



BUFFALO BILLS AT MIAMI DOLPHINS HARD ROCK STADIUM Dec. 31, 2017 | 4:25 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Buffalo Bills Head Coach Sean McDermott (transcribed by Ken Mendonça)

(Opening Statement) – “Opening up, really I just want to praise God, number one. It was a heck of a year. He continues to bless us, and thank the Cincinnati Bengals as well and (Head Coach) Marvin Lewis. Really, just all the sacrifice that goes into this on the players’ behalf, on everyone involved in the building back in Buffalo, for all of our fans, all the families involved, all the sacrifices that have gone into this, I can’t thank everyone enough. Congratulations to everyone. It’s been a long time coming and the best part is we’re building. I’m just happy to be a part of it. Also, I want to say congratulations to Kyle Williams. He’s worked, he’s sweated, he’s bled and he’s put his heart and soul into this city and this team, and I couldn’t be any prouder for him at this moment. Really our players and our fans, just congratulations. I’m just happy to be a part of it.”

(Could you have ever imagined this happening in your first season as head coach?) – “You know what? I’m a firm believer in faith and I know God brought me here for a reason. He brought this group of men together for a reason, so that’s what I fall back on in times like this.”

(How did you manage the balance of concentrating on the task at hand and knowing this help you had to get and having that in the back of your mind, in the minds of your players and everyone else?) – “Yes, you’ve heard me say it before, this is a mentally tough football team. That’s what you saw out there today. They battled. We had some guys go down and other guys were ready. (It was a) great job by the coaching staff. Guys stepped up and did their job and did it well. The hard part was just trying to close this team out. It’s a good football team in the other locker room and give credit to (Dolphins Head) Coach (Adam) Gase and his football team. They battled and made it close at the end.”

(When you got back into the locker room after the game, where was the Bengals’ game at the point? They were down at that point, I know. How bleak was the feeling because their situation did not look good there?) – “There’s a lot of guys. We turned it on right away and felt like it was the right thing to do, regardless of what happened for our players and give them a chance to watch it. (There were) a lot of guys praying, a lot of guys just holding hands, and it was just great to have everyone together. (There’s) no way I’d rather end the season than together, whether it was going to work out in our favor or not, and to be able to celebrate, to watch a lot of grown men in that room cry because of where they know they’re going and all the hard work and sweat and tears that have gone into this thing, this is what we work for right here.”





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(Knowing how good that Baltimore defense is, are you shocked by how it ended and how the Bengals scored on that play?) – “It’s unfortunate, I know. There’s a winner and there’s a loser. (Ravens Head) Coach (John) Harbaugh’s a great coach. (Baltimore Defensive Coordinator) Coach (Dean) Pees, from what I read, this may have been his last game, so ... They’ve been there before. We’re just happy to have a piece of it right now, have a chance, and like I said before, we continue to grow, continue to build, and we’ve got to get better each and every week.”

(What is LeSean McCoy’s status?) – “I don’t know yet at this point. He’s still being evaluated. I think we’ll know something a little bit more in the next 24-48 hours.”

(The DT Kyle Williams touchdown, is that something put in recently, or was that in the book?) – “(Laughter) It’s just something they put in over the last couple of weeks. Kyle did a great job. Credit (Offensive Coordinator) Rick Dennison, Juan Castillo our offensive line coach. It was well designed and well executed by Kyle.”

(What does it tell you about a team like Cincinnati, nothing to play for today and to come out and play for today to come out and play their tails off, as hard as they did with nothing on the line for them. If your team is in that position, do you feel a responsibility to play hard? There’s other teams depending on you. Is that something you like your team to demonstrate?) – “All situations are different, right? That’s a Marvin Lewis-coached football team. They always play hard and I wouldn’t expect them to play any different; but every situation’s a little bit different. I know this, we go out and play hard regardless of the situation, and we play a certain style of football, and that’s Buffalo Bill football.”

(Did you talk to Owner Terry Pegula about this at all yet? About making the playoffs and the drought?) – “He was in the locker room, yes. He was in the locker room.”

(Was there any discussion? Any interaction?) – “A lot of hugging going on, and I’m happy for ... I failed to mention the Pegulas. They’ve invested a lot into the team and into the entire city. I can’t thank them enough for this opportunity and like I said, I’m just happy to be a part of it.”

(When you first took the job, you knew this whole 17-year thing had been sitting there. How much of it was something that you took on yourself, knowing that if there was any way to get this done right away and end it now, then do it. How important was it to you, because you know in the community, what it meant to the people here?) – “That’s why it’s such an emotional moment. I know it’s my first year as a head coach and we’re building, and that’s the exciting part. There’s still a





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lot of work to do (and) a lot of work to be done. That said, when Cincinnati went ahead and it got to be 44 seconds on the clock, I was just saying to God, 'Why not just now? Let's just get this over with now.' I'm happy, like I said, for all the work that's been put in, the fans that come out, the fans that came here to support us – it's not an easy flight. They travel with us wherever we go it seems like and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Jacksonville next week here."

(The play with Dolphins WR Jarvis Landry and the flags that disrupted the game toward the end, did you have to focus the team after that or any concerns after that happened?) – "There are always concerns. I don't like to see that on either side. It's always a tough ... The officials have a tough job when those things go on just to identify what exactly went on. I believe in discipline and in order to win, you have to play disciplined football, so I'll just leave it at that for now."

(In those moments right after the Bengals game went final, can you take me through them?) – "A lot of happy guys in that locker room, a lot of emotions running pretty wild, guys just happy to be a part of it. This is a team. This is a team, these guys play as a team. From day one, no one gave them the chance. People thought we were tanking and I give a lot of credit to (General Manager) Brandon Beane and our personnel staff. They do a great job and the guys continue to battle. We're nowhere near where we need to be, but we are very grateful for this opportunity and it's a well-earned opportunity, and so my hat goes off to everyone involved."

