

Head Coach Freddie Kitchens:

Opening statement:

“Before we get started, I want to just say how much I appreciate these 91 guys that we had. It was really a tough camp for these guys. They fought until the very end on the very last drive. They were still fighting a bunch of them. This is the toughest part of the year from the standpoint of our business. There are a lot of decisions tomorrow that are going to be emotional for them and emotional for us. We have asked them to do things over the past four or five months, and they have never batted an eye. I commend them for that.”

On what the Browns learned about players in the fourth preseason game:

“That they would keep competing, and they would fight until the very end. Everything did not go really well at all times, but the difference between this week and last week, I thought they made improvements from the standpoint of that they just continued to play the next play. That is what they did.”

On if the Browns have decided on the team’s K:

“We are not talking about decisions tonight with anything.”

On if the Browns are pleased with how K Austin Seibert has performed the past two weeks:

“He is supposed to perform.”

On the Browns defense having a good camp and preseason:

“Yeah, that is what is expected out of them every time they go out there. They set the bar high last week. That was the first time that really we had our starting defense out there. They set the bar high, and that is the expectations that we are looking for so they have to perform.”

On the Browns choosing Seibert to kick tonight after the presumption that K Greg Joseph would have a full game:

“I never said that. Did I say that? I am sorry then.”

On if there was a plan at one point to go with K Greg Joseph tonight:

“We had talked about it, but it was not set in stone. Nothing was set in stone. We kick during the course of the week also so nothing was set in stone.”

On if the Browns wanted to see if Seibert could follow up with another good week following a strong performance in Tampa Bay:

“Yeah, I guess, he went 4-4 so he got another chance.”

On defensive coordinator Steve Wilks and his contributions to the team:

“Steve is a good coach. He was a good coach when he was in Carolina. He was a good coach when he was in Arizona. He just did not always have the tools. There is a lot of stuff that goes into that bad year/good year stuff. I just know when I talk to Steve, our vision for where we wanted to be defensively was similar. Just going against him in one NFC Championship game and a couple of games in the regular season, I knew what kind of defense and the problems he caused.”

On an update on G Drew Forbes’ status:

“Not anything definitive.”

On P Jamie Gillan’s performance tonight:

“I thought it was up and down. I did not see his stats yet so some of those you get fooled by. I did not see hang times or anything like that that I think you need to evaluate kickers with, especially punters.”

On Gillan as a holder:

“The holders like to get blamed sometimes whenever we miss field goals so at least he is not going to get blamed this time.”

On if he received clarity on the Browns WRs:

“I thought it was very impressive that (WR) Ishmael Hyman dropped a couple balls early and one of them for a big play – we continue to talk about just playing the next play – and he came back and had a pretty good game. Without looking at it, I would say that. I like guys that face adversity and come through it, and he did that. I thought (WR) Damion Ratley moved around well so we will see.”

On G Wyatt Teller, who the Browns acquired by a trade earlier today:

“Just to get him here, get him a physical in the morning and meet with him tomorrow afternoon. That is all I know right now. I know I like what I have seen on tape, but other than that, I talked to him on the phone. He is excited to come. It is only a three-hour drive he said (*laughter*).”

On if Teller is a candidate for starting RG:

“Let’s let him get here first and we will see. Everybody is a candidate. Like I said with the kicker, hell, I can’t tell you what we are going to do right after the first game so I just say something. You all want all these answers that I can give you so I would rather just give you an answer and let you run with it. I like to kind of see you all run with it (*laughter*).”

On where the team stands following the preseason:

“I like our team. This is never easy. We are going to have [to release] some good football players, some good guys and good people. When somebody busts their ass for you and they do everything you want them to do, it is hard to make those business decisions to let people go. There are going to be some of those decisions made tomorrow, and it is going to be very difficult. I respect the hell out of the locker room that we had. They came together. We are truly not the Cleveland Browns until tomorrow, and even after tomorrow, Saturday or Sunday, we are still always looking to improve. Nothing is ever final in this business. The guys who are not going to be here anymore, I hold the upmost respect for those guys.”

On if the Browns answered the desired questions during training camp and the preseason:

“I think we built toughness. We wanted to get that accomplished. We proved to ourselves that we could be tough. That is more so the case than anything. I think we were resilient from the standpoint of we did not let one day affect the next day. We had a couple of days there where you are coming off breaks like an off day and came out and had good days. That is a good sign that somebody can refocus and have a good day. Now, we had a couple of them that were not. We did show that we had it in us. We showed that we were in it together at times so we just need to continue to build on those things because those things are ultimately what is going to affect our season. It is not the outside, it is not you guys saying this and that or the national guys saying this or that. It is not anything like that that is going to affect our season. That only affects you if you let it affect you. I think we have some guys that will block out that noise. If they do that, we will be successful. It is never going to be about talent. These guys have been talented in other places and I think they recognize that and they recognize there has to be more to a football team, a successful football team than just talent. If they do that and keep that mantra going, play for each other and hold each other accountable, we will be fine. I think we found out we could potentially be that. If we do, we will be fine.”

On if anything surprised him during his first training camp and preseason as a head coach:

“No, I do not think so. How late you eat lunch. Sometimes you do not eat lunch until 2. I am not being facetious. Sometimes you eat lunch at 2 and then you are expected to eat dinner at 5:30. That is kind of weird to me. Other than some timing and logistics things, no, not much [surprised me]. I was very pleased with how we went to Indianapolis, how we performed, how we stayed focused and how we hung out with

each other after practice. I thought that was a big building time for us as a team within the groups and also collectively as a team.”

On WR Braxton Miller’s performance tonight:

“I thought he did well. He had a couple balls that got called back from penalties. He took one screen and made something out of it. It did not look like there was much there. He used his hands well. I thought he did well.”

On the Browns RBs heading into the regular season:

“I am comfortable with our backfield. We have been comfortable with our backfield for a while. We think (RBs) D’Ernest (Johnson) can play, we think Dontrell (Hilliard) can play, we think Trayone (Gray) gives us some things and we think ‘Uno’ (Ouellette) gives us some things. Did you see the run he made today with the safety in the hole? That was one hell of a run. It ended up being a 6 or 7-yard gain.”

On DT Devaroe Lawrence’s game tonight and preseason:

“Well, he wasted no time tonight, right? That was him in the backfield so I think he wanted to show everybody that that was not a fluke. I think he certainly did that. I was very impressed with Devaroe. Devaroe carried the practices over to the games. He was the same way in practices. I am always happy when guys do that. What you see in practice is what you see in the game. I just want to know what we are going to get when they cross the white lines, and I know what I am getting from him.”

BROWNS PLAYERS

P Jamie Gillan:

On if his performance with the Browns will help him make an NFL roster:

“I think what will land me a job is punting well. I just need to keep getting more consistent. Every punting coach and special teams coordinator would like consistency from the punting unit. It was really good to get experience under my belt these last four games, which is a different punt scheme compared to college. Like I said, unfortunately, when I have to make a tackle that is usually a breakdown of our own defense from the punting unit or a bad punt on my part.”

On learning he would be the starting punter tonight:

“I found out a couple of days ago. It was nice to get holding in as well because I know everybody talks about how holding is going to be a problem for me. It was good to get a good deal of holding in with (K) Austin (Seibert) and set him up for success, as well as some great snapping from (LS) Charley (Hughlett) so I did not have to spin the ball. It was good going into practice and getting prepared like it was in college. I was able to get ready for the game knowing that I am starting and going to be getting a good game under my belt.”

DL Devaroe Lawrence:

On if his performance was:

“Yeah i wanted to go out and play hard tonight. It is the fourth preseason game, just doing what I have been doing all preseason. As a unit, just playing hard together and keeping the standard, the standard regardless of who’s playing or who is not playing.”

On if he felt secure about making the team going into this game:

“I would not say that I felt secure because everybody is competing and this team has a lot of depth in a lot of positions. You cannot feel secure. You have to go out and give it your all, every night. You cannot just do what you are supposed to do as a football player and just go out and applying the techniques that the

coaches taught us and play hard together. You cannot really get complacent. You have to keep your head down and keep working.”

On if he feels secure now:

“I would not say that I feel secure. You do not feel secure until after the weekend when they let you know that you are secure. You just have to keep working, even after this.”

WR Braxton Miller:

On his roster status with the Browns:

“That is up to the coaches and organization. I made sure I went out there and played what I know, and hopefully, put out good tape.”

On the learning curve joining the Browns:

“Actually, the learning curve was not that bad. I just had to look over some of the scripts and understand how they format their plays. It was not that difficult to comprehend, and I feel that I caught on pretty quick.”

On learning the playbook:

“I think being able to come in and learn the offense quickly will help my chances of making the team. I think being able to learn the offense quickly is probably a big deal for the coaches. I was able to learn it in a week and a couple of days.”

On the possibility of making the roster:

“I definitely want to make this team. It feels like I am supposed to be here, and I am just wishing for the best. I definitely want to be here.”

On playing in front of hometown fans:

“Being back in my home state and being back with the fans that know me from my Ohio State days feels great. They bring a good energy and it felt pretty good to be back home.”

K Austin Seibert:

On if he feels that he did everything he could to make the roster:

“Yeah, I think I did everything in my power to get the best out of myself towards the end of this camp. I am happy with the results and the way I have kicked the last week, two weeks.”

On what changed to improve his consistency:

“Nothing, just kept doing the same drills. Kept kicking. Sometimes when you are kicking and you are in a little rut, you have to keep kicking to get out of it. That is just the game of kicking.”

On if things fell into place after he made a 53-yard field goal against the Buccaneers last week:

“No, just going out there, going one-for-one. My goal every time I go on the field is to help the team and that is to put points on the board or getting good hang on the kick offs or a touchback on the kick offs.”

On if it is different to kick in FirstEnergy Stadium given the wind from Lake Erie:

“It is just getting used to the winds in the stadium itself. That is the key of it because if you can kick here, you can kick anywhere. Kicking here gives you more challenges and that makes you a better kicker. So in my opinion, I am up for the challenge. I am up for all of that weather.”

Lions Head Coach Matt Patricia:

Opening Statement:

“Obviously, [it isn’t] the result we wanted here tonight with the game and the outcome and everything, but I’ll say this: I think our guys went out and competed hard. I think the guys fought all the way through the game and tried to do everything they could to win. We were into it. They were involved. They were paying attention as we were trying to go down there and score. I’m proud of the guys and proud of the effort. I think all the way through training camp everyone has worked really hard. I think they’re trying to do everything they could to show us their skill sets and what they can do to help us during the regular season. We obviously have a lot of work in front of us as far as that’s concerned. Really, with the game itself, [there were] just too many mistakes. Too many penalties to really allow us to get out of the hole there as far as some of the plays were concerned. I think we had some big plays out there. We left some plays out there because of the mistakes we made. Those are the things we just have to continue to eliminate. I think that was the biggest problem in the game for us in order to stay on track. But like I said, I was proud of our guys [for] working really hard to go compete until the end. I think the guys were fighting hard to try to win, and that’s important. There’s great value to that. It was good to see.”

On what was learned about the team after going 0-4 in the preseason:

“I think that’s a great question as far as the learning process that we go through. Through training camp, the games themselves are difficult and we’re trying to win every single game we play, certainly by all means. If you look at the big body of work of what we did and some of the competitive practices we had versus two very good teams back to back – one down at our house and one down in the heat in Texas – I think our team showed a lot of character from that standpoint. Their willingness to go out and ignore everything else that was going on and work really hard. Like I said, I think the guys in general through training camp tried to compete. They tried to go out every single day and get better. [We] really had our head down and we just grinded all the way through camp. Obviously, the biggest part of it now for us is trying to make the best decisions we can for the team going forward and to help us try to go win during the regular season. It’s a long process. The NFL season is a grind and there’s a whole other phase that we’ve got to get into here through the month of September, but right now, for tonight, like I said, I’m proud of this group. I think they care about each other. I think they really enjoy each other. I think they work really hard and that’s great to see. I think, as a coach, when you can stand in front of a group of men that just want to go out and make each other better and perform at a high level, it’s something you can really appreciate.”

On guys like DE Eric Lee, WR Brandon Powell, and WR Travis Fulgham stepping up and making plays:

“I think you’re exactly right. Those are some names that obviously stood out in a couple plays there, but I would say really for me with the game, I’m going to have to go back and look at the tape. There were just so many plays that got us off track – so many negative plays that we had to try to overcome within the game from that standpoint that the situations were hard to evaluate. The individual play we will go back and look at the tape. There were, like you said, a couple players that stood out in particularly some of those plays, but as a whole body of work, I just think there were some mistakes that we need to look at.”

On confidence level going into Week 1:

“I think for us, I think the confidence level that we build is through the course of practice and the competition that we had against the two teams that we practiced against. That’s always good. I honestly think confidence, as far as an NFL team, you probably aren’t making it to this level if you don’t have some sort of level of confidence in general. The big challenge for us like every NFL team right now is to push from this point on and the teams that are able to grow and build and improve through the course of the season, and these different markers that we’ll set during the season, those are the ones that will be there in the end. That’s really our next challenge. That’s an ending in and of itself. We do have to develop our team and see what we’re going to be as we go forward.”

On TE Isaac Nauta leaving the game with injury and coming back and scoring:

“I think anytime anyone comes out of the game and obviously is dealing with something, and goes back in, it certainly shows us a little bit of toughness there as far as being able to get out there and still compete and work hard. This is a game that certainly there are a lot of players out there that are trying to play through a lot. They know that they have to go out there and perform, so I certainly thought he did that and he came up in some of those situations when we need him to. He had the seam route inside too before that on the drive. He got a big play in there. They were in split safety coverages and they went through. So it was good. He made a couple plays and [had] good recognition of the coverage as we were on that drive.”

On being smart and not playing guys who were injured earlier in the offseason:

“I think it’s exactly that. We had a certain amount of practice reps with it and we had some other guys who maybe had more opportunity to prepare. That’s just kind of how it worked out.”

On QB Josh Johnson:

“I would say with him in particular and for his athleticism and his skill set, he did a really good job. I would really say for (Offensive Coordinator Darrell) Bev(ell) and his offense, it kind of shows the versatility that we can have based on the players that we have out there, and I think that’s what we want to be able to do. We don’t want to be kind of just a singular type of offense. We want to be able to adapt based on the personnel that we have, and that’s the biggest thing for us. As we go through the course of the season, it’s not always going to be the same. It’s going to adjust based on roster, situation, game, opponent, and I think that was really good by him and his staff to be able to feature the players that were out there and their skill sets at that time.”

On competition for the backup quarterback job and how to evaluate:

“I think for us, there are a lot of spots, including the backup quarterback position, that’s in competition right now. We will certainly do our due diligence and go through the tape and make sure we’re making smart evaluations as we go through it. But I thought those guys are competing really hard, and they’re trying really hard. There are some positives. There were some positives out there. There was a good drive at the end of the game to go score and give ourselves a chance to win at the end, which is all we want.”

On difficulty of how to evaluate the backup quarterback spot:

“I think we’ll take the full body of work when we get there, including the spring. We’ll go back through all of it, and just make sure we’re making a good decision as far as that’s concerned. I thought both the guys went out and they worked really hard. That was good to see. It was good to see them in certain situations. There was some good situational football that we can kind of put in that category of evaluation, and I think both of them really tried to step up and perform, and lead. That was another part of it too, as far as the huddle, the substitution, the sideline. It was a great opportunity for us to look at both of those guys take over an offense and see what they could do with it from that standpoint. I think both of them did it, and they did it at a good level, but we do have to go back and look at the full body, and not just one particular night.”

On whether the team is deeper this year:

“I am kind of focused on this year, so I don’t know if I can pinpoint exactly where we were last year. I think for us this year, certainly in some spots and some positions, I feel like the competition has been really difficult from an evaluation standpoint to try and make those decisions. I think those guys have done a great job going out and working really hard against each other, and proving their value. There will definitely be some really tough decisions. We know that. It’s in front of us, but right now, like I said, I’m just really proud of the guys for going out there tonight and competing. It’s not an easy week. It’s a distraction week from the guys that are playing in the game. There’s obviously a lot going on. There’s a lot of emotion. There’s a lot of stress involved with this week and in order to come out there, study a couple days of preparation and try to put some good work together and compete at a high level – it’s a very difficult thing to do. I just commend those guys tonight for doing that.”

On QB Josh Johnson able to settle things down:

“We’ll see. Obviously, we had some production, so it’s easy to point to that. Overall, I thought both of the quarterbacks did a good job of just trying to deal with the situations that they had out there. I think both of them were put in some really tough spots. Both the guys had to handle those situations. I thought they both tried to do that through the course of the game.”

LIONS PLAYERS

CB Mike Ford:

On his individual performance tonight:

“I just feel like I went out there and left everything on the field. Make the [inaudible] decision hard them for the guys upstairs.”

On his performance:

“It feels good, but there are always things I can correct and things that I can get better at. Just have to watch the film and keep on improving every day.”

On player’s perspective on what this weekend is like:

“It is a little nervous, but it is just like another day. You wait and are kind of anxious. You try to figure out how everything is going to play out and figure out where you are going to be.”

On what he showed the team:

“I just come out and show that I have a hard work ethic. I can play anywhere you put me. I am willing to go out there and play and doing anything for the team. I feel like that is what I can do.”

TE Isaac Nauta:

On catching his first touchdown pass:

“Me and (QB) Josh (Johnson) were on the same page. He threw a great ball in coverage and I ran a corner route and was able to sneak in between the pylon right there. Great throw by him and great job being on the same page. It felt good. At the end of the game, we were trying to get points and try to claw back in it to win the game. In that situation, it’s hard to celebrate because you want to get the ball back and go score again, but it felt great to get the first one.”

On how his body physically feels after taking a rough hit:

“I feel alright, it’s part of the game. It’s football you get hurt. Nobody cares so you have to get back out there, keep fighting and keep competing. Definitely didn’t feel great, I was able to run and cut so I went out there and got it done.”

On his decision to keep playing after the hit:

“It’s part of the game. You’re going to get nicked up and get hurt but this is a critical game, especially for a guy in my situation. It’s going to take a lot to pull me out of the game. I’m going to keep fighting and clawing. I was happy just to help the team late in the game.”

On his first experience with a roster cut approaching:

“I don’t think you can prepare for this, it’s out of my control. The only thing I can control is my attitude and effort. Whatever happens, happens. It’s all part of God’s plan, I’m not going to worry about it.”

WR Brandon Powell:

On sleeping well after tonight’s performance:

“I sleep well regardless. It is football. If they do not like it, they do not like it. I did all that I can do. That is all I can say.”

On how good it felt to put the 67-yard punt return on tape:

“I basically did the easy part. The 10 guys blocking for me – everybody made their blocks and opened up the lane for me to run. I just did the easy part. I ran the ball. That was it.”

On his performance in final preseason game:

“Basically, what I have been doing all my life. Just play football. Going back to what I know and that is just to have fun and be a playmaker. That is all I was trying to do and it helped me out.”

On if he did enough to earn a spot on the team:

“I do not worry about that. I just go play football. I just know I play football. The decision to be made – that is out of my control. I am just going to go through this weekend like any other day. That is it.”

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