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## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM Dec. 11, 2017 | 8:20 P.M.

### POSTGAME QUOTES

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

**(Can you talk about the game that CB Xavien Howard had and the decision to have him shadow WR Brandin Cooks?)** – “When we started setting up this week, I think (Defensive Coordinator) Matt (Burke) kind of goes through what they’re thinking about doing. That’s just something that they felt confident about. X’s (Xavien Howard) confidence is really getting, it’s getting up there. He has had two really good games in a row. It’s good to see him really feeling it. The more confidence he gets, and if we get him one-on-one a lot, that helps us.”

**(Your defense – New England, 0-for-11 on third downs – what led to the overall big defensive play that we saw out there?)** – “It’s just down in, down out. Any time they threw it, (we would) just try to get around him (Patriots QB Tom Brady), create some pressure. We they get to third down, when our guys know you’re going to throw it, you just get close to him and try to get a hand on it whether or not they’re actually knocking him down or sacking him. It was that presence constantly, just kind of getting around him.”

**(The feeling for this win, everything that went on – offense, defense, special teams – you pretty much won every stage of the game. You’ve got to feel pretty good for those guys in the locker room in there.)** – “Those guys have been working hard. We had a little bump in the road midseason, We’re down to one game at a time right now. We’ve had two good weeks in a row, complementary football. All three phases have been playing together. We’ve been waiting for this to happen. We’ll just keep going one at a time and see what happens.”

**(Can you talk a little bit about RB Kenyan Drake. 195 total yards, 115 rushing.)** – “Even when we don’t quite block it right, he makes it work. He has good vision. With speed like that, he just gets a little bit of green grass and seems to go a pretty good distance.”

**(We saw a lot of different play calls out here, especially early in this football game. Were there a number of things that you saw that you thought you could take advantage of?)** – “I don’t know if it’s so much take advantage. It was just more we focused more on ourselves this week of let’s put a good plan together. Let’s try to use as many guys as we could and see if we can do some things that we hadn’t really shown in a while. A lot of the stuff we dug up from earlier in the season. Guys executed the plan well.”





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### HARD ROCK STADIUM

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**(Can you talk about CB Xavien Howard? Can you talk about your defense as a whole? I think they were 0-for-10 on third downs and Patriots QB Tom Brady seemed to be bumped around all day long and seemed to be kind of antsy in the pocket there and just all night pressure on him.)** – “I think the guys did a good job of playing team defense. It really starts with our front and then linebackers and the secondary. The guys did a good job. They played well together tonight.”

**(So you had WR Jakeem Grant outside for a touchdown. Could have been two touchdowns. You had WR Jarvis Landry in the backfield, Grant in the backfield, TE MarQuies Gray in the backfield. MarQuies Gray at fullback. Are those the things you were talking about being the different things?)** – “We just moved some guys around. We used some different personnel packages. When we get into a flow a little bit, it kind of makes it easier to get to those personnel groupings. I think, maybe tonight, (we) did it earlier in the series than what we had normally done. It worked out. Guys made plays. Jay (Cutler) did a good job of getting those guys the ball and they did a good job of being where they were supposed to be.”

**(Can you talk about the protection? Because QB Jay Cutler didn't seem to be under duress, certainly not nearly as much as QB Matt Moore was the first game with seven sacks.)** – “They do a lot of different stuff. That's why we were kind of changed some personnel groupings out, tried to see if we can add an extra guy in protection every once in a while, just keep them guessing as far as what we were trying to do. It didn't always work, but we were just trying to keep them a little bit off balance and see if we could give him enough time to make the throws.”

**(Can you talk about the night that JQB ay Cutler had, moving around the pocket, getting the ball to his guys? I know he's sitting right here.)** – “I know. I'm glad you did it when he walked it. (laughter)”

**(You don't want to make QB Jay Cutler blush.)** – “He did a good job. He stayed focused the entire game. He stayed wired in and kept going through the drives. When we went back out there, we had good focus. We just kept talking about resetting one series at a time. Every series we just wanted to make sure to get a first down and do everything we can to get in that red zone, and when we get in the red zone we wanted to score touchdowns.”





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**(Is this the best your team has played this year?)** – “I think this is probably one of the better games we've played probably in the last two years as a team, all three phases.”

**Miami Dolphins Quarterback Jay Cutler (transcribed by Daniel Chavez)**

**(Offensively, what was it you guys saw going into this game that you felt you were able to take advantage of because we saw a lot of different things out of your offense, especially in the first half of this game?)** – “I think we rotated the personnel pretty well. They've been a high-percentage man team coming into it. I think they started the game like that, played a little bare front. The offensive line handled it well. We made some big plays on the outside that I thought really helped us. We were able to get Jakeem (Grant) in there and he made some big plays – ‘Juice’ (Jarvis Landry) – kind of all-around. Then in that second half, to start mixing it up and shuffling the deck on it. In the fourth quarter, I wish we could have put it away and put another one on there; but it's a good team we faced.”

**(What about yourself, being able to get out of the pocket, the one escaped where you spun out of there and made a play on it. Do you feel comfortable getting out of the pocket and moving around?)** – “Yes, I've always liked it. I've always liked moving the pocket, getting out. We had that one – the 2-man – I tried to get it back in to Jakeem Grant and he probably would have run for 20 (yards). So (there were) a few of those that I just want to go back and look at and run or throw, that's always the deciding factor there.”

**(It's two weeks in a row where RB Kenyan Drake has had big rushing yards, big receiving yards. What does he mean to your offense and what does he do to allow him to do other things in your offense?)** – “I think he's flourished in this with his ability to catch the ball out of the backfield. Tonight we saw him split out and just running past linebackers. He breaks tackles in the hole, he cuts back well, he sees it well. He's becoming one of those complete backs that you're able to do a lot with.”

**(I assume there is a little disappointment early on with the field goals, but just to get going and to get some scoring drives right off the bat...)** – “Yes, you always want to score touchdowns. Our thing coming into this was just let's get down there and let's get attempts in the red zone. Let's just start getting attempts, whether its field goals, the touchdowns will come. We've been a pretty good red zone team whenever we get down there so it's just a matter of us having as many attempts in the red zone as we could.”





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**(They are the New England Patriots. They started a little comeback in the second half. It got a little hairy there at the end. How do you feel to you when you're watching them move the ball down the field?)** – "I think that goes back to earlier. We had some chances there early in the fourth to cushion our lead a little bit and couldn't make it happen. You've got to be careful with a team like that, like you said. I think the Super Bowl last year is an indication of what they're capable of and then they made it a one-possession game in this one, so you've got to beat these guys until the final whistle."

**(You guys threw a lot of things at them. There was a lot of diversity in the offense. Obviously that doesn't help them a lot. How does it make a quarterback feel when you've got so many things that you can go to?)** – "We used a lot of guys. Like you said, we used a lot of guys. Tight ends, all the receivers, Jakeem (Grant), we lined up 'Juice' (Jarvis Landry) and Jakeem in the backfield a few times, so we were mixing it up. I thought (Head Coach) Adam (Gase) was dialing it up well tonight."

**(You guys can finish 9-7. Do you talk postseason or how do you deal with that?)** – "No. Do we have Buffalo next?"

**(Yes.)** – "We play Buffalo next. That's kind of where our mindset is at."

**(It's been an arduous season for you guys in a lot of ways. When you have a night like this, what's it like coming off the field, those guys coming in the locker room?)** – "Winning is always ... That's what keeps you in this game. That locker room after a win, there's nothing like it. A plane ride home after a win, it's hard to beat it. So it gives us a boost. We hit on it in there. We've got another game, so tomorrow we're going to take a look at this and we're going to keep moving."

**(You're very even. It's hard to tell with you sometimes. Are you happy?)** – "I think I'm pretty happy. (laughter)"

### **Miami Dolphins RB Kenyan Drake (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)**

**(How do you feel?)** – "I feel great. Body always feels great after a win, especially a win against a top-notch opponent such as the Patriots. I feel great."





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**(What is like to have such a big night on Monday Night Football?)** – “I try to go out there no matter the situation, no matter the stage and just try to do my best to help this team win games. I feel like I sound like a broken record but that’s just my mentality. I enjoy going out there and performing on these stages obviously, but it was a great team win; offense, defense, special teams, all facets of the game. Shout-out to everybody that came out there and supported us. We definitely got the job done today.”

**(How is your confidence level now after back-to-back 100-yard rushing games?)** – “I feel like I try to go out there with a level of arrogance that I feel like I can go out there and help this team win in any way possible. My confidence has stayed pretty stagnant because regardless if I fumble or whatever the case may be, I’m going to go out there and prove that I can be a top notch player. I’m just happy we got this win.”

#### **Miami Dolphins WR Jakeem Grant (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)**

**(Can you believe this team is a game out of the playoffs with as much as you guys have gone through with losing five straight, losing your quarterback and all that? There’s a pretty good chance you’ll be playing in January.)** – “We’re not worried about that. We have a one game mentality. We’re just worried about the next game coming up and just trying to win that one. If we keep playing like that who knows.”

**(You’ve been thinking for the whole time you’ve been here, and you’ve said it before about what you could do at receiver, to haul in that catch on Monday Night Football against New England. What does that mean to you?)** – “It means a lot. It feels great. I don’t care about the outside; I just wanted to make those plays for the team. They definitely knew I could make those plays but actually just going out there and doing it, and proving myself, means a lot to me. Now it’s just a stepping ladder. That’s the first step up the ladder and now I have to make more plays just like it.”

**(It was a tough play against Patriots CB Malcolm Butler. Tell me about it.)** – “It was a go route. He played it within five yards so I used my speed. I thought it was going to be an over the shoulder ball but Jay threw it up there and trusted me to come down with it so I had to make a play. Like I told Adam previously, I promised my kids I would score a touchdown for them so I had to. I was hungry enough to get that touchdown and come down with it. Also I wanted to make that play for the team to show them that you can trust me.”





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**Miami Dolphins CB Xavien Howard (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)**

**(What this meant for the team and then to have the type of game you had out there tonight?)** – “Put a lot of work in. Just coming into this week we knew what we could do and what we could take advantage of. Just going out there and making plays for the team. Really just going out there...”

**(You have four interceptions in two games. What’s happening? Why have things turned around so well for you now?)** – “I’m just feeding off the last game. Watching film and stuff like that. They tried to come at me in the weakness that I showed on film so just executing the game plan.”

**(And what happened on the two interceptions?)** – “The ball was in the air. I just made a play on it.”

**Miami Dolphins Safety Reshad Jones (transcribed by Michelle Stone)**

**(What do you think of this man here, CB Xavien Howard?)** – “He balled out. That’s what he does. That’s what he does. He can be one of the best corners in the league.”

**(How have you seen CB Xavien Howard get better as the season’s gone on?)** – “He’s emerging. He’s coming on. He’s just got to keep it going.”

**(Why does this team have so much success here against the Patriots?)** – “We believe in each other. The camaraderie in this locker room, we’ve got resilient guys in this locker room. That’s what it’s supposed to look like.”

**Miami Dolphins Wide Receiver Jarvis Landry (transcribed by Paige Jefferson)**

**(How does it feel?)** – “Great! Great! Great! We needed it. This team needed it. We found a way to put it together. We found a way to put it together from start to finish. I think this is one of our most complete games thus far, you know. I mean you guys could tell me. I think it was.”

**(Could you feel it this week in practice? Could you feel this performance was coming)** – “Yeah! I felt it every week! You know it didn’t always turn out the way we wanted it to. You





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know? But at the same time you know tonight we understand that it's always...the rest of the season for us is do or die so you know we had to go get it."

**(Jarvis, what worked so well offensively?)** – "Man, we was clicking man. We did a lot of things formationally. We got Jakeem Grant. He played well tonight. And you know everybody touched the rock. Everybody got a piece. Drake can't say enough about the things he did on the ground and for us in the air. He extended that third down in the red zone that turned into points so you know it's huge."

**(Far to say a little better than November?)** – "You know every time I say something like that, it gets taken out of context so I'm not going to say anything like that."

**(What does it mean? Now? Right now? You're standing in the locker room. Your music is playing. I mean, how much does this win mean for this team?)** – "Our spirits needed it. Our spirits needed it honestly, man. We haven't really been down you know? But at the same time man when you lose five games in a row it's always tough to start that train back over again and we started it back last weekend. To keep it going against a team like this it's so important for us for the rest of the season and try to make a run and see if we can do it."

**(Converting that early 4<sup>th</sup> & 1 and just sort of playing fearless, playing aggressive, how important was that?)** – "It's big! You know they do the same thing! And I think we kind gave them a little taste of their own medicine and we found ways to make plays. We found ways to just... our will is stronger than yours. You know we went at them and I think that's the thing that got us over the edge tonight."

**(What was the celebration?)** – "This song right here. (Motorsport Migos f/ Cardi B and Nicki Minaj). "Take the air out the ball. Just so I can flex. This song right here! I'm not going to say the rest because you all are going to take that out of context again!"

**(Were you deflating the ball or inflating the ball?)** – "I'm taking the air out the ball! I'm deflating it!"

**(What about the mindset that is required to beat, not just any opponent, but a team like the Patriots? I have this idea that sometimes teams are beaten before they take the field.)** – "And it happens! And it happens! And it's all about mindset you know? It's all about mindset. It's all





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about approach you know? And the biggest thing again for us... it's not taking the field hoping to win, it's expecting to win and we did that."

#### **Miami Dolphins DT Ndamukong Suh (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)**

**(You said before the game your job was to hurt Tom Brady. You guys clearly roughed him up and made him aware that you guys were around. It seemed like that started from the opening play of the game, that you guys got in there.)** – "Our focus every single game is to hit the quarterback as hard as we can and make them uncomfortable. I think we did a pretty good job of it, I think we could have done more. We'll go back and watch the film and see what our mistakes were, which I don't feel like we made too many."

**(They were able to pick up yards running two weeks ago against you. I don't think they had more than 30 or 40 yards rushing in the game today. What was the difference in the ball game?)** – "I think as you watch them, especially over the last two weeks or so, they wanted to run the ball and they've been successful against us obviously the first time we played them so we knew that was going to be a big focus. Seeing that they had five receivers open they would probably want to pass a little more, using the tight end, things of that nature. So just understanding their scheme and their personnel and how they want to attack us and just go from there."

**(You guys seem to be aggressive, kind a little extra curricular a little here and there. I know that's something they're kind of known for. Did you go into the game feeling we need to make these guys uncomfortable?)** – "I think at the end of the day we looked at two weeks ago, saw that they were a lot more physical than us. We wanted to make sure we were physical, played to the whistle and imposed our will. "

**(You talked about Jordan Phillips, he had a big game, had a sack, you had a sack, but hurts his ankle late in the game, comes back and again makes a play and gets a holding penalty against him and fights through it. What does that say to you about a kid like that?)** – "As I said before Jordan understands his role and he's embracing it. I think no matter what happens, as long as he's healthy enough to be out there, whether it's 60, 80 percent, obviously hope to be 100% but I think at this time of the year nobody is. He's going to go out there and produce and that's what we expect from him."

**(Your run defense, you guys know the Patriots are 25-yards on the ground. How big was that in terms of being able to stop them from being able to move the ball consistently?)**– "As I said







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before, they wanted to run the ball previously, understanding their personnel. Our focus was always, no matter who we are playing, trying to shut down the run and obviously get after the quarterback."

**(Xavien Howards interceptions, what did that do for the defense, what did that do for the team overall?)**– "X is doing his job, being in the right place, making plays. We've always said it, there's going to be opportunities, just make the most of them. X has done a great job of that these last couple weeks."

**(The fact it didn't look like you guys made a lot of mistakes. What does that say about the team considering two weeks ago there was like 20?)** "We watched the film, we understood what we did. We made a lot of mistakes previously when we were up there. They do a great job, they run the same offense and once you pick up on that and don't make mistakes it's fairly simple to stop it. But when you do make mistakes they're going to execute and make plays against you."

**(You have Buffalo next week, you guys can get to 500 with that, still be in the hunt. How much do these two games give you the confidence to go up to Buffalo and try to get back to 500?)** – "I think it's 12 o'clock now, we've got 12 hours to enjoy it before we get back in our office and we have to understand it's a big task ahead of us. We've got Buffalo twice, we need to take care of business up there. It's going to be tough. It's probably going to be really cold and we've got to embrace that."

### **Miami Dolphins DE Cameron Wake (transcribed by Ted Leshinski)**

**(Is this as big of a win as you've been around for a while?)** – "I don't know if I'd go that far; but it was fun. It was a complete game. Guys played together. I've been saying for the past couple of weeks (that) complementary football is something that we needed a few weeks ago. That was fun, a fun night. I know a lot of the guys enjoyed it as well."

**(As a defensive line, did you guys come into this game feeling like that you could set the pace and dictate the play and pace of this game?)** – "I kind of think that we feel like that every game, to be honest. The guys that we have up front, we should run the show. That's the way it should be. I know we put a lot on our backs when things don't go well. I feel like it's because we didn't do well and when things go well, I feel like we definitely play a part. So, all across the





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board, guys are in the habit of making plays and I think that trickles down. Obviously if you're getting pressure and there's throws that may be a little errant, obviously guys are covering. Like I said, it's complementary. You've got to play together, from the front to the back. They're covering guys and giving us time to make pressure. We're pressuring to give them time to make interceptions and PBUs and whatever it may be. Again, lots of fun."

**(What's the difference been on third downs these past couple of weeks? Tonight, 0-for-11 for New England. How are you guys able to pull that off?)** – "I think just being more accountable. I've told you guys before, when you have running scot free without anybody touching him, that's not something they did, generally. It's not just the Dolphins, it's football all over the world. Guys just don't run open. It doesn't work that way. If you get beat on a great play, a great throw, that's one thing; but we've had sometimes where it's miscommunications or whatever it may be, where we shot ourselves in the foot. That was something I told you, again, a couple of weeks ago, that we have to work on being consistent, being where we're supposed to be and doing your job. When you do that, 11 guys together, I think it's tough to deal with us."

**(How much fun has it been to see what CB Xavien Howard has done the last two weeks? Four interceptions in two games.)** – "It's definitely been fun. To be very honest and frank, it's not surprising. From the moment he got on campus last year, I knew the ability he had, the type of mentality and what he could bring to the table. You could tell him that I said it's about time. I've been seeing him do amazing things on the field since he got here. I think all that hard work and perseverance and persistence is paying off. I'm definitely happy for him. It's not a big surprise."

**(You said this year you couldn't figure out why the team that went out there against Atlanta and played so well, couldn't play that way a few games after that and the inconsistency. Have you noticed something different these last couple of performances leading up to those games to where you're like 'OK, now that's what I've been looking to see?')** – "Well, I told you that the encouraging and frustrating thing is when you have the ability and you have pieces, you can do it; but then you don't do it all the time. I've said before that if you could just never do something, then you just have to figure out a way around it; but we've shown that we can do a lot of good things. It's about being consistent and putting it together for 60 minutes, complementary from front to back, offense and defense, and all of that. I'd like to think that the guys we have are back-against-the-wall, fight-out-of-the-hole type guys. You'd rather not get into a hole; but again, over the past couple of years, I think we've shown time and time





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again that we have the pieces and it's just on us to put it together, and when we do, I'll line us up against anybody."

#### **New England Patriots Head Coach Bill Belichick (transcribed by Ken Mendonca)**

**(Opening Statement)** – "It was a good job tonight by the Dolphins, (Head) Coach (Adam) Gase, staff, their team. They did a good job tonight. They obviously did a better job than we did. We just weren't really good enough in any area, consistent enough in any area to win the game. So, all need to do a better job and hopefully we'll be able to do that. It just wasn't good enough tonight across the board."

**(Do you think any of the guys might have been looking ahead next week, looking past Miami?)** – "No. Give me a break. Any questions about the game or not?"

**(Third down you struggled. 0-for-11.)** – "Not good enough."

**(Can you put your hand on any particular reason why there seems to be continuous struggles every year you come down here? That's four out of five years now you've lost down here. Can you put your hand on anything why here is such a struggle?)** – "Were you here last year?"

**(Won last year. You lost the previous three.)** – "Every game is its own game, okay? I don't think what happened five years ago has anything to do with tonight."

**(Can you explain the onside kick? What happened there with that kick?)** – "They recovered it."

**(How different was their defensive approach in this game compared to November 26? Was there significant change in the way they approached that?)** – "No, I wouldn't say it was dramatic."

**(How do you feel your defense played at times when they had to come up with stops as the game went along?)** – "At times there were things that were good in the game, it just wasn't ... We didn't score enough points; we gave up too many to win. It was competitive, but it wasn't good enough. They did a better job than we did in all three areas of the game. Give them credit."





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**(Typically, you guys have the advantage in starting field position. Tonight it seemed like it was an uphill climb, especially trying to come back when they flipped the field. How difficult is it?)**

– “If you play better defense and move the ball better, then you have better field position. We didn’t do either one of those things well enough to get good field position, so we didn’t have it.”

**(In the first half there were 12 targets to running backs and tight ends and just three I think to receivers. Was there anything that they were doing that you saw that led to the ball maybe going to the backs other than maybe the receivers that led to that disparity?)** – “I don’t know how many times we’ve been through this. We call the play, we run the route, based on the coverage they’re in, the decision the quarterback makes, throw the ball to the open guy. We don’t go back and throw it to one guy like we’re going to throw 10 passes to a receiver, or we’re going to throw 10 passes to the tight end. It’s based on that route, it’s based on the coverage, it’s based on the quarterback, the decision the quarterback makes on that play. So, we could look at each play, go through each read, talk to the quarterback and try to answer your question that way, but I just can’t do that right now. But, no, we weren’t trying to throw every pass to one guy, we never do that.”

**(I was more curious if their coverage was dictating, like were they playing a certain coverage that was leading to that?)** – “We threw the ball to everybody. We didn’t really hit much anything.”

#### **New England Patriots WR Danny Amendola (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)**

**(What made the Dolphins difficult today for the offense?)** – “I’m going to have to go back and watch it on film. I couldn’t really tell when I was running my routes. We just have to play better.”

**(No completions to the wide-outs in the first half. Were they covering you particularly well? Was there no time? Is there anything you noticed without looking at the film?)** – “It’s a really good question and obviously not our goal as a unit. We just have to play better.”

**(You guys were 0-for-11 on third downs, which is uncharacteristic to see that from the offense. Does anything stand out to you from the third downs that you saw?)** – “They play a lot of Cover 1 with a robber in the middle of the field and they played better than us tonight, so they won.”





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**New England Patriots QB Tom Brady (transcribed by Alex Onaindia)**

**(The numbers on third down were something we're not used to seeing from you guys. What did you see on third down that just led to some of the lack of production?)** – “Yes, it was pretty bad. You can't get any worse than that so ... We couldn't stay on the field and just didn't make enough plays. It's just a bad night. We've had a lot of good nights this year and this was a bad night.”

**(In the first half a lot of targets to the running backs. I think there were like 11 targets or 12 to the running backs and only a few to the receivers. What were you seeing out there that maybe led the ball to go more to them? What were they doing maybe that led to that?)** – “I'm not sure. I'm not sure. I think there were less screen passes in there and stuff like that. We just have to take a look. Ideally you'd like to spread it around to everybody. We just got behind and not really the way we wanted to play the game. It was just a bad loss.”

**(You did win down here last year but before that, it just seems to be a constant struggle coming down here. Can you pin it on anything? Any idea why it seems to be a struggle so many times down here?)** – “Yes, we're just not playing well. I don't think there's any magic potion or anything to take to come down and win. We just didn't play good, got behind, tried to battle back and just couldn't do it. It's just a bad night. I wish we played better but we didn't, and we have to move on and try to play a lot better next week.”

**(You guys move on and a game against Pittsburgh next Sunday. If you win, you're right up at the top of the AFC again. How much does that make you look forward to that opportunity and put this one behind you quickly?)** – “Yes, it's a short week and we have a lot to catch up on. I mean we can't go up there and play as poorly as we did tonight. I think we have to do a lot of things better. I certainly have to do a lot of things better and that's what my focus will be this week.”

**(Is it just a coincidence that the team struggled without TE Rob Gronkowski to go to? What kind of effect is there not having him to go to? Did it have a big effect on the offense?)** – “Yes, I mean he's a great player so any time he's out there, it helps us. We've got some other good players and like I said, we try to spread the ball around quite a bit. We just couldn't quite make enough plays and I've got to throw the ball better. That's where it starts.”





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## NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS

### HARD ROCK STADIUM

Dec. 11, 2017 | 8:20 P.M.

#### POSTGAME QUOTES

**(Was there anything different about the way their defensive backs played? Were they more aggressive, more contact and more physical than the last time you played them?)** – “I think we played with the lead last time. That’s always important in the NFL. When you play from ahead and you don’t turn the ball over and you can get leads and play on your terms, a lot of things go your way. Tonight we got behind, turned it over and had to play on their terms all night. They kept mixing up zone and man and ultimately kept us out of rhythm. Any time you don’t convert on third down, it’s not a good night. We’ve got to work hard on all of those things. We’re in a decent place and obviously go to go to Pittsburgh and try to beat a real good team.”

**(Can you talk about QB Jay Cutler’s ability to control the tempo of the game early on in the first quarter? How frustrating was that for you to not be able to do anything about that?)** – “Yes and then when we did (get the ball), we went three-and-out. I don’t think that was great. Obviously they’re going to take the ball, which they got it, and possess it a little bit. We’ve got to do something when we get it. We just didn’t do a great job of that.”

**(Some of those throws early in the first quarter. They maybe came up on the interception a little short. Is that physical or is that more mechanical when you look at that? Or is it hard to tell right now?)** – “I think it’s a little of everything. It’s obviously not where I’m trying to throw it. The guy made a good play and they get them sometimes too. I wish they never got them, but sometimes they do. There were a lot of balls that were 50-50 balls tonight that were close. We got our hands on a couple and they got their hands on too many as far as I’m concerned. So (we have to) do a better job of it next week.”

**(On those deep throws, does that come from a place of almost frustration with trying to get it all back in one throw on third-and-long?)** – “I think we had a decent shot there. ‘Cookie’ (Brandin Cooks) got behind him and I tried to put it out there for him and they intercepted it. It’s third-and-long so ... You’d rather them not intercept it; but they did. I thought (Xavier Howard) made a good play.”

#### **New England Patriots CB Malcolm Butler (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)**

**(What were the changes you saw in this team from the one you saw two weeks ago?)** – “First of all they were at home. They out played us, they played a great game. You have to give credit to them. We could have done a lot of things better but we have to move on and get ready for Pittsburgh.”





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**(Was there anything the Dolphins did on offense that kind of kept you guys off balance?)** – “Yeah, just had to make plays when they came your way. Everybody had to make plays, especially myself. Just need to do better all-around the board.”

**(What do you think allowed Jay Cutler to be so successful tonight?)** – “I don’t know. Probably inner-self, probably had confidence in himself. He’s in the NFL for a reason. Every player, every dog has his day.”

**(What happened on that touchdown?)** – “I should have been more aggressive. I should have went up and played the ball a little bit better. I think I competed well on it but in this case competing wasn’t good enough.”

**(There was a moment in the second half when Duron (Harmon) kind of got you guys together. What was he trying to convey during that moment?)** – “Just trying to get everybody on the same page. Play harder, come out and just fight, fight until the end, which we did, probably a little too late. We have to rebound; we always rebound and respond the right away.”

#### **New England Patriots CB Stephon Gilmore (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)**

**(What was the difference from last time you played the Dolphins to this time?)** – “They just made more plays than we did. Executed better than we did and that’s what it comes down to.”

**(Was there anything that happened there that surprised you guys or was it just a matter of execution?)** – “It’s a matter of execution. They ran some of the same stuff we knew they were going to run but we just didn’t execute well.”

**(What do you guys have to do to get ready for the Pittsburgh Steelers next week?)** – “Bounce back. Go to the drawing board. Practice hard. Get ready for the Steelers.”

#### **New England Patriots WR Chris Hogan (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)**

**(How did it feel to be back?)** – “It was good. It was good to be back out there with the guys and be playing. I missed being out there with them.”





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**(Any loss is tough obviously, but when you have a chance to clinch a division playoff spot how much more difficult is that?)** – “We still have a lot of football left to be played, so we’re not going to dwell on ... We had ... We lost. We’ve got to move on. We got a big game coming up. We’re in a short week, so we’re going to have to make the corrections quickly and turn our focus to the Steelers.”

**(You guys couldn’t convert on third down tonight. Was there anything specifically that they were doing that was causing you guys problems?)** – “They’re playing really well. Their whole defense was playing well. Their front four is disruptive. Their d-backs played really well. We just have to do a better job.”

#### **New England Patriots DB Devin McCourty (transcribed by Jason D. Silver)**

**(Talk about what was the difference from the last time you played the Dolphins to tonight)** – “They won. They out executed us today. From the beginning to end. We got some things going at periods of the game but overall they just out executed us from the beginning all the way to the end, really in every phase of the game.”

**(Was this a trap game for New England?)** – “No. We know. Our record down here the last couple years, I think we won like one out of the last so...it’s not we came down here like this is a home team, we dominate here. So I don’t see it as a trap game. We knew, you’ve got a championship on the line. That’s not a trap game. We didn’t execute as well as we needed to against another team that’s fighting for their playoff berth too. So it’s just that point in the season where if you don’t play at your highest level you’ll lose. Everyone’s out here playing for something.”

**(Did you feel at any point during the week that maybe there was a sign that something like this was possible? You talked at the end of the week about how important it is. ‘We know we can’t have a bad Wednesday. We can’t have a bad Thursday.’ Did you feel like it was a good week?)** – “Yes. We had a good week. It’s just, in football sometimes you come out and you play as well as you want to and that’s what it was. You play another good team that knows you well. You know them well and they’re on it a little more than you are and you’re a half-step late. To me you saw that. It wasn’t like we just came out here and never got anything going. We got things going at different times in the game but it was just too late. Once we actually started playing and complimenting each other a little bit all the way at the end the







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deficit was too big to overcome. If we could have got that going a little earlier we would have had a better shot.”

