



MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Dolphins vs. Saints Transcripts (transcribed by the Atlanta Falcons)

DOLPHINS QUOTES

HEAD COACH ADAM GASE

On what changed between first and second half:

“We finished drives. That was really our biggest thing. [In the] first half we felt good as far as what we were doing moving the ball. The personal foul hurt us and set us back. The interception just kind of surprised me on the call they played. Jay [Cutler] stepped up in the pocket and missed the throw a little bit. It really just isn’t one of my favorite calls based on what they did.”

On the play of offensive line:

“The biggest thing we stressed all week was about starting and finishing and really that is what he did those last two drives against Tennessee Titans. We wanted to build off that, and that is what we really focused on. We were trying to put the rest of that game behind us and you saw that today. Jay [Ajayi] had some good runs, seeing the holes, breaking tackles, and fought hard for every yard he had. The receivers did as well, and we just stayed with it and executed the plays.”

On the decision to stay with Jay Ajayi in the second half:

“He makes it really easy to stay with because it is almost like throwing the ball, you know you are going to get some of these 10, 12, and 15-yard runs. He starts hopping around feeling how they are playing him, and he is hard to bring down.”

On the touchdown to Jarvis Landry:

“It was really supposed to be Kenny’s [Still] touchdown, and Jay just saw them all go with Kenny. I was just glad he kept his head up and saw him.”

On the mental toughness of team:

“That’s what it was. These guys are different cats. They have something in them where it doesn’t matter what the score is. They will battle. Today was the first time the offense kind of gave our defense a little hope. Once we came out and scored and our defense saw us get in the end zone, the sideline came alive quick.”





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

On how the team handled difficult times of season:

“They just move on. That is what they do. That is what the NFL is. You face adversity all the time. It is only going to get worse the deeper the season goes, and it will be different things. You just stay focused on your job, push through, fight, put it on the back burner, and do your job.”

On how it felt to get the offense going:

“It means a lot to me because those guys are battling with physicality, and we are on the sidelines as spectators for the most part. You do everything you can to try and put them in the best position possible. It’s their game, and we are just there with them to try to help and do everything we can. I think he knew how I felt about getting things going on offense because that is the side of the ball I’m in charge of, and I felt like we were letting the defense down. He knew I wanted to get it going, and that the offense wanted to get it going.”

On what he was most proud of with the play of the offense line:

“They just fought. They kept playing every play. They played through the whistle. It cost us one personal foul, but they were just trying to protect the running backs and wide receivers, and watching those guys finish every play. It is what we need every week.”

On his thoughts on going for it on fourth down three times:

“We hadn’t been on that side of the field very much, so I felt like, ‘What do we have to lose?’ I felt good about the plays we had in. I felt good about who we had the ball going to, and we might as well be aggressive.”

On whether the play of defense influenced his decision to go for it:

“I guess I just have a lot of faith in our defense, so once we crossed the 50 or are anywhere near it we will probably go for it.”

On being aggressive and taking more gambles:

“That’s really how we have done it the last year and a half. This year we just haven’t been getting past the 50. We have been very inept, and this was the first game where we were in position of fourth and three or less, so we just had to go for it.”

On the decision to stick with Jay Cutler:

“I don’t care what anyone says. I’m going to do what I want to do, and what is best for the team. That is





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Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

how we operate. That is how we did it last year. I know the direction we are headed. I watch them in practice every day. I go through these steps with these guys. We are practicing well. Why are we not doing that well in a game? I feel like he is doing a lot of good things. We just got him in August, and we are a little bit behind from where I thought we would be. Hopefully, this is the first step. We put together two good drives in the Tennessee game. We had some good things going on today. We didn't finish the drives in the first half, but in the second half, we did. The longer we keep going, the better we are going to get, and that is the goal."

On the possible concussion for Mike Pouncey:

"I have to check with the trainers. I know he is in the protocol, but I can't say for sure."

On the play of Reshad Jones:

"He has been playing with everything he has. He wants to be an impact player every week. He wants to be the guy that makes the play like tonight or today that wins the game."

QUARTERBACK JAY CUTLER

On rallying from down 17 points:

"It's not easy to do, I can tell you that. It takes defense, and the defense went out there and they played the way they did in the second half. The offensive line did a great job all day. We were rolling a little in the first half but getting ready before halftime, we were kind of shooting ourselves in the foot. We felt confident going into halftime, we felt good about it. We just have to take it one stage at a time."

On Jarvis Landry:

"He is just a football player. He has a high football IQ, tough as nails, competitor, wants the ball on the play. You know he sees those third and fourth down plays, he going to get a catch and he's going to get more, he's going to attack the defense."

On this game being the win that will turn the season around:

"I mean, I think that the way the defense is playing if we can get a little bit better offensively. If we get it going offensively we will be okay. But we can't be satisfied with this game. We have to take a look at it, fix our mistakes and we have to move on. This is one big business, we have the Jets coming in and the game was on the line the last time we saw them."





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

On the confidence after today's game:

“Once you go out there and do it, you put up some points, I’m talking about the offensive side. The defense has been solid all year. Offensively, we go out there and say this is an example of how it’s done, this is the feeling you should feel when it happens. You experience and you know it’s not just talk, you can make it happen.”

On one game being more important than another:

“I think that you look back after the season and I don’t think that any season you can have perspective on that. Each game is so difficult to win in this league that you just have to take it one by one. And then after the season you might look back and say, that one was a big one. But I don’t think that at this point in our season, or really anytime throughout the year we can do that.”

On this win feeling different than other wins:

“Yeah, offensively in the second half, we’ve got to get it going. The defense and those guys are playing their tails off, and we have to match their effort, intensity, and focus. If we do that as a whole team, we’re going to win.”

RUNNING BACK JAY AJAYI

On what the win means:

“It’s a great win for us. With how we have been playing, it was great for us just to finish a game no matter what the obstacles are. We were down early. This week we really put it on ourselves to stay together and not get frustrated no matter what we do as an offense or whether we put points on the board. We didn’t want our emotions to get us out of the game. I think this week offensively we were really able to lock in as well and keep our emotions in check. That was big for us, and we were able to create big plays down the stretch. The defense did the rest.”

On the run game:

“From the start of the whistle, my mindset this game was to be downhill and physical with these guys. We felt like we had a big opportunity in the run game to get a lot of things done. The offensive line did great getting bodies on bodies. After that, it is really about me running with a physical mentality and running downhill trying not to get tackled. We were able to do that early and stay on that pace. Then we like to grind people out in the fourth quarter, and we were able to do that as well.”





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

On the number of carries despite being down early:

“I always want to be able to be a factor for this team and help us win. Being that workhorse for us, I pride myself on that. It was a clutch time getting crucial first downs in scoring range, and I was glad I was able to help. The offensive line and receivers on the outside did their jobs, and I just run hard.”

On the state of the offense after the first half:

“We knew most of our stuff was self-inflicted. Really this week it was about us keeping our emotions in check and staying together. As we were able to stay united, we were able to start quickly in the second half and keep our foot on the gas.”

On handling adversity during the week:

“That has been our M.O. I think. Whatever it is, however it is, we just find a way to get it done. We have a lot of great personalities on this team that has helped build that culture of challenging and fighting adversity head-on. It was a great game to showcase that, and we did. That’s a great team we just played in the Falcons, so credit to them. But it was exciting for us to rally and really show that we can come together in all phases and close out the game with a win.”

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN JERMON BUSHROD

On the feeling in the locker room during halftime:

“We knew the situation at hand and knew we needed to pick it up. We needed to keep doing what we were doing on the field. When we get in the red zone, we had to find a way to put points on the board.”

On the offensive performance:

“I think it was important for us to be as balanced as possible, especially in the run game. One thing we have been talking about is eliminating the negative plays. The fact that we can do that and then mix in the pass. The quarterback can get the play off and get the ball to our playmakers to make some plays. Really what we needed to do was just finish. We came out in the second half, and our defense made plays all game. We played great team ball in the second half.”

On the rushing game today:

“We had to come out and be physical. We knew we were not trying to be one dimensional offensively. We were trying to open up our playbook a little bit. It is a lot easier for our play caller to call plays when





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

it's second-and-six instead of second-and-nine, and if it is third-and-four instead of third-and-seven. We tried to keep ourselves out of some of those positions and situations."

WIDE RECEIVER KENNY STILLS

On how he feels about his team after the win:

"We're just happy to get a win. We try to take it one week at a time and this week we came out on top."

On how it felt to score the team's first touchdown of the game:

"I think it made a spark, we had a couple of good drives in the first half, so to be able to just put some points on the board you could see how the momentum shifted and we were able to take over the game from there."

On Jay Cutler's performance thus far:

"Jay's doing his job, it's a team sport. For the average fan or person who watches football, it's easy to blame one person. He's been doing his job, we just have to do a better job of supporting him and helping him out, and I think we did that today."

DEFENSIVE END CAMERON WAKE

On the win:

"It feels good. It is hard to rank them. Anytime you fight your way out of a hole and come out successful especially against a good team it definitely is going to be one that makes you feel good for a little while."

On the defense getting better each week:

"We always try to prove ourselves. Last week we knew we had some things to fix and coming into this game we made it about us. Outside of the locker room, we did not care about what everyone was saying. We were saying we had to believe in one another and go out there and do your job. The rest would take care of itself."

On how the defense played:

"We knew we had confidence in one another. And we just continued to keep playing and keep fighting





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

and we had confidence in them since weeks ago and we knew when the time came they would get the job done. Last week they put points on the board and got the job done and this week did the same.”

On what rallying to win says about this team:

“We’ve been saying it for forever, but again, it is not what anyone else says about us. I don’t care about what anyone else says about us, it’s about the guys to my left and my right. We came into halftime and we knew we were going to do whatever we had to in order to get this win. We had guys buckle down and make some adjustments and did the job. Again, who cares what people say about us? We believe in us, we are going to go out there and fight regardless of the situation, back against the wall or not. I think that is just how we are built.”

On whether this can be the game that turns the season around:

“I think time will tell. We are going to enjoy this one but there are a few things we need to fix. We could have made this game a little different on the defensive side of the ball and hopefully, I can say that this is just another piece of evidence to say what we are capable of. Whether this is a year changing win or not, we will be able to look back at the end of the season and tell or not. Being 1-0 is our goal and we’ve done that so we will take this win back to Miami.”

On getting pressure on Matt Ryan:

“I’d like to think playing together. Offensively they started to put some points on the board and then we forced situations to where they had to throw the ball and that’s where we thrive. Obviously, we have a great front seven and we are going to put the offense in a situation where they can’t just dink and dunk. If you try to hold the ball it is our job as a front to get there and make you pay. Offense, defense, special teams, I think we all just played together in the second half and that is just a product of all of our effort.”

DEFENSIVE TACKLE NDAMUKONG SUH

On the challenges of playing against Atlanta:

“I think we understood that it was going to be a tough task. An elite quarterback who understands their scheme, two great running backs, and obviously a great receiver whose an All-Pro guy. We understood we were going to have our hands full but at the end of the day we had confidence in our defense and understood that we would just have to execute. You know we made some mistakes, we didn’t tackle in some situations, but for the most part, we did what we needed to do and we held them to 17 points.”





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

On whether they fed off of the success their offense was having in the second half:

“Yeah, no question. That was our goal. We talked at the half and understood that they were going to come out with a certain way of doing things and they threw some stuff at us that they had never done before like unbalanced. We knew if we weathered those storms we would be fine.”

On how the offensive line played:

“Resilience, plain and simple as that. I think those guys understand what they have as a group. They are very tough, obviously, they go against us and we push them and we strive to push them and continue to do that and vice versa for them. At the end of the day, they are a good group and they are very coachable. With the current situation from Monday, and them coming in with a new coach who is kind of changing the stints, they executed.”

On where they are right now:

“I can’t look at the bigger picture. We are 3-2 and are obviously taking good strides. I’m happy we came in and stole one on the road and that’s our goal. Now we are going to go home and get prepared for the Jets.”

On Reshad Jones:

“That’s why he gets paid the big bucks. I mean he is a playmaker and we expect for him to make plays. Vice versa we obviously create the pressure at the line for him to make plays and be the elite player that he is.”

On the play of Kiko Alonso, Rey Mauluga, and Lawrence Timmons:

“I’ve said it before but they have got great experience. And like I have said before our entire defense has just been executing. If we continue to execute then we will be successful.”

On staying in the game despite being down 17-0 at halftime:

“It’s easy. At the end of the day, we have been in this situation before. With this particular group, we’ve been down 17, 21, 24, you name it. Being in this situation in the past we knew we had to execute and that’s the mindset that we need to continue to have. Obviously, we would love to not be down 17-0 and be able to close a game out but we are not scared of being in that type of situation.”





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

FALCONS QUOTES

HEAD COACH DAN QUINN

Opening Statement:

“We had a tale of two halves. Coming off of our bye, I was pleased with the preparation heading in, and we were hoping to see more energy from our team. I thought we had opportunities today in all three phases, and in the second half we did not own those. This one hurts no doubt, and for us to be the team we know we can be, we’ve got to play more consistently for the whole time. The expression we use is do it right longer, so that’s what we will do. With that, I’ll be glad to open it up to your questions regarding the game.”

On teams coming back in the second half:

“Well, for sure it’s one we’ll have to look back again into. Today, I thought for the second half it was a case of where we had some errors and some missed opportunities that were the biggest factor in the loss today. By no means do I mean it’s a systemic one or game management one. In fact, I was happy how it went at the end of the half. We had good game management, and I was happy at the end. While we’re on that topic, we were going to go win it at the end. Make no mistake about it, we had time-outs, we had time, and we were going to go down to try and score. That’s what took place. I thought there were some good plays that we executed on the way, and then the turnover at the end was certainly costly after the tipped pass. We’re disappointed. For us to be the team we can be, we’ve got to be more consistent.”

On the pass to Austin Hooper that resulted in an interception:

“I’ll have to go back and look at the film to see. I couldn’t tell if that was the one, but it certainly looked like one that we were comfortable with. On the tipped pass, we’ve had a few of those this year that have ended up going the other way. Oftentimes we’re the recipient of those going that way, so we’ll go back and look to see if there’s no spot. Actually in the rip of the throw, it looked to be in the right spot.”

On the roughing the passer call on Grady Jarrett:

“It wasn’t the time that they described to me because it could be too quick. It’s the element of time. It’s usually the late hit, but they actually called that they thought he hit him under the chin because I asked that same one. Was it a delay? I wanted the answer for that, and they came back and thought that he had hit him in the head and neck area after the pass. It was a delay is what I was told.”





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

On how frustrating it is to be in this situation again:

“Any time you are, it totally bums you out, and you try to find out what was the cause of not being able to finish like we wanted, and that’s what we will do. We’ll reset it and get right to it because in our league you’ve got to go back and get ready to play again. You’ve got to get the corrections first. All of the ones are teaching moments, but you don’t really get tested until you’re in the fire. For us to not close today like we wanted to, that was disappointing because we were certainly ready to there at the end.”

On the reasons behind teams closing the gap in the second half:

“I wouldn’t say it’s a letdown. It’s not a case of like a letdown. Sometimes, and I’m not saying this is [the case], but you can over-try. I’m trying so hard not to foul up, and you’re not playing into your own self. We’ll look at everything. We looked at the four games that we had. We liked some closes that we had. I think we’re also missing the point. We had some down inside the 5-yard line that you stopped them. That’s a hell of a job. As you’re going through those in our game, you’re going to battle for them, and those ones that we did close to win we were happy with. As far as scores in the second half and letting those up, certainly not. When you hold a team to some field goals way back when in Detroit. We had four or five of them between the last Green Bay, and then long field goals over 50. Those are good plays that you got the stop. We’ll look back at it. I know I rambled on to your question, but we look at everything. Every game has different things that go on. One we thought our tackling wasn’t as good, one we thought the turnover margin wasn’t quite right, so those are factors that come up in all games. I think really the answer to your question is the consistency, and the three things. We take care of the ball, go after it defensively, and we play really assignment sound. Not only are we fun to watch, but we’re also tough as hell to beat. Until that consistency becomes right where you have mistakes that are costly, we can’t be the best version of ourselves. That’s what we’ve got to get done, and we will.”

On the continued emphasis on tackling:

“For sure those are ones that you look back and say, ‘Okay, how could you have done it differently.’ He’s a guy we really respect. I think he does a good job. He’s a tough, physical player. He’s a run-and-catch guy. When we go back and look at that one, we’ll see if it was a technique error that we could have done better. I think the bigger errors occur when there’s a foul or on long plays that caused something. The run-and-catch plays where you’re going to battle, that’s the life we live as competitors. You’re not going to stop every one of those, but the ones that are explosive or [have] technique errors, those are the ones that you’d better get corrected. The ones where you’re naturally going to battle for guys, you’re not going to win every single one. You’re going to win a lot, but you’re not going to win every one.”





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

On Steve Sarkisian being in the box today:

“Through the off-season, it was one of the topics that I discussed with him, and during the preseason we tried both. I preferred him being up and just seeing everything. It was really after the bye, and he said, ‘No problem.’ It was really more by my design, the ability to have the calls to the quarterback right there and seeing everything [including] the hash and the yard line really quickly. I think in our system, it benefits you to be in the press box.”

On Marvin Hall’s first career touchdown:

“What a great memory for him as a first NFL catch to have that one go. It’s one we’ve been working hard on in practice where we can connect on some of our deep plays because that’s where the explosive plays come from on your play-action. I thought that was a good sign of things ahead because of our ability to connect on those.”

On the team’s identity moving forward:

“I recognize the question too, so you don’t have to apologize for that. I do recognize it. You can’t replay the game that was played in the Super Bowl, but what we can do is control what we have now. For that one, it was a historic game and one that we didn’t get done, but we don’t look back to that one on every opportunity when we’re ahead or when we’re behind in any of that way. Our focus is 100 percent on now and who we are. We’ve got different guys in different spots, and it’s 100 percent about doing better in the here and the now, and that’s where our focus will stay.”

On whether there is a possibility of personnel changes:

“Not at this point. We’ll certainly look at that and see. We always do. We grade every player in every game, so we kind of track and mark to see where we’re at and how to feature them in the best way. As I’m standing here today, that would not be a topic that we’d have, but we’ll certainly look at ones. There wasn’t anything that stood out to me to say otherwise.”

QUARTERBACK MATT RYAN

On the Dolphins comeback:

“Well, I don’t go that far back in terms of thinking, but you know, that was the case today. 17-point lead at the half, and to come away without a win is disappointing. Just a pretty inconsistent game for us. I felt like we did some good things and made some good plays. We executed at a high level in the first half. In the second half, we got ourselves behind schedule, so it’s tough to overcome when you’re playing a





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

good defense and you're backed up on your first down plays or you have a penalty. I think the second drive in the second half we were in field goal range, and then kind of worked our way out of field goal range. When you're playing in this league against good defenses and good teams like this, you have to come away with points in those situations. I think that was what led to it today. I can't really speak for what has happened before.

On what happened in the second half:

"Well, I thought we put ourselves behind schedule. You know, the first drive of the second half, I think the first play we got backed up with a sack and did a good job on second and third down, but we were a little bit too far behind the chains to come away with a first down, so that was just an execution standpoint. And then again, on the the second drive of the second half, we got into field goal range. We're down there in field goal range, moving the ball, penalty, and another sack, and we kind of got out of a spot where we could put points on the board. I think that was critical early. I thought we did a nice job at the end of the game getting down into giving ourselves a chance to win that football game, and just a disappointing way that it ended.

On losing the ball to an interception:

"I mean, it's always disappointing when you don't get the result that you want when you fall short. I thought we did a nice job of executing to get ourselves down into that situation. I felt like I made the right read in that situation, put it where I wanted to, and that's how the game goes sometimes. I'm disappointed with it, but we're going to continue to battle, and I think we'll be better for it and hopefully more mentally and physically tough as a football team moving forward."

On overcoming the second half as a team:

"I think we need to score points offensively. I think it's as simple as that. It's about execution, staying in front of the chains like we do, and when we have our opportunities in field goal range or in the red zone, we've got to come away with touchdowns. That's what it boils down to. This game, this league is about execution, and it's about being consistent throughout the game, and we need to do a better job of that."

On the decision to stay aggressive on the last drive:

"For sure. Again, I thought it was the right decision. Aggressive or [not], I understood we were in field goal range to tie the game. I also understood that we had plenty of time on the clock, and it was a throw that I felt good about. I let it rip, and again, just a good play by them. Sometimes that's how it goes."





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

On overcoming the second half letdowns:

“That’s one of those things that we talk about staying aggressive all the time. That’s something that we need to do a better job of as a team this year. We had an opportunity this week in the second half to play with a lead. Trust me, it’s disappointing whenever you lose, and it’s disappointing when you have a lead and it gets away from you. Again, it comes down to a few plays here or there where we had opportunities to come away with points or to make a play here or there to extend a drive. Sometimes it comes on first down. Sometimes it comes on second down. You really just have to execute at a really consistent, high level, and we haven’t done that. We didn’t do that today.”

On the offense’s performance in the second half:

“It’s one of those things. Sometimes games shake out like that. We have very few possessions, maybe four, I think, in the second half. I thought we had two really good scoring chances on four of them. When you have those opportunities on drives, two out of four, to score points, it’s pretty good. That’s just how the game shook out today. A few possessions they kind of stayed on the field. Miami’s offense did. You can’t worry about it. I’ve played long enough at this point to know that games shake out differently all the time. When you get your opportunity to be out on the field regardless of whether it’s been an hour, you’ve got to go out there and make plays.”

RUNNING BACK DEVONTA FREEMAN

On the differences between the first and second half:

“I just think that we as a whole need to do a better job at finishing. That’s it, just finish better.”

On his frustration with the loss:

“It’s based on how you look at it. We can learn from our mistakes. Of course, a loss is frustrating, but we can learn from it. We have something that we can look at and grow from, so that is always a good thing.”

On the team being in panic mode:

“Nobody is panicking, we just know we have to go back to work starting tomorrow. Then on Wednesday, we need to put the work in and then execute in the next game.”





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

DEFENSIVE TACKLE GRADY JARRETT

On his thoughts on the loss:

“It’s definitely tough, it hurts, and this is not what we are about. At the end of the day, we have to go back to work and find out what went wrong and try to make sure that it doesn’t happen again. Good thing it’s still early in the season, but the way we are, we want to win every game, but it’s tough in the NFL. We play some of the closest games in the history of the league. The ball isn’t turning our way right now; we have to go back to work and find out what we have to do to get a win.”

On the differences between the first and second half:

“With the penalties, we kind of shot ourselves in the foot. At the end of the day, I never want to put my team in a situation like that, and I definitely don’t want anyone to ever think that I did something dirty, but in the heat of it, it looked good to me and it turned out that it wasn’t and they ended up scoring. We just have to go back to work and get back on track.”

On today’s loss:

“We had a great week of preparation. We were excited to come out. We came out strong, we just have to finish. That is one of our core things we are focusing on is finishing and we just have to go back to work. At the end of the day, it’s still early in the season; not saying that one win is more important than the other, but we have a lot of good things ahead of us. We have a really good team, a really good fan base, and they deserve to get some wins.”

WIDE RECEIVER JULIO JONES

On how he felt the offense is doing:

“We just have to continue to keep working, that’s it. We’ve got to look at the film and see where we can get better. We had the lead in the first half, we just have to find a way to close games.”

On the offense stalling in the second half:

“Just in game adjustments from half to half. In the first half, we were very successful running the ball, and when we came out in the second half they tried to take the run game away and make us one-dimensional. They were sending pressure and things like that, but they were just trying to keep everything in front of them. Keeping us to three-yard gains, quick throws and getting the ball out of





MIAMI DOLPHINS AT ATLANTA FALCONS MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM

Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Matt's hand. We just have to do a better job of knowing that is going to come when the running game is as successful as it was today."

On how they bounce back from this loss:

"Hats off to them, they were the better team today. At the end of the day its on us, it's a player led team and we have to find a way to finish and win games. The coaches did their jobs, they put us in great situations as players and we just have to go out there and finish the game."

WIDE RECEIVER MARVIN HALL

On catching a touchdown for the first reception of his career:

"It felt good, I always want to make a play for my team and for the brotherhood."

On whether he thought it was a touchdown the moment the ball was thrown:

"I always think it's money anytime the ball is in the air."

On his first touchdown catch coming in a loss being bittersweet:

"Oh most definitely, we always want to come out with the win. We weren't able to do that, but we're going to get back to the drawing board then come out next week and do what we have to do."

CENTER ALEX MACK

On what changed in the second half:

"We just weren't consistent enough, from an offensive standpoint at least. I don't think we moved the ball as well in the second half. They ate up a lot of the clock in the third quarter, so when you have those chances you have to make the most of them."

On whether adjustments by the Dolphins led to more pressure on Matt Ryan:

"I don't think so. There were a couple of things here and there that we can get corrected and do better."

On the Falcons inability to get late scores for two consecutive weeks:

"They aren't the ideal opportunities, but like I said we just have to come out and play better."





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Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN JAKE MATTHEWS

On the mood of the Falcons locker room following this loss:

“I know that guys are upset, I’m upset, but we have a really good group of guys so we’re going to go back to work and be ready next week.”

On whether the team came in too relaxed following a bye week:

“No, I don’t think so. Like I said, we had our chances in the first half and we took advantage of them. In the second half, we didn’t.”

SAFETY RICARDO ALLEN

On consecutive losses:

“It’s not a cause for concern. We know what we can do. There’s a reason we’re fighting everyone until the end. We just have to finish. We’re playing with some of the best teams around. We just have to finish at the end. We have to be a team that causes more turnovers on defense and makes more plays on third down.”

On the upcoming game versus the Patriots:

“When you start to look at games on different levels, that’s when we mess up. We take every game the same. We push the same. Every week is a championship week. We know they are going to give us their best shot and we will give them our best shot. Today and last week, I don’t feel like we put our best shot on the field. We’ll get there. We have a long season left to go but we have to stay positive.”

On playing with a lead:

“There isn’t any pressure. If you listen to my mic, the only thing I kept saying was ‘don’t pull off, lets shut them out, and let’s be dominant.’ If we can do it in the first half, I know for sure we can do it in the second half. It’s the same stuff. They ran the same plays. Let’s be dominant. Let’s not be average. It’s easy to be mediocre in this league and just win a game. Any given Sunday you can win and lose games. You have to be ready to battle all the time.”





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Oct. 15, 2017 | 1:05 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VIC BEASLEY

On the loss:

“They came out with a lot of fire in the second half. They made more plays than we made and better calls than we had. We just didn’t execute and they executed. If they can’t run the ball, it’s going to be tough to go to their passing game because their running game is their strength.”

On playing with a lead:

“You definitely want to keep a lead. In the NFL, it doesn’t take long for a team to go on a run. You have to keep your foot on the gas pedal. If you let up anytime, they will come right back. It’s very frustrating when you’re in the position to win and don’t finish.”

CORNERBACK BRIAN POOLE

On defending Jarvis Landry:

“He’s a great player. He’s a professional. They had a good game plan and won the game.”

On the Dolphins’ second-half comeback:

“It wasn’t really them. It was us. We just have to finish.”

On playing with a lead:

“We don’t put pressure on ourselves. We just pretty much go out and execute our game plan.”

