

**Browns Head Coach Freddie Kitchens
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cleveland Browns
Heinz Field • December 1, 2019**



Opening Statement:

Alright guys, of course disappointing in the result this game. We're going to continue the same mindset. We need to be 1-0 at the end of this week coming up. Our guys got a dose of what playoff atmosphere was like. We need to continue to get better so we respond better the next time out. So, any questions?

Re: Baker Mayfield's hand injury

Just a contusion right now. A bruise.

Do you think it affected the way he threw it in the second half?

I don't think so. I think Baker's fine.

Was an x-ray used at halftime?

It was.

What changed after getting off to such a strong start?

You know, they had three possessions in the first half. We played the tight game that we wanted to play. In the first half, we didn't convert one time down in the red zone. We had to kick a field goal, and then two other times later in the game, we were down there and should have gotten touchdowns out of it. So that was really the difference in the game from an offensive perspective. You know, I told our guys, all three phases could have done something to prevent that or change the outcome of the game. We've got to realize when we're in the moment to make a difference, and make a difference in the game and put it behind us, and then move onto the next play.

Did you notice how quiet the stadium was when you were up 10-0?

Yeah, definitely. You know, I think we were up 10-0 and they were on third down, and they had a long pass, they had a free play. We can't do that. We've got to maintain our composure and get a stop. Get off the field, and then offensively, we've got to do something when we get it back. Then when we have a chance to pin them deep, we pin them deep and then keep them down there. When we have a kickoff back to us, we field the kickoff, correct, and get out so we have a chance to do something with it before the half. Those are bad sequences of plays that we can't have. We had lapses of judgement, concentration, and focus. We need to finish the half in that moment. I don't know what the play count was, but they had three possessions. So they had ten points out of three possessions. We kept the ball for 20 something minutes in the first half, I think. We played the game we wanted to play. We just need to finish on those drives, make the plays when they're down there, and we're down there in position to make the plays, make the plays. Protect, we need to do a better job of protecting down there, and that's the ballgame. When you play games like that, you have to make sure you're very efficient with those things.

Can you explain why Damarious Randall wasn't here?

Well, a middle safety's not going to do any help. They threw the ball down the middle of the field one time, and [Sheldrick] Redwine was there and made a good play on the ball and got the ball out. Middle field safety's not making those plays on the sideline. They were throwing at our corners.

Can you explain why?

That's between Damarious and I.

What's your message to the guys and how you move forward?

We're trying to go 1-0 this week. We'll let all of the numbers and all of that kind of stuff work itself out in the end. We're going to try and go 1-0 this week. We're not going to change our approach and how we're preparing and how we're playing.

Do you think there's something to a team of just knowing how to win?

I think a lot of it is just gaining that experience. You can talk about what you're walking into until you're blue in the face, and I think we handled that good by the way we started the game. We just need to make sure we continue that in the course of the game.

Was it hard for you with the personnel you have to be aggressive in your pass rush?

No. I think we just need to make sure we're doing what we're supposed to be doing with our rush lanes. He [Devlin Hodges] got out of there a couple of times on scrambles, and then making sure we're covering the guys we're supposed to cover. We're looking at the things we're supposed to be looking at, and then get the pressure and getting down when we can.

Do you think the tackling took a step back today?

I think there were a lot of yards after contact that we need to get corrected. We'll work on that this week.

What do you think happened after Terrance Mitchell got the interception?

That was not a good sequence. Again, we've got to recognize those moments or game changing moments. They go the ball at the half yard line coming out. They need to punt from down there, and we understand that. We'll get better at it moving forward.

Why were you guys unable to regain that physical momentum that you had?

Well, I don't know if I agree with that. I think they made more plays than us down the stretch. I think that's what it comes down to. I think they got after us upfront a little bit, and I think we need to match that intensity, and continue moving forward with that same intensity that we started the game with. We have to be able to carry that through the whole game, and not just in short spurts. I think that's a good learning experience for us today moving forward.

Can you explain what happened Friday with the t-shirt?

The t-shirt didn't have anything to do with us at the 0-1 moving out. I wore a t-shirt. I wore a jacket with it. My daughters wanted me to wear the shirt, and I'd wear it again. I put a jacket on. I covered it up. I took a picture with a fan. That was as simple as that. The T-shirt didn't cause us to give up 40-yard passes. We were ready to play. That's the only thing people need to be concerned about. We were ready to play.

Were you content to let the clock run out at the end of the first half?

Well, after we popped that one run, your focus kind of changes. You know, we get the kickoff down there inside the five or wherever it was, and we pop one of the runs out to the 12. We pop another one, and then we were able to take a timeout and take a shot at it. Actually had a shot to do something there at the end to Odell [Beckham Jr.].

Baker's glove didn't have anything to do with the second half?

You know, I don't know. I don't think so.

Was there anything more you could have done to get Odell the ball more?

I tried to call plays that worked. Tried to call plays to get him open. Try to call plays to move the ball. I think we played the type of game that we needed to play to come in here and win. Thirty of their 38 sacks happened at home, so you couldn't get into a deal where you were dropping back and throwing the ball all about. Protecting those edges, and then when we you start struggling a little bit inside, I don't know what you do with that. So you've got to be able to continue to run the ball.

Do you feel good about your corners?

Well, I think we need to continue to work and strive attacking the football, competing on the football. You know, getting the ball out, some of those things we were at on an every-day basis. Our drills and during practice, and we'll continue moving forward and get better at it.

Are there more tests to come for Baker Mayfield's hand?

Yeah. I mean, that's all of got right now on that.

Have you felt at any time this year that any outside stuff has had an impact on this team's performance?

No. No, I do not. I do not think that at all.

**Browns QB Baker Mayfield
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cleveland Browns
Heinz Field • December 1, 2019**



What happened to your hand?

It hit the facemask obviously with a little bit of speed and force trying to throw the long ball. X-rays were negative so that's good news. It got a little numb, took some medicine and went back out there so we'll see.

Do you think wearing the glove and dealing with the pain affected you in the second half?

No, it didn't at all.

What do you think happened after you scored your first 10 points?

We saw another one of those lulls I mentioned. We had to stay consistent. You can't be satisfied. You have to hit the reset button and go back out there to do your job no matter what the score is, no matter the situation. It hurt us not being able to score and them getting the points before half and then getting the ball back right after that.

Did you notice how quiet the stadium was when you were up 10-0?

Yeah, we were playing well. We just needed to capitalize in the situation – continue to attack, make plays and do our job.

Did the angst of the last matchup have an effect with the crowd?

It didn't play a factor obviously. They can use it as momentum for them – feeding off the energy. We just have to do our job. We expect that type of environment, and any time you're winning, you can take out the crowd.

Why was the team unable to come out of the lull this time?

We'll just have to look at the tape. Do our job consistently. Everybody has to do their 1/11th – things I've mentioned. We just have to put it together. You have to play as a team on the road to be able to have success, and we didn't do it consistently enough to have a win on the road today.

Do expect to play next week?

Yeah, I fully expect to be able to play.

Will you undergo an MRI?

I don't know, we'll see. I'm not a doctor.

What's on your hand right now?

Some compression, ice and a wrap. It's a club.

What has this team learned on how to win in a tough atmosphere?

We've been able to make the plays we needed recently at home when it came to critical moments. On the road, it's in the even finer details. We learned that we didn't make one more play than they did today, and it's in all three phases of the ball. It's not like it's in one area we can blame. It's everybody collectively as a unit.

How were the Steelers able to win with so many second-string players?

One, it's the NFL. You're not just going to throw anyone who's a slouch out there. It's the NFL for a reason. They've been playing without Ben [Roethlisberger] pretty much the whole year. It's never an excuse. It

doesn't matter who you're playing. For anyone to use that as a reason why, it comes down to us doing our job. It's not about who we play from a week to week basis. We have to do our job no matter who we play. I've said that, and that's what matters.

How do your playoff hopes look after the loss?

We just have to get back to a singular focus. We can't control the things on the outside. We have to take care of our business, and that's all we really can focus about.

Re: The last two possessions

We tried taking a shot after Terrance's [Mitchell] interception. Almost had a great play. Jarvis [Landry] has come down with those before, but it's a tough play. It's not a routine play for anyone. They ran a couple of good coverages against us and got some pressure on the third down, and then we pinned them down deep, got the ball back – had all of the confidence in the world that we have a chance to go down and score. Just a little bit off on the seam throw. Joe Haden made a good play covering between the one and two and dividing those guys, then picked the ball off.

Do you feel like any outside distractions have affected the team?

No.

Do you feel like you've been able to focus and do your business on Sundays?

Yeah, we have.

What did you think of Freddie Kitchen's shirt?

I don't really have a comment on that. It's just a t-shirt. I've done much worse.

Did the pressure affect your ability to throw it to Odell Beckham Jr.?

It's frustrating. The types of plays we had drawn up require a little bit of time. We talked about it earlier in the week, they play well at home, that defensive front, and they did it again today. They made the plays when they needed to, so we weren't able to get the ball down the field like we expected.

When's the last time you threw with a glove in a game?

I couldn't tell you. I don't know if I have.

Did that affect your throwing the ball at all?

For the second time, no it didn't affect me.

Re: The hit by T.J. Watt

No, I forgot about that until now. It was just a good hit.

Re: Not having Myles Garrett

We talked about it. There's no real way to replace a guy like Myles. He's just a one-of-a-kind athlete who can change a game. It hurts, but we trust those guys to step up and make plays. We just, like I said all three phases of the game, we didn't make the plays we needed to today.

Browns Locker Room
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cleveland Browns
Heinz Field • December 1, 2019



RB Nick Chubb

Re: Starting strong and then what changed second quarter and beyond

It is hard to say, to pinpoint exactly one thing. We have to do a better job just keeping momentum going and keep driving the ball in the final way to get some points on the board.

Was there something the Steelers were doing defensively to make it difficult in the running game?

No, nothing to take away from those guys because they are a great team and defense. It's just always on us, executing well, and making the plays. I think it is more of us than them, but they are a great team.

Re: Going to the end of the wire with playoff-caliber teams

I know we are a great team and we have some things to fix. We have to take it one week at a time, one day at a time and try to get back in this thing.

LB Joe Schobert

Re: What was it like playing against this quarterback?

He's a good quarterback, obviously a young guy with a lot of confidence. I thought we did a good job for the most part of the whole game containing him. Obviously, they were able to throw some balls deep and make some plays with their receivers. That is stuff that we gave them, and we have to really correct. If we can eliminate that, I think we are right where we want to be.

When Terrance Mitchell got the interception, did you think, "okay here we go?"

Yeah, I mean you could feel the momentum swing inside the stadium. Obviously, our offense couldn't score in that drive, but they did a good job getting the ball down at the 1-yard line. If we could have kept them down there and created another short field that would have been a good chance.

Speaking of momentum, did you feel it slip away at the end of the first half?

Not really, obviously this was a three-play drive and a big penalty down the field. It is something that we just gave them. Like I said earlier, if we can eliminate that then we have them right where we want them.

G Joel Bitonio

Re: Being ahead 10-0 and having the Steelers in a good spot

Yeah, we know they are never going to give up. It was a good start; the first drive was like 14 plays and we had another good drive. We went up 10-0 and then we really didn't put much together after that. Credit to them, they did enough to stop us and we didn't do enough to take advantage of our opportunities.

Re: Giving up in the fourth quarter and running the ball

We were taking our shots and we had a couple of shots in the end zone on that one drive where we settled for a field goal. Then when we got the ball back, we kind of had to throw the ball there

Was Mayfield okay regarding his hand?

As far as I know. He came back out there, and he played. That is as much as I know about it right now and we will see how it goes from there. I think he was fine, and I think he fought threw whatever it was. He's a tough guy so he battled.

**Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cleveland Browns
Heinz Field • December 1, 2019**



Opening Statement

Man, it feels good to win always, but it definitely feels good to win when you are faced with adversity in terms of people available to you. There's just less margin for error. Not that we feel like we are incapable, we just realize we have to play closer to optimum level. They did what they needed to do tonight. I thought particularly in the second half at halftime, we didn't want to talk too much specifics. We felt like we needed to minimize their run in the second half more than we did in the first half and we needed to run it better than we did in the first half. We felt like it was 10-10 at the half, but they had won the line of scrimmage. They had more significant run plays, they had control of the time of possession. We needed to flip that. We felt like if we could flip that, we could stay away from negativity on offense and we could create some negativity for them on defense and really that is what transpired. The guys deserve the credit. They made the necessary plays. Can't say enough about the efforts of a lot of people, but that is team. We are looking to strike a blow for team in these circumstances to stand up for the game of football and team and prove that guys can make plays when given an opportunity. One man's misfortune is another man's opportunity. The standard is the standard. And they made all those clichés, if you will, true. So, I am appreciative of that. It is good to get a win in AFC North ball. Excited about it.

What did you think of your defense and making the big play when it mattered most?

They had to. They were aware that it was going to come down to those moments for us this week and they had to deliver it. So, they went about preparing with that in mind and they were able to do it.

Was it satisfying that Cleveland had almost all of their starters and you had some injuries, yet you still won?

It is not about what Cleveland had. I am proud because of the circumstances that we were under. This time of year, forget the opponent. They are nameless gray faces. It is about you being able to execute your plan to a level that allows you to win games. I want to keep the focus on our guys and what they did.

How did you think Devlin Hodges played?

He didn't kill us.

That completion to James Washington at midfield seemed to be what settled him down?

Yeah, it takes a splash play to create that rhythm, if you will. And not only for the offense, I thought that play meant something for the defense. When you are on the sideline supporting your teammates and you see they are capable of moving the ball, that inspires you. I thought it uplifted all of us.

Did that give you confidence to put the ball in his hands on third down?

We are just trying to make plays.

Is this as disruptive a game for the interior rushers as you've seen this year?

We had a couple where we had Cam [Heyward] and [Stephon] Tuitt in there that was pretty good. This was a good game, but we have had a couple of those type games.

What have you seen from Benny Snell Jr.?

He is a guy that gets better as the game goes on. He has the mentality of a featured runner. He likes the grit associated with the volume of carries. I think he gets better as the game goes on. None of that is surprising to us. We saw it on Kentucky tape, but it is good that he can take it to Sunday stadiums.

Devlin Hodges lived a little dangerously at times, what did you think of his performance?

I thought he played his tail off. Without over analyzing it, just a general synopsis, I thought he played his tail off.

Did you spend a lot of time with him this week getting him ready?

I did not. I wanted him to know I had confidence in him, and I thought extra time and extra points of emphasis and more dialogue than normal would prove to him that I didn't. I was very conscience of my interactions with him. It was no more than normal because I wanted him to know that we had real confidence in him.

Where did you have more confidence in Devlin Hodges this week than the game against the Chargers?

I had more confidence in him today than I did against the Chargers because our relationship is born out of our shared experiences. We had the experience of what he did in the Chargers game in our back pocket and that probably produced today. And that is not only for him but for anybody. The more shared experiences you have, the more level of confidence in terms of what you can anticipate getting. And that is just football. It is reasonable to expect all these guys to evolve, to continually get better and to continually provide a more consistent above-the-line effort and I thought that is what he is doing, but it is just on a small body of work. There is not a lot of space for comfort there, but we are not seeking it.

Do you think you did a good job of controlling the emotions of what happened at the end of the last game against these guys?

We weren't concerned about it to be quite honest with you. We were about beating them today. That is how you deal with some of that stuff, you beat them.

Did Devlin Hodges do enough to earn a start for next game?

Yeah, but I am not ready to talk all of that with you guys today. We will talk about it a little bit later.

**Steelers QB Devlin Hodges
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cleveland Browns
Heinz Field • December 1, 2019**



Re: Pass to James Washington

It was a heck of a play by James. I think it was on an offside call, so we had a free play. We took advantage of it and it was a little spark to get us going.

Re: Offsides play

Yeah, anytime we can get the defense to jump offsides, it's a free play, so depending on situations; we try to take advantage of it. So, yeah, going deep is kind of the goal.

Was there any frustration being down 10-0?

Not really any frustration. They came out and did some things a little bit different than we thought they were going to do. But, when you have a defense like ours, you know they're going to make plays. They start making plays, and we start getting into the groove, and then we got the win.

Did the offense consciously open up at that point when you were down 10-0?

No, we stuck to the game plan. We had to tweak it a little bit based on what they were doing, but we had a good game plan. We just had to start executing it.

You took a lot of shots down the sideline. It looked like the Browns were trying to show one high safeties and switch to two high safeties. What were you seeing that you were talking about on the sideline as the game was progressing?

Yeah, the first game they probably played us a little bit more in man coverage, and in this game, they played more in zone. Credit to the guys out wide. James Washington had some big plays, then some other deep threats like 18 and 80, you got opportunity to make them count and just a great job upfront giving me time. I had to settle down early in the game. I probably got out of the pocket when I shouldn't have, but that two-minute drive was probably when I really started settling down in the pocket and that's when we started clicking a lot better.

Re: Browns D-line and running the ball

I don't know if they started to wear down, but at a halftime, we talked about running the football better in the second half. So, that's what we did. We had to come out there and establish our running game, because we knew if we established our running game, that we could win the game.

Re: Opportunities to run against man

The one first-down that I got was man coverage. Then, the o-line blocked great and then it was an open lane, so I knew I could get the first down and got it. We had a couple of runs that were QB draw that was designed, and probably should have been a little bit more patient. Yeah, just making plays wherever the play is called.

Which was bigger for you, the drive in the first half or the one that started the third quarter?

I don't know. I think one at the end of the half was huge because we tied it up there. Coming out after halftime, getting another good drive, I mean, just it's good to get good established lead, well not an established lead, to get momentum, to keep momentum coming out in the second half. Like I said, when

you have defense like ours, it makes our jobs easier.

Re: Relationship with James Washington

Well, all I know is that I tell James after the game that we are going duck hunting Tuesday just like last Tuesday. I mean, it's awesome to have that relationship off the field. It makes on the field a little more comfortable and I try to get that relationship with all of the guys. Not everyone is duck hunting, or hunting, or anything, we all have our different types, so just trying to fit in with those guys and doing whatever it takes to build that relationship makes it a lot more calm in the game, and trust them a lot more.

For as much as Coach Tomlin has said, "Just don't kill us," when you've had to come back in games against Cincinnati, Baltimore, and today, even Mason against Miami and Seattle, that seems to be when the quarterbacks have done their best. Does that say anything to the coaches that we don't have to be restrained to win; we can throw to win games?

I don't know. Whatever play they call, it's our job to execute it. I don't know how they're feeling on the sidelines. I don't know that's a tough question because yeah, obviously with me, I can speak for myself, I have the confidence I can go out there if asked to throw it every play, I can do it. Obviously, you can't do that; you have to run the ball. So whatever play is called, we have to execute.

Re: Being introduced last and people chanting "Duck" in the stadium.

It was awesome. I kind of figured they would have me come out last before the game. It was so loud; I don't think I heard my actual name being called. It was cool. All of the guys were hyped in the little tunnel they made. I mean it was definitely a moment I'll never forget.

When you are running a wildcat and you point to the ground, are you just messing with them?

No, I'm just letting the referee know I'm on the ball.

Were the Steelers the only team that asked you to tryout?

No, they weren't. I actually went to the Giants the weekend before the Steelers. I had a couple of teams call, but they all kind of all followed in the same weekend. Obviously, I'm glad that I went to the Steelers tryout, and glad I'm here now.

At any point during tryouts, training camp and the preseason, did you ever think "Okay, I'm not an NFL player"?

No, never. Never once thought that. I've always believed in myself. I know I have people in my corner who believed in me. Even the guys on the team, when I was let go, I had a bunch of them text me and say, "hey, this isn't over for you". Even some coaches texted me. I'm thankful for the Steelers and the opportunity I have had here. I'm definitely thankful to be a Steeler.

Re: Last Browns meeting

No, it didn't seem like there was a lot of talking during the game. We knew we had to come out winning the game and that was the talking that we wanted to do, that we wanted to win the game. It doesn't matter how much you talk if you don't win. So, it was good to get the win. It's always good when you can take a knee at the end of the game.

Re: Starting against a rival team

I mean, not specifically like that. It was never Heinz Field or against the Browns, it was just the NFL. I'm sure I had a bunch of different teams going through my mind, but just being in the NFL, and starting a game in the NFL, that's a dream I've always had, and I always knew I could do it.

Do you feel more confident as the season has gone on?

Yeah, I wouldn't say we really opened the playbook more. We just are executing the gameplay that we think it the best against the defense that we're going against. Definitely more confidence each and every

day because you learn things, because you get better every day. There's a lot more confidence as the season goes on.

Re: Play on the 1-yard line

On the [1-yard line], backed up, and gave it to Benny Snell Jr., and then as soon as I handed it back it was a great hold there, he hit it, and got the first down. That's always huge; it's always big to get that first, first down when you're backed up like that.

There was a bootleg, it looked like you tried to throw it left-handed, but also looked on the ground to nudge it out of bounds, is that what happened?

Yeah, yeah, I was trying to throw it away. Probably not the smartest play I had, but once it hit the ground, I just wanted to make sure it got out of bounds so they couldn't get the ball back, because we were in field goal range.

Was it a miscommunication?

No, I mean, it was just me trying to force it a little bit, overthrowing Diontae Johnson. It's a play I wish I could have back, but I think defense came back out there and made a big stop that drive.

The 9-yard run, that was a scramble, that wasn't designed?

I think I only ran it three times and I think one was scramble, and two were designed.

Re: Conversation with Randy Fichtner on the interception

Just to say let's jog back out there and play. You know, protect the ball. If we don't turn over the ball, we can win this game. So, kind of just taking one play at a time. I had to let it go and move onto the next play.

Does the third-down play to Vance McDonald extended the last drive, can you walk us through that play?

They played great coverage. Vance is a big target. To put it in a space where he can catch it. Vance has just always been so good with the ball after the catch. I think he broke a tackle and kind of got past the first-down, which was huge for us. Shout out to Vance, great play.

You said today was an experience you'll never forget, but how to describe this whole week for you? Does it feel different this time around?

I mean it felt a little different because I knew I was playing at home. I knew there was a bigger expectation. I think I took it in well. I was just really excited to come out here and have the opportunity to play football. Football is fun, football is really fun, and it's always great when you get the win.

Steelers CB Joe Haden
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cleveland Browns
Heinz Field • December 1, 2019



Re: Joe Haden joining the Steelers being what made the defense come into its own

I am very happy that they think that highly of me. At the same time, we just have a group of guys with Terrell [Edmunds], Steve Nelson and then the addition of Minkah [Fitzpatrick]. This is one of the best secondaries I have ever been a part of because we have communication, we have guys that are very football smart and are very capable of making plays. I feel like I am holding my side down, but everybody else is doing their thing in the backend.

Can you think of a better script than to intercept a pass against your former team to end the game?

No, I honestly couldn't. I am very excited about it. Any time you can get an interception in a close game—last week I dropped two of them to close the game, so who knows. So working on the jugs and making sure if they ball came to me, I was going to be able to catch it, so it feels good.

Can you walk us through your interception?

We were in a cover three. Jarvis Landry was running a seam route and Baker [Mayfield] kind of threw it high and behind him, so I just went down and tried to get it before it touched the ground.

When you were 0-3, were you thinking come December you would be 7-5?

Yeah. It was a little tough. We knew we were in a tough position just losing Ben [Roethlisberger] and having a lot of injuries. At the same time, the defense, we knew what we were capable of. Of trying to keep offenses down, trying to play complimentary football. We had a really good special teams [day]. Just everybody working together, it has come to fruition.

Is it sweeter knowing that game about ended their playoff hopes?

I am just excited. I was there [in Cleveland] for a while, so you want to get back at them. But for the bigger picture, I am just excited for my team, for my guys. We went down to Cleveland and they got us out of the way and when you are playing against division opponents, you always want to get those wins. I am just very, very excited I was able to catch the ball.

How were you so successful against Odell Beckham Jr. today?

They were doing a lot of things. Sometimes they weren't really targeting them as much. With [Nick] Chubb, they were doing a good job of running the ball, staying ahead of the sticks so they didn't really have to throw it as much. But we always make sure we understood exactly where Odell was, and Jarvis. Those dudes are going to get theirs, but you just have to make sure you keep them in front of you, nothing over the top. So that is what we made sure we did. But those dudes, they are going to get theirs regardless.

How much can you talk about the communication difference in this game versus the last game against them?

Last time we played them, we were on our Ps and Qs, but like I said, they are going to make some plays. This time, we just made sure we kept everything in front of us. That is what we did.

What did you guys do after those first couple drives to slow down Baker Mayfield?

He is so good at extending the plays, and we just have to make sure with our defensive line, they knew if they let him outside the pocket, that is when he hurt us the most in the first game and that is when he started hurting us again in this game, too. He is very good at alluding pressure but keeping his eyes down field. So

we just had to do a good job of not running past the quarterback and keeping him contained and being able to get that front push. Bud [Dupree], T.J. [Watt], Cam [Heyward], Javon [Hargrave], they all did their thing.

Do you think you did a better job of continuing to cover when Baker Mayfield scrambled outside the pocket?

Oh, for sure I think we did. I think that one when Jarvis had that great catch on the sideline, that was another extension play. But just us just doing a good job plastering them, I think they only completed two on the scramble drill instead of last game when they had a touchdown in the back of the endzone and a couple longer plays.

Did you hear what Sheldon Richardson was saying throughout the week?

Honestly, I haven't. I like Sheldon, too, but I didn't hear what he said.

How was it watching Devlin Hodges?

We have been practicing with Duck [Devlin Hodges], he has been our scout team quarterback for a while, so we have been watching him. He has been making some great passes on our first-team defense. We knew when he got in the position of being able to get a good week of preparation going through the offense with Coach [Mike Tomlin]. I knew he had a capable arm and can make all the throws. He is not afraid to wing it. He did his thing and I am very proud of him.

What is it about Coach Mike Tomlin that fires you up and gets you guys to produce?

He definitely always has the next man up mentality, but he practices what he preaches. He always says he doesn't have backup players, he has starters in waiting and I really feel like he feels that way. When he bumps guys up, he expects them to produce the same way the other guys did, and they are just held to a high standard on this team. Coach T gives us great nuggets, gives us great film study. He meets with the DBs and linebackers twice a week. that is something I have never done with any other coach. Your head coach just telling you what the game plan is, what you have going on. He is very hands on with everything with the team. I appreciate him.

Often players tune out coaches, why is it that this team listens so much to everything Coach Tomlin says?

You wouldn't tune out Coach T because he is giving you great knowledge, he is giving you great information and the one thing you want from your coach is he is bluntly honest with you. He will let you know where you stand, if you are making plays, if you are not. If he is going to go shopping for another guy. Just his transparency. And then he really believes in us and really feels like we can do it until we show him otherwise. I love him.

The Browns haven't won in Pittsburgh since 2003. Now that you have been here for a few years, do you just get a sense that the Steelers will always find a way to beat them in this stadium?

I just feel like we never give up hope, we never feel like we are out of it. We always feel like someone is going to make the play instead of someone messing it up. We just have so many guys out here, we just feel like, "Man, lets get back up here, lets make a play. Lets strip sack, lets get a pick." You never feel like you are out of the game until it is zeros on the clock.

Steelers Locker Room
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cleveland Browns
Heinz Field • December 1, 2019



RB Benny Snell

How satisfying was that run?

It was satisfying, it was good. I'm happier about the win though – a team win.

How satisfying was your first touchdown?

It was very exciting. I got to keep the ball too, so I'm happy about that.

How do you think Devlin Hodges did today?

Duck does outstanding. He shows up to play. I wouldn't even say it was a mistake. He made a little interception. We still had trust in our defense, and they had trust in our offense.

Re: Leadership of Duck [Hodges]

Duck has been a leader since he stepped foot on the Steelers facility, OTAs. I witnessed that first hand, so I always have my trust in Duck.

LB Bud Dupree

Did you get an explanation on the roughing the passer call late in the game?

I didn't even ask. I put my head to the side. So, I don't know why they called it. I put my head to the side initially on contact.

Re: Take us through the play and what was going through your head

I was max pro [maximum protection] on my side, so I had a tight end, running back and a tackle. I just got wide and tried to run by the tight end because I knew he was going to chip if I was in tight. I came free once I got outside and I saw that Baker Mayfield still had the ball, so I sped up and hit him. I thought it was a clean hit.

Were you worried that that could have been a penalty that would beat you guys?

No, I wasn't worried because I was going to try to do the same thing the next play.

What were you thinking when you guys were down 10-0?

Just hang in there. Don't blink keep going. Coach [Mike] Tomlin always tells us not to blink. We knew what we were messing up on. It would have been different if we just couldn't stop them at all, but we knew what we were messing up on. We were out of place in the gaps and letting people run free. This is old stuff that we shouldn't have doing.

WR James Washington

How long have you been hunting?

Sixth grade. Deer, hogs. I mean pretty much everything that's in Texas.

Are you a better hunter than Devlin Hodges is?

Probably everything else but he's got me in duck hunting for sure.

Is he as good as a caller as he's cracked up to be?

Oh yeah. He's top of the line.

Could you hear any duck calls today?

I didn't hear any. I heard someone blowing like a bird call or something in the stands. It wasn't a duck call, that's for sure.

How big was the first catch for you?

It got us going. It gave Duck [Devlin Hodges] that confidence and from there on we kept moving and going.