



Cleveland Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. Green Bay Packers
Week 3
9-21-25

Opening Statement:

"Okay. Obviously really proud of that football team in there. Feeding off of each other, you know, it was not always easy. And listen, that's a great football team on the other side, I have a ton of respect for Coach (Matt) LaFleur and that group. That's a great, great team. And we battled to the end and made those plays when we needed to and just fed off of each other and complemented each other. And, you know, we get that big takeaway from Grant (Delpit), sets us up. You know, we get a big play, obviously from Q (Quinshon Judkins) early, we get a stop, we get a block from Shelby (Harris). So, it was just everybody. And then Dre (Andre Szmyt) came through at the end. I'm really proud of that young man. I'm happy for that young man. He's been through a lot, and he came through. So really happy for him. And, you know, this is the NFL. It's hard. You're going to go up against some tough teams and some tough matchups, and you have to fight, scratch and claw. And I thought our team did that today. With that, I'll take any questions."

Guess all those compliments paid off during the week, huh?

"Apparently. Apparently so. I mean, you know, made a point of it this week but that's football 101. We know that we have to play that way every single week. But I think you saw there in that fourth quarter, our defense needed to get stops, and they got stops, and that was a huge part of that game."

Coach, can you just talk about the emotions that you had coming off the field? You were fist pumping.

"I don't remember. I don't remember. Yeah, you know, for me, I get to watch this team work. I get to watch these coaches work. And when you don't get the results you want in the first couple, you want it for them. I wanted that ball to go through the uprights for Andre (Szmyt). I wanted that team to fight till the last minute, to the last second in this case, and come away with the win because they deserve it based on how hard they work."

Kevin, how important is it to get a win early? I mean, not let week after week, you talk about the work they were doing...

"Yeah. The thing I would tell you Chris (Easterling), is in the NFL, you better put the blinders on, because this win today won't matter next week. And whoever we're playing next week, they don't care what we just did. It's just, it's how the NFL happens every week. It comes at you and you have to move on. You got to put the blinders on. So obviously, we go into this one winless. I know that, but I can't let that affect how I work. I can't let that affect how we get this team ready to play. And then ultimately we worry about these one game seasons that we have."

How bad do you think it got for Andre (Szmyt) after that first week? You said he went through a lot.

"Yeah, he's been through a lot in his life, I would tell you. And the kid's come through."

Kevin, how confident were you that you could get the ball to David (Njoku) and get up the line and spike it?

"Well, pretty confident because we've worked it. Now, that's right at the cusp. We're going to make it onto a lot of training tapes this week in the NFL because teams are going to say, can you do that in 12? And it's been

done right around there, but you have to be great. Joe (Flacco) knew it, Dave (David Njoku) knew it, all the guys knew it. So, you practice those looks, typically you say 15 seconds. I just had a lot of confidence in that group to get it done."

Kevin, how much what more can you say about this defense?

"Not much."

Especially kind of holding things down for three quarters. I mean, Joe (Flacco) even said last week, like, he compared this defense to some of these really, really great Ravens' defenses.

"He would know. Yeah, you know, I think our defense is playing at a high level. And what I love about our defense is how we play as much as what we do and, you know, the schemes we play. Just watch us play, watch our guys come off the ball, watch them run the ball, watch them celebrate with each other. That's an infectious group over there."

Did you ever come close to pulling (Joe) Flacco?

"No."

With Joe Flacco, would you say that the fact that he was without two starting tackles, did that have something to do... It was tough sledding for him, obviously.

"Yeah, that's a great defense. I'm confident in saying that's a great defense. And those two edge rushers are outstanding. And then we had injuries early to our tackles. We were without Jack (Conklin) going into this game. So, they made life really hard. Our guys battled like crazy. We had to make some adjustments. But to be able to play how we did as a football team I thought was really impressive."

How about the way you guys really did a pretty good job on Micah Parsons. He didn't seem to make a lot of noise.

"He was making noise, Jeff (Schudel). He was around the quarterback. If he's not getting a sack, I get it. But he's pressuring. He's a great one."

Especially for your special teams to come through after all the blows that you guys have had, all the injuries that you guys have had. How big was that for everybody?

"Yeah, that was huge. Really proud of the effort from that group. We want to play well on all three sides of the ball and to come through with a huge block, I think Shelby (Harris) got it, right? Which Shelby (Harris) has about a thousand of those in his career. So, Shelby (Harris) got one, and then to hit that kick at the end, that's great for that group."

How was it with (Quinshon) Judkins jumpstarting that drive?

"Yeah, it was awesome. You know, he's a volume runner. Knew that he gets better with touches. He gets his first touchdown, which I'm excited for him, but he's only going to get better."

How do you explain Shelby (Harris) somehow finding a way to getting his hands on the ball in the way of that field goal?

"He's always been able to. I mean, bats balls on passes, he blocks field goals. He's always done it. He has a great feel for it. I want to say, when I was coaching the (Minnesota) Vikings in '19, he had an interception versus us. Like, he's just, he's very aware of that football, and he's just got great anticipation."

How coachable is that versus just sort of innate sense?

"It's innate, yeah. That's something that he's been blessed with."

Did you sense on the sidelines that your team, even when you were down, it seemed almost hopeless to be able to come back. Did you sense that they had a resolve? I mean, was there stuff going on?

"Yeah, you know, we talked about that, Mary Kay (Cabot). We've talked about it as a team. We know what these seasons are like. We know there's ups and downs that you got to navigate. That's the NFL. And our guys have confidence in each other."

Kevin, I hear you say that it's on to next week out in Detroit, but can't this carry some momentum for your players?

"Yeah, momentum is important, don't get me wrong. But you have to build off this, and I think for us. Well, trust me, I'll enjoy it, Jeff (Schudel). Don't worry. But tomorrow, we got to move on. Tomorrow, you got to watch this tape and find a way to get better, and then you have to move on. You got a big game next week."

No points, one interception. Why did you not consider pulling (Joe) Flacco?

"Yeah, I'm just focused on doing what I think is best for the team."

Did you have any update on Dawand (Jones)?

"No update. We'll get an MRI."

Did you get an explanation on the replay fumble?

"Yes. So, I think the big thing there is we need them to call that a fumble recovery by us. They did not feel like there's enough video information to call the recovery by us. So, it's clearly a fumble. I need them in the moment to see that it's a fumble. Give us the football. Because it's just too hard when the ball's in a pile to say definitively who comes away with it. It has to be a clear recovery. Anytime it gets in a pile, it's really hard. So, I prefer if they see the fumble on the front end."

Why was Dawand (Jones) at right tackle to start the game?

"Yeah. Jack (Conklin) was obviously battling. Just felt like that was what was best for both Dawand (Jones) and Cornelius (Lucas)."

And then the chop block, they called when you got in the goal line.

"I didn't see it. Was it a good call? Okay. I had some people in my ear saying it was a bad call, but I didn't see it yet."

They just said it was the right call?

"Who's they? He (the official) said it was a good call."

Even though it was a tough game for Joe (Flacco) in the offense. You're sticking with Joe (Flacco) going forward?

"Yes."

Kevin, when you don't score, really move the ball that great until the last four minutes. What changed? I know there were the two Quinshon (Judkins) runs, but what felt like it changed there?

"The field position, you know, it's part of playing complementary football, is setting our offense up on short fields by taking it away or making a great play on special teams or you get a long run, like Q (Quinshon Judkins), a couple runs where then you're moving the ball. But I thought just started to play a little bit more complementary."

Do you think your team can finally kind of take a breath now after winning a game like this?

"Yeah. Listen, again, just to go back. The NFL is...you can't ride the roller coaster. It's too long of a season. You can't ride the ups and downs like that. For us, we focus on what's in front of us. I know our fans probably ride that roller coaster, and certainly I did when I was a young kid, or a fan, I should say. But for us, it doesn't serve you well to think about last week or two weeks ago. It doesn't help us. So we're so focused in the moment, we put the blinders on and worry about what's right in front of us."

What about Joel (Bitonio) being able to come back?

"Yeah. Unbelievable. Yeah. I can't. I gave Joel (Bitonio) a game ball in there. I can't say enough about him, the football player, the person he was battling, he was not feeling good. He wasn't walking real well, but he battled. And that's Joel Bitonio for you."

When you're watching him work out, you say, no, he's okay. I know you talked to him. What does he kind of say? Because you walked in the locker room with him.

"Yeah, I'll let him share, probably Scott (Petrak). But he knew he wanted to be out there for his team."

Kevin, how fun was it for you to see how happy and excited the fans were? 40th anniversary of the Dawg Pound.

"Yeah. Well, that was awesome for me just to catch up with Earnest Byner. I didn't see Bernie (Kosar), but I texted with Bernie (Kosar), had Hanford Dixon break the team down and just tell the team that the history that we have in this place and, you know, I get to use the Dawg mentality so much. It's really what we branded a lot of what we do is off of our Dawg mentality. And, you know, Coach (Jim) Schwartz has a great line that "Hungry dogs run faster." And all of that is born right out of Hanford (Dixon). So unbelievable history there, and it was awesome having those guys around."

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Cleveland Browns QB Joe Flacco
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Joe, to start with Andre (Szmyt), I mean, two weeks ago, you know, you talk about. You never know what I mean, everybody sort of goes through moments like he had been. You know, just the difference in the emotions that came around for him for getting that opportunity.

"Yeah, just like you said, we talked about it. I mean, today was like, a day full of situations like that we can talk about forever, just like that. He got his chance a couple times there, hit two field goals for us, down on the end, then the extra point. You never know when you're going to get your chance, and, you know, you have to be ready to respond again. Well, like I said, I mean, today was a day completely filled with that type of thing. I mean, you could probably imagine, but you don't really know because you haven't experienced it. But when you're running out in the field, you know, after however many minutes of not putting a point on the board, it's hard. It's hard, and you got to be able to keep a straight face and somehow keep it together. And, you know, we talked all week about playing complementary football, and I don't think until you experience it, you truly understand, like, what that could possibly mean. But today, like, I feel like we, like, spoke it into existence today, and we came out of here today because of it."

Joe, you've probably been in those situations many times in your career, and you have to get that ball down and spike it to set up the field goal. So just take us through that sequence.

"Yeah. You know, you go in and you tell everybody, 'Hey, we got to get down. We got to clock it here, so get down, clock.' And then you get in the play and you just trust on the fact that you've practiced it a million times, you know, at the end of the day in training camp and throughout the spring and all that, and that everybody's going to get up, get set. The guys that need to be on the ball are going to be on the ball. The guys that need to be off the ball are going to be off the ball. And you give them one last little check and you spike it. And we did it exactly how you want to do it."

Joe, how grateful are you that Kevin (Stefanski) is giving you the opportunity to work through some of these early growing pains of the offense. I know Quinshon's (Judkins) coming through a little bit. Kevin said he's, you know, sticking with you going forward, even though this was kind of tough sledding today, I know you guys are without two captains and stuff. But as you guys are growing together, how grateful are you that you get to keep going and maybe see the vision here what this team could be?

"Yeah, that's what it's all about. You know, I talked about it. It's hard. It's hard to go out there and play games like today and, you know, keep it together, but that's what football is sometimes. And I mean, we have talked about it. The type of events that we have, just going out there and capitalizing on turnovers and not making mistakes yourself, you know, it wasn't pretty today and there were – you know, it was tough. There were times where there probably were guys down the field that were open, and it's just, I didn't make it happen. And you feel for the group as a whole. I mean, everybody wants to go out there and perform and put up numbers, points, yards, all that stuff. And part of your job as a quarterback is to get that done. But also, your job is to win a football game and just play your role in whatever that may be. I think today, as tough as it can be, we won a football game, and it was hard. It's hard when you're in your own stadium and you can't put points on the board and everybody feels it and you feel it, but you got to keep going out there and doing your job and having faith that, you know something's going to happen and we're going to get it done."

Why do you think it was so hard for 55 minutes or whatever it was?

"Well, they're good. We're not quite where we want to be, and they're a good team."

So when we see Quinshon (Judkins) breaking off those two runs like that and piling in for the touchdown...

"You can take a deep breath, you know, it's nice when you just paint the ball up and see a little bit. You see something split kind of as you turn it around and he's taking off down the field. So, I think it's a testament to our O-line for springing him one, and great job by him for hitting it and getting as much as he could."

Future looks bright with him.

"He's a good player. He's got a good head on his shoulders. That's the biggest thing. You know, he wants to do it the right way and he's fully bought in, so he's got a good future."

Another play on that drive was Harold (Fannin Jr.), that third down where he was able to kind of shake out of the tackle, pick up the first down, just hits all...

"You've seen it all, all year. I think in the three – we've only played three games, and how many times have we seen his ability to just break out of tackle, it's pretty crazy, right? Yeah, he's strong. I mean, he's big, but I think because he's just so strong and put together, you don't even realize how big he actually is. Strong hands, I don't think we realized. I don't know if we realized how quite how hard he was going to be the tackle, but man, does he do a good job with the ball in his hands."

I know you've done this forever, but what are your emotions like when Grant (Delpit) gets the pick and all of a sudden the ball's at the four yard line and then Shelby (Harris) gets the blocked field goal and looks like you're going to be down with 20 seconds left?

"Yeah, just like, just do your job like you've done, it's been hard, but you stuck to it all day and just done the simple things, done your job each play, continue to do that, have faith that everything else is going to take care of itself and we're going to get an opportunity, and that's what happened."

Last week you kind of evoked some really good defenses when you talked about your time in Baltimore. Like, what more can you say about this defense today?

"Yeah, I mean, I wish I didn't speak it into existence so much. I don't know how many games like that I can deal with, but I mean, guys, I don't think anything needs to be said about them, look how they played. I mean, it was unbelievable. Every time you looked up, it seemed like they had Jordan (Love) on the ground and that's a good running team. They were able to control the clock here and there, but you know, we also weren't able to do what we wanted to do on offense to kind of move the chains. They're really good."

Were you proud of the fact that you didn't press this game, that you didn't force it and that you stayed playing within yourself even though...

"Yeah listen, yeah I am, but you know, that's what we have to do right now. And listen, we could very easily not have won this game and it'd be a different story, but I'd still be feeling a similar way in terms of just doing my job. And it may not look pretty and you know, it could be tough but you know, you got to kind of rely on the team that we are right now to kind of come through with what we did today. And you know, I've seen crazier things, but this was definitely one of those hard-fought crazy wins."

Joe, can you talk about the passing to (David) Njoku on that final drive. Just a pretty gutsy call with that much time left on the clock to set up the game winning field goal?

"Yeah, we practice that all the time too. You know, we've run off slants and Dave (Njoku) is a big guy. They brought the guy right up the middle, kind of opened up the middle of the field. It was one-on-one man coverage. Dave's big, so I wanted to give him the opportunity. I didn't have to worry about it getting blocked at the line or anything like that. And he would get a little bit of a position on the guy and get as much as he can before having to go down. We do have to go down quick in that instance. So that's the call that we kind of go with. And we have faith in Kevin (Stefanski) calling it and our guys running it. And now it's just about, you know, getting up to the line and spiking it."

Joe, when you were talking last week about the recipe and the defense is playing so well, is this what you envision, just maybe not as hard like offensively?

"I've been here, man, I've been through these games and through these types of wins and I don't think – when we talk about playing complementary football, sometimes it's hard, you know, and I don't think guys can truly know how hard it is until you deal with it and you do it and you're like, 'Okay, man, that's hard.' But wins like this, they do a lot for a team and they have the ability to do a lot for a football team and give them belief in a lot of other things. So, we got other things that we need to work on, but getting wins any chance in any way you can. Hey, like I said earlier, I don't know how many of these I can deal with. If I have to deal with 14 more of them, then I will. That's – you know it is what it is."

Tell us about a compliment that you received this week because Kevin (Stefanski) had you guys all walking around complimenting each other.

"No, I was very thankful that he didn't ask me and put me on the spot. And I don't need compliments. You know, I think we got a bunch of tough-minded guys in that locker room and you know, when you're out there on the field with

them throughout the course of 60 minutes, you're proud. You can hold your head up high to be out there with those types of guys."

So you didn't give one either?

"I did not. I did not. I mean, maybe I did in passing, but I was not called on by Kevin (Stefanski) during the week."

Kevin talked about blinders, putting the blinders on. And, you know, you have to, kind of always, you look for them, how do you balance that? Like enjoying the moment, enjoying, you know, a game like this?

"You don't enjoy that till the very end. I mean, there was not a lot of enjoyment today until the very end. I'm sure you can ask the fans. And if you're a fan of Cleveland Browns football, I'm sure that, you know, maybe when the defense is out there, they were cheering, but I'm sure there was not, like, a ton of enjoyment until the very end. And I get it, man, it's hard. I mean, this was not like, yeah, you're not necessarily enjoying yourself. I mean, you're still grateful to be out there, to be on the football field. You're not like, out there just loving life, getting your butt kicked, and you can't put any points on the board and all that. You know, you're a piece of you. You know, like, there's always that inner battle. You are a little embarrassed. And there's that piece of you that wants to, like, just put your head down and hide, you can't do that. That's not what being a professional in this sport is all about. You have to be able to hold your head up and take it. Like, just take the onslaught of crap that possibly may come your way. And you just got to continue to go out there and believe and, you know, listen, things went our way this game down the stretch, and you could say that, and that would be the end of the day. But there is more to it than that. The fact that we were able to stick with it and not. We didn't have a bunch of guys bailing out and quitting on the team, throwing temper tantrums on the sideline. I'm sure guys felt like that. I'm sure there's those feelings in guys to want to do that, but we didn't. And like I said, it may be easy to just say the ball bounced our way, but, like, those things matter too. Like being able to keep yourself together, like four moments, like, we got at the end of the football game, like, that matters."

You might have been asked this, and I'm sorry, but did you hear any of the boos out there?

"Everybody heard boos. If you're in that stadium, you hear boos. Yeah. And it's not the boos like, that's hard. The boos are just a reaction to us not doing as well as we want to. That's the hard part. So, yeah."

And how do you feel about, like, when you hear those boos, do you just lock you in even more? Block them out?

"Well, like I said, I mean, you're a person. You're human. Like, there's a piece of you in there that, like, it hurts you a little bit. You know, you want to. You want to react to it, but you can't. I mean, I talk about it a lot. Like, that's being a pro and being in this sport. You can't be that guy. You will not survive. But, yeah, like, we're all human. I'm sure that affects people in not a positive way, but you got to be able to rally and at least put on, at least fake it and then go out there and bring it to life."

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Cleveland Browns DE Myles Garrett
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So how was that like, to be out there and go through the range of emotions with the way the last four minutes went?

“I wouldn't say there was range of emotions for us. We would have wanted to get that fumble recovery, it was clear and obvious to us that he got it out and recovered it. But they called it on the field, and I guess there wasn't enough to overturn it. But I told my guys out there, even at halftime that we're going to win this ball game, keep your head up and just keep fighting, and we came through.”

Myles, you actually said it on Friday, got to take the ball away now, like the job that you guys are doing isn't enough. Do you feel like that was like the last piece of the puzzle to unlocking this defense's potential?

“Absolutely. I mean, we've been doing everything else pretty well, and we've been holding a lot of teams to low yardage and for most part and taking the ball away. We had our hand on the football multiple times, and we came up with it when we needed to.”

You always talk about how you guys stick together as a team, you play together, you fight for each other. If your offense isn't going well, your defense is going to come through. I mean, is this just the epitome, the definition of complementary football for you guys today?

“It is how you win games. It's not always going to be pretty, it is not always going to be a shootout. You can't always hold them to zero. There is going to be games when everybody is needed, and as you saw it today.”

Myles, how about the pressure you you guys put on Jordan Love and the false starts that you guys drew from them? How much of an effect did that have on this?

“It is hard to say. I feel like we were getting pressure on them all day, put them on the ground, getting hits on him and just trying to frustrate him, and if he didn't get it out quickly, we were taking him down. So, I think it maybe it generated some of those big plays, some of the takeaways that we got, and that's what we need.”

What was it for Andre (Szmyt), just somebody who has kind of ridden the roller coaster the first couple of weeks, just to be able to get a little redemption in this experience?

“He knows who he is. And, one moment doesn't define you. He was just waiting for this opportunity to come again, and we knew he was ready. Talked to him and picked his brain, and he was ready for the moment. He was excited to get the opportunity with the game on the line again, he made the most of it, and we're very proud of him.”

Started the season with Joe Burrow, then went to Lamar Jackson, then went to Jordan Love, had success against all of them. How good, really, is this defense?

“As good as we want to be. I think we can be as dominant as we want, so we see what we know we can do. As long as we stick together, don't worry about the scoreboard, execute what we know we can do, and be where we are supposed to be. We have talent on every part of the field, so as long as we keep our heads up, don't worry about the noise, what's going on around us, we can be the very best.”

Myles, when the first two weeks didn't go exactly the way you guys wanted it to go, can a win like this boost morale and motivation and those kinds of things?

“For sure. I think it helps give belief and reason and focus. Guys continue to still fight, push towards this goal that we have and getting wins, gritty wins like that make you realize what it's all for, how much you can really build and achieve if you keep on chipping away. I think that'll allow us to understand what we really have in our room, in our building. And just keep on grinding.”

Myles, in training camp, you talked about that you wanted this team to go to the Super Bowl, and you believe this team can go to the Super Bowl. Does a game like this really show everybody what this team really is capable of when it does play that complementary ball, and what it can do?

“Capable of? Yes, absolutely, but we have to do that from week to week. And we are going to get every team's best, we have to be our very best. We have to stay healthy, we have to execute at a very high level, and we have to do it for

60 minutes, longer if need be. So, I think we have what it takes, I think the men in the room are who we need. We got to prove it week in and week out.”

Why were you still so confident at halftime with the offense really not doing anything that you told the guys they would win?

“A man who thinketh in his heart, so is he. So, if I believe, the guys around me are going to believe. You know, I'm going to go out there and keep fighting, because I know if I give my very best, the guys next to me, guys behind me, they're going to do the very same, and outcomes like this happen.”

What'd you think about Shelby (Harris) being able to block that field goal in the last 30 seconds?

“Didn't have a doubt. Whether it was going to be him or Denzel, I didn't know who it was going to be, but I saw the look in their eyes, and I knew we were going to go get it. I didn't know how, but I knew it was going to get done.”

He gets up pretty well for an old guy, huh?

“I don't know if he got up at all, he just has long arms. He has long arms, he just puts that 300 pounds on you, keeps on driving with the legs, and I think the guys next to him, Mason (Graham), I think Lik' (Maliek Collins) was out there too. They just created enough separation, made the play.

You think he puts those white gloves on, those big mitts to make sure that you know that he hit the ball?

“Absolutely. He wants the attention, and he deserves it. He goes out there and makes big plays like that, he deserves that praise.”

Myles, these fans have stuck with you guys through thick and thin. How much fun was it just to see how that place totally erupted when you guys pulled this one out?

“You know, I saw some of the fans leaving, and I just knew they would be missing on something special, that we still had something in the tank. Those guys over there on the other end are tough. They were tough for 60 minutes, and we grinded away and made just enough plays.”

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Green Bay Packers HC Matt LaFleur
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"Well, that was extremely disappointing. Obviously, to be in the position to win the game at the end of the game and to have the script totally flip on you with the block and then them getting into field goal range. It's tough, it's tough to deal with, but you better learn from each and every opportunity that you go out there in the wins and the losses and you have to move on. So you know, I thought there were a lot of things - a lot of positives in regards to how our defense continued to play through four quarters. But one thing that we have to get corrected is, when we have 14 penalties in the game, it's going to be tough to overcome that. So we've got to do a much better job of coaching the fundamentals, the details, and then we have to lock in, at a higher level in regards to some of the controllable penalties, whether there's false starts or offsides or whatever you have. But ultimately, this is a total team sport. I thought we played well enough, defensively, to win the game, and then didn't do a good enough job on offense, and special teams."

What happened on Packers QB Jordan Love's interception?

"They were playing man coverage, and (Browns S Grant) Delpit did a helluva job. He passed off to the inside backer and fell off in the window. So, you know, that's a bad play call. I mean, we shouldn't have called that play. That's on me."

Were you expecting Delpit to cover the tight end?

"Yeah, but a lot of teams will do that when they're playing man free., They'll pass off the inside breaking route and then fall into that next window. It's just a bad play call.. And what's unfortunate is our defense was doing so well, we knew we couldn't make a deadly mistake like that offensively to give them a short field. That's exactly what happened."

Did you talk about running the ball there?

"Yeah, we did. We absolutely did. We figured we'd have man coverage, which we got. They did better than we did. So give credit to their staff and their players to go out there and execute it."

In a general sense, it seems like everybody's crowding the line of scrimmage on your offense or bringing people up. What do you have to do? Why haven't you been able to make them pay for that more?

"Well, number one, I thought, I think early on, they were getting to the quarterback. So a lot of those longer developing routes, if you're gonna play man coverage, you have to be able to protect a little better. I think it felt like, from my perspective, that he was under duress for the majority of the game; so we have to look at some of the things that we're asking some of the guys to do in terms of protection scheme. We have to do it better. We have to come up with better stuff for our guys to put them in better positions to go up there and compete."

How do you cut down on penalties when they're happening in all different areas?

"It just depends what kind of penalties you're talking about. I think when we talk about pre-snap penalties, that is concentration, focus, just being dialed in in the moment. When you talk post-snap penalties, whether it's holding, that comes down to fundamentals and technique. We have to coach it better. We have to be harder on our guys if we see it in practice, because that's where it all starts. Ultimately, we just have to do a better job across the board."

What was the challenge getting anything going in the passing game?

"It felt like you couldn't allow stuff to develop down field. When it did, they did a good job of just mixing the coverages. I have a lot of respect for (Browns DC) Jim Schwartz. He was better than us today. Better than me, specifically."

What were you hearing about the false starts? Was the crowd noise that great or was it the cadence?

"I don't know. We have to regroup, get together and talk about it. In the moment, it's not like I'm dwelling on that. It's just [on to the] next play. That's something that I'm sure I know our position coaches are talking about, but I'm not gonna sit there and have a dissertation in game and try to make adjustments. Obviously, when you're going backwards, it's hard to play football competitively in this league when you're sitting there in long yardage situations."

Could you see what happened on the field goal block?

"It just looked like too much penetration."

Do you think the team as a whole came into this game, based on how the first two games went, with the right mindset and not taking these guys lightly?

"Yeah. Look at how our defense played. I mean, you gave up 13 points, but really there's no points after three quarters. Certainly, you can look at that's why it takes all three phases, but I don't think it was lack of mindset. I think it was that we as coaches have to do a better job putting our guys in better positions, and then ultimately, we have to go out there and execute whatever it is we're asking these guys to do."

There were several times where you were trying to catch them with 12 men and sometimes, even though it looked like you didn't actually sub, the refs would stop it and let Cleveland sub. What's the rule there and were they handling that correctly?

"One time, one of our receivers walked off the field and then came back on the field, so they stopped it on that instance. Another time, we had a tight end come on the field when we were trying to switch personnel and that's happened too many times this year. So we've got to get that fixed, but we've got to get our guys in. Especially [when] you have (Browns DE) Myles Garrett out of the game, you want to try to jump the ball to keep him out of the game. We caught them at 12 one time and we got a free play out of it, when we had to challenge."

Were Packers OL Zach Tom and Packers G Aaron Banks just trying to gut it through after the injuries?

"Obviously, yeah. If a guy plays one play, and so we got to have some discussions about how we can't allow that to happen. It's disappointing when he plays one play. Banks, I don't think that was the case. It was a different injury. It is what it is. It happens."

It might be early to ask, but do you think you coach against a defense as good as Cleveland's defense was today?

"They did a helluva job. They were ready to play. They were gassed up. I knew it was going to be a challenge. I mean, if you look at what they did the first two weeks of the season versus a really good Cincinnati offense; versus a really good Baltimore offense. I mean, really, when you look at it, I think that score was totally misleading, when you watch just the natural progression of that game. They had a fumble return for a touchdown; they were picked down to the five-yard line. I knew going into this, it was going to be a dogfight, and it was going to be a challenge, and what's disappointing is, I felt like you could argue that we lost the game offensively by making a critical error in a critical situation. That's a tough pill to swallow."

When you ran (Jordan) Love out on the bootlegs and he got decent yardage, could you have done that more?

"Yeah, absolutely. That was the call I was blowing in my head on that third down, and hindsight is 20/20. And I'd say a bad call. I shouldn't have gone with what I thought initially. It didn't work out."

Is it just because they're pursuing?

"Yeah, they were selling out pretty hard. They made it a challenge, and that's a good defense. They have good personnel; they play extremely hard. You talk about just all the little things that are cornerstones of a great defensive football team and obviously you have to have talent; you have to have sound scheme, and you have to have relentless effort to the football. I think they have all that."

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Green Bay Packers Jordan Love
Cleveland Browns vs. Green Bay Packers
Week 3
9-21-25

What happened on the interception?

"We were running a triple slant concept, and they were in man coverage. I'm trying to work with (WR Dontayvion) Wicks right there at number two and the safety (S Grant Delpit) that was covering (TE) Tucker (Kraft) fell off that and passed it off and got in the window and I didn't even see him. Really tough play, especially in the circumstances and timing of the game right there. It's one that we'll just have to learn from and move on."

What other options would you have had there?

"It's a quick game, so taking the left-right footwork and throwing it. Obviously, I'm just trying to get it out. It's one of those, you just have to be able to see him following off. He did a good job making a play. I didn't see him, but it's something that I've seen before. I have to find a way to see him."

Did the Browns rush on the interception play?

"No, I think it was just a four-man rush. I'm not sure. It's one of those that I have to look at on film. It's one of those plays that I have to feel him falling off."

How difficult was it to get anything going on the ground or in the air?

"It's one of those things that it was tough. Give them credit. They are a really good defense. I will say that. They do a lot of really good things, but I think the tough part for us is I feel like we are hurting ourselves more than anything with the penalties and the little things. I feel like we were putting some good drives together, but at the end of the day we were just hurting ourselves a little too much. But give them credit, they are a really good defense. We have to find ways to be able to go out there and take advantage of what they are doing."

What do you have to do to make the defenses pay when they crowd the line of scrimmage?

"That's what you have to hit shots down the field, but I think looking at Cleveland's defense, that's their MO. That's what they want to do. They want to put extra hats in the box and stop the run, and force you to pass it. They are going to play man and do different things and try to let the rush win. We knew that coming into the game, and that's what we are going to have to beat."

Would you have done a different play after a false start made it 3rd-and-9?

"Yeah, it was the same play we were running on the play before. They were in man coverage. He was rolling across with Wicks and he did a good job. He's staying on his side and driving on that outbreaker. Obviously, I wish I would have been able to get it out quicker and put it out a little bit more, but he made a great play right there. That's one of things that a crucial penalty moves up back. That's an area we are going to have to clean up."

Was that as much of shuffling you've seen on the Packers offensive line and what's the challenge with that?

"There were definitely things that happened. (RT) Zach (Tom) getting injured right there. (LG Aaron) Banks going out. We were shuffling guys around. But, I think the first two games, that's kind of how it's been. Guys have shuffled in and have done some good things. It's one of those things, it's that next man up mentality. Everybody that suits up, be ready to play, and I think those guys did a good job coming in on those short-notice plays. It's tough."

What's your mindset leaving this game?

"It's tough. It's a tough loss for sure. I think any loss is a tough loss. Like I said, there's a lot of stuff to clean up, improve on going forward. But it's one of those things, adversity hits. It's going to hit at some point and it hit early on right now. We are just going to have to do a great job of moving on. Finding ways to clean up the areas we need to clean up and move on to next week. It's a long season, it's the NFL, we know what it is. But, it's definitely a tough loss, something that we are just going to have to grow from and move on, and bounce back. Adversity is going to strike at some point in the season and it struck today."

Do you think the Packers got caught up into the outside hype coming in at 2-0?

"Not at all. I think we know who we are. We're a good team. We're still a good team. Like I said, it's a tough loss, but it's one we are just going to have to move on from, grow from, and obviously move on to next week."

Was there a feeling of being stunned from how the game ended?

"Very tough. Very tough. I feel like the whole fourth quarter, the way it went. Obviously, it just wasn't good enough. Offensively, we were not able to put a drive together, put up points, had a turnover. Obviously, like you said, the go-ahead field goal gets blocked. It's tough. Obviously, they go up and kick the game-winning field goal. It feels like a very tough loss. It's one of those games that we let them get it at the end. We had it, we just have to find ways to finish."

How happy were you to see Packers TE John FitzPatrick catch his first career NFL touchdown?

"It was awesome. I think for a guy like that, who's like you said, been grinding, doing the things the right way. Obviously, hasn't had too many ops (opportunities) to catch the ball. He's been a great blocker for us. When those ops come, he made a big-time play right there. I'm happy for him."

On that interception, was that the only play call you and Head Coach Matt LaFleur talked about?

"That was the call that came into the huddle. We don't have time to sit there and talk about different things on the field right there, but like I said, it's just another play that is hindsight. You look back on it, obviously an interception happened, but who knows. I like the coverage that they ran versus it. Like I said, they did a really good job with that safety falling off right there. If they don't fall off, I think we get the completion right there and move the sticks and we'll be talking about that it's a great call. It's one of those things that is hindsight, we have to figure out how to move forward from it and grow from it."

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Green Bay Packers Players
Cleveland Browns vs. Green Bay Packers
Week 3
9-21-25

P Daniel Whelan

What is the lesson on that play (blocked field goal)?

"Play better. We need to play as one."

Was there anything about the timing of the play?

"No, I saw the bucket and I just heard him more than anything."

Do you guys feel like you need to tighten yourself up?

"Every team does that, we need to play better as a unit."

K Brandon Mcmanus

Is there anything you can do differently?

"I don't think it was the outside guy, it was the guy on the inside. To be honest I don't know what we could have done differently."

How do you feel about the rest of the season?

"It is one loss and gives us the sense of urgency, when you have a 10 point lead in the NFL you don't want to bleed out and keep change in the game and there is a lot to learn from all of this."

This game was kind of a kick in the gut. Seemingly you had the same one, you know?

"Yeah it just depends what we do with it, you know? Losing is tough. I think everyone hates losing more than they hate winning and we will see how we respond with it. I know the guys in this locker room and hopefully we will attack."

WR Matthew Golden

What do you feel allowed you to have the day that you had, with that one big catch, and the three catches in the first half?

"I felt good. It really doesn't matter if you don't come out with a win. Just gotta get back to the drawing board, and get ready for Dallas."

How would you describe the offense today?

"As a whole I feel like there's things we have to go back and look at. Watch the film. Not too much we can do about the game, it's over with now. Just focusing on Dallas and getting ready for that game."

It looked like this offense was not quite in sync for any duration of the game. Was that something the Browns were doing?

"Obviously they have a good defense. The confidence that we got in our offense, we feel like we can go out and compete and do it at a high level. It just goes back to getting back to the drawing board. Looking at the small details to improve and being ready for next game"

Is it frustrating as an offense, you obviously know how good the Browns defense is and it's five, six yards down the field and you want those explosive plays, is that frustrating over time?

"Yeah, I feel like you always want explosive plays, but they played a good game and that's all you can do is just move on from that"

S Xavier McKinney

What's the lesson you take from this one?

"We gotta play better. Gotta play four quarters and really it, gotta finish."

Two runs at the rookie running back, one for 14, and one for 38. You know they seem to spread the field. What was happening with you guys (Packers Defense) at that point?

"All 11 gotta do their job. I gotta really see the play but I think we all have to do our job and everyone needs to be in the right places."

What are you guys thinking when you're lining up to kick that last field goal?

"I am hoping for good protection. You know it got blocked, things happen that is just the nature of the game. Things are going to happen throughout the game, there are going to be adverse moments but it's really just about how you respond."

How do you compartmentalize a loss like this?

"It's a loss. We keep moving. It's the third game, that's what I was saying last week, it's not going to make or break us. We just gotta keep moving and figure out what we gotta do better moving forward. A lot of these guys know it is hard to go undefeated. There is not a lot of teams that do that. You go to the drawing board and figure out what you need to do better."

I assume this doesn't change the way you look at your team?

"No, I still think we got a great team. We are going to do some special things this year and I also think it's good we learned this less early, you know? I'd rather learn it early than later. So I think this is the biggest lesson we can learn right now."

RB Josh Jacobs**Ten Ppoint output, was that credit to them, or just looking in the mirror a little bit?**

"Obviously they have a really good defense, but we had a lot of long drives. 15 play drive, 16 play drive, 14 play drive, and we didn't come out with points because of things that we did. False starts, penalties, or whatever. Yeah they have a really good defense but I feel like a lot of that is really on us to look in the mirror."

When you say look in the mirror what is the first thing that you would tell yourself after this one?

"Be very very intentional on the details. Be very intentional about the way you go into work each week, and don't let little things slide. I think that's the biggest learning lesson. We feel like we have a really good team. We feel like we didn't play up to our standard today."

What kind of response would you expect from this football team?

"I think we're gonna come out hungry. I feel bad for whoever has to see this team next. I could tell that this bothered a lot of the guys in this room. I know that we're gonna come out hungry this next week"

LS Matt Orzech**The way the first two games went, do you feel like there's a little bit of buying into the hype?**

"No, I feel like the locker room vibe is insulated from the outside noise. Prep felt very similar. There's times we come out with a slower start, and you can't afford to do that in this league."

Can you walk us through what you saw when the blocked field goal happened?

"I mean for me, usually on field goal I don't get to see a ton because I'm down looking, and as soon as I snap it I'm trying to pick up and get a piece of somebody. Internal clock said the [operation] time was good. They just made a heck of a play."

G Sean Rhyran

Ten points for you guys today. Is that because the Browns were that good or you guys were off your game today?

"Maybe a little bit of both. You gotta give it to them. They're a good defense. We just kept getting flags and penalties. Just felt like we kept shooting ourselves in the foot. But as bad as it was, it came down to 10-10 until the final kick. Both sides of the ball. We just gotta figure out how to finish better."

How tough is it just to watch all those penalties happen when it's everyone next to you on the line?

"It's the team. It could be one guy but it's a team game. It's not like one guy gets put back, it's all of us. We all gotta be better, communicate better, and just be better as a team overall."

DE Micah Parsons

That didn't follow most people's scripts today, how would you describe what happened?

"Man, football is like a movie sometimes, that's how football works. I just think towards the end of the game they played better than us. We have to play ball for all four quarters as a team, not one individual. We have to finish games as a team."

How is that defensive movie going to look?

"Yeah I mean that happens. The goal is execution but for example they didn't break their (Browns) first long run till the fourth so we gotta fix that and take accountability. Two offsides is unacceptable for myself, for this team, just things we shouldn't be doing."

Big game for you this next week. What kind of response are you expecting?

"Uh, that we come on Monday. Fix our mistakes and come together as a team, like we have many more games, we lost a rough one that we should have won but this is adversity and character building."

Did you see Myles after the game?

"No, after a loss like that you don't want to see anyone but I will talk to him eventually and heck of a game on his part."

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