



MIAMI DOLPHINS VS. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

ARROWHEAD STADIUM

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

POSTGAME QUOTES

Chiefs QB Alex Smith (transcribed by the Kansas City Chiefs)

What do you think it says to be able to come back these last three games and get the playoff berth? “I mean, I think everybody wants to be tough and you want to be a tough team mentally. You strive to do that. You just don’t know when the season starts what’s going to get thrown at you. What you’re going to have to overcome, what type of adversity it’s going to be. To have the two swings like we did, to start off as hot as we did and then to have so many tough losses after that and everybody kind of having a hand in it yeah, tough. I think definitely guys questioning themselves, searching as a team. I think to stick together and have that resiliency as a group, the entire building to, I think it says a lot about the character that we have. Guys sticking in and staying together.”

Clark Hunt said that he thinks you’re playing better now than you were at the beginning of the season as a team: “Yeah, I don’t necessarily disagree with that at all. Tough games, must win games, I feel like we stepped up in all three phases. Been playing pretty good football. Playing together. I think it has been different than the beginning of the year when it was, we were all over.”

You ready for a week off? “We’ll see. I’m pumped about the back-to-back thing right now and obviously clinching. We’ll see. We’ll see about what coach does with the time and all of that.”

Are there any drawbacks about any of the key guys getting a week off? “I mean I think there’s advantages and disadvantages that you can make arguments for. It just depends. I think you can make that argument, but if something were to happen, the risk factor sometimes you just don’t know. This is a physical game and you don’t know what can happen. We’ll figure it out when coach tells us what the deal is.”

Momentum – is that something that could be at risk if you sat out next weekend? “Not necessarily, no. I don’t think that necessarily outweighs the other things. But again I don’t get to make these decisions. We’ll wait and see.”

If Patrick (Mahomes) has to play next week – any way to gauge what type of progress he’s made? “Yes and no. I think on the mental side he’s obviously watching and mentally observing and mental reps and things like that. But throughout the week, limited reps. He’s running the look team and obviously then trying to prepare as much as he can to try to get ready. So he hasn’t been in live bullets since camp I mean those practices aren’t like that. So in that sense it’s been a while. But, I’ve said this all along, he’s a pretty natural player. If he has to he’ll bounce back quick.”

What does the 4,000 yard mark mean to you? “I think the thing I’m more pumped about is the whole offense all together. To have a 1,000 yard rusher, two 1,000 yard receivers then to hit 4,000 yards passing as a quarterback – to have all that going on at once I think is the most special part of everybody involved. I think taking pride in that as an offensive unit, that we got a ‘can’t stop us all’ mentality.”

How do you apply that the post-season is the true measure to what you guys have achieved? “The end goal for everybody is to win a championship. The first step is to punch your ticket to the playoffs and doing that today and we’ll get a home game and find out who we play here as the next two weeks go on. That’s the first step. You can’t get to the end goal unless you accomplish the first step. Then you move onto the next one now





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and we've got to win the first one. I don't think you get ahead of yourself. You just have to live like that. No question right. I think this game, ultimately is what you're graded on."

This is going to be the type of weather you could have when you host a playoff game – does that help you at all? "I definitely think it can. It just depends on the team that's coming in and the matchup. I always think that's hard to predict with the weather. Definitely can. We've had a lot of experience playing in cold weather, practicing in cold weather over the years. I do think it can be an advantage. All the ball handling, all the little things, snaps, they're that much harder and all the reps I do think all add up and help having practiced in that kind of weather."

You had a nice offensive day, how close were you down there on some of those? "A bunch, really close on a bunch. But that's the name of the game in the red zone. Margin of error is really, really small. Really hurt ourselves with that one penalty. Anytime you get a penalty in the red zone you really back yourself up and it's tough to overcome. The other ones I thought we had chances, we'll look at it and keep trying to improve."

How important has the offensive line play been up front? "I think it all starts with them, run and pass. Protection, blocking. I think there's definitely then not a want to, not even a physicality thing, I think just an attention to detail. All those guys really turning it up a bit and finding their focus and communicating really well these last few weeks. Dialed in on the game plan on all of our adjustments that we might get coming up to the line. Being able to block all the different fronts, there's so much that goes into the run game. I think the attention to detail just been turned up that much showed."

Were you interested in seeing that matchup play out especially between Ndamukong Suh and Laurent Duvernay-Tardif? "Every week, especially the last three, we've played really good defensive fronts. They don't get much better than that the last three weeks as far as disruptive, playing run and pass. I thought these guys every week have handled it. Just kind of gone about their business. And yeah that defensive front is as disruptive as it gets."

What impact do you think Darrelle Revis has had? "It's hard. I think the nice thing is he's come in and worked. I think he's settled in nice. It's hard to come into that situation with that amount of time off to a group that you aren't really in on. I think he did a nice job just coming in, working. Just showing through his practice how it's playing, what he's all about. I think guys have appreciated that a lot."

What does it mean to have the first playoff game come to Arrowhead? "I think Arrowhead and Chiefs Kingdom is as special as it gets. We're going to need them. These games are huge and to be able to have a home game, bring it back here and to have the crowd behind us is huge. Hard to put in words."

