



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. Houston Texans Postgame Zoom Interview
Week 10
11-15-20*

Head Coach Kevin Stefanski:

Opening statement:

“Nothing of note injury wise, which is obviously good.

“A great team win. Very interesting conditions throughout. Those are the variables that you have to be aware of as a team – us as coaches, the players and all of that. For our defense to play and hold them the way we did, and I know they had a big play there at the end, but that is an explosive group.

“Offensively, to be able to run it, it was not always pretty but late in the game to be able to run it like that... The play by (RB) Nick (Chubb) there at the end is indicative of the type of person and player he is. We told him, ‘Hey, get the first and game is over. Go down.’ We have a code word for that, and he said, ‘Yes sir,’ ripped down the sideline there and just did his job. We are looking for smart, tough dudes, and Nick Chubb is that.”

On how satisfying it was to run effectively and consistently late in the game to seal the win:

“We had to run the ball throughout that game. We were kind of in that mode from kickoff, just how those conditions were. We knew what the conditions were so then when you get those moments when a first down ends the game, that is when you really lean on your guys to come through, and they did. Credit to the runners obviously, but anytime we are running with success, it takes the receivers, it takes the tight ends and it takes the fullback, as well.”

On how bad the weather conditions were today, particularly in the passing game:

“They were legit. A couple times, my call sheet almost flew out of my hands. I have never been a part of that type of wind.”

On if the weather conditions, particularly the wind, were worse than the Raiders game:

“I thought so, yeah.”

On the tandem of Chubb and RB Kareem Hunt and how they feed off one another:

“I think they do inspire each other. I think they push each other. Kareem got dinged there for a second so Nick went in, and then Kareem was ready so Kareem went back in and Nick just came out. Those two guys do their job. They do it obviously at a high level, but they are all about the team, and I appreciate that.”

On the Browns sticking with Chubb in the run game during his first game back from injury despite a low rushing average early in the game:

“We just were in constant communication with him throughout the game. We had a number in mind to get to with him, but we were only going to get there if he was comfortable. Really throughout, he was feeling good. We talk about it. I think (run game coordinator/running backs coach) Stump Mitchell does an outstanding job in that regard and understanding those guys and where they are, and Nick was feeling good.”

On what allowed Chubb and Hunt to get going late in the game and if the ability to wear down the Texans defense was a factor:

“I think a physical game like that, typically you do find some yards late in the game when you are cutting them and when you are moving them. I think that played into it.”



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On when he found out the weather forecast was going to be this bad and how it affected the team's gameplan:

“We look at it early, but really not until Thursday afternoon and Friday do you really put any stock into the weather report, no disrespect to WeatherBug. Really, once we saw on Friday what was coming, we made sure that that we talked about it as coaches, the coordinators and myself, and then really get on the same page for what this game was going to entail.”

On what the Browns learned about themselves after playing in bad weather against the Raiders and how the team applied that today:

“I think it is a totally different game. It really was. In that game a couple of weeks ago, we did not have many possessions. I thought our defense did a really nice job today and forcing some punts. They battled. That offensive scheme coached by (Texans Head) Coach (Romeo) Crennel, I have a ton of respect for them. That QB (Texans QB Deshaun Watson) in particular, the way he spun that a couple of times, we have all seen that before. It was not going to be easy regardless of the conditions, but I thought our defense really, really strained today.”

On how important it is for the Browns to learn how to win close games like today:

“We always talk about how do we win this game. We are not worried about the game before or the game coming after this. What is this game? You often times have variables that are evolving, and the weather was a variable today and it might be a variable next week. Your matchups for sure versus the opponent and who is available to you on offense. We take all of that into account and just try to put together a gameplan to win this game.”

On if he was surprised Chubb ran out of bounds instead of scoring on the final run:

“I would not have been mad at him if he scored, but we told him – our code word for that is ‘no mas.’ We told him that before the third down. You are thinking gain the first and go down. Well, he gained the first and more. I would not have been mad at him, but knowing Nick, when you tell him to do something, he is going to do it.”

On his response to gamblers and fantasy players who may have wanted Chubb to score:

“No comment.”

On the Browns defense making key stops today to win a game without creating a takeaway:

“We are always going to be looking to take the ball away, and then there are moments where they do not present themselves or the offense does a great job. Credit to them in that we were not able to get one, but the ability to get off the field on third and fourth down is just so big. I should say that what you do on first and second down really matters in terms of where the third down distance is. I felt like they had some third-and-longer today, which make it more advantageous to your defense.”

On how significant the turning point was when DE Myles Garrett stopped Watson on fourth-and-goal:

“Huge. Points right there. They called the number of their guy, which I understand, and then our guy made the play.”

On the Browns going through a week of adversity and getting a close win:

“They did not blink. They were unfazed. I told them in the locker room, this is 2020, but you should not expect anything less. I am sure something else is coming – weather-related or whatever is may be – but our guys understand they are just going to control the things they can control ultimately and really just focus on playing good football.”

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QB Baker Mayfield
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QB Baker Mayfield:

On getting RB Nick Chubb back and Chubb's decision to go out of bounds at the end of the game:

“Obviously, Nick is a tremendous player and a leader by example for this team. We are very excited to get him back. Not only does he help our team out, but he helps (RB) Kareem (Hunt) – that one-two punch late in the game and those guys wearing on them. There were a lot of yards after contact where they just kept dragging people along with them. He is a huge part of our offense. We are very happy to have him back. That is a football awareness thing by him. It is one of a kind to be that team-first [mentality] to step out of bounds or get down before the end zone.”

On the weather conditions in today's game, given Head Coach Kevin Stefanski said they were worse than the Raiders game:

“It was way worse than the Raiders game to be quite honest with you, just the random gusts of winds. There was a lull in the game there, but it would just pick up out of nowhere. When it gets in, it just swirls in circles through the stadium and you don't know which way it is really blowing. We were affected by a couple of passes with the wind, but we dealt with it, and a win is a win. We dealt with the circumstances and came out with a win, and that is the most important part.”

On takeaways and improvements from the game against the Raiders:

“I think we ran the ball when we really needed to. Some of those key short yardage situations that we converted on, we did the things we needed to whereas we did not convert against the Raiders. Obviously, our third-down conversion rate was not what it needs to be, but we converted when we needed to.”

On sticking to the gameplan after not having a productive rushing game in the first half and if that can be challenging:

“No, that is part of trusting the gameplan, trusting the system and believing in whatever play we have called and the guys we have out there lined up. Kudos to everybody just accomplishing what we needed to do whatever it takes to win.”

On how bad weather conditions impact him as a QB, knowing there will be limited opportunities:

“It just means to be more zeroed-in and focused on those critical downs when we need to convert and just to make those count and to make those opportunities count. If you look at it against the Raiders, we only had a limited amount of series. Not just from my perspective, but in these games when both teams are trying to run the ball a little bit more, your opportunities are very limited so you have to take advantage of them.”

On the drive to set up RB Nick Chubb's TD:

“It was third down, and they had 3 Buzz coverage. I stepped up in the pocket and the defender in the flat did not get deep enough so I was able to deliver the ball and he (WR Rashard Higgins) made a great catch on the sidelines and dragged his toes. The look on the PI, they showed us a zero-blitz look earlier in the game and bailed out of it so I made a little check, gave him a chance and the PI was called.”

On the success of the Browns run game today, particularly late in the game and if wearing the Texans down and having Chubb and RB Kareem Hunt were factors:



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“I think it is both. I think when you are able to have that one-two punch of those guys being able to have somewhat fresh legs coming in late in the game, but you could tell that some of these runs that were going for 2-3 yards were starting to pop for longer. It really does wear those teams down, which is why we are blessed to have those guys in our backfield.”

On how the Browns came out of the bye strong and started the second half of the season with a win:

“I am very proud of our team just overall with dealing with the circumstances. Defense playing lights out. Offense, we can be better, but we did what it took to win. Special teams for (K) Cody (Parkey) to make all his kicks in this wind, that is pretty special. It is a great team win, but we are not done yet. We talked about it. It is just something to build on and continue to improve because there is still a lot of room for improvement.”

On DE Myles Garrett making a big fourth-down stop on Texans QB Deshaun Watson and the defense getting significant stops on third and fourth down:

“Yeah, they made great plays when they needed to. I think Myles took the approach that real Gs move in silence like lasagna.”

On Hunt’s contributions today and the RB tandem with Chubb and Hunt:

“Kareem, he brings that tempo and the electric runs to us. Nick will break those off and make long runs, but Kareem, the energy he brings into the huddle, he is constantly talking. They are two very different people, but I think that is the great part about it. Kareem brings energy into the huddle, continues to fight off tackles and just does not care what happens, just really wants to win in any way, which Nick is the same way. It is great to see how they both lead in two very different ways.”

On the fumbled snap during the opening series and coming out of the game with no turnovers:

“It is a tough one because the ball was wet and (C) JC (Tretter) told me to give him a second. We are trying to snap the ball quick, break the huddle quick and get up there lined up and snap it. He told me to give him a second. I thought it did, but with the circumstances, I did not give him long enough so I will take the blame on that one. I thought I got the ball out of bounds. They claimed that there was nobody in the area and then changed their minds and said it did not get past line of scrimmage. I do not know. That is a tough one for us.”

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DT Sheldon Richardson
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Week 10
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DT Sheldon Richardson:

On how big was it for the Browns to win in a bad weather game like this after the loss to the Raiders:

“It was big. An AFC matchup. Needed that. One step further closer to our goals. Next team up, though. Can’t let it linger on it too long. Enjoy it for the night, but back to lab tomorrow.”

On the difference in the way the Browns defense defended the run today compared to the Raiders game:

“Everybody playing the ball together, not just one person making the play. Everybody playing his assignment. That is all. Clean up our mistakes from last week.”

On what it was like during the national anthem when the weather changed drastically to cause a delay:

“It was weird. I thought he was signing his tail off, honestly (*laughter*).”

On if he has ever had a game where he came out for kickoff and had to go back in the locker room:
“First time.”

On DE Myles Garrett saying it was a full sack versus a split sack with him:

“Yeah, that is a half. They will give him a half (*laughter*).”

On playing in a football game with RBs Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt and what they bring to the table playing ‘Cleveland Browns brand of football’:

“I love it. I love it. I love it. Watching the boys run up the field like that, that is something you have seen once or twice and a couple of times in training camp, and thought like, ‘That is not going to happen in the game. I hope it happens in the game.’ They have been carrying the team for real.”

On Chubb not scoring on the big run to seal the game:

“I am a defensive guy so I do not know personally. I definitely would have scored that one, though – I would (*laughter*). Kudos to him, but I would have put us up two possessions and padding the stats.”

On the goal line stand against the Texans:

“Just doing my job. I knew what kind of figured they would fourth down. You want to put the ball in your money man’s hands so that is just what it was. I kind of figured it was either going to be some type of quick either screen or draw. When they went empty, I just knew it was a QB draw, bubble or screen so I just played my position, baited a little bit into the B-gap where my help was at because I knew (DT) Larry (Ogunjobi) would probably have a double-team on him so Myles was there to make the play. If not, I was still there.”

On if he could notice the difference in the Browns D line as a whole coming off the bye week, particularly from a health standpoint:

“Definitely showed up a lot today as far as us getting back healthy. Guys hands banged up, shoulders here and there, nicks and things trying to fight through it. Once again, we are back in the grind of it so we have to get back to it. It only last a week for being healthy.”



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On the significance of winning a game when the defense does not collect any takeaways:

“That is something that we missed out on our quotas of getting the ball back to the offense, but we did something that we have not did in the past two weeks and that is make them punt. That was a big thing for us. Just playing sound defense and playing together. We did that.”

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G Joel Bitonio
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G Joel Bitonio:

On the Browns having two 100-yard rushers for the first time since 1966:

“Getting the win was the most important part, especially, and then we get these windy conditions, we are going have to run the ball on Lake Erie. That is what we have to do here. We finally got it going. We felt like we were one or two plays away, one or two blocks away in the first half. We just needed to keep doing it and just strain a little bit longer. It was impressive. Having (RB Nick) Chubb out there and the way he runs, very impressive. (RB Kareem) Hunt worked his butt off this week. It was impressive to see. It is a cool stat. We are happy to be running the ball well and getting back in that rhythm.”

On halftime adjustments:

“We had a couple of good runs in the first half, but they had a couple of good shutdowns. We felt like one guy was missing a block and we were one block away, and we said we were going to keep wearing them down. The defense was doing a great job getting us the ball back. Finally in the second half, they were containing us pretty well still when Chubb was in there but he broke that last one. I think that was all Chubb. He is special. That was cool to be a part of that.”

On if he was able to see Chubb’s 59-yard run:

“Yeah, I was on the front side. I was reaching the 3 technique and I thought he was out of bounds, and then all of a sudden, he just breaks free. I knew we had the first down and then he went out at the 1-yard line like a true professional. It was very cool to see.”

On if he is not surprised by Chubb stepping out at the 1-yard line:

“You saw with (Falcons RB Todd) Gurley and a few other guys early in the season, it is hard. You are built to score. I think he had a long time to think about it when he was running down the field and that kind of helped him out a little bit. He is a professional. He is team first 100 percent of the time. That just shows it there.”

On the weather conditions and what he was thinking during the national anthem:

“The national anthem was crazy. I do not think I have been a part of that. The wind was blowing. I thought we were in that little hurricane, maybe like a Cat 1 or something like that. It was pretty impressive. I was like, ‘I do not think we are going to be able to pass the ball if we play in this weather.’ The wind was howling all game. It was not as cold as the last game. It is just tough to make some of those throws so that is why you have to be able to run the ball and have to be able to execute because you can’t really throw the ball downfield. It is hard to make those plays in the wind. There are like 12 different flags in our stadium and I think they all blow in a different direction. I do not know which way the wind was blowing. I am glad I am not a kicker. Also, I felt like we picked the longest national anthem ever. It might have just been the weather, but that thing was taking a little while out there.”

On if part of him wanted Chubb to score on his 59-yard run:

“I am sure a lot of fantasy football people are mad that he did not score, and I do not know what the line was for the game but that might have been close to it, as well. I am sure there were some implications with him not scoring there. You want to see the guy score, but he is such a professional to win the game. They are dangerous. (Texans QB Deshaun) Watson, you do not know what he can do on offense and that just secures it. Obviously, maybe if the clock was running out, zero seconds left, go ahead and score, but we will take the win.”

On Head Coach Kevin Stefanski calling Chubb a ‘smart, tough dude’:



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“He is honestly one of the best teammates I have ever been around on any level of football I have ever played. He is all about the team. He is tough. He played hard. The guy rehabbed like crazy to get back, how quickly he got back with his injury and stuff. It is just a testament to that guy. That is a guy you love to play with.”

On what the huddle was like on the last drive:

“We had to get a few first downs on that drive so we wanted to make sure we get it. Once we realized we only needed one more first down, that is when Baker comes in and says, ‘Hey, if we get the first down here, go down. We do not need anything else.’ They were out of timeouts or one left. Once he tells us that from the sideline and that is kind of how we find out what we need to do.”

On having RG Wyatt Teller back:

“It was good. It was good to have continuity. I think we had guys that we wearing on them as a group and I think you saw it late in the game we boosted a few more. He tries to mow people out there, and when you are playing, it is hard to tell who is making lead blocks and stuff like that, but it was great to just have the guy out there. I know the first game back, he worked his butt off to get back, too so it was good to have him and Hoop (TE Austin Hooper) back out there and (RB) Nick (Chubb). That was fun to have the whole offense, obviously besides OBJ (WR Odell Beckham Jr.) back out there.”

On if RBs Chubb and Kareem Hunt feeding off each other is picking up steam:

“We were talking about that, me and (C) JV (Tretter) through the game and it was like, ‘I think they run better when they are splitting carries and stuff.’ I think they realized they are not going to get as many touches and so they are trying to make something happen. I am sure they are going just as hard. I think it is just one of the things like competitive people want to be out there and I know they root for each other and stuff but they are like, ‘Hey, I want to get my opportunities to run the ball and have my chances to score and do big things.’ It is just fun to have them. You go down there, we have that one touchdown run with Chubb where he was the dominant guy running the ball and then Kareem came in and had a few drives and the Kareem started that last drive and Chubb finished it. It is just good to always have a fresh guy and you know they are top running backs in this league.”

On if he will enjoy the win tonight:

“Oh yeah, you have to always celebrate the wins. I have been here through some stuff so I take a night to celebrate, watch the film a little bit, get back after it tomorrow and start getting ready for Philly. It is our next test. It is fun to win – so much better to win. When you lose a game, you think about the two or three plays that you wish you had back. When you win those games, you still think about that, but it is a lot more in the back of your mind than it is in the forefront.”

On if he knew Chubb was going to play today throughout the week in practice:

“I saw him Monday and we were... I was not practicing Monday so I got to kind of watch, and I saw him doing some extra runs on the side and some sprints and stuff and I was like, ‘He looks like he is getting his cardio back. His knee is feeling fresh if he is running a few extra sprints and stuff.’ You never know with the knee, though. You never know how it is feeling. I kept trying to ask him all week how he is feeling and he just tells me ‘good’ all of the time. He could have just hurt it, and he would be like, ‘I am good.’ It was one of those things where I had a feeling he was coming back, but we did not make anything official until yesterday I believe.”

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DE Myles Garrett
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DE Myles Garrett:

On the QB draw by Texans QB Deshaun Watson on fourth down:

“I saw them go into empty, and they were on the 3-yard line. I knew they were not going to drop back and pass with such a dynamic quarterback like Deshaun. I just took two steps and kind of tried to bait him up the field, and then I knew he was going to try and run behind me and I just took it.”

On RB Nick Chubb’s performance today:

“You have seen this time after time with this man. He is one of the best in the league, and he shows that every time he is out there. Love getting to watch him, especially on my team. It is just fun watching him. That is all I can really say.”

On the Browns RB tandem with Chubb and RB Kareem Hunt:

“Hard-nosed. These guys are getting after it. When I watch Nick, it is like watching poetry in motion. I would not say it is like (Pro Football Hall of Fame RB) Gale Sayers because he does not really have that fluidity, but just how smooth runs and how he gets by peoples, it kind of remind me of that. Kareem, he is just a force. He will run through you. He will go by you. He will stiff arm you. He runs really aggressive, and he will go anywhere he needs to get to that end zone or that first down. To have both of them, it is just wonderful to be a part of this.”

On Chubb going out of bounds at the 1-yard line on his 59-yard run:

“He is selfless. He has always been selfless. I have not known him being any other way. I am comparing him to a lot of great backs, but it reminds me of (Pro Football Hall of Fame RB) Barry (Sanders) and how Barry always throws the ball to the referee when he scored a touchdown. He has that cool, calm demeanor every time he is on the field. He does not get too high or too low. He is always just keyed in, focused. Just loves to play the game. I expect nothing less. When I saw him, I was like, ‘I would not mind if you scored,’ but I know what he is going to do because he has always been that guy.”

On winning a bad weather game after the loss to the Raiders:

“We knew we could do it. We knew we dropped one last week, and we had some injuries, including myself. We just knew we needed to get back to our game and what we were doing. We needed (RB) Nick (Chubb) back and a lot of key guys back on the field, and we got the ball rolling.”

On why was the Browns defense was so much better on third and fourth down today:

“It is a testament to great play calling, and guys were rushing the passer well. It was windy day so they were not really trying to go deep or really trying to set up their passing game. When they were, we were on it. We had a lot of good blitzes. We were able to get free. We were able to get some pressure on him that caused him to throw some unapparent balls.”

On how he felt physically today:

“I felt great. Nobody is going to be 100 percent, but I was good enough to get out there confidentially and put my best foot forward.”

On if he ever got the feeling that the Texans did not want to be out there with the bad weather:

“I am going out there just to play the game. If you want to be there or not, that is not my issue. I am not trying to read into you. I am trying to take your heart no matter if it is sunny and 70 degrees or it is 30 and 40 miles per hour wind gust. Whatever it is, I am out there just to go win and be destructive.”



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“If you see (DT) Sheldon (Richardson) today, tell him that is a whole sack and not a half (*laughter*).”

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RB Kareem Hunt
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RB Kareem Hunt:

On having RB Nick Chubb back and if both RBs reaching 100 yards means even more:

“Most definitely. It is great to have Nick back. He is a great football player. I missed seeing him out there making big plays. We feed off one another.”

On if it surprised him that Chubb didn’t score on the last run:

“They told him not to score. They told me not to score if I broke one, too. He was doing a great job of being a good teammate and not letting the defense have a chance to get the ball back.”

On Chubb saying he wished he had slide instead of running out of bounds:

“Yeah, take a knee and stay in bounds.”

On how bad the weather was today, given Head Coach Kevin Stefanski said it was worse than the Raiders game:

“It was up there. It was definitely bad, and the wind was crazy. The beginning of the game was a shocker and out of nowhere, but it held up.”

On the weather forcing the teams back into the locker room after the national anthem:

“It was weirdest I have ever seen.”

On how difficult it is to not score a touchdown in Chubb’s situation:

“Yeah, very. I know in the back of his head when he was running that was the only thing he thought about. If he shouldn’t score, he shouldn’t. Personally, I probably would have taken six (*laughter*).”

On how having Chubb back impacted him and if it made him feel fresher:

“Most definitely. I was definitely fresher out there. The bye week, I had time to rest up and get my body somewhat back so that was a big thing, too. It is great to have Nick come in, too. No drop off.”

On if the Browns’ gameplan for the second half was to run more:

“That was the game plan honestly. We did that. The O line did a great job of making holes for Nick and I.”

On how satisfying was success in the run game late in the contest:

“That is what good football teams do. You have to be able to bleed the clock out, get those first downs and keep our defense off the field.”

On if the Browns are proud of closing out today’s game after the loss to the Raiders in tough weather conditions:

“Most definitely. We definitely have to win those sloppy games out there and find a way to move the ball when the weather is bad and you can’t go through the air.”

On if the low score of this game is just as satisfying as other wins:

“Most definitely. I don’t care if it was 3-0. As long as we get a win, that is the most important thing.”

On if there was a moment when he felt Chubb was fully back:



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“I knew that he was back in practice. It is good to see that man run. He is a great teammate and a great person. I wish the best for Nick all of the time.”

On his confidence in Chubb cutting the corner on plays and if he always expects Chubb to make it:

“I believe so, yeah. Nick is that type of running back.”

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RB Nick Chubb
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RB Nick Chubb:

On his last run and the decision to go out of bounds:

“I got a call from the (Head) Coach (Kevin Stefanski) and from (QB) Baker (Mayfield) to not score and to get the first down to end the game so that is what I did. Luckily, the run was a little bit longer because I didn’t think about it until the last 10 yards. I think that reminded me, running all the way down there.”

On if its tough to not score a touchdown in that situation:

“Yeah, it is. That is the natural instinct to get into the end zone. Something came in my head and said let’s go out of bounds. I should have just taken a knee or slid to keep the clock running, but it was a split [second] decision.”

On how good it felt for to be back out on the field:

“If felt good. I had to get going. I have not played in a while, and it felt like I had not played in a while. I just had to knock the rust off and keep trusting myself and keep trusting in the line and that it would pay off in the end.”

On Stefanski’s compliment that the team is ‘looking for smart, tough guys’ and that he is one of them:

“It means a lot. We all need to be smart and tough. I think for the most part we are and we are getting there. That is the sign of a good team.”

On if he feels like he gets stronger as he continues to get more opportunities in a game:

“Yeah, I like that. I definitely get into a rhythm. It has been a while. I have not ran the ball in a while. I played the game so I think I got in shape on that [touchdown] drive alone. I think it paid off.”

On if he ever thought about his knee injury during the game:

“It was really out of my mind. It was just end the game. I probably should have just taken a knee. I knew they did not have any more timeouts. Either way, the end result is going to be what it was.”

On how his knee felt today:

“It felt good.”

On his chemistry with RB Kareem Hunt and if they continue to feed off of each other:

“I was definitely feeding off Kareem the whole game. He was out there making great plays and making hard tough runs, and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. He definitely provided me energy throughout this game.”

On playing in bad weather and the teams having to return to the locker rooms after the national anthem:

“That was the only bad sign of weather was the national anthem. That was the only bad part. Other than that it was good.

On if the RBs know it is their time and the team is counting on them in bad weather games:

“We count on everybody. We all have a role to play in a game like that, and I think we all did a great job.”

On when he knew this week that he was going to play today:

“Not until Friday. I felt ready, but it was up to the doctors and coaches.”



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On his final run and decision to not score:

“We got a call that if we break one or get a first down to not score so that is what I did. I realized I had the first down and I realized that the game was over so I wanted to go out of bounds. I should have taken a knee and it would have ended faster, but that is what happened.”

On if it is tough to pass up a touchdown:

“It is. I think if I hadn’t gotten one earlier, I would have scored (*laughter*), but it worked out.”

On the impact for the fantasy players with his decision not to score on the last play:

“I guess I feel bad for that aspect, but we got the W. That is what matters most.”

On if the Browns have established their style and identity through the running game:

“We always want to be a team that runs the ball. I guess we got away from it the past couple weeks. That is who we want to be. That is who we work to be and we have to keep it going. Never satisfied. We got 10 points so that is not enough. We are going to keep working and keep getting better. We want to be an overall balanced team so we have to get better in all areas.”

On if the Browns are built for tough weather games:

“I don’t know. We didn’t win two weeks ago. We want to win every game, no matter what the weather is – rain, snow or shine. We have to be a great team every week.”

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CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*HC Romeo Crennel
Houston Texans at Cleveland Browns Postgame Zoom Interview
Week 10
11-15-2020*

Texans Head Coach Romeo Crennel:

On the failed fourth down attempt on the goal line:

“On the fourth-and-two, I was trying to get a touchdown. I felt like if we could get a touchdown in that situation with the weather being what it was that it would help our team quite a bit. We didn’t make it so we didn’t get the points on the board. We go into halftime, and it is 0-3. Now, we have to come out in the second half and we have to do a job in the second half. In the second half, we didn’t take advantage of our position with the weather and didn’t make the plays that we were making in the first half.”

On the timeouts called before the field goal attempt and before the Browns punted:

“I made a decision on the field goal. I was thinking about going for it and needed more time so I called timeout. Then I decided to kick the field goal. He (Texans K Ka’imi Fairbairn) hit the ball well, and the wind just moved it out of the uprights. The second timeout that I called, they were huddling on the ball and we were thinking that it was not going to be an offensive play so we had guys running on and off the field and so we were jumbled a little bit. I said rather than get a penalty and give them a first down that I would call a timeout. I called the timeout and used it at that time.”

On the weather conditions today and how it impacted the offense:

“Not only for the offense but for the defense also, the conditions were such that they had to send both teams in before the game even started. That kind of says something there. Then when we came back, it wasn’t sleeting and hailing when we came back, but the wind was a factor for both teams.”

On missed tackles on RB Nick Chubb and defending the Browns running game late today:

“We didn’t do as well in the second half against their run. In the first half, we slowed them down, and really, we stopped them in the first half. Then in the second half, we started getting out of position. I think guys started to try to make plays against the running backs instead of staying in their gap and winning their position. That is part of consistency. If you are a consistent team, guys do what they are supposed to do all the time the majority of the time. We didn’t do that.”

On the emotion with the team knowing that this was a winnable game:

“We are all disappointed because like you said, it was winnable. We felt like it was winnable. Even though it was 0-3 at the half, we felt like we could come back in the second half and then get points on the board and be able to pull it out, but it didn’t work that way.”

On RB Kareem Hunt’s and RB Nick Chubb’s performances:

“You have to give them a lot of credit. I think they rushed for 165 yards or something like that. They are hard to tackle. They don’t go down easy. They keep grinding. Then on the missed tackle at the end, we had one DB who went and took out the blocker and had a pretty decent shot. Then (Texans S) Justin (Reid) came and hit the guy around the legs, but he was able to get through it and then up the sideline.”

On the decision to pooch punt on the field goal in the second quarter:

“It was into the wind. I knew that a field goal would be rough, tough at that one so we popped up the punt. We call it a pop punt by the field goal kicker. He did a nice job. I think he put it inside the 5 on that one. In a game like today when the weather is a factor and you have great field position, you can play for field position and that can help you.”

On how much the wind and weather effected Texans QB Deshaun Watson’s ability to throw the ball:



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“I think that in the second half, particularly when we started off with the wind in the third quarter, we had a couple of down field passes where guys were open but the wind carried the ball so it was an overthrow or it moved it off track. Those are plays that would have changed field position and maybe put points on the board that we didn’t hit. The weather impacted that.”

On the weather’s impact on the defense’s ability to ‘sell out’ on the run, particularly in the first half:

“I don’t know that we were selling out. It was just in the first half, I felt that we did our job better after that first series. We did our job better and then we were able to stop the run. Then in the second half, we knew that they were going to run it so guys started trying to make plays and got out of position, and they took advantage of it.”

On the fourth down late in the third quarter when a timeout was called and the decision to attempt a field goal rather than go for it as the Texans offense remained on the field prior to the timeout:

“I called the timeout because I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to do. Offensively, they are aggressive and they wanted to go for it, but I thought at that time we were running out of time with the wind so I thought I would take the chance with the wind and see if we could hit the field goal. He hit it good. It was long enough, but the wind moved it out of the uprights so it ended up being a miss.”

On why up-tempo offense is not used more when it seems to spark the Texans offense this season:

“Sometimes it does, but if you go up-tempo all the time, the defense kind of gets used to it, gets into a rhythm and gets into an up-tempo rhythm. Sometimes, I think we want to know what the defense is going to line up in and kind of have an idea about what they are going to do. Sometimes when you go up-tempo, you don’t have that idea of what they are going to do because they are mulling around and doing stuff that maybe you don’t expect them to do. We slow it down so that everybody can be on the same page about how we want to operate a particular play call.”

On the attitude by Texans players in the locker room after the game:

“We were all disappointed that we did not win the game and we did not play better in the second half because we felt like it was a winnable game at halftime, and then we did not play as well in the second half and they won the game.”

On the frustration of not being able to win a close game like today:

“It is frustrating because the guys work very hard all week preparing for games. They play hard during the game. When you don’t win, it is frustrating. We don’t like to lose. We want to win, and they try to win. When you don’t, you are disappointed. We are disappointed about the outcome of this game.”

On an injury update:

“There were guys who got banged up. A couple guys came out and then went back into the game. I have not heard about any major injuries as of now.”

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CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*Texans QB Deshaun Watson
Cleveland Browns vs. Houston Texans Postgame Zoom Interview
Week 10
11-15-20*

Texans QB Deshaun Watson:

On the fourth-and-2 draw play:

“They just did a good job of stuffing us. That was it. I was trying to find an alley in a hole, and (DE) Myles (Garett) made a good play of redirecting and they had stopped us.”

On the difference between the Texans’ TD drive and other offensive series:

“We made a big play on, I think, it was third down to (Texans WR Randall) Cobb. They got a flag. We just took a shot and got in the end zone. It was no different from there. We only had two red zone opportunities, and we were one for two. The first one really hurt us because if we would have gotten that one, then maybe it could have been a different game. It was no different. We just kind of stalled before we got in the red zone a couple of times.”

On adjustments made due to weather conditions and how it impacted his ability to throw the ball:

“A lot. You have to be able to guide the ball. [It impacted it in] different ways and different areas of the field. A couple of times, the ball was right there, but the wind took it certain ways and directed it. It was tough. It was tough on both sides. That is why they did a lot of bootlegs, draws and different screens like that, but the same with us. We had to pick our spots and try to throw it down the field because that is what we want to do, but it is kind of hard with heavy wind. You can’t make any excuses. We didn’t capitalize. We didn’t connect. We just came up short.”

On Garrett’s performance:

“He is athletic. He is good, smart. He plays hard. They put him in a great position to make plays, and that is what he did.”

On Texans RB Duke Johnson’s performance:

“He ran the ball hard and he did what he had to do to continue to try to get positive yards, get first downs and big plays. Duke played a very, very good game. He protected the ball. He is just going to continue to get better.”

On frustrations with today’s loss:

“Every loss is frustrating. Regardless of how it is, every loss is frustrating. You have to take it on the chin and go back to the drawing board and just try to get ready for the Patriots next week. That is all we can do is keep looking forward, learn from the mistakes, learn from the missed opportunities and try to get back to the basics and get to the details of New England and try to focus on that one. It is tough to lose, especially in this league. We had opportunities, and we didn’t capitalize.”

On how the wind played a factor today and if the wind can act as an extra defender:

“It is tough, especially if you don’t get to experience it on a consistent basis or a couple of times. We play eight games indoors and Indianapolis indoors and things like that. Like I said before, it is definitely a factor in the game, but I don’t want to sit here and make excuses on that is the reason why we didn’t capitalize. That is not the reason. We had opportunities. We just didn’t make enough plays fast enough to be able to try to give us a chance to win. That was the key, but it is really tough.”



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On Garrett's speed, referencing the play where Garrett chased him down from behind as he made a first down:

"He caught me off guard. He really sunk, and I was kind of coasting, looking to throw the bow route. I think it was (Texans WR) Will (Fuller V) out there and the over was kind of running and coming in late, but it was covered. He was really sprinting and caught up to me very, very fast so that caught me off guard. He is athletic, and he has some great talent."

On whether he wishes the Texans offense would go up-tempo more often:

"That is a tough one. You have to really pick your spots because if you go up-tempo and it is three-and-out, then the defense is right on the field. If you go up-tempo – I know that's where the stats say we score the probably the majority of our points – then everyone is on the same page. I don't know. That is something that we are definitely going to look back on and watch the film and see what we have to do to continue to have consistent success driving the ball."

On what went wrong on the fourth-and-2 in the first half:

"Nothing went wrong. We got the look, and they did a good job of not getting out of their gaps. Tried to find the hole, and Myles made a play."

On the strategy of the first series of the third quarter:

"We really wanted to try and take chances. We had a big play with that one with the run ball with Duke. The next play, we took a shot with Will. He ran a crossing route. It was right on the money, but at the last second, it kind of got on him quick so he kind of misjudged that one. With that one, he said it was perfect but at the last second it kind of went to the side. I tried to throw him a fade route, and the same thing. The wind kind of took it when you kind of float it up there. We were trying to see what the wind was going to do and see if we had opportunities, but it didn't work our way."

On the approach for the Texans moving forward this season at 2-7:

"The same way we if we were 7-2 – go to work, put our heads down, grind, just keep working hard and play each game to the last seconds. There is nothing that you really can change. If we were sitting with a better record, I would be saying the same thing. Keep my head held high. Keep working. Keep trying to encourage and stay as healthy as possible. Nothing is going to change, at least on my end."

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CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*DE J.J. Watt
Houston Texans at Cleveland Browns Postgame Zoom Interview
Week 9
11-15-2020*

Texans DE J.J. Watt:

On Browns RB Nick Chubb's play at the end of the game:

"From my vantage point, we strung out the play all the way to the sideline. He was about five yards behind the line and then, somehow he ended up at the one-yard line."

On what happened in the second half that allowed the Browns to get more yardage and make more plays:

"We knew what kind of game it was going to be. Obviously, with the weather being what it was, it was going to be a run and play-action type of game and we were going to have to matriculate the ball down the field. Frustrating. Frustrating, obviously, and not where we wanted to end up."

On whether this loss is more frustrating than other losses:

"No. Every single loss is frustrating."

On what the difference was in defending the run in the first and second half:

"I'll have to watch the film and see. I'm not 100 percent sure."

On the biggest thing the defense needs to change to beat the Patriots next week:

"Stop them from scoring more points than we score. I mean, we obviously have to stop the run and try and get after the pass."

On what his emotions were after Browns RB Nick Chubb's run at the end of the game:

"Frustrated. We lost the game."

On how much of the run defense's issue is gap integrity:

"It is gap integrity, tackling. It is guys trying to do a little extra or we are not doing enough. It is a little bit of everything."

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CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

Michael Thomas
Houston Texans @ Cleveland Browns Postgame Zoom Interview
Week 10
11-15-20

Texans S Michael Thomas:

On the long run play by Browns RB Nick Chubb to seal the game:

“They ran their crack-toss play that they ran previously in the game. We knew it was coming and I saw guys fit in where they needed to fit – I think it was T.A. (Texans LB Tyrell Adams) – he comes up and sets the edge and takes out a part of the line. I see (SS) Justin Reid coming downhill and relentless – he goes hard every single game; he never takes a game off – and unfortunately, (RB Nick) Chubb found a way to get outside and we did not get him to cut back into the teeth of our defense, nor did we get a way to push him out of bounds, which would have been better. You see him somehow stay in bounds and tightrope the sideline. I think our guys fought hard. They knew the situation and they knew we needed that play to keep ourselves alive and give us a chance to come back and win the game. Chubb made one more play than we did.”

On the second half running defense struggles:

“I think guys kept going hard. I saw us continue to play good run defense in the second half, particularly on that touchdown drive to make it 10-0. We needed to get off the field on third down. We did a great job stopping the run on first and second downs—and it will be third and long, but we cannot get off the field. Then, you play against a team that has a good rushing attack with two great running backs and they kept getting the downs extended and extending the drives. They kept getting opportunities until they finally scored. On the last drive when special teams pinned them down to help give us a chance to win. I think guys were going hard, but we got to set edges and make tackles.”

On the third-and-long conversion by Browns WR Rashard Higgins:

“Everybody was exactly where they needed to be. I was on that side in underneath coverage, (QB) Baker (Mayfield) got out of the pocket, saw his guy in between me and (DB Vernon) ‘Vern’ (Hargreaves III) and somehow, someway, even with me making him put air on it and Vern playing top-down—they tried to put somebody in the flat to draw my attention and they wanted me to bite on it, but I did not. He made a hell of a throw and (WR Rashard) Higgins had enough awareness to keep his feet in bounds and make the catch. That is tough. If you want to be in zone defense on third and long, you have to find a way to have rushing coverage to go in there and get a sack or hopefully he does not make that good of a throw, or he throws it to Vern or me.”

On Chubb’s decision to go out of bounds at the end of the game:

“That was a smart football play. There will probably be some fantasy football participants who have Chubb and are upset about it, but he made the play he is supposed to make. You want to go out of bounds and never let special teams or the opposing offense touch the ball again. It was a good decision by him and that is why he is one of the best running backs in the game. For us, we are beating ourselves up about that, because we were doing a great job as a defense, stopping the run. If we had gotten that stop, which we set ourselves up for, we knew the play, we were there to make the play and we did not make it. That is tough on us.”

On if this is the most frustrating loss he has dealt with:

“It was one of them, just because we gave ourselves a chance to win the game. We want to give ourselves a chance to win every game, but this is going to teach us a lesson. Guys are beating themselves up about it and we were right there. We had the opportunities and we know we had a chance to win it, so we know



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

what it takes. We knew we had to go in there and stop the run and guys did that. We knew we had to tackle better as DBs and as a defense than we had previously done in the season and guys did that today. Guys who are flagged as not being great tacklers, you saw them make great tackles today. We did a great job setting the edge and a great job filling the gaps in the run game. We did everything in our power and special teams did everything in their power to try and help this team win. We were right there. We just have to finish, so we will learn from that.”

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CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*C Nick Martin
Houston Texans at Cleveland Browns Postgame Zoom Interview
Week 9
11-15-2020*

C Nick Martin:

On the field conditions after the rain and if it affected the team:

“I do not think it did. They actually did a great job here in Cleveland getting the field right. You could tell that inside the hashes were replaced before the game, so the field was in good shape.”

On if the weather delay affected the team:

“I do not think so. We are all professionals. We do not like the delays, especially after the anthem and the hail. Juices were flowing pretty high and it got people going. It was a different situation to start the game. Again, we are professionals and ready to go whenever.”

On Browns DE Myles Garrett:

“There is no doubt he is a good player. If people did not say that, they would be lying. Great balance. Great strength. On the inside though, I only saw him a couple of times on some games.”

On RB Duke Johnson giving the team a spark:

“Absolutely. Duke always runs hard. He is always fun. Whether it is Duke, (RB) David (Johnson), or (RB) C.J. (Prosise), (RB) Buddy (Howell) – whoever runs the ball, they run hard and that is why they are Texans.”

On what is different from last year to this year:

“I am not exactly sure. I thought we ran the ball better today, especially in these conditions. People are going to know you are going to run the ball and again, (RB) Duke (Johnson) ran hard. We have just got to look at the tape. The o-line is playing as a unit. We are having guys back and grinding it out every game.”

On the mood in the locker room after the game:

“No one likes losing, so no one is happy right now. There is no doubt about that. Everyone here knows what it is like to win. We hate the taste of losing, but it is a great locker room. There is a lot of character. There are a lot of great guys. We stay afloat. We stay grinding. We are going to watch the tape, learn from it, move on and work just as hard next week.”

On what is the key to salvaging something this season:

“Just like I said, take it day by day, week by week. Grind it out. We have got to win. There is no excuse against that. We have got to start getting Ws. We have too much talent here and too good of a quarterback. Losing is never an option. Again, just keep grinding it out and taking it one game at a time.”

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