



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM

Jan. 1, 2017 | 1 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

New England Patriots Quarterback Tom Brady (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)

(I asked Head Coach Bill Belichick and DB Devin McCourty about mental toughness and blocking out little things, whether it be having to sit on an airplane, the heat coming in like that. Is this team exceptional in its ability to kind of narrow its focus about all the outside stuff?) – “Well, I think we’ve proven that we can deal with a lot of things over the course of the year. 14-2 is a good place to be. It’s pretty sweet to come here and win. It’s been a tough place for us to play and that’s an excited locker room. To finish eight wins in a row too, with our wins, those are fun flights home and bus rides. It’s been good. We’ve worked pretty hard, like every team does, and it’s good to be in this position. We’ll try to take advantage of this week off and get some good things accomplished. We’ll be ready to play our best football no matter who we play.”

(You guys had no ambiguity over whether or not you were going to rest a little bit, play a little bit, etc. You just went out and played as if this was any other week. Is there an advantage to doing that aside from just winning the game? Having that clear cut approach.) – “Well I think like I said the last couple weeks, we’ve talked a lot about last season and the way that ended. I think it’s just important to keep that foot on the gas pedal. It was good; we started fast. They got a little momentum there in the second half and then ‘Jules’ (Julian Edelman) made a huge play, Mike (Floyd) made a huge block, that was sweet. It was great to get contributions from everybody, all the backs, all the tight ends, the linemen are playing great and the receivers are all doing a great job. Hopefully we can get healthy, be at full strength and be ready to go for whoever we play. They’ll be a great football team. They’ll have earned the right to be there and we’ll see if we can get a win.”

(In your 17th season here, can you talk about your motivation going into the playoffs? Is it something you have to rediscover every season or is it something that has just stuck with you throughout your career?) – “I think every year just presents different challenges. I think you learn different things over the years. I think you take what you learn and just try to apply it the best you can. Seventeen years is a long time and it’s just good to come down here and win. This has always been a challenging place for us, for one reason or another. We just found a way to beat a good football team. They are a playoff team and if they win next week then we’ll play them again, so we’ll see how it goes.”

(WR Michael Floyd, can you talk about Michael and how he’s come in during such a short period of time and trying to fit in? I guess you target him today for the first time with the touchdown pass and the big block. Just talk about Michael coming in here and trying to fit into this organization.) – “To come in at this point, like I said, is very tough. There’s so much installation that’s





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already been done, we've talked about so many coaching points and there's really not the time to make the mistakes anymore. He's a veteran, he's played for a long time and I think he's played in some meaningful games. Today, that was an unbelievable touchdown and the block was awesome. He got open on the slant. I had him open on another one but the pass got knocked down at the line of scrimmage. He's done a great job. He's put a lot of time and effort in. Jacoby Brissett has done a great job helping him out, you know to take extra time with him and really nail some things down. He went out there and played with a lot of confidence and it's great to have good players. That helps everybody."

(You've been down this road many times before. What do you like about this team to give you guys a chance to get where you want to go, relative to the other ones you've been on? You know what those teams have had to get you where you wanted to go.) – "All those years have been different so that's the thing about football, you've got to put the work in every week. Just because you win this last weekend doesn't mean anything two weeks from now. We'll be watching next week and some team is going to win and will look really good and you'll go, 'Oh my God, we have to play those guys?' You've just got to go put the work in. You've got to put the same effort in every single day. There is an urgency that really starts with (Head) Coach (Bill) Belichick. He walks in every day and says, 'This is a big day. We've got to accomplish a lot of things today. You know it's boom, boom, boom, boom, boom. These are the keys to win. Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom.' The guys have to embrace those. You've got to understand what your role is. You've got to go out there on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and practice that in whatever conditions are out there on the practice field. Then you go in, you talk about it, you try to correct things and then Friday, at the end of the week, you put together the plan. Saturday, you talk about it and review it. It's just a marathon. I think this team showed a lot of mental toughness that they can do it week-in and week-out at a consistent level. That's what it takes. Any team can go 8-8. You win one, you lose one, you win one. You lose and you're like, 'We've got to get it going.' I think our coaches do such a great job of getting us going when we win. To say forget about last week, we've got to move on. That game's over and we've got to learn from it and we've got to take the things that really helped us win and we've got to build on those things. These are the types of things we did that we're going to lose. We've got to learn from those. It's good to not have to learn from the losses. 14-2 is a tough thing to do. I think it's very cool for this team to accomplish that."

(How much momentum does it give the offense when the defense forces a turnover and gives the offense good field position?) – "It was great. They've been doing that a bunch the last four or five weeks. Getting a lot of turnovers and getting us in great field position. That's got to be the key a few weeks from now. We've done a good job with that this season, protecting the football. We're





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going to go into a sudden death game where that's what it's going to come down to – possessions, scoring points and taking advantage of our scoring opportunities. We did a good job of that today when we got some turnovers from our defense. We took advantage of it, moved the ball down the field and scored some points. That's going to be really important in a few weeks."

(How disruptive was yesterday? The delay, not getting down here until later and having to scrap some plans?) – "I think it was just an adjustment. We were sitting on the runway for a long time. Usually Saturday night is an important night for our team and for our offense to get together and review everything. We just didn't have a chance to do it since we got in so late, but it was still good to win. A lot of people took advantage of the time and got some extra rest on the plane. we watched a lot of film. When you get six hours on the plane as opposed to three, you can double up your film time, so I think that's an advantage. You just take what you get and try to make the most of it."

(The importance of your offensive line this year and the improvement that group has made, particularly today, the heat, the circumstances out there throughout. It's a big difference from a year ago this time in terms of protection.) – "They've done an incredible job. I think they've just, I can't say enough good things about what they have accomplished as individuals, as players, and collectively as a unit. Marcus (Cannon) and Nate (Solder), and how great they've played and on a consistent basis. Shaq (Mason) and Joe (Thuney) and then Dave (Andrews) was kind of the ring leader. He just brings such great energy and enthusiasm and he's had a great season. They've had a great year. They've had a great ... (Offensive Line Coach) Dante (Scarnecchia) is just the best coach, the best offensive line coach in the NFL. He does a great job with all of them. Ted (Karras) got some action. 'Flems' (Cameron Fleming) did a good job when he got in there. 'L.A.' (LaAdrian Waddle), he's been ready to go, just hadn't gotten the opportunity. It's been great to see all of them contribute. The run game's been great. (We're) throwing the ball well so protecting the ... protection's been great so they've had a great season."

