



MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. BUFFALO BILLS

NEW ERA FIELD

Dec. 17, 2017 | 1:00 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Bills Head Coach Sean McDermott (transcribed by the Buffalo Bills)

Opening Statement: Okay, we'll go ahead and get started. Just a couple things: first of all, a big-time thank you everyone, again, that got this stadium ready to play both in the stadium and outside the stadium. It was a great team effort. Secondly, and not to be outdone, our fans [did a] tremendous job this year at home [with a] 6-2 record. It's a step in the right direction in reestablishing who we are and how we play at home. That was big for us. Finally, congrats to LeSean McCoy on 10,000 yards [rushing]. 30th player in NFL history [to do so]. A great accomplishment. Tremendous. With that, I'll open it up to questions.

Q: Can you talk about the first half there? Your offense probably played as well as it's played in maybe a month in that first half. Let's start there, and we'll get to the second half later. The first half kind of won the game for you.

A: Yeah, I thought we were dynamic in terms of the mix of run-pass and opened it up down the field a couple of times, which kept them a little bit off balance at times. We were running the ball effectively and then the play-action was working. Tyrod [Taylor] did a good job of really getting a lot of people involved in the passing game as well so I thought Rick [Dennison] called a really good game and it was good to see. In particular, [it was good] to score three times in that first half, I think it was, so that was big.

Q: In the second half, the inability to really put them away, they were in it until the end. It seems like you could've put them away earlier and had done more on offense. Could you attest to that?

A: I just think overall, really, there was a lot of opportunities, whether it's situationally [or something else]. We had a penalty that we were undisciplined in that area there, so there were some opportunities. You know, it's a challenge in the league to do that to teams. This is the NFL and I give credit to them. They're a good football team, a well-coached football team, but there were opportunities where we got sloppy.

Q: What's that do for your confidence to do that to them after they beat New England pretty handily?

A: We take them one at a time, really. We do, with all due respect to your question. This is a team that we're going to face in two weeks here again and they're a good football team so we've got a lot of work to do, as you saw, and we've got to get back at work Monday.

Q: Coach, defensively, you were able to keep everything in front of you. They really didn't have too many big plays. Obviously, you want to stop that every week but just, how were you able to kind of hold them down from getting anything deep?

A: I thought Leslie Frazier and the defensive staff put a good game plan together again. We got some key turnovers, which were big for us in terms of taking the ball away. The red zone stops were also key. Offensively, we did a good job in the red zone. Defensively, we also did a good job in the red zone. I think that was a big part of the win for us.

Q: It looked like Leslie blitzed a little more today, unless I'm going crazy. Was there a particular reason why he attacked [Jay] Cutler more than you've attacked other quarterbacks?

A: No, not necessarily. I mean, like I said, they're a good football team. We just felt like we had to get our guys going a little bit and give them some juice. So that was about it.





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Q: This is the first time you've won six games at home since the last time you went to the playoffs. How much does that mean to you to really establish the home field here?

A: Yeah, that's huge. That's huge. We know how important winning at home is. The guys talk about it a lot. We talk a lot about defending our dirt. That's something that's out there, that's a saying that's out there now. Playing in Western New York, you've heard me say it before, it's a special place to play in this stadium and in front of our fans here. Can't say enough about it in terms of the effort that the fans put forth to come and support us and stuck by us all season long. Kyle [Williams] did a great job last night talking to the team about what it means to play here and I think the players took it to heart [and] took a lot of pride in it.

Q: Coach, I know Tyrod is a guy that you haven't seen his personal success against Miami prior to this year. Has he ever told you that he just likes playing this team? Because his personal numbers are off the chart against these guys; he just seems to do well against them.

A: Yeah, we haven't had that conversation. We have other conversations, but we haven't had that one yet. This is, like I said, our guys continue to grow each and every week [and] get better. That'll be, again, the emphasis this week, that we focus on us [and] focus on what we've got to do to get better and grow. I thought, like I said earlier, we got sloppy late in the game and we can't afford to do that.

Q: Sean, not sure if you agree with this, but at 7-6 [in the game], they had a little momentum there. They scored twice in a row. It seemed like that drive you guys put together right there, it sort of turned the game in your favor almost for good. Would you agree that that was kind of a big drive for you at that point in the game?

A: It was. It was, you know, for our offense to come out – and I thought the run-pass, the play selection there, was phenomenal. They did have the momentum a little bit there and then we kind of took it back, which was good to see. Then we scored again, I think, on the next drive or two drives from that. That was good to see. I thought our offense again had a good rhythm to it, particularly in the first half. We ran the ball well, which is key in every game, and converted some critical third downs.

Q: Coach, the three interceptions. It's been a long time since you've had that many in a game, at least six weeks. Your assessment of that?

A: Important part of the game. Important part of the game. You've got to get takeaways on defense and special teams and then protect the ball on offense and special teams. That was key for us, and obviously winning the game like we did at the end with the interception, and playing smart football this time going down when we knew and obviously finished off the game.

Q: What did you say to Adolphus [Washington] coming off the field there?

A: I'll keep that conversation between him and myself at this point but I just wasn't happy with what ensued with the penalty. We had them into what I believe would've been a fourth down situation and you can't do that. You've got to play disciplined.

Q: Any updates on E.J. Gaines? Obviously, he got carted off. Kelvin [Benjamin] seemed to be favoring his knee as well.





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A: Both, really more so E.J., currently being evaluated. Kelvin just was working off of coming off that injury. He had a good week of practice and we've got to continue to get him stronger every week. I feel good about the way he came out of the game this week. It's something we can build on, at least, going into next week's game.

Q: Tyrod looked 100%, didn't he?

A: [laughs] he did. He did. I thought he played a good game. Like I said, he spread the ball around. He was decisive when he needed to be. Decisive, and then he took off when he needed to take off with the ball. Any time you can do that, it makes the defense defend all eleven guys on the field and that becomes a headache at times for people.

Q: Did you get a sense that guys wearing 10K t-shirts, and I know it's about the team, but it just seems to be a team support behind McCoy and his achievement.

A: Oh, it was an unbelievable achievement. Unbelievable. I'm just fortunate, I feel myself, to be a part of it [and] to have seen, to have watched it take place. That's one for the ages right there, that type of accomplishment. Hopefully everyone got their money's worth today with that. That was good to see.

Q: Sean, you all have a 'one game at a time' mindset, but how tough is it with two games to go and this team is as close to a playoff berth as its been through the whole drought? What have you said in past weeks to the team about the playoffs and how close it might be and what do you plan to tell them this week? Is it something you ignore or embrace?

A: Well, I think we embrace people talking about us. That's good in that type of light. We embrace that. That said, we have to focus on our process and what has gotten us to where we are and then continue to grow. If you stay the same in this league, the question was asked earlier, if you stay the same in this league you're going to get beat and so we have to continue to grow as coaches, as players, as staff, and that's what we're really focused on moving forward.

