



**Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. Tennessee Titans
Week 14
12-07-25**

Opening Statement:

"Okay, you know, very disappointed. You got to give credit to the (Tennessee) Titans. They won the game, so they made more plays than we did in the end, but just disappointed. Some of the things that happened that game, we expect more from our run defense. You know, the giveaways there, that's not about who we are. We got to protect the ball. We had a punt blocked, and obviously not getting either the two-point plays really off is frustrating. So that's on all of us. We own it, can't hide from it. It's all of us. It's offense, defense, special teams. It's players and coaches, we'll own it. It's frustrating, but we will move on together. That's what we'll do. With that, I'll take any questions."

Just, I know Shedeur (Sanders) had the pretty bad interception but overall, what about the sort of moxie that he showed in bringing...?

"Yeah, he fought throughout the game, which we knew he would. Obviously with any young player, Mary Kay (Cabot), there's gonna be ups and downs, and I thought there were some really, really, really good moments. He'll keep learning from some of the plays that he wants back, but some really good moments."

What was supposed to happen on that last two-point conversion?

"Yeah, not going to get into all the specifics, Jeff (Schudel), but obviously did not go as we thought it would."

Did you make that call or did Tommy (Rees)?

"Yeah, I make every call."

Shedeur has a hot hand, why would you take him off the play?

"Yeah, again, it's a two-point play. Didn't come through on our first two-point play, got to the second two-point play, we didn't come through. But that's on me."

Was that play call yours or Tommy's?

"I'm responsible for all of it."

Kevin, on the first one, I guess what prompted wanting to go for it in that scenario?

"Yeah, it's a scenario that we talked about a lot. That's something that when you're down 14, feel good about the decision there - didn't come through."

You mentioned the run defense, what did you see has been the biggest issue?

"Yeah, we just, we have to look at it. That's not what we're built to do. It's not what we're about. We'll look at all of it again. It's things that we'll make sure we point it out and fix it. But, give them credit, but that's something that we hang our hat on."

Kevin, another special teams blunder - how do you keep believing in Bubba (Ventrone)?

"Yeah, I'm not going to get into that type of stuff, Jeff (Schudel), we have to play better. We have to coach better. But that's just bottom line."

Ethan (Pocic), was it an Achilles?

"Yes."

Is it torn?

"You don't know till you get the testing but didn't look good."

And Ced (Cedric Tillman), concussion?

"Yes."

Kevin, is this the kind of game where, I mean, just how do you explain all the mistakes just across the board from so many different phases of your game against a 1-11 football team?

"Yeah, I think you go into any game versus anybody, Mary Kay, you have to play your best. You have to execute in the time when it's time to execute. It's our job as coaches to put our guys in position, and we came up short, bottom line."

Is the reason you didn't use Shedeur on the two-point play was because he fumbled the first one?

"No."

How soon did you know that you were going to go Wildcat for that two-point conversion drive?

"Yeah, during the week, you talk about two-point plays in total, plays that you like in those moments. And obviously the first one, we didn't get off exactly how we wanted to. Second one didn't get off how we wanted to."

But as the drive was going down, did you already have it in mind that you were going to that specific play?

"Yes."

How did you guys come to the decision not kick on that first one?

"Yeah, it's something that we've done in the past. I know you see it around the league, the idea being you get the two you know what you're doing at the at the next one, but something we've done before."

I know you talk about the rookies playing up and down, but on that interception, it's as simple as when a play goes on that long, throw it out of bounds?

"Yeah, but he'll learn from that. Again, young players, you learn from every turn that's out there. There's some great stuff that you can coach off of. I thought some of his pocket movement was outstanding. Some really, really good throws, especially late in the drive, I thought he was really good there. But always going to learn from our mistakes."

How important was it to get that one to Jerry (Jeudy) especially after last week when he had some frustration?

"Yeah, obviously, you know, I thought it was a really good decision by Shedeur to get through his progression there - get to Jerry on that end cut. Felt good about that play, really throughout the game. Ran that play earlier, got it to Harold (Fannin Jr.). Second play, second time, got it to Shedeur. Shedeur got it to Jerry. Did a really nice job moving in the pocket."

Did Shedeur check in to the first touchdown pass to David (Njoku)? It looked like he made some kinda call at the line of scrimmage.

"No."

Kevin, it looked like you were trying to kick away from (Chimere) Dike all day, touchback. Is that tough when that's not your style? But it's kind of gotten to the point where...

"Yeah, I think every game you go into it, Scott (Petra), with what do we need to do to try to win this game. And what are the decisions you have to make in order to do that."

Can you just give them credit, I guess, for the game play for keeping Myles (Garrett) from getting that sack record and doing a nice job with Cam Ward?

"Yeah, I think, obviously, I give all the credit to Tennessee for that win. They deserved it. Every team goes into playing us with a game plan for Myles, that's no different."

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Browns QB Shedeur Sanders
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Shedeur, when you drive the offense down the field, you know, you have the opportunity to tie the game. What was going through your mind when you're taken off the field, and you see the play go the way it goes?

"I was thankful that we was driving down the field and we scored."

Did you wish you had the ball in your hand in that moment to tie the game?

"If I'm out there any play, you know, I would wish I would always have the ball in my hand, but that's not what football is. Sometimes you got to run the ball, sometimes you got to kick a field goal. You know, everything like, that's the game. That's the most important thing, is the ball. So in any situation, of course you would want to. But I know we practiced something, and we executed it in practice, and we just didn't seem to this day. So, I would never go against, you know, kind of like what the call was or anything."

Did it work in practice?

"Nah, we just called in the game, and it didn't work in practice. I don't think you call plays in the game that didn't work in practice."

Shedeur, what was working for you so well today in what looked like pretty bad conditions out there?

"What was working for me, I'll say, God. God was working for me, honestly. The way how he, I would say, let me be mentally clear out there. The game is mental, and a lot of different situations. I would say, when it's a lot of confusion, when it's a lot of adversity, when it's a lot of things, you know, going on, that's when I feel like God steps in the most for me, to be able to help me stay mentally clear and mentally close to him. So, I would say that's definitely what was working for me today."

How important was that after the interception to be able to stay clear and then come back and lead those two drives in the last, whatever, 6-8 minutes?

"Yeah, definitely, on the interception, I'd say, I feel we stagnant. You know, I'm trying to get a spark. I'm trying to, you know, so that's all it is. And as the game goes on, as time go on, and I know my dad mad at me for that, for sure. I know the team, you know, everybody is. But I would say as time goes on, those decisions and those things, you know, will slim down. And we won't be in situations where I have that feeling, you know, like, I got to make something happen. So, yeah."

Shedeur, on the one to Harold (Fannin Jr.), the last touchdown, was he the intended target there? When you let it go, did you know he was going to get it?

"Nah. Alright, come on. Who would be the intended target?"

The whole play, not the throw, the whole play.

"I got you. I got you. Yes, I was intentionally throwing it to him. And he caught it, made a play, and yeah."

What happened on the first two-point drive?

"That was on me. That was on me."

Did you not get a grasp on the ball, did it slip out?

"Yeah, the result was a fumbled snap. So that's on me."

Shedeur, I know you said like that second play, two-point trial was something you had practiced. But it wasn't a surprise to me that you were gonna go to after you scored, right? Because, I know Kevin (Stefanski) was saying, like, that was always the plan, so that wasn't a surprise to you.

"No. Yeah, nothing we do out there on the field is a surprise to me, honestly. Like, we practice for situations. We do everything. And if they knew it would pan out like that, I don't think they, would have did it. I don't think in any situation, if we feel like something's not gonna be as successful, intentionally call it, and then, you know, just be surprised when it don't work. You know what I mean? So I think every play, I think that's the whole league - any play you go into a game with, you expect success. And if that don't happen, that don't happen."

Shedeur, the result obviously wasn't what you wanted, but what do you think you may have shown today in coming back, overcoming all the adversity that you had in this game, including losing your center and also already being down two lineman?

"I'd say God's present."

What about just the ability? I mean, do you think you showed just the moxie, the never say die relentlessness, the ability to just come back and just fight to the bitter end?

"I've been this way. So, this is God showing a lot of people who I am. You know, a lot of circumstances, you know, will sometimes get you mentally not in your best place. And you got to find your happy place. You got to find that it for you. So, I think that's kind of, I've been praying and doing a lot, you know, talking to God this week in general, to get back to that place, you know, to get back there. So, yeah, it's him. He the one did it for me."

Shedeur, you talked this week about trying to work on the time on task. How do you think that felt today of getting through that whole process and being a little better in that area?

"Well, I'll say it's more faith based, and just committing to it. You know, obviously me and Jerry (Jeudy) had that dispute or whatever last week. But I have faith in him, he has faith in me, and everybody put everything aside and, 'okay, cool, let's go out there, play ball'. God forgive everybody else, so why not we forgive each other. When you go in situations, you have no negativity, no hate on your heart, no anything, and you out there enjoying, having fun, then that's the result you're going to be able to get. So, that was the message in pregame - we all together, we got to be as one, no matter what happens - good, bad, ugly, we got to stay together. So that's just a testimony for real."

Speaking of Jerry, just on the touchdown throw to him, how did that play develop, what did you see and how nice was it to be able to connect with him for that score?

"It was truly exciting being able to connect with him, because I know the season in a lot...kind of like, hasn't gone the way he wanted to this year. So, the fact that one decision from me could bring somewhat joy in his life and be able to help the team out overall, that brings me peace, that brings me happiness. So, just being able to just see clearly, being able to do what I need, and the staff and everybody helping me and getting me prepared how I need to get prepared for games and everything, I'm just thankful for it."

Do you feel like you're more in command now? Do you feel like it's more, quote, unquote, your team as the quarterback now compared to a couple weeks ago?

"I mean, a couple weeks ago I wasn't the starter. It was only like, what, the second, third game?"

Just how much more comfortable do you feel in that role?

"I mean, I'm comfortable being uncomfortable. You got to understand, like, that's just kind of like the situation I'm in, and I'm fine with that, I love that. Because my story and everything inspires people to make sure, even if they're in uncomfortable positions and situations, to stay on course, and keep that mental strong, and be able to push through adversity, knowing that you'll be able to see the other side one day. So that's kind of what it is."

When you ran it in and threw that touchdown pass and were bringing the Browns back there at the end, how much love did you feel from the Dawg Pound and the fans? Can you just feel the excitement here and what it's going to be like when you guys get this thing going?

"Yeah. I always seen the excitement. Since draft day, I've seen the excitement, so ain't nothing changed with it at all. But joy, like, deep down within myself, that's where I felt the most excitement, because it's like...sometimes you don't know if you're going to get in that place, you don't know if you're going to get in the end zone. It's a lot that come with this game, it's a lot to even get on the field. So, it's like, the fact to be able to start making that a habit, that's new to me, that's something different for me. So, I'm just thankful for that."

I know you always talk about getting better, better and better. These next few weeks, what would you like to accomplish - obviously, besides win, what would you like to accomplish, in terms of improving every single start?

"I feel like, this week, we have improved from sideline communication - just keeping everybody chill, keeping everybody under one tent, basically. Communication with everybody - just checking everybody's temperature, how everybody feeling, what we need to do offensively, what players are comfortable with everything. So, I feel like that was something that I feel like we improved this week. Going into next week, of course, there'll be timing, and you'll being able to anticipate a little bit more, being able to do different things, see throws I missed, how to get in that rhythm early on. It's a lot of things, I would say, that we go into a week trying to improve, and we gotta look at the film. I know I didn't play perfect, so it's definitely...being able to see that, being able to go over and rekindle my thoughts on what I missed and why I missed it, to get to the root of everything, so then it won't be a consistent

problem. So, every week, we looking to change mentally, physically, and emotionally, so then we all are in a better place for next week.”

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Browns Head DE Myles Garrett
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Myles (Garrett), I know you guys had big expectations coming into this one. How disappointing is the way it all played out and not being able to get to this victory?

"The expectation is always to win. Prepare as well as you can, practice as hard as you can, and bank those things and hope that you come out and do what you practiced all week. And we didn't do that."

Kevin (Stefanski) said that's not who you are as a run defense. What went wrong there?

"I don't even know what to tell you. It's just...I mean, I agree with him. It's not who we are. It's hard to tell you right now what it was, if it was one thing in particular – but it just wasn't us."

What about the game plan that they had in place to keep you from wrecking the game today?

"They were running the ball – can't get a sack on a run play. Other than that, I mean they chipped, rolled the pocket, I mean, the usual stuff. But I mean he was getting it out – one read, putting it in the air. So, that's just how they were treating things. And if they couldn't get it in one read, well, then they'll come back the next drive and continue running the ball. And they just kept their heads down and kept running away, and they made some big plays on the ground and they stuck with it, especially with the lead – there was no need to really pass the ball with any kind of urgency."

What did you think about Shedeur (Sanders) being able to lead you guys back, where if you get one of those two-point conversions, who knows, you could be looking at overtime?

"I mean, I think he did well. I think he looked good. I mean, he came up big when we needed him to. There's going to be some ups and downs for anyone, especially a rookie. But he went in there and he looked composed, he escaped out of some sacks, broke the pocket, made some big-time plays. And just looking for him to continue to grow, looking for that clock to speed up a little bit, but it looks more and more at ease each week."

Myles, I know you want the record to come in a win, and it's not all about the sacks. But does it mean anything for you to be...I think you're the eighth person to get number 20, and you've done that in 13 games?

"Does it mean anything?"

What's it mean?

"That means I'm blessed to have a privilege to be on the field, and blessed to be with the teammates and the coaches that I have. I mean, I couldn't do it without all of their help. It takes four to rush. You know, we always talk about four makes one, and those guys, whether it's containing, pushing them to me or vice versa, we've been rushing really well as a unit. And I think we really were licking our chops for the pass and they stuck with the run, and we really should have been focused on stopping the run to earn that right. And we didn't earn the right today, and that showed."

Myles, what's your mentality for the last four games? What are you going to be telling your teammates?

"Same thing I always tell them – prepare to win. Prepare, work hard, don't change anything about...from your focus, your preparation, your routine, from the beginning of the year to now. This is setting us up for the rest of the year and next year. How we choose to handle these games is defining not only our team, but us as men."

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Browns Players
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RB Dylan Sampson

What happened on that fumble?

"It's next play mentality, for real. That's out of character for me, as I said. Nobody ever wants to make a play like that, but we got a game to play. Whatever I can do to go out there and play to put my team in a better position. I'm not going to dwell on nothing positive or negative."

I'm sorry, I know you were asked this, but what happened on the fumble there?

"I should have put it away tighter. He hit the ball, made a good play. It's fundamentals, fundamentals that cannot happen, especially on that side of the field."

Talk about that big completion on the final drive...

"Like I said, you have to play 'next play' mentality. That's how I am, good play – bad play, I don't care what just happened. I'm trying to make more plays for the team. 12 (Browns QB Shedeur Sanders) told me before the play, 'Let's dial this up.' He has trust in me, there's that connection. Just try and put ourselves in a good position, a better position to try and win a game."

What do you think of the job Shedeur did today, especially on that final drive?

"I think collectively, we kind of got together. You could just see his growth. Continue his growth. See his growth throughout the games he's been playing. His mentality is he's going to go and try to make a play. We got somebody like that, we got to keep fighting."

LB Devin Bush

What did you see on that interception to get a takeaway there?

"I just kind of read the quarterback's eyes, and the formation and kind of just made a play."

You guys had some big plays, but also gave up some of those chunk plays. What was going on with the defense today in that regard?

"We just have to get off the field on third down, and give our offense a chance to have a good drive starter with good field position. We let them out of the gate a couple of times, credit to them and their design runs and stuff like that."

How difficult was it for you guys to navigate some of the short fields, obviously you have experienced them before, but what was the mindset with that?

"Just to stop the bleeding. Of course we gave up a run if I can remember. It's difficult facing a sudden change like that, but I mean if we call ourselves a good defense, we gotta be better in that situation."

G Joel Bitonio

How frustrating is to come back with that failed two point conversion and come up just short against a team like that?

"We didn't do enough early. The third quarter was just bad, I think we went three and out a bunch of times. Then, you turn the ball over and you give those guys a chance. I appreciate the fight from everybody and trying to make some plays happen."

(WR) Jerry (Jeudy) and (RB) Dylan (Sampson) said those two-point conversions are plays you've been practicing since camp, does that add more to the frustration?

"Obviously, the first one was center-quarterback exchange. A new center makes it tough. I don't know what the issue was. I think we ran both of those against the Eagles in camp, and there have been a lot of reps with those. We do two-point conversions every Friday, so we just didn't execute."

What did you see out of (QB) Shedeur (Sanders) today, it looked like he took a step forward there?

"Yeah, a competitor. I appreciated the fight, I told him that. He's shown in his three starts now that he can make some plays for us. Those two two-minute drives just made things happen. I have to block forever, cause he's going to try to make a play. There were some big-time plays that he made for us and kept us in the game."

Are you seeing his (QB Shedeur Sanders) comfort level growing week to week? Is that something that guys are acknowledging and seeing out there on the field?

"His huddle, mechanics, and his comfort. I think he's starting to see things. He flipped a protection this week once, and you know, got things on the same page. That growth is definitely there and it's good to see."

With that growth, how do you think you guys will be able to build on that?

"We have to keep fighting, we're not where we want to be. It's frustrating. We have obviously had some injuries on offense, now defense. Guys have to step up and keep fighting, that's all you can do. This is the National Football League, so it comes every week and you have to be ready for it."

(OL)Joel (Bitonio), what's your mentally going into these final four games?

"Keep fighting. That's all I know. Unfortunately, I've been in some of these situations before. But every time you go on the field it's a blessing. Any time you put something on tape, that's your resume. Your pride and your fight for your brothers, I think that shows in these waning times. We'll see who has that self-pride and who wants to play for the Cleveland Browns."

S Grant Delpit

Why do you feel like you guys did have an uncharacteristic day?

"I don't know, especially with our run defense, it was surprising. As we all know, just one person out their gap or whatever, it was open, six. And it happened twice."

Why has the effort not completely shown up on the field and what is it going to take to really clean these things up and make a change?

"That's a good question. We put bad ball on tape, bad film. It just starts to spiral. As we see, we started slow on defense and that kind of spiral. We were able to get the lead back at halftime but then, the turnovers and we didn't stand up in the red zone, so that's how the game goes. We just put a bad ball out there today."

You talked about coming into the week, these are two teams with four combined wins. Knowing that, do you think the focus was there the way it needed to be, or was there more that could have been done?

"You can look back at any week and say we didn't practice well, or we didn't do this in the third. You just have to execute in the moment, and we didn't."

When you're a rookie and mistakes like that happen, how do you bounce back from that?"

"Obviously, it's tough on them to beat themselves up since they may not get a lot of touches, but you got to know that it is easily fixable stuff. At the end of the day, the greatest players mess up as well, but the greatest players also deliver when it's time to deliver. It'll be good for them to learn from."

What did (QB) Shedeur (Sanders) show you at the end today?

"He (QB Shedeur Sanders) played with heart, man. I think the whole offense, they put up a lot of points. They had ups and downs, but he was throwing the ball not perfectly, but it looked pretty good and we just have to be able to have his back as a defense. He's our quarterback, we have to get him the ball back when they put us in some hard spots."

WR Gage Larvadain

How do you bounce back from a play like the two point conversion?

"You just keep your head down. At the end of the day you gotta figure something out. But just keeping your head down and keep being the best version of yourself and just keep working."

Did you think it was open if (RB) Quinshon (Judkins) did pitch you the ball, like did you have open space in front of you?

"Why y'all keep saying (RB) Quinshon (Judkins) was supposed to pitch it, y'all know something I don't? Nah, we called a play and he tried to make a play. He's arguably the best player on our offense, you know what I'm saying? So he did what he was supposed to and tried and make a play."

What do you think about the progress that (QB) Shedeur (Sanders) has made these last handful of starts?

"He's a dog man and we knew that. We knew inside our building, it's outside people that thought differently, but we knew what we had."

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Titans Interim Head Coach Mike McCoy
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Opening Statement:

"This is nice. This is the way it should be all the time, right? There are no injuries to report. I'll just say this: what a team effort. We challenged the guys at the beginning of the week about what type of game it was going to be. Obviously running the football, you guys have been asking about for weeks. This is how you have to play the game, especially against a team like this. Give it to the guys up front, everybody involved in the running game, the backs running the ball. I got a couple things someone gave me: most team rushing yards since 2022; career high by (Titans RB) Tony Pollard, 25 carries, 161, 6.4, two TDs. Then in the kicking game, it's the first blocked punt since 2012. That's kind of crazy. Bones (Titans Special Teams Coordinator John Fassel) had shown that at some point in time to the players and everyone was in awe and couldn't believe it's been that long. But what a great team effort. To see the way (Titans DT) Jeff(ery Simmons) was out there and getting a sack and a half. Guys making some plays. That's what it's all about. It's a long time coming. I couldn't be happier for the guys. The leadership in this group on this football team. On Thursday afternoon, they made a statement with the way we finished practice. We were going to go through a jog through type mode on a split field, and they were just so excited to be out there after special teams, that we just kept rolling. And that's on the players. That's the type of people that are here. I knew Thursday after practice we were going to find a way to win this one just because the way the leaders are and the type of players and what a great group of guys that we have in this room. Very proud of the guys. And it's not easy to win in this league. I couldn't be happier."

What was the strategy regarding Browns DE Myles Garrett and why did it work as well as it did?

"He's somebody you always have to know where he is on every snap. We needed a change. We needed to run the football. That's the best neutralizer, number one. When you run it the way we did today, there's a mindset to that, and the way you've got to do it. And then, obviously, every pass play, you've got to put someone near him. There's a guessing game at time when he's flipping sides or he goes inside, things like that, but you know, give these players on our football team, give the guys outside, and we'll also include the protection, give them credit for neutralizing him, because he's the best in the business, and a phenomenal football player. They preserved all the players, the way (Titans QB Coach) Bo (Hardegee) called the game, things like that."

Why was that mindset for running the ball so effective today? When you talk about it not being there for all these weeks, what made it be here today?

"Well, you have a series, like we've talked about last week. The flow of the game, when you don't have the three and outs and certain things like that, we talked about. We talked about it two weeks ago, and then we had the three and outs, so you don't get in that flow of the game. Just knowing what type of game we had to play against this team, like with 95 (Browns DE Myles Garrett) out there, you have to run the football against this team, and just give the guys credit. This is a lineman's dream. This is what they want to do, this is how they want to play it, and we challenged them and they answered. I'm very happy for them."

You guys scored a touchdown on the opening drive. Last team in the league to do it. How much did that kind of set the tone for the rest of the game?

"Well, it goes back to, we were very fortunate that 95 was out of the game, because that play would not have been run if 95 was in the game. He got out of there, and Bo instantly and the offensive staff instantly said, 'let's go for it, and let's make that call.' It worked out perfectly. It's just a great way to start the game for the offense."

How big was it to get the two turnovers and the blocked punt?

"It's huge. You guys have been talking about it all year. This is complementary football. All three phases making plays, feeding off of one another, the energy, the excitement that they create for everybody, but big plays in all three phases."

Then you had the two touchdowns off those turnovers. Do you sense the energy transfer from one side to the other?

"That's what you look for. It's complementary football. It's guys sticking together, feeding off the energy. It was unbelievable on the sideline today, and that's the way it should always be. We had a lot of opportunities early on that we missed too. Whether it was defensively, offensively, some big plays we gave up, some opportunities we didn't

make in the passing game. But that's all part of it. We just kept going. We kept fighting. I just can't say enough about these players, the way they've worked. They deserve this. They really do. I'm so happy for them."

I know it's about the players and the team, but it's your first win as an interim coach, too. Did you get recognized in the locker room?

"Everyone's excited. It's not about one person. It's everybody. There's plenty of comments that went around, but I can't be happier for everyone in this organization, just the way they've worked, the way they've responded. There are leaders stepping up, leading. Sometimes the truth hurts, and everyone stuck together. That's the great thing about this team and culture that's here."

What were the feelings on the sideline during those last couple of Browns drives when the comeback was sort of happening?

"That was not good. Too many penalties, giving them opportunities to go down. You can't let the team back in. We have to shut the door when we can. But this is the NFL. Give them credit. Same thing - we've had some games this year too. You just keep fighting, you keep fighting, you keep going, you make a play, and then all of a sudden, you don't think you have a chance. And all of a sudden, okay, we got a chance here. But give the defense credit when they had to get a stop, they got a stop."

Were Titans QB Cam Ward's first two touchdowns a marker for what he was able to do?

"Well, he had a great challenge ahead of him, and number one, because of the pass rush, like you mentioned earlier, with 95. So you're always alert to where he is. He's the best in the business so you've always got to understand where he is, so we have to do some things to help in the protection. Then they do a great job playing man coverage, so it was a great challenge. We knew there were going to be some opportunities for big plays, but depending on how the pressure was going to be there, we didn't make some of those plays. I think we'll watch the tape and learn from it, but this is a really good team for him to look at and kind of watch it and evaluate. I'd have to watch it tonight or tomorrow and that'll let me know more about the little details like footwork in the pocket. Unfortunately, we had one turnover. He'll learn from that knowing and understanding where that defender is and what could happen. But the big thing was protecting the ball in the pocket, because we know this tea. (Browns Defensive Coordinator Jim) Schwartz came out and said that he wanted to get the ball out of Cam's hand, not just sacks, but sack fumbles. So I'll give him credit for doing that. He responded. He responded to the turnover, so also give him credit for that."

Why do you feel like the run game was so effective after weeks of not being able to get it?

"Well, I think when you run the ball as many times as we did, and the flow of the game. Like we said, there's been plenty of games we've been behind, and when you get into the second half to a certain point in time and you get away from that. But I think the way you start the game, very similar to last week, and you keep going, but unfortunately, there's three and outs at times, but we just kept grinding it out. That was our mindset, even at the end of the half - grind it out, keep going. So give more credit for doing that."

The run game was working, but play action was working as well. On that last series, was there any thought to mixing it up and not running three straight times and giving them the ball back?

"Well, we know what the situation of the game is and what we thought was the best to take time off the clock and get our defense back out there. That's a decision you always make."

Why did Titans LB Cedric Gray stop running on the return?

"That'll be interesting when we put it on tape and see what the team thinks about it. That would have ended it. That would have been great. That was interesting."

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Titans QB Cam Ward
Cleveland Browns vs. Tennessee Titans
Week 14
12-07-25

How do you think the offensive line did against DE Myles Garrett?

"I think the O-line stepped up. I think they did a fantastic job, containing him and moving him off his spot in the running game. Then in the passing game, I think they did an unbelievable job. He's a great player. I think our O-line stepped up and they're the reason why we won the game."

Was the thought process coming in to try and establish the run?

"Just really doing our base plays good. Doing what the O-line loves. Doing what (RB) Tony (Pollard) loves. He saw it real well tonight. The O-line opened some holes for him and that's what we have to continue to do. Continue to use those guys in the game and that will continue to help us."

What does the win do to help the team going forward?

"It feels good to win, but winning still hides stuff. There are a lot of flaws that we have to continue to get over, personally and then as a team. We just have to come next week with the right mindset."

How important was it to get the first touchdown on the opening drive this season?

"About time, honestly. That's really all there is to it. We have to continue to be efficient. I have to be efficient, throwing my guys open, putting it in their radius to make plays. We just have to continue to be efficient in the run game. Lean on those guys and they are going to help us spring some big ones."

Can you take us through your play-action touchdown pass to WR Elic Ayomanor?

"Man coverage. We're running a run-away which is the best thing to do, especially against man coverage and the protection that we were in. (QB Coach) Bo (Hardegree) called a fantastic play and Elic did the rest. He got separation on him, O-line held their blocks, and we had an easy touchdown."

What did it take to get a win today?

"Just us playing good enough football all for three quarters. We didn't play our best ball in the fourth quarter. And that is just something as players, we have to hold ourselves to that standard. We have to not have a play off here and there. We have to continue to communicate at a high level in all three phases. Special teams did real good today. They helped us win the game today in a major way. Just continue to have efficient plays. Not getting in any get-back situations and not playing behind the sticks."

Did you get a chance to talk to Browns QB Shedeur Sanders after the game and what was that conversation like?

"Real good. Being able to catch up with him. Just him know that I'm here. I'm excited to see him keep going and he's going to continue to make plays for Cleveland. He's a good quarterback, so I'm excited to have him as a friend."

What was it like to start drives with advantageous field position?

"It was real good. That's just what we need as a whole team. For those guys to come along and make plays for us and give the offense another opportunity after we have a 3-and-out is big for us and we just have to reward those guys with points."

How much did you need this win?

"I really didn't need it. I treat the wins the same, I treat the losses the same. There's always something that I can do better. There's a lot of plays that I missed out there, just not giving my receivers a chance. I'll wake up tomorrow and I'll do the same thing I did last week. Have to be better."

What are your goals to accomplish individually and as a team?

"As a team, we want to accomplish finishing every game this season with a win. That's the biggest goal we have in mind. And I think just personally, just playing my way of football. The way I know how to play football. The way I've played my whole life. Just continue to be aggressive. Don't let one bad play turn into the next play. You have to live with the good. Critique the good, but you also have to live through the bad and critique the bad and not let things carry over."

How important was it to have complimentary football so it's not all on you?

"I don't think it's all on me. And if it is all on me, then that's the responsibility that I want. I just think us playing complimentary football for the majority part of the game is one of the reasons why we won the game. Getting us some stops on defense. Special teams making some plays for us and on the outside (RB) Tony Pollard making plays."

You talked about in your documentary about giving up football in high school. How do wins like this help your mindset going forward?

"You just have to wake up with the right mindset every day. Get better at the little things. You also have to see the bigger picture, ahead of the road. Wins and losses don't matter in terms of myself in the process, because every day, win or lose, I have to get better. In a win, you can hide stuff. In a loss, everything gets shown to light. I just continue to live my life day by day. Try to be there for my teammates and try to win games for my team."

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Titans RB Tony Pollard
Cleveland Browns vs. Tennessee Titans
Week 14
12-07-25

How does it feel to have had so much success in the run game tonight, and how did you guys do it?

"Oh, that was big for us, you know, just getting that momentum going on the ground, and just relying on all the big guys up front. You know, them moving the line of scrimmage, creating a lot of space for the runners to make plays, and that's what we did."

Myles Garrett made some plays without the success that you guys were having on the ground. How were you able to neutralize him?

"Yeah, just knowing the type of player he is, how dominant he is out there on the field, and trying to minimize him as best as possible with the run game. Trying to stick with it, be more consistent, and, we did a good job executing today."

Was there a particular point where it felt like, hey man, we're going to run the ball today before the big touchdown?

"Um, I would say during that first drive, I think it was one of the runs I made, I got like seven or eight yards, and then it just felt like we were starting to get into a good rhythm moving the ball, converting third downs, and just making the plays we needed to make."

You guys were able to do that last week but got away from them. Did you like find yourself at all? Like "hey man, we just got to keep running."

"Yeah, just communicating with the coaches, talking to the personnel, letting them know what we like, what we don't like, and what we feel like we need to keep doing."

Why do you think it was so possible to establish that rhythm today that had been lacking these last couple of weeks?

"I would say our consistency, we stay with it. You know, even when the momentum shifted in the game, we were down a little bit on the scoreboard, but we didn't get away from it. We stayed consistent, hitting those hard runs, some two yarders, three yarders, and just kept leaning on them, and then eventually they'll pop."

How good does it feel just to win?

"Man, it's been a minute. It's a good feeling."

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