



MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. CAROLINA PANTHERS

BANK OF AMERICA STADIUM

Nov. 13, 2017 | 8:30 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Panthers Head Coach Ron Rivera (transcribed by the Carolina Panthers)

RE: Offensive play tonight

I think part of it is we did some things vertically. We took a couple shots. I think that helped open some things up underneath. I think the offensive line did a nice job up front with the run blocking. I thought our backs ran hard. I thought it was a really good mix early on. I thought Mike Shula called a nice game, mixing in the run and pass, the play action, stuff like that. Again, possibly the threat of Cam Newton's ability to run the football opened up some things.

RE: Running backs

That was good. It was really good seeing those guys run, the different groups, the different tandems of guys going in there. Jonathan Stewart ran hard like he always does. Christian McCaffrey's elusiveness showed and Cameron Artis-Payne's ability to hit it and go. I thought all three guys brought something special to the table. I thought all three guys contributed very well to this attack. I'm really pleased with the things that they did in terms of the way they blocked the front.

RE: Was Ed Dickson's first touchdown of the season tonight a culmination of his work this season?

Most certainly. I think he has worked very hard for us. It was good to see him get his chance to make a play for us.

RE: How big was it for Jonathan Stewart to have a bounce back game tonight after last week?

It was huge. Again, a lot of people said some things about him and Jonathan just wanted to make sure everybody understood. He is not dumb. He is a big part of what we do and he is a part of the reasons why we had success. He is going to continue to work hard and he will be productive for us, as will the other backs. I really liked what Christian gave us and I loved how Cameron Artis-Payne when he got his touches, made the most of those opportunities.

RE: When you play this well, do you want to take the week off for the bye?

No. [laughs] I'd like to keep rolling but it came at a good time for us as well. I think our guys earned a good break. We will bring them in and get a chance to watch this tape. Then they will head out for a few days and we will get back and start getting ready for the next week.

RE: Offensive line

I just think it's a good thing. The nice thing is you are starting to see everybody come together again. That's been the hard part. I think part of it is the way our quarterback has been playing, especially the last couple of weeks, he has been rolling very well. He has been making a lot of good decisions and delivering good passes. His decisions on running the ball have been really good as well. Then the overall effort of the football team. Again, I





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like what they have done. It's good to see them have the type of game like this, the breakout kind of game. This is most certainly something we can build on. But we will go back and look at the tape. There are some things that we as coaches have to correct and make sure we get those things taken care of.

RE: Do you know an update on the Curtis Samuel injury?

No, I don't other than they think it is an ankle and I'm not sure if it's the same one or not. There was a little bit of concern when they took him in.

RE: Atmosphere tonight

It was great. It was tremendous. This fan base – they have been outstanding. Just to have them be as enthusiastic as they were. Probably the biggest thing more so than anything else was the salute to service. I really appreciated how the crowd reacted to our military personnel that were there partaking in the festivities. I thought that was amazing. Again, a very solemn thank you to the families of the fallen. We really appreciate them coming and being a part of this as well.

RE: Does Cam Newton respond to tonight's atmosphere?

Yes, he does. There is something about when the lights turn on. I think he is now 6-1 on Monday Night games or something like that. It's just who he is. He does play well and there is something about this stage. He just carries it over.

RE: Cam Newton's energy and early confidence

It's interesting because when he gets rolling and a lot of things happen off of that energy. One of the things that really showed was his decision making. A couple of big plays we had out there were decisions he made, audible and checks that he made at the line of scrimmage. He played a tremendous game. His knowledge of what we are trying to do and how we want to do it is tremendous. He had a good feel for this game. A great example was the touchdown screen he threw to Funchess. He saw the zero pressure, he made an audible and a check and the next thing you know it's a touchdown.

RE: How big was the last score before halftime?

I think it was huge. I really do. One thing you try to do is carry that momentum into the second half and we were able to do that. That was big. A couple of big moments was Luke Kuechly's interception, us answering as soon as they scored, we answered their score. We did it twice and that's big because you stop their momentum. That was big for us as far as our team is concerned.

RE: Cam Newton protecting himself in terms of sliding and getting down

That's the best part is he is getting down. He is being smart about it and he understands. He understands that there is no reason for him to take some of the shots he has taken in the past. I think he is very judicious in his





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decision making and I think Mike Shula has called some tremendous games. I'm really excited about what Mike has done for us over the last couple of weeks. I think again, part of it is the offense is changing. It is morphing into something a little bit different obviously with the receivers that we have now and I think that will help us.

RE: Based on your early quote, do you think the team is 'good enough'?

Absolutely. We are good enough but I still think we could be better. I really do. I think there are some things we could correct and work on. I know right now I promise you that Coach Steve Wilks is not happy with some of the things we did on the defensive side. I know early on Mike Shula was a little concerned with some of the stuff that we did. These are things that we as coaches have to be honest about and make sure we are holding ourselves to the right standards. That's the most important thing. We are 7-3 and that's great but again, we are chasing New Orleans. We are chasing the other teams in our conference as well so we have to stay on our game. When we come back, we have to make sure we have these guys ready to roll and pick up right where we left off.

