

**Browns Head Coach Freddie Kitchens
Press Conference – October 7, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns**

Opening comments:

“Definitely wasn’t the result we wanted. You’ve got to give all the credit in the world to San Francisco. They beat us in every facet of the game. With that, I’ll take any questions.”

You said you were pulling out all the stops on offense and at the start of the game it was working, but then you kind of ended up stopping yourself, why was that?

“Well, you know, you can’t have mistakes. You can’t have turnovers, you can’t have drops, you can’t have penalties. Offensively, that kind of summed us up. We just shot ourselves in the foot too many times, whether it be mental errors, drops, penalties, you know? It’s very clear that, you know, we’ve got to do a better job mentally. We’ve got to do a better job coaching these guys. We’ve got to continue to work every day like it’s the first day and coaching-wise, we’ve got to do a better job and keep putting these guys in position to make plays.”

They seemed like they really controlled both lines of scrimmages and everything else--?

“I think San Francisco beat us in every facet of the game. They did a great job. They coached better than us. They played better than us in all areas.”

Are you concerned about being able to protect your quarterback?

“I’m always concerned about protecting our quarterback. You know, I’m always concerned about it and it starts with protection. It starts with me doing a better job of protecting him.”

How do you count for all the miscues, the penalties, the turnovers?

“I’ll chalk that up to we had too many, too much stuff, you know? Too many plays, you know? We will, well I’ve got to go back and evaluate it and see where we were number-wise. We’ve just got to do a better job coaching it and do a better job executing it and do a better job lining up and doing a better job of our assignments, and I’ve got to make sure that we’re not asking these guys to do too much.”

You talked about their front a lot coming in. What makes it such a tough matchup when you have to face it?

“Well, I mean, you saw the game. So, they were physical. They were fast. They’re long. They’re athletic and they played with tremendous effort.”

Cleveland Browns WR Antonio Callaway looked like he had trouble getting lined up a couple times. He had the false start obviously, the play at the goal line. It’s hindsight, but do you think he was prepared, coming off the suspension, do you think he was prepared to play today?

“I think I probably put him in a bad situation. I thought he was ready to go, but I put him in a bad situation.”

Why was, just curious with the score 28-whatever and Cleveland Browns WR Odell Beckham Jr. was back there for the punt thing, why was that?

“Just, I mean, Odell catches punts every day. So, you know, just gave it a whirl, and just need better ball security.”

Is it too simple to say Cleveland Browns QB Baker Mayfield’s game was a result of bad protection or did he have an awful night too?

"You know, I think so much of the quarterback has to do with the things around him, just like every week. I mean, you know, last week he played good, because the guys around him played good. Quarterback can't do it himself, so he doesn't. This is the reason football is the ultimate team game. It takes 11 guys, and if one guy doesn't do what he's supposed to do, then you have a not successful play, and that goes for all positions."

When you said put Callaway in a bad position, you just mean he had too much of a role tonight?

"Too much of a role, I don't know if I would say that. It's just, you know, I like to put our guys out there to be successful, and when they're not successful it's my fault because I didn't diminish the role or increase the role enough, whatever it may be. I'll have to go back and look at it. He wasn't successful tonight. So, ultimately, that falls on me."

How much have the San Francisco 49ers improved? You said that they really dominated on both sides of the ball, but I guess are they a legit 4-0 team?

"I mean, they are what their record is."

How demoralizing was that touchdown run right at the beginning?

"Well, I mean, we didn't get beat in the first quarter now. I mean, we had our opportunities, even when it was 14-3 or whatever, we're back down there. I mean, we had our opportunities. We didn't lose off of that run. Demoralizing, I hope it wasn't demoralizing. They're a good football team. They're going to make plays."

You mentioned about maybe giving too much or too many plays. Did you have a lot more in than last week? That's why I want a clarification to what you're trying to say. Did you have more than last week or something?

"I'd have to count the numbers."

Okay, I just want, I guess I just want to give you a chance to clarify.

"Well, when we're unsuccessful clearly something has to change. So, it's either we're doing too much, we're not doing enough, it's something. So, I'll go back and look at it and see. We'll make improvements. We'll move forward. We've got to coach better in all areas and we've got to play better in all areas, and that's how you win football games. You coach better, you play better."

You mentioned having your opportunities. How big a play was that interception at the goal line that went the other direction?

"Well, I mean, all turnovers are big plays. Of course, turnovers inside the five yard line are not good."

The first couple plays seemed to feature Odell, and then a couple tosses to him. Have you found it harder to get him involved in the offense than you thought it would be?

"No."

His red zone, I think he's really had a hard time getting open in the red zone, why do you think that is?

"I don't know. I mean, we've got other guys that we're targeting in the red zone too. Callaway's wide open tonight in the red zone. So, our quarterback's going to go through a progression, alright? Sometimes Odell's the first read in that progression, sometimes he's the second, sometimes he's the third, sometimes he's the fourth. Our quarterback's going to continue to get better with his progressions. Our receivers are going to continue to get better lining up and doing

what they're supposed to do and then ultimately, everybody needs to a better job coaching and playing."

The 49ers offense, they ran the ball a lot, they threw to San Francisco 49ers TE George Kittle. How do you account for the way the defense played?

"Well, I think they would like to have several plays back, especially in the run game. You know, I think when you play a team like San Francisco, if you're wrong with your eyes it could cost you big, and I think we were probably wrong with our eyes a couple of times and got out of our gaps. It's the same thing I said going in and you know, offensively we didn't do anything to help early on to keep them off the field. So, they were out there a long time."

How did Baker come out physically?

"I haven't even got that. I'm assuming he's fine."

Did you, so, you put Cleveland Browns QB Garrett Gilbert in just because the game was out of reach?

"Yeah, I thought he was taking too many hits unnecessarily."

How do you account for the wide variance in performance with your guys? I mean, last week completely opposite, you played so well and then this week, you know, played so poorly.

"Well, we'll look at it. It's one of those things where you get down into the red zone you've got to capitalize. You know, we were in position to do something and we didn't do it. Once that happens then you've got to maintain your composure and kind of stop the bleeding, per se, and we never did that. And you know, give you a chance to run meaningful plays that count later on, then you end up playing better, you know? So, it's kind of a snowball effect whenever you don't make one play, you have to stop the bleeding so you can get an opportunity to make those corrections, and we just never gave ourselves enough time in the game to stay in the game to make those corrections."

**Browns QB Baker Mayfield
Postgame Quotes – October 7, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns**

The team had success early but you guys stopped yourself. What does that feel like?

"You're not doing your job anytime you stop yourself which seems to be our biggest problem right now obviously. When you do that against a team of that caliber, you're not going to have a lot of success."

How big of a blow was the swing of momentum with the Cleveland Browns WR Antonio Callaway miss on the goal line?

"It was unfortunate. I put it in perspective of it could've been points for us, but instead it's taken away and you're not getting any out of that. That's huge for momentum on the road. They already had points on the board. You look back at it and yes it's unfortunate, but I could've been more accurate with the ball. Honestly, it's more than just one play that turned the game around."

It's just one game, but is this game a wake-up call?

"Once again, it shows for us that we need to do our job. The inconsistency is killing us right now."

Is it harder to get the ball to Cleveland Browns WR Odell Beckham Jr. in the overall sense than you thought, or have you guys just missed offensive opportunities?

“It’s a little here and there. Teams are going to do their stuff to take him out of the game, but we also have to take advantage of matchups when we do have them.”

How disappointing is it to have a game like that after it looked like you guys had it together after Baltimore?

“We knew that nothing carries over from last week. We just have to come out and do our job. I think the most disappointing thing is as simple as that. When you make mistakes and beat yourself up, a team like that is going to capitalize, and they absolutely did. They deserve the credit.”

How do you account for all of the miscues?

“We’re going to look at the film. There’s just a lack of focus. We’ll see what it is when we watch the film. We’ll be able to key in on some things and eliminate mistakes. That’s what the good teams do.”

You talked about finding an identity in Baltimore. Does this leave you searching for it again?

“Absolutely not. In Baltimore we did our job. Tonight we didn’t do our job. Therefore, you play behind the sticks, and it allows a team like that to be able to tee off and do certain things. I think we found out what we need to do. We just didn’t do it tonight.”

Any thoughts on 49ers DL Nick Bosa’s flag-planting celebration?

“I didn’t know that until I was informed before I got up here. Good for him. Good play.”

You faced a lot of pressure tonight. How difficult was it for you to get into a rhythm?

“It was like one step forward and two back. There was no rhythm for the offense to get into. When we did, we got down to the redzone and didn’t finish.”

Does how you were able to come back from the Tennessee experience give you a frame of reference for what you’ll be dealing with?

“Once again, we’re not hitting the panic button. For us, we know the problem. We know we have to be better and do better. When you play a great team, you have to eliminate mistakes. You just have to. We know exactly what we need to do. We need to play well. We need to do our job each and every play.”

How do you feel like you played personally?

“Not great. When you look at it, there were a lot of things wrong. We’ll go back to the drawing board.”

You said during the week that the schedule has been hectic up and down. Did that contribute?

“No. That would be an easy excuse to use, but I don’t think it’s anything besides looking in the mirror and seeing what we did wrong. It’s as simple as that. Now, we have a short week. It’s going to be very mental for us. Guys will have to take care of their bodies and do what they have to do. We have to go in with a gameplan that we know we can execute and play faster.”

Do you still have total faith that Antonio Callaway is the playmaker you know he can be?

“He is who he is. Everybody makes mistakes. We had total faith in him. There’s a reason he was out there tonight even after not playing the first four games. We trust him. The biggest thing is putting our arms around him and letting him know that every once in a while that happens, but to be able to be a great team we have to eliminate that and take advantage of our opportunities.”

**Browns WR Odell Beckham Jr.
Postgame Quotes – October 7, 2019
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Talk about that punt return at the end of the game.

“I was just trying to make a play. I’m way too good to do that. I just did too much. I felt like maybe it could give us a spark or something like that. You could feel the energy they had already taken out of us. To be honest, it just seemed like we were ready to go home and I just wanted to keep fighting to the final whistle. I just did way too much.”

Did you feel like the goal line interception killed the momentum for you guys?

“I don’t know if you can point to one play that killed it. To be honest, you know what happened. They beat us in every phase of the game. They ran the ball down us. They stopped us on defense. They played on special teams. They just did everything. We all saw the game, so we need to go back and evaluate and get ready for next week.”

Are you finding it more difficult to get the ball in your hands than in the first few games?

“I don’t know. We have a good plan. They just beat us. I had an opportunity, seeing [Browns WR Jarvis Landry]. We made eye contact, and I couldn’t not throw it to him. There might have been an opportunity to throw it deep, and it could have changed the whole momentum of the game. They came out, they popped a run early for [83 yards] and from then on, it just keep going. It just felt like we were trying to catch our stride or whatever it was. There was a point where we were still in the game, and it just kept going and kept going. They outplayed us, they beat us. Hats off to a great team.”

**Browns RB Nick Chubb
Postgame Quotes – October 7, 2019
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The game seemed to get out of hand in the second half. It seemed like nothing was working.

“Yeah, we’re very disappointed. I don’t remember the score, but it was a lot closer than what it ended as. We had a chance to come out and hopefully get a good stop on defense and find our way to the end zone and make it look closer. They went down and scored and took all the momentum. After that, we were just trying to play catch-up.”

What are some adjustments you see that can be made that you guys can get fixed pretty quickly?

“It’s just fixing things. We had missed opportunities, dropped balls, missed alignments, and missed assignments. Things like that that we can control and that we can fix.”

**Browns WR Jarvis Landry
Postgame Quotes – October 7, 2019
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You guys went over to Cleveland Browns WR Antonio Callaway after the goal line interception. Did you guys try to perk him up a little bit?

“Yeah, there was still a lot of football game left at that point. I think we got the ball back with a two-minute situation, and then also we had the whole second half. So there was a lot of game left.”

You guys wanted to come in here and build and stack some wins together. Obviously you didn't see anything close to this coming tonight.

"Of course not. Of course not. We knew that they were a great team. We knew they play really good football, and that we were going to have to play one of our best games, and we just didn't."

It's a tough week with a short week coming up and then Seattle.

"No excuses. We've got to find a way to get back to the things that we do really well. We need to get the ball into our playmakers' hands as much as possible. For plays, we need to make plays as a team."

Were you guys stunned? I'm sure you guys didn't anticipate the Niners coming out and dominate the amount that they did.

"We're not stunned. There's still a lot of season left. A lot of things can happen. We're still first in our division, if I'm not mistaken. We can still go up from here."

**49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan
Press Conference – October 7, 2019
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Opening comments:

“The injuries for tonight, all we had was [FB Kyle Juszczyk] Juice. Possible knee sprain. We’ll have to take a look at it tomorrow. That’s it. Go ahead.”

T Mike McGlinchey came out a little bit.

“I wasn’t told anything specific. We would have left him in if it was close. We just took him out to take care of him. I saw him limping a little. I think just some wear and tear in the game.”

How instrumental has Kyle been in this rushing attack and what worked so well running the ball tonight?

“It helps when you get explosives. The first play to start that out, to get 80 right there is obviously a big lift and helps your stats when you get that. But, having the lead. The defense playing that well, being able to run that much. Some of the looks we did, I thought we blocked hard. We played very physical and it seems like the backs all hit the right hole.”

You weren’t happy last year with how you came out of the bye and this year made some tweaks. How much do you think that impacted and what’d you think of just the way your team came out?

“Who knows how much it impacted it? But it was a much better game, obviously. I think we have a better team too. It’s very important to our guys. They worked extremely hard all week. Any time you take some time off, there’s some rust to work through and I thought the guys knocked it off pretty fast.”

Did you get the sense that they were really itching to get back into a game having to wait so long?

“Definitely. It was a long two weeks. Especially, because we felt like we had some good momentum. It really hit us yesterday, spending two Sundays in a row watching other teams play. That was the first time I’ve had to do that. Two weeks in a row of doing it without playing. Having to wait until Monday Night was a little long.”

You guys are 4-0. The hype machine is probably about to get started now. What are your thoughts on how to handle that? What do you tell the squad?

“The same way you handle 0-5. You don’t pay attention and you just go to work. I think we’ve got the right guys. I think today was a little lopsided game, but the league is too hard to be overconfident. Every week is a tough week and we’ve got a lot of work to do. Still got some guys who are waiting to get back from injury and that game by no means was perfect. I thought our defense played four great quarters, from the first play to the last play. I think our special teams, obviously struggled. I was real disappointed how the offense finished in the fourth quarter.”

You guys have talked about how DL Nick Bosa is close to making plays, he just has to finish. Was he just finishing or was he substantially better tonight than he’s been?

“Well, he got to play a lot more. So, I think he had more opportunities. He hasn’t been playing a ton. He’s been playing situationally, and tonight, I think he got to play a lot more. I’m not sure what his stats were or how many sacks he had, but every time I looked up he was there. That’s how it was in practice for us in training camp for the times he was healthy. Obviously, I think he’s getting a lot more healthy so it’s good to see.”

Do you plan to play him more?

“Yes. Yeah.”

You mentioned Friday, that the defensive line had been good in the first three games but that there was another level. Was that another level tonight?

“It looked like it. I think I saw what all you guys saw. You always wait until you see the tape and you can see it all, but every time I looked up those guys were around the quarterback and just how fast we were playing. How hard we were playing. The way they played in the fourth quarter looked the exact same way as the first quarter. So, that was exciting to watch.”

Were you at all surprised how quickly Nick Bosa has become an impactful player and how many different ways he’s able to have a mark on the play?

“Not really. Just because I had to go against him in practice and quickly he definitely pissed me off a lot in practice for an offensive coach. Then I get a look at the tape and have mixed emotions because trying to decide which one I was happier with that day. But, no he’s been doing it consistently in practice and he’s been working his tail off to get healthy. I’m not sure yet, but it didn’t seem like he had any setbacks tonight. Hopefully he’ll continue to get better.”

What’d you see from CB Emmanuel Moseley tonight?

“From what I saw, he played a lot like we expected. The game is not too big for E-Man. He’s very competitive out there. He started out with us just how physical he plays and how hard he goes on special teams and he came over and got a lot of playing time on defense and it looked like the same guy. He’s always going to play physically, not turn anything down. And when I did see them challenge him, especially on that go route by our sidelines, there’s no hesitation and he tried to get after it.”

You said after Week 1 that these are the best kind of games because you’ve got to win but you could still coach the guys pretty hard and get on them. Was this another example of that tonight?

“Yeah, I think so. We had a pretty good lead there in the fourth, but anytime you have four penalties on offense trying to finish running out the clock. We had the dropped slant and just we went backwards a couple times with the turnovers. I just felt like I really wanted to finish it and it didn’t seem like we totally did, but I’m not going to be too hard on the guys. The guys played their tails off, so I’m not trying to say that. There are definitely things we can get better from, but I’m definitely real proud of our team.”

Cleveland Browns DE Myles Garrett’s one sack came against T Mike McGlinchey, but in the first play of the game he ran right behind OL Justin Skule. How did Skule look in his second start?

“Felt good out there. I didn’t say his name very much, which is always a good sign for an O-Lineman. We’ll see tonight when we watch the tape and tomorrow, but definitely played good enough for us to win.”

Did you plan on playing RB Tevin Coleman that much?

“Yeah, we were going to rotate all three. I don’t know what it ended up at, but we wanted to get all of them in. We expected him and [RB Matt] Breida to get the most (carries). I don’t know how it ended up though.”

At what point did you decide that you would rely so heavily on the running game and sort of play your defense? Not just tonight, but just sort of training camp or the offseason?

"It's something you always want to do as a coach. It's the easiest way to win when you play real good defense and you can run the ball. It takes the pressure off a lot of people and doesn't put you in a lot of risky situations, but also can help you get some easier explosives too. That's kind of the goal always. You're always trying to work to get that type of a team and it's been like that so far, but we're going to have a lot of challenges ahead of us. Especially if we don't get Juice next week. That's a big factor in our run game, so everything no matter what you do offensively, everything comes full circle. You've got to be able to do everything. There's a matter of time that we're going to have to throw more and when you do that, eventually you've got to come back and run it. In order to be what we want to be, we've got to be good at everything."

There's only two teams undefeated in the NFL, you're one of them. What does it mean?

"It means it's still early. It means we played four games, one less than most people. If you tell me that at the end of the year when the season is over, you'll see me celebrating up here pretty hard. It's going to be a short week and we've got to get to work on the Rams pretty early tomorrow."

What was going on with the missed field goals this game?

"That's something I'll talk to them all about. I know, personally, I saw at least one rough snap that looked very hard for Robbie to get off. I know all the others weren't perfect by any means. There's three people involved in it. I know we had a block. It looked like they came off the wing, off the edge. So I'm not exactly sure, but definitely wasn't good enough. It was probably one of our worst games in terms of, I don't know about the whole special teams, but obviously in kicking. I think there was, what, three of them that we didn't get? So, we've got to get better."

What did you think when Nick planted the flag? "What kind of flag did he plant? As long as it wasn't an Ohio State flag or something. I'm cool with that. Hopefully it was a Niners flag and he didn't offend anybody. Hopefully he enjoyed it. I've got no problem with it, but I didn't see it so hopefully it's not as bad as it could be."

Can you talk about defensive coordinator Robert Saleh's performance? Just his game planning. You guys held the Browns 1-11 on third down. Under four yards per a play. Can you just talk about his game plan coming in? What was the objective?

"To win. That's always the objective. They did a great job keeping them out of the end zone though, getting the turnovers, allowing our D-Linemen to try to stop the run and the pass where you can tee off, send four, not have to send too many blitzes. So, you've got seven guys in coverage. Saleh has done a hell of a job since he's been here and our whole defensive coaching staff. They had a great plan today. I think they've had a great plan all year and the guys have been staying healthy and we've added a few new guys, which have really helped a lot and I think we've gotten better as coaches. We've gotten better as players and hopefully that will continue."

**49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo
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How much of a tone setter is it when you hand the ball off the first play and it goes for 83 yards?

"Yeah, we talked about throwing the first punch before the game. When the O-line makes a hole like that and [RB Matt] Breida hits it, he was just flying. Makes everything a lot easier."

The last time the 49ers were 4-0 was 1990. There was a guy named Joe Montana playing quarterback. There's two undefeated teams, the other one is your old team. What does it mean to kind of be in rarified air? I know it's early, but-

"It's a good start is really all it is. Four games isn't going to really give you much in this league, but it's a good start. I think we have a good mindset in that locker room, just taking it one game at a time and just taking it one step at a time."

What's it like for you on a night where you're running the ball the way you guys did tonight?

"It just makes everything easier, especially with our offense. It sets up the play action, it opens up receivers on the outside. The defense has to start loading the box up and things like that. Once that starts happening, everything kind of falls into place."

TE George Kittle was up here earlier and he said one the touchdown pass he kind of saw the defense reacting exactly the right way for it to open up. How did you see it play out?

"The exact same way. You saw it happening and you just, kind of in the back of your head, were like alright, just get there George. He made the right read and everything, got to the open hole and was, yeah, his first touchdown. So exciting."

Did you see the same thing for the first snap for Matt, knowing that if they hit those blocks that he would have that lane and be gone?

"The run game's a little different because you never know what's going to happen after the snap, if they're going to stunt inside or blitz someone. A little different, but as soon as I turned my head back, he was through that hole so fast. He was 10 yards down the field by the time I looked back and he just hit the jets after that."

He had the block for it, too, and FB Kyle Juszczyk was one of the guys that threw it, so what has he meant to the run game and is there a big concern right now that you might be without him for a couple weeks?

"He just does so many different things, run game, even the pass game. He adds a different element that not many fullbacks can do in this league. We'll see what the status is tomorrow and everything and hopefully he's alright."

CB Richard Sherman talked a lot about the chemistry on this team. How does the chemistry in the locker room translate to winning on the field?

"I think it goes hand in hand. You can't have one without the other, really. It's a real family atmosphere that we have in there. Guys, offense, defense, special teams, whatever it is, all interacting with each other and it makes it fun. We're just coming off the bye week and everything and coming back like this, it's good to have it happen."

How hard was it to wait to get to play again?

"It was weird. I mean, seeing two weekends of football back to back, you're not used to that. I think we handled it well. Guys came back from the bye week ready to roll, in good shape and everything and it showed out there tonight."

What was head coach Kyle Shanahan's message to you guys after the game?

"We have a short week, you know. Like I said, it was a good start with 4-0 and everything, but it's not going to get you anything. We've got a division game next week and we've got to come in ready to work tomorrow."

After a start like this, everyone always looks to the next test and what the thing is. When you play the Rams, how much do you think that is a good measuring stick for where you guys are considering what they've been in the division?

"If we keep the mindset we have, taking it one game at a time, we'll be in a good spot. We've got a good group of guys in there, guys who work hard, come in everyday and put the team first."

Do you look forward to that kind of test to see where you stack up?

“Yeah, it’ll be a good test for us next week. It’ll be a good game.”

It’s such a pass happy league but you guys have had a few really sort of dominant performances on the ground. With the way the defense is playing, what do you make of the identity you guys have sort of carved out for yourselves with the running game and that defense?

“We’re a physical team. We know it, and we just want to prove it to everybody at the end of the day. So, I think we did a good job of that tonight, and we just have to do it week in and week out.”

Do you have any impressions of DL Nick Bosa’s performance?

“I don’t really get to see the defense that much. I heard he had a hell of a game, happy for him. The guy works his ass off, so for it to show out on the field like that, you love to see it.”

You talked a little bit about the touchdown pass to Kittle, but how about can you take us through pass to Breida for the touchdown?

“Breida made a great move. He had a linebacker on him, made him miss and then made a great catch after it, laying out for it and everything. It’s things like that, throwing the first punch, not dipping your foot in the water, just jumping right in. It puts us at ease and kind of puts the pressure on them.”

With the success you guys have had in the run game, obviously the offensive line gets a lot of credit, the backs gets credit. What can you saw about the guys, maybe out on the edges, the receivers, the tight ends, and Juice of course?

“Oh yeah. It takes all 11, it really does, especially not many receivers in this league want to go in there and get their hands dirty and everything, but our guys go dig out safeties, linebackers, whatever it may be. Sometimes, a D-end. For a receiver to do that and then go catch a post, it’s tough on guys.”

How often do you check into a run play or vice versa?

“Every situation’s different. Some game plans are different than other ones.”

Was today mostly just “run, run run” until you came out in the second half and passed?

“There were variations. I don’t really know how to answer that one, I’m sorry.”

When you don’t turn over the ball a lot, can you see this offense scoring 30, 40 points a game like that?

“The opportunities are there for us. It’s up to us. We’ve got to finish drives. Got caught up a couple times down there towards the red-zone in the fringe area. If we finish those drives, it’s going to make it hard on teams.”

What’s your confidence level in OL Justin Skule and how do you think he’s played for these last two games?

“I thought Justin’s done a great job. He came back from the bye week with a great mindset. He works as hard as anybody. He’s putting in the time and it’s showing on the field. You love to see that for a young guy. I thought the whole O-line as a whole, just run game, pass game, whatever it was, those guys were battling all night. It was impressive.”

San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns

Do you feel like this team is not going to be a fake undefeated team this year?

"I think that is pretty clear. It is time to play division opponents so that is what really matters. We are not done."

What was working so well for you tonight?

"I was doing the same thing that I have been doing, just rushing my butt off. The fact that all the things came together for me to get a couple of sacks. A sack is a number of things; it is not just somebody winning a rush. My job is to win the rush and do my job. The DBs job is to cover and make him hold it a couple extra seconds and the rest of the guys stay in their rush lanes to keep him contained in the pocket. So there is a lot that goes into those sacks."

San Francisco 49ers LB Dee Ford just told us that there are so many capable guys on this defense, that you can't just gang up on one guy and that opens things up for everybody. Is that what you feel as well?

"Yes. I got a lot of one-on-one opportunities tonight and I knew that I could win them. Just having Dee burning off the edge and the inside guys [DL] Arik [Armstead], [DL DeForest Buckner] Buck, just closing it. [Cleveland Browns QB] Baker [Mayfield] couldn't see anything downfield. Some of my sacks should go to them."

Can you tell when a quarterback is getting rustled and did you see some of that tonight?

"Yes. I don't know how anybody can think he could see over Arik and Buck but he was panicking, double clutching, rolling back and forth, we had him rattled all game."

49ers RB Matt Breida Postgame Quotes – October 7, 2019 San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns

What did you see on that first play?

"A big hole. I saw a big hole. The offensive line, and the receivers did a great job of blocking. The play worked out how it was supposed to."

As a total run game, you had it rolling tonight. What was working?

"Everything. I thought we could run the ball on every play on them. Again, a big shout out to the offensive line, the receivers, the quarterbacks, everyone was doing their job today. It is a team game."

What is clicking this year?

"It is just being in the offense for three years. We had a young team when I first came here. We had a lot of rookies and guys are understanding the offense better now, and I feel like everyone has gotten better. There is still a lot of stuff we can clean up. We didn't like how we played in the second half. We had a lot of penalties. We need to clean that up, so we can get way better."

You and RB Tevin Coleman had big nights. You are a couple of backs with big numbers.

"We have a great backfield. I feel we have one of the best in the league. As long as we stay healthy, we are going to do what we do."

What does it do psychologically when you jump out on the very first play of scrimmage like you did?

“It gives a big boost to the team. The team feels that and everyone feels the energy. When we did that, and then the defense comes out and goes three and out. It is just an amazing feeling.”

**49ers DL DeForest Buckner
Press Conference – October 7, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns**

Coming in there were some people saying that this was going to be the best quarterback and skill players that you guys have seen this season. What does it say about this team that you were kind of able to dismantle their game plan?

“Yeah, they got a lot of talent, you know what I mean. They got a lot of weapons of the offensive side, but coming into this game we weren’t really thinking about all the talent they got, all that kind of stuff. We have been playing really good, like [CB Richard] Sherman has been saying, championship defense. We just had to come in, we knew it was coming off a bye and we knew in the past we been coming out on byes a little lackadaisical and stuff. So, we just had to come in with that same energy and focus on ourselves and what we can do better on defense and it came to light on Monday night.”

How rewarding is it to see DL Nick Bosa finally get to the quarterback? I know the last couple weeks he was close but he couldn’t finish.

“I know. It was nice to see, you know, he’s been working his tail off and obviously the stats are there, all the hits and stats that he’s been getting. He just hasn’t been finishing and wrapping them up. We have been talking about it. Earlier in the week, especially in Tampa, the Tampa Bay game, he probably missed about six legitimate sacks that he could have had in that game and he ended up with one, but just seeing him take the next step and finishing those rushes is really great to see.”

What did you think when you see the first play on offense, they break a run off for 83 and the way they have been able to run the football? What do you think as a defender when you see that?

“I’m just excited. I get to go back out there so quick. it’s more opportunity to get back on the field. For the offense to come out like that and run the ball like that, they almost ran for 300 yards, almost. And to see that get them going and get the run game started and that opens up the pass game for [QB] Jimmy [Garoppolo]. It’s phenomenal to see.”

**49ers DL Dee Ford
Postgame Quotes – October 7, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns**

You mentioned earlier this week there is another level for the pass rush.

“There still is. That was a step up tonight, but there still is another level.”

Did you feel you had a responsibility to help protect the secondary and did you feel like there was more on your shoulders?

“We don’t feel like we have to protect them. We feel like as a defense, secondary and pass rushing work together hand-in-hand. That is just the mindset that we have. The secondary is on their job, and we are on our job. It works hand in hand. It is like magic.”

What did you think of DL Nick Bosa’s job today?

“What I love about Nick is, this is the baller in him and he said, ‘there is so much more to get better at’. I am proud of him. He knows there is a lot left in the tank. If everybody stays on the same page, we got something special going.”

Did you feel like this was a breakthrough game for Nick?

“No, I see what he can do. He will have a break out game. Tonight was a level up for him. I feel like he is a game breaker period. I think we are going to see a lot more of Nick.”

This team lately has been built on defense. It must be rewarding to see how dominant this defense seems to be becoming?

“We still have a lot to clean up. We are chasing perfection. That is a special thing for a defense to have, that type of communication of chasing perfection. That is hard to find, we have that right now.”

**49ers TE George Kittle
Press Conference – October 7, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns**

You had one of those blocks that sprung RB Matt Breida, what kind of confidence does that give you guys knowing how the game is going to go?

“When you establish the run early it kind of just opens up other opportunities for the play action. I mean, when we can run the ball our play action and our pass thrives off of it and then you saw that throughout the game. I know fourth quarter we definitely got to clean up, that was not a lot of pretty football, but I think the first three quarters we put together a lot of good football. You know, we just got to learn how to finish that game and not let a team hang around.”

The last time this team was 4-0 was in 1990. There were some pretty good players on that team. You guys are the only other undefeated team in the league besides the Patriots. What does it feel like to be in this rarefied air?

“It’s awesome. Just proud of the team. You know, like head coach Kyle Shanahan says, all that’s guaranteed is that we can go 4-12. So, we’ve got to come back and on a short week we’ve got to try and win this game and get 5-0. We get about 24 hours to celebrate this victory as a team. Wednesday comes around we will be locked and loaded for the Rams.”

You came out of the half and even though you were running the ball so well, you came out passing a lot, leading to your touchdown. Walk me through that final thought on the touchdown play and what kind of message you were sending by passing the ball.

“Oh, it was awesome. We can do a lot out of our 22 personnel, which is great. That’s a lot on [FB Kyle] Juszczyk and a lot on our other tight ends. When we get in that, when we are able to run the ball for 280 yards, you know like I said, it sets up our pass game. That last play was a pretty simple play. I just got a through route, which is the safeties if they are split, you go down the middle and it was pretty awesome. On the motion, both safeties looked the opposite direction and pretty sure I knew it was, I mean, I thought it was a touchdown before they even said hike. [T Joe] Staley said that Shanahan, as soon as we said hike, he turned around and just called touchdown. So, that was pretty cool. You’ve got to ask him about that.”

**49ers T Mike McGlinchey
Postgame Quotes – October 7, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns**

What was your vantage point on that very first play, when you guys ran an 83-yard touchdown?

“Actually I was front side of the play and the ball was cut back. I didn’t see anything until [RB Matt] Breida was about 30-yards ahead of me. I didn’t even bother trying to catch up because I knew that I had field goal coming up and I didn’t want to be winded for it, so I just turned around. I knew [QB] Jimmy [Garoppolo] was behind me. I think the five of us, me [OL Mike] Person, and [C/G Weston] Richburg were high stepping down the field. Hopefully we can catch that on film for a good laugh tomorrow.”

When you guys are rolling in the run blocking like you have been for the first part of the season, how much fun is that? How is it like?

“It’s awesome. It is how you take control of football. It is fundamental at every level that you are. I know the NFL has gotten a little pass happy here in the past couple years, but [head coach] Kyle Shanahan is a firm believer that the team goes as the run game goes. We believe in that as well. It is awesome up front as an offensive lineman to have a head coach that believes in you like that. That can scheme it to put us all in a great position for us to succeed.”

Do you see stuff from run game coordinator Mike McDaniel and Shanahan that you’ve never seen before? Are they dreaming up some stuff?

“That is the thing about it. I don’t think that it is dreaming up anything. It is not this magic wand that they raise over. They just understand football. They understand defense. They understand how defenses are going to react to certain motions, certain things that we do, certain alignments that we have and it is just exploiting simple things that no one is going over those details.”

**49ers CB Richard Sherman
Press Conference – October 7, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Cleveland Browns**

On your interception, it seemed like you had eyes in the back of your head because you anticipated that Cleveland Browns QB Baker Mayfield would throw it short. Was that because you trust the pass rush or did you see a tip?

“I knew the route, I ran it, the receiver took an extra step. Baker took an extra hitch because he was getting hit. He took too long to get the ball out. He’s got to throw the ball on time and it would have been a much easier interception. He tried to put some air under it because he was throwing later than he should have. I was still able to get it.”

How good was DL Nick Bosa tonight?

“Oh Bosa is always good. He’s consistent and that’s what you appreciate about him. The whole D-Line in general, they’re dependable and that’s the best ability, dependability. That’s what you’ve got in the D-Line. You know exactly what you are going to get week in and week out and that’s why you try to be consistent in the back end. You know our backers are very consistent and [LB] Fred [Warner] and [LB] Kwon [Alexander] and [LB] Dre [Greenlaw] played a good game. Those guys should get the love this year. I think you see a lot of the highlights and stuff and you see a lot of the conversations, but you don’t see these guys being mentioned for Pro Bowls and All Pros. These guys are playing Pro Bowl and All-Pro football. This isn’t a fluke that we are just running through these teams, you know it’s not a joke, it’s not a game. Other teams just struggle with these guys and we had them, I think, 31-3 and that’s from Pro Bowl, All-Pro talent up front and in the secondary and in the linebacker room and I think those are the kind of conversations that need to be started and I hope our fans, when the voting opens up, they get those guys the votes they deserve. [DL] Dee [Ford], Bosa. Bosa should be a rookie in the Pro Bowl this year and it shouldn’t even be close. Obviously, DeFo [DL DeForest Buckner], [DL] Arik [Armstead]. Arik is

playing freaking Pro Bowl football. Our whole D-Line could be in there represented if I'm being honest. The backers, you've got to give Kwon a lot of credit, what he has brought to this defense is incredible. [S] Jaquiski [Tartt] has been quiet, nobody mentions him, and when you're not getting mentions on defense, it's not because you're playing bad. If he was playing bad I guarantee you guys would mention him. He's playing outstanding, incredible football. He's sound, he's tackling well, he's making the plays that are there and that's what you need. That's what great defense is. This wasn't a one-man performance or a one-unit performance. This was all three levels of football: special teams, offense, defense. Everything coming together and playing well."