



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns at Baltimore Ravens Postgame Zoom Interview
Week 1
9-13-20*

Head Coach Kevin Stefanski:

Opening statement:

“Very disappointed, obviously. First of all, credit goes to the Baltimore Ravens. They did a nice job. They beat us. They deserved to win. They did a great job. They outcoached us and outplayed us. We did a lot of things that losing teams do. We turned it over three times. Eight penalties, three of which were personal foul facemasks, which were killer. Did not play complementary football. Put our defense in a tough spot a bunch. That is my responsibility. That is on me. We have a game on Thursday night so we have to regroup. When we land here after leaving here, we have to let this one go, and we have to move on.”

On keeping it close through the second quarter and if the back-to-back drops and missed FG at the end of the first half is when the game got away from the team:

“I do not know. I think all those plays are important from the first to the last. I know it is easy to pinpoint those plays, but I think we need to make sure we look at all of them and say that it is a culmination of things that get us to that result.”

On if not having a normal preseason affected the team’s performance in Week 1:

“No, it did not affect anything.”

On the fake punt attempt in the first quarter:

“Yeah, listen, that is my responsibility. That is on me. That did not work out, and you can put that right on me.”

On the interception on the opening drive:

“On the first drive, you are moving the ball, and obviously, you want to finish the drive with a score so that was disappointing. Have to look at the tape before I can tell you exactly what happened, but we have to take way better care of the football as a team. Three turnovers is three to many.”

On assessing QB Baker Mayfield’s performance and the why the Browns offense struggled to find a rhythm, including the low third-down conversion rate:

“I would like to watch the tape before I can really answer that in terms of the whole thing, but yeah, not good enough staying on the field. I think maybe 0-for-3 on third down. You are going to get beat doing those things, and we found out the hard way.”

On an injury update, including T Jedrick Wills Jr.’s and LB Jacob Phillips’ status:

“I really do not have any updates on that. Awaiting more information.”

On WR Odell Beckham Jr.’s drop in the second quarter and the difficulty finding a rhythm between Mayfield and Beckham:

“Yeah, we did not connect a few times out there. We have to get to the bottom of it obviously. Pass game requires precision from 11 guys in order for it to go.”

On the Browns defense’s performance:

“Obviously, gave up too many points, but we put the defense in some awful spots. I know there are plays that we want back. Again, credit to them. They did a nice job, but we have a lot to clean up and we have to clean it up quickly.”



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On Ravens QB Lamar Jackson's performance today:

"He is a great player. We are going to get to play him again. It is going to be a challenge again. He is a really good player. We have to make sure we are doing our job on defense, swarming to him, tackling him and then defending the back end when he is throwing."

On if Jackson's accuracy was surprising in any way:

"Not for me. I think he is a very talented football player. We are not surprised with the plays that he made today."

On the Ravens scoring on a 99-yard drive when the Browns were only down one score:

"Obviously, a field position game. We have them pinned back, we get a three-and-out and we get the ball midfield. Listen, it is a three-pronged attack – offense, defense and special teams – and I do not think any of our phases won today so credit to the Baltimore Ravens."

On K Austin Seibert's missed kicks:

"I expect him to make those kicks. I hold him to the same standard that we hold every other player on this team. He has to make those kicks."

On losing his head coaching debut:

"Obviously, it is very frustrating when you lose. At the end of the day, credit to the Baltimore Ravens, and I have to do a better job. I have to get this team ready to play so that is on me."

On how he felt calling the offensive plays:

"It is hard to say we did anything well. We only scored six points, and that is not good enough in the National Football League. I would just say we have to get right back on it. We have to find out what happened, why it went wrong and get some solutions here because we have a game coming Thursday night."

On focus on attention to detail with the gameplan during the week and what kept the team from executing those on Sunday:

"We ran into a really good football team so credit to the Baltimore Ravens, and it is my job to get that fixed."

QB Baker Mayfield:

On the loss:

"It's a tough one for us. To come out the first drive and have a little bit of momentum going, (Ravens DE) Calais (Campbell) made a couple of good plays, knocked a couple of balls and they get an interception. Have to take care of the ball, I know that. We were still in that game. I thought we shot ourselves in the foot, but a great team like the Ravens is going to capitalize on all of your mistakes. We saw that in person today."

On struggling to get on the same page with WR Odell Beckham Jr.:

"A few of those times where I did target him, there were some defensive penalties so that had something to do with it, but I have to be better and give him a chance on some of those things. Like the free-play late in the game, just give him a chance. He is a great player so I just need to give him a chance."



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On confidence the Browns can rebound from this loss:

“I just think the makeup of this team, there is a different attitude about it. We are going to watch the film and get it out of our system. That is the good thing about having a short week. We don’t have to dwell on it. We will watch it, realize where we went wrong, correct those mistakes and move onto Cincinnati. We don’t have a lot of time to dwell on the negative things.”

On all three phases not producing today:

“I would say just the momentum, the good teams, they don’t let one mistake turn into a bunch. They don’t let it kind of go throughout the whole team. They can nip it in the bud, move forward and fix their mistakes. We can do that. We know that. We practice on doing those things. We just have to be better next time. There is no way around it and no excuses. We just have to be better.”

On if the lack of preseason games impacted the team today:

“Even those preseason games, you are not getting the full looks and all that. I wouldn’t say that is the complete factor in this one. We just came out and didn’t play very well. The Ravens were the better team today and capitalized on all of our mistakes.”

On how the Ravens’ continuity played a factor in today’s result, given the Browns’ new offensive and defensive systems, as well as new personnel:

“You can tell they have been together for a while, but I still wouldn’t say that our new system is an excuse. We know what we have to do. We had the gameplan and everybody knew their job. We just have to go out there and execute it.”

On how he felt the Browns offense was working together with Head Coach Kevin Stefanski calling the plays and if the team was able to establish a rhythm at times:

“I thought we got into some rhythms in little spurts during drives, but then a negative play would happen and we could not overcome those. The great teams do overcome those negative plays or they save the downs and move forward.”

On the Ravens scoring on their last drive of the half to go up 24-6 following the Browns missing a FG:

“That is something all teams talk about is that they call it double-dipping – you score right before the half, and if you defer, then you get the ball after the half and you score again. The percentages on if you score both times and you actually double-dip of winning or extremely high. That actually happened to us last year at home when we played them for the second time. They are a great team. They capitalized on our mistakes and played really well today.”

On what gives him the confidence that the Browns can still be the team he believes they can be after today’s result:

“Sometimes a wakeup call is pretty good for everybody – a nice punch in the mouth, and that is how we should take it. We should not dwell on it, realize that we just got beat today, they played better than us, look at it, get better, move on and go play the Bengals. That is all we can do.”

On how tough it was seeing T Jedrick Wills Jr. leave due to an injury in his first game:

“I thought protection for the most part was great all day long. I thought Jedrick played well. I do not know much about it so I will wait to hear and find out, but proud of Jedrick and how he played.”

On the importance of being able to bounce back after opening the season with a loss:

“It is extremely important, especially a short week with another division opponent. These ones are always extremely important so we have to treat it as such. We will be ready for Thursday night.”



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On yesterday's statement and his decision to not kneel during the national anthem and if he was proud of how the team handled pregame:

“Like I said, I respect all of my teammates’ decisions. We talked about it, we had discussions and we are all on the same page. We are in this together in showing solidarity to try and unite instead of divide. It does not matter what decision any of our teammates make, that is just what I personally said and that is the way I wanted to say it. While we are on that topic, the name of had in the back of my helmet today was Julius Jones. A very sad story. A guy who is wrongfully incarcerated in the state of Oklahoma. I tried to represent him today for justice for Julius. I hope I spread that message and I continue to do so.”

WR Jarvis Landry:

On the early mistakes and their consequences:

“Overall today, we had three turnovers and eight penalties. A game where I think the time of possession was pretty close, but obviously, they are going to take up a lot of the clock just with their scheme and things like that. We went out there and we tried our best, but we have to find a way to get back to the drawing board in a short week and fix it.”

On the first half swing where there was a dropped pass, missed field goal and then Baltimore responded with a TD:

“All of those plays are tough plays, but there was still a lot of football left to be played. That was right before the half so there was still a lot of football left to be played. We can’t get down on each other when things go bad or things don’t work out. We just can encourage everybody to pick their head up. We regroup at halftime and then go out there and try to win the game. We still had a lot of game left so you can’t just base it off that.”

On it potentially being a close game if the Browns could have avoided a couple of early mistakes:

“You never know how it goes, but that is behind us. These things happen. We have to find ways to play through them. We are always going to be met with adversity. It is the game that we play. We just have to find ways to overcome them.”

On learning a new offense and not having the preseason to get a full feel for it:

“I believe we got a lot of the reps that we needed. Obviously, the more reps the better. Over time, we will continue to just improve on the little things. I think all the pieces that we need are in place. We just have to continue to make plays, cut out the mistakes and not beat ourselves in some instances.”

On how hard it is to have a tough loss to start the season:

“It is tough. This is a tough job. For us, we came out here, we tried our best and we gave it our all, but hats off to them. They played a really good, clean game. Usually, in this league, when you play a good, clean game, you win those games. Hats off to them. We have to find a way, again with a short week, to regroup and go after it.”

On having a rough opener in back-to-back years and what can be different for the Browns this year:

“We just have to continue to string together the practices, the plays or whatever it is. Now is not a time for us to start thinking about last season or thinking about anything else. We came, and we played our hardest. We didn’t win this one. We get an opportunity to play in a couple of days for another one. It is a long season. We can’t define everything by this first one.”

On the physicality the Ravens brought and how it impacted the Browns’ plan:

“I think for us, we just have to continue to make plays as an offense.”



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LB B.J. Goodson:

On the Ravens' 99-yard TD drive:

“We can't let that happen. Point blank, period. When we get a field position like that, we have to take advantage of it. We really have to go back and dot the i's and cross the t's. When we get a team pinned down like that, we definitely have to take advantage of it.”

On the Ravens TEs having success today:

“Have to get back and look at the tape, but hats off to those guys. We have to get back to the drawing board.”

On challenges for the Browns covering Ravens TE Mark Andrews:

“They get paid to play ball, too. We just have to come out and execute better. Sometimes they are going to have a good throw and a good catch, but we have to execute better and get back to it.”

On Ravens QB Lamar Jackson's mobility in the pocket to extend plays or scramble for gains:

“He is a great player. Like I said, hats off to them and their scheme. We have to see them again so we just have to prepare and do everything that we can to get ready for that next meeting.”

On positive takeaways for the Browns defense today:

“Nobody gave up. Nobody gave up, and they kept fighting. That showed me that we do have a chance to be a good team, but we have to come in, we have to work and put in the work for that to happen. That is my positive.”

On LB Jacob Phillips starting his first NFL game and sustaining an injury:

“He's a great player. I have definitely taken him under my wings and am there for him. He has great potential. Like you saw him out there today, he is flying around and getting after the ball. We can't wait to have him back.”

On the adversity the Browns defense has faced due to injuries:

“No excuses.”

G Joel Bitonio:

On disappointment in the loss and if changes to the offseason and training camp impacted the team's performance:

“Baltimore was the better team today. They beat us in every facet of the game. We just did not have it today. It is hard to tell because we are never going to get that offseason back so we will see how we go. Obviously, we want to take things from this game and try to improve from it. We have a short week, but we are going to learn what we can in the short amount of time, come back and work for the next three days and try to get ready for Thursday night.”

On the team's confidence it can rebound and be ready for the Thursday night game:

“I am confident. It was our first time out there in real action. I think we are going to improve, and we have to improve. That is the goal each and every week. I think there were some positives that we saw. We have to watch the tape to make sure. Each and every day, we have to pick something as an offense and as individuals to pick something to improve and to try and just be better for Thursday. I do think we have the right guys and the right mindset that we are going to get ready to go on Thursday.”



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On losing momentum at the end of the first half:

“We felt like we kind of got into a little rhythm there. We scored the touchdown and we had a chance to get some points on the board before half. Unfortunately, we did not make the field goal and they went down and scored. That is a momentum killer. We did not get the ball at halftime. They got the ball. It was just one of those things where it was tough and it was a tough stretch in the game. We are confident that we had the right plays to play well, but we did not execute in the second half.”

On Ravens DE Calais Campbell’s impact on the game:

“He is a great player. He is an All-Pro. He got his hands on a few balls. It is tough to deal with when he is 6-8 or 6-9 because even if you block him at the line of scrimmage, he has a chance to get his hands up on the play, and those are drive killers. We have to get his hands down next time, but he is a good player. They traded for him, and he has done it well for a long time. He is definitely someone you have to ID up there, and we have to find a way to chop him down a little bit.”

DE Myles Garrett:

On the Ravens scoring 38 points and Ravens QB Lamar Jackson’s performance:

“They do what they do best. They ran the ball. They got him outside the pocket and got us moving. He made some good throws and he put it on the money. We were not where we were supposed to be.”

On if the Browns having a new coaching staff and the Ravens having continuity was evident:

“They came out a lot more crisp. They were just the more prepared team. Whether that was because we have more new guys, new coaches, schemes and all that, that is irrelevant. At the end of the day, nobody is going to feel sorry for you. You just have to go out there and play ball. We did not do it at a high level. We gave the ball up way too many times.”

On the disappointment following the loss after not playing up to expectations:

“The time we touch the ground [in Cleveland], it will be out of my mind and on to the next one. We have a game on Thursday. The last thing I can do is to get down on this one because we did not play mistake free. We gave the ball up. We busted coverages. We did not get to Lamar enough. That is on us. We just have to keep it moving. We have three days to prepare for the Bengals. That is my mindset right now. We lost this one. It is over.”

On the Ravens’ 99-yard TD drive:

“Lamar is a talented player, and he is going to move the ball around. He was able to escape, get free and make things happen where you think there is nothing. You do not think anyone is open, and he is getting the ball off. Today, he put it on the money. Today, he was throwing it very well. We just have to look at it and see how we can be better, see if we can get him a little more agitated and aggravated and get those throws a little bit higher so they can go to us instead of where they need to be.”

On his decision to kneel during the national anthem:

“Just a message. No disrespect to anybody who has served, anybody who is in law enforcement or is serving right now. Anybody who has served before that I have known, I do not think they have taken it as a disrespectful thing, and it is not that. If we continue to do the same thing or we switch it up, that is something we will worry about next week. My decision to do that has no bearing on my game and it doesn’t bear on my conscience either. After that is done, I am in game mode.”



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On his performance:

“I haven’t really thought about it. Just trying to do the best I can, be where I’m supposed to be and do my assignment. I did that most of the time, but I have to see where I didn’t do it. We could have tried to harass him a little more in the pocket and get him a little more flustered. As you saw, he is escaping, making plays with his feet and getting it to his guys. Trying to get this guy to run and put it on the money, that is all you can ask. He is escaping, back pedaling and he is getting it to his receivers and tight ends. We just have to better in that regard, getting him down and trying to force him to make those tough throws. Today, he did.”

On if the loss is indicative of the Browns as a football team or if he is confident the team will rebound:

“We have 15 more games. We have one in four days. Unless it is the end of the season, one game doesn’t decide what we are going to be and how we will do this year.”

On the decision for the Browns as a team to not come out for the pregame singing of ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’:

“We didn’t know about it so we weren’t able to come out for it.”

On if the short week before playing another game can be beneficial after a tough loss:

“Depends on how you take it. I think the guys that I have talked to, we addressed the team and we are ready to get this out of our mouths as soon as possible. We are trying to flush this and get on to Cincinnati as soon as possible. Make it 1-1 for us. Worry about the next game. This one is over, we are passed it and we have a chance to change the direction of the season.”

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BALTIMORE RAVENS

Head Coach John Harbaugh

(opening statement) “OK, I appreciate you guys being here. It’s really, really different seeing you on the big screen Zoom instead of seeing you in our great room here. We’re sorry for that, but this too shall pass. [I’m] really proud of our guys, proud of our team, proud of the team effort to open the season. I will say this; we miss the fans being here. I thought the incredible amount of support ... Technology, right? The incredible amount of support from our fans that we normally have wasn’t there. It was different. I felt like our guys did a great job at bringing their energy. We talked about it – B.Y.O.E. We had a T-shirt made up. *(laughter)* And they did it. They brought their energy, and I’m proud of them for that. But I also appreciate the people that bought the [Community of Fans] cutouts. A good friend and a super Ravens fan, Josh Charles, he was bragging all week about how he bought his cardboard cutout. But all the people that stepped up for Mo’s Rows. I think we all saw the piece. I was crying, to be honest with you. We love [Mo’s mother] Sony [Gaba]. We love all the people that supported Mo’s Rows, that was really an incredible thing. So, thank you to all the fans who are supporting us from outside in, we definitely appreciate it.

“As far as the game, I thought the drives at the end of the half were the difference, obviously. We were able to pull away and kind of open up a lead there. [We had] 17 points off [of] turnovers. Lamar Jackson just played a phenomenal game. He just played a top-level game in every single way, and I think he was, probably, the biggest difference in the game. I have to give a lot of credit to the rookies. We started the game [with] all of them, really, Tyre Phillips, [Patrick] Queen, [Malik] Harrison, those guys played good, NFL football. We talked, I told them earlier ... There’s other guys, too, that played on special teams;



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[James] Proche [II] and Devin [Duvernay] and others, I don't want to forget anybody. The fact that now they've got a game under their belt, now they can go, 'OK, I can do this.' And they did it very well. I think Matt Skura coming back and starting at center after what he's been through is an incredible thing. I'm really proud of those guys. We had game balls. Our first game ball went to [Ravens President] Dick Cass. Dick Cass and the whole organization got us here. Dick led that. We wouldn't be here without Dick and the entire organization. Every single person that stepped up to bring us to this point so we could play football, and we are very grateful for that. On defense, it went to Calais Campbell. Calais, he kind of turned the tide there a little bit. After the first half, they were moving the ball. It wasn't just Calais, obviously, it was a team effort. But [he] made a couple big plays running past that got us going there a little bit. And offensively, Lamar got the game ball. With that, what questions do you have?"

(On having no preseason games and what they took from that) "Yes. It was just an unknown. It was going to be an unknown. I kind of went into it early on not knowing what to expect. We all did, but [I] told the team before the game and they really kind of set it. We don't know what the outcome is going to be. We don't know what's going to happen, but we know we're going to be bringing it. That's what the players did and I'm proud of them for that."

(On if QB Lamar Jackson stretching the field was part of the gameplan of if it's what the Browns were giving him) "I [say] part of both. Lamar [Jackson] did a really good job, and our offensive line did a good job of creating time in the pocket which allowed the coverage to expand. It wasn't like we were over top of them. I thought they did a good job of keeping the plays in front, but the coverage expanded so much. Our guys worked hard to get open. Lamar has amazing vision and can throw on the move. He sees the field so well. To me, those are the keys to that."

(On T Ronnie Stanley's injury) "Yes. Ronnie [Stanley], it's not a serious injury, just a little tightening up there. He got rolled on, I think. It's not a serious injury to my knowledge right now. I don't expect it to become one tomorrow, but we will let you know. Thanks."

(On what the rookies did that showed their professionalism) "The little things are a good question for the tape, but I did notice that they were composed. They were composed, and they didn't get too carried away. The moment wasn't too big for them. Devin Duvernay is a good example. He took the kickoff returns. He caught a couple passes, one or two [and] took them north. He's very poised [and] had good vision. I thought the guys covered kicks; you look at special teams, so many times you see that. Even James Proche [II], the one ball tailed on him, and he let it roll, which would not be what you'd want – I think he's very capable of catching that – but then he didn't compound his mistake by going to try to pick it up or something, with guys bearing down on him. I thought that was a pressure thing to do. Then he came back later when he, probably, would've wanted a fair catch, but I think he's so confident [that] he went ahead and caught it, got some yards and, I think, wanted to build for the future. So, I would say that. I would say they were composed in the environment, and that was really good to see."

(On if there was a point where he felt comfortable after not having preseason games) "That's really a good question. I don't think comfortable, man. You never really ever feel comfortable. I don't really think of it like, 'We're OK. We're a good team.' I just felt encouraged by ... I saw how hard they were playing and how physical we were trying to play. Even though they were sneaking some runs through there, even at times, I could see how hard we were playing and how hard we were running to the ball. It felt like we just have to get our legs under us, get our sea legs, so to speak, and we'll be in good shape."



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(On the overall defensive performance) “That’s a good point. Six points against this offense is very, very good. And, really, the fact that we did contain their weapons was probably the key thing. We gave up more rushing yards than we wanted to, our guys are not going to be happy about that. I already know they’re not, because I’ve seen them, and that’s how they feel about it. But those are two excellent [running] backs. They see the field. They make great cuts. The offensive line is very adapted to running that scheme. We kept the receivers pretty much under control, which was big, because we know how good those guys are. Just a few plays in there, here and there. So, I was happy with that. We also know we can really improve and get so much better.”

(On how ILB Patrick Queen can build off of his first game) “Absolutely. With his poise, I think the peace of mind to get that ball out. When Nick Chubb was fighting for those extra yards and he was able to get that ball out, that showed you a lot there. I’m sure there’s a lot of little details that, really, he’s going to want to get better at. This is his beginning, and I think it’s a good start.”

(On if spreading the ball out will be the gameplan all year) “That’s a great question. You ever know. We want to spread the ball around to people, because we have a lot of weapons. But any gameplan can kind of unfold any kind of way during the week, and then, any game can unfold any kind of way during the week. So, you just have to be flexible, and everybody has to be ready to carry a big load, but our guys are up to that. They all want the ball, so that’s a good problem to have.”

QB Lamar Jackson

(on how he stays so composed when starting a drive on the 1-yard line) “That’s a situation we go over in practice and stuff like that. I feel like our coach built us up for this, that type of environment or situation, and all of our guys do a great job of keeping their poise as well. We just moved the ball like we’re supposed to.”

(on picking up right where he left off after his MVP season) “It’s just hard work and dedication. It started with the Covid, our guys coming down [to South Florida in the offseason], trying to get some chemistry down pat. The quick turnaround with [training] camp, we started getting chemistry there, and our guys just dialed in, and they helped me out a lot, made my job a lot easier.”

(on if he feels like he is a better passer today than in 2019 Week 1 in Miami) “I do. [It’s] just dedication. Coach ‘Urb [Quarterbacks coach James Urban] is doing a great job – the QB drills, being consistent, even though sometimes, we might just repeat it, just to keep that dialed in in our heads and keep my body dialed in.”

(on if there was a point in the game, not having a preseason, where you felt you would be good) “[It was during] our pre-game speech, I’ll start there. Mark [Ingram II] gave us great energy, and I got to just look into guys’ eyes, and I could just tell, not knowing the score, but how offense, defense and special teams was going to play.”

(on if the team did anything differently today to keep the energy going) “Not really. Everybody had their headphones on inside the locker room, listening to their music, getting their own vibe. And like I said, Mark Ingram gave us a good speech, and so did [Pernell] McPhee when he came inside the locker room.”

(on TE Mark Andrews’ big day and the two of them not missing a beat from last year) “We’ve got Top 2, not two, in the league right now at tight end. He makes my job way easier. If it’s a DB guarding him, a safety or linebacker, it doesn’t really matter. He’s going to do a great job of getting open. He’s going to score a touchdown nine times out of 10. That’s my guy. He makes my job easier for sure.”



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(on the atmosphere at the stadium without fans and whether or not he was able to hear what the defense was doing) “I was focused on what we had to do, just getting my eyes up as we went to the line of scrimmage. I wasn’t really trying to listen to what the defense was doing, just knowing what coverage they were going to be in, [inaudible] I really wasn’t paying attention to what they were saying.”

RB J.K. Dobbins

(On scoring his first two touchdowns in the NFL) “It’s a blessing to have two touchdowns in my first NFL game, but it was all because of my teammates. The linemen were blocking well. And then, I feel comfortable with all my teammates. They [have taken] me in, and they showed me the way.”

(On his emotions throughout the day) “I never really get nervous. When I played my first game in college, I didn’t get nervous. Today, I wasn’t nervous. I think it just comes with practicing super hard [and] building my confidence in practice. It’s definitely a blessing just to be in the league and playing with this great team. Right now, [we’re] 1-0 – it’s time to lock in on the next opponent. I’m definitely happy about my touchdowns and everything my teammates did. But now, we’ve got to move on to the next game.”

(On if there was any difference in the contact and the physicality of the game as compared to college) “I didn’t think so. I thought it felt the same. The competition is good though. It’s the NFL – you definitely could see a little change in it. But the contact wasn’t that crazy.”

(On if playing with QB Lamar Jackson eases any missed opportunities the offense may have had) “That’s a tough question. My boy [Lamar Jackson] is definitely a playmaker. When we mess up a few times, he can definitely make it right. It definitely helps a lot having him back there under the center.”

(On what it feels like to score a touchdown on a 99-yard drive) “My teammates, they drove the ball down the field. They made it look pretty easy. I just capped it off – with great blocking, great play call, everything. It was just the right situation.”

DE Calais Campbell

(On his impact and the Ravens’ defense) “It’s honestly ... It’s crazy, because I feel like I didn’t play as good as I wanted to. I left a lot of plays out there. But to still be able to affect the game and be able to win the way we did, that’s just a testament to our preparation. We had an incredible camp, and it showed today.”

(On if not having fans affected the Ravens’ energy level) “It is B.Y.O.E; bring your own energy. And that’s what we did today. Coach [Harbaugh] did a good job to get us prepared. We have a lot of guys on the team who took turns bringing the energy for us, and we could feed off of it. It was really cool to see just how ... We hadn’t played a real game. We’ve been going back and forth in practice, and we hadn’t gotten the chance to hit anybody else. To get here, even though there weren’t fans in the stands, and the energy was kind of – we had to bring it ourselves, it was still cool to go out there and play football for the first time in a while.”

(On the Ravens’ pre-game demonstrations and their message) “A lot of players on this team are really passionate about the community – about our backgrounds and where we come from. So, most of the guys want to protest against the injustices in our communities. I saw [Ravens owner] Steve Bisciotti put out a message, and it’s very clear; We’re not protesting the flag [and] we’re not protesting America. We’re not protesting anything like that. It’s just injustice in our community. And so, this was just an opportunity for us to use this platform to try to affect change in the communities.”



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

(On how the game felt given the new protocols and unusual circumstances) “There were a lot of adjustments. A lot of the protocols on the sideline were unique. It was different. We’re used to certain things, and then you have to adjust. And I’m sure that affected a lot of us on the sidelines. I know it [affected] me. But you have to figure it out. There are going to be adjustments throughout the whole year. But I’m glad that we were able to find a way to win the game, even with [everything] we had to handle with the COVID stuff.”

(On if he was more tired during the game due to no preseason) “To a degree, maybe a little bit, but I think that it’s just that first game. You can go back every year; the first game of football, it takes a lot to catch that second wind. That’s football. But we got off to a fast start. We’re 1-0. And obviously, I don’t think anybody feels like they played their best football. But we’re 1-0 – a lot to look forward to.”

WR Marquise Brown

(On the Ravens’ execution of the gameplan) “Yes, we did a good job of executing the gameplan. Lamar [Jackson] was out there, on point, putting the ball where it needed to be, and we had to just make our catches and make plays.”

(On QB Lamar Jackson’s improvements as a passer) “Yes, you can tell he’s a lot more comfortable, and he’s a lot more pinpoint with it. It’s now our job to be at the spot, because that’s where he’s putting it. He’s doing a good job of throwing it away from defenders and throwing it to where you can catch and run. So, he’s been doing a good job of just improving his game.”

(On the Ravens’ offensive performance) “It just shows you that we can do it in both phases; we can run it, and we can pass it. So, it’s going to make it hard for each team to gameplan for us. There are going to be some games where we run it more and some games where we have to pass it more. It’s our job just to go out and execute and do what we do.”

(On how it felt to play and not have to worry about his foot) “Yes, it felt good just to be back out there. It’s been a long, long journey to even get to this point. So just to be out there – going against somebody else – with my teammates was pretty fun. I’m not having to worry about injuries and whatnot. I get to go out there and try to play for my team.”

(On QB Lamar Jackson) “Yes, that guy, he’s probably not going to ever change. All he wants is to win Super Bowls – head down and go to work.”

(On the environment and communication) “Going into it, I didn’t know how it was going to be. But just being out there with the guys, everybody was fired up. Everybody had their own energy; bring your own energy. So, we were out there having fun. We didn’t really notice, but whenever we do get fans, it’s going to be a lot better.”

(On how different it was with no preseason and no fans) “It was different. Like you said, there was no preseason. So, we could talk about what we’re going to do and this and that, but until you actually get on the field and go against an opponent, you really don’t know – it’s uncertain. So, to go out there, play for each other, make mistakes that we learn from and build on the good plays, it was a good experience.”



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

(On the 99-yard drive) “Yes, from the point when we took the field, it was like, ‘Let’s go 99 [yards] and score. Let’s go 99 and score.’ So, for us to actually do it ... On the drive before, we drove it down, and we had a turnover. So, this time around, we knew that we can’t stop ourselves. We just had to play our game and drive the ball.”

(On if he was able to hear certain things due to no crowd noise that he wouldn’t typically hear) “Yes, you definitely could hear the defense and hear what they’re calling out there. So, that was pretty good for us. But other than that, you just have to lock in on your assignment. It’s football between those lines.”

LB Patrick Queen

(on how comfortable he felt out there today) “Yes, I felt pretty comfortable. Coming in, Day One, the guys greeted me and treated me as family from the jump. Even before I got here, a lot of people reached out, so I felt very comfortable going into this game. Coaches prepared me the best way they could, trainers, even the head guys came and talked to me some. I just felt like I was at home.”

(on if this is what he expected from his NFL debut) “It’s what I expected. I wanted to do better than I did, but I’m grateful for what I got. I prayed about it, slept on it, dreamed about making plays. I actually dreamed about that same play that I made the tackle on, so it’s crazy how things work when you pray about it. But I can’t ask for a better first game.”

(on his LB Ray Lewis t-shirt and following in the footsteps of some Ravens greats at LB) “It’s all about respect. Just growing up, the Ravens’ defense was physical. Ray Lewis really set the picture for me for the Ravens’ defense, and I’m just giving him his respect by wearing this shirt, letting him know that I respect his game, and I respect what he did for this organization. I’m just trying to follow in the same footsteps.”

(on his QB sack and forced fumble) “[On the] sack, just an open gap, took it and ripped through. Baker [Mayfield] was standing right there trying to burst out to his right, and [I] just made a play. The next one [the forced fumble], a puller came, and I had to take on a puller. I got him out of the way, and then L.J. [Fort] was on the tackle, and the first thing I saw was the ball, so I went for the ball and got it out of there.”

(on if there was a lot pride from the rookie class today and how they played) “Yes, of course. It’s the NFL – we’re rookies, but at the same time, we’re all in the same place, doing the same thing, and we’re all trying to make a statement. Anytime our number is called, we’re coming to play and coming to dominate. Everybody that comes in, they’re going to get our all, and that’s all we can ask as a team. As a coaching staff, they just want us to play 100%.”

(on his t-shirt and if LB Ray Lewis sent it to him) “No, a person that my mom knows made it for me. Just like I said, it’s just a sign of respect for him. Mom said that we got the shirt made, so I wanted to wear it and show him respect. I know everything he did for this organization, I know how he played; there’s just so much that goes into it, I can’t really describe it.”

(on if there are any areas of his game that he needs to work harder on this week) “Everything in my game. Just technique, pad level, hands, coming downhill, not getting stiff-armed like I got on the last drive. There is a lot of stuff to clean up, and that’s what you come in the next day and get better at watching film, and then you’ve got to practice.”



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

(on how he adjusted to playing with no fans today) “At the end of the day, it’s football; you’ve got to love the game. If you don’t love the game of football, then you worry about fans, and you’re not going to have fun. But I wish they were out there, I wish I could put on for them, but I know they were at home watching, and we still got some excitement out of them and gave them some good stuff on TV to get them excited. I can’t wait for them to be back.”

(on defensive adjustments that were made to control the run game after Cleveland had two long runs early, and what was said after their long drive) “It was stuff that we hadn’t spaced on; just not getting lined up, getting the call but not thinking about what we had to do and execute. It was all on us, it was all stuff that we can fix and get better at and eliminate.”

(on how the overall communication was on the field) “It was great. You could hear it way better without the fans yelling and echoing in your ears. You could barely hear the call, but even with fans being there, we’ll still have to communicate. Just having no fans, it was an extra benefit for us to be able to hear calls from each other and know what to expect.”

TE Mark Andrews

(On if he feels QB Lamar Jackson is a better passer this year than last season) “For me personally, looking at Lamar [Jackson], I’ve known the type of player he’s been just [by] playing with him. The guys is incredible; he was incredible last year. To me, he’s, obviously, the best player in the world, and his arm reflects that. It reflected that last year; it’s this year as well. He’s going to continue to grow, and he has. It’s just a blessing to be able to play with him. He says I make his job easy, but it’s the other way around for sure.”

(On if he wants more recognition around the NFL as the best tight end in the league) “I try not to put too much thought into that stuff. It’s just about going out every week, playing the best you can and doing everything you can to win games and help your team. Today was a good day. We have a lot to learn from and to grow from. I think as the season goes on, we’re only going to get better. I try not to look at that stuff, but I want to be the best, and I’ve said that. I’ve been open about that.”

(On playing without fans and crowd noise) “It’s just different, it’s definitely different. Being able to hear calls and what the defense is saying and stuff like that – there’s that aspect of it, a little bit. You hear what they’re doing. And then, obviously, we have to communicate on offense as well. Trying to be quiet, trying to stay [quiet] so they can’t hear what we’re doing. It’s just different. You’ve got to bring your own energy. And I think that’s the biggest thing – just being able to come out there, bring your own energy and play fast without these fans – because Baltimore fans are incredible, and I can’t tell you how much they help us out. Definitely felt that – [we] missed them today. I’m looking forward to, hopefully, having fans soon.”

(On if returning much of the offense from last season was an advantage with team chemistry) “It’s big – the chemistry is there for sure. All these guys that ... We’ve got a lot of young guys coming back. It was, kind of, nice to see. Our [offensive] line was probably the biggest change with guys moving around, and stuff like that – and they played great. There’s a lot of chemistry going on. But, again, there was a lot of mistakes, a lot of things that we’ve got to correct. You want to be the best, you want to get to where we want to go, we’ve got to get better. I know we’re going to. We have a lot of great guys in this locker room, and I’m excited for it.”



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

(On the performance of RB J.K. Dobbins and G Tyre Phillips without having preseason games) “It’s huge – I think those guys are just ball players. J.K. [Dobbins] had a great game. You see it in training camp – the type of player that he is, the versatility that he can bring to our offense. It’s great – he’s got Mark Ingram [II] to, kind of, show him the ropes. When you have that kind of combination of things, it’s a good recipe. And, obviously, Tyre [Phillips] played his butt off. That’s exciting to see him get in there and play and do well. He’s only going to grow. That’s a position where – when you’re young – you’ve got a lot to learn. He’s only going to grow, get better, and he’s a great player.”

(On the importance of the team having a great rushing performance against the Browns) “It’s good – I think the, kind of, misconception of our offense is that we’re only a run-first team. We’ve, kind of, shown time and time again that we can throw the ball. We used the run game to throw off that. We’re going to be dangerous in the passing game. You’ve seen it last year, you’re going to see it this year. We’re going to continue to grow in that area, and we’ve got to continue to grow in the run game. We’ve got to be the best at that both.”

(On the last drive before halftime with only 41 seconds left on the clock) “First off, it’s two-minute drill. We rep this all the time in practice. This is a twice a week, or more, type of thing. All the guys know what to do. So, it’s get up [and] get out, two timeouts – so we know if we’re going to be able to use those. Those two early timeouts, really, made the difference for us. Guys [were] just making plays. I think the consistency with that drive was incredible. I haven’t been a part of many two-minute drills that were that efficient. That was an efficient drive. It’s really good to see that. That’s not an easy thing to do. To be able to come out of there with points and get six [points], it’s very encouraging. We get the ball [to start] the second half. It’s very uplifting to this team, and we’ve got to be able to do that time and time again.”