



SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS

HARD ROCK STADIUM

Nov. 27, 2016 | 1 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

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

(What did you think of Ryan's [Tannehill] decision-making under pressure today?) – "He did a good job. I'm sure we want to get back that sack that we had there late in the game when we had a chance for a field goal. I think it was after [Kenyan] Drake's kickoff return. That would probably be the only time. It was more the play call than anything. You heard that call come in. He's turning away from Jarvis [Landry], coming out of his break, and the pocket collapsed on him. For the most part he made some great decisions. He got outside of the pocket. He saved us a couple of times, made some great plays on the move."

(Were you surprised at how well San Francisco's run defense held up against you? It seemed like they kind of sold out.) – "Not really. They'd been showing that with what we've seen on tape. That's what we go off of. We don't look at the rankings or anything like that. We just knew that we had a tough matchup and we had some new bodies in as far as guys trying to play together so far as chemistry goes. There were a couple of times where we may have had a couple of things that were just kind of click off. It's something that we have to learn from. Guys being able to jump in there and play together...Jay [Ajayi] did a good job of sticking with his courses. He did a great job so far as trying to make some suggestions that he felt like he could contribute and gain some yards on."

(With them controlling the running game, how important was it for Ryan [Tannehill] to have the type of day that he had today?) – "That's what we were talking on the sidelines [about]. We noticed how they were playing early. We look at it as [being] a little disrespectful, as they didn't think we could really throw the ball, so we thought that was something we wanted to lean on."

(How comfortable – it looks like Ryan [Tannehill] is a lot more comfortable just doing everything out there – getting out of the pocket, throwing the deep ball, doing everything. It just seems like his confidence is getting better and better every week.) – "Any time you get in a new system, it takes a second to kind of get used to it. You have to go through some growing pains. Obviously we did. I think just the timing, the group being together, and the group being able to practice together, develop through some games, go through some rough patches, that's just part of the process. The longer the season goes, the better you hopefully get. You just don't want to go down. I don't think we have. I think we've gotten better. This week was a tough week for us as we're a little banged up again outside, so we didn't get as many reps as we wanted to in the passing game. I thought the guys went out there and executed our plan pretty well."





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(There have been times where you guys have won and you haven't been pleased. Are you pleased with the way your team played today?) – "I'm pleased with the way our guys fought. That was a tough game. I thought San Francisco really came out today as tough as anybody we've played. They had a great scheme. The defensive scheme was tough. Any time you go in there against Colin [Kaepernick] it's tough. You are slightly wrong as far as what you're rush scheme is. And if someone just makes the slightest error, he's able to get into the open field. It's tough. He's a tough guy to bring down. He makes good decisions as far as when he is running, when to get down, when he can keep going. Then he made some really good throws on the move. It's a tough offensive. You start getting a little bit of the up-tempo, the fatigue...there are a lot of factors that go in there when you play that offense."

(San Fran has one play at the two-yard line to tie, fans are holding their breath – how do you experience that and the result?) – "The good thing for us is that every Friday we do a 'last play of the game,' offense versus defense. I feel like the defense has won the last seven weeks. I was like, if they don't win this one, I'm going to be slightly upset because they drum us every week, so it was good to see. It was what they practice. It's what they do every week. They do a good job of figuring out how to stop the offense on one play."

(Are you starting to feel more and more about this football team that it's becoming the complete football team that you're looking for?) – "I think it was a good sign for us as far as if one side struggled on a series then the opposite side would try to get something going. The same with special teams where we'd allow a score and then all of a sudden we'd have a good return. It's just that everybody is trying to pick each other up. That's part of the team-building part of this, and that's what our process is. That's what we've been talking about since the beginning. Things haven't always gone right and guys haven't wavered. They'd just keep on working, they practice hard. It's great to see our guys have fun at the end of the day. That locker room was excited because they understand that a win in this league is hard to come by. It's about being 1-0 at the end of that week."

(How about those three guys on the left side of the offensive line. It seemed like they held up extremely well.) – "That was not an easy thing to do. Just jumping in there and know you're starting...they did a good job as far as the reps they got this week. Feeling what's going on with the quarterback, the running back. You try to get that chemistry brewing as fast as possible. It's not always an easy thing to do, but I thought our guys did a good job of wiring it in, staying on the details, and they fought. They fought for 60 minutes."





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(When you saw how they were playing defensively early, were you tempted to go away from the running game? You did – you had 17 passes, 16 runs at the half, I think.) – “My thought was, it’s always going to be stay with Jay [Ajayi] because as the game goes on, he wears on the defense. He’s a big guy who if he breaks loose of just one-arm tackle it can be an explosive play. A couple of times he came back and he was a shoelace away from popping a couple of these and there were a couple of situations where we felt like the passing game was the best call with what they were doing. So that’s why we leaned on him a little more today. When we start up next week, we reevaluate what’s the best thing to do for that week.”

(We saw Kiko Alonso make a few more plays today. What has he meant for the defense?) – “He’s been consistent all year. The energy level he brings, he works, like every team does, from the beginning of the week to Sunday. He’s been a great addition for our organization. He’s one of those guys where you’re glad he’s with you. We just love watching him play. The way that he hits and tackles, his ball skills are probably rare for a linebacker. He really plays with a passion for the game and that’s what you want all of your guys to have.”

(Any news on DeVante [Parker]?) – “We’re still in the evaluation stage right now. I know he fell on his back and his lower back just kind of locked up on him. We’ll evaluate that a little more. I’ll know more tomorrow.”

(Jakeem Grant – what about his status as a punt returner?) – “He’ll be back there next week. It happens. That was a good decision by [Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator Darren] Rizzi as far as what he felt like we needed to do for the game. It’s just like everything else. You reload next week. You’ve got to just keep getting them better and just know what he can do when he gets into a rhythm. He pops one of those, no one will be upset.”

(You guys came to a decision...I think it was fourth down, I think it would have been a 57-yard field goal. You didn’t try to get them to jump.) – “At that time, it was fourth and...I don’t know what it was, forever, right? I mean, they’re not going to jump. That was my decision. I just felt like the way that [P Matt] Darr seems to come through for us – it was a good punt, I think he slipped on the play. We had a chance to pin them back there. I know it’s not really something that everyone looks at and loves when it’s a touchback, but I have a lot of confidence in him to put that thing inside the five.”

(Did any plays or passes of Ryan’s stand out to you? You know the calls, you know what goes into the decisions he has to make.) – “He made a lot of them because there are a couple of them that were really bad calls, and he did a really good job so far as making the play. It would have been





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nice to see if DeVante would have got the – that was a really, really good play. Anytime I see him move to his left and he starts to throw it downfield, I get a little nervous. But that was a great throw and he made a great catch. It's just that his hand touched the ground first."

(This team hasn't won six straight games in 11 years. Is this significant?) – "We're not looking at it like this. We just know our job is to win each week and now we've got to reload and we have another tough game coming up. We have to go on the road again and we've got to find a way to be 1-0 at the end of next week."

Miami Dolphins Jay Ajayi (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(What can you say about this team just the way the team has been winning – now defense, last week offense last minute?) – "Resilient, at the same time we definitely don't want to put ourselves in those situations. We need to find ways to close out games better but we still find a way to win and that's all that matters."

(Been a bit of a struggle running the ball today, what was the difference?) – "Just got to go out there and get what you can get. They did a good job. They got good players over there. It's tough but at the end of the day we got the win."

(What's it like seeing this team take on a six game winning streak? Seven hasn't been done since 1985.) – "It's huge. We know the goal we want to get to at the end the season and we're taking the steps to do that, winning these games, stacking them up so I think we have a really good mentality, good mindset, we just have to finish the year strong."

Miami Dolphins Linebacker Kiko Alonso (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(First off, talk about that last play. What did you as you were tracking 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick down?) – "I was just sticking on my guy, and then it looked like he was going to take off and run, so it's just vice tackle with me. I think it was me and Jelani (Jenkins)."

([You] made a couple of big plays today – the interception, the fumble recovery. Talk about your day today.) – "People are going to say I have a big day, but those ... (Byron) Maxwell stripped that fumble, so that was a great play by him. I think it was (Bacarri) Rambo who broke that pass, which was a great play. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time."





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(Talk about this turnaround – after this 1-4 start – where you guys are at right now.) – “We’re just taking it one game at a time. We know that, obviously, it’s not going to be easy, and we just have to keep grinding.”

Miami Dolphins Wide Receiver Leonte Carroo (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(Was that something you dreamed of growing up scoring an NFL touchdown and did it feel like the way you thought it would?) – “Of course, it’s everybody’s dream who wants to go to the NFL and soon as I got in there I actually thought there was a flag on the play or something. Because I actually looked back and I didn’t see anybody running towards me. I was like, ah I hope it didn’t get called back and then Kenny (Stills) was the first person to greet me in the end zone and he gave me a hug, and I was just very excited.”

(That made the score 31-14 at the time. It looked like it was comfortable as it turns out it was a big touchdown. Does it make it even more special?) – “That just goes to show you never know what can happen in this league. You have to continue to go out there and make plays and like I said just have that next man mentality, just go out there and finish. We did a great job, credit to the offense, defense, and special teams. We all worked off each other and played hard.”

(Seem like it’s been a while since you got significant action on offense, what were your emotions like when DeVante [Parker] went out and you went in?) – “Just go out there and continue to help the team, continue the success. The offense was rolling. Just because DeVante went down doesn’t mean that we have to stop as an offense or Head Coach (Adam) Gase has to be afraid to call plays my way. That’s exactly what we did, he got the ball in my hand and I was able to make a play.”

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

(You guys were able to spread the ball around pretty evenly throughout the game, how proud are you of this wide receiver unit for you all to get involved today?) – “We knew it would come down to a game like this, and we’ll have a few more opportunities. We made the plays when we needed them. Kenny [Stills] stepped up big, Leonte Carroo came in when DeVante [Parker] went down, and scored a touchdown actually within the first couple of minutes of him playing. So it says a lot about this team, a lot about what we got going in.”

(You see Leonte [Carroo] go out there and get the touchdown the way he did, the first reception of the game for him. How proud of you are?) – “Man, extremely proud, just watching him come in,





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and the way that he's worked to even have an opportunity to be the next guy up. For him to come in there, we don't miss a step. Ryan [Tannehill] have the confidence to still go to him, being he's a new guy going in there, and he made a play for us."

(How important is it to remain a balanced offense when you know the running game is struggling like it was today?) – "It's very important, it's very important. Obviously we know there's going to be games we may not be able to run the ball. We're going to have to pass the ball like 30, 40 times a day. I love it, I love it. But at the same time, there are days we have to be more balanced. When it doesn't permit, we have to step up and make plays in other areas."

Miami Dolphins Wide Receiver DeVante Parker (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(You've been playing for this offense as far as being the guy who stretches the field, and kind of come back on passes if they're a little bit off target, things like that.) – "I feel good with that. Anything that helps out the team, gets the wins. It's going to be out there."

(Your last three games were so back injury aside today, you looked like pretty good. How have you been physically as far as being full speed, being able to leap, things like that.) – "I've been feeling good. Just been getting treatment every day, come in early for treatment, I've been staying on top of that. I've been getting it done."

(And then the play you landed on your back, what exactly happened there?) – "Just jumped up and landed on my back, my back was just hurting."

(Were you able to come back, were you wanting to come back, or was it clear to you that you wouldn't be able to?) – "I wanted to come back, but I just couldn't."





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Miami Dolphins DT Ndamukong Suh (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(Can you take us through that last play? Obviously, it was due or die pretty much there, and you came from behind and made the tackle.) – “(It was a) pass play. (I) came inside, made an inside move, and (Colin Kaepernick) tried to escape and get up into the B gaps. I had to work back and try and eliminate that.”

(How difficult was it with QB Colin Kaepernick and his ability to run? It seemed like his ball fakes were really causing some problems early on. He was able to pick up the running game with 110 yards rushing. How tough is it to play against a quarterback that has that ability?) – “He’s a mobile quarterback. We know we have a tough job ahead of us whenever we have that. He likes to escape, likes to find the open gap – open window – and make plays with his feet or, obviously, find a throwing window to make plays. At the end of the day, I think we eliminated him from making points with using his feet, and we came out with the win.”

(You guys have been wearing shirts, t-shirts, that say ‘strain’ I believe on them. On that last play, did you strain to get to get to QB Colin Kaepernick to make sure that he didn’t get into the end zone?) – “We have to strain each and every play, find a way to make a play and get the job done.”

(How do you feel like the defense played overall in the second half?) – “I think we had a lot of plays, and at the end of the day, we have to find a way to get off the field quicker. Obviously, at the end of the day, we got our job done but there are ways we can clean it up and get more three-and-outs and get the ball back to our offense.”

(On that last play – QB Colin Kaepernick had been breaking contain all day – did you feel like it was going to happen again that he was just going to try to make something happen with his legs?) – “I just played what I saw. I had a one-on-one versus the guard, needed to beat him and then, obviously, get to the quarterback.”

(How rewarding is it making that play in the most critical time for this team?) – “At the end of the day, we don’t want him to score. We’re up by seven, we wanted to see the clock hit zero and obviously neither him having an the opportunity to run the ball nor pass the ball. That’s the way I look at it. We got the job done, got off the field. It’s not the cleanest or the best way to get it done, but we got it done.”

Miami Dolphins Quarterback Ryan Tannehill (transcribed by Sara Perez)





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(First of all, your 100th career touchdown pass. It's a pretty impressive milestone for you. How do you feel about that?) – "It was cool. I didn't even know I was however many away, but I came to the sideline and someone told me. I forget who it was, but yes, it's pretty cool."

(The 49ers made it tough running the football, did you feel that was going to be the case going in or was that something you had to adjust to during the game and start to throw the ball a little more?) – "Yes, we knew it was a possibility and we kind of figured that out early in the game that they were going to load the box and make it tough on us. We tried to stick with it there for the whole game – just tried to keep pounding away. I think finally in the fourth quarter we did crease one when Jay (Ajayi) got – I don't know how many – 20 yards or so. They did a good job in the run game. They were physical up front. We knew it was going to be a battle up front and they loaded the box and made it tough for us."

(You had C/G Anthony Steen, C/G Kraig Urbik and T Sam Young over there on the left side. you have to feel pretty good about the way they protected you throughout the course of the game.) – "Yes, (I'm) really proud of those guys. (I'm) really proud of all five of those guys, the way they battled up front. We knew it would be tough in the run game, but they battled. And in the pass game, they did a great job of giving me time and running lanes. When there was someone on the edge, they were covering up enough where I could move around and get outside the pocket."

(At 7-4, how do you feel about this football team and how far you've come and how far you can go?) – "I'm proud of these guys, but we're on the process and we're taking it one game at a time. We just have to stick to what we're doing. Nothing changes around here. We have to take advantage of every day in our preparation and practice and get ready for the next one."

(It looks like the passing game is a little smoother. It looks like it's clicking better than it was early in the season, in every facet – do you feel like that and if so, what are the improvements that you guys have made?) – "I hope it's going better than earlier in the season. We've had a lot of practice, had a lot of games since then. We just want to keep on the course of getting better each and every week. The pass (protection) has been really good and that's been one of the biggest factors, allowing me to go through my reads and let the guys work downfield. We have good playmakers on the outside that are making plays and that's what you want to have."

(What is it about this team that it comes down to the last play, last drive?) – "I don't know, but we find a way to win. I've been saying for weeks now, that's the kind of team you want to have – a team





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that finds a way to win, whether its offense, defense or special teams. Most games it's going to take everybody. I'm proud of the guys that played today and the way they battled."

(Your thoughts on that last possession San Francisco had?) – "I was just pulling for the defense – just rooting them on, trying to get the crowd to be as loud as possible. It got quiet a few times there and that's when we need the crowd to be the loudest, so I was trying to do my best to pump them up. (You) can't do much on the sideline."

(Did you think the way they played defense that you would have some shots downfield? the way they were setting up to take away the run?) – "Yes. We knew ... We kind of figured it out, like I said, early in the game that they were loading the box and we were going to have to push the ball down the field a little bit, and we were able to hit a few shots down the field."

(Head Coach Adam Gase said there was talk on the sideline that it was disrespectful to the passing game – did you feel that way?) – "I wasn't part of those conversations or anything. I knew, obviously, we've been a heavy run team and leaned on the run, and they came in and decided they were going to load the box and make us throw to win. So that's what we did."

(How big was WR Leonte Carroo being able to step up in there and get a touchdown?) – "It was huge. I'm proud of Leonte and him just hanging in there. He's been there, kind of our fourth, fifth guy all year, and for him to come in, in a big situation, in the fourth quarter and have a big run after catch – a physical run – after he had the ball in his hands for a touchdown. (I'm) really proud of him."

(Head coach Adam Gase told us this week part of the reason he took the job is that he believed in you. You're starting to have success. He's going to get some of the credit. What does he deserve credit for as far as how you've transformed a little bit and played better this year?) – "He's done a great job – not just (with) me, but with our team. The way he leads, the way he installs, teaches the offense, communicates and just keeps guys on track – whether it's me or anybody else. (He) just keeps (us) focused each and every day on trying to find something to get better at. I think as long as you're doing that, you're going to continue to get better and find success."

(What is something specific that you are better at because of Head Coach Adam Gase?) – "I'm better, I think, at a lot of things. Just playing fast with my feet, I think has been the biggest emphasis since we started this year and obviously there are times where I want to be faster, but that's been a big emphasis for us and I feel like I'm getting better."





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(Speaking of your feet, are you going to do some sliding at some point when you are trying to pick up extra yards?) – “(Laughing) Yes, probably so. There are definitely a couple situations where I probably should have slid today, but I’m a competitor and I want to find a way to do everything I can to help the team win. Obviously, I can’t put myself at risk and not ever slide. I just have to find those spots where it’s a good situation to slide.”

(Have you noticed the town where the fans are being more behind this team recently? I know you guys don’t get out a lot, grocery shopping and all that stuff, but how do you figure out how much the team loves you and what their attraction is to you at a specific time of the season? Is it just by the cheers or how do you figure that out?) – “I don’t really know. I just kind of keep my head down and keep working. Obviously, I feel it the most on game day, when we have a full stadium; it’s loud when the defense is on the field and creating that home field advantage. That’s what I want to see; that’s what I think our team wants to see. Obviously, the support is nice outside the building, but I don’t spend a whole lot of time anywhere other than the building and my house (laughing). So, I don’t see it a whole lot, but it’s great to have the fans excited about it and we need them to create our home field advantage.”

(On the touchdown pass to WR Kenny Stills, the safety was out of position. did you notice that or did you move him out of position?) – “They were bluffing, they were showing a middle safety look and ended up rolling to a Cloud look on that side and I was able to get the ball there before the safety got there.”

(Is that a situation where the disguise lasted a little too long and you were able to take advantage of it?) – “Yes, possibly. I don’t know exactly how, or if, the safety ended up out of position, but he wasn’t close enough to make the play.”

(I think you were asked about the offensive line, but there’s a sense that if you guys can get through this stretch with your guys banged up, G/T Laremy Tunsil was close this week to playing, you can get them all back in a week or two, is that kind of the belief that ‘we just have to survive now, win somehow and get our guys back’?) – “I didn’t really think past winning this game. It makes sense what you’re saying, but honestly, I was just completely focused on doing everything I could to win this game. We’ll do the same thing this week.”

(When you said playing fast with your feet, are you referring to moving around the pocket or awareness?) – “Just faster through the drop and being ready to move – being in a position to either make a throw or move or whatever I need to do.”





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(How did you feel about your pocket awareness today and also your decision making when you were under pressure?) – “I’ll have to go back and look at the tape. There were a few times when I left the pocket and felt good initially about when I left and what made me leave, but I’ll have to go back and look and evaluate and see where I can improve there.”

(You’re about to get to December and at 1-4 it didn’t seem like you would be playing meaningful December games and now you control your own destiny. Does the turnaround in the season surprise you? What goes through you mind when you think we just rolled off six straight wins?) – “It’s exciting. I think it is exciting be where we’re at right now. Obviously you want to be playing meaningful games in December to get yourself playing in January and February, and we’ve done that. I’m not surprised because we just kind of stuck to the process. We believed in each other and just kept growing as a football team. Each and every person just doing everything they could to just improve and get better and so when you finally see the success and see the run, it’s not by accident. It’s because guys have stuck to the process and put in the work along the way.”

(Are you at a point with WR DeVante Parker where you feel comfortable throwing him jump balls?) – “Yes. He’s obviously strong and has the talent to go up and get the football and he showed it again today. He didn’t get the catch; he got ruled out of bounds, but a jump ball situation and I gave him a chance on the sideline and he was able to go up and grab it. I don’t know how close that thing was. It was a couple of inches away from being a big catch for us.”

Miami Dolphins DE Cameron Wake (transcribed by Ted Leshinski)

(Up 17 points, did you think as a team you’d have to make one last stand at the goal line?) – “Well, the way things have been going the last couple of weeks you never know. But, no matter what happens this is the NFL. You’ve got to play every play until the last play of the game, if it comes down to it, and so said. That’s what we got to do. It took every guy, top to bottom, doing their job to make sure we got this win.”

(How tough is QB Colin Kaepernick? I know the first couple of times when they ran that option you had RB [Carlos] Hyde and he was off running down the field. Was it tough to decide what he was doing in that football game?) – “Not really. That’s the assignment. If I got the dive, I take the dive and you count on your guys to take the quarterback. So assignment football ... I think a couple of times whether it’s scheme, or miscommunication; assignments got screwed up. So that’s something





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that we definitely have to make sure we take care of going forward. But at the end of the day, like I said, we just had to make one more play than they did and we did and we got the win.”

(How’d it feel on that last drive when they were moving down the field and got to within a shadow of that goal post there, and have an opportunity to tie it up?) – “We just knew we had to keep them out. Every time we stop the ball, guys got together, ‘Look, one more play. Who’s going to be the guy who makes it?’ And everybody would gather up and look at each other in the eye and say, ‘Listen, we’ve just got to make this happen. We can’t let them in.’ He moved the ball a little bit but at the end of the day, like I said, don’t let him in. And here we are with another win.”

(Did you have a view of DT Ndamukong Suh and the tackle he made at the end of the game? Were you able to see that?) – “I was busy doing something else. I just know, it looked... When I saw it, it looked impressive. I’m sure were going to go back and watch the film and see what happened on that last play.”

(Did you have a sense that it was going to come down to you taking him down in the open field? He’d run well all day.) – “I had no idea what it was going to be. Whatever it was going to be you have to do your job. If your job is rushing the quarterback, rush the quarterback. If it’s cover, cover, and if he broke the containment it will take everybody to rally. That’s just the way we’re built, and that’s exactly what happened. I didn’t really have any premonitions about what was to come, but again I knew there was still time on the clock and the balls in play and you’re going to have to continue to go out there and do your job. Like I said, every guy, top to bottom, it took both sides of the ball and that’s the way it is when you want to win in this league.”

(I know it’s one game at a time, but since you’ve been in Miami through 11 games you guys have never had seven wins. Does it feel different around here?) – “If you start looking at the big picture you’re going to miss the things that are ahead of you. Our whole mindset this past week was just one game, win one game. They i’m sure they don’t care about what happened two weeks ago, and neither did I. I’m sure they don’t care what’s to come three weeks from now. It was just about the task at hand and what we have to do. Honestly, it wasn’t so much about them it was about us and making sure we take care of our job and the guys up front being in place, where you’re supposed to be and that’s the only way you’ve got to be. You can’t start wondering and looking at things down the road because then you’re going to miss things right in front of you.”

(This team is more confident during this winning streak. What are the areas you guys have made major gains, would you say?) – “I just think the whole... probably weeks and weeks ago; it was just





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complimentary football. Maybe it was a long time ago but way back in the beginning it seemed like there were spurts where offense was kicking on all cylinders and they're doing their job and the defense couldn't get off the field. And there were times when we were doing our job getting off the field and the offense couldn't stay on the field. And you're not going to win that way. The entire goal is very basic; defense get off the field, get the ball to the offense, and they put points on the board and we go back out there and repeat the process. For the most part that's kind of been what we're doing. Obviously special teams is playing their part as well. Just play complimentary football – whether it's offense, defense, left, right ... on a side of the defense, front to back, corners and safeties playing off each other. That's the only way to play. I feel like when we're doing that it's going to be hard to beat us."

(On that last drive, there was that deep pass that was ruled incomplete that was overturned on replay. Did you have an idea that as soon as you saw the board that it was going to be overturned?) – "Again, I didn't know. I'm usually busy dealing with something else to find out what's going on in the backend. They made a play. That's the NFL. They get paid too. They've got decent players and that's just the nature of the business. They're making plays, got to say hey 'Hey look, spot the ball, let's line up and let's do this again.' They called it incomplete at first and then reversed it and ... you just have to have that mindset. Oh well, put the ball down, snap it, and let's do it again. We just kept fighting, kept fighting and kept fighting. It came down to the last play of the game and the guys who strained and made a play ... we got the W."

(On that quick call when it was 1st down and goal at the 8-yard line, they throw it at CB Byron Maxwell and he breaks it up but only three seconds came off the clock. Did you think that that pass was the end of the game?) – "Well, again, you look at the clock and there's still time on the clock then you got to go again. Until it says 00:00, you've got to continue to go out there and leave it all on the field. I think if you look at the team, look at the way we played today, the guys literally left it all on the field. Their last drop, engine light's on, tires blown, transmission ... everybody just literally rolled it all the way until the end. That's the best feeling. You come off the field and you know you left it all out there. Two seconds left, whatever it may be ... I don't get to play the clock or control it, because it probably would've been different. But that's just the way it happened. Last play, last minute play. We need it."

(Kiki [Alonso] seems to be consistently around the football. Just how instinctive is he as a player, you being around him every day?) – He is obviously, mike "middle" linebacker, he's the centerpiece. Front, back, side to side. He's the one who makes the calls, gets us lined up. You really want that kind of guy to be your mike linebacker. The guy who knows what's going to happen before





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it happens. Has you lined up, makes sure everybody's set where they're supposed to be and obviously he has a nose for the ball and I think he's been a big part of our success from the beginning. And obviously being around him, he's a great person, a great football player and he's made some really, really big plays to help us stack up these wins."

(I think you have a sack or an assist sack in each of the last six games. How do you feel about the way you're playing right now?) – "It's hard to satisfy me. I'll be very honest. I feel like I could play better. I have very high standard. Probably higher than any of you guys, my coaches involved, included, what I expect from myself. Getting out there, if it's just one that's not enough. I have big dreams so every time I go out there I feel like no matter who I'm lined up against, no matter what the situation is, I'm going to win and if I don't, that's unacceptable. So I may pat myself on the back later on in the year, or after I'm done playing but for now I'm still striving for more, so I'm not satisfied."

San Francisco 49ers Head Coach Chip Kelly (transcribed by Frank Brill)

(Obviously Chip, you're not into the moral victory scene but how do you feel your guys played today?) – "I thought they competed, but in this league, when you lose the turnover battle, you're not going to win ... probably not going to win the football games. We had two critical turnovers that I think hurt us. The one in the first half, we had the ball deep down in the red zone and obviously you need to come away with points against a good team like that, and then we opened up the second half with the tipped ball and the interception. I thought our defense did a real good job responding after that one, just holding them to a field goal. Again, I think it came down to the turnover game."

(What were you trying to do on the final play?) – "We had four guys in the end zone. We had a shallow cross; we had a deep over the top. The shallow one's in the end zone and the deep over the top's in and then two guys were working the game on the outside."

(You said last week getting down big in the fourth quarter is not the ideal situation for this team just the way that you're constructed. Were you pleased and kind of surprised by the way you guys came back?) – "No, I wasn't pleased or surprised. We've got a good football team but we didn't win so I'm not pleased with that. We're not into that. We're trying to win football games. You don't get participation trophies. We didn't win."

(You seemed to use everybody on defense that you had dressed, was that because of the humidity?) – "No, that's what we usually do and obviously we lost a couple to nicks and bangs that





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forced a couple of other guys in there; but we had always planned on using that. We rotate our d-line anyways and our secondary is all playing.”

(How do you think QB Colin Kaepernick played?) – “I thought Kaep did a good job. The interception was a tipped ball and besides that, I thought he protected the football well. He obviously gave us some things in the run game. They were crashing their ends and trying to take away Carlos (Hyde) and some of the things, so his ability to kind of keep some drives alive with his feet; I thought he did a good job there.”

(You guys have lost 11 fumbles this year and it’s not one or two guys, can you put your finger on why?) – “No, it’s a simple deal. When the play starts, you’ve got to finish with the ball. It’s a league that tries to strip you, to take the ball away from you. I think we understand that. We work on it but there’s no excuse for fumbling.”

(The rush defense did a little bit better today but you had challenges in the passing defense) – “Yeah, I thought our guys did a good job against a really good back coming in. I think (Vice President of Communications) Bob (Lange) told me (Dolphins RB Jay Ajayi) had 36 yards, which you thought that if you could hold him to that, you’d be in a good situation; but I thought (Ryan) Tannehill did a good job. I think we’ve got to do a better job in the back end in terms of covering their receivers. I think they obviously were successful on offense. We did take away the run game but I think we’ve got to do a better job with the coverage stuff.”

(With QB Colin Kaepernick’s improvement, is it just learning the system better? Is he physically better?) – “I think it’s just experience. Again, he missed a lot of time. We weren’t with him before so he really got his start in the Buffalo game so each game I think he’s gotten better and progressed as the games go on. There’s nothing you can do to really simulate the experience of playing in a game, especially for a quarterback, because a quarterback’s not going to get hit in practice. A quarterback’s never going to get hit in the preseason really so it’s those live reps that are so invaluable for him. You look at most teams that have good quarterbacks and they’ve been in their system for a long time and they’ve been very comfortable in their system, so I just think each week he gets better just with the more reps that he gets, and really the game reps, which are the most important things.”

(This is a team that’s lost 10 straight and I think 31-14 down, I understand about the participation trophies and everything. Why do you think they haven’t packed it in?) – “Well, I think they’re professionals and I think they’re all competitors so I don’t know what they’d gain from packing it in. Is that going to make them feel better? They want to straighten this thing out so they’re going to go out





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and compete and we've got a bunch of competitors in there that want to go win. I don't want anybody to pat them on the back and tell them that 'Hey, you did a good job. You were close.' They're grown men, they want to win and they'll continue to work that way. They've practiced great all year long. They've had great attitudes in terms of what they've got to do when we go out to the practice field and I don't think that's in anybody's mindset. I think it is questions that are asked from the outside, but there's never been a question about that from the inside."

(On the final play, from your vantage point, what was QB Colin Kaepernick's window to run?) – "I couldn't tell you what his window was to run, to be honest with you. I was looking at the route distribution and then saw him take off so, from my vantage point, I couldn't tell you what he had in front of him or didn't have in front of him. Obviously, I could look at the film and determine that."

San Francisco 49ers S Antoine Bethea (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(Now that you've played the game against them, what are your thoughts going in and out of the game?) – "Pretty much the same, pretty good quarterback and we knew the run game and they were going to focus on the run. That was pretty much it."

(You guys focused on the run playing 8, 9, 10 guys up, safety's coming up tight. Is that how you guys play?) – "Yes the past couple of weeks that's how we've been playing."

(It wasn't against the Dolphins run game per say?) – "We've been focusing on stopping the run so we're going to get in the box and stop the run."

(Any of the [Ryan] Tannehill plays made good or bad that step out to you?) – "Yes he made some good plays, receivers made some plays as well. Definitely the touchdown to Kenny Stills he made a good side pocket throw and like I said he made some good plays."

San Francisco 49ers DL Ronald Blair (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Up and down game all throughout, very competitive. Do you want to talk about the rollercoaster of emotions there?) – "Yes, it definitely was a game (with a) rollercoaster of emotions. Both teams are fighting back, taking punches and swinging right back, but this is what you play the game for, for things like this. Unfortunately, we didn't come out with the win, but we have to come out this next week and prepare really good and get ready for the Bears."





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(You guys were down at the half, but you were able to fight back. Anything you guys did differently, or what helped you do that?) – “I think we were all laser-focused in. We were all juiced up, ready to go back in, because we know we didn’t play our best half of football, and we know we could do better in the second half. Unfortunately, we came up short.”

(Were you guys focusing more on the run, or was it a balanced attack for this week?) – “It was a balanced attack, really. We knew we had to stop the run, because their run sets up everything else. We knew they really are a balanced team that can run, that can throw, so we just had to make sure we were on our p’s and q’s on both sides.”

San Francisco 49ers Running Back Carlos Hyde (transcribed by David Norwood II)

(To your success and how you got to the NFL, is there any advice that you’d offer to these kids to overcome so many things like you have?) – “Stay true to your dreams. Sometimes, things aren’t going to your way but if you stay at it things can turn around any day. Just stay at it, stay on top of the grades. When you’re on that field, ball out, do your job. I’m telling you it, isn’t that hard. When you’re on that field, you’re doing your job. Everything else will come to you.”

(You plan on getting over to Naples on the trip here, or are you just going to go up to Orlando with everybody?) – “I think I’m just going to go to Orlando with everybody, take care of my body, get ready for Chicago. I think I’m going to do that. I think I’m going to go to Naples during the offseason”

(When’s the last time your grandparents saw you play in person?) – “My grandmother comes down to the games all the time, so she has seen me. This is my grandfather’s first time.”

San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

(Can you walk us through that last play, what you saw and in that situation what does a quarterback have to do to try and buy himself some room?) – “You have to get in the end zone. Ultimately, that’s what it comes down to. We had a pass play called, stepped up and thought we had a seam to get in there and didn’t make it in.”

(What do you have to see in order to take off and run for it?) – “An opening. There was a crease there, I thought I saw it. Kiko Alonso did a great job recovering, coming back and making a play there.”





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(How did you feel about your play in general today?) – “We left some stuff on the field. For me there were throws that I could’ve made that weren’t there. As a whole we can’t turn the ball over and win football games. We can’t have penalties that stop drives for us. As a whole we have to be on top of things and cut out those mistakes in order to win football games.”

(There was some controversy here locally with some remarks in the newspaper about [Fidel] Castro. Not to get away from the game but do you have any further thoughts on that? Coming to South Florida, there was some boos at the beginning of the game) – “Yes. What I said was that I agree with the investment in education. I also agree with the investment in free universal health care. As well as the involvement in him helping end apartheid in South Africa. I would hope that everybody agrees that those things are good things. Trying to push the false narrative that I was a supporter of the oppressive things that he did, it’s just not true.”

(You were taken out of context you think with some other remarks you made? Which was before he passed away, I understand that.) – “Yes it was completely out of context. Once again, what I said was I support the investment in education. I’ve never said that I support the oppressive things that he did.”

(You are wearing the Malcolm X shirt today. The controversy stems from another shirt you were wearing that had Malcolm X with Fidel Castro on it, correct? Is there any symbolism behind the shirt that you are wearing today?) – “I’ve worn many Malcolm X shirts. He was a great man and he lived the life that he talked about. He was someone that truly walked the walk and was a great leader for the African community, and someone I admire.”

(Can you understand why some people in South Florida were concerned about wearing a shirt of Fidel Castro? A dictator who oppressed people. Can you understand the concern?) – “I can understand the concern, but for me what I said was that was a historic moment for Malcolm. I’m not going to cut out pieces of Malcolm’s life. In 1960 when they met in Harlem, that was a historic moment. That’s something that I will always be true to what Malcolm was, what he represented because I’m not going to cut out history.”

(Did you find it ironic, any thoughts that just after this controversy happened with you getting in this discussion about [Fidel] Castro with a reporter that you end up in Miami when Fidel Castro passes away?) – “Very unique circumstances. It’s hard to really say that it was a coincidence or whatever it might be. Once again, it’s very unique circumstances.”





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(Finally, is there anything you'd like to clarify about the [Fidel] Castro situation? He passed away, right now do you want to clarify your thoughts on that?) – "I feel like I did clarify them. I believe in the investment in education. I believe in the free universal healthcare, which we don't have here, and I also believe in the positive thing he did in helping end apartheid in South Africa."

(How much do you worry about with the [Fidel] Castro situation and also not voting, people losing track of the message you were trying to put forth when this all began?) – "Well, I don't worry about people losing track of what the message is. I've been true to the message. I'm against systematic oppression. Voting is a part of that system, and I've talked at length about why I believe that."

(You guys were down 31-14. Did anybody say anything in the huddle or how did you tell the guys to respond?) – "No, the mentally we had as a team was, let's go get this win. I thought our guys did a great job fighting until the very end. At the beginning of the game I asked them to go four quarters with me and they did. Our defense did a great job at the end to give us the opportunity to get the ball back and go score. We had some great plays on that final drive. Torrey (Smith) catching the in cut on the 4th down. (Jeremy) Kerley making a great catch on the sideline to get us closer for an opportunity to score at the end there; and we have to be able to finish these with touchdowns to give us an opportunity to win the game."

(What was that last play, was it supposed to go to Vance [McDonald] first? Was he the first read and then they were playing him?) – "We have a couple of different reads on that depending on what defense they're in. They played it well. It was something that we have to be able to make a play on that play and get in the end zone."

San Francisco 49ers WR Jeremy Kerley (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(How hard is it to do all that work and come up 2 yards short?) – "Honestly, I don't think this one hurts no more than New England or the Dallas game, but they all hurt. To get that close and come up short, you just think back on all the things you could have done better. That's what I think."

(Did you think QB Colin Kaepernick was going to get in?) – "Of course. I don't have a losing mentality, so every play I feel like we're going to either score or last minute, he's on the 6-yard line, (and) I'm thinking he's going to score."





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(Did you guys say anything before that last drive?) – “‘It’s going to take a miracle, man.’ It’s like I said, just play football.”

San Francisco 49ers C Daniel Kilgore (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Up and down game. A lot of emotions throughout. Do you want to talk about the back and forth today?) – “It’s tough, because you work all week just like any other week. We had a good week of practice and first drive we marched down the field, score. A couple of drives later, a turnover. It never felt out like we were, obviously, never out of it. We just have to make the plays when we’re called on. That’s a good defensive front. I felt like we handled them pretty well, but the ball didn’t bounce our way, and we got to come back and get better the next week.”

(Over than the turnovers, I thought that you guys played offensively pretty well. What’s clicking do you think for you guys right now? What’s better than it has been?) – Honestly, we can only go up. That’s one way to look at it. But again, hard work during the week. This group, the front five, we’re clicking right now, and ‘Kaep’ (Colin Kaepernick) is doing his thing. Whenever he throws the ball, he’s throwing it. I feel like all day we gave him pretty good protection. (There were) a few pressures there towards the end of the game, but that’s a gut check right there on our end. We’re tired, (the game is) coming down to the last second, we have to be able to finish the game and give him the best protection we can.”

(Where does that defensive front rank among the teams you played this year?) – “Every week, you look at the scouting report. That’s a pretty damn good front every week, but they’re up there. They’re top, for sure.”

San Francisco 49ers TE Vance McDonald (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Up and down game today. Got close in the fourth quarter. Do you want to talk about the back and forth emotions that went into it?) – “This is the third week now where we were getting closer and closer to getting out of the hump, but that’s ... All you can ask for as an offense is a chance to win the game at the end. Again, it’s just frustrating the three weeks in a row where we’ve been right there, really close. Overall – just like you were saying – the back and forth – it’s just (about) consistency. Hopefully we can get that resolved.”

(At 31-14 in the fourth quarter, what gave you guys belief you were still in the game?) – “With that question, I wouldn’t say going back into other games that we didn’t believe in ourselves. The





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question I just answered ... With the last few weeks, we've just been right there – that one especially. It really is – throughout the game – is (about) trying to get more consistent play as an offense (and it) is something that we can control, move the ball down the field."

(What was your role at the end, that last play, that last play of the game. Where were you?) – "I was running the shallow route, and I thought that they were ending up bringing blitz with the look that we had, but there was just a lot of traffic underneath. (It) really is just one of those go all out (plays), but I was just kind of running though there underneath linebackers – and the safety was down – but came up short."

San Francisco 49ers WR Torrey Smith (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

(Obviously you guys aren't into the moral victory thing but you put together a comeback, especially in the second half. With the way you guys have struggled in the second half this year, is this something you can build on or take away from?) – "I don't know. Like you said, there are no moral victories; but I think it doesn't help when you know that you are capable of it. We've known that forever. We've just got to go out there and consistently do it and finish. That's why we've lost so many games. We've been in every game, for the most part, and we haven't been able to finish."

(You guys were playing a good defensive team and the offense looked as good as it has all season. Do you feel like there's some momentum building offensively?) – "Our offensive line did a great job. We can't shoot ourselves in the foot. I dropped the ball and it led to a pick. I feel like I lost us the game. If you ask me, I feel like with the momentum coming out of the half, I don't feel like they stopped us. I feel like we stopped ourselves and I feel like I lost us the game."

(The play you say you feel like you cost the team, what happened? Did you just lose it?) – "I just dropped the ball. (Colin) Kaepernick made a good ball but I just dropped it. There's no excuses. It popped up in the air. It's embarrassing, to be honest."

San Francisco 49ers S Jaquiski Tartt (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Talk about the overall defensive performance today.) – "I feel like we played well overall, but we gave up too many big plays."





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(Were you guys so focused on the run game you think? Is that why the big plays were allowed?)
– “No. We just got to ... We lost all discipline on a few plays, and that’s what happened. When you lose your, you give up plays.”

(In a game like this, obviously, turnovers are big deal. On the one that went through your hands there, I assume that one probably sticks out to you?) – “That would have been a big play by me – a play I should I have made – and I didn’t make it.”

(You just lost it?) – “I kind of assumed he was throwing it to the running back. That’s who he was throwing it to, so I broke on the angle to go to the running back, and when I saw it was overthrown, it was too late for me to adjust.”

