



Postgame Quotes
Cleveland Browns at Carolina – September 11, 2022

CLEVELAND BROWNS HEAD COACH KEVIN STEFANSKI

Opening Statement: Obviously proud of the guys. We talked about it being a 60-minute game and it was. We needed all those 60 minutes. They fought like crazy. Not clean. Never is in a game one. There's plenty to clean up. Defensively, we're outstanding. Minus just a couple plays. It's on us. That's my responsibility. We just let them have a couple plays. Offensively, fought like crazy. I know the stats maybe aren't pretty. I don't care. Then the kicking game. He came through. We knew he was gonna come through for us at some point. Here it is in game one. The kid just knocks it down the middle. Really proud of those guys again. I did remind them in there. This counts as one. It's one game. We're 1-0. We got the biggest game of our life next week against whoever we're playing. That's how we're going to handle this. Great win. Excited about it. We're back to work come tomorrow morning. With that, I'll take any questions.

RE: On how far he was willing to let Cade York kick

I told the offense before the drive let's get to the 40. That was our goal. Now, if we had not gotten to the 40, we would have made a decision.

RE: On what he said to the offense before the last drive

You don't have time to address them. What you try to do is just give them the particulars. Alright, here's how many times timeouts we have. None. Here's where we need to get to. Here's what I'm thinking to start to drive with. Then Jacoby (Brissett.) He battled his butt off. That's what he does. Again, some big big plays there on third downs in the second half. I think no bigger than the one he hit (Anthony Schwartz) on the scramble drill. Proud of those guys.

RE: On drafting York

Good draft pick by Andrew (Berry.) I didn't want to try a 50 yarder early in this game. I wanted to get him some extra points. Some field goals. I just wanted to get him seeing the ball go the middle of the uprights. Then we knew if we needed him, we were gonna call.

RE: On York missing many kicks in the pregame and if he was concerned

I did. And no. Do you miss putts on the putting green before? Yeah.

RE: On if there was a number of how far York would kick in the game

It always varies. The numbers really where you're trying to get to typically. Then where you might try one in certain game circumstances. The number is gonna change based on condition. Based on when. All those different things.

RE: Having two running backs in Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt.

Those guys compete like crazy. We're lucky to have two guys. We got one A and one B. They just battle and they fight for each other. They can do it all. Sometimes they're out there together. Sometimes they're not. Just thought they fought like crazy.

RE: On if the offense was confused at the start of the game

I don't know what the word is. But it's the first game. It wasn't clean. Getting lined up incorrectly. Put it on me. Just maybe some bad play calls or whatever. I think the first game. The heat, which if they get hot out there. We know there's going to be some confusion. Hopefully, not a lot of confusion. But there was just a little bit too much of that. Those are the type of things that even though you win this game, you can't lose sight of this.

RE: On the big plays by Anthony Schwartz and Donovan Peoples-Jones

Battle. That's what they are. They're battling like the rest of those guys. I thought 11 (Donovan Peoples-Jones.) early made some contested catches that were huge for us in that game. Then we trust Anthony (Schwartz.) We got a lot of faith.

RE: On the last six minutes of the game

I think in the moment, you're just so focused on the task at hand. What we need to do. They get the big play. They're in field goal territory. Great shot by our defense to hold him to three. Obviously, that was huge. Then it's alright, we're coming back. You're seeing the moment. Just figuring out what you got to do to get a win. Any which way. You got to find a way to win.

RE: On the defense getting tired the last half of the game

It works both ways. I think you'll know more after you watch the tape. There were moments we really rushed well. I'm sure there's moments we want back. Wish we could get the ball on the fumble there. They were backed up, but they fought like crazy.

RE: On if he talked to Baker Mayfield after the game

I did not.

RE: On what he thought about Mayfield's game

I think he fought like crazy like he always does. I think that's a good football team. We knew this was going to be a 60-minute game. That both sides are going to be throwing haymakers. We knew that and that's what it was. It's a good football team.

RE: On if Denzel Ward was on a snap count

For all of our guys, I tried to be real smart in this week one. Especially guys that haven't played a ton. Have come off whatever type of injuries that maybe they've had. There were a bunch of guys I just wanted to make sure we were rotating early. Really, at a lot of positions.

RE: On using safety looks with Ronnie Harrison Jr.

That's part of what we do. We'll have times when we're in multiple books. I think it's a great thing about having Ronnie (Harrison Jr.) and his versatility. Where he can line up in the box. He can line up in the post. We just like having versatile football players that we can line up.

RE: On what happened with the defense on the play with Robbie Anderson

I don't know yet. Based on the call that we had, that should never happen. I have to look at it.

RE: On how the defense played

Great. Outside of that long one. The one that we had running somebody late on the field, it's just disappointing. But I thought we played the run well. Had the one takeaway. Would have loved to have gotten the other one. All in all, really proud of how they fought.

RE: On Jacoby Brissett and how he played

I'll know more watching it. He battled. We missed a couple early. Felt we had a couple shots. We just weren't on the same page. Again. That's week one. We will be better. That's again just my message to this team. Really proud of the win. You've got to, in a win, look at the things that you got to clean up and get better.

RE: On the locker room credibility York got after the win

Obviously, a lot. I will tell you. He's very well liked on this football team ebefore today. So I guess it helps. He's a good teammate.

RE: On this first game being difficult historically for this franchise and how good it feels to break through

I don't care. I really don't. And I understand. I can just speak to the last three.

RE: On if he is relieved after week 1

I wouldn't characterize it that way. Just week one. What happens is the schedule comes out and you spent five months staring at September 11 and the Carolina Panthers. It's a long week going into this game. You're starting on them before Labor Day. Then you're watching a ton of tape. I am looking forward to having a normal week. Just put a game plan together. Go find a way to get a win.



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BROWNS QUARTERBACK JACOBY BRISSETT

RE: If playing that type of game was easy.

Nope. Not at all.

RE: If he expected the game to play out like it did.

For sure. We talked about it all week being a 60-minute game. I think we came out and did that. Going against a tough opponent. They gave us all they had obviously. Bringing it down to the wire. We knew we needed all three phases in the game and at the right time all three phases showed up.

RE: What was going through his mind on the last drive.

We have practiced that situation so many times. Just give us a chance. Coach on the sideline told me we need to get to the 40 to try for a 58-yarder. After we got the penalty I was like one more big chunk, which we were going for, gives us a chance. Donovan Peoples-Jones did a great

job. Obviously other plays just leading up to it and we trusted Cade York. We have seen him do it at practice a bunch and came through for us.

RE: If he got hurt on the first play.

No.

RE: What happened on the first play.

Yeah, he just hit me in the head.

RE: What is says about Cade York to make the kick as a rookie.

It says a lot. Coming in everybody obviously knew about Cade and seeing the kicks he has made throughout his college career. Like I said, we saw him in practice do it. You see the work he puts in the confidence he has. And it showed up today in the biggest moment.

RE: What it feels like on the sideline when the Panthers offense gets moving.

You never really look up at the scoreboard until the end. Like I said, we knew it was a 60-minute game. We knew they were going to make plays. They've got good players. They've got a good team. So it is just about sticking with our plan and finding ways to keep making plays at the critical moments. You just think about Anthony Schwartz on his third down making a big play. Donavan Peoples-Jones on that one. You know the o-line did a great job in protection and running the ball and giving us those opportunities to make those plays. I think that is what it all boils down to.

RE: If he thought the flag was on him on the final drive.

I don't know.

RE: What was going on with his game in the first quarter.

I think emotions were high. This moment, sorry. The build-up to this moment, it goes further than, for me, from being here. A long time coming to get to this point. And I've got to do a better job of calming those emotions down and especially in a lot of these critical situations. We made the right plays at the right time.

RE: What it means when it is close to be able to depend on rookie Cade York.

That is true. He did come up to me and tell me that. But when you get to this level, the years don't matter. Once you lace up we are counting on everybody. He came through on his word. Hats off to him. I mean it is unbelievable. I mean his first game, first NFL game. It was special. I hope he cherishes this moment. I know he will. Looking forward to more of them.

RE: If he was more emotional at the start of this game than usual.

Probably so, yeah. I would say so.

RE: If his emotions were due to getting another chance to start.

I think that definitely played a lot into it. And just right now for me, thoughts and emotions are going through my head right now. Like I said, leading up to this. These aren't promised. So, whenever you get an opportunity you cherish those opportunities.

RE: If this game was the highlight of his career.

Sure, yeah. Playing in the NFL is a highlight every time and that is why I think I am so emotional. It is because they just don't come that often. And it is definitely special in the huddle and being the guy.



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BROWNS RUNNING BACK NICK CHUBB

RE: Rookie kicker, Cade York making a 58-yarder

That is amazing man. As long as I have been here, we always had chances like that and we end up missing it. That says a lot about him and who he is. We have finally found our guy.

RE: What is the emotional up and down of a game like today

That has happened before. I remember last year we were beating the Chiefs going to halftime and they ended up coming back and winning. That says a lot about us. It is a new team this year, we are going to find a way to finish, and we did.

RE: Did you notice Jacoby Brissett getting upset before the game about his opportunity?

I didn't notice that. He was calm, he was collective and he looked like he had done it for a while. He has and it showed.

RE: Jacoby Brissett leading you on the last drive

It says a lot. He is our guy, we are going to follow behind him. He is a great leader and he is amazing for us.

RE: How nice to be on the field with Kareem Hunt?

That is nothing new. I love Kareem (Hunt) so much, that is one of my best friends on the team. He is amazing, he can do it all. He had a running and a receiving touchdown. It just shows who he is and how his ability is on the field. He can do everything.

RE: Did you get a chance to talk to Baker Mayfield?

Yeah, I did.

RE: What was it like talking to Baker Mayfield?

It was cool. Great to see him. Obviously he wasn't in the best of moods, because you know that didn't win the game. But at the end of day, off the field, you know it's bigger than this, and he is still one of my best friends.

RE: Is that typical Mayfield being able to fight to the end?

Oh yeah. Kareem was saying the whole game, you know its Bake, he's going to fight. He is not going to give up and he didn't. He came out second half, I think they outscored us pretty much. But yeah, its Bake, he is not going to give up on his team.

RE: What inspired the hype video?

Just being in Cleveland for the last four years and things not going our way. I feel like it is time to turn a new leaf as Kareem has been saying, and yeah that's what it is.



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BROWNS DEFENSIVE END MYLES GARRETT

RE: On how he would describe Cade York

Hopefully, our future. Was a hell of a kick. Big time momentum swing. I know we still had to cap it off. But game winners don't come off kickers very often. For him to do it as a rookie. That's big for him and his confidence going forward. It's big for us as a team.

RE: On his feelings after the win

It's always nice to win. You don't like to leave it that close. Especially on defense. You got to lead and get some momentum. Make some plays. We'll be going back to the drawing board and see what we can and fix those mistakes. Really where our heads are now. Once that weight was off our shoulders with us getting a lead. That kick. We knew we had to cap it off. It was time to finally step up to the plate and end it.

RE: On him approaching Baker Mayfield after the game

Two competitors. Player to player. Man to man. Most of the guys I was competing against on the field. Maybe we'll see the offensive lineman. I'll go to them and the wide receivers, halfbacks and tight ends. All the guys who I was able to compete with. It's a privilege to be able to step on this field and play

against these guys. We're some of the world's best athletes and America's best. Just happy to be out here. Tell the guys be grateful for it.

RE: On him gaining more respect for Baker Mayfield

No, he didn't lose my respect. I don't think I've ever had a problem with him as a football player. He was playing injured. That earns a lot of respect in my eyes as well. From him being able to lead those kinds of drives. I've seen it before against multiple teams. I just didn't want to be on the opposite end of that.

RE: On the first half of the game

Pretty good start the first half. We let a couple of things slip as far as no man on the field. Being in the right place at the right time. The alignment. We got schemed up a couple of plays where they had some explosives. As far as pretty much consistency throughout, it was pretty solid. Was just letting those leaky plays get us.

RE: On his reactions to the winning field goal

None of us on this sideline have a good angle. At that point, I'm just looking at the crowds reaction. The people in the back are celebrating or cheering. Or not cheering. Then I know what the kick is looking like. I'm just asking God for a win at that point.

RE: On his second half of the game

I was just playing my game. Go out here. Just treat it just like a practice. Same kind of environment. Just because we had some cameras shouldn't mean I have to play any different than I do in practice. I'm trying to give my all out there. Hopefully it translates every time I step on the field for a game. As far as those plays being made, just playing within myself, knowing that no opportunities are going to come with one on ones or with inside moves or whatever it is. I'm going to get my opportunity to make it count.

RE: On what set the tone for the game

The tone was set with the attitude of some of the guys on the other side. We were just ready to go out there and finally put things to bed.

RE: On if things that were said before the game impacted their attitudes

Had us a little bit off the leash.

RE: On what it means to start off the season with a win

It's big. You want to start off every year 1 and 0, That streak or whatever didn't cross my mind. I'm just trying to continue to grow as a player and a leader. Help these guys win. I know we have the guys in there to win each week. We're just trying to take one at a time. This one, got to put it to bed tomorrow with film. Study our mistakes. We're just glad to get through with this one and going to the next one.

RE: On rookie Alex Wright

He's looking good. I know he has a high motor. He's been able to build up his wind into a spot where he's out there more consistently. He's not tired. He's given his best shot, gives his best rushes, playing the run well. He's very athletic. Seeing him bat down passes and play through the run, it puts a lot of confidence in our eyes and my eyes, that if I come out, I don't have to worry about performance dropping or anything. Don't try to exploit us because he's able to make plays as well.

RE: On Jacoby Brissett and his first game

I think he did a good job. Especially our last drive. Being able to move us down the field. Get us a position. It wasn't perfect, but we didn't need it to be. We just were looking for progress. Not perfection. We're just trying to make progress on the first week. It's been difficult with not all the guys being on the field at the same time For one reason or another. But me and JD (Jadeveon Clowney), all the defense being together and finally getting to look against a pretty good offense, it's kind of motivating for us. We're glad to see the offense be able to put some points on the board, come in clutch when we need them to.

RE: On Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt

I don't know if you've watched them but that's to be expected. I don't think I've ever seen them lay down or shy away from them. That's how they've always played. That's how they've always approached the game. They have different running styles. I think the one thing that can be said about both are they're relentless. Trying to gain more, trying to get more, not allowing one guy to take them down. This is no surprise. I'm honestly shocked Nick (Chubb) didn't have more.

RE: On Jacoby Brissett

I know he wants to go 1-0. He achieved that today. Regardless of how he felt during the summer. I know he's put his head down. He's worked. He's been a great teammate. Fun to be around. He's a special player. We're glad to have him.

RE: On if this first game is a weight off of his shoulders

I didn't really look at it as a cloud hanging over. I know there was a lot of buildup from the outside. Just not allow myself to see or pay attention to that really allowed me to lead these guys to play free, not worry about the outside noise and distractions. At the end of day, there's another guy we got to get after. Regardless of how he reacts before, during and after the game, once it's over, it's over. We're on to the next one. It was just another game.



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BROWNS RUNNING BACK KAREEM HUNT

RE: On the fine line between winning and losing

I'm just proud of the way the guys kept fighting until the end. We could have given up when they got that last field goal but there was still time on the clock so we had to fight.

RE: If he felt like the Browns dominated the game

Yes, I definitely feel like that. But I feel like we didn't come out in the second half like we started the game. We have to get better at that and finish.

RE: His reaction to the game-winning field goal

I closed my eyes. I took a knee, said a prayer, and listened for yells and screaming. It was all the guys on the sideline so I knew that he made it.

RE: Thoughts on Cade York

Clutch. Ice in his veins. It doesn't matter how much pressure is on the line. We asked him to kick more than what we should have so I'm proud of him for that.

RE: On the 24-yard rushing touchdown he scored in the first half

I saw that the offensive line did a great job of double teaming in there. I just faked like I was going to go outside and went right back up the middle and it was wide open. All I had to do was run and go full speed.

RE: On getting the Browns' first season-opening win since 2004

I've been here four years now and this is my first win too. Honestly, it's a great feeling to end that streak. I'm tired of people talking about that. I'm from Cleveland so I don't like anything bad being said about my city.



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BROWNS DEFENSIVE END JADEVEON CLOWNEY

RE: Being back in the Carolinas and getting the win

I am glad we got it. It is big to start the season off 1-0. It was a hard win. It is not easy to win in the National Football League, we know that, but we came and we fought all the way to end of the game.

RE: It means a lot to come back home

It is always nice to come back home and be at home in front of your family and friends and play in front of them, especially win in front of them. I was happy for us to get the win, now it is on to week two.

RE: What it was like going up against Baker Mayfield

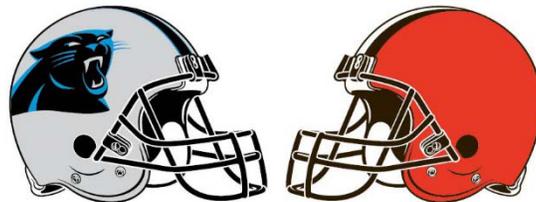
It was fun. I was looking forward to it since he came here. We just wanted to get after him up front and force a couple of turnovers. We got one from him but he competed and we competed and it came down to a close game. Good game for Baker too.

RE: Browns final offensive drive

I was upset. I felt like we shouldn't have been in that situation. Two blown covers on defense, on us as a unit, us upfront too. We just trying to play better on defense. We have to play better and learn how to finish games, better than we did this game. We started hot, we have to finish four quarters. We are learning from that.

RE: If the games in Charlotte mean that much more to him at this point in his career?

They all mean something to me. Whenever I step out there on the field, they all mean something. You never know when it is your last time stepping out there on that field. I try not to take for granted, go out there and just leave it all on the field and play well for my team.



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BROWNS KICKER CADE YORK**RE: Why he told Jacoby Brissett "just get me to the 40".**

So that actually happened the night of my rookie dinner. We were all out to eat and the quarterback and the linemen were upstairs and we went and talked to them. We ended up talking about random stuff and that came up because he (Head Coach Kevin Stefanski) is always talking about getting to the 30-yardline in two-minute situations and stuff like that. I made a joke about just get me to the 40. Confidence is just doing it. It's not that it's always you are never nervous or you don't have doubt. In that moment just being able to turn all that anxiety and nervousness into just some drive and confidence and being able to push all the outside noise out and be able to step up in those types of situations.

RE: What was going through his mind after missing field goals in pregame.

I definitely had one of my worst warm ups I have probably ever had. Wouldn't say it really has anything to do with how I was feeling or first game. It was just, wasn't timing things up. I kind of just, Corey Bojorquez the punter, always talks to me about making sure, good or bad warmups, just making sure you know it is just a warmup. You are just getting your leg ready for the game. Kind of

took that mentality and kind of just said alright screw it we are going to go on with it and do what you know how to do. So it wasn't really in my mind, especially by that time in the game, I had already hit three field goals and gone throughout the game so it wasn't even really a thought.

RE: If he appreciated the decision to let him see a field goal go through first.

I didn't even realize, apparently, they talked about that yesterday and that was going to be what they had going into the game. I didn't realize that so I was ready to go. I do appreciate that. It just shows that they are conscientious of it being my first game and knowing not to push me too far too fast. Even though I have been doing that since college and I was ready for it, I appreciate them doing that for me.

RE: How badly he wanted the chance after the Panthers took the lead.

I was ready for it. As soon as they stalled them on that last one I knew we had a minute left and it was either going to be we are going to spike the ball and kick a field goal or it is going to be a mayday situation. Kind of just, I think they knew wherever they get to lets go for it. Unless it's something absurd like a 75-yarder. I think once we got to a certain situation you just got to let it loose. I was excited about it. In those situations, I just get real locked in and it's almost tunnel visions. So I don't really remember everything about it. But it felt good.

RE: If he knew the Browns had not won Week 1 in 17 years.

We actually talked about that in our rookie development meeting last week, or earlier this week as a bit of a motivation piece to try and give this rookie class a drive to win that first game.

RE: Explanation of rookie meetings.

Rookies have to do a rookie development meeting like 10 times a year or season and we had our first one last week. That was Monday.

RE: If he remembers anything post kick.

I remember hitting it, realizing it was going in, stopped watching it, and I usually say I don't celebrate kicks, but that one was a little bit different. Everyone was just all there.

RE: What his celebration was after the kick.

That was kind of a blur. Fist pump maybe somewhere in there. Lots of yelling. My shoulder is a little sore right now so I don't know what I did there. Other than that.

RE: How wide the goal posts look when he is that far away.

See I have always had something with long field goals is that I really let it loose. I try to take that everywhere on the field obviously, like let loose on short field goals too. You kind of just have this mentality, alright I don't have much room to spare you got to stroke it. The wind was blowing a little bit right to left. Whole warm ups I had been missing a little bit left. Told them alright I am missing left. Basically, aimed it just inside the right upright probably a little draw and then came right back in.

RE: When he realized it was going in.

About halfway there.

RE: If it was like a Steph Curry 3-pointer.

Sure, why not.

RE: If he dreamed about the game and how it lived up to his expectations.

I mean yeah, I never thought I would have a career long for a first game for a game winner. That is not something that really comes along very often. Definitely, over and over again, I have been able to experience things I didn't think would ever happen. Not because I wasn't capable, but because they weren't even in my thoughts. Going to play at LSU and leaving in three years and getting drafted in the fourth round and then first game getting to be put in that situation and put it through. It is just a blessing and I thank God for it.

RE: How he imagines the Browns fans' reaction to his field goal.

I don't know. I am off social media so I have no clue.

RE: What it was like in the locker room.

It was fun. Everyone was celebrating and you've got to keep it about the team. Obviously, it wasn't just me. Yeah, I got to hit four field goals, but I got put into the situations to hit field goals. Defense came up big time in the first half. Offense came up in the second half and was able to put driving scores in and it was big time team effort. And very thankful everybody on the team.

RE: Who from his family was at the game.

My dad. My step-mom. And then one of my family friends was here too.

RE: How this kick compares to beating Florida in college.

This was a yard further.

RE: How it feels to get the first game under his belt.

I just can't get complacent. Find something to nitpick and get better at it. Like I said, I had a crappy warm up and honestly some of my field goals I hit today were a little timid and not struck very well. There is always something to get better at. And I am not going to let myself get complacent.

RE: If he felt the difference from his time off to rest.

I mean yeah, just had like ten days off. Basically, just got to rest and then Wednesday, Friday just basically knocking the rust off. Making sure I am in tip top shape and was able to come into the game feeling good.