



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS
HARD ROCK STADIUM
Nov. 19, 2017 | 1:00 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Miami Dolphins Head Coach Adam Gase (transcribed by Michelle Stone)

(How big a difference was it losing QB Jay Cutler in the game do you think? What difference did it make?) – “They kind of got us messed up on our cadence there for a little bit. (We had) some miscommunication with what was going on. I feel like there were a couple of things we kind of stayed away from as far as run game, some of the movement stuff. We got into a rhythm there for a little bit. When Matt (Moore) goes in, he hasn’t had a ton of reps with what we were doing on the short week. He’s trying to figure a couple of things out on the fly. When you don’t see it live in practice, sometimes you just don’t get what you want.”

(Four turnovers, 17 penalties – your thoughts on watching that?) – “We’ve got to catch the ball. We’ve got to hold onto the ball. Penalties, pre-snap stuff – it’s just ridiculous. That’s something that we made a big emphasis on this week on both sides of the ball. Obviously, we didn’t handle it very good on offense.”

(How would you describe QB Matt Moore’s performance?) – “There was a lot of good. A couple of things that (I) wish would have happened different, especially down in the red area. We had a couple opportunities. Instead of kicking field goals, having opportunities for touchdowns. But he went in there and executed as well as he could. There are a couple of things we got to clean up, but that’s going to happen when you get thrown in there in the middle of the game.”

(Obviously, the turnovers – the four turnovers, that last one that was kind of afterwards – it has got to feel good that you were in the game, but you walk away empty handed. It’s tough to overcome four turnovers, and then mentioned all of the penalties that came along with that.) – “I thought the defense did a good job of trying to respond. We just didn’t do a very good job of holding onto the ball. Jay (Cutler) kind of got fooled by the defense on the one interception. We drop one. We don’t execute it correctly in the red area. We knew they were going to pursue us and had to be tight on our ball security, and we didn’t do that at the end of the half.”

(It seemed like another game where the tight end really had his way with your defense. What do need to do to shore that up?) – “It’s kind of a catch-22. You start playing a bunch of man, now you’re putting two really good receivers one-on-one. You start playing some zone and have vision on the quarterback, the tight ends have the ability to get behind you. You’ve got





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to try to find ways to stay tight in the zone coverages, have good eyes, be in the right spot, try to cover him up (and) get to the passer."

(When you saw the replay of the safety, how do you evaluate that?) – "We felt like he ran into his own guy and by the time we touched him that he was in the end zone. We thought we'd take a shot with the challenge, and it didn't turn out the way we wanted."

(What was their explanation to you? It did look like his own man pushed him back. It looked like it was pretty clear.) – "I didn't ask him. What am I going to do?"

(Some of the problems that you mentioned with the offense not going, are you puzzled by the fact that guys haven't turned those things around? Are you disappointed?) – "The pre-snap stuff is a little frustrating. For the most part, execution was better. It's tough. '93' (Gerald McCoy) is a tough guy to block. We were trying to do everything we can to make sure we have double teams on him for the most part, but he makes it very difficult to do a lot of things."

(You kind of get to the point where the defense is put into a position to protect the lead. Is a late tie kind of the same situation? And if not, how is it not?) – "You'd like to give them a little bit more than just two minutes. I'd like to see what we could do if we actually had a lead for a quarter, see what we can really can do and cause a lot of disruption. It makes it hard, because you know they're going to throw, but at the same time you're going to play a lot more zone. You're still trying to hold them, trying not to let them into field-goal range. There's a point, yes, that it's better than being behind, but at the same time, still not playing with the lead, really."

(You've lost four in a row. Do you think this team is still capable of doing something significant this year?) – "I think if we can clean up the things that we can control, that's going to give us our best chance. We hurt ourselves more than anybody. Like today, I never felt like they really just flat out stopped us. It was always something when we had a drive where we didn't do anything on offense. Defensively, we did a lot better job as far as guys doing exactly what they're coached to do, but at the same time, we do enough wrong that it hurts us. If we could just figure out a way to put one together, you just never know what's going to happen. That's why you've got 24-hours to feel sorry for yourself on this one. You just better move on to the next one, because we're going to go on the road. We've got to find a way to get things cleaned up, and we got to play a way cleaner game than this. I know that."





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(There have been multiple games where there've been these situations where penalties, things where you shoot yourselves in the foot. You keep trying to find a way to get past them, get over them. How do you do that in short order with six games left?) – “You keep working on it. You try to prevent it in practice. We're trying different things in practice to make sure we eliminate those issues. Obviously, this week we made a big emphasis on it and got worse for some reason.”

(Why start LB Chase Allen at middle linebacker? Was it a tough decision to part ways with Rey Maualuga?) – “That was just kind of how it fell for us. We were repping him this week anyways. That was just the decision we came to.”

(What do you know about how QB Jay Cutler got hurt? Would you like to go back to him this season when healthy?) – “We'll see where he's at, because right at the end of the half ... That's why basically everything stopped for us. That's why we went into halftime.”

(But healthy, QB Jay Cutler is your guy?) – “I want to get to tomorrow first, see how he's feeling.”

Miami Dolphins S Reshad Jones (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(The defense played so well in the second half and then that last drive, what did they do that gave them success?) – “They just made a couple of plays. We didn't make the plays down the stretch to win the football game. They just made a couple of plays and they came out with the win. You've got to give credit to their team.”

(When Buccaneers WR Chris Godwin caught a 24-yard pass on that last drive, what happened there?) – “Yes, I was outside leverage. It was Cover 3. It was a good throw and catch. He made the catch and they kicked a field goal.”

(How disappointing is it when you guys think you have a safety and then by all appearances it is a safety?) – “We just control what we can control. We can't ref the game and be players. The refs made the call and it is what it is.”

Miami Dolphins WR Jarvis Landry (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)





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(What was the impact on the team when Matt Moore came in at the half?) – “Matt’s a guy we are familiar with. We didn’t really know what was going on in the Jay situation. We just so happened to get the ball after the half so he went out there and we didn’t miss a beat. I don’t feel like we did.”

(Was there a conscientious effort to throw down field more this game or was it just the opportunities?) – “It’s part of our plan. We found ways to make plays downfield. It’s what we can do. We have to find a way to again eliminate turnovers, stop hurting ourselves and see how it goes from there.”

(Jarvis how did the penalties affect you guys emotionally? In the game you make a big play, turn around and there’s laundry on the field.) – “It’s tough, it’s always tough. But all we can do is focus on the next play and try to respond. It’s tough to convert 30 to 20 second, 25, it’s going to be tough regardless of the fact.”

Miami Dolphins S.T.J. McDonald (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(Do you think the safety that wasn’t a safety was a safety?) – “It could go either way. Of course as a defender I feel like it was a safety but they reviewed it and they called what they called. I was just ready to go play defense whenever they called us out there.”

(Four straight now that you guys have lost. How do you regroup and go from here?) – “The bleedings not going to stop on its own. We have to put the fire out. Come back to work next week and focus. We need to put one good one together and like Coach said, put one win together and see how it goes, see if we can get on this run. The most important game is always this next one so that’s what we are focusing on.”

(As Adam said you guys totally shut them down before that last drive in the second half .How tough is it to look at the good you did on defense but still lost?) – “It’s tough because we came in here at halftime, saw what they were doing and how they were trying to attack us and made some adjustments and we executed it. For the most part we executed it in the second half. That was a punch in the gut for that last drive to come out... Like I said before they get paid too. They made some good plays, found some holes in the defense and that’s how that goes.”





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Miami Dolphins Quarterback Matt Moore (transcribed by Daniel Chavez and Ken Mendonca)

(Matt, what was your mindset when you entered the game with the team down 20-7?) – “Just positivity. My message to those guys was ‘Hey, we’re going to be good. We’ve been in this situation before. Let’s go put a drive together and see what happens.’” But I was just the same as always: work the offense, communicate, execute and get in the flow of the game.”

(Do you run the same plays basically? It’s obviously the same offense, but when you’re down 20...) – “I mean you have to open it up a little bit, obviously, with the score the way it is. For the most part, yes; but when you’re down, obviously you have to push it a little bit.”

(I think you hit the long pass to WR Jarvis Landry on your first drive, right? Did that give you some confidence?) – “Yes, it’s the third down. To hit one over the middle in a third-and-longer situation, yes, it’s a confidence builder for sure.”

(There was a lot of over the top stuff today, was that encouraging even though you didn’t win today, that you went over the top with the tying touchdown?) – “Yes, and some of it you have to have a favorable look to do that. You can’t always do that; the defenses do a good job of preventing that and different styles of defense allow you to do that. But yes, we felt good. Again, being down, we were in a situation where we had to do those things, so that’s probably why there were some shots taken.”

(What’d you see on the tying touchdown?) – “Kenny (Stills) was lined up inside and the corner, (Brent) Grimes really stuck to Jarvis (Landry) and Kenny got outside. He had good leverage on the safety and with his speed, he is difficult to cover. He did a good job winning. At that point, you just put the ball up and let him go get it.”

(When you’re moving the ball with some consistency, but amid that, penalties, false starts – even like before drive starts – what does that do to a mindset of the quarterback and the offense?) – “It didn’t affect my mindset. Obviously we’re putting ourselves in a tough situation on first-and-10 and now we have to go an extra 5 (yards) to get a first down. The frustrations are obvious there, but my mindset didn’t change. It was just ‘Alright, let’s get some yards, get us back in third-and-manageable and keep going.’”





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(As a quarterback, how do you understand the ruling on a safety, if you're in the end zone, if you're out?) – "I don't know what the rule is. I'm not going to second-guess anybody or judge anything, but it was pretty dang close."

(It's obviously something you have to be aware of as a quarterback.) – "Yes, I don't ever want to be back there. If you're in that situation, you do everything you can to get any positive yards. It's something you're aware of. Obviously 'Fitz' (Buccaneers QB Ryan Fitzpatrick) was aware of it. You tell him to try and push forward there, but I don't have a rulebook on me or anything. It was difficult."

(Where does this football team go from here? You have another game next week, four straight losses, you seem to keep shooting yourself in the foot throughout the games. I think they had 17 points off turnovers before that last one. Other than that, it's not much of a game. How do you get past that and try to make something positive out of these remaining games?) – "It'll be a test, for sure. I think guys just need to come to work, grind and focus on getting better. It's all you can do. There is no magic potion, no nothing. You need to come to work, get better, learn the scheme, execute the scheme and move forward and that's it. That's the only thing we can do. I've got faith that these guys in here will do that."

(When you found out you were playing, who told you? Was it early in the halftime process or late?) – "Probably about midway through, (Head Coach Adam) Gase told me – probably with 5 minutes left to go during the halftime."

(Can you just talk about your role on this team? I don't know if it's frustrating sometimes that you're the ultimate fireman coming in out of the bullpen and, obviously in a perfect world, you'd love to be the man and be the starting quarterback. Just take me through the mentality and how you deal with that?) – "I've answered this question a lot over the years, which is fine. I understand my role. My role is the backup quarterback on this team and when it's time to play, it's time to play. When whatever happens and you get the call to go, there's obviously excitement. You're fired up and ready to go. That's it. I've done this for a long time and have had to come off the bench and play. I think it comes in preparation during the week; but you just understand your role and when the time comes, you've got to go and make those guys feel that we're going to be okay, have confidence in those guys, make them have confidence in you and you've just got to roll."





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(Is it tough mentally-wise to always have to be prepared to jump in, just like you were at halftime today – going into the week, knowing you're not the starter, but have to jump in?) – “I don't know if it's tough. Like I said, it's my job. Is it tough? I mean it's tough to start this game when you prepare all week for a game. Sure it's tough; but again, my mindset is I understand my role and when my number's called, I go and do my best to execute.”

(I don't have the stats in front of me, but I think you had about 280 yards passing. Did it feel that way? Did you feel unstoppable? That's 560 yards for a game.) – “I knew there were a lot of chunk plays there, maybe towards the end of the third. I know we converted some third-and-longs, which were chunk plays. Obviously the play at the end tacks on a bunch. Yes, there were times we were going, and then sometimes it was difficult, which is how a flow of a game goes. Yes, it was nice to see guys on third-and-longer situations, really, starting up front, and then guys running routes and making big plays to keep the chains moving.”

(I know there's no excuses out there, but you're in there, G/T Jermon Bushrod is out, T Sam Young, C/G Ted Larsen. Was it tougher out there? Does that raise the degree of difficulty?) – “No. I think you ask, really anybody in the locker room, especially on the offensive side of the ball and you talk about roles, all of those guys understand their roles. Sam, he comes in and he's ready to go. We've had this situation a lot this year, where guys go down and other guys have to step up. I think that's the nature of this league and we've got some really good guys that come in and are ready to go. So, no, it's not more difficult. Guys are ready to play and we were going.”

Miami Dolphins WR Kenny Stills (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(Considering all that you guys have fought through this season, to lose that game in that fashion.) – “It's hard to win games when you have that many penalties, turnovers. We played pretty well in the second half. No one likes losing, so we got to figure out a way to get a W.”

(What went wrong from the penalty standpoint?) – “You look at the statistics. When people have penalties starting on a drive or throughout a drive, it's pretty difficult to put points on the board and that's what the game is about. We got to eliminate the penalties if we want to put points on the board and win games.”

(You guys had a lot of big pass plays downfield. What did you guys see out there? What was there for you guys?) – “We just had opportunities. The line protected up front and the quarterback trusted us to go make some plays.”





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(What happened on your long touchdown?) – “Just caught them in the right coverage. The defender kind of sat, and I got behind him, and Matt (Moore) threw a good ball.”

(What were you thinking at that point, because you guys were back in it?) – “I figured the defense was going to go out there and get a stop, and we were going to get an opportunity to go out there and win the game.”

(People are going to look at this and say the passing game comes alive or the big plays come alive from QB Matt Moore. Do you look at it from that standpoint as an offensive player or just what the defense call?) – “I think sometimes the defense sees Matt (Moore) come in and they think, ‘Backup quarterback let’s put some pressure on him.’ Matt does a good job of getting rid of the ball and letting us make plays.”

(Why does this team have trouble starting fast? I think this is the ninth time in 10 games you guys trailed at the half.) – “Honestly, I thought we did a good job. I think we had a turnover in the red zone, so we should have had some points there. We did a better job today trying to start fast, but turnovers and penalties killed us.”

Miami Dolphins DT Ndamukong Suh (transcribed by Ted Leshinski)

(Where do you go from here? I know you get ready for next week with six games left and any hope for the playoffs you’ve got to win five of the six games. It seems like a tall order for any football team.) – “It’s definitely a tall order. We understand the position that we’re in. We knew this was a big game and I think we made mistakes that we obviously have to go back and watch and clean up and not repeat them to next week and focus on the next game. At the end of the day we can’t do anything about it. We’ve got 24 hours to turn around and get prepared for going up to New England.”

(It seemed tough to put pressure on QB [Ryan] Fitzpatrick throughout the first three quarters of the football game. Anything different that you saw?) – “I think they had a good plan. They had a lot of triple protection as well as max. He was getting the ball out a lot faster than he was typically doing in weeks past. You’ve got to give them credit for changing their game up a little bit. I think we did fairly well in the run game. I don’t know the exact stats but I think there was only one long run over five yards, or something to that nature. We just got to continue to find ways to get off the football field and give our offense chances.”





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(You got handed a short field a number of times in the first half of the football game. I know you expect to stop everyone but that really puts you in a tough situation.) – “Yeah, sudden changes aren’t the best but we’ve got to find ways to get off holding them to three points and not allow touchdowns and compete.”

(Hey Ndamukong, you had 17 penalties for well over 100 yards. Is that just a case for a team that’s playing undisciplined?) – “I wouldn’t say we’re playing undisciplined. I’d say we’re making mistakes in tough situations. I think guys are playing hard. The one thing I would say if I remember all the penalties, which I don’t, a lot of them were in game, not pre-snap. At the end of the day we’ve got to clean it up no matter what. We can’t have that many and continue to compete.”

(Having that many penalties this far into the season, is it a bit surprising?) – “At the end of the day we can’t have mistakes. They’re going to obviously kill drives on the offensive side of the ball and extend drives on the defensive side of the ball. We’ve got to try to eliminate as much as we can.”

(You guys had kept them at bay in the second half up until that last drive. How disappointing is that when you look back on that?) – “Very disappointing. Understanding how well we played against them all in the second half and the last drive we allowed them to move and get the ball and get over the 50-yard line is definitely disappointing, especially understanding what they wanted to do in a crucial situation. We got to find a way to get off the field and get the ball back to offense or let the clock run out.”

(What did you see on the safety that was not called a safety?) – “Watching the replay, my personal opinion is that it should have been a safety but I don’t make the call. It’s not my business to worry about that.”

(The impact of that call on the game seemed to be pretty huge.) – “I don’t know. I think we still had an opportunity. They were backed up ... I think we got the ball at the 50. So we had an opportunity to go put points on the board nonetheless.”

(Last year you guys pulled out games like this, you know, close games decided in the last minute. Why do you think it’s kind of flipped the script a little bit this year?) – “I would say in some respects teams aren’t making mistakes (and) being fairly vanilla and trying to move the ball systematically, especially on the defensive side of the ball. If I go back to probably the San





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Diego game, a similar situation. QB Phillip Rivers made mistakes in that game and we capitalized on them. We've got to find ways to go out there and get turnovers. If I remember correctly, in the last two or three games, or how many games we played, we haven't got many turnovers. So we've got to find ways to get the ball out, create turnovers, put our offense in great situations and go from there."

(I know you guys pride yourself on getting pressure on the quarterback with four guys. Would maybe more blitzes help?) – "I think we have blitzes and we have ran them, and I think we get pressure. But teams, I think they sell out to not allow us up front to create havoc. You've got to respect that but at the same time you've to be creative and find ways. I think defensive coordinator (Matt) Burke does a great job of it. At the same time we can't blitz every single play. So, you've just got to find a nice niche between the two to go out there and, one, get pressure with the front four but at the same time when we do blitz - get home."

(You told us earlier this spring and it's pretty clear to you its important a leader of this defense. You lost Rey Maualuga yesterday. Your thoughts on what happened? Were you really disappointed in the position he left you guys in?) – "I don't know the whole situation. The whole story. I've heard bits and pieces of it. I think Rey is a great guy. I've known him really since, I think we met each other in 2004 at the All American game in San Antonio so I've known the guy for a long time. I think he's smart. Unfortunately some people make mistakes. But like I said I don't know the whole situation so I can't really comment on it."

Miami Dolphins DE Cameron Wake (transcribed by Max Lerner)

(What was your perspective on the safety?) – "I thought it was a safety."

(Did you hear a reason why it was called that way?) – "Nope, they didn't talk to me very much. They showed it on the replay and it looked like a safety to me; but it wasn't, so (I'm) moving on."

(Do you think defensively you played well enough to win this football game? They had 17 points off turnovers, numerous penalties, turnovers that put you on a short field many times in the first half.) – "Not really, to be honest. I feel like when you sign up to play defense, like I've said in the past, there is no script. It's first-and-goal from the 10 or it is first-and-goal from the minus-10; you really don't know. Whenever the ball is put down, you have to go out there and keep points off the board. We had opportunities to make plays and even all the way to the end, (it was a) tie game and you feel like we can go out there and get a stop and change the whole course of





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this game, and we didn't do enough. I really feel like it's on our backs. There are no excuses about where the ball was or where they got the ball. If you have an opportunity to make a play, it's on us."

(Four straight losses, is there a way to salvage this season through the remainder of the six games?) – "We have to keep fighting. I'd like to think that, through the second half of the game, obviously we want to play a full game. Guys showed that we can come out there and we can continue to fight, regardless of the situation, put the past behind and move forward. We were just one play too short and I think moving forward, we have to have that same mentality. If we can build off that and put a whole game together – not just a half – I think that moving forward, things will be different. But again, you have to make the plays from start to finish and we let a couple slip through our fingers today."

(I don't think effort has been an issue for this football team. Does that make the situation you're in right now more frustrating?) – "Frustration is not capitalizing on opportunities. I feel like effort hasn't been a problem and we did a lot of good things; but again, all phases have to play complementary football for the entire game. It can't be half to half or quarter to quarter. It has to be all together for 60 minutes. Effort hasn't been a problem. I think we shot ourselves in the foot obviously on both sides of the ball from doing silly things, things that we are in control of. It's not talent, it's not effort, it's a lot of self-inflicted things and those are the things that are most frustrating; but also the easiest to fix. So moving forward, I think that's something we need to focus in on."

(I don't want to be a smart aleck but can you think of a game this year where you guys have put it all together like you just mentioned?) – "I don't know. There are probably a few games you asked me about a couple of weeks ago and I couldn't tell you any of the details. I focus on the next play. Obviously our record shows that we have not done what we wanted to do. The games we've won, we probably played better and the games we've lost, we probably didn't play so well, not to be a smart aleck."

(This is probably one of your longest stretches without a sack. How do you explain what's going on?) – "I have high expectations of myself. Again, it's probably not one thing; but at the end of the day, I'm not a guy to make excuses. Whatever the scenario of the game, whatever the blocking situation is, I've always been a guy who feels like it doesn't matter. You have to go out there and you have to get your job done. If it's getting to the quarterback is my job, then I have to do it, and all of those other factors that contribute to the issues or the frustrations of not getting





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there, you have to put them aside and go out and do your job. I've done it in the past and I have to do it going forward."

(What was Head Coach Adam Gase like after the game?) – "Disappointed."

(Was there a lot of yelling or was it subdued?) – "Next year, you make the team and then you'll be able to figure out those things. It's a members only (thing)."

(As a leader on this team, do you kind of talk to the guys about these penalties?) – "Yes, I mean I probably would say that is one of the most glaring issues is the self-inflicted things – the pre-snap or penalties or whatever it may be because on defense it kills drives, on offense it kills drives. Being detail-oriented and like I said, doing your job, whatever it may be – offense, defense, special teams –that is the only way you're going to sustain drives, score and obviously on defense, sustain drives and get off the field. Again, some of that crept up today. Some of it got fixed later on; but overall, if you take a few of those away and I think this game is a different game. You never know what play it's going to be or what penalty it's going to be. You have to focus in on whatever the situation is and execute. That's been an issue but again, probably the easiest to fix. Moving forward, hopefully that is not going to plague us going forward."

(Obviously teams take on different personalities each season based on new players on the team, but last year you guys found a way to make that play when in the past, you guys didn't find a way to make that play. What is happening this year in terms of the missing ingredient?) – "That's an interesting question. If I had the answer, I wouldn't be standing here talking to you. I'd be upstairs making those changes; but I feel like it's probably not one thing. It's probably a few different things that all come into play; and again, I've spoke about it before. There have been games where we've turned around and done it and 'Yay, everyone is happy. We won the game,' but there are games like today where we literally are one play away from having a win. It's hard to win in this league and most games are going to come down to one play here or there. Today, we didn't make it; but I have confidence in the guys we have in the locker room that the same things we've done in the past going forward, we will be able to make that play."

(It's pretty strange to lose a starting linebacker the day before a game. Did LB Rey Mauluga let this team down?) – "Well, it's always unfortunate to have somebody who isn't up – whether it's off the field, on the field – whenever you're not playing with a guy you've counted on in the past, it's tough; but honestly, I don't know the details about what's been going on to say whether he's let us down or not. But shoelace, hamstring, off the field, all of the above, when





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you have to make a change the day before a game, it's going to be difficult; but I have faith in the guys. (It is) next man up and you have to go in there and we expect you to play the same way as the guy he's replacing."

(You have six losses with six games left to play. Can the season be salvaged? Do you have zero margin for error to do so?) – "I've always been a guy that thinks we always have zero margin for error, from the time the first ball is snapped at the beginning of the season; but obviously as we get closer and closer (to the end of the season), the math starts leaning away from you. If our ultimate goal is to be champions and do things in the postseason, then obviously it's more and more urgent is the word I'll use. I always felt like this whole 'must win,' every game is a must win, and if there is more effort and energy next week then you gave this week, then you let me down this weekend. I've said it in the past, I'm a proponent of throwing a fast ball 100 miles per hour every play, every week – whether it's playoffs, Super Bowl, preseason – you have to give it your all. We have to focus on winning one game and I feel like if you're looking six weeks down the line, you're going to miss the one right in front of you. So we have to focus on this game coming up, correct the things we didn't do so well this past game, and we'll take it one game at a time."

Miami Dolphins Running Back Damien Williams (transcribed by Paige Jefferson)

(On that run – your career long – in terms of production, what did you see?) – "The line ... We started off with a pass and it went straight to a run. The line, they did their jobs. After that, I got to do something for them."

(What's it like when you're involved in a game where you're moving the ball and there will be a turn over, you're moving the ball and there's a penalty. How frustrating was that today?) – "It's frustrating. I feel like we're just beating a dead horse over and over and over with the penalties. It's starting to jump on our back. We came back, but at the end of the day, that's what jumped on our back were the penalties."

(You feel like you had the spot on fourth-and-1?) – "Oh, yeah. For sure. I felt like I did. I felt like we had the push. It was a bad spot for me."

(What happens to this offense when QB Matt Moore is in there at quarterback?) – "I don't know. It's just something ... Matt is just ... He knows how to get to us, I guess. He has been around us a lot. So he kind of knows how to work guys, who has the motor. He knows how to get guys going."





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(I may have missed this, but WR Jarvis Landry said at halftime there was no signs pointing to QB Jay Cutler not coming out.) – “No, it wasn’t. We all knew he was going to come out there and he was going to be there. But when he wasn’t, we knew we had another guy who was ready to go.”

(How frustrating was it to rip off that big first run and then not really be able get the run game going?) – “It’s frustrating, because I’m a running back. At the end of the day, you got to keep pounding it. You got to keep pounding it. You got to keep pounding it and keep pounding it and hopefully one of them pop. I feel like we’re moving forward. We’re trying things out. I feel like we’re going to get it done.”

(How frustrating were all those penalties? 17 of them.) – “It’s very frustrating just to see how we move, big play, oh no, it’s coming back. It’s frustrating. It drains you. That’s something we need to eliminate.”

(How do you regroup now with a big game coming up against New England?) – “It’s going to be one of those games. At the end of the day we’re going to – like our coach said – let this one soak in. You should feel this one. But when we go to work, it’s time to go to work. You’re going against a great team.”

(What makes this one so painful to have it sink in? Is it because of where you guys are now?) – “Just where we are, how we’re moving as an offense, and then just to have a stupid penalty. At the end of the day, it’s frustrating.”

(Is it an encouraging sign that despite turning the ball over as many times as you guys did today that you were still in there to win the game in the end?) – “At the end of the day, we have a great defense. We have a great team. The only thing that’s holding us back are the penalties and those are self-inflicting. As soon as we get that out the way, the sky’s the limit.”

(Do you feel like some of the penalties may have been borderline questionable? Because from our vantage point it just seemed that way.) – “Yeah, but at the end of the day, that’s not my job to decide if it’s questionable or not. At the end of the day, everybody needs to be clean on their techniques and how they do things, and we’re going to move great. What you see is what we got.”

Tampa Bay Buccaneers Head Coach Dirk Koetter (transcribed by Ken Mendonca)





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(In the second half – you got a lot of turnovers in the first half, had a nice lead, didn't do a whole lot on the other side ball in the second half. When you needed it, you got the drive. Can you talk about that?) – “That's really all that matters. That's really all that matters is having more than they got at the end. Had a lot of opportunities to break it wide open in the first (half). The second half, we just couldn't get off the field on third down, and we couldn't make any first downs on offense. That third quarter, we just didn't have the ball very much. But we hung in there. You're always going to have some adversity on the road. We've had more than our share today. At the end of the day, when things are going bad, you've got to rise up and do something, and we were able to pull it out.”

(Speak about the resilience of this team overall. Put two in a row together now after some difficult times.) – “Yes, that's what I just talked about I think. You could just roll that same answer I just gave.”

(What about guys, the rookies – TE O.J. Howard and WR Chris Godwin – stepping up in big moments?) – “O.J. could've had a monster game today. He got off to a fast start and then we got that screen called back, and then he had that drop on a little play action. But he could have had a monster. He was like the fourth option on the touchdown he caught. It seems like if we get O.J. involved early – and it's not like we're not trying to – but if we do get him involved early, it seems like good things seem to happen for him. Chris Godwin, that was very clutch at the end. I mean 'Fitz' (Ryan Fitzpatrick) made a couple plays, but still, Chris had a guy hanging on him on both those plays. So, Chris Godwin has really impressed me these last two weeks with his competitiveness. He's playing special teams. He does a lot of dirty work. Even though Justin Evans gave up that touchdown at the end, that's another rookie that I think is doing a good job. Antony Auclair made his debut today. (He) didn't get a ton of reps, but it was good to see him get out there. Kendell Beckwith is just playing a different role right now – our other rookie. He's almost playing like a rush defensive end. But our rookie class is doing fine.”

(Talk about QB Ryan Fitzpatrick, the job he has done the last couple of week?) – “He has done a good job. I mean, heck, he's 2-0 as a starter. That first half, we did a lot of good things, a few negative things, but Ryan has been in the midst of some turmoil, has been a calm, professional leader. When you go get a veteran backup like that, that's what you're looking for.”





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(Does any of the stuff that's swirling around with QB Jameis Winston, has that at all affected anything in terms of the way this team has overcome? Is it a distraction, is it anything at all really?) – "Impossible to measure. I don't really know about that. I don't hear much talk about that. I'm not sure."

(What do you think about the ability to get all those turnovers? That's something that you've been waiting for.) – "Five to zero. You shouldn't have to win it like that, when it's five to zero in the turnover margin, but a win is a win is a win in the NFL and you never apologize for it. Our D, they did a similar thing last year, they got hot. We always talk about turnovers coming in bunches. That's a little bit had been (Jay) Cutler's M.O. in his career. He has been doing a much better job taking care of the ball. It started with ... They got that long run. They didn't run the ball on us at all today other than we had a missed tackle on that (69)-yard run. I think for the rest of the game, they had 11 yards rushing. But that was a heck of a play by Justin (Evans) to take it away. I wish he would've stayed in the end zone after he did that. It's good to get a win on the road. We got something else to talk about next week."

Tampa Bay Buccaneers LB Kwon Alexander (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(Dolphins had some of their biggest offensive plays of the year but you guys were still able to overcome that and crackdown when you needed to and pullout the game, thoughts on that?) - "We just did our job; we still have things to work on like third down. But the way the defense and the offense came out our mentality was to take the ball away and that's what we did in the first half. We just have to keep building on that and that's what we're going to do."

(Big difference when Moore came out in the second half, at first they did some big plays.) – "It's the offense man, they have great players and we have great players too so they're going to get their plays but we have to be able to stop them. Like I said, we still have things to work on even though we got all those turnovers. We're going to work on it and put this one behind us and get ready for this Sunday."

(Take us through that third and one, obviously your stop and then the subsequent fourth and 1 stop that was a big turn for you guys.) – "We were just all out there excited especially on that fourth and one. I was excited because I knew defense wins championships so we had to get out there and stop them and that's what we did. Everybody got off the rock and got him down, we got the stop. That is where the momentum came from and we were just out there having fun doing it man."





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Tampa Bay Buccaneers WR Mike Evans (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(Take me through that last drive and how that offense was able to move down the field when you guys have struggled previous for time of possession.) – “I guess we were desperate. Guys just made plays, guys executed their assignments, o-line held up well and our rookie made two huge catches.”

(Is this one of those wins that even though it wasn't maybe the prettiest ball game any wins a good win?) – “Absolutely, it's the NFL. Early on it seemed like it was going to be a “route”, we had a lot of turnovers and penalties that held us back. It came down to the last minute that's the NFL.”

(Take us through what it's like to have a quarterback in Fitz (Ryan Fitzpatrick) a veteran like that; what his presence is like in the huddle in the final drive?) – “He's similar to Jameis [Winston] real confident, very smart, processes things well and can make plays outside the pocket. He's similar to Jameis, we have two really good quarterbacks.”

Tampa Bay Buccaneers QB Ryan Fitzpatrick (transcribed by Max Lerner)

(You're 2-0 as a starter but things weren't going all that well in the second half, can you talk about the ability to put it together when you really needed it?) – “I thought we really stepped up at the end there. It was tough getting things going in the second half and we had a couple of possessions where ... I think we had seven plays in the third quarter. Games are going to have those ebbs and flows and I was proud – even before we kicked the field goal – when it was 20-20 standing in that huddle, it was a good feeling. I think everybody knew we were going to get it done and we went out there and followed it up by getting it done, so that was nice.

(You have some young guys, TE OJ Howard has made plays this year and we've seen more of WR Chris Godwin of late. Were teams leaving you those options and can you talk about the ability of those guys to step up today?) – “I think (Buccaneers Head Coach) Dirk (Koetter) does such a nice job with his offense of just anybody at any time can get the ball. There's good route combinations, there's different things. He puts people in positions to be successful and you never know who it's going to be. The biggest play of the game probably was the throw on offense to Godwin. It wasn't necessarily to our first, second or third target; but I have supreme confidence





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that he's going to make that play and he knows that he's going to get that ball. I just think we have a lot of confidence within that room with those guys and they're doing a good job."

(They made some big plays on offense and you guys were still able to come back and win) – "They did and they did a great job. Matt Moore stepping in; I've been in that situation. It's not an easy situation and he came in and made some plays. We were fortunate to make the one at the end."

(T Demar Dotson said you were kind of like calm in the huddle like a grandpa; being a veteran and you helped settle him down.) – "Dot's not that young himself. (laughter) Yes, I'll take that, I'll take that. I like being the grandpa."

(What was going through your mind when they were reviewing whether or not that was a safety?) – "I had no idea what they were going to call or how they were going to call it. It just was one of those plays where I tried to step up and stay out of there and I have got to do a better job of not even putting us close to that situation; but I'm glad they called it the way they did."

(What's happening these last two weeks that this team has a lot of resolve right now? I know your backs were against the wall but aside from clichés, what do you think we're watching with these guys fighting?) – "We needed that one win and I thought our defense really stepped up this week and last week, as well. They stepped up in that Jets game and almost took it upon themselves to make sure that game was going to be in hand. I think you see a team that is feeding off each other on both sides of the ball. We've always had a good locker room – a great locker room – so we all enjoy being out there playing together, and it's a good feeling so hopefully it can continue."

(Is anything over the last couple days with the QB Jameis Winston story coming out, does that change ... As a leader, do you speak up? Is it talked about or does it distract you?) – "No, I mean that's his business."

(Do you know what's going to happen next week? Do you expect to start? Have you been told?) – "I have no idea. I'm not sure with that one. Just like every week, I just try to go out there and prepare and if my number is called, do my best."

Tampa Bay Buccaneers CB Brent Grimes (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(They seemed to have picked up some momentum after half time. Did you guys come out flat or did they catch you off guard?) – "I can't really call it. I'm playing a game. I have to wait until we see the film. I'm just going to say hats off to them. Maybe they made some adjustments, caused some good plays in the second half. I don't know. We have to figure out what we did but at the end of the day we ended with a win and we're happy about that."





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(But even when they point points on the board there was no quit...) – “Oh yes. We are not going to do that. We are going to play until the end. We needed to for this game. It started like we could of opened the game up a lot but it didn't go that way so we had to play to the final whistle and we did that.”

(Big difference when Matt Moore came into the game? Second half. Did you notice a difference right away in their offense?) – “Yes. I don't know what happened. Like I said, he asked the same question. They came out second half and did some good things, made some big plays, found people open and things like that so hats off to Matt (Moore) and all of those guys. I love a lot of guys on that team and they made some plays. They got talented players and they are going to make some plays sometimes.”

Tampa Bay Buccaneers TE O.J. Howard (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Not much in the second half until you absolutely had to on that last drive.) – “It's something we have to look at on film and see where the disconnect was in the second half to the first half but the most important thing is we got the win and made the last drive count the most.”

(There was no quit obviously. No quit in this team even though you came out a little flat in the second half. I mean right down to the last play: touchdown. What does that say about the mindset?) – “We all knew how important it was to get this win and all the guys laid it all on the line. Especially that last drive. We knew we needed points to win the game and that's what matters the most.”

(Talk about early on. You were able to make some big catches. What went into that today?) – “Just great play calling and we knew what kind of coverage they would come out in early in the game. Coach dialed up some great plays for those coverage. Fitz (QB Ryan Fitzpatrick) found me. I made the most of my opportunities.”

Tampa Bay Buccaneers DT Gerald McCoy (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)

(Haven't heard you whistling after a game in a while...) – “Yes. I would have been whistling last week but I told you I'm in a lot of pain. I'm hurting now but I'm not in a lot of pain. I am in some pain though. But, yep, a road win. Like I said earlier this week, well last week because today is Sunday, so this is a start of a new week so that would have been last week right? Just trying to





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be technical. I said we were what word did I use? Horrendous? (Yes - Horrendous confirmed by member of the media) on the road. Today we were, it wasn't pretty, but we got a win and that's all that matters."

(You gave up that big 68-yard, 69-yard run but then you really shut them down against the run. What was the difference after that play?) – "That was a mix of a misfit and a call, kind of. We could have done something about it but we couldn't have. On that one really, we just have to tackle. Sometimes you get put in a...or we put ourselves in bad situations but we have to make plays."

(But you adjusted. What did you do better the rest of the way?) – "Just everybody was in their gaps. Coach Smith (Mike Smith) started making some great calls and put us in the best position to make plays and guys just made the plays necessary. Taking the ball away is a mindset. I think guys, we did that today. Wasn't the prettiest second half but you take the ball away four times you have a pretty good shot of winning."

Tampa Bay Buccaneers K Patrick Murray (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(What's the kind of emotion going through watching the team march down the field knowing it's probably going to come down to your leg?) – "I take every kick the same, doesn't matter the situation of the game and going out on that field after Fitz [Ryan Fitzpatrick] and the offense drove down there and they did a terrific job, I knew I was going to make it. I knew it was going to go right down the middle, I just had a feeling and it was right."

(Was it just one of those games where you felt like you kind of had it?) – "We had a great week of practice truthfully. I got a great bunch of guys protecting me too. Garrison [Sanborn] snapping, Bryan [Anger] holding, two consummate professionals doing their jobs and they make it easy for me."

(To be a part of a win like this obviously a happy locker room and a nice trip back home. Where does this place you guys?) – "Two and 0 in the second half that's where it places us and we got another one coming up on Sunday that we're looking forward to. Let's get on a roll."

