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## TENNESSEE TITANS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM Oct. 8, 2017 | 1 P.M.

### POSTGAME QUOTES

#### Tennessee Titans QB Matt Cassel (transcribed by Paige Jefferson)

**(When did you know for sure you were getting to start?)** – “Probably around Friday I was guessing that I was going to be starting and was officially told Saturday, but throughout the course of the week obviously, I had preparation this week and took most of the reps in practice and everything else, so that wasn’t an issue going into it.”

**(Do you think the turnover was an incomplete pass as opposed to a fumble?)** – “You know what, they called it a fumble, so it is what it is. Unfortunately, you try to throw balls and you’d love for it to be an incomplete pass in that situation because a turnover obviously cost us points.”

**(Did you hear a whistle? A lot of guys said that the reason they didn’t stop the return is because they thought the play was over.)** – “Right, they called the ball dead, from our perspective they did; but at the same time, they overturned that and you just have to live with that.”

**(Did it feel like it left your hand as a pass?)** – “I mean it felt like I was in the top of my throwing motion at that point; but at the same time, like I said, they overturned it and you’ve got to live with that and overcome it.”

**(What about your range of emotions when you think you complete a long touchdown pass to TE Delanie Walker and then you find that there is a penalty on the field on TE Jonnu Smith? Take us through your thought process there and did you see the call that Smith was whistled for?)** – “I didn’t see the call. Obviously, the height of emotion at that point. You throw a touchdown pass and you run down the field to go celebrate and then the next thing you know, the call gets returned on a penalty and it’s a tough pill to swallow at that point. Then I think the turnover was the next play or something like that? So it was a big turn of events in a small period of time.”

**(What got going on the touchdown drive? What went well there that you weren’t able to do on other drives?)** – “We just started completing some passes and started getting into a rhythm and moving the ball well. TE Phillip Supernaw went up and made a great catch in the back of the end zone. It’s one of those things that we finally got into a rhythm and I don’t think we were able to really do that very well most of the day. We’ve got to do better in situational football, especially on third down, to extend drives. And I think that that’s something that we’ve got to continue to work to get better at.”

**(Once you got that going, why was it difficult to maintain that?)** – “They did a good job today. I think that they rushed me pretty well today and we weren’t able to really establish the run game real well. At





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that point, we knew it was going to be a tight game but at the same time you'd love to get into more of a rhythm. Like I said, on third-down opportunities, we've got to convert more of those and keep ourselves on the field."

**(How much did field position take you guys out of what you maybe wanted to do, being backed up on the goal line?)** – "That's a good point. They did a good job of pinning us back quite a few times today. When you're in that situation, I think that you're trying to come out of the end zone, you're trying to be careful at the same time. I think they might have taken us out of some of the normal plays that we would call on the field."

**(Head Coach Mike Mularkey and the offensive linemen and the run game all said they need to do more to help put you in positions to succeed. When you hear guys talking like that, what does that bring out for you?)** – "We've all got a job to do and they do a tremendous job and I've got the utmost respect for our offensive line. I think it's one of the best offensive lines in the league. I've got to do a better job and we've all got to do a better job offensively in order to be more successful on Sundays."

**(How aware were you of T Taylor Lewan trying to fight through a knee injury and whether it was him or T Dennis Kelly out there at left tackle?)** – "At first, I knew that Lewan hurt himself on the play. I knew that I saw him come back out and I knew he was going to fight and do everything he can because that's the type of personality that Lewan has. Throughout the course of the game obviously I saw Dennis come in. We've got a lot of faith in Dennis and he's a great player as well."

**(We got here just after you started, I don't know if you talked about the touchdown that you lost. What's your perspective on what happened on that play to draw the call?)** – "You know what, I don't know because, obviously, I was looking down the field and when we completed the ball, I thought it was a for sure touchdown. I wasn't even paying attention to anything behind me at that point. I was already taking off running down the field and, as we discussed earlier, I think just the turn of emotions at that point and then a play later, they overturn gets returned and it results in 7 points for them; so it was a big turn of emotion, but you've got to be able to overcome that adversity."

**(And along those lines, you guys playing with a lead would have been a whole lot different than playing catch up today, offensively, I would assume.)** – "When you're playing with the lead it's a little different, there's no doubt about it."

**(What was the feeling like, Matt, I guess as the team leaves here 2-3 – not where you want to be but there are 11 games left. What was kind of the mindset leaving here?)** – "Leaving here, obviously





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you want to come down here and get a victory. We didn't do it and, like you said, we've got 11 games left to play. That's a lot of season left and if I know this team and I know this locker room, which I feel I'm pretty comfortable in saying, they're going to do everything in our power to turn this thing around and get going in the right direction and play better ball."

**(How's your arm strength at this point in your career compared to your peak?)** – "I don't know, to be honest with you."

**(Do you feel confident that you can make every throw in the playbook or anything you might come across?)** – "Yes."

**(How would you grade your chemistry and timing with the receivers today?)** – "I think it's hard to say. I'd have to watch the film and all of that stuff. I think we did pretty well. We had some quick game and stuff like that but at the end of the day, like I said, I think it's going to come down to third down and how we can get better there."

**(Did you and QB Marcus Mariota communicate a lot during the game? What was that like with you guys reversing and switching roles for the day. How much interaction did you have on the sideline?)** – "It's a little different, obviously, having Marcus there; but he's a great teammate today. He came up and just was talking about what they were doing, especially when we got to the 2-minute situation we were thinking we would get at the end of the game, with what they did in the first 2-minute when we had it at the end of the (first) half. He was a great support factor and was trying to do everything he could to help us win."

**(How are you feeling physically? You got hit a few times pretty hard.)** – "I'll be fine. It's part of the game. You've got to be tough when you play this game and you've got to get up and it's just part of it."

