



MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

ARROWHEAD STADIUM

Dec. 24, 2017 | 12:00 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Chiefs Chairman and CEO Clark Hunt (transcribed by the Kansas City Chiefs)

There was a little bit of a down time earlier this year, but things are trending upwards, not only outside on the field but in the locker room The Backstreet Boys, Paul Rudd and Eric Stonestreet are here for some pizzazz, kind of gets a better vibe in here. “I think that’s what you’ll find in any winning locker room is the guys coming together and playing for each other. I think that’s what we’ve seen here in the last few weeks. I know the guys are excited about the opportunity to go to the playoffs, excited to win the AFC West doing it two years in a row for the first time in franchise history.”

Back-to-back, what’s that say about the consistency that you’re looking for as an owner? “It’s really a credit to Andy (Reid) and the players. Since Andy came we’ve been incredibly consistent. We’ve made the playoffs now four out of five years with the two AFC West titles. He’s done a tremendous job, he and the staff have, and I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

What are some of the things you guys have had to overcome this year? “It’s certainly been a year where there’s been a lot of adversity. Eric’s (Berry) injury was probably the first example of that. Clearly when we got into the middle of the season and we were struggling at times on offense, at times on defense, sometimes you wondered will the Chiefs ever win another game. Credit to Andy and the staff getting it turned around against Oakland two weeks ago and then the victory against Los Angeles last week and clinching the division today. That’s what great coaching staffs do. That’s what players who believe in themselves do is they find a way to overcome adversity.”

Andy had to make the choice to suspend Marcus Peters two weeks ago. He’s come back and had two great games, how involved were you in that process on whether or not he was going to get suspended and what are your thought about how he’s come back? “He’s played tremendous the last couple of weeks. That decision was purely a coaching decision. The decision that Andy made, that’s in the past. Marcus is playing great. I know he’s looking forward to the playoffs as well.”

Is that the sort of reaction you want from him, to come back and continue to battle? “I think it’s really a credit to Andy and the team. When he came back that was in the past and they immediately went to work on winning the next game and that’s what they did.”

In drafting Patrick Mahomes, to have Alex Smith respond with a 4,000-yard year, how would you evaluate what you’ve seen from him this season? “Well Alex has been tremendous since he’s been with us. He’s been a big part of the success that we’ve had for the last five years. Clearly this has been his best year. He’s been a tremendous player, a tremendous leader. You saw it today, whether it was scrambling or making key throws, he’s been a catalyst in getting us to this point and we’re looking forward to going to the playoffs and having him carry us.”

Will you look at this season as a success without going further in the playoffs than you have in the past? “Probably in the moment it will be hard to evaluate that. That’s one of those things where we’ll have to look back after it’s over. Certainly coming into the year we had aspirations to not only make the playoffs but to go deep into the playoffs, make it to the Super Bowl. I don’t really want to comment on how I’d feel at that time. Today we’re





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just celebrating making the playoffs and winning the division because if we don't do that, then we don't have the opportunity."

When you guys lost four in a row and six of seven, did you lose any confidence in Andy and his staff?

"No, I really didn't. Part of that was having the benefit of seeing Andy a couple year ago when we were in a similar losing streak. That time, early in the year, how he was able to turn it around. We went on to win a bunch of games in a row, make the playoffs, have some success in the playoffs. So I knew it was something he was capable of. Certainly, any Chiefs fan in their heart, you wondered if we would be able to break the losing streak because momentum is a big thing in sports, and clearly the momentum was against us. The great thing is, the momentum is with us as we approach the playoffs."

Does that momentum give you confidence heading into the postseason? "It does. You have always heard in professional sports that you want to be playing your best football at the end of the season. I feel that is certainly the case. I feel we are playing better now than we were at the beginning of the season when we started 5-0. I think both the offense and the defense are playing at a very high level and that gives us a chance."

What does it mean to not only make the playoffs but host a playoff game in Arrowhead? "That is very big. So great for our fans. We appreciate the fans that were here today. They made a big difference today as they have the entire season. Getting a home playoff game is a way to reward them. It is also something that our players feed off of. For us to advance and go where we want to go, having a home playoff game and the fans behind us is big."

