



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

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*Head Coach Kevin Stefanski  
Cleveland Browns at Tennessee Titans Postgame Zoom Interview  
Week 13  
12-6-20*

**Head Coach Kevin Stefanski:**

**Opening statement:**

“On the injury front, (LB) Mack Wilson is being evaluated for a concussion. Other than that, nothing to report.

“A great team win. I told the guys all week and reminded them again today, we were going to have to compete for 60 minutes. That game took all of 60 minutes. We made it interesting there at the end, which we should not do. (RB) Kareem Hunt showing great hustle to get the guy down there at the end. Really, I should start with our defense. (Defensive coordinator) Joe Woods and the defensive staff did an outstanding job putting a plan together, and then the guys, they played it. To get three takeaways versus a team that does not give the ball up was really impressive. We held them to two for 10 on third down. Really, really proud of those guys, but I think it starts with Joe and the defensive staff. Offensively, the numbers, I thought we were efficient. There are always plays left out there that I feel like we can make. Special teams going seven for seven in field goal and extra point and then hands team coming through for us a couple of times there. We knew it was going to be a 60-minute affair, knew it was going to be physical and knew that we were going to have to get contributions from O, D and K, and we did.”

**On if the first half went as well as the team could have expected outside of one drop and a couple of penalties:**

“Yeah, it really did. I give credit to the players. We talked all week about our work during the week was going to be a determining factor in how we play, and the guys worked their butts off all week. They understand what a good operation looks like and what efficient football looks like, and I was proud of how they played.”

**On what he hopes the win will do for the team’s confidence:**

“All of these games, they are hard. Winning is hard in this National Football League. There are a bunch of good teams, and they are coming at your week in and week out. I think our guys understand that we are just looking to go 1-0 each week, and there is so much work that goes into going 1-0.”

**On the momentum swing after stopping the Titans offense and Titans RB Derrick Henry on their first drive of the game:**

“That was huge. That was outstanding. The guys, we talked all week, that is a tough, tough task to try and slow that player down. I have a tremendous amount of respect for Derrick Henry. The guys came through by being gap sound and gang tackling. He is an outstanding back.”

**On how QB Baker Mayfield played today:**

“I told him he is going to be doing some ball security drills there after that fumble. He is the same guy during the week that he is on gameday. He grinds. He is making plays left and right and in the pocket and out of the pocket. We had some unfortunate drops there in big moments and the numbers would be even better. He is playing at a high level, and he has to continue to do so. We are counting on him, and he knows that.”

**On how Mayfield is playing now compared to the beginning of the season as Mayfield evolves in learning the offense:**

“I do not think of it that way. I just think all of our guys have to continue to get better, and we have to help them as coaches to put them in position to succeed.”

**On DT Sheldon Richardson making multiple big plays in the first half:**



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“Sheldon plays very, very hard. On Sundays, you see him flying around. He is an emotional leader for us. I am really excited about how he is attacking blocks, getting after the offensive line and trying to penetrate. He is doing a nice job for us.”

**On the Browns playing with five DL early in the game:**

“That is our job game to game to put together plans that defend the opponent. Again, I just go to Joe and the entire defensive staff put together a really sound plan, and the players executed it.”

**On the decision to throw the ball early in the game:**

“We are going to do whatever it takes to win. We are looking for the right play at the right time, and then to the players’ credit, they are executing at a high level.”

**On how long the pass play to T Kendall Lamm has been in the playbook:**

“That was installed this week, believe it or not. Kendall did a great job. The guys again understood the finer points of that. Kendall, I would like to see him high point it next time go up and get it (*laughter*).”

**On WR Donovan Peoples-Jones responding with a 75-yard TD catch following a drop earlier in the game:**

“Guys are going to drop the ball. Guys are going to miss throws. You are going to miss a block. I am looking for the perfect game. I am going to make that call as I did today. You have to really just move on from those. He moved on, we moved on and knew he was going to make a great play there.”

**On Peoples-Jones delivering in big moments this season:**

“He has delivered. You think about that double move there, that was repped with (WR) KhaDarel (Hodge) during the week. For him to know what to do, know how to do it and execute it at a high level, it really speaks to how he prepares. (Pass game coordinator/wide receivers coach) Chad O’Shea does an outstanding job with that group.”

**On when the Browns determined the gameplan for the Titans:**

“The impetus of our gameplan start on those Mondays and Tuesdays. We get together as a staff, and we talk about what we needed to do this week to get this win versus that opponent. We felt like we had to be able to run it and be able to throw it, and just put together a plan that our guys can execute and execute at a high level with a good amount of tempo and understanding of what they are doing. As coaches, sometimes we try to scheme up like crazy, but when you just let the guys go and you let them play free, they are able to make plays.”

**On if the Titans’ T eligible play helped inspire him to call the play to Lamm:**

“It did not, but just felt like that was a good play versus that scheme.”

**On the Browns OL giving Mayfield quality protection and time to pass throughout the game:**

“That is a big deal when you are talking about having a precise passing game and then you are talking about the quarterback delivering balls in tight windows. You are going to need to set your feet, and the line by and large did a nice job there of giving Baker time. That is a good team. I really have a ton of respect for their coaches. They threw multiple looks at us, but the line in particular blocked well.”

**On if he noticed any drop in energy from DE Myles Garrett, who was playing for the first time since being on the reserve/COVID-19 list:**

“No, I did not see any drop of energy. We had three ends out so he was playing a lot. I know his wind is only going to continue to get better. You definitely feel him when he is out there. They are going to devote a running back to chip him or a tight end to chip him. It was great to have him out here.”

**On if he has a sense of what Browns fans are feeling now with a 9-3 record, understanding the pandemic limits interaction at this time:**



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“Obviously, we think about the fans a lot. I wish they were in FirstEnergy Stadium, and we wish it was a different year; it is not. We feel the support in the community. I see the flags flying all over. We are hoping that we are putting a team out there that they can be proud of because they are obviously very close to our thoughts and all of what we are doing.”

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*QB Baker Mayfield*  
*Cleveland Browns at Tennessee Titans Postgame Zoom Interview*  
*Week 13*  
*12-6-2020*

**QB Baker Mayfield:**

**On how he felt going into this game:**

“Confident with the group that we have. I appreciate this team. I believe in this team. The group of people that we have, we have been building and improving as the season has gone on so I think we were all confident coming into this.”

**On what today’s performance says about the team:**

“We are taking it one game at a time. We are handling everything inside the building. We know there was a lot of talk of this game leading up to it, but we weren’t worried about that. We were just worried about doing our job and doing it at a very high level.”

**On responding to the Titans’ early score:**

“When you play in a great game like this with two teams that can really run the ball, you go up and when a team scores and you answer right back, it kind of takes momentum away. Yeah, they do score, but when you score right back, they are like, ‘Oh, we have to go do that again.’ It is not just, ‘We are still in this game.’ It is a mental game, and we were able to make those plays early on in the game to be able to do that.”

**On if he believes the Browns ‘are one of the elite teams in the AFC’:**

“I have not watched everybody else to know what the compete team is. We are just trying to improve week in and week out. That is all we are worried about.”

**On if it takes anything away from the first half for the final score to be so close:**

“We have to finish better, and it starts with me, 100 percent. There is no doubt about that. It is tricky when you get up by that much of staying aggressive or calling the dogs off type mentality. You want to run the ball to take the clock away to give them less opportunities, but at the same time, you don’t want to go away from what is working. It is tricky, but we just have to make those plays. Obviously, if I hold on to the dang football, then it is not going to be close or as close as it should have been.”

**On his toe-tap to stay in bounds on his reception and how much he works on that:**

“Every morning, I wake up and toe-tap and get out of bed before I get into the bathroom. Before I brush my teeth, I toe-tap.”

**On why the Browns offense was so efficient in the first half:**

“Great plays. Up front, the protection was great, and our guys were getting open and making those plays. It is a combination. Expect to come in and make some of these plays, and our guys are getting open. We base our gameplan and our style of play off the run game, but we are going to do whatever it takes to win week in and week out. In the first half, that was spreading them out and doing some things to take care of some empty space.”

**On how much pride he takes in having five consecutive games without an interception:**

“I would be sitting here saying five games in a row with no turnovers, but I fumbled. Just taking care of the ball is the most important thing to me. It puts us in the best position to win. You look at statistically, teams that have the best turnover margin are the teams that have the best win-loss record. It is just that mentality of there is a fine line of being aggressive but also knowing the situation, pulling the ball down and checking it down. (Head Coach) Kevin (Stefanski) is calling great plays. We have great schemes. These check-downs are making



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plays. We have great athletes. Trusting those guys that if I dump a ball down in the flat or over the middle, they are going to make a play.”

**On the Browns defense making a stop on the Titans’ first drive and how that impacted momentum:**

“It is huge. Our defense played lights out. The defense and special teams – I know we had a few penalties – but for (K) Cody (Parkey) and that group to be perfect on the day and the defense to be able to shut the run game down to where we could get up by that much to where they were having to throw the ball, that was our most complete game. I know we did not finish the way we wanted to by any means, but in the first half, that was the most complete game or complete half that we have played.”

**On Stefanski trusting him and the Browns offense to throw the ball early this week:**

“Those are the things that we have talked about, like after the bye week, going into it and looking at things that I like conceptually and things that he likes, how he sees it and getting on the same page. We are on the same page right now. That goes for (offensive coordinator) Alex Van Pelt and everything that we are installing and putting in week in and week out. It is just a very open line of communication. The fact that he trusts me that much makes me more confident. There is no doubt about that. We need to keep rolling. There are plays that we should have had. This game should not have been as close as it was so need to improve.”

**On if he had a turning point this week and set his mind to improving and being more of who he is and performing as he is capable:**

“No, you do not want to play the mental game too much when you are playing quarterback. Just realizing what I am capable of, I have always believed in myself and I am not going to pay attention to BS. Just put my head down and work. The job is not finished yet. Playing confident, being who I am and not looking for any approval on the outside is how I have always been the best at what I have done. That is how I need to do it. I can’t let people change me because somebody did it different in the past. I am who I am, and I have always said that so I am going to continue to do that and improve, but then also trying to elevate the guys around me. That is the one thing that I have always prided myself on is being a leader and getting guys around me to play harder. The thing about being myself, it needs to be authentic to be able to do that, and that is why I am doing that.”

**On if he has his ‘Oklahoma swagger’ back and looking more like himself:**

“Winning is fun. Winning covers up a lot of things. Having everybody on the same page and moving towards the same goal is the biggest thing. I say it time in and time out, back in the spring and our foundation that we laid about our goals, we are all on the same page. When you get a group that is hungry, sees the same things and works for the same things, that is when it really gets special. We need to continue to get better because the job is not finished.”

**On if this was the best the Browns can play or the team can still play its best football in the future, given his comments after last week’s game:**

“No, I still think that is ahead of us. The first half was better than some, but we could have had touchdowns instead of field goals. I just think there are always plays you look back on. We won the game. We need to be proud of that, but we have to continue to improve because some of these plays that we can overcome may be the ones that cost us later down the road so we have to be able to correct those and make those big plays.”

**On what is different about him now as opposed to a month ago or last year:**

“Whenever I am about to do something, I think, ‘Would an idiot do that?’ And if they would, then I don’t do that.”

**On if he has a sense for how Browns fans are feeling right now with a 9-3 record:**

“I would hope they would feel exactly how I do. We are going to be happy about this win until we wake up tomorrow, and then we are on to the next. This is not the end of the season. This is not what we set out to do. We did not set out to be 9-3. There is a lot of ball left, and we hope that way so job is not finished.”



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**On his goals when coming to Cleveland as a rookie and if he is starting to accomplish some of those things, understanding the job is not done yet:**

“A little bit. I think we are definitely trending in the right direction. I would be lying if I said otherwise. One of my best friends played fullback at St Edward’s – fullback and linebacker – and I went to school with him at Oklahoma so I heard about the Cleveland Browns ever since 2014 and how much it means this place. I did not truly believe him until I really got here. It means a ton to the city, and then I realized when I got here, I was like, ‘Wow, this is real. This is a passionate fan base that lives, breathes and dies football, and Cleveland Browns football at that.’ I think it means a lot to them, but they need to reset their expectations because we all need to reset the standard. That is what I have been saying is there is a new standard and there is a foundation you have to continue to build on and improve. That is just the way we need to handle things, and I think we are trending in the right direction like I said.”

**On if the Browns saw anything in the Titans secondary that the team to believe it could be successful in the passing game:**

“I knew they were going to give us some disguises. They are a great football team, but I believe in our guys. Whoever we are playing, it never matters. I believe in our guys, and we had a good scheme coming in to be able to attack some of these zones, and if they give us some man-to-man matchups, then we need to make plays. It is all about us right now, and that needs to be our focus.”

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*WR Jarvis Landry  
Cleveland Browns at Tennessee Titans Postgame Zoom Interview  
Week 13  
12-6-2020*

**WR Jarvis Landry:**

**On if he has been giving QB Baker Mayfield tips recently on catching the football:**

“No, we have just been teaching each other some things. That is all. He been teaching me how to throw, and I have been teaching him how to catch (*laughter*). He made a hell of a play. He made a hell of a play.”

**On if he ever expected to have a roughing the passer penalty enforced following a hit on him:**

“No. No chance. Of course not. As a receiver? No chance, but it happened. We will take the extra yards to go along with it.”

**On if the Browns felt somewhat unstoppable when getting into a rhythm in the first half:**

“We got to a point where we could do the things that we wanted to do with no restrictions. (Head Coach) Kevin (Stefanski) called an amazing game. Obviously, it is crazy to be up by 30 points going into the half. We had to come out and try to protect the ball, try to work clock and still be productive. We did the best that we can. It sucks that it got so close, but we are just happy that we won.”

**On if this was Mayfield’s best game:**

“He was hot. He was hot. He continued to stay hot. Everything has been coming off of opportunities. He had the opportunity to drop back and make the plays that we all knew he could make. He trusts in us on the outside and in the backfield to make those catches, as well. That is a testament to a lot of hard work and to the things that he has been doing in his approach to make those throws and be as accurate as he was today.”

**On the T eligible play that resulted in a TD to T Kendall Lamm:**

“Love it. Listen, that is another one of those plays that we have been running since training camp. We finally got a chance to call it. He got a ball that he can take home and cherish for the rest of his life. Hopefully, it is not his last one.”

**On if is ever surprised by how aggressive Stefanski is during games:**

“He is very aware. He is aware of his tendencies and the things he likes to call. He is very aware about the things that he wants to accomplish in the game going into the game before the game even starts. Obviously, you would think that about every coach, but that is something that I have realized and noticed in the details throughout the week and how the plan unfolds when you get to Friday and Saturday and see how the first 15 [plays] come out and the plays get listed. We run plays sometimes and I am not on the field, but I can’t give you words for what happened, like the Kendall Lamm, thing. We have been practicing it, but we had no idea that it was going to get called today.”

**On if he has a sense for how excited Browns fans are to be 9-3:**

“Yeah, they should be [excited]. They have every right to be [excited]. It is definitely a special, special time in Cleveland right now. We are excited to be part of that excitement. They have every right to be [excited].”

**On if members of the team talked at all about last season’s opener leading into this week’s game:**

“Yeah, of course, we have talked about it. We had the things in mind of obviously how that game played out and pretty much how our season went after it. That kind of set the tone for our season in a sense. It was one of those things that for us, not that this was a revenge game or anything like that, we just understood that they are a great football team and we were going to have to play one of our best games to be able to beat them. Unfortunately, we did not play our best game today. Like I have been saying and I said it last week, we still



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have a lot to learn, we still have a lot to grow from and we are excited about what we did today, but there are still things that we need to get fixed.”

**On if beating a team that went to the AFC Championship Game results in the Browns ‘gaining more legitimacy’ across the NFL:**

“I think everybody’s eyebrows in a sense have been raised about our team. Today was good for us. It was good for us as a team. Again like I said, there are so many things that we left out there. We left yards out there. I had a drop out there on third down that takes another three minutes off of the clock, if I get a first down right there it takes time off. There were a couple of plays in the game that obviously you can’t get back, but you make those plays and this game doesn’t even get this close. Those are the little things that I talk about that we kind of have to figure out and look and be critical of but also not try to spend too much time trying to pat ourselves on the back about beating a football team. They are a good football team over there. We just played better today.”

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*DE Myles Garrett*  
*Cleveland Browns at Tennessee Titans Postgame Zoom Interview*  
*Week 13*  
*12-6-2020*

**DE Myles Garrett:**

**On how he felt today:**

“The first quarter, I felt pretty good. After that, I felt pretty tired. I just had to push through it, try to make plays and be there when my team needs me.”

**On how he overcame the fatigue today:**

“(Defensive line) Coach (Chris) Kiffin did a great job of taking me out and putting me back in on key downs where he felt like we should keep working in my favor or turn the tide. It was just a testament to them making the plays they needed to make when I was not out there. Getting back up and getting out there, I got a second wind and I was putting some pressure on the quarterback and making it a rough day for him.”

**On when the decision was made to play with five DL and the impact:**

“That was from the very beginning. We were not going to allow him an open gap to run through or try to exploit everything that we were doing. Play five on five, and we just tried to hold the line of scrimmage and make it as tough as possible for them to get to the edge or find any leaks.”

**On if there was a mental element for him to overcome and play today:**

“Not much. I did not feel like there was anything to get over, really other than physically. I was going to let my body rock, and whatever happens, happens. You would have to carry me off the field before I quit on my team and I am not out there on a crucial drive. Physically, it was wearing on me a little bit. I just have to get back and watch tape. This was a good one for that. We had the time of possession. We have to prepare for that for the rest of the season.”

**On consistently getting pressure when in the game and finally getting the sack:**

“It felt like Aggie-on-Aggie violence (*laughter*). No, I loved it. I was glad because I was like, ‘Man, I can’t let him come out unscathed. I kind of have to be able to take something from him.’ It was nice knowing that I was so close and got a couple of hits. I was free a couple of times and if was given another half second, I could have got the ball away from him. I just tried to add on to that and keep on having him thinking about me instead of guys down field.”

**On DT Sheldon Richardson’s performance and the impact of Richardson’s tackle on fourth-and-1:**

“He was huge. He was huge today. That fourth-and-one, the stop, those were takeaways for the defense and that is momentum for the offense to go down there and put some points on the board. You can’t understate that, what we do on our side of the ball to get back to them and put them in a good position to put us ahead. That is what they did. They did that all afternoon, and we came out the right side.”

**On if he feels like the Browns proved something with this win:**

“I feel like all wins are statements. Everybody is paid in the NFL to do their job. No matter who you are going against, they are going to give you their best shot. We gave each other a good exchange, and we came out on the winning side this time.”

**On describing where the Browns are now with their 9-3 and the significance for Browns fans:**

“We are 9-3. That is about as good as I can put it. Have to take it one week at a time. That is the record right now, and we are just hoping to be 1-0 after next Monday. Just do our best to prepare and get ahead on the next team preparation wise, film-study wise and doing what we can to know what they are going to do.”



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**On if the win gives the QB Baker Mayfield, the Browns defense or the entire team a boost of confidence heading into next week's game against the Ravens:**

"It is definitely something to build off of. We stopped the run today, and that is what they like to do. They like to play off of their run game and play action off of that. If we can attack them and make them one dimensional, and we have the guys to get after (Ravens QB) Lamar (Jackson) if he is back."

**On if he feels proud when players like CB M.J. Stewart Jr. make big plays:**

"I am proud of all my guys. Just being able to see them out there on an NFL field is an achievement in itself. Not many get that opportunity to put anything out there. Him making plays does not surprise me at all. He does it in practice all the time. It just about getting your shot to make your name known, and he took it."

**On if thinks about the 'dark days' of 0-16 following significant wins like today:**

"I do not remember ever going 0-16. I am focused on this year. I will have time to recollect on what happens at the end of this season when this is over. Ride onto the success we have now and keep this train moving."

**On when did he felt the most winded during today's game:**

"I think we had a long drive before the half. I was quite winded then. I was trying to recover and catch my second wind with that second half and be a force."

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**RB Nick Chubb**  
***Cleveland Browns at Tennessee Titans Postgame Zoom Interview***  
***Week 13***  
***12-6-2020***

**RB Nick Chubb:**

**On the Browns offense getting off to a hot start today:**

“It was great. I know (Head) Coach (Kevin Stefanski) has been on us about starting fast this past week. We came out hot, we came out ready to play and it showed.”

**On how effective the Browns passing game was today:**

“I think both sides expected us to come in and run the ball. We have great backs on both sides. I think we used that to our own advantage. We were protecting our runs with the great play actions and throwing it over their heads. Every time we had play action, those guys were running up and biting. It worked out for us in the sense of using the run to work against them.”

**On what he imagines Browns fans feel like with a 9-3 record:**

“I know they are excited. It has been a long time since Cleveland has had success like this and being 9-3. I know the fans are excited. It is for them. Even though they can’t be here, we still appreciate them and we are still playing for them.”

**On if beating the Titans helps legitimizes the Browns first eight wins, given the Titans’ current record and AFC Championship Game appearance last year:**

“I think it does. I think people know that we are a good team now when we play well. That is what we did today. We came out, and we beat a good team. We have to use the momentum and keep going forward.”

**On he is ever surprised by Stefanski’s aggressive play calls:**

“Not at all. That is what he is. He told us he was going to be aggressive, and that is what he was. We had some trick plays, and we were going for it on fourth down no matter what. Whatever he says, he sticks with it.”

**On QB Baker Mayfield’s performance, including four TDs in the first half:**

“Baker was on fire. That is the guy that I know, and that is the guy that the Cleveland Browns know who he is. He came out and had a great game and led us to a victory.”

**On how long the Browns were working on the trick play with WR Jarvis Landry throwing to Mayfield and how fun it was to be a part of it:**

“It has always been in our playbook. It is only a matter of time before we called it. It is situational football. I think coach saw a perfect chance to call it, and it was successful.”

**On the Browns OL’s performance today:**

“They are great. They are doing an awesome job in the pass pro and the run game. (Offensive line) Coach (Bill Callahan) stays on them and keeps them working, and those guys all bought in. They wanted to stop the run. That is what they wanted to do, and they did a great job.”

**On what it means for the Browns to be able to start strong against a quality team and get a win:**

“That is a great team. They fought all four quarters. If we were not able to score all of the points we did, it could have been different. Props to them. For us, we did have a great game, but we still had a lot of errors out there. We can play more clean football, and who knows? The sky is the limit for us. We have to keep going. We are working every day.”

**On the TD to T Kendall Lamm being disguised by him and RB Kareem Hunt in the backfield together:**



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“Yeah, that is the point of it to kind of get their eyes somewhere else, and that was a fullback dive for me. I saw a couple of guys bite on me and I knew that if some guy scarred to Kareem, leaving Kendall wide open. It is all Stefanski and all of us executing.”

**On selling the fake by diving into the end zone:**

“Yeah, I told Kareem I was going to jump and try to get some guys to bite down on me and it worked.”

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# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*DT Sheldon Richardson  
Cleveland Browns at Jacksonville Jaguars Postgame Zoom Interview  
Week 12  
11-29-2020*

**DT Sheldon Richardson:**

**On the Browns defense making key stops despite missing DE Myles Garrett and CB Denzel Ward and S Ronnie Harrison sustaining an injury:**

“Good job by (S Andrew) Sendejo for doing his job, being there in positions to be able to make the play. I do not know if they even should have been that close to the end zone on that series. I do not understand how you can tackle a quarterback when he ducks and takes away the tackling surface. You can’t hit him in the legs, you can’t hit him in the head and they move and get to duck too so I do not understand that rule. Just want the game to be fair.”

**On the Browns’ mentality to keep responding despite unfavorable circumstances:**

“Just a resilient squad. We are a resilient bunch. It is not over until it is over, and that is how we move and that is how we keep it pushing.”

**On Jaguars QB Mike Glennon’s performance compared to what he was expecting:**

“More so their coaching staff had a descent gameplan that kept it simple for him. Kudos to those boys to even be able to stay in the game with the stops we had. Their running back (Jaguars RB James Robinson) is legit. They have a decent squad honestly. I do not understand how their record is like that, but he did what he was supposed to do. Got quick throws out. Max protect. He put the ball in areas where his guys could get the ball. He really did his job.”

**On how well the Browns defense played today:**

“We got a W so that is all that matters.”

**On dealing with schedule changes due to COVID-19 and unexpected situations this season and week and producing wins:**

“Coach K (Head Coach Kevin Stefanski) keeps us that way. Even though we were missing days, there were still meetings going on. Even like tomorrow, we are supposed to have victory Monday, but we have to watch film. He is pretty strict on that stuff. It is what it is as far as us not being able to be in the building like that so we have to get it in how we can. We roll with the punches. That is one thing about this team that we have been doing is that no matter what has been thrown at us, we have just been able to just keep it pushing. Get in the gameplan and executing.”

**On how good the Browns defense can be:**

“What are you asking me? How good this team can be? We are 8-3 right now. That is good. Until we get another win or another loss, that is how good we are going to be.”

**On if ever experienced not practicing until Friday like the Browns did last week:**

“No. Not at all.”

**On how he personally dealt with not being able to practice until Friday:**

“Well, I enjoyed it. You get to be able to be home a little bit extra and got to rest the bones a little bit. Still got a light workout in. Really can’t complain.”

**On Harrison getting hurt on the first play against his former team and how the Browns overcame the injury:**



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

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“It was tough. Honestly, it was just real tough just watching him do it. I knew what it meant to him. You can tell he hit him kind of hard on that first play, and it was just a little too hard for his own shoulders. It happens, and I am sorry that it happened to him. I wish him a speedy recovery, but we had the next man up. We did our job to get a W.”

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**TENNESSEE TITANS VS. CLEVELAND BROWNS POSTGAME QUOTES**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**HEAD COACH MIKE VRABEL**

**Q. What happened early there to cause you all to be down 38-7 at halftime?**

MIKE VRABEL: Poor coaching, poor playing. You know, just couldn't get stops early. Weren't able to sustain any kind of drives. That's just – went for it, didn't get it. Held them to a field goal early. Move the ball, didn't get it, and then just hung the defense out. I mean, just didn't give them opportunity, and they weren't coming up – defensively we weren't coming up with stops. Couldn't run the ball offensively, getting anything substantial. Then the turnover and then things kind of snowball.

**Q. How much after this game do you end up kicking yourselves for the mistakes you made, especially turning the ball over?**

MIKE VRABEL: Sure, I mean, it's everything. It's the 15-yard penalties, very uncharacteristic. That's just – didn't play well enough early on to give ourselves any kind of chance. Certainly, never going to be a moral victory, but I think our charge is going to be finding a way to recreate what we did in the second half, you know, as we move forward.

**Q. On the third and one play where you threw to Aaron Brewer and the ball was dropped there, looking back, do you feel like maybe you were a little too tricky there? Should've gone straight ahead and tried to get the one yard more conventionally?**

MIKE VRABEL: No. We tried that on fourth down and that didn't work. Those are decisions that we make, and you get a call in there, and you rep something all week. Was there, they made a play. Guy hit the ball out of Brew (Aaron Brewer)'s hands. We felt great about the call. We did. We wouldn't have called it if we didn't feel good about it. Didn't work out. Then weren't able to pick it up on fourth down.

**Q. Coach, the situation with third down is continuing to show its ugly head, 10 out of 16 today. I know you said you have to coach better, but what really can be done --**

MIKE VRABEL: Got to coach better, rush better, and cover better. You are smart and you study and you like watching defense, and that's what third down is. It's finding ways to rush and cover. That's what it comes down to. We have to look at who we have and we've got to try to put them in the best positions to do that, whether that's playing man or zone or simulating, pressuring, all those different things that go into it. That's the challenge. That's going to stay the same each and every week.

**Q. With Clowney done, how disappointing is it, I guess, to get as little as you got out of him this season, and do you feel like you have enough on this roster to rush the passer moving forward without having the blitz and do special things?**

MIKE VRABEL: That's going back a long time, man. I think maybe we could reflect on that and the players that are injured after the season, but I literally come in every single day and try to find out who we have available, who is here, who's on the active roster, who is on the practice squad, and then coach them and make a gameplan. So, he hasn't been out there for a few weeks, so really that's just kind of how it goes when guys are hurt or they go on injured reserve. You just are moving past that.

**Q. Just to clarify, can you confirm he's done for the season?**

MIKE VRABEL: He's on injured reserve. We could bring him back. I just don't know where his health is right now in the short-term, so I couldn't honestly answer that just from a standpoint that until he's seen our doctors and they give us idea. But, I'm not standing here today expecting to have J.D. (Jadeveon Clowney) back.

**Q. What, if anything, does it mean that the final score looked a hell of a lot more respectable than the halftime score did?**

MIKE VRABEL: I do think that we're going to fight and we're going to compete. There are no moral victories. The charge is just to try to recreate leaving the locker room and how we played in the second half as opposed to how we approached and played the start of that game.

**Q. I wondering if you were starting to think that at some point that deficit, there is a chance at making up that deficit, and I guess how big was the interception, the one that bounced off Adam there?**

MIKE VRABEL: That one was going to make it hard. We got the challenge. Bat (Cameron Batson) had a nice catch there on the sidelines. Just started running out of time, and I think that everybody – as we got stops on defense and we were able to move the ball and score, unfortunately that one there, the interception kind of put a halt to the momentum that we had building there in the second half and really just cost us just the time and the not being able to score. Everything has got to be perfect. Everything would've had to have been right. It rarely ever is in football and in life.

**Q. Doesn't that lessen the meaning of the second half, the fact that everything has to be perfect and the Browns know if they just roll out there and get a couple first downs and don't make giant mistakes that they're going to be just fine?**

MIKE VRABEL: In the second half? I don't know if I understood your question.

**Q. You're saying you just want to carry over what happened in the second half. They weren't too concerned with what you were doing in the second half because the first half put the game pretty much out of reach.**

MIKE VRABEL: Yeah, I don't know how you want me to answer that. I'm just trying to say that I felt like you have two choices. Having been in the National Football League playing and coaching, I've seen teams fight, seen coaches fight players fight, players fight players, offensive players fight defensive players, and guys really just pack up and go home and bitch and complain and love to point fingers. My point is I never saw that. We lost. We didn't coach well enough, play well enough, but when I evaluate what we were able to do in the second half and playing complementary and feeding off each other, that's all I was trying to allude.

**Q. This performance is obviously coming on the heels of two straight wins against good teams. Do you like what you see from the locker room in terms of handling success and responding to wins and continuing to prepare and improve?**



MIKE VRABEL: Not today for the first half. But it's not about the locker room, it's about how you play on Sunday. Felt like we prepared well. You know, you have to – each and every week you have to be able to be ready to go and prepare for a new opponent and the challenges behind that. If you don't play well, you know, you're going to lose.

**Q. 12 games into this thing with Beasley and Clowney gone now and Adoree sort of stuck in neutral. These aren't pieces you thought you would have. How much can you improve a defense this deep into the year with the parts available?**

MIKE VRABEL: I don't spend time thinking about people that aren't there or not available. I tried to allude to that earlier, just to say that after this I'll talk to Todd (Toriscelli) and Jon (Robinson), and we'll see who may be available for the game. That'll change based on the week of treatment and how they feel. We evaluate who's available, make decisions to bring guys up or not to bring guys up. That is all I can tell you, man. I just look at who we have and what we're trying to do with those pieces and try to get a gameplan together and help the team prepare for each opponent.

**Q. They were a low volume pass team headed into the season. How surprising was that they came out so aggressively throwing the ball?**

MIKE VRABEL: I mean, I guess that was the plan that they had, and that's how they want to try to approach it. You know, that was what they decided to do, and we weren't able to respond or affect the quarterback, which is one the keys, tipping balls and being able to break up passes or cover guys and keep our eyes on our man, all those types of things.

**Q. When AJ had that second fumble, obviously after the first one at the end of the first half, what do you tell a guy like that who obviously had a lot of expectations on him, someone who you're able to depend on in the passing game and we saw that last week. What do you tell a guy like that who is still learning and still trying to make sure that he from game to game he's at his top best?**

MIKE VRABEL: Yeah, we all have high expectations for everybody. We got to take care of the football and understand when we're vulnerable on the sidelines and going to the ground. Thought it was a good play, one that we'll show our defenses – he was going down and kind of using A.J. (Brown)'s momentum against him. I told him if he feels like that, we have to try to roll back into him so that he's not using our momentum going to the ground to rake it out of there. (MyCole) Pruitt's effort to go down there on the second one, to be able to score.

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**QUARTERBACK RYAN TANNEHILL**

**Q. Ryan, as a leader of this team, when you come from two impressive wins like you have coming into this win and then you see it kind of drift away like it did in the first half, what is your job in terms of making sure in the future you can keep going when you win games and that you don't follow up a success with something disappointing like this?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: We have to come out and start games with a sense of urgency. I think we did in practice. We practiced with some urgency this week. I didn't feel like there was a relaxation or anything in practice. But at the end of the day, on Sunday, when the ball is kicked off, we have to be ready to go and can't come out slow and put ourselves in a hole like that. So just a matter of approaching every Sunday in itself and coming out with a sense of urgency.

**Q. Ryan, it would've been easy for you guys to pack it in at halftime and you put on a baseball cap for the second half of this one. How important, despite the loss, to come out and make it respectable there at the end?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: This team is full of fighters. That's not characteristic of the way we play and the way we fight and believe in ourselves. We've been in some holes before, never like that, but being able to fight back, and really we had an opportunity there to cut it to a two-score game heading into the fourth quarter. We've been in that situation before and been able to come out with a win. So, you know, we still felt like if we took care of our opportunity and took advantage of it, then who knows what can happen. Defense gets a stop, turnover, and as long as we're scoring, chipping away at it, who knows what can happen. That's was our mindset going out there. Just battle one drive at a time and find a way to score each drive and see what happens from there.

**Q. At what point today did you have to scrap the original game plan and start chucking it around? Seemed like most of what happened the second half was just drives where you had to pick it up and throw it every play.**

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, obviously we were down huge. I'm not sure exactly what the score was at that point. I think it was a 31-point lead or something like that, so not the situation you want to be in. At that point, you need to score and you need to score fast and every time you touch it, so obviously I had to make some adjustments there.

**Q. One of the trademarks for the offense this year has been to limit turnovers. How surprising, unlikely, was it to see the ball on the ground so many times today, and how big an impact did that have on the game?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, definitely not the way we like to play. We pride ourselves on taking care of the football, and we didn't do that. We weren't clean enough today starting off with the fumble early. They were clicking on offense, they were rolling, and we really needed to get something going there and give them the short field. Didn't help. Compare that with, like I mentioned, going into the fourth quarter there, and an opportunity to go up -- or not go up, but to make it a two-score game there at the start of the fourth quarter and you're in that ballgame. We weren't able to finish that drive, ended up turning it

over down there. Yeah, we've got to be cleaner. We've got to take care of the football. We like to feast on those situations when teams give us the ball, and today it was opposite.

**Q. When you come out after halftime and MyCole Pruitt, not Derrick Henry, not AJ Brown, for example, scores two touchdowns in about five minutes there, the second on a good bounce. Does that add to the sense that, hey, something is possible here?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, we just needed to score. Doesn't really matter who scores. We needed to score. We were able to get those scores pretty quick and keep ourselves in the game a little bit, and then like I mentioned, just weren't able to capitalize on the next drive. But this team has a next-man-up mentality, and I think there is a belief in one another no matter what that we just have to play our game and make plays. MyCole did a great job stepping in for us and making some huge plays for us.

**Q. Ryan, on the initial drive, the fourth and one, what was your sign and did you think that Derrick (Henry) had the first down on that play?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: It was tough for me to see from my angle being behind the play. They got some quick penetration and Derrick did as best as he could, but from where I was standing behind the play it was tough to really see.

**Q. 8-4, tied with the Colts, quarter of the season to go. How important is it to just forget this one now and make sure you're on track starting next Sunday?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: It's going to be huge. Obviously we can't forget it without taking a real look at why this game went the way it did, evaluating that, making the corrections. Once we're able to do that, we'll put it to bed and get ready for the next one. We have to learn from this one, clean some things up. Obviously we didn't play well enough. Come out on Wednesday with a sense of urgency, carry that through until the kickoff on Sunday.

**Q. Even going back to the end of the first half when you went into halftime with the fumble from A.J. Brown, after the couple weeks he's had and the performances, is there something you can tell him or kind of get him back into the game? Is it getting balls and targeting him more early in the second half? How do you approach that sort of adversity?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, just telling A.J. I believe in him. Obviously some plays I think he would like to have back. He's made huge plays for us the past two years and he's going to continue to make big plays for us. Obviously just have to couple things to clean up. We believe in A.J., and A.J. is going to continue to make plays for us.

**Q. Ryan, last season you guys followed up the win in Indy by going to Oakland and winning pretty big. There was a sense you guys were building and improving to what ended up happening. Do you still get that sense this year as well in spite of what happened today, that this team is headed in that same trajectory?**

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, we have done some good things. Obviously what you've done doesn't really matter. How you perform each and every Sunday, you have to go out and earn it, earn the win. So we'll

see. We'll see how this team responds. I believe in our guys, I believe in our leadership and our culture and the way which like to play. Now it's matter of putting it to the test and making it happen.

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**SAFETY KEVIN BYARD**

**Q. KB, obviously your first half for the defense and what you guys got undid, a lot of the good things you did over the last couple games. Just from the naked eye, what was going wrong on so much in the first half?**

KEVIN BYARD: Bad communication, bad execution. You go out there and play like that you got your behind whipped. Credit to Cleveland, they were more prepared and coached better and played better. That's my answer.

**Q. Anything in general surprising about their approach? Obviously they went downfield a lot, a lot of play-action. Anything they did that was any kind of a curve ball for you guys?**

KEVIN BYARD: No. It was stuff that we studied during the week on film. Just didn't execute. Didn't communicate well. Just uncharacteristic of us.

**Q. Kevin, what is your evaluation of the job that this locker room does in handling success? This game obviously comes on the heels of two big wins, and this is not the first time that we have seen this team follow up an impressive win or two with giving up 38 points in the first half.**

KEVIN BYARD: Every week is different. I don't think momentum or anything like that carries from one week to the other in the NFL. Every game is different. You have to go out there play hard and respect the game and understand that you have to go out there and show out and prove it every week, and we didn't this week. Just got to bounce back and try to do it against next week.

**Q. What's the key to handling success as a team and to keep the ball rolling?**

KEVIN BYARD: Go out there and perform and execute every game; practice hard every single day. Like I said, it's not about getting up in what we did last week. It's just all about watching film and making sure we're getting stuff corrected. It's about every week going out there and playing great, playing how we played in the second half. We've got to put a complete game together.

**Q. Third down, the nightmare continues for you guys. And I know you talked about communication. Is it just too much time back there for you guys to cover, or what?**

KEVIN BYARD: I mean, third downs, it all works together. Pass rush and the coverage works together. We're just not executing well, honestly.

**Q. Touched on this, but wanted follow up. This team came in as the No. 1 rushing team in the NFL. Was it not surprising that they threw so much in the first half and had so much success as well?**

KEVIN BYARD: I mean, we knew coming into the game, like you said, they were going to try to establish the run, going to run play-action boot, take some shots and do different stuff, and we just didn't play

well, honestly. Like I said, I don't think they did anything different than what we thought. We just didn't play well today.

**Q. How discouraging is it after the last couple weeks and couple good wins and some performances where the defense had shown improvement?**

KEVIN BYARD: We're not going to get down on ourselves. Like I said, didn't play well today. Very uncharacteristic of us as an entire team. We have to look ourselves in the mirror tonight, tomorrow, and Tuesday, and come back on Wednesday fired up and ready to go for the next week.

**Q. You talk about not riding that emotional roller coaster. Is that easier said than done in these first moments after a game like this, to shake it off and move on?**

KEVIN BYARD: Absolutely. Not going to sit here and kid. I'm not about to go home and be super upset. Everybody should be upset about the way we played today. Like I said, we can sulk in it today, tomorrow, Tuesday, whatever, but on Wednesday we have to come back fired up and ready to go and prepare for another NFL game.

**Q. You mentioned maybe getting caught up a little bit too much in what happened last week. Are you seeing that being an issue, the ability to turn that focus from a big win to the next week?**

KEVIN BAYARD: I mean, it's hard to say right now. I mean, the way we played today is not characteristic, or is uncharacteristic, to how we played the past few games. Like I said, I don't think the momentum carries over. I think every week -- you have to bring it every week in this league, and we didn't bring it today.

**Q. KB, we know Vic (Beasley) is with the Raiders now. Jadeveon (Clowney) is hurt. Do you guys on the defensive side still feel good that you've got enough to finish this thing out?**

KEVIN BYARD: I mean, doesn't matter name-wise who is out there. Whoever is out there has to execute at the high level that we hold ourselves to, and we're not executing right now. That's just the bottom line.

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**WIDE RECEIVER COREY DAVIS**

***(on playing with confidence)***

Yeah, that seems to be almost every question this year, is what's changed between this year and last year. I mean, I'm healthy. I've been confident. Go out there and play fast and physical and with a free mind.

***(on how deflating this loss is after two big wins on the road)***

It's not deflating. Obviously, we want to win. This was a tough loss, but there's a lot more football left. I'm confident with these guys. We'll get back to work and get back to it.

***(on what went wrong in the first half)***

There were a lot of self-inflicted wounds. A lot of times we were getting out of character, yapping and talking to the other team and we were getting dumb penalties that we didn't really need. We were just out of character. We eliminate the self-inflicted wounds and then we're able to move the ball, because we have the talent to do it.

***(on being down 38-7 at the half and how tough it is to play perfect in the second half to win)***

It is tough when you look up and see that we're down like that. But there's that and the players did a good job of keeping everyone in the game. Not necessarily focusing on the scoreboard but just going out there and playing hard and taking it one play at a time. I thought we did that second half. We played really hard. We never really questioned this team's effort and fight.

***(on is this game is especially disappointing after two straight wins)***

It's definitely tough. We were rolling there for a bit. But like I said, this isn't very deflating. Knowing the type of guys we have in that locker room, we'll get back to work.

***(on if the second half meant much after knowing that the Browns will probably hold the team at bay)***

By no means did we think that they had us. There was still a whole half to play. It's not over until it's over. That's kind of our mantra going out there. Like I said, we fought, came back a little bit, it just wasn't enough.

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**RUNNING BACK DERRICK HENRY**

**Q. Derrick, obviously with you guys being down so far in the game early on, it kind of took you out of your rhythm. I want to ask you something about the first half. Did you feel like you had the first down on that fourth and one call?**

DERRICK HENRY: I mean, I thought I had it, but they spotted the ball the way they spotted the ball. Just got to be better. Got to get that. I hold myself to a high standard and should have got that first down. Left it in their hands to spot the ball, to make it short.

**Q. You been with Corey Davis here for a while. That's four 100-yards games for him now. Do you feel like you got two No. 1s at this point in the passing game?**

DERRICK HENRY: Yeah, been feeling that way. Felt Corey (Davis) is a big part of what we do, big playmaker for us, does a lot of great things being a receiver, catching, touchdowns, yards, blocking. I think his blocking is, you know, most underrated. People don't really appreciate it, but I know I appreciate it. He does a great job. He's big for us. Been big for us. That's the type of guy Corey is.

**Q. How do you feel about where you are in the division right now, 8 and 4? You got three division games to go, tied for first.**

DERRICK HENRY: Yeah, I mean, got to watch this game, look at the things we need to do better on all three phases, and then get ready for next week, another division opponent. But definitely make these corrections. We have to be better as a team. That's definitely not how we want to play our style of football, and it's unacceptable how we played. We just have to be better.

**Q. Kind of goes without saying, but how difficult does it make it for you when you fall behind 38-7 and needing to play perfect in the second half to win?**

DERRICK HENRY: Yeah, it's tough when you spot 30 points and you're playing from behind, especially in this league. It's hard to win when that margin is that large. But second half we gave ourselves a chance. Felt like we turned it around on all three phases. Nobody gave up. We kept fighting. Just came up short. But I just know I have to be better. I pride myself being a leader on this team, and definitely this one stung. Felt like I didn't do my job the way I needed to. Have to be better, tremendously.



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**WIDE RECIEVER CAMERON BATSON**

*(on only scoring seven points in the first half and that making it hard to win)*

Really we just came into the locker room at halftime and said, 'We've just got to keep fighting. Fight for one another.' Obviously, we didn't like the way we played the second half, but I'm proud of the way the guys fought and came back – tried to come back, at least.

*(on if he knew he had caught the fourth-down catch at the end of the third quarter)*

Oh yeah, I knew I had it the whole time. Everybody was asking me did I catch it. I was like, 'Yeah, go ahead and challenge it.' I knew I caught the ball. I appreciate Coach (Vrabel) trusting in me and my ability to let me go out there, and Ryan (Tannehill) trusting me in that fourth-down play to make a play.

*(on his touchdown in the fourth quarter and getting both feet down on the catch)*

At first I didn't think Ryan (Tannehill) was going to throw it because the corner, he hung outside a little bit. But man, he delivered the ball like he said. It had to go to the end zone. God blessed me with the ability to get my feet down and make the play. I appreciate Him. I appreciate my grandmother because that was a special moment, especially it being My Cause My Cleats, being able to get into the end zone, so shout out to the ALS Program.

*(on what the team can do to turn around and get momentum back)*

We just have to go review film, correct the mistakes that we made and just get back and look forward to next week.

**TACKLE DENNIS KELLY**

*(on the team's first-half performance)*

You can't really do that in the NFL and really hope to win. I don't think it's happened, and if it has, it's one or two times for a comeback like that. We just need to find a way to be consistent with how we start the games. When you look back at Indy, the team came out fired up and started off hot. We've got to find a way to do that every week. We can't have this up and down. We can't wait to get a punch in the mouth, like (Mike) Vrabel said, to respond. We need to respond right out the gate.

*(on having no wiggle room for error after two quick drives to start the second half)*

Right, it puts you in such a big hole. And you're right, the score and the time are two things you have to consider. One thing about this team is there's a lot of fight. There wasn't any doubt, there was a lot of belief that we could do it. But obviously we just need to start better and not put ourselves in that big of a hole.

*(on what the team has to do to get the momentum back heading into a divisional game on the road next week)*

I think we need to just obviously look at the film, figure out what the issues were and see how we can correct that, and then get back to being us, playing our type of football. It kind of reminds me of the Steelers game where we kind of came out flat and had to fight our way back. I think there's confidence that we can do it. There's just that doing it for the two halves.

**SAFETY KENNY VACCARO**

*(on what went wrong in the first half)*

A number of things. Any time you get down that far, whether it's not executing the defense, letting guys run free, could be a communication issue – I'm sure it's all of the above when you get down 38-7. At the same time, I feel like guys did a good job in the second half fighting back, but once you spot a team that many points there's nothing really that you can do about it, especially against good teams.

***(on having to be perfect in the second half to come back from the deficit)***

To come back 38-7, you've got to block a kick, get some turnovers. There's got to be a number of things happening, especially with a team like that that can run the ball so efficiently because they're going to run the ball and get yards. There's a lot of scenarios to come back from that deficit.

***(on what the team needs to do this week to get back on the right track before going on the road next week)***

Like Coach (Vrabel) said – play with the urgency that we played with in the second half, just don't wait until we're down 38-7. That's it. Play with the urgency. There's no reason for us to be up this high, find our identity and then come down to the level we did today, especially in the first half.

***(on what he saw when he recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter)***

That thing just popped up to me. The guys did a good job swarming. That was one of those plays – a lot of times the fumble recoveries are just right place at the right time. There's no form or secret to it. Got to do a better job of trying to get my ass in the end zone. Got my ass caught by Kareem Hunt. Whoever forced the fumble, that's the guy who deserved credit.

***(on what it says about the team that they didn't give up)***

This is professional football. You can't pat yourself on the back for not getting it. You get paid to do it, to execute. You get paid to do a job, and that's that. I don't think we should pat ourselves on the back for not laying down and letting them score 80. But at the same time, I was saying during the game, we're going to stay in this regardless of what the score was. That's just the way we're going to play. Every team should expect that from their coverage. I don't think that's something that we pat ourselves for.

**TENNESSEE TITANS VS. CLEVELAND BROWNS POSTGAME QUOTES**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**TIGHT END MYCOLE PRUITT**

*(on what went wrong in the first half)*

We just came out and didn't have the fight we needed in the beginning. We just waited too long to start stepping on the gas. You can't do that against good teams in this league.

*(on having to be perfect in the second half in order to come back)*

Right. That's the thing, we ended up making a few mistakes at the end there that kind of knocked us out of it. That was a great win for them, and they came out and just did what they had to do to win that game. We've just got to come back better next week.

*(on his receiving touchdown in the third quarter)*

Teams are going to flow with Derrick (Henry), and I was able to take advantage of the space that was there, and Ryan (Tannehill) found me. It was pretty easy walking in the touchdown.

*(on what he saw when recovering the fumble in the end zone)*

Coach (Vrabel) is always preaching effort and finish, finish longer than the guy with the ball. Get there and be in the right spot, and you get rewarded sometimes for that.

**DEFENSIVE LINEMAN DAQUAN JONES**

*(on the team's mindset at halftime)*

Don't beat ourselves. I mean, that's a great football team. They did a great job coming in here doing what they had to do, but I truly believe we beat ourselves in the first half. We came in and got the corrections done, went out there and executed, and we just fell short.

*(on having to be perfect in the second half in order to come back)*

Those situations, you've just got to play 100 percent perfect every time. We all know it's an imperfect sport. Someone is always going to beat someone on one given play, no matter what it is. They just found the guys and hit the right plays to make that happen.

*(on what the team needs to do to go on the road and get its momentum back)*

We've got to reset. We've got to go and get ouramentals right. We've got to make sure we come out this week and just be really ready to go.

**CENTER BEN JONES**

*(on the team's mindset at halftime)*

We've got to play better. You've got to come out with the mindset that you've got to execute early. We were fighting from behind the whole game. That's not us. We've got to be better.

*(on having to be perfect in the second half in order to come back)*

When you spot a team that many points, you've got to be better in the first half. You're just trying everything you can to score as fast as you can and get as many points as you can.

*(on what it says about the team that they didn't give up)*

We've got to be better in the first half. You never want to be in that situation in the second half. You're not going to win games. You've just got to be better in the first half.

*(on what the team needs to do to go on the road in a divisional match up and get its momentum back)*

We've got to start fast and finish strong. We can't play just one-half football, either the first or the second.

We've got to play a whole four quarters.

**TENNESSEE TITANS VS. CLEVELAND BROWNS POSTGAME QUOTES**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**DEFENSIVE TACKLE JEFFERY SIMMONS**

*(on if he's played in a game before that had a first half like today's)*

Man, it's obvious. They got a couple passes downfield. We've got to do a better job just by affecting the quarterback, especially on the deals when their first thing is to run the ball and you're stopping the run. But at the same time, you can still have a quarterback that can throw the ball as well, down the field to their receivers. So, we've just got to do a better job as a whole defense, you know? Especially early on in the game. We've got to be able to start fast, especially get off the field, get the ball back to our offense so they can get the field advantage and score points.

*(on if he was surprised by how the game went and how uncharacteristic it was for the team)*

We talk about a playoff style of football, especially on defense. Let's fly around and have fun, create turnovers and things like that of that nature. You know, they came out, the Browns, you know, give props to them. They were making more plays than we made so it wasn't more surprising. It was just like, let's get back, let's settle down. Especially with me, you know, when they got a first down and just a dumb penalty after the play. I've just got to be smarter with that and stuff like that. We can't hurt ourselves. When it comes down to playing football, especially on defense, one little thing, one little mess up could mess up a whole play. So, everybody is doing their job – up front, linebackers and in the secondary. Like I said, we've done it before. We just play our style of football and we'll be just fine.

*(on the frustration level and how the team overcomes a loss like this after two big road wins)*

It's always frustrating losing. I never like losing no matter what it is, and I know this team doesn't like losing. It's always frustrating losing, but at the same time, this league don't stop because we lose. We have to watch film, get corrections, especially how can we – the way we played that second half – how can we translate that to the first half to make sure we don't get behind so we can play the game ahead and make sure we aren't trying to fight back at the end of the game, just to try to get a stop and get a score. I mean, time ran out and like I said, that's not the way we play football and that's not our style of playing football, especially on the defensive side. We like to stay ahead. We like to get off the field, give the ball back to our offense. That's pretty much what it is. We've just got to figure out how can we that second half of football translated to that first half football. That's basically what it is. We played our style of defense and offense. Everything came together that second half. But like I said, it was just too late. We can't do that playing this game of football, especially against a team like that, the Browns.

*(on if the continued third-down issues are a fixable problem or just something to make do with)*

We're just trusting the gameplan. We're doing our best trying to get in the quarterback's face. We've got to do a better job for sure, but if we're trusting this gameplan – of course you want to get off the field on third down, but at the same time it's not all sacks. It's not all about just interceptions. It's how can you affect the quarterback to cause bad throws, just get them to lob it over and you maybe get an interception. It's not all about sacks. True enough, we want sacks, but we're going to keep trusting this gameplan. I mean, of course we struggled probably today but we're not a bad team on third down. Earlier in the season, we were like, 'Dang, we've got to get off the field,' but we didn't have great games where we got off the field on third down. We have been up and gave the ball back to our offense. So, it's just not one thing where we suck on third down. We've just got to play all solid defense on third down and first and second down and everything will fall into place.

*(on if there's danger in putting credence into a second-half turnaround)*

I think when we say, 'We've got to do what we did in the second half,' that's playing to our identity and that's getting off the field, scoring and stuff like that. It's not anything the Browns were doing. We were just doing a better job on defense, and offense and special teams. We got back to playing our style of

football as the Titans on defense, offense and special teams that second half. That's what we're talking about. Let's translate the second half to the first half.

*(on if he was surprised the Browns went as pass-heavy as they did today)*

They tried to run the ball. They came out trying to run the ball. We were shutting it down but that's just like I said earlier. We have to be able to. Especially up front. We have to be able to affect the quarterback. That's why I'm like, it's not all on third down because they were throwing the ball on first and second down and getting big gains. So, we still have to find a way to affect the quarterback, translating our rushes faster and stuff like that. I mean, a team's going to do that. Especially playing with the defensive line we have and the linebackers as a whole defense. We came in this game, 'Let's stop the run,' but also 'We don't want to give up the big plays.' We're going to be better. We've got to put this game behind us. We're going to do the corrections and get the corrections. I mean, it's the NFL. People, or just football itself, if you can't run the ball, you're going to throw the ball. If you can't throw the ball, just keep trying to run the ball. We've just got to be better on defense as a whole.