back to back with 200 hundred yards.) – "Yeah so they told me that and the backs that I'm in company with and that's huge. Those are Hall of Fame guys, guys that I look up to at running back so it's big."

## Miami Dolphins Wide Receiver Jarvis Landry (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(Two weeks ago this season is kind of like a season likely going nowhere, now back to back wins in dominating fashion on offense, what is there to say about the Miami Dolphins right now?) – "Just our persistence to stay with it, trust the process, trust Coach head coach (Adam) Gase and I think these last two weeks for us just came down to guys not doing their job and somebody else's job. Just doing their job and trusting that everybody else will do theirs. That's what allowed this momentum to be created."

(What can you say about the job RB Jay Ajayi has done the past two weeks?) – "He's amazing, amazing. You see him in the hole against linebackers, safeties and he breaks those tackles and that's how he gets his big runs and down the field he's just running hard. Guys don't want to tackle him. It's a credit to him and his hard work and his running style."

(What about that 50 yard run, that was a big turning point there; backed up third and eight I believe took it down field?) – "Wish we could have gotten some points off that drive but we ended up punting. At the same time, it was crucial for us to flip the field position and we had the opportunity to flip the field position on the punt, on that same drive. I think the defense actually got a stop on that drive, three and out which allowed us to get the ball back and go down and make the game winning score."

Miami Dolphins C Mike Pouncey (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)





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(When you are able to run it like that, especially early, what does that help with you guys as an offensive line?) – "I think it gives us confidence. I think it gives the coach confidence to keep calling the calls. It just shows when we're an offensive line that's all playing together and all guys are healthy, we can do special things. Jay Ajayi right now is just ... That kid overcame so much. It just makes me smile every time I think about it, because a lot of guys would have tanked and went the other way. Getting benched right after thinking you're starting the season off and then to come back and to play the way he's playing, I hope it opens up a lot of guys' eyes."

(When did you begin to see this from him?) – "I think it started in practice. Once (Head) Coach (Adam Gase) demoted him and made him a backup, you could tell. He didn't complain about anything, just kept working as hard as he could, and it has paid off for him. Jay is a true testament to never giving up. The way he has been running the football the past two weeks is just unbelievable."

(How important of a message was it to you guys that after you fell down 17-6, on the next possession you guys were still sticking with the running game?) – "It was awesome. When coach (Adam Gase) is feeling it, coach does a great job of calling those runs. And whenever we're doing good, he just keeps calling them, and it's paying off for our offense right now big time. I know a lot of the offensive linemen are sore as hell. I'm going to go get in the cold tank right now, hang out for a little bit. I'm just proud of this football team. A lot of people counted us out, gave up on us. I've seen all you guys' predictions; you all didn't believe in us either. This will prove everybody wrong and go out there and keep moving forward. This football team can be special if we keep doing the things we're doing."

## Miami Dolphins Wide Receiver Kenny Stills (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(These two wins back to back, what does it do for this team? What is the difference in what you feel around here?) – "We're just happy to win two games in a row. Obviously, it gives you a little bit of confidence, but we have been working so hard. So it's a good feeling to know that the work and practice is showing up on the field, and that's the biggest thing for us."

(When you got a guy going for 200 two games in a row, you guys going to start opening it up a little bit?) – "We'll see. We just want to continue to do what we have been doing, and that's winning and running the ball well and playing together."





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(How rewarding was it to answer back with a touchdown right after you had one thrown your way earlier in the game?) —"It's always nice to make a big play and help the team. To that first one, I've got to come back and make that catch. It happens, but it's nice to put that behind me and get in the end zone."

### Miami Dolphins DT Ndamukong Suh (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(It seemed like you spent a lot of time in the backfield. Were you able to penetrate a lot throughout this game?) – "We had a good game plan so it gave me opportunities to get in the backfield and not necessary playing through my guys to get there. It allowed me to get back there, allowed me to get to the quarterback or the running back, whatever the situation was."

(With QB [Tyrod] Taylor and his ability to extend plays and get out of the pocket – was that something you wanted to do? You wanted to pressure him inside and not give him...) – "We wanted to get him off the spot- I think to answer your question and obviously force him to run a certain way. Don't allow him to pick and choose. If he's going to sit back there then obviously make a play but if, whether or not, coming from either side, we're going to force him to go to one side or the other so we can bottle him up more or less."

(How do you feel this defense is coming along? The first series of the second half – they had a fourth and a short yard. You guys were able to stuff them. You had turnovers where you got put in bad situations, you were able to hold up pretty well and it seems against the run you're starting to really come into your own. What's the difference between now and the first few weeks?) – "My personal opinion I think we're getting comfortable. We're executing and obviously tackling and getting the ball carriers down. When they're passing the ball we're hitting the quarterback a majority of the time. Obviously we have to clean some things up. There's a big play we let out so we're not perfect but I think we're on our way to getting done what we want to get done and expecting at a high level."

(Team wise back-to-back games that were almost identical – these two games that you had. Is that a pattern – is that a style that you guys can continue to play at that level?) – "I think we're getting experience in understanding how we need to finish out games. We can obviously be a lot cleaner, especially on the defensive side of the ball but more or less this is the NFL. Every single week is going to be a tough week. There are going to be a lot of things thrown at us and we're going to have to find ways to win. Whether that's blowing a team out, winning a close game, or finding a way





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to get in the last second. But at the end of the day we just have to make sure we just continue to execute and play at a high level."

(With the bye week coming up, is that a good time for you or would you rather be lining up next Sunday?) – "It's not really my choice when we have our bye week so were going to take it as is. It comes in a good situation. I think going into that bye week on a winning note is good. Enjoy that taste for a week and a half and then come back and get prepared for the next team."

(It seems like you guys are establishing an identity now, primarily behind the running game. What do you feel took so long for this team?) – "I honestly don't know. You have to go back and take this bye week to look at all of the mistakes we made earlier on. Like I said to Kim Bokamper earlier, I think we're finding our way and executing and that's what it's coming down to. Once you execute at a high level, you're going to be able to make plays and find a way to get the ball carrier down as well as the passer."

(How much is the run game helping the defense?) – "Our offensive run game? It's huge, Jay Ajayi is doing a great job back-to-back games of 200+ yards. You can't ask for much more. That's going to run the clock out obviously and give us rest. They're moving the ball and putting the ball in the end zone which is most important. We just got to go out there and find ways to stop, giving the offense more opportunities to run the ball and pass the ball as they've been doing well on both sides the last two games and go from there."

## Miami Dolphins Quarterback Ryan Tannehill (transcribed by Sara Perez)

(What did you think the chances of RB Jay Ajayi going back-to-back 200-yard rushing games?) – "I wouldn't have said that it was going to happen, but just because of how rare it is, not because of not believing in Jay or the offensive line. We knew coming in that we wanted to establish the run and we did that, did it early just like last week. Like I said last week, Jay runs hard every week and they're getting him to that second level and when you do that he's going to punish those guys in the second level and make them miss and have those big runs. If the offensive line can do that every week then you're going to continue to see big success from Jay."

(From where you stand back there when you see that offensive line, how good have they been over the last two weeks?) – "They've been really good, both in the run and the pass game, just establishing the tone for the game early on. You can kind of feel as the game goes on, just wearing on the defense, having these long drives and rushing the football consistently, getting first downs, it really





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wears on the defense and you can kind of feel that on the field. I think once you start feeling that you know that good things are going to happen."

(Talked to Head Coach Adam about patience in this game, patience with this running game, staying with it, not getting away from it, how did that feel to you that he was willing to just continue to feed that running game?) \_ "It was good. We had good things going, so to keep going to it as the game goes on, like I said, that defense and that defensive front is going to get worn down. You should see more success in the second half if you've been running the ball well. We stuck with it, it was tough a couple times, you want to get drives going, but stuck with it, kept wearing on the defense and created some big plays that really won the game for us."

(The touchdown to WR Kenny Stills, were they crowding the line of scrimmage? You felt it was just an opportunity to go over the top since they were playing the run hard.) – "Yes, they had seven guys in the box, base defense against our nickel package. They're doing everything they can to stop the run, they're going to make us throw it to win it, basically. It was a critical situation. They're going to try to stop the run, it was third-and-six or –seven, so try to force you to pass it and make a play downfield. The offensive line did a good job, Jay (Ajayi) actually stepped up and blocked the linebacker in the hole for me and Kenny did a great job adjusting to the ball downfield and making a play."

(On offense, have you found an identity?) – "I definitely think that we're finding it right now, just establishing the run early in games and getting first downs, gaining first downs, getting the play action going and wearing on the front that way. Once you can do that, they can't speed rush you on the edge quite as fast and you're able to get things downfield. I'm excited about where we're at right now."

(From an offensive standpoint, I know everybody is beat up and they welcome the bye week, but is it, 'Now we're rolling,' and now you have a week off, is the timing not great where that's concerned as far as an offensive rhythm you have going?) – "No, I think it's just fine. I think we're excited to heal up. I think we're heading to the bye week feeling good, kind of getting on a roll. It will be good this week to get healthy across the board, offense and defense, and come out and build on what we've done so far."

(26 first downs for your offense, your drives were five first downs, six first downs, working down the field no big plays in particular, you like that style of play?) – "If it wins, I'm all for it. When you're able to get first downs and move the chains, that's what you want, you're going to get yourself





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in scoring position. I think we have to do a better job offensively of getting touchdowns when we're down there. We march down the field, we hurt ourselves a couple times getting penalties in the red zone and putting ourselves behind the chains. You do that, it's tough down there. We'll have to clean that up, keep ourselves just moving forward, chipping away and get the ball in the end zone."

(I feel like we talked about this a little bit last week with the offensive line being healthy and you see the difference it makes. Coach Gase was saying it's a big difference when you take a 3-step drop, you're not getting smoked – his exact words – is it that simple, is it that night and day when you're getting that type of protection?) – "It definitely makes my job a lot easier when you're standing upright and able to go through progression. I think establishing the run game is huge, getting first downs on the ground, getting Jay going, wears down the front and we're able to drop back and go through progressions. When you're able to do that, escape the pocket a little bit, have some time to move around and get plays downfield. You do that, you see our playmakers make plays. Jarvis (Landry) had a big third down there towards the end of the game, I forget what the distance was, but they played coverage on it, the offensive line did a great job of giving me time able to escape and Jarvis got open down the field. When you have time to go through progressions, be able to move around a little bit, you're going to see explosive plays and good things happen."

(Describe the confidence level on the offense now, especially compared to earlier in the year when you weren't scoring so much. What's that confidence like and what's the chatter like when you're out there on the field and things are rolling like that?) – "Yes, we're excited. I think we're just staying the course. When things weren't going well we knew we were building a good thing, we just had to keep staying the course and keep pushing to get better, pushing every day in practice and nothing has changed. I think having our five offensive linemen back is huge and that kind of sets the tone up front for us, but it's the same thing every day in practice, we still have to be hungry, still have to come to work every single day and chip away and get better. We won a couple games, we haven't got everything figured out yet, we still have a lot of things to clean up, but I'm excited about the progress we're making and the success that we've had so far."

(Coming out of camp I thought this was going to be a passing offense or more of a passing offense, you've had success running the ball, is this sustainable or is this kind of what you've had to do?) – "We'll see. I don't really know. I think at this point you want to stick with what's working and we came out last week against a good defense and established the run early, so we knew we could do it. Same thing this week, good defense and we were able to come out establish the run early. When you're able to do that you kind of want to stick with it and wear on that front and if you can wear on





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that front and make it a long four quarter game then you're going to be able to have success in the fourth quarter when it matters."

(You've been so durable throughout your career even when you have taken a lot of sacks and hits, this week going into this game did it pay any dividends being clean last week? Do you think it will also pay dividends going into the week after the bye?) – "Yes, it's huge. I think when you can finish a game healthy and not banged up it just speeds everything up. You're able to do a little bit more in practice, push yourself a little bit more in practice because you're not nursing anything you're able to just go out and do the things you need to do to get better. I'm excited about that, I'm excited about the way they've played both in the run game and pass game the past two weeks."

## Miami Dolphins DE Cameron Wake (transcribed by Ted Leshinski)

(The mentality, the physicality that you guys have had the last two weeks – is that what you thought this team would be coming out of camp or has that just kind of evolved and taken you guys by surprise?) – "Definitely not a surprise. At some point you've got to draw a line in the sand and say that's enough. We knew coming into this game it was going to be that kind of game. They had been running the ball well. The front seven, that's something you've got to take personal. I think guys, top to bottom, put into their mind that that's not going to be something we're going to allow. So today we went out there and put our foot down."

(What's different from the past couple of weeks opposed to the first six weeks of the season?) – "Consistency. Even the first few weeks of the season we've shown that we can do it. Again, you can't play seven, six snaps and let the last four go. The good or bad thing about defense – you can have six great series and one bad one and it kind of ruins everything. Offense may not be that way. You have five great plays, five touchdowns, you get a pat on the back. Vice versa on defense. You play 99 percent great and give up a few scores, it doesn't work. You have to play the entire game, every play, because you never know which one is going to be the one that changes the game."

(You just didn't win two games, you beat two hot teams. So what does that say about where your team is at now?) – "To me, I don't look at it like that. Every time I go out there it's going to be a tough battle, it's going to be a good team. You've got to fight to win every snap and I feel like the guys we have on this side of the ball, the guys we have on this team ... when we play together, play complimentary football, whether it's offense doing their thing driving the ball, eating up the clock, defense goes out there and gets the ball back to the offense, I think we're going to be tough to beat. Because, again, that consistency that we were lacking, whether it was offense maybe not doing what





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they were supposed to do or defense not getting off the field ... kind of messing up the complimentary styles, that's where you get in trouble. So I think from top to bottom, again, it was a team win. Offense did what they were supposed to do. Defense did what they were supposed to do. And again, no one can beat us when we're playing that way."

(I know that winning is the bottom line and it doesn't matter how you do it but the last two weeks you won in a physical nature. You beat the other team up a little bit. Does that make it sweeter? Does that make it more fun for a guy who plays at the line of scrimmage?) – "I personally like getting in there, getting a little dirty. I've always had that pit bull mentality. You don't bring a Chihuahua to a dog fight. That's the mentality you've got to have. It's just man versus man. It's my gap. I don't care who's going to be in there. I don't care what you think. It's mine, plain and simple. There's no C+ in football, it's pass/fail. I think every guy across the line, front and back end as well, that win it all mentality, where I got to win my match up. And that's the only way we're going to stop a team. Again, I was excited about somebody coming in here and saying that they're going to run the ball down our throat ... yeah, not so."

(Besides getting one in the win column, for your first-year coach, these kind of wins, do they pay dividends for guys believing?) – "Well I'd like to think that guys who've been around this team from April believe ... if you just started believing today then you're kind of doing everybody a disservice. I think from the beginning of OTA's when guys got together we knew what kind of team we were going to have, and like I said, getting that complimentary football together where the offense was doing what they need to do and we have their backs and vice versa. The last few games that's what we've been doing. That belief, to me, that started back in March when guys started coming into the building. It's just getting out there and getting back out on to the field and I'm looking forward to having more games like this."

(You've been around long enough to know that when things don't go well the quarterback gets a lot of blame. How do you feel for Ryan Tannehill when he gets time ... you know Ryan's personality; he's not going to say it but is it unfair to judge him when he doesn't have time back there in the pocket?) – "The mob is fickle. That's just the nature of the beast. One minute they're singing your praises, the next minute they're trying to cut off your head. That's football. And as a football player you have to know that going into the game. There's no difference between the quarterback or anybody else. You've got to know the nature of the beast and you have to focus on your job at hand and the guy that you have playing with you. Again, I know him and have played with him every snap he's ever played and I think I can say if he's concerned with other people's opinions he'd be doing the team a disservice. That's not the way he's built. He's got the guys in this locker





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room, the guys in this building standing behind him 100 percent. He goes out there and does his job and every game he's better and better. I don't think he worries about the mob."

(From a defensive player's perspective on what we've seen from RB Jay Ajayi these past few weeks, what is he giving the defenses? What are you seeing?) – "Running the ball downhill. I like it. Obviously another guy from the moment he got here I knew the ability he had and just waiting for him to get his opportunity. Obviously, as a defensive guy sitting on the other side watching him – first down, first down, eating up the clock. We got guys getting on the bikes, staying warm. Long drives, putting up good yards. The run helps the pass. When you got that going it helps everybody out. From that standpoint I couldn't be any happier for the guy."

(Getting there on a consistent basis, how do you feel about your game personally playing in running situations the last couple weeks, how do you feel about your game personally?) – "Well, they say you're only as old as you feel and I have a young mentality. Go out there and just, again, do whatever I can to help the team win. My role is kind of flexible and whatever the situation may be, I'm ready to go. Again, I've worked with the coaches from an injury standpoint, from the playing time, to the situation, all the things we've been working closely together about maximizing it for not only myself, but for the team's best interest. I feel good. Any time I'm out there I want to do what I can to help the team win and if that means getting to the quarterback, let's do it. If that means getting down in 3-technique and throwing around some guards, I'm ready for that too. The more the merrier, especially when the W's keep piling up high, I'm all for it."

## Miami Dolphins DE Mario Williams (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(Two weeks in a row two big running backs have come in here and really not done much; is it a testament to what you guys have been doing upfront?) – "I think the biggest thing is simply us just going. It's the same guys up there we're rotating in and out trying to keep guys fresh and then on top of that the offense is doing a heck of a job. Hats off to them for sure the last two weeks, that is the biggest thing, it's not something that you can hide it's giving us the opportunity to take a breather and get out there and mix it up."

(What does it mean to the defense when you know your offense even though you guys were down, they kept running and they didn't abandon it?)- "It's just being physical. We're definitely trying to change the culture here and it starts with that. Being able to run the ball, being able to throw the ball off of that, as long as we keep it going we will be alright."





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(Early in the game, Reggie Bush, you lined up right across from him you guys were one and two in the 2006 draft, have you had an opportunity to talk to him at all?)- "No not during the game [laughter]. We've spoke before but we're not like pen pals or anything but, he's cool, I'm cool with him."

(What have these two wins meant at this point of the season when it looked pretty bad and now you know?)- "It's meant a lot but at the same time it's two wins. When we come back from the bye week it doesn't matter. We have to take it one game at a time no matter what we've done in the past. Just like the losses that we had we can't let it affect us, we have to win this game."

## Buffalo Bills Head Coach Rex Ryan (transcribed by Frank Brill)

(Opening Statement) – "Obviously, we got out-played, we got out-coached, we got out-everything'd. They were a more physical team today, there's no doubt about that. They controlled the game and that's why they won the game."

(The decision to play RB LeSean McCoy, was that just your call? How much say did he have in it and what's his status?) – "We never play a guy that our doctors and our trainers don't clear, so he's cleared to play and we thought he was fine. He left the game with some soreness in the hamstring and that's why he never returned."

(How could RB LeSean McCoy have been 100 percent? He certainly didn't look it. How do you not know that?) – "Well, I don't know that he wasn't 100 percent. That's what I was told and that's why we played him."

(What did you see today? Do you think RB LeSean McCoy was 100 percent now after seeing what happened today?) – "I guess we'll look at the tape. Obviously it was tough sledding on everybody, but we're not going to jeopardize a player. If we're told that a player is not ready to go and not healthy, he's not going to be out there, regardless of who it is."

(What happened to your run defense today? Why did RB Jay Ajayi just run all over you?) – "He did, there's no doubt about it. He ran hard. We had the numbers to our advantage, the kid made some good runs, ran through some tackles and they did a great job up front."

(Usually your defense will make adjustments, but RB Jay Ajayi pounded you all day. There wasn't anything you guys were doing to stop him.) – "Well we tried everything, believe me. We were trying





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base defense. We were trying everything, putting our base defense against three-wides. We were trying a bunch of different things. We were up for suggestions, I can promise you. We were trying everything."

(The stretch play seemed to be the one that they relied on the most, what was RB Jay Ajayi doing, just running the cutback lanes really well?) – "They did a good job, he did a great job bouncing and cutting it back. It's not like we were surprised by any of the runs, they just did a much better job of executing than we did."

(How surprising was it that your offensive line, after being pretty dominant these last two weeks, today couldn't get any push at all?) – "It was just one of those games. We got out-physicaled on both sides of the ball which is rare for us but it happened."

(How about the hit on S Aaron Williams by Dolphins WR Jarvis Landry, just your thoughts on that) – "I never saw it. I don't know. I know he didn't come back; he's still undergoing observation for a head and neck injury so I don't know. I hope it wasn't cheap. That Landry, I have a ton of respect for that kid. I wouldn't think he would do that, so I hope that wasn't the case."

(Is S Aaron Williams still at the stadium, or is he at the hospital, is there any status on that?) – "I have no idea."

(After WR Marquise Goodwin's touchdown, it was crazy but it actually seemed to turn the game in their favor. They jumped right there and took it right away from you. After that touchdown and they go right down, did you start feeling that this kind of worked the opposite way for us?) – "No, obviously I was elated with the touchdown but they ran two long second down, second-and-whatever goal runs against us. That can't happen. We had them at a second-and-8 and they pound the ball in there for a touchdown. It's hard to explain but the kid (Jay Ajayi), the guy did a great job. He was running through a lot of tackles, that's for sure. He did a great job."

(I know it's in a loss but the special teams really kept you in this thing, actually put you up on the scoreboard. Can you comment on their overall play today? They seem to be doing every part of their game pretty well.) – "Well that's the only phase that we won, clearly. We got beat in the other two phases. Sometimes if you're fortunate, the special teams can carry the day; but we didn't contribute on defense or offense for that matter."





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(There were a lot extra-curriculars after the play, especially in the second half, especially after S Aaron Williams went out. Was that a spillover of what guys might have thought of the hit on the field?) – "I thought our guys held their composure pretty well. I think we were fouled for one of them. I'm not sure. I think we had one penalty unsportsmanlike and they had a number of them, I understand that; but I thought our guys were holding their poise."

(The soreness you described with 'Shady' [RB LeSean McCoy], is that something that you would call an aggravation on the injury? Is that something that concerns you?) – "I have no idea. I barely ran into the trainers to get the information for you and that was it."

(Are there other injuries?) – "Other injuries, we mentioned Aaron (Williams) and then (Marquise) Goodwin is in the concussion protocol."

(On a hamstring, how much of it is the trainers and doctors taking the players word for it?) – "They do the MRIs, they do all kinds of stuff. There are all kinds of tests that they do to check on strength and again, I never played Marcell Dareus. Why? Because he wasn't deemed ready to play. So he's wanting to play also."

(Was there some discussion this morning, pregame status on RB LeSean McCoy, seeing how he felt? What happened this morning regarding RB LeSean McCoy before you activated him?) – "Like I said, we felt he was capable of playing and that's why we played him."

(You've been very resilient this year but at some point, does not having your top two receivers and not having NT Marcell Dareus start to catch up to you?) – "It's not an ideal situation but we have no excuses. We played poorly, they played really well and they deserved to win. It will be nice to get those guys back, hopefully next week we'll have them back; but whoever's out there has got to do a great job. We have to play much better than we did today."

(DE Shaq Lawson, you seemed to rotate him in on passing downs. What did you see from him even though he didn't get a ton of work today?) – "We were trying to put him in there on some third downs. That was really it – let him get his feet wet. I really couldn't tell you how he played. We'll see the tape."

<u>Buffalo Bills LB Lorenzo Alexander</u> (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)





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(RB Jay Ajayi – what was so challenging about stopping him?) – "They came out and did a good job. They played more physical up front. Their offensive line did a great job of run blocking. (They) really had that Houston, Mike Shanahan type of run scheme, pressed the outside, and he was a one cut, downhill, and then once he got to the second level, he was a very strong runner and had some big plays. That's really why we ended up losing this game. We lost the game on first and second down and allowed him to have too many explosion plays in the run game."

(You guys have been good in that area, how discouraging is it to have this fall the way that it did?) – "It's a smaller setback in our minds. We didn't come out and play the best football today, but credit to them. They kept pounding it, did a great job all game. Now we have to regroup, go watch the film to see where we messed up, whether that is going back to our fundamentals and just playing more sound football and staying in our gaps and making tackles. You can live with 3, 4 yard gains, but can't allow a guy to have explosion plays. So (it is about) making sure that we tackle from the front end to the back end. We have to do a better job on defense of tackling and getting the guy down and not allowing 20-yard-plus type runs."

(Is it a shame that a really good special team effort kind of got lost today?)- "We try to do a good job as far as setting up the offense and defense. At the end of the day, we didn't execute as a team, and that's what it comes down to – playing well in all three phases, and we didn't do that at all today. We have to – like I said – regroup, look back at the film and see where we could tighten up and continue to learn and continue to get better, because we have a great time coming in here next week in the Patriots, so we can't sulk on this loss. We have to figure out what we did wrong, move on and get ready for them."

(What are your thoughts on the hit on S Aaron Williams?)- "I haven't seen the hit. I think (Jarvis) Landry crackbacked on him. This is a physical game. I don't know if it was legal or not, but I know he is out there just trying to play physical. I don't know him to be a dirty player, but you don't like to see those types of hits, especially losing that type of caliber of player for our defense. It definitely hurts us. The NFL and all of them, they'll look at it and determine whether or not it was a legal hit and go from there."

### Buffalo Bills RB Mike Gillislee (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Talk about the game overall today on the offensive side of the ball and what your final takes were.) – "We just have to get back to work tomorrow, just get better and get ready for New England."





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(Anything the Dolphins did in particular that you guys weren't expecting?) – "Nothing at all. They just won the game."

(What do the Bills have to do to get ready for next week?) – "We just have to get ready to go back to work tomorrow, get ready for New England."

## Buffalo Bills G Richie Incognito (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(You guys up front have not had a day like that in quiet a long time.) – "We couldn't find rhythm. It starts with us upfront. We should've had a good day. We had an off day as an offensive line."

(Were they doing anything different? Were they just beating you?)- "Nothing different. We saw it on film. There was a lot of line movement. We anticipated some of it, but not to the degree that they were ready to do it today, and it kept us off balance."

(Coach said it and a couple of other guys have said it, how physical – which again hasn't been the way you guys have played this year – any explanation in your mind for that, because you guys are a physical front?)- "They were are a physical bunch and (there is) no explanation for it. You have to show up and bring it every Sunday.

## Buffalo Bills Running Back LeSean McCoy (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

(Talk about in the second half when you came out of the game there.) – "Yes. I tried to take off. [I didn't really have a route] and it just didn't feel right. I felt a little pain and I did what I had (to do) so I came out, it was the smart thing to do. I didn't reinjure anything or make it worse. That was the best thing. I just kind of felt it and it, it was kind of like a warning mentally."

(Were you 100% coming in?) – "I felt fine. Every day step by step I slowly progressed. It was kind of a day-to-day decision. Today I felt great going into my cuts, warming up, running, cutting. I felt good. That was the only reason I wouldn't play, if I wasn't 100%."

(Just to clarify, that was the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, right? You said you ran that route and felt it.) – "Yes. It was a slow day and I played lousy. I'm not that good to miss a whole week of practice and just play in the game and be successful. It's one of the things I have to better at. It's the competitive nature in me





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I want to out there with my teammates and win a game, and do everything in my ability to help us out on offense."

(Head Coach Rex [Ryan] says it's the doctors and trainers decision, not your decision. It's hard to believe that. How much of it is you saying I can play?) – "Well, I passed all my tests, all the test they gave me. The strength in my hamstring, the pain, I did everything all the steps, so he is right. The last step was just the warmups to see how it felt. I felt amazing. I was running and cutting and it felt good. I told my agent that outside when I saw him during warmups. It is what it is. I'll just rehab it and be ready to play next week."

(You had been going so good the last few weeks. What changed today?) – "I put a lot of it on myself especially the running game. Not being there for the whole week practice wise and expecting to go out on the field and make plays, it's hard to do. [A lot of that I take on myself, I didn't play well today."

(How concerned are you long-term with your hamstring?) – "It's not one of those major issues like last year when I was in deep, deep pain. This is something that just takes time. I think a full week of practicing and taking my steps and it should be fine. We'll see how it happens, we'll see what happens."

(Might it have been better if you didn't play for the team?) – "You might be right for the team. Seriously, you might be right for the team, that might have been the best thing. It's hard to say that, and as a player if you feel good, there's no reason you shouldn't play. It's easier to sit in a chair and say that compared to a guy that's a competitor who competes at a high level at a card game. It is what it is."

## Buffalo Bills T Jordan Mills (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Were the Dolphins giving you any different blitzes or stunts up front that you maybe didn't see on film or had been ready for?) - "No. They just out-toughed us. They had their day today. We've got to give respect to them, they got the game. That's why they are in our division, we play them twice a year. We'll see them Christmas Eve."





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(When that happens and you know that you got out-physicalled does it give you a little solace knowing that you will get a second chance at them later in the year?) - "Oh yes. We will have them marked down on our calendar for sure."

(You've said it. You guys (the Buffalo Bills) were great before this. So how big of a surprise is it to have a day like this?) – "I wouldn't say a surprise, but you don't expect it. But it's not as bad as everybody makes it seem and it's not as good as everybody says it is either. So all we have to do is watch film, correct the technique we had, because I know it's technique on my part and stuff like that. We just have to correct it and move on from it."

## Buffalo Bills Quarterback Tyrod Taylor (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

(Some tough sledding today. Where did the battle get lost there, particularly in the running game? It was tough to get yards on the ground consistently for you guys.) – "Yes, it was tough to get in a groove. Like you said, going into the run game, that's a part of the game. The run game is definitely part of our offense and it helps us get going. We started out and wasn't able to get it going. It was just a lack of execution on our part."

(You had an eleven point lead there right after you hit Marquise Goodwin for the touchdown midway through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Did they change anything dramatically on defense after that? You guys kind of sputtered after that.) – "No, they didn't. Like I said, just a lack of execution."

(How much different did LeSean McCoy look? He said that it was an injury but he can't just spend the whole week not practicing and then show up for a game and he didn't. Do you know any different?) – "Yes, that's hard for anybody to do at this level, to not practice and play. He went out there and he gave it as good as he could give. Like I said, it's just tough missing reps as far as game plan wise. Conditioning wise you miss out on getting ready for the game. Hopefully, he'll be 100% next week."

(There was a spot on 3<sup>rd</sup> down in the second half when you were in field goal range and DT Ndamukong Suh got to you for a sack and it kind of pushed you out of field goal range. Was that something where you've got to get rid of the ball there to stay in field goal range and give you a shot at getting three?) – "Yes, that would be better."

(Just with the effort by special teams. They set you up on some short fields early and it just seemed like the phase of the game that was pretty sound throughout. What do you feel about it.





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You cashed in a couple of times but you almost want to do more for them in light of the effort they had today.) – "Yes. Special teams played a great game. There's definitely some areas we can clean up as far as (winning the point with field position). We just didn't score enough points today. I don't really want to sit here and make any excuses. There's plenty of things we can do better and will do better."

