



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

*Special teams coordinator Mike Priefer
Las Vegas Raiders vs. Cleveland Browns postgame interview
12-20-21*

Special teams coordinator Mike Priefer:

Opening statement:

“Good evening, guys. I told the team, obviously, I was very proud of their effort. Man, they fought hard. The offense took a little time to get going, but once they got going, they did a great job in the second half. Our defense played hard all night. Just came up short in the end. I told them I was so proud of their effort. We still have an opportunity. We are one game out of first place [of the AFC North]. We have three games left, and that is where the focus is going to be. When they come back to work, we have a short week, no excuses and we have to go get ready for the Green Bay Packers – obviously, a great football team. At the end of the day, I was very, very, very proud of their effort, fighting through the adversity this week, nobody batted an eye, nobody made any excuses and they went out there and fought hard. As you guys know, Takk (DE Takkarist McKinley) unfortunately was taken off the field and has an ankle injury, and he will be evaluated tonight/tomorrow morning. You guys will get further updates on him.”

On the frustration after coming from behind but falling just short of a win:

“Yeah, that locker room right now is hurting. That is the most I have seen it in that kind of pain. You are upset when you lose. Obviously, you are joyous when you win. When you lose that type of game, that one is tough. They are pretty down right now. We will have our job cut out for us this week in terms of coaches and getting them back up again and getting their spirits back up because they are young people. When you lose a game like that – a game we felt like we should have won there at the end against a good football team; they are a very good football team, a well-coached football team and they made the plays at the end, and that is a credit to them.”

On if he knew he would call a timeout prior to Raiders K Daniel Carlson’s final FG attempt or if that is a split-second decision:

“It is something you think about. Daniel is a very good kicker. Kicking into the Dawg Pound end. Our defense was a little bit tired – I could tell – so I wanted to give (CB) Denzel (Ward) and the other guys a little bit of rest. Part of it was icing him, and part of it was getting us ready to get a little bit of rest, a 30-45 second rest before we come after the kick again.”

On K Chase McLaughlin’s missed FG in the second quarter:

“They did a good job. He made the first one. He just did not hit it as well the second one. You have to make those kicks. The expectation is to make those type of kicks in that game, and he should have made it.”

On when the Browns knew G Joel Bitonio was going to start at LT and Bitonio’s performance:

“I do not know he did in terms of how he will grade out. I think it was probably a couple of days ago we found out that we were going to move him over there. I think he had one day of work out there. That is the first time he has done that since college. It is a credit to him and a lot of other guys who stepped up – guys coming off the street playing special teams and guys who were on the practice squad were starting on special teams. To come out and play that hard under those circumstances... I will never use that as an excuse because they are good football players; we have a really good locker room; and I want to give credit to our coaching staff for getting those guys ready. I want to give credit to our personnel staff. (Executive Vice President of Football Operations and General Manager) Andrew (Berry) and his staff, they did a phenomenal of bringing in people off the street to get ready to play. These guys, a lot of the guys we were familiar with, but they came out and played hard tonight.”

On going for it on fourth down in the red zone in the fourth quarter and if the team considered kicking a FG:

“If there were seven to eight minutes left, maybe, but we were concerned that we may not get great field position if they got a few first downs and punted the ball back to us. They have a good punter. We may not have had great field position going back so to me, that was a no-brainer.”

On if there is conversation regarding the decision or if it was his call:

“Of course, there are conversations.”

On the Browns defense on the last drive and not quite being able to pressure Raiders QB Derek Carr:



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“I think they came with pressure on the last one. We came close. We thought we had it. Derek made a great play. He is a heck of a quarterback. I do not know how many game-winning drives he has in his career, but I bet you there are a bunch of them. That was a good play by him.”

On why it took so long for RB Nick Chubb and the running game to get going:

“We had a young quarterback, who I thought did a good job, and really came on in the second half. I just think it took a while for the offense to get going, but once they got going, we gave ourselves a chance to win.”

On QB Nick Mullens maintaining his poise after the Chubb TD was called back due to a penalty in the fourth quarter:

“I think it says a lot about him. It says a lot about our whole offense, our offensive staff and everybody – offensive line. Those guys did a great job. When we knew it was first-and-20 at the 21 yard line, we had to score a touchdown. That is pretty rare, I would think. I do not know what the stats are. That was a great, great drive at the end.”

On what has to happen to bounce back from this loss on a short week:

“It is almost like it is actually a blessing that we have a short week because then you just come back to work and you have a new opponent. You do not forget about that loss. It is hard to forget about that loss. You have to move on from it, but I think my philosophy has always been, ‘Hey, let’s go back to work. Let’s keep grinding. Let’s keep working and get ready for a really good football team on the road.’”

On if he spoke to Head Coach Kevin Stefanski after the game:

“I have not talked to Kevin yet. I talked to him obviously before the game, and I will call him after this.”

On if he could tell DE Myles Garrett was laboring with a lower body injury late in the game:

“I think his groin is a little bit sore, but he is a tough guy. He fought through it like a lot of our guys.”

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*QB Nick Mullens
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12-20-21*

QB Nick Mullens:

On his emotions after the game:

"It hurts. Everybody is going to look at that one [play for each] player and just not being able to finish it. With the NFL, games are a chain-links of events. I think we had a lot of three-and-outs and just missed opportunities. You can't really pinpoint one reason why we lost. I think it just happened the way it happened. It really hurts. It was so cool and the stadium was rocking. I really believed in the fourth quarter that this night was destined for Cleveland, but sometimes it does not work out like that."

On if it took time for him to get comfortable in the Browns offense and to get going:

"Not really. I tried to stay in the same lane the entire game and tried to just make consistent decisions. I think on a couple third downs, I think on three third downs in the first half were short by one or two yards. That one or two yards makes all of the difference on staying on the field and keeping drives alive. No, I felt good. For me, the mental game is just as important as the physical game. I felt comfortable out there all night. A great group of guys to play with. It just happens."

On the TD to TE Harrison Bryant in the fourth quarter:

"We had a concept to the right, stepped up and scrambled left. You have me and the receiver, Harrison, and then a defender in the middle. It is kind of a monkey-in-the-middle type of game. You force him to come up, and that is when you spin it to him and he opens up. I think a lot of touchdowns in the red zone are not on rhythm so that is just a good example of how to get seven points inside the red zone."

On when he was officially told he would start today's game:

"In my mind, you kind of compare it to a rain delay in a baseball game. You are like, 'Are we playing? Are we not playing?' In your mind, you have to tell you, 'You are playing. You are starting. You are starting.' That is kind of how I approached the entire week once things happened. Today, Coach AVP (offensive coordinator Alex Van Pelt) told me I was officially starting. Just ready to go. You prepare, work as hard as you can and leave it all on the field. Unfortunately, it was not enough tonight."

On the final drive when looking for the first down:

"(RB) Nick (Chubb) is a tough runner, one of the best in the game obviously. We just came up short. I handed the ball off and keep out of my fake so I did not see the Xs and Os of it. It really stinks. I really felt like we were good enough and strong enough. Really wish we could have finished it and not even put the defense in that position, but it is just how it happens sometimes."

On his comment that in the fourth quarter he felt the game was 'destined for Cleveland':

"Sometimes, you just kind of feel like it is your night. We went up in the fourth quarter. The stadium was rocking. The fans were freaking awesome here. We had the cool lights and all. You are like, 'We are going to finish this out. This is our thing. This is what we are going to do.' I really believed that, but unfortunately it just did not happen. They made good plays on their end and executed well."

On the adjustments the Browns offense made in the second half:

"We just stayed patient and just keep going. That is kind of what I just kept telling myself and the team. Just keep going. We just did not convert. We did not extend drives in the first half, and that is really what you have to do. You have to be able to stay on the field. Obviously in the second half, we put the one drive together to stay on the field. That is what it takes. Third downs are so crucial. We converted them in the second half. We did not do as good of a job in the first half of converting those third downs."

On G Joel Bitonio playing LT:

"Joel is a stud. You guys know that more than anybody. You talk about what it means to be a Cleveland Brown, obviously, Joel is the ultimate Cleveland Brown. Whatever is asked for him, he does. Obviously, he has done it for a long time here. Being able to share the huddle with those guys, it means a lot. They are a really good group. You can tell their chemistry. They work hard. They work together. They did a really good job up front."



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On if there was anything said in the huddle about ‘we got this or keep going’ when Chubb’s TD was called back in the fourth quarter:

“Yeah, definitely. We were just positive vibes the entire time. Just focused on the next play. Just focused on what we had to do to get the job done. We were going to be determined to do that. Obviously, we came up short, but we had great persistence. Whatever happens, put it past us. Keep going. I really felt like there was more out there for us every time something happened. We are just a resilient group. I am proud of our guys.”

On when he felt comfortable out on the field and if felt like ‘old times’:

“Really after the first play. After the first drive. It is like, ‘Alright here we go.’ You trust your preparation. Have your confidence that you are a really good football player, and it was fun. Anytime you get an opportunity in the NFL, very thankful for that. It is your job to take the most advantage of it so you just work as hard as you can, have fun with the guys and work for victory.”

On how it felt when he stepped on the field to start:

“It was awesome. Like I said, you just prepare so hard, and you just want to give your team a chance. Going in, I told myself to protect the ball, make good decisions, make good reads and be accurate. That is when I am at my best as a quarterback. You just try to stick to that recipe as much as you can. I was just really proud of our team. We fought so hard, and sometimes it happens like that.”

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*Browns players
Las Vegas Raiders vs. Cleveland Browns postgame interview
12-20-21*

DE Myles Garrett:

On how is feeling after playing through some pain:

“Sore. Everybody has to play through some pain or injury. Everybody is dealing with something so I do not feel sorry for myself and do not want anyone feeling sorry for me. Get back and get ready for Christmas Day. We have another game.”

On if the injury he sustained was a new one:

“Yeah, it was.”

On what the last week was like being unsure about the Browns roster and when the game would occur:

“It was tough, but I can’t lie, I was excited before the game. We attacked it as a challenge. It was something new and something different. The guys who were next men up, they were ready to go and get out there, ready to make some big plays and they did. We just needed a couple more.”

On what Raiders QB Derek Carr did in the last drive:

“Got it off quick. It was a lot of quick throws in the middle of the field. He is good at that. There were not a lot of times we were rushing and put pressure in his face. There was enough time for him to check it down the field. Good for him.”

On if he was close to blocking the game-winning FG:

“I could not really tell. I was just trying to predict the way they were kicking and get my hand in the kicking path.”

On what he said to DE Takkarist McKinley after he sustained an injury:

“I told him to be optimistic, that we loved him and we were here for him. Just keep his head up. I know he was hurting physically and mentally. I just wanted him to know we had his back. Whether it is in the game or off the field, whatever he needs, we are here for him.”

On what needs to happen to put this loss behind the team and focus on the Packers:

“Go back to our core and our center. Go back to what makes us great. It is preparation. It is mentality. It is attitude. We need to look in the mirror. Everybody is doing something, and we are no different. We will be able to attack and bounce back from this.”

S M.J. Stewart:

On committing a pass interference penalty and then coming back to make a key defensive play:

“Next play. I do not think it was a flag. Clearly, it was not a flag, but you can’t argue with the refs. The refs called what they called so you just have to come back next play and keep fighting.”

On being pressed into a pivotal role this week:

“It was an opportunity, and that is how I took it.”

On the challenge transitioning between S and nickel CB:

“It is what I pride myself on. It is not really difficult for me. I know what I was supposed to do and know my responsibility. I make plays. I just have to make some more.”

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*RB Nick Chubb
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12-20-21*

RB Nick Chubb:

On the Browns battling today despite missing several players:

“We fought hard. It was not enough in the end, but our guys, we did fight. It was tough compared to the situation that we were in. But it is what it is. I think a lot of guys stepped up that needed to step up. At the end of the day, we have to finish, and we were not able to. Those guys finished so that is what happens.”

On frustration with not getting the first down at the end of the fourth quarter:

“It is very frustrating. In the NFL, you have to finish teams like that. The ball was in my hands, but it was not enough. That is something that we cannot do anything about it now, but in the future, I have to make a play, we have to make a play or something.”

On why the running game took time to develop:

“That’s a tough team over there, but we knew who we are. We are going to keep running the ball and keep pounding it. Eventually things are going to open up, and that is what happened at the end of the game – things started to open up for us.”

On special teams coordinator Mike Priefer saying it was the most hurt he had felt in a postgame locker room this season:

“Yeah, I agree. Games like that, you would rather lose by 40 than to lose by one. To lose by three seconds and a field goal, it is tough. End of the day, it is over with now so we have to keep moving forward. We still have a chance. Everything is ahead of us, and we have to learn from this and keep going.”

On QB Nick Mullens’ performance:

“I thought he played well. I thought he played really hard. He did not flinch at all. He came in, he knew his assignment, he knew what to do and he played hard for this team.”

On the Browns OL opening up holes despite missing some players:

“I thought overall, we played well. The defense had turnovers. The defense stopped them. We did good things on offense. We did not turn the ball over. We did not have many penalties. It is tough when you lose a game when you feel like you played a complete game. We have to finish. The ball is in our hands, we have to finish.”

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*G Joel Bitonio
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G Joel Bitonio:

On special teams coordinator Mike Priefer saying the locker room was hurting more than any other time this season following a loss:

“It hurt a lot. What we had to go through during the week and the guys who stepped up and put it all on the line, we were playing away. It did hurt. I have been a part of a few losses that have hurt, but that is definitely up there.”

On switching to LT and if he was only able to player there for one practice:

“Yeah.”

On how the transition to LT went for him:

“(T) James Hudson (III) tested positive on Saturday morning, I think. They were like, ‘Alright, you are up.’ I was like, ‘Let’s do it.’ We do not have very many other options, right? Thankfully I got a practice in where I could get some reps. Honestly, it is set, the timing and things like that. Watching more film on a different guy than who I have been blocking. It was good to have a couple of days to get it, but you do not get too long to think about it. You just have to go out there and play.”

On if he pitched the idea of playing LT or of offensive line coach Bill Callahan proposed it:

“I was kind of the emergency tackle a few times this year already in case something goes wrong. I kind of knew there was a chance, but then once James went down, it was like, ‘Alright, you are up.’”

On how he performed at LT:

“Pretty solid. I have to watch some film and see exactly. It is a little different when you are at tackle and you are running the guy by the pocket. At guard, if you get edged like that, it is like, ‘Oh, crap (*laughter*). I am going to hit the quarterback.’ At tackle, you have a pocket for a reason so you can kind of run the guy by him. There was one earlier in the game where my guy kind of slipped through. Overall, it was solid. Obviously, we want to get the win and figure it out.”

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*Raiders Head Coach Rich Bisaccia
Las Vegas Raiders vs. Cleveland Browns postgame interview
12-20-21*

Raiders Head Coach Rich Bisaccia:

Opening statement:

"I would like to start this off by just [saying] late last night, (Raiders LB) Will Compton called me and went down to his room. He lost his mom sometime between 10 and 11 o'clock last night. It was a long night for him and he ended up going home this morning. He went back to Nashville and drove with his wife over to St. Louis to be with his dad and his brothers. Our condolences to him and his family. It was difficult for him. We talked to the team about it this morning. Also, we saw (Browns DE) Takk McKinley get carted off today. We sure hope he's okay. He is a great player – really well respected in the league and certainly well respected by us in our locker room. We hope he's doing okay. Other than that, about the game, [I am] real excited for our guys. To win a game in that fashion and to play with the effort that they played with all the way to the bitter end, even when it looked like it was probably going to go the other way. To come back and have a drive to stop them and get the punt out. Then, to have a drive and go down and give (Raiders K) Daniel Carlson a chance to hit a field goal. Well done by our players. Real excited for them. Right now, again it's been a long time coming to win a game like that at the end. I can't say enough about how they played. We ended up minus two in the turnovers. It's difficult to win a game when you do that. We had some issues back there with (Raiders WR) Hunter (Renfrow) catching the ball. It was a lefty punter. There was a little bit of a swirl of the wind. Still at the end, I thought he made a great decision to get his hands on the ball even after the ball was bounced. It saved us some field position. Defense held right before the half and gave up a missed field goal there by them. Obviously now, you look at the end of the game and it ended up being a big deal for us. The first stop by our defense to start the game and then a big punt return by Hunter. Then the first drive for us on offense to go down and hit a touchdown was certainly big for us. With that being said, I'll answer any questions you may have."

On Raiders DT Johnathan Hankins making a big play on third down to stop Browns RB Nick Chubb:

"Yeah, it's the second time, right? Go to the Dallas game and Hank makes a big play in the second and came back out on the screen. I just think we're always thinking he's going to do that right now. That's the way he's been playing all year. He's been a force inside and I thought he played again to the bitter end for us and made a big play."

On how the team responded to the hectic schedule this past week:

"I think they had a right to speak their mind when that particular thing happened. I thought they did a really good job of coming back to work yesterday and resetting to some degree. Credit to our defense. We weren't sure what quarterback we were going to play against and we tried to prepare for all of them. Credit to the Browns before. They've gone to Pittsburgh a year ago with a lot of COVID issues with coaches and players and came out and won that game. They came out today and they played really good football, really physical football. It was a battle to the end for both teams. Credit to our team in preparing for some degree jersey numbers. They probably had to do the same thing. We lost (CB Nate) Hobbs this morning. We didn't know that was going to happen. They didn't know that was going to happen. We lost Will Compton last night. Again, just jersey numbers and to some degree nameless, faceless players, except we all know who 95 (Browns DE Myles Garrett) is for them. Credit to our guys for the way they finished the game."

On the team's confidence in Raiders K Daniel Carlson:

"Well said. I think our team has a great belief in Daniel. They see the way he practices. I think they have a great belief in the battery from (Raiders LS) Trent (Sieg) to (Raiders P) AJ (Cole III) and then to Daniel. They get to see them in practice and can see the way they work, the way they handle themselves in meetings and carry themselves when it's a miss, and the way they carry themselves when it's good. I think we all thought we were going to have a good chance to go out there and kick a 48-yarder. I'm excited that he made both."

On the rapport between Raiders QB Derek Carr and Raiders WR Zay Jones especially in big spots:

"I think they'd like to have a catch or two back. I think we'd like to have a first down back and finish the play, but they have great chemistry. We had a couple uncharacteristic drops, I thought today as well, where we had a chance for a couple big plays. I know (Raiders WR) DeSean (Jackson) was open across the middle and he had a big play for us, but I know he'd like to have that one back where it was a drop. We'll look at all those things and get back to work. There is a good chemistry and hopefully we'll foster that with some plays as well. We'll see what the injury status is for some of our guys when we get back home."



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On Daniel Carlson struggling with the wind pregame and whether there was a range determined for the last drive:

“Yeah, we always know. We certainly confer with him. The wind is always changing a little bit during the game. I think they took the ball to start the game when they won the toss. They took the ball because they wanted to go in that direction in the fourth quarter. We had some conversations about that as well. If we had won the toss, who knows what would have happened. We always know and it’ll change, so we know at the end of the second half also when he warms up, what his range will be regardless of where we’re going. But in that situation, we hope to get the ball to the 40 and we’re going to take a shot at a field goal and give them a chance to win.”

On the initial injury prognosis on Raiders QB Derek Carr:

“I think he got his ankle caught. It sounded like he got his ankle caught, from the guys upstairs that saw it. He came out for a little bit. They checked him out and said Carr is back up. So he’s up, he’s in.”

On confidence in the offense when they got the ball back after giving up an interception:

“Again, we had been moving the ball all day. We just had some drops and some plays we would love to have back. I think we were real disappointed in the drive before that. We threw the ball way down the field and got an interception. It was really bad by us. We’ll look at that and hopefully do a better job at that. I just think anytime we get on the field, even though we’ve been sputtering at times, we feel like we’re going to get ourselves in field goal range and at least have a chance to win it.”

On tonight being a good example of what he has been preaching about staying the process:

“We’d like to think so. We all know when we go out there, how important it is to win a game, or we wouldn’t be playing them. We’re all pro football players and we understand situation we’re in, what the race looks like. Again, we’ve been playing to the bitter end. A week ago is a week ago. We get a big play towards the end, uncharacteristic a little bit and gave up a gap. It was just a matter of time before Cleveland was going to come out and try to run the ball down our throat for as long as they could. They had some good drives and did a good job there at the end of the fourth quarter, but our defense held when they had to and forced a punt. Then our offense came down and gave Daniel a chance to win it. I’d like to think we’re just going to keep playing to the bitter end and see what happens.”

On how he feels about how everything was handled regarding the postponement:

“You know, I learned a long time ago that if I can’t control it, it’s nothing to really get too worked up about. We tried to convey that to our players. Here was a situation that was dealt to us, and then how are we going to respond to it. Again, credit to them. They did a great job. We gave them the day off when we didn’t get on the plane. Guys came in the next day and kind of treated it like another Friday on their own. They got their lifts in, they got their body work done. Then yesterday we kind of reset the whole morning. We started at 7:30 or 8 in the morning and we kind of went ahead like it was the day before. Well, like it was the day before the day before. A lot of credit goes to them. They did a great job of resetting their focus and getting on a plane and getting ready to play a game.”

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Raiders QB Derek Carr:

On his fourth quarter interception:

“In the situation we were in, I was trying to be aggressive all night, especially with certain looks we had and the weather. Usually think, just run the ball. I tried to come out with a real aggressive mindset. We had a lot of trying to hit some big play kind of things. Even there, I got the coverage I wanted, and I just gave (Raiders WR) Zay (Jones) a chance. Obviously, their corner sped up, stayed on top and made a play on the ball, which I have to give him credit. He made a great play. After that, it is just, ‘I promise we will win the game. I promise we will win it. Just get it back.’ The defense did, and we were able to go back down field and win the game.”

On his chemistry with Jones:

“It is not perfect. We are still working and all of those good things, but the chemistry is that I trust the guy. There was a slant that (Raiders WR) Brian Edwards caught in the end zone – I think it was the second quarter; I can’t remember the quarter exactly – to my right. It was single-high coverage, and I told him, ‘That is trust down there.’ Same thing with Zay. I trust him. I told him – I went to him actually after that pick – the details of why do not matter, but I went to him and said, ‘I am coming right back to you, and we are winning this game.’ I knew I needed him, and I wanted him to know not only do I need you, but I believe in you. Even on the holding, he had a big play and a big catch. Super proud, and I am super happy for him. He and I have a very close relationship besides football when it comes to talking off the field and spending time together. He comes over to the house and all of those good things. I trust him. I am just happy we got the ball back, not for my own sake but so he could get the ball back in his hands. He won the game for us. It was awesome.”

On compartmentalizing the emotions of the hectic schedule leading up to this game:

“Again, my teammates said things that I agreed with and all of that kind of stuff. At the end of the day, just how I was taught, life is going to throw you curveballs. There are going to be adverse times. I am just going to show up whenever they let us play, and we are going to play. Whether I agree or do not agree, I do not really think it matters. It is good for you guys because you get to talk about it. I am just being honest. At the end of the day, we all know it does not really matter. We have to play at some point, and after that game, we are going to stand there, and we won or lost. That is kind of the approach I took. I wanted to play. I have a schedule. For me, I have a routine. It messes with that a little bit, but if that is the hardest thing I deal with this week, then thank the Lord because we know that we have teammates dealing with a lot more than that as we know. My schedule, my routine and how I plan my week, that is probably the biggest thing that changes.”

On what went wrong on the deep interception in the fourth quarter:

“I threw a pick. It was the coverage we wanted, and he will tell you he wants to accelerate, go get that ball and make that play for me. That is one on one, the safety was low and I threw it over the safety’s head. Zay is going to tell you he should have made that play, and I am going to tell you I threw a pick. Those are the things. At the end of the day, we get it back. He made some huge plays for us.”

On the play when he was hurt and how soon he knew he could return:

“It probably took I don’t know how long, maybe a minute in my brain. It’s the same ankle I did in Pittsburgh. It’s the same ankle I broke. Honestly, I think it’s scar tissue that keeps breaking. I hear these pops and rush of pain, and I’m like, not again. I remember that feeling. It wears off and I’m like thank goodness, because when I broke it, it didn’t really wear off. The scar tissue thing is weird. It’s not like rolling your ankle. You feel a whole bunch of these pops and you’re like, is that all the ligaments because it hurts. I mean, I’m on it. I’m okay, but when it first happens, for the first couple minutes, I’m like I don’t know. I don’t know. I just prayed and thankfully it wasn’t anything serious.”

On lining up a play with Raiders QB Marcus Mariota:

“I’m always ready. I joke with these corners all the time because I’ll run routes and mess with them. I’ll look at them like he’s not throwing it to me, and they’re like ‘he’s not throwing it to you’ and we just laugh. Who knows? Maybe one day I’ll get a one-on-one. I’m not a bad basketball player so I can go up to get a ball.”



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

On the level of confidence in Raiders K Daniel Carlson:

“High. Super high. In my brain, when we got the ball back, I know what yard line I have to get Daniel to so we have a chance. Daniel has proven over and over again for me. Everyone wants the comeback wins and all this stuff, but it doesn’t matter if he doesn’t make the kick. He makes them. He’s proven it over and over again that he’s a super confident player and a good friend too, so that makes it cool. I don’t really watch the ball; I watch his reaction because he always gives it one of those (arm gesture). Speaking of me being a basketball player, they’re getting replacement players now. Did you hear about that? So, if anyone needs an extra guard. I read that this morning and I was like this is my chance. If anyone needs a shooter and some hustle, I got you.”

On what yard line he had in mind for Carlson:

“For me, I usually think around the 35. When Sea Bass (former Raiders K Sebastian Janikowski) was here, he would usually say ‘get me to the 50.’ Sea Bass, that doesn’t even make sense. With Daniel, I always think around the 35 and if it’s a little bit farther than that, I still think he can make it, obviously. He shows it all the time. If I can help him out with an easy completion depending on time and timeouts and all that kind of stuff. Algorithms I guess, going through my head and trying to figure out decisions and all that kind of stuff. But around the 35. At 40, maybe Coach (Bisaccia) is talking about max and in the wind. I don’t know. But usually, I’m thinking around the 35. It’s on the 40, 41, I know we still have a chance obviously, but I want to get him as close as a I can from that number.”

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CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

Raiders players
Las Vegas Raiders vs. Cleveland Browns postgame interview
12-20-21

Raiders K Daniel Carlson:

On if there was a yard line he had in mind where he felt comfortable for the game-winning attempt:

“Pregame practice with the wind, I think 35-yards and in so a 53-yarder and in felt like a comfortable range. 40-yards and in, we can hit that. At the end of the day, we are going to try anything realistic. The offense did a great job. Despite a couple of penalties where we got pushed back, we found a way to get the ball to the 30-yard line for a 48-yard field goal. That is huge props to them. Huge props to the defense for making the stop quickly so we could get a chance to get the ball back. Awesome finish to the game and it was an awesome team win for us.”

On his thoughts prior to the Browns calling a timeout before his field goal:

“You cannot really guess. You just assume that the first one is going to count. If you get a second, then the second one is going to count. I heard the timeout about halfway when the ball was in the air, so I could at least figure out the wind a little better. I think I hit the ball better the second time because I had not been kicking that direction on the field for a while, so you are guessing the wind. With the second one, I knew exactly what the ball would do. Great snaps, holds, protection all night. It was fun to be able to do my job and get the win for us.”

On if his earlier kicks helped him get a feel for the wind:

“It is huge. Any cold weather windy game at least it was not rainy. Saturday was supposed to be rainy so at least we avoided that. Any game like that you have to try to figure it out pregame, halftime, and throughout the game as well.”

On if he could hear the Browns crowd:

“It kind of goes dead when you get in the zone. You have to turn it into background noise. Obviously, when I am on the sidelines and people are yelling at me, it is always fun. When I am in the zone and so focused, I am not very good at multi-tasking – just ask my wife. If I am on my phone, I am not going to hear her yell at me either. Maybe that is a good thing.”

On the reactions after the game winning kick:

“I noticed our guys started yelling and that was real fun. It is good to celebrate a big win on the road.”

Raiders DE Maxx Crosby:

What he expected on the Browns’ third down prior to the Raiders’ last drive of the game:

“We expected them to run. They did a good job in the second half. There were a couple of times where (RB) Nick Chubb was running that thing hard. We had to make a play. It is just a credit to the coaching staff, the defense, and everyone coming together and getting those three stops in a row. Getting (QB) Derek (Carr) the ball back.”

On NT Jonathan Hankins making the tackle on third down:

“Hank, that does not surprise me whatsoever. He is one of the best run-stopping guys in the league. He always comes up big time in big moments, running down field on screens with his 340 LB – or damn near. The effort he plays with is insane. That goes for our whole group. Guys are playing their tails off. We gave our offense another chance.”

On what the last 72 hours has been like:

“It has been pretty cool. Everyone was freaking out. They were mad. Cleveland guys were all upset. Couple of guys were upset. I was fine with it. My calves are a little soar, so I got to lay back, get some more treatment, play some Fortnite. It was a good couple of days. I am not complaining.”

On the level of confidence seeing K Daniel Carlson running on the field to kick the potential game-winning field goal:

“It was funny, I am on the sideline. I 100% believe in Daniel. He is money. We are sitting there and we are checking out the wind, I am picking up grass seeing which way the (expletive) grass was falling, excuse my language. We were just laughing and



CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

trying to make sure we were all good. He hit the first one and I was like, ‘Alright, he is going to hit the next one.’ It was exciting.”

On how it feels to be named to the Pro Bowl:

“It is honestly crazy. I found out right before the game. I really did not believe it. I had to take a moment. I broke down. I just put in so much work. For having my teammates, my peers, coaches around the league. It is a dream come true. Those awesome individual awards are cool, but something like that – I think about that as a kid. I have five sacks. I just want to show people out there that it is not all about the sacks. I have had double-digits. I have done things like that. It is your impact. No matter what it is. It is your impact in the locker room, it is your impact on the field. Effecting the game no matter what stats I get. I believe I do that every single Sunday. It is what I try to do. It was super special for sure.”

Raiders WR Zay Jones:

On the offensive plan for the last drive:

“It was a two-minute drive. We have to go win the game. We have been in that position before. Just a huge credit to the guys all around me. They did not blink. From (QB) Derek (Carr), to (QB) Marcus (Mariota), to (QB) Nate (Nathan Peterman) – just encouraging me to finish strong. Having (WR Hunter) Renfrow and (WR) Bryan (Edwards) there as well – all the guys. It was a really special moment.”

On how much the offense wanted another chance after the interception:

“It was heartbreaking. I was running down there as fast as I could. Lay out for the ball. Their guy (Browns CB Greedy Williams) made a great play. To be honest, I was a little defeated. I came back to the sideline and I was frustrated. Derek grabbed me and said, ‘I am coming right back to you and you are going to win this game for us.’ It just reignited fire in me. Marcus said the same thing to me. Nate, the guys rallied around me. I tried the best I can to be ready for that moment. Just a good way to close a game. Our defense, especially giving us an opportunity to get the ball back. Our special teams, to close it like that. It is a complete team effort.”

On his reception that set up the game-winning field goal:

“To be honest, I went kind of blank. I just heard the call. I do not remember what the call was. I was just really in the zone at that point. Those 2-minute drives happen pretty fast. Just try to line up as efficiently as possible. Trying to fight through fatigue and things like that. Really just try to set up our team to get in position to either score a touchdown or kick a field goal.”

On what he was thinking on the sideline after Derek talked him and the defense was on the field:

“It just showed me that Derek had a lot of confidence in me. Just a trust and belief in my teammates. All across the board. Not just Derek alone, but my defense. Those guys, they played their asses off. That is what they do. From Maxx, (DE) Yannick (Ngakoue), linebackers, DBs. Guys really showed up today against still a really good offensive unit – has a tremendous run game. Just trusting and believing that we are going to have an opportunity – no matter if it is 10 seconds, 30 seconds, whatever it takes to win a football game. Just stay alive and we are still in it.”

On how big the win is big picture:

“It is a big win, but it is one win. We wanted to be 1-0 this week and that is what we got done, that is what we accomplished. So put this one to bed and move on, because we have another tough opponent coming to us at home.”

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