



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

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## **Head Coach Kevin Stefanski:**

### **Opening statement:**

“Start with injuries, (CB) Denzel (Ward) came out of there in the third quarter. We will see how he is. I do not think he will be any worse for the wear, but he felt it a little bit so we will be smart about that. (WR) JoJo Natson is going to get his knee looked at here this evening. (LB) Tae Davis – elbow. We will have more updates as we get the imaging on those guys.”

“That is a good team win. Anytime you are plus-five [in the turnover margin], that is darn good. Defense, I thought was outstanding. I challenged them to get that rock, and they did. We scored on every single one of those takeaways, except for that one right there at the half. It was a game where we went down in the game a couple times and the guys came back. That is a big piece of this is being resilient. Kicking game, (K) Cody (Parkey) was two-for-two on field goal, four-for-four on extra point and knocked every single one out of the end zone so I thought he did a nice job. A good team win.”

### **On how the Browns responded in the fourth quarter after falling behind:**

“Yeah, that is a (Washington Head Coach) Ron Rivera coached team. That is a tough team. You saw what they did in the first couple games where they came back. We knew it was a 60-minute fight. We talked to the guys about that all week and even today so we were totally ready for that.”

### **On getting contributions from a number of Browns players on defense today:**

“It is important. This is a long season. It was great to see some guys that came back off of injury. Hopefully, we will get a few more here as we get going. Whether it is offense or defense, we want to use all the players, especially the guys that provide versatility.”

### **On DE Myles Garrett’s strip-sack and recovering the fumble, Garrett’s second strip-sack during a key moment in as many weeks:**

“That is really what we expect from Myles. I know he expects it of himself. We need him to play great, and when it turns into a pass-rush game, he is built for that. I thought he did a great job. You get and honesty day’s work out of Myles Garrett. Really proud of him.”

### **On the stretch in the third quarter where Washington took the lead and the Browns responding:**

“Offensively, we did not do anything moving the ball – three-and-out there. That is not playing complementary football so that was unfair to the team how we performed coming at halftime. Listen, this is the National Football League, and you are going to get some really good attacks. That is a talented group over there. We knew they were going to be able to make a few plays. We just want to limit them. Again, just the ball searching and the guys being around the ball was outstanding.”

### **On the importance of the Browns being above .500 for the first time since 2014:**

“We are just trying to go 1-0 every week.”

### **On the Browns offense scoring points after takeaways and QB Baker Mayfield ending his interception streak:**

“Offensively, anytime you get a takeaway from your defense, you are set up and you have to go get seven. That is such a big part of this game, not settling for a field goal, not punting or whatever it may be. Baker did a nice job. I thought he trusted his eyes for the most part and the ball went where the ball was supposed to go. There were a couple sacks I think we can learn from, but he is doing a nice job of operating.”



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**On if he is aware of the significance of today's game being the first in NFL history with a female coach on both sidelines and a female official:**

"I am very aware of it, and I am very proud of it. Proud of (Chief of Staff) Callie (Brownson). She is a tremendous team player. The stuff she does behind the scenes is incredible. Just the significance of having the women in those positions today is a very big deal, and we want to shine a light on it."

**On Mayfield's TD to TE Harrison Bryant, it appearing to be planned for RB Kareem Hunt and what the play shows about finding the TD:**

"What it tells me is that we did not design a very good play. We are trying to get guys open. Sometimes you do not, and it feels really good to have a QB that can make something when the play call was pretty bad."

**On the significance of WR Odell Beckham Jr.'s third-down catch at the end of the third quarter on third-and-long:**

"That was huge. We were stubbing our toe on offense, and we were not doing a very good job for the team. We were putting the defense in some tough spots. Odell continues to just, the dude plays hard and he practices hard. When he gets an opportunity, he makes a play for us. He did a great job, and the quarterback did a nice job there and Kareem had a nice blitz pickup, if I am not mistaken."

**On if RB Nick Chubb continues to amaze the team after a 108-yard, two-TD hard running performance:**

"I am not surprised, if that is possible, at some of the things he does because I know what he is capable of. I think Nick and Kareem would say the same thing, credit to that offensive line, credit to the tight ends, (FB) Andy Janovich and the receivers busting their rear ends in the run game. Really, I also want to give credit to (offensive line) Coach (Bill) Callahan, who does a great job setting these run gameplans up."

**QB Baker Mayfield:**

**On what the 2-1 start means to Cleveland and having a winning record for the first time since 2014:**

"First and foremost, this is a football town. They deserve to have a great franchise and a great team, but we are worried about right now. Like I said before the season started, it is about building that culture, bringing the right guys in and pushing this thing in the right direction, which is what we have been doing and we are trying to do. We have to build on this momentum and keep going one game at a time."

**On the Browns' strong defensive performance:**

"Unbelievable job by the defense today taking the ball away. I thought we could have been offensively better in the first half just doing our job. When the defense plays like that and they were able to make a play to get us field position, we were able to take advantage in the second half and we played complementary football. Up front, we did great all game long, and I could have done a better job in the first half to keep the chains moving and put us in a better position to kind of run away with that game."

**On the Browns offense capitalizing on turnovers and it being the epitome of complementary football:**

"Absolutely. Anytime your defense can take it away that many times, you want to help those guys out. You want to feed off the energy, and that is what we did in the second half. Kudos to our defensive guys for taking the ball away that many times."



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## **On winning the turnover margin 5-0 and ending his interception streak:**

“Always, taking care of the ball the most important thing. I could have played way better. I could have gotten the ball out and saved a couple of those sacks. The protection was great. I could have re-IDed the play where the intentional grounding happened and the first play coming out where I got sacked. Some things that I can be a lot better on. It was a great job by (WR) Odell (Beckham Jr.) knocking the ball down. I should have put that ball more outside and let him run under it, but we are going to take our chances on those 50-50 balls with our guys. He did an unbelievable job knocking that ball down.”

## **On regaining momentum on the long third down to Beckham:**

“It was huge. Two of our biggest conversions came from (RB) Kareem (Hunt) doing an unbelievable job. He picked up (Washington S) Landon Collins on a safety pressure on that play and gave us a chance to get the ball in Odell’s hands. We converted that one and went on later on to score on that drive. We really need the spark, and after that, we were playing complementary football.”

## **On RB Nick Chubb’s performance today and his reaction to Chubb breaking long runs after several dirty runs in the game:**

“He is special to watch. Both of our guys (Chubb and Hunt) are. You never want to take any of that for granted. We have special guys and we have a great offensive line. It is always fun to sit back and watch, but I have to continue to carry out my fake and expand those holes.”

## **On what Washington was doing in the third quarter stretch where they took the lead:**

“I held onto the ball. I could not see (TE) Harrison (Bryant) on a stick route. I should have gotten the ball out and took a sack. That is completely on me, not protection. The intentional grounding one, I should have re-IDed and put us in a better position to win on that play. That is completely on me. I will take that blame, and I will get better and move on.”

## **On if it was difficult for the Browns to stick to the run game when trailing in the third quarter:**

“No, I think when you are only trailing by a few points, you can stick to that stuff and continue to hammer the ball and trust in it that it is going to open up eventually. It is a different story when you are down a little bit more, but when it is that close of a game, it does not matter.”

## **On DE Myles Garrett coming up with a strip-sack in a big moment in back-to-back games:**

“Big-time players, make big-time plays. We have seen that obviously, like you said, with Myles, but the whole defense, the line got after him a little bit and forced him to throw the ball earlier in some zones where he did not have time to go through his reads. Just the defense played great. Like we said, the second half, they played unbelievably and allowed us to win the game.”

## **On continuing to find a balance between wanting to make plays and wanting to protect the ball:**

“Doing whatever it takes to win the game. Obviously, taking care of the ball, percentages show a way better chance to win the game but especially when our defense is playing like that. We have a great punter. Protecting that ball, taking check downs, playing the field position game and playing that battle and just trusting this team and this offense that we are going to chip away eventually, and trusting our defense and special teams that we are going to give them great field position to play against and play complementary football.”

## **LB B.J Goodson:**

### **On making big plays at key moments in the game:**

“Just playing and trusting the process that we work on throughout the week. Our work is working. Just continuing to trust the process and focus in on the situations.”



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**On the Browns defense's end zone celebrations:**

"It is just something we decided we would do as a team and defense is celebrate together. That is our form and our way of saying yeah, I touched the ball, but this is all of us. If the rush doesn't get there, then I don't get the pick. This is team ball."

**On the Browns intercepting Washington QB Dwayne Haskins multiple times:**

"Just trusting the process, trusting our keys and what we have been seeing all week. Our coaches did a great job of game planning it."

**On if he decided to come to the Browns with a desire to make big plays and if the focus is on the team for him:**

"Yes ma'am. I am here to help uplift and help build something special."

**On the Browns team's camaraderie:**

"We definitely have at tight bunch. I believe the guys, we have all bought into the process. That is a huge part of our two victories."

**On how important it as a defense to finish as strongly as the Browns did today:**

"It is very important. We talked about situational ball all week, and we were challenged. I feel like we stepped up to that challenge. I am proud of our guys."

**On his assessment of the Browns defense so far this season:**

"To be honest, we have to keep getting better. We have to keep scrambling for more and keep striving for better. We had a great game as far as takeaways, but there are always things we can be better at and get better at doing. Yes, we made progress through those first couple of games, but we can get a lot better."

**On his emotions on S Karl Joseph's interception, including the forced fumble and CB Tavierre Thomas' fumble recovery:**

"Yes, that play was full of mixed emotions – the interception, the fumble and fumble recovery – as you can imagine. Other than that, it was all good."

**On DE Miles Garrett's impact on their team and Garrett making big plays at a key moment in back-to-back weeks:**

"All of the turnovers were big in the game. Pregame and all week, we have been talking about feeding off each other's energy and making plays so I thought we did a great job of that today."

**On the Browns' talent on defense, despite it seeming to fly under the radar:**

"We are just a head-down bunch so working every single day to get better. We do not get too high with the highs and we do not get too low with the lows. We are just striving to get better."

**On if he will simply let Garrett take the glory and he will take the wins:**

"I will take the wins (*laughter*)."

**RB Nick Chubb:**

**On how the Browns finished the third quarter:**

"We played a great team. The Washington Football Team has a great defense. We knew it was not going to be easy, but we take pride in those 2-yard dirty runs and those 0-yard dirty runs because we know it takes a toll on the team, and eventually, we will bust one. The whole game everybody kept telling me, 'Just be patient. It is going to pop. It is going to pop.' I think it worked for us."



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**On if it is just a matter of the Browns running game wearing down defenses late in the games before breaking longer ones, similar to last week:**

“Yeah, that is what it is.”

**On the impact of the Browns defense making timely big plays:**

“Yeah, it is fun to watch. When I am on the sideline, I am a fan of our team. Those guys had five turnovers. That is incredible. If they keep doing that, then we will always find a way to win. I think we also scored on every turnover, except for one before halftime, so that is great team ball.”

**On how entertaining it is to see the Browns defense’s celebrations:**

“I do not really pay attention. I saw them doing something, but when they make plays, it is time for me to go back out so I can’t really enjoy it with them.”

**On Washington’s DL being as tough as advertised:**

“That is a really good defense over there. It says a lot about us to be able to run against a great defense like that. We have to keep it going and keep getting better every week.”

**On rushing for 100 yards against Washington’s defense:**

“It is a great defense so it means a lot, not only for me but for our team.”

**On the Browns being above .500 for the first time since 2014 and the importance of it:**

“Every week is important. We went 1-0 this week. We have to keep doing that. It shows some positivity. We just have to find a way [to keep doing it].”

**On the Browns’ offensive balance:**

“It was overall a great team win. We ran the ball and passed the ball well, but it starts with the run. It is tough, but we have to go in and eventually open things up. Our defense did a great job, too. Overall, a great team win.”

**On the Browns offense responding late in the third quarter and in the fourth quarter and if he felt pressure to respond:**

“I think we all felt that pressure to get it in because we knew coming that this team came back the past two weeks on their opponent so we knew they were going to have push in the third and fourth quarter, and they did. That is a great team we played. We pulled together, and we found a way to win. We were able to get the run game going, we got in the end zone twice and we ended the game.”

**DE Myles Garrett:**

**On the Browns playing complementary football in today’s win:**

“That is what we are supposed to do. We had success running and throwing the ball. We were getting pressure on the quarterback, making him overthrow some of his guys, and we were there to take advantage of that. We also rushed the passer a little bit. When it is all going well like that, you have to make sure to come out on top.”

**On his strip-sack and fumble recovery in the fourth quarter:**

“I had been trying to set him up with speed to power and some jam moves early on to get his hands and get him to open up a little bit sooner. That last one, they did not have any help for him so I knew I was going to take it all the way up the field and try to get to it the best that I could. He could anticipate me either jabbing or going inside because that is where I was beating him. I was able to get on the backside of the strip. I saw that he had not thrown it yet, and no sack is complete without getting the ball.”



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**On the significance of the Browns having a winning record for the first time since 2014 and the team getting off to a good start this season:**

“I made that very clear to the guys. We have a chance that we have not had in a long just to have a winning record, whether it is early or late. We have to take advantage of the opportunity. We have to start changing history here and our legacies right now. This is the opportunity to do it. We can be 1-0 this week, and that is what we are going to look forward to going into next week.”

**On if he was hurt when going to the sideline in the third quarter:**

“Just a little winded. They had a couple of long drives. I was trying to save up for something big, and I had it in me.”

**On how important it was to get contributions from several different Browns defensive players today:**

“I have seen these guys all week. They have been getting after it. They have been hungry. They have been hunting. They have been getting PBUs, batting down balls and interceptions. Guys like (LB) Malcolm Smith, definitely making big plays. (S) Karl (Joseph) making that big hit on the sideline. We have guys making big plays. We showed that today. We have to keep up that momentum.”

**On the Browns defense having a strong performance to build confidence:**

“Go back to years past, I remember my second year, we played the Steelers and we played them to a draw. We had six takeaways. In this one, we just put it all together. That is real team ball, complementary ball that we played. I am proud of how we all came together. We have to do this every week. We just have to find a way to keep on perfecting our crafts.”

**On his commitment to improving his game and where he found another gear to create the type of plays he has the past two weeks:**

“You always have to find little things to keep you motivated. Before the game, my friend said that I was not going to get another sack-forced fumble so that was a challenge I wanted to complete going into the game. (DT) Sheldon (Richardson) said I was not going to get another one after my first sack. Those little ones and those little doubts, whether it comes from the opposite team or your own guys, it always fuels me to do better.”

**RB Kareem Hunt:**

**On giving WR Odell Beckham Jr. a run for his money with his one-handed catch:**

“Hey, I am just trying to make the most out of every opportunity.”

**On how the one-handed catch play unfolded:**

“It was supposed to be a quick flap pass to me to get the quick first down, but it looked a little rough so I wheeled it up, and hopefully, Baker made some time to see me because I saw there was nobody else behind me. He threw it where I was supposed to be, and I made a nice catch.”

**On if the one-handed catch play was similar to the TD play from last week:**

“No.”

**On being able to finish the game running the ball after RB Nick Chubb two games in a row:**

“The biggest thing is we have to keep getting first downs to keep the clock moving. Everybody in the stadium knows it is a run at that time of the game so we just have to go out there and grind it out.”



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**On watching the Browns defense create so many turnovers and opportunities for the offense:**

“It is great. The defense played great. We always want to get a lot of turnovers, and they did their job and got off the field, and took advantage of them. We have to keep that up every week. The offense knows we have to go capitalize off that good field position, and we have to get points on the board.”

**On if the Browns offense had the opportunity to wear down Washington’s defense through the running game late in the game:**

“Yeah, most definitely. We were able to just keep pounding the rock and keep the chains moving. The offensive line did a great job again just fighting. They have a great front seven, and those guys play hard. They did a great job, too.”

**On T Jedrick Wills Jr. seeming to struggle in the third quarter:**

“Jed made a few mistakes, but we are going to pick him up. We have got his back no matter what. It is team football so we have to go out there, delete that and keep playing.”

**On watching the Browns defense run down into the end zone and celebrate the turnovers:**

“It is beautiful. I want to run down there with those guys and celebrate.”

**On the Washington defense playing tough early in the game and being able to produce big runs even when plays are not blocked perfectly:**

“Sometimes, it is not going to be always perfect. Sometimes you have to find a way to make something happen. That is what we have to do. (RB) Nick (Chubb) and I are both playmakers, and at any given time of play, we can have a big run.”

**On if seeing Chubb drag guys and make big plays is motivating:**

“Yeah, most definitely, and I am thinking about coming in there and sparing him every time he gets tired, loses wind or anything like that and come in with the same motivation.”

**On being able to play like he and Chubb have talked about playing over the past few years:**

“It is very fun to be able to go out there and take turns and punish defenses. It is very fun. I can’t wait for next week. We enjoy this win today and start back to work next week.”

**On the Browns having a winning record for the first time since 2014:**

“We are excited, but we have more work to do. We can’t be satisfied here. We have got to keep going out there and winning. Winning, 1-0 every time. We have to keep getting better and keep working and go out there and hopefully be 3-1 next week. We are only 2-1 right now. Still a lot of football to play.”

**On the Browns OL opening up rushing lanes:**

“They are doing a great job up front, all five of them. You just have to keep asking those guys to fight every play, and they are doing a great job of that. Nick and I are both finding lanes.”

**S Karl Joseph:**

**On the emphasis the Browns defense put on forcing turnovers this week his interception to start the game:**

“That has been a big emphasis for us all season. Training camp, Coach (defensive coordinator Joe) Woods and (Head) Coach Kevin (Stefanski) put a big emphasis on turnovers. We know that is key to winning games. Obviously, we have not been able to get any the first two weeks, and we knew for us to win this game we were going to have to make some turnovers. We did a pretty good job of that.”



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## **On the Browns offense capitalizing on takeaways:**

“That is what it is about – offense helping the defense out and the defense helping the offense out. When we get the turnovers and they capitalize on that, it was great to see that they were able to capitalize and score off every turnover we got today. That is playing complementary football. That is what it is going to take for us to win.”

## **On if he feels his interception helped inspire other Browns defensive players to create more turnovers:**

“Yeah, I think one thing we learned is that turnovers come in bunches. It was great for me to start it off, and then you saw how that trickled down. Other guys started getting other opportunities and capitalized on it. We are always cheering for each other. I was grateful that (CB) Tavierre (Thomas) was able to get on that fumble. It almost broke my heart. That was great effort on his part to be on the spot.”

## **On if outside criticism of the Browns DBs and LBs inspires the defense to prove others wrong:**

“We do not listen to outside noise. We listen to what we think within our building. We know that is all that matters. There are always going to be critics win or lose. We just have to continue to get better and focus on what we can control, and that is improving every week and throughout practice and our preparation.”

## **On DE Myles Garrett coming up with strip-sacks in back-to-back games:**

“That is the kind of player he is. There is a reason why he is in the position he is in – one of the highest paid players in the league for those reasons right there. You see every game him coming up with a big stop or big play for us. We know that he is that kind of player.”

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## **Washington Head Coach Ron Rivera:**

### **On an injury update for Washington DE Chase Young and DT Matt Ioannidis:**

“They were both injured and did not come back. We will see how they are tomorrow.”

### **On the turnovers:**

“Disappointing. One thing we can’t do is turn the ball over and expect to win. We had turned the ball over three times in the first half. We had an opportunity to come back, and we did. We took the lead, but we turned the ball over again. You are not going to win football games if you don’t win the takeaway battle. I believe in that. Unfortunately, we didn’t get enough turnovers back to help ourselves either.”

### **On Washington QB Dwayne Haskins’ performance:**

“He did some good things. He tried to force a couple things. When he was taking what they were giving and doing what he is capable of, we moved the ball. We scored. We put points on the board. It is unfortunate because a couple of times, we were moving. We had a couple of untimely penalties that showed up, too, that took us out of position. Again, it is part of the process that we are learning. We are trying to learn how to play and not make these kinds of mistakes.”

### **On getting more from Washington’s skill position players today despite the loss:**

“It was disappointing. I thought our skill players did step up. We had some young guys get an opportunity to play, and they came through and made some plays as well. Again, this is a young football team that is learning and growing and is going to make mistakes, and we are going to learn and grow with them. Unfortunately, we had several situations where guys got nicked up today and forced some other guys to have to play a little bit more football.”





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## **On how the situation with Haskins compares with his time with Patriots QB Cam Newton's early career in Carolina:**

“The biggest thing is that I just got done talking to Dwayne and told him, ‘Look, I told you. I am behind you, and I am going to stick with you so you go out there and play football.’ He just has to learn and understand that you don’t have to make the big play all the time. Plus, you have guys that can make plays so all you need to do is get the ball into their hands and let them go out and make plays.”

## **On how to get Haskins to ignore the outside noise that there should be a QB switch:**

“Absolutely, I think the outside noise is exactly what it is – it is noise. The truth of the matter is how is he going to learn? Is he going to learn by taking the show team snaps? No. The only way he can learn and we can truly find out where Dwayne is and what he can do for us is to put him back on the football field and let him get exposed. That is how he grows. That is what we did with Cam Newton, and look where he is today. Cam Newton was a league MVP because we trusted him and we took our lumps with him. I am going to take my lumps with Dwayne right now. Again, as long as he continues to do things that show you that he can make things happen, I am going to support the young man. I am not going to pull the plug on him just because something like this happens. Again, in my opinion, he is barely through a rookie year right now in terms of being out there, learning and growing.”

## **On the offensive pass interference call on Washington WR Terry McLaurin in the fourth Quarter:**

“I was a little disappointed. I did not think it rose to the level of an OPI. Terry runs great routes. [He is] very precise, and he is very light on his feet so when he snapped that off, the DB had no chance. He couldn’t stick his leg in the ground and turn like Terry did. It looked worse than it really was. He called it, and we have to live with it.”

## **On Washington CB Kendall Fuller being back in the secondary:**

“I think it helped. We had some good things happening early on. It is just unfortunate that the game got away from us with the takeaways. It was good having Kendall out there. He is a little rusty. He will continue to work and get better, and I think we will learn to work as a unit.”

## **On Washington DE Montez Sweat's performance, particularly after injuries to Washington's DL:**

“First of all, it was tough because we only had six D linemen. We have been having nine up, but unfortunately, with the wide receiver situation, with (Washington WR) Steven Sims (Jr.) coming off the big toe injury, we had to keep an extra wide receiver up so we had to put down one of our defensive linemen so we only had eight and then we lost two in the first half. It was nice to see people stepping up. I thought (Washington DT) Daron (Payne) stepped up when he needed to. Montez stepped up. We had some good play out of (Washington DT) Jonathan (Allen). Those six guys that were left, they fought their butts off to finish the game out. That is what you need. To watch guys like that step up, it was awesome. Montez showed that he is going to be a force to be reckoned with. You can imagine what it would be like if we would have had a healthy Chase.”

## **On not calling timeouts late in the game was because of injuries, similar to last week:**

“To me, as far as I am concerned, there is nothing to answer. I did what I did. Again, like I told you guys, my concern is about the development of this football team, not appeasing anybody that has an opinion. Okay? Again, I am going to do what I need to do to help develop this football team. You have to give it a chance, but you also have to be realistic about what is happening in terms of the injuries. Again, we had no preseason to develop, and you look throughout the league with the injuries right now, once we get past a certain point, yeah, but right now? Hey, I am working on developing my football team. This football team is a young team that is going to learn and grow, and we are going to learn and grow the way that I see fit for this organization.”



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## **On Young being active on the sidelines after leaving with an injury:**

“He is very active. Chase is a high-level energy out there, and it is good to see guys like that. Again, he is a guy that is going to help spark this organization and this team. He is the right kind of young man. We have a whole bunch of those guys that do things the right way. We really do. I believe in who we are and who we can become.”

## **On the impact of losing players like Young and Ioannidis to injury in the same game:**

“The hard part is that you can’t keep guys as fresh as you would like then and they are constantly being exposed out there. That is the hard part. You want to be able to protect guys and rotate them so that they get out there and they are fresh. I promise you, when we go back to look at it, our defensive line played their butts off. They gave us a chance and gave us an opportunity, but eventually, it is going to wear you down and it is going to get to you at the end. That is precisely what happened.”

## **On outscoring Cleveland 13-0 in the third quarter:**

“Yeah and then that is disappointing because we had a couple chances to continue to stop them. We had a third-and-long and they converted. We had a couple of fourth downs we could have stopped them on, and we didn’t. Then we turned the ball over a couple times. Again, we can’t make those mistakes right now. We are not experienced enough to withstand our own personal mistakes as a football team.”

## **On whether one interception by Haskins that bothered him more than the others:**

“No, they all bothered me. It is all part of the game. He knows better in some cases. It is just unfortunate. Believe me, he is not doing it on purpose. He is trying to help us win a football game, and that is the thing that we are going to live with. We are going to live with the mistakes. He is going to grow from those mistakes. Again, the only way to find out if he can do it is to keep him on the football field.”

## **On how the injury to Sims factored into the use of Washington WRs Isaiah Wright and Antonio Gandy-Golden:**

“That was a big part of it. That is why we rolled all those guys. We were trying to take a little bit of the pressure off of Steven. We are trying to keep him as healthy as we can so that we can keep him on the football field. He is a good football player. We need guys like that on the field. It was also good to see Isaiah play. It was good to see AGG get a little bit more of an opportunity. We are learning more about our football players. Again, this is a young team that we are going to learn and grow with.”

## **On it looking on TV like Haskins was staring players down and whether mistakes like that are correctable or if Haskins simply can’t do that:**

“No, it is something he has to know. Part of going through your progression is that when you are staring a guy down, you have made a preconceived decision that you are going to throw the ball there, and that is when you really get in trouble. I do know a couple of his interceptions were because he put the ball on the wrong side of the receiver. If he puts the ball low and away on a couple of them, those are not interceptions. In fact, they should be catches for us. That is disappointing because he has a good arm and he can be very accurate. We will have to take a look at what happened and whether he was going through his progression properly and whether his feet were set when he was delivering the ball. That is all part of it. Again, he is a young quarterback, in my opinion, who is really just going through his rookie year and has not quite finished it yet. He will get better, he will grow and I think he is a guy that we can follow.”



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

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## **On history being made with a female referee and a female coach on both teams:**

“I think it is cool. I really do. I think it is about time that there is some gender equity in this sport. Women love this game. A lot of them want to play this game, and they play it. A lot of them want to coach it, and they are coaching it. All we are doing is just creating opportunities for people that deserve it. Sarah Thomas is a more than qualified referee, and I know the women that are coaching in this league are more than qualified. I am very proud of Jennifer King. She is somebody that I have worked with the last few years. I have given her an opportunity with internships to show me that she deserves the opportunity, and she has earned it. She is running with it. Again, this is all about making sure that people that deserve opportunities get them. That is all we have done.”

## **Washington QB Dwayne Haskins:**

### **On the interceptions:**

“I was really just trying to do too much. I was trying to make a play or fit into a window in a scenario where we had moved back in the chains on third-and-8, third-and-12 or whatever the case or scenario may be and trying to get it all back. That is kind of what happened as far as a couple of those interceptions. Just trusting the progressions and that you are not going to get all 18 yards back if it is not wide open. Finding the running back and finding the check down is something that I will continue to work on and get better at and not trying to make everything back when you have a penalty, sack, incompleteness or third-and-long or whatever the scenario is trying to make and put you in bad spots.”

### **On if he made some pre-determined reads that caused him to stare down receivers that led to interceptions:**

“No, I didn’t feel like I was staring anybody down. The first interception was a Cover 3 look with four verticals. The MIKE carries and the Y was on a crossing 9. I felt like I could get it over top of the backer. They did a good job of leveraging so he couldn’t finish over the top and the safety made a great play on the ball. The second interception, it was a curl route to the field that I should have just thrown the flat. I was trying to fit into a window. I was trying to get that third-and-10 back. The third interception, I got hurried up and I tried to throw it early, and the linebacker undercut me. It is just about playing situational football and understanding when to take a sack or when to throw the ball down to the running back and not make [negative] plays for us.”

### **On having Coach Rivera’s support to start in future games:**

“It means a lot. In spite of the bad, I thought I had some good stuff out there to work on and improve off of. (Washington Head) Coach (Ron) Rivera and I are very close, and I don’t want to ever just get comfortable thinking that I’m his ‘guy’ or he believes in me. That doesn’t matter if you are not producing on the field. I’m definitely appreciative of that and how he feels about me going in that direction. I want to keep getting better for myself and my teammates and try to help these guys find a way to win and honestly not being so competitive or take myself out of the game.”

### **On what he was thinking following a few of his turnovers:**

“Getting the ball back. I was trying to focus in on what we are doing next. When you make mistakes, especially at quarterback, everybody wants to give you their opinion on what they would do. I was just clearing my mind, letting myself just process and play.”



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

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## **On overcoming tough moments:**

“It is just like life. Sometimes you get fired. Sometimes you don’t get an A on your project. Sometimes you want to get a certain gift for Christmas, and you don’t get it. That’s just life, and that’s adversity. You have to learn how to deal with it and get better from it. I felt like I learned from my adversity this week. I felt a lot more confident in-game and before the game. Just trying to figure out ways to carry the good stuff from this game and learn from the bad stuff and move forward to next week with a tough team in the Ravens at home. It’s tough. The competitor in me wants to go back out there and play again. The best thing from this is learning and using those experiences, not only for myself but for the rest of the team. Offensively, we made some mistakes. We have to do better taking care of the ball. Penalties cost us defensively. We are still working through that. We are just trying to play team football and play situational football. We are all trying to come together as a team. A lot of these guys are played for the first time with each other ever. Really, there are no excuses for anything, but I’m going to make sure that I keep motivating and pushing these guys and not only that, motivating and pushing myself to know the potential that we have and how much better we can be and how good we can be.”

## **On what Washington DE Chase Young was saying to him on the bench:**

“It was really just that he believes in me. I had a lot of guys on the sideline just come up to me and tell me that they believe in me. Chase said that it doesn’t matter if we’re down 40, he is still going to be on the sideline rooting me on and saying, ‘Let’s go No. 7.’ For a guy like that – somebody who I look at and admire his work ethic and have love for, he is like a brother to me and I have known for some years now – and for him to have the utmost respect for me and have the trust in me to get the job done, not only that but a lot of other guys on this team. I feel like my teammates did a great job today, just trying to keep my head up knowing that I wish I could have had some of these plays back. We all made mistakes today, and I want to make sure I’m better and take the blame for what I did and get better from it.”

## **On whether or not in-game encouragement helps him in that moment:**

“Maybe more at the end of the game. When playing quarterback, it is more so keeping yourself or the quarterback coach or (offensive coordinator) Coach (Scott) Turner or the other quarterbacks and just keeping that circle small as far as people that you let influence your mental during the game or just in general in a week and in the week of practice. We always have a saying, ‘It is us in this room. That is all we have to worry about and all we have.’ (Washington QBs) Alex (Smith), Kyle (Allen) and (Washington quarterbacks coach Ken) Zampese and Coach Turner, we are very supportive. They gave me some tools that I can use going into next week and some stuff that they have been through or situations that they had a three-pick game or whatever happened where they took a loss and next week they got better. It is only Week 3. We have a lot more ball to play, but by no means are we content with how we are playing football. We want to keep getting better.”

## **On people focusing on his interceptions rather than the positives of the game:**

“Honestly, talk is just talk. It is outside noise. When you let outside noise into your head, you start thinking and believing whatever the hell you read or see. I’m really just letting all of that go and letting it go. It is Week 3, and that’s just the week that it was. Week 4 is a whole different week. You start over. Monday, you wipe it clean. You figure out who you’re playing, what they’re good at or bad at and just worry about them. You can’t worry about what someone thinks about you. You can’t worry about the game last week and you can’t worry about the game before. If you go into that game still worrying about other stuff and you’re not focused on what you’re doing this week, you’re going to lose again. We’re just trying to figure how moving forward and how to find the positives, find the negatives and ignore the noise and ignore whoever has something to say that is not in this building.”



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

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## **On the OPI call in the fourth quarter:**

“That pissed me off, but that is a conversation you should have with (Washington WR) Terry (McLaurin).”

## **On Washington’s skill-position players performance today:**

“Those guys are hungry. (Washington WRs) Isaiah and AGG (Antonio Gandy-Golden) are young guys, and they want to find ways for themselves to get better. They asked me a lot of questions during the week about what we are doing and how they can defend the gameplan. I felt like they did a good job this week filling in for (Washington WRs) Steve, (Sims Jr.) and Dontrelle (Inman) so I’m really happy for those guys. I’m hoping that they can continue to better and be pieces for me moving forward this season.”

## **Washington CB Kendall Fuller:**

### **On getting back on the field:**

“It felt good. The last two weeks being out down on the sidelines, just cheering for the boys, just being able to come out here and get a whole week of practice and go out there on a Sunday and suit up with them boys, it definitely felt good. Just looking to get a win next week.”

### **On losing Washington DE Chase Young and DT Matt Ioannidis:**

“Talented players, you definitely notice it. We also had that next man up mentality. We know the depth that we have at each level, and we are just looking at that next man to step in and make plays.”

### **On Washington DE Montez Sweat stepping up with Young and Ioannidis exiting the game:**

“Yeah, it is big. Anytime a guy steps in and makes game-changing plays like that to get them behind the sticks the way he did, especially as a DB, you definitely appreciate it because it makes our job easier on third down. Sweat, he has been showing that all training camp and all season. That is what we expect we from him.”

### **On what is the Washington defense is allowed to do differently when he is on the field:**

“We have a lot of good guys in the secondary, a lot of depth. Fab (Washington CB Fabian Moreau) and (Washington CB) Jimmy (Moreland) and even guys like (Washington CB) Danny (Johnson) and G Stro (Washington CB Greg Stroman). I just think my knowledge of the game and knowing what is going on in the game, what the offense is doing, situational awareness and things like that, all different things that I try to bring out on the field with me.”

### **On how close was he to playing like week and his current physical state:**

“I am feeling pretty good. Last week, I was out for how many ever weeks. I started to feel descent and better last week, but I had never been able to get there on the field. I think once we kind of knew how I was feeling last week, we knew that this week was going to be a go.”

### **On if he said anything to Washington QB Dwayne Haskins to lift his spirits after a few turnovers:**

“I think everybody is going to uplift him and things like that. Football, everybody makes mistakes and things happen. We put it on us as a defense. We were bad at sudden change today. When the offense did come around and get us up, we did not make the plays that we needed to keep the lead and things like that. Everybody on each side of the ball thinks that they can win or lose the ballgame, and that is the mindset that each player and each position group has to have.”



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

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**On if there were any positive takeaways from today:**

“Yeah, there are always positives and negatives anytime you play a game, whether you win or lose. At the end of the day, we are out here to come out here and win football games. We have to take those positives and take those negatives and learn from them and make sure that we are coming out next week talking about the positives and negatives after a win.”

**On how having fans at FirstEnergy Stadium changed how it felt on the sideline or field:**

“It definitely changes it. It just feels like you are in a stadium. I was telling a couple of guys that I was glad that my first game back there was going to be some fans and things like that. Football, especially this year, you have to take what is coming at you and just keep on going forward.”

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