



POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET
Bills vs. Dolphins
Saturday, December 24, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.



BUFFALO BILLS HEAD COACH REX RYAN

Opening Comments: Alright, obviously a tough day to say the least. Our guys fought their butts off and at the end of the day it wasn't enough. I tip my hat to our guys. Even down 14 we kept battling back and Miami's a good football team, they deserved the game and they won it.

Q: Rex, I just talked with Craig Wrolstad, the referee. He told me the head linesman that was standing closest to you told him that you did not take the timeout before the kick.

A: Well that's interesting. Obviously he certainly didn't call it, he never blew it dead. I was yelling it and then I went over to him. We had said to call it, I'm sure you saw players trying to call the timeout. We're trying to put our field goal block team on the field and so then they're not saying it and I'm like, "Timeout! Timeout!" I looked, I was shocked that it hadn't been called and then I'm like, "Timeout. Timeout." And then I'm even trying to signal it to the guy but I'm assuming the thing's going to be done but I'm over there yelling timeout even, well before the thing was kicked. But it will show up. I'm sure there's audio of it so we'll get it.

Q: What happened with the decision with punting on fourth down with 4:00 left with your playoff future on the line?

A: At that time, and I even told our offense I said, "we're going to ride you guys if we can," but in that situation I was like we're going to pin them down deep, if we get a stop we're going to have time to get field goal range to win the game, so that was what I thought. I didn't think we'd have 10 guys on the field like we did on that run but that's what happened.

Q: Why did you expect your defense to make a stop when they didn't make one all day?

A: Well they did but like I say, I believe we'd get them stopped. I thought that obviously that was the right thing to do. Now it's easy to go back and say, "no you should have gone for it," well it's in our end. Now they're one first down away from winning the game themselves. I just thought that was the right move, pin them deep, and get the ball back again.

Q: You gained 589 yards. You could have done whatever you wanted to against them. Why not go for it?

A: Well it's certainly a consideration but I thought I'd pin them deep and then get the ball back and I know exactly how many yards we had. But every coach in America would have done the same thing backed up in your end, one first down away. And it's easy to sit back up there when your livelihood's not riding on it and say, "hey, I'd go ahead and do 'this' and 'this.'" I'm sure you would.

Q: Your defense gave up 34, they've given up 34 on average in their last seven losses. You're supposed to be a defensive coach.

A: I know you can question it all you want. I've been pretty decent throughout my career. Obviously this was a rough night, there's no question. We've had some tough ones but I think the league is—I think offenses are pretty decent these days. They're able to move the football but again, I'll let my reputation stand for what it is and you can challenge it all you want.

Q: This is about your defense in the last seven games.

A: Right, I'm talking about any time. I'm talking about a body of work that's 20-some years in the making in this league. I think I can stand up here and—whatever happens, happens but I'm going to tell you this; that I'll stand by my reputation. Let's just put it that way.

Q: How is this for you? You know the situation.

A: Tough. I certainly do and yeah, it's tough. You lose a game like this because we'd still be in it I think and unfortunately we lost against a team that's won nine out of its last 10 games.

Q: Does the official elimination from playoff consideration have any impact on your thoughts about your coaching security?

A: I'm just going to coach. Like I say, nothing changes as far as what I'm going to try to do. I'm going to try to do the best that I can and that's what I'll sign up for.

Q: Rex, what led you to think the defense was going to stop them in that end-of-game situation?

A: Well I did. I believed in us. They never scored every time they had the ball but I had faith that we would stop them.

Q: Can you imagine if it's your defense that leads you out?

A: That'd be a first.

Q: Hypothetically, did you have enough confidence in Dan Carpenter to send him back out there?

A: Yeah, we would have kicked it from wherever, 55 yards if we had to.

Q: Even with the way he was kicking it today?

A: Look, I know he missed a couple of kicks but without question I would have trotted him back out there.

Q: You said you'll let your reputation stand in terms of evaluation but do you think you've done enough during your two years here to stay as coach?

A: You know what, I'm not going to get into that. I'm going to say this; as a coach, all you can do is the very best you can and 100 percent I'll stand by that.

Q: How much are you aware of what's going on with the Jacksonville-Tennessee game while it's happening?

A: Well I thought we were still alive, that's what I was thinking. I never saw the end of it but I know Jacksonville was up so I was aware of that. I don't know how it ended though.

Q: When you're formulating your strategy for when you're going to punt or kick a field goal or whatever it is, when does that come? Before the game? During?

A: Well I think sometimes you have it in the back of your mind but you let the game sometimes dictate it. Would we have kicked a field goal if it would've been tighter? I'm not so sure, we might have gone for it. I kept saying it even when we were backed up. Anything inside a yard, we're going for it and that's how I felt. I felt better about that possibility than further away.

Q: In that situation, if it is fourth-and-one, you're going for it?

A: Yeah.

Q: It looked like after that field goal where you didn't get the timeout, it looked like the referee was trying to say something.

A: I'm not sure.

Q: He didn't say anything to you?

A: The referee? Yeah he goes, "I never heard you, I never heard you."

Q: On that late play when you have 10 guys on the field, is that coaching or players?

A: I think what happened was we had a young man that's now in the concussion protocol. I think the communication he had was he was heading back on the field and apparently that wasn't the case.

Q: Why the end-around call with Reggie Bush?

A: We thought it would work. That's why we ran it.

Q: Will Tyrod Taylor start next week?

A: Yeah, he will be my quarterback.

Q: Who was the hurt player?

A: It was (Stephon) Gilmore. And I think we assumed he was going back in the game and I was told and apparently it didn't happen. Obviously we didn't know about it or we would have called a timeout.

Q: Thoughts on the defense's performance?

A: Well I think, obviously they broke a lot of tackles without question. You've got to give them credit, they're a good football team, and they made some plays.