



ATLANTA FALCONS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM

Aug. 10, 2017 | 7 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Atlanta Falcons Head Coach Dan Quinn (transcribed by Ken Mendonca and Sydney Wade)

(Opening Statement) – “Before we begin tonight, I’d like to recognize a guy from South Florida who means a great deal to me, and that’s Jason Taylor. For him to be inducted and enshrined into the Hall of Fame this past week, all of us who know him are really proud of him. Let’s get started from the game. I thought in the first half there were some good situations we’ve worked on from camp. We had fourth downs, we had two minutes at the half, and defensively we were looking to see tackling, where we were at in the run game. We got two takeaways defensively and that part we were encouraged by, but we also lost two on teams, so it’s kind of a tale of two halves tonight. Lots to teach from, especially in the second half. We’ll look at that tonight and then we get right back into training camp mode for us beginning tomorrow, and we’ll take that through the next few days. So with that, I’m glad to open up to your questions regarding the ballgame.”

(Coach were you pleased with the opening three-and-out, you get the big punt return, QB Matt Ryan, they go and score?) – “I was and that’s kind of what we were talking about to say, could we force a shorter field. We were pleased with the return game from (Andre) Roberts early on, and then when we had a chance to go for it on fourth down we want to stay aggressive in those moments. I thought from the execution standpoint, offensive line and Matt (Ryan), they seemed to be in sync early on. That was a good step in terms of how we like to set it off. Unfortunately for us, as it went down into the fourth quarter we weren’t able to sustain that, but we were pleased with how it began tonight.”

(Indications on how Ben G Garland did in his action there and how did G Wes Schweitzer do in his?) – “You know we put them back and forth, so we’re going to go back tonight and take a look at that. I didn’t have a sense in-game for those two, so we’ll take a look at them tonight, and I’ll give you a better indication of that as we move forward.”

(I was going to ask you about the guard play too and also about your run game. What did you see in your third and fourth backs?) – “We know, for us, it’s a long way to go to get a run game going like we’re accustomed to, so we got to keep working the reps at it. Tonight was a step, different front, different system, and we need that. Our line of scrimmage is something that we’re always going to emphasize. We didn’t get on track tonight in the run game like we’re accustomed to and that’ll be a real point of focus for us.”

(You said the wide receiver competition would come down to special teams value. What did you see from WR Marvin Hall and WR Reggie Davis in that area tonight?) – “Reggie (Davis) jumped





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out. Marvin (Hall) did. We were really wanting to find out ... (Josh) Magee was one, (Deante) Burton was one, Nick Williams – all those guys. We just love what they stand for as competitors. I thought each of them had their 'opps' (opportunities) to make some plays, and we'll go back and look at it tonight. We're certainly a long way from deciding where we're at with that group, but I do like the way they compete."

(What did you think of RB Devonta Freeman scoring to celebrate his new contract?) – "He thought he was going to score on one of the runs, and I think (Ndamukong) Suh had a pretty good hold of him, but he thought he had a chance for it, so we were going to see what kind of celebration was going to come from that. We're really thrilled for (General Manager) Thomas (Dimitroff) and his guys to get this deal done, knowing what a significant factor he is for us. He's one of the guys who are really important on this team, and I think the organization showed that commitment back."

(What's S Keanu Neal's situation?) – "We're hopeful to have some guys that missed today back as early as Sunday. I thought they could have been close to playing. (Jack) Crawford was one, (Keanu) Neal was one, Taylor Gabriel, Julio Jones – that crew – we're hopeful as we get into next week we'll see if they can get more work. I think we came out OK tonight from an injury standpoint, so we'll take a look at that over the next few days. We're hopeful to have Neal and Crawford back into action soon."

(Coach what's your take on LB De'Vondre Campbell and maybe that one-handed interception?) – "The length. And both guys who had the picks tonight, you really saw how long they were. Dre (De'Vondre Campbell) is really somebody that stood out to us this training camp so far. We've asked line of scrimmage stuff, playing SAM linebacker, covering tight ends. We've asked him to rush more, so he's off to a good start. We still want to get our mindset for the ball stronger, but we were pleased to see that play from him tonight."

(On the 99-yard pass, that had to be a little bit disheartening) – "It's one of the big alerts we have when teams are backed up – a lot of times pass plays to the flat or deep shot plays. For Jalen (Collins) and for (Marcelis) Branch also, not to get the player down ... Sometimes the deep pass is completed, but we've got to get the player down. If it ends up being a 40-yard pass, those ones you get to fight another down. When they go the distance, those ones are tough to handle. Like I said, we'll go back through it. Se know we've got lots of work to do, and that's what we'll set our mind on doing."

(Did you like the fact that the game was close at the end? You talked about situational football. It's preseason now, it's not so important, but the fact that it was close you test guys.) – "The





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preseason, we do love it. We love the matchups. The young players, especially at the end, who were kind of going through their first experience at it. All the different things that could come up – four-minute offense, two minute in defense – we look forward to those times, and we practice them a bunch, so when they get into them, those could feel real normal. So, we were disappointed we were unable to execute that at the end tonight.”

(Happy to see K Mike Meyer kick a 53 yarder?) – “We knew we’d give him a shot. You guys who’ve been to practice, you’ve seen how strong his leg is. So, we thought if he had the opportunity, we were going to give him a shot at it. And it just so happened that he nailed it just like he does it practice. He has got a fantastic model to look for in terms of consistency in Matt Bryant. Watching that, every kick the same and doing it, that has really rubbed off on Mike as well, so we’re happy for him tonight.”

(You said last year you threw a lot at LB De’Vondre Campbell as a rookie. How has he been able to develop all that in his second season?) – “It’s usually a pretty big jump that a player can make from Year 1 to Year 2, and it also takes place from (Year) 2 to 3. So, I think that’s pretty normal some of the improvement that you’re seeing from ‘Dre (De’Vondre Campbell) from (Brian) Poole from (Austin) Hooper from (Keanu) Neal, and we’re anxious to see these guys and where they can go to. We also think that takes place from a player going from (Year) 2 to 3 to see that kind of jump. We’ve got high hopes for ‘Dre (De’Vondre Campbell) in terms of all the different roles that he has for our team. It’s one the topics (General Manager) Thomas (Dimitroff) talk about – tight ends and matchups and how do you use different sized players. So, we’re anxious to use him in every role that he can.”

(Does that versatility help?) – “It does, because now you have different ways to match up players and different opponents. In some games it’s tight ends and backs you’re looking at, and other games it’s receivers, so how do you use a guy with his length.”

(You mentioned that you want those tough situations like fourth down to feel normal. This was Offensive Coordinator Steve Sarkisian’s first game calling plays for the Falcons. Did it feel normal with him in your ear?) – “It did for him. And being in the press box, I just wanted to make sure our communication was right, and that’s our first time going through it. On those ones, I’d give him an alert like, ‘If we get this distance on third down, we’ll go for it on fourth.’ So, he was aware of those. It’s important for us to go through that process together as well. From the press box, communication down to the quarterbacks, the play is in on time, that was important to see that kind of operation and that part went well.”

