



Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. Buffalo Bills
Week 15
12-21-25

Opening Statement:

"Okay. Quinshon (Judkins) had an ankle dislocation, fractured his fibula. Obviously very disappointed for the young man. He will bounce back. I have zero doubt about that with him. But, you know, obviously you never want to see that with any of your guys. So, he'll get surgery. He'll be back in no time, I know that. The game, just frustrated, you know, want to close that one and want to get a win versus a good football team at our place. And we didn't do it at the end, so that's the frustrating part. Love how the team fights, which I'm not surprised. That's who those guys are. So we'll look at it, we'll learn from it, and we'll get ready for next week. With that I'll take any questions."

Coach, I know this question is probably more suited after you watch film, but just quickly, how would you assess today's game?

"Yeah, in total we ended up minus in the turnover margin. It's hard to do that versus a very good football team. Obviously, we didn't come away with points at the end of the half there, which we are operational. Field goal has been excellent all season long, so that was disappointing. And then they made their plays. We didn't make enough at the end, but, I give them credit. They made their plays."

Kevin, the run defense in the first half, what did you see there and what you were able to clean up in the second half?

"Yeah. Going into it, you know, that's a great run team. They have good players, good scheme. James Cook is outstanding, so we knew that's a challenge. We made some adjustments throughout the game. Obviously, we feel like we can play better early, give them credit. But, yeah, there were a couple things that we can certainly do better."

Kevin, you guys lose Quinshon, but Trayveon (Williams) and Raheim (Sanders) – the way they came in and sort of picked up that running back role.

"Yeah. Guys that we trust. I think I've told you guys many times, whoever is in there, we trust them. And I say that because they're with us and they're in every meeting and they're at practice. And sometimes you don't get those opportunities, but you're on the team because we trust you. So not surprised to see those guys come through. A couple really big plays with Trayveon, and I thought Rocket (Raheim Sanders) ran really hard."

Can you talk about Shedeur Sanders just how he played, and he also had to leave with the pinky injury and come back?

"Yeah, he battled like he does, I thought he made some unbelievable plays with his feet today, which I thought going in the game that may be the case. He'll fight through injuries, little finger injury's not going to keep him out of there, but always room to grow for a young player, but really proud of how he fought."

What did they do to turn up a pass rush pressure there in your last couple possessions?

"Yeah, I don't know if there's one thing specifically, Jeff (Schudel), that they did, but we'll look at it. And listen, you're going to be in games where you got to go 85 or 90 or whatever it is to go win it, and we'll look at ways that we can be better as an offense there."

Kevin, were you always going to go for it there on that fourth down?

"Well, I mean, yeah, it depended on what the distance was, obviously, but felt like where it was at two or long two, whatever it was. Felt good about keeping our offense on the field. You're going to have to play aggressive to beat this team, and I felt good about going for it there. Just what we didn't, didn't happen in that moment."

What did you see going against this Bills team that you thought played to your advantage?

"Yeah, I mean, I have a ton of respect for Sean (McDermott) and his staff and that football team. They're very good on offense. They have a great quarterback, as we know, who made his plays today. Defensive attack is really difficult. I think, you know, special teams, their kickoff returning has been outstanding. So, you know, going into a game with a team that has the record that they do, you're going to have to go play aggressive. You know, you're trying to go take the ball away from them. We didn't have any takeaways, which wasn't for a lack of trying. It's just they did a nice job."

Disappointed that Myles (Garrett) didn't get the sack record today?

"Yeah, I think, you know, the record and we talked, have talked a lot about it, Mary Kay (Cabot) - we don't talk a lot about it, when we're in the building and we're getting ready to play, that's really not our focus. It's not Myles' focus. You guys have talked to him at length about this. He's trying to just play good football to help the team win."

Is that why coaches decided to go for it on that 4th and 2 to stem the tide?

"Yeah, I think in that moment, felt good about the play we had up, felt good about where we are on the football field. And again in these games against really good football teams, you're going to have to go make plays in those moments. We didn't and it's not, you know, we didn't execute or it wasn't a good play call. We just didn't. We didn't make a play in that moment. But I feel good about the process there, and that's unfortunate, but you're going to have to go make plays if you think you're going to go beat the Buffalo Bills or a good football team."

Shedeur had a couple of passes batted, including that one interception, did you see anything on there that why that was the case?

"We'll always teach off of those, Scott (Petrak). And anytime that there's a batted ball, you'll look at your eyes and see if there's things you can do differently. Other times, you know, we have Shelby Harris on our team. These defensive tackles are very good at when they're not maybe going to get home, they know when to match the hand of the quarterback and those type of things. So we'll learn from those."

Just how good has Quinshon been for you guys all season long and what has he meant for the team?

"Yeah, Q's been incredible. Great teammate, runs hard, cares about this game, cares about the right things. So I'm disappointed for him. He's disappointed, but he's not somebody that I worry about. He'll bounce back."

Kevin, on the field goal at the end of the half, just low snap and Corey (Bojorquez) not able to handle it.

"Obviously we didn't come through, but this is a group of specialists that have been outstanding all season long. They work really well together. We weren't at our best in that moment."

Do you think the effort overall was better today than last week?

"Yeah, I don't think about it in those terms. We're excited about any opportunity we have in front of us."

I know we've talked a lot about Harold (Fannin Jr.) throughout the year, but he gets a touchdown on a catch and then has one on the run. I think he set the team's rookie record. So just how good has he been and the versatility he showed?

"Yeah, I think he's been great. But I go back to, he's been the same guy every single day. He works really, really hard at his craft. And I say that because if you're going to be moved around the formation, you're going to hand the ball to him and you're going to put him in motion and bring him back on the slide for the keeper touchdown. Those are all things that require a guy to be locked into a game plan. And his versatility is directly tied to his intelligence and how hard he works at this."

In Shedeur in some ways, even exceeding your guys' expectations in terms of his mobility and his elusiveness at all?

"Yeah, I'm not going to frame it that way, Mary Kay, other than to say that's part of his game. That's one of the things that you saw on tape when he was in college is his ability to make plays that were off schedule."

Talk about the opening drive.

"We stayed out of third down. We were very efficient on first and second down, which is huge. I thought a bunch of different guys touched the ball, but. Yeah, really well executed, well-called by Tommy (Rees)."

Coach, another tough loss, what's the message to the team moving forward?

"Yeah. All these losses are tough. None of them are easy. So it hurts. But we'll be right back at it. We'll be fighting next week."

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Browns QB Shedeur Sanders
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From HBCU to Power 5, now to the NFL. What has been most helpful to you during this NFL process?

"I would say each step. Each step been the most helpful for me because a lot of different perspectives, you know. It's a lot of different viewpoints and different aspects of life, you know, And I feel like everything, you got to go through, you know, everything. Every moment you gotta live through, and each of those are building blocks to help you throughout whatever situation you're in and help you be thankful also."

Shedeur, what happened with the finger, and what was that whole episode like for you?

"I don't know. You can look online to see what my finger look like if you want. I'm sure they got the details on there. I don't know. My pinky was just, like...I put on my hand warmer, and I'm like, "Why is my pinky not getting cold? I mean, why is it not getting warm?" Then, like, I threw Quinshon, like, a little route down there. Then it, like, kind of was a little high, and I was like, dang. So then it was over with. And then I did everything, you know, to come back because I didn't want to put, like, Dillon (Gabriel) in a bad situation, you know, like, since when I was a 2 (QB2). And, like, it's tough. It's tough to play that role because you don't get reps. You don't get anything. And I was talking to him. I said "My bad, bro, for putting you in that situation." You know, because it's not ideal and I want him to be prepared whenever he was out there, you know, so that's really how all that went."

Did it bug you in the second half at all with the bandage on it?

"At that point, like, I just had to accept fate. I just accepted, like, okay, this what it is. I can't think about it. I can't complain about it."

Were you unable to throw a deep ball because the pinky?

"No, I don't think. Nah. I wouldn't have came back if I couldn't throw."

What you see in the Bills offense on tape that played to your advantage, it seemed like you were in the rhythm early in the game. So what were some of the things that you were able to capitalize off of?

"It's really just building off last week. It's building off, getting to the checkdowns. When you see it, pull it, take it. You know, playing in rhythm, like, all those different things, like, I learned and I proved to myself, you know, like, I can do that. You know, like, that's an aspect of my game that I gotta be more consistent with, but I can see that. And like, even the last drive, for example. And I respect, and I was telling them, like, during the game, like, I respect their defense. I respect kind of like their coaching how it was, because if you understand, it was kind of like Tampa 2, that backer, MIKE (line)backer running, walling, you know, taking that middle. Because we had a through route, a vertical route from the inside. Then we had a dagger coming. And I'm like, okay, cool, I got the dagger. Like, I got the dagger. But then he peeled off and then was waiting on that dagger. So by the time I went there, then it was just hard to get back down. I ran out of time. So that's just like, you know, in those situations, it's like you got to tip your cap to them. Like, that's the whole why? Because if I was playing, that's the ideal coverage, you want a dagger in, you know what I'm saying? But anything else, you know, we'd have got to the check down, we would have got to there quicker. But that's the why of you didn't just take that quick completion because it was there. But that's good coaching, but good coaching."

When you see Quinshon go down, just first off, what's going through your head in that moment? How do you as the quarterback, try to kind of get the rest of the guys back up?

"Yeah, well, it really hurt that Quinshon went down. Me and Quinshon was in the room talking yesterday till like 11-11:30, just like just about life, just about everything. Because of the type of person he is, and I know he been through a lot and just building that bond with the rookie class, like, having that be the new energy, you know, and kind of maintain on track, staying on track with everything. So knowing that he went down with that, it was definitely sad. It was definitely sad because I'm like, backside, I can't throw this slant. They're covering it, you know, they ain't like, I can't throw this slant. He's heavy inside. So, yeah, so that was my only option, you know, that was my option with throwing it. So I feel bad because I threw it, you know? But, yeah, truthfully, yeah, it hurts. It hurts."

Sometimes quarterbacks take sacks. People just say, "Oh, he's holding the ball too long." But to your point about the coverage adjustments and that sort of thing, what context do people miss sometimes?

"I mean, if you're in a world of pleasing people, you'll never be happy, you know? So I'm thankful that I was able to prove to myself, you know, that I'm able to play on time and I'm able to step up in the pocket. Like, I'm able to do that. Like, you know, you got to speak life into yourself, because if you look external for that, it's not gonna happen, you know? So, like, you just can't live in a world of thinking about other people's opinion, you know? Like, you. You could take everything with a grain of salt, like, okay, cool. Like, yeah, nah I should have got to that check down. But the why was the reason. So it's like, who am I to just sit there and argue back and forth, you know, about that? Like, that's me, I gotta recognize and get back down, you know? So that's just building on experience, it's building on time. That's building. So I look at those moments, okay, like, you got me. You gonna give me, give me now, you know, because I know in the future, all these are building blocks. These are all lessons that I'm definitely putting in my bag and gonna grow from."

Shedeur, did they do something to increase or change their pass rush in the last two series? Because it seemed like they were jumping on you pretty quickly.

"I'm not sure. I just know I just gotta probably just get the ball out a little quicker. That's it. Yeah."

What's the mindset on that fourth and two, obviously could have been a punt situation. You guys go for the fourth down. What was going through your mind at that time?

"Can you kind of like explain what happened? I just played a lot of plays."

Did you feel like it was the right decision to go for it on fourth and two?

"I know you can't be asking me that question, man. Come on, man. We can't see that, that's like the thing. Like, if we want to change the narrative, change the franchise, if we want to help, we got to speak life. You can't. Those type of things separate us. Like, a lot of the players, like, get these type of questions, and then we want to be working with y'all. We want to be proactive. But, like, when you ask questions or when questions are asked to us players and it's like you pinning stuff against each other, it's like, come on now. It's like a thing in the locker room. Like, you know, we're not gonna be able to talk to them for real. We're not gonna be able to give them what they need, like, because that separates the team. That don't help anything. It don't help anything in any situation, no matter how you answer it."

Working with your tight end, Harold Fannin (Jr.), it seemed like he had plays scripted and then did the Bills try to take them away later in the game? Because you were very effective with him early on.

"Yeah, I think a lot of teams try to attack us in different ways. You know, whether that's exotics, whether that's pressures, whether that's doubling somebody, whether that's something. And now thinking about that fourth and two, you know, they had great defense, great everything. So you look at their front side safety, you look at him, and then you gotta see where he buzzed down and everything happened so quick to where...That takes time for y'all to be on the same page and know when they, okay, this is a certain type of route. You know, it's gonna develop a little bit, but in certain situations, you can speed up and you can get there quicker. So that's about seeing in the same lens. That's about the time on task. That's about a lot of different things, and those processes is just something you just gonna have to be able to grind through."

Shedeur, a lot of the conversation this past week was about you completing more passes, and you did that today. So was that the theme of the practice week for you?

"No, it's just a mental thing. It was kind of like, understand that winning in this game, in the league is play by play. So you got to play each play for what it is. And don't try to do a lot, you know, and try to take what's there and try to do that. So oftentimes, like in the past now, I want to win, you know, so I'm trying to get to it instead of like, slow down, you know, take the check down, take what's in front of you, take the easy stuff, do what you got to do. And as the game goes on and as time goes on, you're going to be able to chop it down, you're going to be able to move the ball, keep getting completions. So it was just a mentality. It was just something like that. I just had to like, focus on mentally, you know, and that in the aspect of when to get to it."

You talked about 'the why' a lot today. Is that maybe the biggest thing you've started trying to grasp over the course of these five starts, is 'the why' of what happened the last play and changing it going forward?

"Yeah, I think when you explain 'the why,' then you able to understand perspective. So that's why we, even in the quarterback room, it's like, 'okay, why'd you miss this read?' Like, 'this was the why, this is what I'm thinking'. So at times, sometimes we gotta put things in the simplest form to understand the exact thought process and not assume. That's why. That's why I break it down, that's why I say that, because, like, it don't take much. We not far

from success. It's all of us thinking the same thing at the same time – that's all it is. And I think we get closer to it, I think each and every day, each and every game, each and every rep we get closer to everything. So, I'm excited for it, I'm excited for everything. I definitely didn't love the outcome of this game, but I understand it's a lot that we did win. You know, we won mentally today, and that's something I'll take and move forward with."

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Browns DE Myles Garrett
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Myles (Garrett), what did you guys do in second half to kind of tighten things up in the the run game?

“Got more physical, tackled better. Guys were just making the plays that we know we can make. We were just letting him bounce off of the first one, and then he was getting free. You know, that’s all the run game is, is being in the right spot and ‘want to.’”

Myles, that play with Josh (Allen) wound up getting sacked at the one and you got a half for it. Did you know, like, right away how it was going to be?

“No. Man, I wanted to get another regardless. I felt like that was a big play in the game and we were gonna march down and get some points and I was happy about that. But whether Mason (Graham) got it or I got it, that didn’t bother me - it was just the fact that the play was made. I was proud of him for being there at the right time, so just needed more.”

What were you thinking as you saw Josh start to retreat there?

“I saw his eyes get big when he saw me, so I knew he recognized who it was. So, he started to hightail the other way, and then he slipped, and then I slipped. So, I was thinking this could be the one to tie it, but ended up just a half.”

Hey Myles, when you went through that trade request, you said you didn't care about records, Hall of Fame, all that stuff, you just wanted to win. So, with two games to go and you guys are 3-12, what's it been like for you?

“Next question.”

When you see Quinshon (Judkins) go down the way he did, I know that happens in this game, but how much do you feel for him, young guy having the kind of year he's had?

“Young guy is tough, man. You can tell he loves it, you tell he wants to be great. He’s always coming up to me or some of the other older guys, some of the veterans, and just trying to get a little bit of knowledge here and there. And someone who just has that kind of passion for the game and dog in them who just attacks every single day, I can’t be more excited to play with someone like that. So, I’m praying for his recovery as quick as possible, and he just takes the necessary steps and he’s back on the field as soon as possible, as healthy as possible.”

Myles, I know Josh can be hard to bring down when he's in scramble mode, but his quick decision making, the way they were managing that today - how does that help them mitigate what you can do?

“That’s tough. When they’re getting out quick, I mean, a lot of quick game, a lot of rolling the pocket the other direction, hella, I didn’t see a lot of plays in general in my direction, and I’m sure it’s not by coincidence. So that’s tough to try to be disruptive, and get into a groove and work myself into the game when they’re doing stuff like that. So, I just got to think about how I can be more effective and make more noise next week.”

How do you keep yourself motivated after tough losses? And having the overall down season for the team, what keeps you motivated for each week?

“Not only do I want to be the best player I can, I know that I can’t take a game off because I owe it to the guys next to me. You know, I work my a** off in the offseason and during the year to be at the very best shape, and I’m not going to waste any of my God-given gifts because of any record or anything that anybody has to say. I’m gonna go out there and give 100% for myself, but for my teammates, for my family. I’m a representation of them - I want them to be proud of me, and I want something to be proud of when I lay my head down.”

How much are you noticing everything going away from you? The rolling the quarterback, I know they've done it before, but is it more pronounced week by week as you get later this season?

“Yeah, I mean, the keeper has been a favorite of offenses of late, and especially against us and just trying to get away from us. And I feel like we’ve had some pretty good success pulling it up, and it’s harder against guys who are as mobile and as athletic as Josh. And he was also just getting out quick. He wasn’t taking long to process and either throw it away or give his guy a chance. So, it’s tough, but we’re going to continue to see more. Probably won’t see too much next week with Aaron (Rodgers), but he’ll be getting it out quick himself.”

I know you wanted it to come in the win, but is there a level of disappointment that you didn't get the sack record today because you're so close?

“A bit. For my family. I wanted to get it for them, have some family show up. They felt like it was going to be the game in the moment, and so definitely want to give them something to smile about. For me, I always keep the main thing, the main

thing. I want to win. It's a close game, we were a little bit too lax in the run, a little step behind and not as physical as we needed to be, so that's the stuff I think about. The record's great, but the team record is what keeps me up at night. The sack record, it'll be there."

Did the (Buffalo) Bills show you anything different? Was anything different from the Bills on film, or were they pretty much similar to what you saw on film this week?

"I mean, usually they kind of leave Dion (Dawkins) on an island and just let him do his thing. He kind of has a unique set, unique variety, but the guard was coming down quickly, and then they were throwing the bunch on my side tight so that I had to line up inside, and they passed the ball, and I really didn't have angle to get to an edge. So, they threw a bit of peculiarities at me to try to keep me and kind of contain me where they wanted. They did a good job."

To a 3-12 Cleveland team, what's your message to the team moving forward?

"Like I said, you play for the man next to you. He's given everything to be here. It's an honor, it's a privilege, it's a blessing. I don't want you to take it for granted, not a single second being in this league. Guys like Quinshon had no idea today would end up how it was, and so you never know when your moment's going to come, and you never know when it's going to go. So, keep your head up, be proud of everything that you do, and just keep moving forward."

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Select Browns Players
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G Joel Bitonio

What was the difference today from the offense, just being able to run the ball, throw the ball when you needed too?

"I think we executed our blocks better. We talked about our one eleventh and executing the run. (C Luke) Wypler did a good job getting us on the same page at a time, and guys were executing their one-on-ones. I think (QB) Sheduer (Sanders) did a good job scrambling in the first half, he picked up 10 yards a few times doing that, things are going to open up when you are doing that. That keeps you on track and gives you a new set of downs, so then you can run the ball again."

What are your thoughts on Quinshon Judkins going down?

"He's my guy man, he's my locker guy back in Berea. He works hard and he just loves ball. To see a guy go and get hurt at that point is just unfortunate. Hopefully whatever it is he recovers quickly and he can get back. He's young and hopefully everything heals quickly. When you see a guy go down like that it sucks, it's the worst part of the game."

WR Jerry Jeudy

The offense came out firing in this game scoring a touchdown. What do you think made the difference this week opening the game with a strong defensive drive?

"At the end of the first drive everyone was on the same page. Everyone was doing their job at a high level, so I think that is what got us the opportunity to score on the first drive."

Talk about that tripping penalty you drew in the game today, especially the situation it was in.

"It was big on a 3rd and 15. I was trying to make [LB Matt Milano] miss, and he tripped me. It was a big play and it helped move the drive down the field."

The run game was strong before Judkins went down. I know you all have a hand with blocking, but what did you feel was going right for you guys?

"I think everyone did a good job at staying on their man. When the running back crossed the line of scrimmage, we know to stand on their man and the running backs were able to find the holes in the defense."

RB Raheim Sanders

What was your reaction when Quinshon Judkins went down with an injury?

"I'm really sad for him. With all the work he puts in, it is someone I really look up to. It was about him and I am going to hit him up when I get back home. I do not want that to happen to anybody, so prayers up to him."

How quickly do you have to put that injury out of your mind because when he goes down, you are the next man up?

"In the moment, it was his moment. All week, Coach was having all the running backs prepare because you never know what will happen on the field. I feel like I was prepared, but we lost, so I will not say much about what I did because we lost."

It was obviously not the way you wanted this moment to happen, but you got the moment. Was it meaningful to be getting those carries?

"Yeah for sure. For the point of getting reps and helping my team win, that is what everyone tries to do. I got my moment and took advantage of it, but it is on to the next one from here."

RB Trayveon Williams

What was your reaction when Quinshon Judkins went down with an injury?

"It was pretty devastating. Seeing him early in the year and now, he is a guy that wants it. He comes to work everyday and he wants it. He is young and hungry, and I hate it for him, but he works his butt off every single day. It is devastating and I am praying for him."

What do you see in [Judkins] that makes you think that he will attack his rehab and get back to the player he has been this year?

"I see it in the way he comes into work every day. He's a young guy but he approaches it like a veteran and I am so proud of him. We all tell him different things, but he's a guy that you do not have to tell him much. He comes to work every day and knows what he wants. He is diligent with the way he comes into work and the way he comes to practice. He pays attention in meetings and prepares his butt off. I am excited for his future and everything he can contribute for this organization."

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**Bills Head Coach Sean McDermott
Cleveland Browns vs. Buffalo Bills**

**Week 15
12-21-25**

Opening Statement:

"Good to get a win. The guys found a way, and that's the important part. Great job, Bill's mafia showing up; only a short trip, but we definitely heard them, even last night when we came into town, so I really appreciate their support. I want to point out a couple guys, (Bills RB) James Cook, another 100 yard effort, obviously not just one guy in terms of when that happens, but he's having a great season. Ninth, I believe, of the season. (Bills T) Dion (Dawkins), up against the challenge today, big time challenge and able to keep (Browns DE) Myles (Garrett) at bay. I think he got one [sack] or a half of one. So it's great competition there by those two guys, and the o-line overall. Then (Bills DE) Greg Rousseau, big time production today, as well as (Bills DT) Jordan Poyer, on the defensive side, and then (Bills DT DaQuan Jones) DQ getting his first interception. The stops in the 2nd half, in particular the 4th quarter were big for the defense. Two takeaways overall for the game leading to nine points by the offense. Offensively, I thought we started well. Second half, not so much. Defensively, didn't start as well; came back in the second half, and did some things to help us win the game there. Toughness overall, the football team. Good to see, but still plenty to work on. We need to do the basics - the basic things - better. You ask me what that is, I'll start with basic fundamentals, and then it'll go into executing, you know, the plays, the scheme, what have you. All in all, good to get a win. We'll take it, and we've got a lot of work to do as we move forward this week."

Can you talk about Greg Rousseau's performance, especially in the fourth quarter?

"Yeah, that was huge. We needed that from Greg. We believe that he can do that. He can impact the game. So it's good to see him get back in that kind mindset. The grounding call was huge. Forcing that late in the game, backing them up, and then being able to win the game for a minute on the offensive side. The play to (Bills TE) Jackson Hawes was critical for us right there. Jax did a great job. (Bills QB) Josh (Allen) as well, and then getting the quarterback sneak to end it pretty much."

You had said before that if somebody asked you about Greg and his season, it would have been a little bit frustrating. Do you think, today, obviously, but have you seen something come around with him?

"Well, it's not that he hasn't been trying. He has been given great effort. Greg's built that way. He's a very conscientious young man. I think, and when you just go back and look at, hey, we felt like we had a chance to get after their o-line a little bit today. They've got some guys out. But, having said that, it takes the physicality in one's rush. And it takes all four guys to do that as well. But his production today was certainly significant and needed and felt. And you saw it down the stretch there."

I know you're not going to be satisfied with your run defense today, but for the second straight week, your defense is coming up with critical plays in critical moments. What does that signify to you when you see your defense make a play when they have to make a play?

"Well, it's like Greg. Those are big time plays that Greg made for us, and we need that every week. We've talked before about getting home with four, being able to get home with four not just on third down, but also first and second. Then in this case, they went for it on 4th down. We were able to get off the field there, get the ball to our offense in scoring position. Again, do we need it to be more consistent? Yes, you can't allow a team to do what they did. So we're continuing to push. We have to continue to push to give ourselves a chance to win the game. And the turnovers, the takeaways have been big for us as well, in addition to the adjustments by the staff and the fourth quarter in particular. The guys showed up, and they made the plays they needed to make."

The touchdown run by Bills RB James Cook III in the first half was a phenomenal individual effort. How big was his effort on the long one especially?

"We knew we were gonna have to run the football. If you drop back and throw it every play or too much against Myles; he's gonna win some of those. We had to be able to run the football, be two dimensional. Usually when you have a run like that you have wide receivers blocking down the field and that's a good thing for us as well. We pride ourselves on that."

Third down on offense, what made it so tricky today?

"Well I thought in the first half we were doing a good job of winning first down. I believe we only had two third downs in the first half, so we were doing what we intended to do in the first half. The second half we were three for eight I believe it was. Too many third and longs. I think the average I had down was seven yards. We go from almost no third downs to a handful or more and then they're not shorter third downs, they're longer third downs. When you face a great pass rushing unit like this it makes it hard to convert in those windows."

A win is a win, but the wide receivers again didn't give you much. Not that the passing game did a whole lot today but another day where your wide receivers are, blocking, but they're not catching. What do you need there?

"Just overall as a team, that being one area. Defensively, we've talked about that. Special teams we had some kinda things today that didn't go the way they needed to go. Like I said, the work continues. We've gotta continue to improve as a football team. If we wanna continue to win moving forward. That's the summary for you. A lot to be happy about. You celebrate a win, especially this time of year, a lot to be grateful for. That said there is plenty, we can start listing them one thing at a time of things we've got to work on. The guys know that. It means a lot to our guys. They work hard, the staff as well. We'll go back to work and try to make sure that we improve in areas that we need to."

Is there any long term concern about Josh's foot?

"I don't have a follow up yet from (Bills Head Athletic Trainer) Nate (Breske). Josh seems like he's in good spirits in there. We'll see as we go. I'm sure they'll have further evaluations that they'll get to me."

Do you think he was affected in the second half by it at all?

"Josh isn't one to lead on if he is. He's so tough. So competitive. So it's hard to tell what's really going on inside of that heartbeat of his. He just loves being out there with his teammates. Looked like he threw the ball well, but outside of that I don't have a great feel for where he's at right now because I just visited with him shortly, but not long enough yet."

You said the pass rush was going to be key; did you want to blitz as much as you did?

"Yes and no. Once in a while, you get a blitz to send some reinforcements. I thought (Bills DC) Bobby (Babich) did a good job with that. A couple things we could execute better when the blitz was dialed up there. But it certainly adds to what you do."

With Bills LB Shaq Thompson getting hurt, it looked like Bills LB Terrel Bernard was coming into base sets, to play base, was the decision there to go that way?

"Yeah, no, it's good to have TB back out there. You know, he's one of our big time leaders. He has a C on his chest. You know, he came in and ended up playing, really, the remainder of the game at a certain point there. So it's every man up every week. You have to be ready to go; and he stepped in, and I thought, did a real nice job."

Any other injury updates?

"I think Jordan Poyer, I don't know the extent of it yet."

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Bills QB Josh Allen
Cleveland Browns vs. Buffalo Bills
Week 15
12-21-25

What were the emotions of the team after today's win?

"We feel like we are in playoff mode now. It's just find a way to win a football game. Obviously, it wasn't the prettiest way we can win. We have some stuff to clean up, but we'll take a victory."

What happened in the second quarter?

"They get paid too on that side to make adjustments and make plays. I feel like, starting with me - just didn't make enough plays, especially in that second half, take the bone-headed sack right before half, not giving us a chance to double dip. Lots of stuff to clean up, a lot to learn from, but we'll take it."

What happened on the play you got injured?

"Yeah, just tweaked my foot a little bit. Just flamed up on me a little bit. Pain subsided, so we're good."

Do you feel the injury affected your play at all in the second half?

"No, I don't think so. No."

With 2:53 left in the fourth quarter on 4th-and-one, why did you have a pass play instead of a quarterback sneak?

"Well, if I remember correctly, it was 4th-and-two. Those are typically tough to get a sneak. Any time it is longer than one (yard), you're kind of holding onto yourself there. I love the play call. The play was there. If I could give it out to him a little bit quicker. We know what happened there, so it's all good."

Why weren't able to run the ball as well in the second half, what do you attribute that to?

"They were making plays. They found something that was working for them. At the end of the day though, last drive, they knew we were running it, we had to run it and we did. We got the first."

What did you see on the pass to TE Dalton Kincaid that was ruled incomplete?

"Man to man. Threw him a fade. Close one. Game of football. Game of inches. We know we'll make these plays. I have to keep throwing them and giving our guys opportunities."

What can you say about the offensive line's performance against Browns DE Myles Garrett today?

"They did fantastic. The game plan going into it, getting some hands on him early, giving him different looks. It's a credit to the offensive staff and our offensive line."

What happened on the play when you were sacked by DE Myles Garrett and DE Alex Wright for a loss of 22 yards? Was it just trying to do too much?

"100%. 100%. Just throw it away."

What was your reaction on RB James Cook III's 44-yard touchdown run?

"It's unbelievable. I threw my hand up early, then I put it down and I was like, 'Oh, he's tackled.' Then I put it up again after he ran. He's the best back in football. I don't know how awards will shake out, but he should be in the running for every award. He's an absolute stud. We love having him. He makes our offense go."

What did you see from your own defense at the end of the game?

"We've seen it time and time again throughout the year. Having to go out there and make a play, and they continue to do it. Obviously, it's great to see that out there. Those guys getting after the quarterback."

What happened on the third down incomplete pass to WR Khalil Shakir that looked like it could have gone for a significant amount of yards? Was there a miscommunication there?

"I just missed a throw. Yeah, just missed a throw."

What can you say about how the defense closed out the game?

"It's awesome. Any time you are coming to the sideline and you are ticked off that you didn't finish the game in your own hands and how you wanted to do it. But then, opportunities for our defense to go out there and make plays. Get those reps and show the type of defense that they are. Obviously, it's great to know we have the kind of defense go do that and make big plays when they need to."

How important is it to go on the road and not turn the ball over?

"It's awesome. I can consider fourth downs, turnovers. I don't know if it's an official turnover, but we didn't get one. We should have gotten it on the third down, but again, that was on me. Any time that we don't score, we feel like it's a let down for us. We have that type of mindset. That the guys are more than capable to go out there and score on every drive. Obviously, that's not extremely realistic week in and week out, but that's our mindset. Every time we step on the field, we want to score touchdowns. We have to do a better job of that."

What can you say about the limited production of the passing game with only 130 yards through the air?

"Again, we are going to keep working. I can help to put our guys in better situations. Give them better opportunities. But again, any time you can run the ball with (RB) James Cook (III), and with the success we were having earlier, we'll continue to do that. It's going to open things up. Just keep trusting it."

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Select Bills Players
Cleveland Browns vs. Buffalo Bills
Week 15
12-21-25

RB James Cook

Did anything stand about what they were doing differently in the second half that made things more difficult?

"They gave us some different looks. We got the win, that's all that matters. The guys came out safe. Just move on now."

You're first in the league in rushing at the moment. What does that mean to you?

"It's a blessing that I get to go out there and perform and be at my best. It ain't over yet so we just gotta keep going. Hopefully we're with it."

Do you feel like you're playing the best football of your career? The stats back it up but do you feel that way?

"Yeah, but there's a lot of room for improvement. Just keep working and keep doing what I do."

What can you guys take from a game where you grind it out, and this style of a win?

"It's the league. It's the NFL, it's part of it. You just gotta finish better. We're gonna correct the tape and see what we did wrong and let's move on to the Eagles."

OT Dion Dawkins

What does it feel like to push through towards the end and get a tough win?

"Believe it or not, they [Browns] are actually a great team. A lot of people thought it was just going to be easy to come in here and just blow them out by a hundred. No. The NFL does not work like that. They played us all the way to the end. I tip my hat to those guys. They played us well and they played us hard. That's why the score at the end was close. Respect is respect"

How much pride can you take from the fact that you held Myles [Garrett] to one tackle and a half sack? A lot of talk about him coming into the game, chasing the sack record, you guys did a really good job on him...

"Our job is to protect 17 [Josh Allen]. I had Myles with me the whole game. I'm thankful that I'm able to compete, and I'm thankful that Myles is who he is to compete at a high level. I respect that guy. I really do. I was telling him in the middle of the game that I'm just proud of you man. We're able to experience history in real time. I respect the guy."

Could you sense a little extra from him today?

"I think Myles plays how he plays every week. I don't think that he drops and goes up. I think Myles plays like Myles every week and that's why he's in the position that he's in. I wouldn't say something extra. He's hungry for it. I think Myles is being consistent every week. Slow and steady wins the race. When you're doing the same things over and over, eventually they're going to win. I respect him. He's a hell of a player."

DE Greg Rousseau

You guys needed to step up in the second half, what was the mentality during those finals drives when they kept getting the ball back?

"We just want to win the play, it doesn't matter what the clock says or what the score says, we just go out there and play hard. I feel like we all embody that mentality, and that's what we go out there and do."

Greg, in the second half, it was obviously a very tight game. How gratifying is it for you guys as a defense? And then you specifically to really step up when your team needed you to?

"Yeah, it's cool. I mean, the opportunity we love. We love when it's tight in the 4th quarter. So being able to go there and get stops is what we love to do."

DaQuan Jones had his first ever interception at any level of football...

"Yes, it was great. He works so hard, whether it's the run game, pass rushing, whatever it is, he is there. He deserves a lot more credit than he gets. He works very hard and does his thing during the game."

You guys tipped some balls today and it resulted in a big play. Is that something you guys have been focusing on recently?

"Definitely, we've been doing a tip ball drill since training camp. I mean, it hasn't been a focus as of late, but just in general, we always say just get our hands up because good things happen when you get tips."

S Jordan Poyer

When the one hit you in the hands last week, was there a thought in your mind "jeez, I might not get another one of those for awhile?"

"Not at all, it just means the balls finding me, starting to find me. You know I just want to continue to work, continue to be the best version of myself I can be for this football team, and super grateful to be here in front of y'all. So it was fun to get a win today, especially here in Cleveland, and you know we'll take this momentum into next week"

Do the interceptions feel different as time goes on?

"Yeah, they do [laughs]. I think that was my first pick in...three years. Haven't had a pick since the Baltimore game in Baltimore, so felt good to get on the board and felt even better to win. So, we are gonna enjoy the flight home and get ready for next week"

How much as a defense do you guys relish the opportunities to go out there and close out the way you did here this afternoon?

"Yeah I mean that's part of our identity, that's part of - we want that opportunity. We always say when we go out there on the field, no matter what happens it is what it is and it ain't what it ain't. We still gotta go out there and play, and find a way to close the game out and I thought we did a good job of that"

You're a postseason participant - how do you feel where the team is right now?

"It's right in this moment. You know, there's no point in looking far ahead, you know we got a big task this week against Philly. [I'm] gonna start my preparation coming in on Tuesday and end with the gameplan. Obviously enjoy this win, 24 hour rule, and we move forward to Philly. Obviously, you know, a big win to have going into that game but the focus is right here, right now, in the present. You know, I always say to the guys, like, these times don't come around often, so you just embrace them, all of them - the ups and downs, the lefts and rights, it's all a part of the journey, and you know we are excited to be in this position."

Do you feel it picking up at all, though? Like you say, the moments, the games as you get closer, to this time a year does it feel – are you feeling it?

"Of course. Of course. It's December football, you know? It's totally different than the beginning of the year, right? You know everybody is looking for an edge, everybody playing hard, you know it's cold, it's wet, you know the fans are in it, it's the holiday season, this is the type of football - you want to be playing for something. It's really cool that we still have that opportunity in front of us and we'll continue to keep that momentum on to the next weekend."

What makes this team so good in December? I think you guys are 21-3 now, in that month, since the 2020 season.

"Yeah, I think just the guys in the locker room. You know, it's a long season, and you know, you play 17 games, plus whatever happens after that, and you know, it's just the ability for us to stick together. I think about last week as a great example of that, you know, down 21-3 or 21-0, or whatever, and just sticking together, the week before, I think it was the Bengals—I can't remember. We were down again and finding a way to come back, that's just – the guys we have in this locker room play for each other, you know what I'm saying, we play hard for each other."

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