



UPMC Rooney Sports Complex

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Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. Pittsburgh Steelers
Acrisure Stadium • October 12, 2025

Opening Statement:

Cam Robinson has a knee injury. Jack Conklin, Gage [Larvadain] are in the concussion protocol. Joe Tryon has a hip injury. You can't do those things and expect to go on the road and win and just frustrated to not play clean football on offense/defense and special teams. Just can't do it on the road versus a good football team. We've got to get it fixed because before you start winning, you've got to stop losing. We're doing some things right now that are preventing us from winning. So, we'll get it fixed.

What's the number one thing offensively that needs to change?

Well, yeah, I don't think it's as simple as that. Obviously today we weren't able to run the ball effectively and then got behind there in the second half. 0-for-3 in the red zone. I know those were two-minute drives, a lot of them. We've got to find a way to score points, got to run ball the efficiently. Gotta find a way to be better in the pass game, all of the above.

Was it something the Steelers did that you couldn't run it?

Obviously give credit to your opponent. But we've got to do a better job.

With all the issues going on offense was there any thought on giving up play calling to Tom [Rees] to oversee the offense and get it back on track?

There's a lot of things we need to do better. Obviously, I'll look at all things.

So, you will consider it?

There's a long list of things we've got to do better.

Dillon [Gabriel] was basically beat up, hit 16 times, and sacked. He really didn't have much of a chance. Can you just talk about how that was like for him coming out there?

He's a tough kid. We got to keep him clean. Obviously when the game turned into a two-score game you've got to drop back, and that's a tough team to drop back versus. He kept battling. It wasn't for lack of effort by him or anybody. He made some plays. But we've just got to be better.

Did you learn something from him in a game like that?

I think you learn in every game, win, lose or draw. Obviously, we know this kid's tough. We know he's tough. He's going to keep fighting. We've got to, around him, make plays, we've got to coach him up and get our guys in position, all of the above.

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How did you think Tyson [Campbell] did in his first game? Was there a thought about putting Denzel [Ward] on DK [Metcalf] more to take that pressure off of Tyson in his first game?

I thought Tyson did a good job considering when he got on campus. Got him up to speed. Obviously, they have a great player over there, made a play. But really was pleased with how he was able to get up to speed in this game.

With Dillon [Gabriel] getting beat up was there ever a thought to put Shedeur [Sanders] in the game?

We were just trying to fight there until the end.

There were only six penalties, but a couple felt very big.

They were costly. They were.

How disappointed is it and how do you get it fixed?

Very disappointed. Jerry [Jeudy] is a leader for us. I think it was a retaliation-type thing. We preached that. We teach that. We can't do that. Those are real yards that are hard to overcome. So, we have to be better. It gets to the point of need to make sure you're playing clean, then give yourself a chance. It's hard when you make life harder on yourself.

You talked about how drops haven't been an issue, but they were out there again today. What have you seen I guess in terms of that?

Just got to keep working. Nothing technically. Just got to keep working.

How would you assess Dillon's [Gabriel] second start?

Like we talked about, I think he was battling. Obviously not good enough offensively, and that's players and coaches. But he was battling.

The offensive line situation, specifically the tackle situation, it seems like every time you think you've got the answer solved another problem creates. How frustrating is it? And where do you go from here?

We'll coach up the guys we've got. We know injuries are a part of this game. We expect the guys out there to go perform. We'll get them coached up.

When you look at your roster, all the rookies you had out there today, you're going to have to grow up fast against teams like this and deal with just the aggressive physical nature of this game.

I think our young players, like we've talked about, they all work very hard. They're going to make young mistakes because they're young players. But I really like how that group battles. So, it will only get better.

What do you need to do better for an offense who hasn't scored 17-points in 11 straight games?

All of the above. Name something, we've got to do it better.

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Can you put into words just how disappointing and frustrating it is to come in here and have this kind of game?

This is the NFL. We have to be better, and that's the "we." I have to be better for this football team. Our coaches have to be better for this football team. Our players have to be better for this football team. The bottom line, there are things that will hold you back from winning, and you've got to knock those out, so you give yourself a chance.

Andre Symt, what did you see in his growth?

Another young player that we're counting on. We trust him. Does a nice job in these games. Obviously, we have a ton of confidence in him as well.

Even though you have a lot of rookies this year, there's a lot of guys, 4-and-19 over the last 23 games. How concerned are you about keeping those guys with the program?

We're focused on what's in front of us. I understand the question, but our team's focused on what they've got in front of them.

Do you think there's a risk, talking to Jerry Jeudy, keeps reading more and hearing more about the drops and it feeds on itself more?

He's been playing this game for a long time. I think he's got great confidence. I have a ton of confidence in him. Ball's going to keep coming his way.

With how the seasons gone, 1-5, how do you sort of go about keeping things positive?

I think with our football team, I know we have young players, but we have a bunch of veterans that understand what we have in front of us. They understand we're not in the business of looking behind. We're just not. We've got to focus on what's in front of us.

On the roughing, where Dillon's [Gabriel] head bounced, were you surprised they didn't do something, a concussion check?

I did not see the play. I saw the results of the penalty, but I did not see the play.

Did you see the running into the punter?

Yes.

Legitimate call?

Yeah.

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How do you prevent the younger players from learning the wrong habits, and taking the right lessons from this stretch?

Like we talked about, you learn, win, lose or draw. And it's frustrating in these moments, of course, but I've got guys in there that understand what's in front of us. They understand the things that we have to clean up. And we've got leadership on the football team that will bring the young guys along.

With Dillon [Gabriel], do you worry a little bit with rotating at tackle and the drop issue that could be hurting him to be in a bad environment?

He's got to operate regardless of what's going on around you. The injuries are a part of every football team. He's just got to keep continuing to stack these games, stack these reps.

What can you say about Aaron Rodgers?

Yeah, great player. Obviously again, give them credit. Give their offense credit, their defense credit. They did a nice job. But he was accurate throughout the day, made plays, and did a good job.

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QB Dillon Gabriel
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How do you feel after taking as many hits as you did?

Solid, probably not obviously not happy we lost. But, yeah. Body is, yeah, physically.

On how the Steelers pass rush impacted the game.

They're a really good team. I think on the sack end, there's things that I can help to do to try to get it out as quickly as possible just so we're not in the negative on first and second down. So, things we've got to learn from.

On incompletions throughout the game.

I think here and there, there's times where I definitely need to be better in creating completions, and then us working together to find that. We've got to create chunks, explosives. That's sometimes just runners, yards after catch. Maybe that's down the field. But that's also just doing the easy things at a high level. And I think at times we're not doing that. And that starts with me, but we've got to find answers.

On the run game.

I think it's a balance. I think at a certain point in the game we were trying to catch up in a sense and be more aggressive. So, we kind of, we're a little different in that end. But I think early on we tried to get that going and, of course, take our chances when we can in the pass game.

On what the offense can improve upon.

I think sustaining drives. I think there's a lot of positives in certain areas, and then there's a negative play or a penalty here and there that sets us back in a series where you're going to get in third-and-long. And they've been really good at that in third and long. At that point it's a lot tougher to sustain drives, but when we are ahead and being really good on first and second, then all of a sudden on thirds you're converting, you're building momentum and being able to sustain drives where you're in the plus territory. And then I think when you're in the plus territory, you can't score -- you've got to go score touchdowns and not field goals. I think there's a lot for sure to work on and we'll have to take it one by one, and all get better. Like I said, it all starts with me.

How do you maintain a steady pocket presence when you're under pressure a lot?

I think there's got to be comfort within a pocket. And I think anytime you can operate in that with pressure, there's obviously less guys in coverage, so you want to take advantage of that. But also, being able to use and extend plays as well. But I think there's a combination of the two that you've got to balance to where you're not moving unnecessarily and creating your own pressure, but then also being comfortable in the pocket when there's games and stunts going on.

Was there anything unique in this atmosphere you haven't seen before?

I think every atmosphere is unique to itself. But as a competitor, you want to continue to make it process-oriented. And there's a job to do and do it at a high level. And you've got to play good on the road. We play home games, away games. Either way, you've got to play good football.

When you're struggling as a whole, how difficult is it when you have big drops in big moments and how do you deal with that?

It's all things we're all going to learn from. I think it's hard to just say there's drops. There's a lot of ways I can be better to help them and times that we can work through those certain things. But within plays, it ain't going to be perfect. It never will. In the moments that we were in, it's a lot more crucial to sustain drives and get catches to keep going. But like I said, I don't want to get it misconstrued. That all starts with me as well.

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When you talk about the negative plays, the penalties in particular, how do you clean those up?

It's tough. That's part of playing the game as well, playing penalties. I think limiting pre-snap penalties is huge, but playing penalties are going to happen. It happened on both sides. So at times we benefited from it as well. But you want to, of course, limit those for sure.

When you look out there you see all those guys first down and second and third down, do you feel as a group, as an offense, you guys are going to grow up together, but you sort of have to grow up together and make fast decisions?

I try not to look big picture, just be present. I think other people in our building have the ability to look at that. But, for me, it's, like, how can we be good right now and be the best version of ourselves. We obviously know that there are younger guys that are hungry and are gaining experience at the moment. But like I said, there's got to be growth day to day, week-to-week. And it's got to translate to a better outcome.

You talked about not settling for a field goal. How do you get better in that? Do you have to be better inside the red zone, and how tough is it when you don't score a touchdown?

It's tough. It gets tighter and coverage is tighter. There's a lot more pressure as well. So, I think in that case you've got to be on your Ps and Qs and being able to show eyes quicker, getting the ball out.

But also, I keep going to creating completions. And when you do that, you don't go broke taking a profit and you continue to move forward. That three-yard gain and plus-10 is huge -- or even a four-yard gain.

Just being able to help yourself there, but don't want to -- we want to score touchdowns in the red area.

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