



TENNESSEE TITANS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM

Oct. 8, 2017 | 1 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Tennessee Titans Head Coach Mike Mularkey (transcribed by Ken Mendonca & Armando Gonzalez)

(Opening Statement) – “I’ll start with the good: our defense. I thought they played really well. They came back from last week, responded and played our kind of defense. We put them in some bad positions offensively, with obviously turnover and just field position all day, offensively, because we just could not convert a third down. Might be one of the worst third down games I can remember. And obviously, you can’t get into a rhythm. Felt good coming into the second half. Coming out, we got a three and out and then we went down and scored a touchdown and felt good about that we were going to be able to turn that game around. We just could not be consistent with our play offensively. And special teams we have to quit the penalties. It’s just undisciplined. A lot of it’s the same guys. I got to take them off if they can’t stop it. Any questions?”

(Thoughts on the touchdown that you lost in the first half?) – “Where that came from, I don’t know. Poor call, really poor call.”

(What about two plays later? Did you get a good look at the fumble?) – “Yeah, that was close as well. That was close as well. It could have gone either way. The problem was that our guys heard a whistle, which they’ve already come down from New York [and said] that there wasn’t a whistle, but I think I’ll believe my offensive linemen before I believe anybody in New York. When they said there’s a whistle, I believe our guys. There’s no reason for them to tell me that. There’s no reason for them to all stop on the play if they didn’t hear one, and so they did. So that’s the frustrating part. That’s really the frustrating part about that play. And I really wish that would have been talked about before they came out of review. It should have been talked about.”

(Can you talk about the offense with a new quarterback coming in, how much of that do you put on being out of sync and not being able to get into a rhythm?) – “That’s not all on Matt (Cassel). We all got to rally around Matt and do a better job for Matt. You can give them credit for their third down defense against us, but I know I can go down each play of those third downs and look at something we did that didn’t help matters.”

(What’s the situation with T Taylor Lewan?) – “We’re going to do an MRI when we get back to Nashville with Taylor. Don’t think it’s serious – he obviously he went back in there – but we’ll know more probably tomorrow with him.”





TENNESSEE TITANS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM

Oct. 8, 2017 | 1 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

(How did you think G/T Dennis Kelly did on those plays?) – “Good. Obviously, that sack at the end hurt. Tough environment; it was loud. He had problems hearing out there, which, that’s typically the case on the road. But for the most part, I thought he held up pretty well.”

(With T Taylor Lewan was it something mobility-wise, or was it the pain became too much?) – “I think it’s always about the pain – the pain tolerance – anytime anybody can’t go.”

(How come the run game couldn’t get going and how much did you need that?) – “We needed it to go, and I will give them credit on that. They did a good job up front stuffing us. There’s a number of things we can do to counter what they did, but they stuffed us up front. That’s hard to get into rhythm when you can’t get into third down and makeables, when you’re not running the ball effectively.”

(I know it wasn’t just QB Matt Cassel, but how would you evaluate his play today?) – “I think he managed the offense well. I think there are some throws I know he’d like to have back. There are some throws I’d like to see our guys make plays for him. I’d like to see us protect a little better. We had a couple situations that we had some free runners. Those are balls that should be out that are hot throws. We should get rid of it. But overall, it’s the first time he’s started and played a game since last year. Again, I’ll make a good call after I watch him.”

(How close did QB Marcus Mariota get at the end there to being able to play?) – “Not real close, not enough that you could put him in that situation out there with the crowd noise and having to move around as much as Matt (Cassel) had to. I’m glad we didn’t play him.”

(If today was a playoff game...) – “It would’ve been much more of a discussion, yeah.”

(NFL Network reported this morning that it’s a two to four week injury. Is there accuracy there? Is there a chance he misses multiple games?) – “No, you can listen to NFL Network or you can listen to me when I say day to day. I’m going to tell you like it is.”

(How do you feel about QB Marcus Mariota’s chances to play next Monday?) – “I feel better about that one than this one. I held out hope, but I feel better about that one.”

(Is this a dig deep moment for this team after five games?) – “Again, I don’t want to take away how our defense responded from last week with what took place this week. I thought they responded well. We didn’t do so much offensively. Again, we’ve got to do some things to help Matt (Cassel). Even





TENNESSEE TITANS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS

HARD ROCK STADIUM

Oct. 8, 2017 | 1 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

coaching-wise we got to do a better job (and) see whatever way we can find a way to make a third down.”

(Can QB Matt Cassel make all the throws you need him to make?) – “I’d say yeah. For what we’re asking him, yes.”

(You talked about the run game and also gave up six sacks. Did you need your offensive line to take ownership?) – “Yes. Up front, running the ball and protections.”

(Why do you think that failed?) – “Well you can give credit to them (Miami). I always like to do that, and in a lot of that case this is true. They beat us up front. There’s no one-on-one. You got to block them one-on-one. Tough guys to block.”

(When you drive the field to start the second half you said you felt good. What didn’t continue then after that drive the rest of the game?) – “Just making some plays, making some runs, some throws, some catches. We made some plays. (Eric) Decker had some good plays on that drive. We just weren’t making any plays.”

(CB Adoree’ Jackson had a couple of big plays today, knocked down a touchdown pass, had a forced fumble. Are you seeing positive things out of him?) – “Yeah, I do. He made some good plays for us. He’s playing good out there. I thought our secondary played better. I thought Adoree’ played well. I’m trying to think of anything negative other than him bringing it out at 108. Don’t want him to do that.”

(On the touchdown to WR Jarvis Landry, was it a soft spot right in there?) – “Yeah, just got to step over the line. We got to close on it.”

(How much did RB DeMarco Murray’s fumble set you back at that stage?) – “Well they got points off of it, so that’s not good. That’s just tough as far as getting any kind of momentum. You got a good run - I think we had 9 on the run – and then to lose the ball, you went from an immediate positive to a catastrophic negative and put them in a position to score immediately.”

(P Brett Kern kind of keep field position?) – “Kern has been punting, all year long, outstanding. That backed up punt, to get it out of there with one step was pretty impressive, but he has been doing that all year.”





TENNESSEE TITANS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM

Oct. 8, 2017 | 1 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

(How's LB Wesley Woodyard?) – "He's fine. Really the only ... Ty Smith came out with concussion symptoms, but he was fine. He's the only one, other than Taylor (Lewan), that did not go back in the game. Other than that, I think we're pretty healthy."

(In the last series, what happened for them to be able to run out the clock there? Dissapointing?) – "They just moved the pile, kept getting the first downs. They did a good job managing the clock, I thought, there at the end."

(What did you think of the TE Phillip Supernaw sequence with the two penalties?) – "Well he made up for it, I'll say that. Very frustrated by it. From what I ... You can't do that. You can't do that in a tight red zone – you can't do it twice in a row – but he did make up for it and made a really good play."

(How come you didn't challenge the spot on the late run still outside of two minutes and seemed to be short? RB Jay Ajayi and third down, I think.) – "I don't think ... Di I have any timeouts left? I didn't have any timeouts left."

(You called timeout after he converted.) – "I thought he was short. I called a timeout before I had a chance to challenge it, because I thought he was short. I think that was our last one."

(So in hindsight it would've been better to challenge it than use the timeout?) – "Probably, but it was close. We weren't getting many very calls today."

(Do you expect QB Matt Cassel to start next week?) – "Yes, if Marcus [Mariota] can't play."

(Is LB Daren Bates ok?) – "Yes, he's fine."

