



BALTIMORE RAVENS POST-GAME QUOTES

Miami Dolphins vs. Baltimore Ravens

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016 M&T Bank Stadium

QB Joe Flacco

(on his discussions with offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg about being aggressive) “Hey, we keep getting grilled on this. It was a good conversation. It was all fun. It was a pretty fun conversation. I think it was on Tuesday; we were talking about Cincinnati, just like we always do. We talk about our opponent that we just played and just good fun, trying-to-get-better conversation.”

(on what’s changed to make this game better) “Oh, nothing. It all came down to the fact that I don’t think we were able to finish Cincinnati off last week like I really would have wanted to. It’s obviously a lot better to play in a game like this than to have to strip-sack the quarterback on the last drive and put your defense in that spot, and that’s really what it came down to, is just the frustration to not be able to really turn it over in last week’s second half.”

(on why the offense clicked so well today) “The line obviously did a really good job. We felt like we could get behind their backers a little bit. There were people open. I mean, guys were running into big, pretty big open holes. They were doing a good job when they had to win one-on-one, but when they were playing zone, there were some holes there, and I had the time to sit back there and drill them in it. So, that was big. I think scoring in the red zone, you know, putting the ball in the end zone when we got down there was huge. But I’m a big believer in the fact that this game starts up front with your offensive linemen, and I think they played really well today.”

(on calling the TDs to TE Dennis Pitta) “I wish I could take credit for all that, but no. I think we probably saw things the same way on the first one. On the first one, I’m standing behind Jeremy [Zuttah], and you could tell that it was probably going to have a decent chance of being able to hit Dennis in the middle of the field. On the second one, he’s anywhere from second, third, anywhere in the progression. I think I had a guy coming off my right side, and he made me go left a little bit, and I just got the ball off to him, and he did a good job getting in the end zone.”

(on what Pitta’s been through to come back and get his first TD in 3 years) “I don’t know what he’s been through. He’s the only person that really, really knows what he’s been through. His wife, his parents, I’m sure they have a certain way they feel about it, but me, I just want him on the field. I don’t care what he’s been through. I just want him on the field (*laughing*). It’s like when I slide and my brace breaks, he gets a good kick, he laughs at that. He doesn’t feel bad for me (*laughing*). Listen, he’s a special football player, so obviously, he’s been through a lot, and he’s put a lot of work in so, come on, he has almost 60 catches this year. He has 60 catches this year. So it’s not like he’s not out there producing. So, I guess it was nice to get in the end zone today. I know it feels good as a player. It feels good to throw four touchdown passes and catch two touchdown passes, but at the end of the game, what does it really matter? As long as we win, that’s what it comes down to.”

(on his spreading the ball around and was it one of the best games of his career) “I don’t know. Hey, it’s a December game, and it means a lot right now, but we’ve played a lot of meaningful games around here, truly meaningful games in January and February, so I don’t want to look at this game and say something like that. This is a meaningful game right now because of the position that we’re in, and we’re fighting for a playoff spot, and we’re going to have to win a lot down the stretch to do so. So this is just part of it. I think the guys played really well together today. Like I said, it wasn’t super hard for me to sit back there and find open guys today.”

(on WR Steve Smith Sr. maybe enjoying the way the ball was spread around) “I don’t know. Did Steve get in the end zone at all? I don’t think he got in the end zone. Mike [Wallace] didn’t get in the end zone. I mean, they don’t care about touches. I don’t think they care. If he only had two touches for 150 yards and two touchdowns, that’d probably be better than eight catches for 60 yards and no touchdowns, but I don’t know exactly how they feel. I mean we all feel pretty good about the fact that we won the game. But when



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there's 38 points put on the board, and there's a bunch of touchdowns out there, guys want to be the ones that score the touchdowns, and that's just natural, and everybody feels that way."

(on if he thought Mornhinweg was going to keep pushing on offense as game went on) "I did. I didn't know the extent of it. In the first two drives, I don't really think we ran the ball. Like I said, I didn't know the extent of it. But, I did know that he would be [aggressive]. We did have a good conversation about it, and I felt that he would kind of do what he did today, and we responded well to it. It played out that way because we were able to take the ball down the field on the first couple of drives and do what we did, and it allowed us to continue to do those things. Our defense playing the way they did, same thing."

(on this game being a kind of break-out game) "I think it gives the guys a lot of confidence to see it and have done it. Now, we have to go up into a hostile place in New England that we really enjoy playing [at]. It's going to be another important game in December up there on a Monday night, and it's going to be a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to it, big time."

(on the December grind and playing big games) "You try to look around you and see who's been through it with you before, and you see a couple guys, really. The biggest thing is just trying to somehow get it through to the young guys how unique of an opportunity we have. Getting to the playoffs is a big-time accomplishment, and to position yourself in December to play these meaningful games is also a big-time accomplishment, and you can't take it for granted. You've got to keep your focus 100 percent of the time. So, I think when we do talk about it, it's just trying to translate that feeling to the young guys. Somebody said it earlier this week. When you're a young player, sometimes you might think, 'Oh, there's always tomorrow,' and in this league, you never know when you're going to get your golden opportunity, so you have to take every little thing as a big opportunity and make the most of it, and I think that's what we're trying to with some of the guys."