



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

Eagles Head Coach Nick Sirianni

Q. You did a lot of rotating of the quarterbacks today. What was the thought process behind the playing time and who you put in when?

Nick Sirianni: We wanted to get both of them reps, and get both of them reps with the twos and also with the threes. So that was the thought process of why we rotated them within that series. Again, wanted them to both be able to play behind the [number] two offensive line with the number two pass catchers and also with the number threes.

Q. What went into the decision to not play Eagles QB Tanner McKee? Knowing you've typically played your backup.

Nick Sirianni: Yeah, he got a lot of good work in that joint practice. Sometimes we only get one joint practice. This week, we were able to get two joint practices in there. It was really good work all week, and we felt like in that situation we saw a good chunk of Tanner there and that was his work for this week.

Q. How would you assess the play of both Eagles QBs Dorian Thompson-Robinson and Kyle McCord?

Nick Sirianni: I felt like it was just not great complimentary football today. When you have the heat like that, you want to be able to-- defense had some long drives, offense had some three-and-outs and you want to be able to play complimentary football in that area. I have to watch the tape. Obviously, they had some good moments and had some plays that they made, but also we missed some plays. But, that's not always just on the quarterback if there was a misplay. I'll have to go watch the tape. It wasn't good enough out there on the field today. Coaching, playing, anything.

Q. Defensively, when you have a player like Eagles S Andrew Mukuba making plays, how much does that give him confidence? How much does that mean?

Nick Sirianni: I always thought that he has a knack for the football; how he practices, watching his tape whether it was at Clemson or at Texas, and he has the ability to take the ball away as a playmaker. Any time you go out there and make a play, that's big. That was exciting, the interception. And even the one when he was there for the fumble recovery after they had a missed exchange. Guys that have a knack for the football just find ways to be around the football and I think that's what we saw today.

Q. How difficult are some of these decisions going to be at safety? That job is open with Eagles Ss Andrew Mukuba and Sydney Brown, and then cornerback and a couple other jobs.

Nick Sirianni: I feel like we have good depth to-- I know you guys are waiting for us to be like, 'Here's the guy who's starting.' I think it's also a good thing that we have a bunch of guys that we feel good about that are still battling all the way until the end. That's what we're excited about, and it's always tough decisions whether it's cutting a guy or whether it's deciding who's starting and that's why I have training camp and that's why we have preseason games, though, to help us out with that.



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

Q. When you're making those decisions, do turnovers like that carry a higher weight in your evaluation versus other things?

Nick Sirianni: I mean everything, whether it's taking the football away, whether it's tackling, whether it's block destruction, whether it's just getting everybody on the same page, of course, yeah.

All those things play into it. You know how much we stress the ball and taking care of the football and taking the football away. So that always goes into it. I mean I think you look at the first half, we obviously didn't play a good game in whole. We really didn't play a good first half either, and we're winning 13-12 because of two turnovers, right? Two turnovers to none. The ball is always at the forefront of our mind, but that doesn't mean that you don't account for everything in it as well.

Q. With Eagles WR Akins Smith, there wasn't a ton offensively, but he was able to get separation on a couple occasions and in the touchdown. How much different is he this year? He's dealing with that shin.

Nick Sirianni: I think you've seen his explosiveness that we saw at Texas A&M, and his ability to get out of breaks. I felt like I started to see that as well last year as he started to recover. He's got the ability to separate, he's got ability to make plays, and he made a couple nice plays. He had a third-down conversion early in the game and then he had the third-and-nine at the nine where he separated and had the touchdown catch. He has the ability to separate because he has good body quicks.

Q. We talked to you before the second practice but not after. It looked like the offense struggled. You're obviously without Eagles WR A.J. Brown and a couple offensive linemen. What's your level concern or assessment of how that--

Nick Sirianni: That's practice sometimes. What I felt like is just, even though you're not scoring points in practice I guess to say, it's hard to score points when you move backwards and I just felt like we had a couple too many that we moved backwards on, and that's for different reasons. Whether that's a pre-snap penalty, whether that's a negative run, whether that's a sack, all those things stall drives out. That's what I felt like with that second day of practice more so than anything.

Q. Was this the plan for Eagles QB Tanner McKee or did the way he played last week kind of sway you?

Nick Sirianni: Like I said earlier, what we felt was that he got a lot of good reps in that week in the joint practices and everything's case-by-case. Everything's scenario-by-scenario and that's why we went with the way we did today.

Q. Eagles OLB Azeez Ojulari was active in this game. What have you seen from him as the summer's gone on?

Nick Sirianni: I think you saw his ability to be around the football, rush the passer, make some plays in the run game. We like the things that he can do. He's been productive in this league and we've gotten to see him two or three times each year when we have to prepare for him. So, I think he's coming on and had a good game today.



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

Q. Eagles S Andrew Mukuba's interception came after he got beat on a play downfield. His interception in joint practice came after he got beat on a play. How much when you're evaluating a rookie does having that short memory go into it?

Nick Sirianni: That's a good observation. We want that for all of our guys to be able to play the next play, to be able to go out there after an interception and play again or after a big play. That's part of the mental toughness of being able to be in the moment and fix the mistakes later. We always talk about having the same attitude, effort and energy regardless of the circumstances. That doesn't mean you don't go back and fix it afterwards and talk about the things that need to be better, but you have to be able, in this game, in this league, to be able to-- and this is coaching, this is playing, to be able to have a short memory and move on so you can have your full focus so you can coach and play with great detail and you can play with great effort.

Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski

Opening statement:

"Okay, injury front, [Browns T] Cornelius Lucas dealing with an ankle injury. We'll get more information on that. A lot of lessons to learn in that football game. Two giveaways really were the difference there in that first half because I thought we were doing some really good things. But then we got that takeaway [which was] negated by an offsides [penalty]. So we're just trying to hammer home how important it is to win that turnover margin in these football games. But I thought, by and large, the guys competed like crazy, which they did this week as well. So I was pleased with the effort and then we got to still have that mentality that we got to get better every single day. And that's what the guys are going to do. With that I'll take any questions."

On if there's an exception with two offensive players:

"There shouldn't be."

On if there's an exception with one offensive player:

"They're out of their sandbox. They were in the wrong area of their sandbox. We'll get that cleaned up. That's something, that's kind of what I'm talking about where things like that happened in these games. We have to clean that up. And even if you weren't on that rep, you're a tight end or a wide receiver, you can learn from that rep. So that should never happen on that play."

On whether he absolves Browns RB Dylan Sampson on that play:

"Yeah, obviously that can never happen on that play. There's things, not all interceptions are created equal, but we can't do that as a football team."

On the overall performance:



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

“Yeah, plenty to clean up. There's some things that I thought we did well. I thought our offense as a whole on third down was very good early, which allowed us to stay on the field. I don't think we were great on first and second down, but plenty to clean up.”

On the fumble exchange:

“Yeah, those two, us as coaches, we got to get them on the same page. We can never do that, ever.”

On the timeout in the first series:

“Yeah, I didn't like the defensive look.”

On whether that was an operation problem:

“No.”

On if Browns QB Dillon Gabriel was close to not playing the game:

“Well, I think you have to be so careful with these types of injuries. And we have to protect players from themselves and sometimes guys want to play so bad and you just have to make sure that they can protect themselves, make sure that they can go perform. So that's all it was. Just getting as close to kickoff as we can to make a prudent decision for the young man.”

On the timeline of naming a starting quarterback:

“So we will treat the final preseason game in a dress rehearsal-type way in the sense that we're going to do a regular season schedule this week. So we will make a gameplan now. We won't run every play that we put in this week, but I want the guys to get used to getting a gameplan, new plays, evolving the offense, defense, and special teams. In terms of who plays and that type of thing, we'll talk about that later.”

On if he anticipates naming a starting quarterback:

“Let's get through today and then you and I will chat.”

On both rookie quarterbacks starting a preseason game:

“Yeah, obviously I'm not going to compare our players, other than to say I'm pleased with where they both are in their progression. They have the mentality that they're going to get better every single day, which I appreciate. That's really where our focus is.”

On the defense's performance in practices throughout the week:

“Yeah. Again, I'm not going to characterize it. I'll tell you, I was really pleased with Wednesday and Thursday, really pleased with the guys today, obviously. Our brand of defense, as you know, is to play really, really hard and you have to compete like crazy. And I think that's what you see from our guys.”

On all quarterbacks being ready for the following preseason game:

“From a health standpoint? I hope so, but I'm not sure yet.”

On Browns QB Shedeur Sanders' pre-game warmups:

“I'd say it's all rehab. We're being very smart there. Hopefully he's going to get better quickly.”



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

On Browns WR Gage Larvadain returning punts:

"I think just all these guys were trying to get the proper amount of work for them so that we can make our evaluations. That's all it is."

On Browns QB Dillon Gabriel's play:

"Yeah, I thought the operation was good. When you go into these games, I know that's kind of boring, but that's what you're looking for from the quarterbacks to orchestrate, get guys in and out of the huddle, make the right calls, send the motions, all those types of things. So I thought he did a good job with that. He's got plenty that he's going to clean up."

On adding Browns WR Isaiah Bond to the team:

"Yeah, I really don't have any update there."

On if he expects Browns RB Quinshon Judkins to be with the team:

"I also don't have an update there."

On Browns T Dawand Jones' lack of playing time:

"It kind of goes back to every single player. You're making the decision on what we think they need to get ready."

On if that situation applies to Browns RB Dylan Sampson:

"Correct."



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

Browns QB Dillon Gabriel

On the adrenaline before and during the game:

“Yeah, no adrenaline. I think it's just more excitement. Getting to wake up and go to game day was a lot of fun, and it was good to get back in that process. It was a lot of fun.”

On his performance during today's game:

“Yeah, I think we'll still have to go back to the film and see how it is, but for me, I think just continue to learn from some things that can't happen, like turnovers. But I think other than that, there are flashes of being very consistent and clean as an offense. I think as long as we consistently work on that and then try to put more of those kinds of drives together, you see our defense playing really well and just putting each other in better positions.”

On the interception that was returned for a touchdown:

“I think, for me, I look back and definitely want to just throw it away, don't force anything on a keeper and I felt like there was miscommunication on my part, something that we've got to clean up, but I will make sure of that.”

On his opinion of the team's starting quarterback situation:

“Yeah, I'm not worried about that at all. Just focus on one day at a time. At the end of the day, some decision will be made that's best for the team and that'll be it. So I'm just focused on being the best version of myself and contributing to our team to be the best. That takes every single day and one day at a time. So, way down the road.”

On the handoff exchange:

“Yeah, just miscommunication as well. I got to be better there to help us out on knowing exactly where the launch point is and that's something that'll be corrected and fixed as soon as possible.”

On the opportunity to run a two-minute drill:

“I think there's 86% of NFL games that have a two-minute end of game or end of half depending. But for us that's huge. We definitely want to continue to get those reps. You try to emulate it, but I think when you're in it, it's definitely the best. Just trying to get points, whether it's seven or three, just trying to consistently move the ball and then think through how we're going to operate through that.”

On the moment and the feeling of playing as an NFL quarterback in an NFL stadium:

“Yeah, I think it's helped having OTAs and even into training camp where we are now, but I think there's still that focus within the moment and serving the moment. So not making it too big or too small. That allows you to just be your best within that. I definitely want to continue to stack those moments and definitely always be grateful and blessed to go out there. It's a blessing to do what we do, so never want to disregard that.”

On the comment he made on the telecast about entertainers and competitors:



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

“What do you mean?”

Journalist: There's a quote that you said, there's entertainers and competitors and I'm a competitor and I understand there's entertainers. What context is that quote given?

Dillon Gabriel: “Well, all you in this room are entertainers and you have a job to do and I respect it, right? And I'm a competitor so I have a job to do as well. And I think just understanding that that's how I've lived by, and I've said that multiple times, so definitely not a new quote, but something that I've definitely said before.”

Journalist: You were referring to the media as the entertainer?

Dillon Gabriel: “Yeah, I just said that, yeah.”

On clarifying his comments because some people on social media thought that the comments were a shot at Browns QB Shedeur Sanders:

“First off, I am all about our team, you know what I mean? And each other. I would never make that [comment about him]. I've said it before, that's why it's interesting. But for me, I've explained it, entertainers are you all. A competitor, that's what I am along with all my teammates. We both have jobs to do. That's it.”

On his recent hamstring injury:

“I think it's interesting because you're working through it and it is unique, I will say that. It's one of the first [injuries] like that for me. You're just working through it. Some days it feels good, some days are not as good as others, but I think we see a progression as linear, but with a [hamstring], as I'm realizing there are a few days when you have to continue to strengthen it and work through it. I'm just trying to get better and feel better there.”

On the opening touchdown drive of the game:

“It feels good. You definitely want to set the tone early and I think we had great openers and we were able to think through that and feel really confident about it. Everyone executed at a high level in the run game. I think the offensive line played really great and they were just getting vertical in their double teams, with the running backs seeing that as well. It is a full team effort and you see the receivers getting on the second level and blocking as well and then trying to make plays in the pass game. So I think when you see consistency like that, that's at its best. You want to continue to replicate that. But within a drive, it's answering, too. We take a sack early, but we get a third-down [conversion]. We're in another third-and-long, but we get ahead of it and we try to work our way back. I think you just see guys competing through that. So I'm proud of the guys for sure.”

On converting the first six third-down conversions of the game:

“I think we always talk about it. It's the red area and it's third downs. I think it's the turnover margin obviously where we have to be better. I think those are key points, even negative plays. You want to eliminate those and be as good as you can within that. And I think we just had a good operation within that. We want to definitely be better on first and second [down] and we were in some cases. But the more



Philadelphia Eagles vs. Cleveland Browns Post-Game Quotes

we can continue to be ahead of the chains, get in third-and-true manageable, and then execute at a high level, the better we'll be in those moments."

On whether he was able to showcase his skills today after dealing with injuries during training camp:

"I think it's interesting because there are always overreactions with preseason [games] and naturally because it's the first time you're seeing a lot of players. But for many I think, we're just trying to build continuity and build consistency. So for me, it's all growing moments in the grand scheme of things. I'm a guy that sees it long term. I think you see a day or two, or two weeks, but I think the true growth is within months or years and you see a player grow within that. I think that's where you see guys definitely flourish. You see that from our vets and they're great case studies for that as well. I think we just have to continue to chip away and that starts with a lot of the young guys, but us all contributing to what we want to do, which is just win games."

On how maintaining his composure after a turnover is important to his game:

"I think the response is everything. I think in many cases there's maybe mistakes on display or maybe plays that you want back, but for the most part there's got to be that continuous response and competitive nature to continue to go out there and compete. And I'm a gunslinger and I'm going to continue to sling it and be aggressive that way. Like I said, that can't happen, and we've got to throw it away in that situation. But I think as a unit and us coming together, I want to help my teammates out by being better and we all know that it's us coming together to go do that."