



Cleveland Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Rams
Preseason Week 3
8-23-25

Opening Statement:

"Okay. Liked how that group finished, like how they fought, you know, to come through at the end there with the field goal, I think it was great for our football team. Those guys, I'm really proud of how they've performed throughout offseason program, through training camp. I feel like that field goal put a cap on that, really, all that hard work. So really pleased with that. You know, we weren't perfect. Like we're never going to be perfect, but I was really pleased with the effort throughout the day, and then we'll set our sights on obviously next week. Have a good week before we take a little break and start week one. But really pleased with how we finished."

Kevin, it was obviously a bit of a rough second half for Shedeur (Sanders) and the entire Browns offense, why didn't you keep him in for the two-minute drill? Why did you decide to put in Tyler Huntley?

"Yeah, obviously we didn't play great as an offense in the second half. That's never on one person. So we can be better in a bunch of areas and just felt like we wanted to give Snoop (Tyler Huntley) a last drive."

Did Shedeur (Sanders) have something wrong with him after the game, Kevin?

"No, he's good."

Looked like he walked up to you after taking a walk down to the sideline and then he walked back up to you on the sidelines before Snoop (Tyler Huntley) went in and he said something to you, you shook your head. I mean, was he trying to get back in?

"He's a competitive kid. The plan was to go with Snoop (Tyler Huntley) there. But I wouldn't make any more of it than that."

Kevin, how would you analyze the way Dillon Gabriel played?

"Yeah, again, you talk about the quarterback position, it's really about all 10 around that player and how he's playing. So I thought he made some good decisions, made some good throws. I know there's plays that he wants back, but as a group, you know, we have plenty to clean up."

Do you have a difficult decision with a kicker?

"Yeah, all those type of decisions, Tony (Grossi), we'll talk about."

Dillon (Gabriel) with that two minute drive, Kevin, I know you talked about situations, but what most impressed you about him during that drive?

"Yeah, again, just us getting, it's 11-man operation there, guys getting open, getting the ball out on time. I think did a nice job in a couple different concepts, worked the middle of the field, but I was pleased with how that group finished the half."

Would you say he played better than he did last week, though?

"Honestly, Jeff (Schudel), I don't remember last week."

Kevin, is there a long term concern about Ethan's (Pocic) knee?

"Not a lot, well, we don't have testing. So it's hard to say. I'd say let's get the testing. We'll see."



With Shedeur (Sanders), it seemed like he reverted to some of the drifting or to the retreating. Is that because maybe he's in there with third and fourth teamers? It's just not going the way he would want it to.

"I think with all of our players, Mary Kay (Cabot), there's things that we can do better and there's some good moments out there. But that's our job as coaches, you know, to develop our guys."

Dillon (Gabriel) had that two-minute drive, the third-down completion. What do you think that says about the plans that you all have in place for these two-minute drills, and how you parent that down and the significance of it?

"I think in the course of a 60-minute game, there's just so many situations that come up, and it's our job as coaches to prepare our guys for those moments and make sure that there's a shared situational awareness among our football team. And I thought the entire preseason we got an opportunity at a bunch of different situations."

With Dillon (Gabriel), it seemed like he just seems a lot more comfortable in those two minute drills, just almost like he can play freer. Is that an accurate assessment?

"I don't know. Good question. I'm not sure how he would feel answering that. Chris (Easterling). I think he just, you know, that entire group operated really well."

Looked like you got some good plays from those young guys, (Alex) Wright, (Isaiah) McGuire, (Adin) Huntington, (Cameron) Thomas.

"(Adin) Huntington, you know, Adin played fullback for us in the first play of the game. He played special teams, was disruptive on defense. He's on our football team. AB (Andrew Berry) said I could share that with you guys. So, he made the football team. But I'm just, I'm pleased with that entire defense and just how they were relentless to get that quarterback."

Kevin, a lot is going on with the wide receiver position, obviously. But Gage (Larvadain) has been just awesome this entire preseason and I'm sure you guys feel that way too. What can you say about him from camp to now?

"A lot to sort out, but really pleased with Gage and all of those young guys in that room and really in all those rooms. All of them did what we asked them to do, constantly were in the building getting better. He's an example of a young man that knows what to do, can line up everywhere and performs both in practice and in the games."

It looked like Shedeur (Sanders) may have been headed towards the X-Ray room after the game, maybe I had that wrong, but he was headed that way?

"No."

You have any injury updates - Pierre Strong Jr., concussion?

"Concussion protocol. Cade (McDonald) concussion protocol."

And do you know how bad Blake's (Whiteheart) knee is?

"No, after testing, we'll know."

We just saw Ethan (Pocic) walk out with a kind of a big brace on his knee. But again, are you still going to do further testing?

"Yeah. He'll have an MRI."

You know, you've been through a whole preseason. Two weeks away from Cincinnati. Just where do you feel the team is, you know, two weeks left to Cincinnati?

"We're not there yet. We got plenty of work. I think next week's a big week for us. We'll be working Monday through Thursday before we take that break. So we have a lot to clean up as a football team. Offense, defense, special teams and



that's our job as coaches to identify some of those things and get them worked out. But I'm really, really pleased with the effort. I know that can be a small thing, but I'm really pleased with the effort."

Pierre (Strong Jr.) down there with the first team, you know, Joe (Flacco), that's his first, a lot of those guys it was their first time. And then Harold (Fannin Jr.) capping it off with his first TD?

"Good to get down there, good to execute in those moments, but yeah, pleased with how those guys operated."

Would you say one of your bigger decisions this week is who would back up Joe (Flacco) in that Bengals game?

"I'm just not there yet, Mary Kay (Cabot). I think we got to get through the next couple days."

Back to Harold (Fannin Jr.), specifically, for him, just how big that cap is. What have you seen, just how has he sort of developed and grown as a rookie?

"He's done a nice job. He's a young player just turning 21. But we've really challenged him a lot, Chris (Easterling), in just the different places we've put him, and he's accepted that challenge. He's a very, very competitive kid. He plays hard, so we're excited about it."



Cleveland Browns Quarterback Joe Flacco
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Rams
Preseason Week 3
8-23-25

So how would you sum up your first live action (of the season)?

“Yeah, listen, it was good to get out there. I think there's a lot of different, when you've been in the league so long, we all know as players, you're getting ready to play that last preseason game, and ultimately I think it was good to get out there and get your feet wet a little bit, get some rustiness off, get your mind, you know, preparing for a game, going through pregame, all that stuff. I think there's a lot of value in it.”

How about I saw Ethan (Pocic) walk out with the knee brace. I know how valuable he is to you and to this team. Just how much of a concern is that to see?

“Yeah, I think anytime you see guys walking around less than 100%, you're concerned for your main guys. So, we'll see how he feels and what's actually happening with him. But he's a big piece of what we have.”

Seems like you really got into rhythm, I mean, for that first start to come out there and be...

“Yeah, it's important anytime you take the field, man. You want to go out there and perform well. We didn't do anything crazy today, but like I felt good. We completed the ball, did what we had to do at times, didn't try to do anything crazy, got the ball in a few guys' hands just to get them feeling the football too. So, ultimately it was a good day.”

Joe, if you don't mind addressing or talking a little bit about the fact that Shedeur (Sanders) struggled, maybe did some things that he had done in college in terms of retreating. Do you recall how difficult it probably was back as rookie to get thrown into the action?

“Yeah, dude, I remember. Yeah, big time. I can remember just like yesterday. I mean, that's part of being a rookie. You know, you're going to get thrown into situations that maybe you don't think are ideal. I got thrown into a game against New England with two minutes left. I fumbled on the one-yard line. They scored two plays later. That was John Harbaugh's first preseason game, and he was not happy. I mean, I wasn't happy either, but like, hey, it's part of the game. It's part of what makes a football player, is learning how to deal with those situations and learn from them. So, yeah, listen, we've all been there. It's part of the game.”

Harold (Fannin Jr.), how special was it to see him get that first (touchdown)? I know it's only the preseason, but that first catch, that first touchdown...

“You know, it was cool. As we broke the huddle, Dave (Njoku) and Harold were both in and I was kind of waiting to see who's going to which spot here, but it was great. I think he's going to be a hell of a player and an important piece for us and it's good to see him breaking out of his shell a little bit and becoming a part of this team. You know, to get him a touch there was great.”

How do you feel about this offense? Now that you're out there, you see Isaiah Bond, you've got speed, you've got Dave, Harold and Jerry (Jeudy). How do you feel about this group?



“Yeah, I feel good about these guys, man. They're talented players and I think you all know we're pretty talented up front. So, if we can get everybody rolling and feeling good about it, then I think we should be pretty confident heading into week one.”

Joe (Flacco), what is important for you over these next two weeks?

“You know, just kind of take it one day at a time, just like always. Maybe – you talk about Isaiah (Bond), like he's obviously just gotten in here, maybe get a little bit of feel for him over the next week, before we really get into the actual game planning part of it for Cincinnati. But yeah, just kind of keeping fresh over the next week, and then just getting your mind right, that one last time, to go do this thing for the long haul.”

How big are these next couple weeks or so? Because you know you're the starter, and things sort of accelerate that ramp up process because of things falling into place on the depth chart?

“Yeah, I mean, obviously at this point in the year, you want to be able to go out there and get reps and prepare to be the guy. So, I mean, yeah, that'll be a little bit different than training camp, I guess, a little bit. But honestly, the last few weeks, I feel like I've been pretty good, been able to get my feet underneath me and start to get in a little bit of a groove, and the next two weeks are just about carrying that forward, not doing anything to take a step backwards. Just continuing to take that next step for all of us.”



Cleveland Browns Players
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Rams
Preseason Week 3
8-23-25

TE Harold Fannin Jr.

Talk about that touchdown, how good did that feel, and were you surprised you were that open?

"It felt great man, I have to thank my coaches for putting me out there. I also got to thank Joe (QB Flacco) for putting it on me man."

On that touchdown it looked like they had you lining up like a receiver, is that the kind of stuff that you feel confident in, because I know Andrew (Berry) has called you the "queen on a chess board"?

"I feel like I am just a confident football player in general because of all the work that I've put in. Everything my coach needs me to do, I can go out there and do."

What did you see on the actual play, how did it unfold from your perspective?

"They just rolled a little high, I ran the route that my coach had us run and I was pretty much wide open. It was a 'pitch and catch' for me."

Now that Flacco has been named the starter for Week 1, and you guys got to operate a series and get a touchdown, what does that do for the confidence of the offense?

"You can definitely see that things are clicking. We just need to keep taking that momentum into Week 1."

QB Dillon Gabriel

Did it feel different the second time out there compared to the first?

"At home was cool. I was really excited to play at home, been here for an event but hadn't been on the field. It was a lot of fun. I love our home atmosphere."

The third down completion to Thrash in the two minute drill. Go into that play.

"(WR Jamari) Thrash did a great job winning on that route. Throwing an indicator for me so I can anticipate the throw. Him being able to get two feet in, I'm proud of him. I think you can see—from game one together to two—just building our continuity and cohesion together. That's how it happens, and it happens slowly. The league is a little different with new guys in and out, but the more you can build that continuity with a player or unit, the better you see guys perform."

Take us through that two minute drive. It looked flawless. How was it from your perspective?

"You want to end with points and we talk about the middle eight a bunch. I think you divvy the game up: starting fast, which Joe (QB Flacco) did a great job of, the middle eight, dominating that and getting as many points as you can, then finishing strong. I think we all did that within the time periods we had, trying to continue to build on that, and operating in the two minute is great, you need those kinds of reps."

You've practiced situational stuff all the time. Did this feel like you were practicing it?

"Anytime you get in practice, there's an elite focus to try to replicate that. But when you're in the game and getting different coverages and getting what the defense may give you, it operates a little differently."



Is there something different with you in a game situation vs practice? It seems like in the games you are just dialed in. Do you feel that when you're out there?

"You try to pride yourself on your preparation, and the preseason is interesting in the way you do prepare. There's joint practices, sometimes there's a week of prep, there's a lot of ways people do and you try to manage it the best you can. But the practice ground is for learning and being able to grow and try different things, and shoot, we try different plays. We see what our identity is, run game pass games, and everything in between."

To be turnover free and lead two scoring drives. What was that like?

"I think it's just continuing to take care of the football, it's the only thing you talk about. I don't want to be a coach's speaker or be redundant, but taking care of the football, winning the turnover battle, being really good on third down, scoring touchdowns in the red area, and then dominating the middle eight. I think that's all things that you want to be aware of and you want to do. You want to continue to be aggressive, and learn—in certain plays—when it's time to give it a shot, or time to give it up and throw the ball away. Things I'm learning and want to do that for us to get better."

QB Shedeur Sanders

How do you think you played today?

"Obviously, I feel like I can improve in a lot of areas, like the same thing I said last time. I'm just excited for the opportunity to get out there and play."

What is the biggest thing you've learned or taken away from training camp?

"The biggest thing I've learned – I'll say connecting with my teammates, relationships and bonding with everybody."

Three days until roster cut-downs, how do you feel about that? Do you feel like you belong here on this team?

"Obviously. I think, overall as a player, I've put in the work. I feel like everything I do, I try to do it to my best and that's all I can ask for. I feel like everybody feels like they should be on the team. If you ask anybody on the team, would they feel like they belong – they belong in their own eyes. I feel like I do, but I'm my own player. I think about myself in a high regard, of course. It's not my decision."

Do you feel like you've shown enough during the preseason as to why you should be here?

"Yeah."

Is there a reason you weren't on the field on the final drive of the game?

"I mean, it wasn't my decision. Of course that's every quarterback's dream and that's what every quarterback thrives for – those moments, so it wasn't me. I was happy that (QB Tyler) Huntley got in and he handled his business. If anybody else would do it, it would be him."

How was your oblique feeling throughout that game?

"Of course it's always going to be a little bit tender, but it's a non-factor for me."

How would you say training camp and these two preseason games went for you altogether?

"Overall, it was great. Every day was a new day, every day you learn different things and life lessons that you learn in every situation. I'm coming out of training camp happy that I got the opportunity."



WR Jamari Thrash

Last preseason game in the books, how do you feel about the total body of work heading into week 1?

"I think this was a good win for us going forward. Going into week 1 we'll have some type of momentum. This is the start of a long season"

We saw all three quarterbacks today that are competing to start, how did those guys handle this one?

"Like they always do. I think they always do a good job of handling the situation no matter what time it is, or what quarter it is, they always come in and do a good job. They're poised. Cool, calm, and collected under pressure."

DE Alex Wright

In regards to the position battle, how do you feel about the work you put in, the down time, and in training camp?

"I feel very confident. I didn't really try to focus on the starting position, they [coaches] will make that decision, so i just focus on myself. I'm not trying to worry about that. If I'm worried about that then I'm not worried about what I'm supposed to be doing. If I'm not doing that, then I could just kiss it goodbye. Just focusing on myself and getting back to who I was, and that was before I got hurt, being more dominant, and just trying to make plays. I feel like I'm in a good spot. I feel like I'm very confident. My confidence is through the roof actually right now. Just going out there day by day, taking it step by step, and just focusing on what I can do better in the present"



Los Angeles Rams Head Coach Sean McVay
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Rams
Preseason Week 3
8-23-25

Opening Statement:

"[I am] really proud of our group today. We obviously came up a little bit short, but so proud of so many guys. The way they competed. The way they represented. We're so proud of them. We're going to have some tough decisions over the next couple of days. I thought (Rams QB) Dresser Winn did an excellent job. I thought he felt (Rams CB) Tanner Ingle's presence. I thought our rush did a really good job. There are so many guys that I can recognize, but you can see they did the talking with the way that they competed. I was proud to be associated with that group. This is a really special team. Even though all 90 aren't going to continue to be with us, there are a lot of guys that won't be a part of this journey that we really love and appreciate the time we've had with them."

In talking about some of those tough decisions, Rams ILB Shaun Dolac dressed, but didn't play. Was that reflective of his status?

"It's a good sign for him. We'll continue to evaluate, but he's done a really good job. He's made his presence felt on teams, and he's played really well for those inside backers. He's got a good understanding of what we're trying to get done and the intent of things. We've been really pleased with him."

Was it the same deal with some of those backup offensive lineman as well that dressed but didn't play?

"Yes. Those guys have established themselves as guys we can count on. You look at last year - (Rams OL David) Quessenberry has been a guy that can play at a high level. He can play at right or left side. We are really fortunate to have him. (Rams G) Justin Dedich and (Rams C) Beaux Limmer did a great job of being able to get a bunch of meaningful snaps last year. They continued to elevate their game. Both of those guys can play all three interior spots. I think (Rams T) Warren McClendon (Jr.)'s emergence and ascendance to being a really good football player where he can play right tackle. We saw that on display last year when (Rams T) Rob (Havenstein) was missing. Then I think he's even doing a good job being able to play on the left side as well. So good signs for those guys."

Rams TE Terrance Ferguson made his debut today. It was mentioned on the broadcast you wanted to get him around 20 snaps. How do you think he did?

"I think it was good. It was obviously challenging. That's a really good defense. They played their elite dawgs and [we] had a little bit of trouble being able to get some throws off, but he won some routes. We missed him earlier on. I thought it was really cool for him and Dresser to be able to connect on that vertical shot from the slot. Wish he wasn't out of bounds on that, but then it was cool to be able to come back off the play action and be able to make that play. You feel with him, he's just got a nice pace to his game. I thought it was great to be able to get him out there."

Health-wise, is there anybody that has something that they're working through that will factor into conversations over the next few days?

"No, I don't think so. We had a couple guys going into this game that were a little banged up. (Rams CB) A.J. Green had a swollen knee. (Rams DT) Ty Hamilton wasn't feeling great. We wanted to be smart with him. (Rams CB) Charles Woods left with - I think he's in the concussion protocol. We'll see. With some of these guys, man - they played their asses off today. Hopefully we come out clean and we'll see and I'll have updates for you as we go."



What led to the decision to play Dresser the entire way?

"I think really just [that] (Rams QB) Stetson (Bennett IV) played eight meaningful quarters. I thought he did a great job. He got so many more reps than he would have gotten otherwise because (Rams QB) Matthew (Stafford) was missing. [We] thought it was an earned opportunity for Dresser. I was really proud of him. I thought as he got into the flow of the game, I thought he did an excellent job. I thought under the circumstances, (Rams QB coach) Dave Ragone was outstanding. He does such a great job as a quarterback coach. He's been a coordinator; he can call plays at a high level. I thought he did an excellent job managing this situation and putting our guys in a position to make some plays today. "

Your reaction to Terrance Ferguson?

"We talked about it, but I'm happy to answer again. It was really good to be able to see him get out there and make some plays. I thought he won on some routes earlier where we just missed him. Came back to the same sort of route in a man coverage situation and it was kind of perfect - where it was kind of underthrown and he was able to come back to the football. That was a good location on the ball based on the coverage that creates after the catch. I thought maybe that was going to be a touchdown. The foot was clearly out of bounds, but then comes back and makes a good play. I thought he did a good job in the run game. He's a guy that we're very excited about. I think (Rams TE coach Scott) Scooter Huff has done an outstanding job with our tight ends. (Rams TE) Mark Redman did some nice things today, but you look at (Rams TE) Tyler Higbee, (Rams TE) Colby Parkinson, (Rams TE) Davis Allen, (Rams TE) Terrance Ferguson - that's a real group that we feel really fortunate to have."

What is the challenge for you and your staff between now and Tuesday?

"It's really being able to identify what the best way to be able to put this group together. There's going to be a lot of guys that don't make our 53 that I think are NFL 53 caliber type players. That's a positive problem for us, and it's tough for these guys because you love them and you care about them so much. One of the worst parts of this job is the inevitability of losing some guys that you really start to develop meaningful relationships with. That's what this is about, but I do look at it that I feel fortunate that we have 69 guys on our football team, with the 16 spots on the practice squad. There will be some really tough decisions. We'll figure out those 69 guys. We'll put our heads together and try to figure out the best decision for our team and be excited as hell about starting our preparations for the (Houston) Texans."

###

Visit the [Browns Media Center](#) for materials provided by the Browns communications department, including media schedules, press releases, quotes, photos, media guides, rosters, depth charts and more.