



**BROWNS HEAD COACH TODD MONKEN
POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

TODD MONKEN: ...and a couple of delay of games and false starts that we thought we'd cleaned up but obviously we didn't. And so, we've got work to do. Again, it's not about the work, because our guys worked. So, since I've been here, our guys have worked. All they've done is come every day and give us everything they've got. So obviously we've got to coach better, got to scheme it better. We didn't give ourselves a chance. We did exactly what we wanted to do to start the game. We were going to take the ball, hope to get a heck of a return and get momentum going and try to put them on their heels and then we turned it over. And then we couldn't get a first down to get our defense off the field. I mean, that is a recipe to get run out of the dang arena, stadium, whatever the hell you want to call it, is can't get a first down, can't get off the field on third down, and the things that you can't do to win. That's the way it is. Like I told the team, I mean, there is no testimony without a test. It's just one of them. This is one of the 17 games we've got. And we certainly didn't play well enough. We certainly didn't coach well enough. But I love our guys. I love the way they work. We're all going to own it and come back tomorrow and fight like hell to fix it. That's what you do.

Q. Is there something you saw in QB Deshaun Watson today that you hadn't seen out of him before, like during training camp, during the season that surprised you, the way he didn't play to your expectations?

TODD MONKEN: It wasn't all him. It really wasn't all him. I mean, that's unfair. Certainly could have called it better. Certainly could have played better around him. Certainly there's plays I'm sure he wished he had back. There were things operationally that weren't clean enough -- us getting in and out of the huddle, getting our subs in, being up against it. And saying that you're on the road or the heat, all that is just a bunch of excuses. We practiced with noise. It was relatively hot there. There's nothing like doing it in the game or the repercussions of the issues that come with it. That's just the way it is. I'm not down. I'm disappointed. I mean, you're not going to get me down. Waited a long time to be a head coach in this league, man. It's freakin' awesome. And we're not where we want to be and

they better get us now, I mean, because again, we've got a good young group and we just didn't play well today.

Q. When you say that it wasn't all him, does that mean that you're sticking with Deshaun for next week in Tampa?

TODD MONKEN: I'd rather just talk about today because I haven't had time to look at the tape. I'm sure as hell not firing me. I'm not firing our staff. I'm not getting rid of all of our players. So, he happens to be one of 53 and however many practice squad guys we've got, and our staff. He's one of that. So, we'll evaluate everything. But just to say that emotionally here at the end when we're -- I mean, we just didn't play good enough. Didn't coach well enough.

Q. They have the number one defense against the run. But could you form a game plan around the run? Was that your intention?

TODD MONKEN: Well, first of all, the opening drive, which we had a couple of first downs, I think -- I think. And we had a couple of runs in there that were more attrition runs. And then between whether it was play-action running the ball, I think we went three-and-out and three-and-out and two-and-out. And it's hard to establish anything when you don't get the first first down. That's normal football, man. You want to be really good on offense and you've got to get that first first down. I know that's captain obvious, because, shit, if you don't get the first first down you're punting, I get that. But the obvious thing is it's hard to call multiple runs in your play-action game because you're really running it. Might throw it, run it, then you're in third downs, and we were third-and-long a bunch. So ultimately -- we still had a chance before half. We get a two-minute drive together, and then we just get a couple holding calls and then a couple of five-yard procedural penalties. It's just dumb. Gotta own that. I'm the head coach of this team and it's not good enough. But it's just one. And we've got the right guys to fix it.

Q. On QB DeShaun Watson (inaudible)

TODD MONKEN: First off, we'll analyze everything that we do. It's not just him. We're putting this on Deshaun, which is unfair. And whatever there is externally doesn't matter to me. That doesn't affect me. That has nothing to do with my decision-making. My decision-making is what's best for the Browns now and moving forward. That doesn't mean that I don't understand the frustration. I've said that since I've been here. The same with me. I didn't take this job to lose. And I'm not trying to be rude. Please don't, it's just the end of the game, the way we played. So, we're going to analyze everything, how we do it, how we coached, starting with me. How we do it offensively, defensively. And Deshaun is a part of that. Always has been. Always will be as our quarterbacks will be. And then we'll assess it

and go forward. But I really want to just, for today, speak about today. Until I really get a chance to watch it and really drill down, it's unfair for me to really comment on any one given player because it's never as bad as you think and it's usually never as good as you think. Now, it's hard to say that right now because we didn't play very well. We really didn't.

Q. Did you think that Deshaun is playing tentatively?

TODD MONKEN: I did not see that today. He let that ball rip that was an interception. He let it rip. He just didn't see him or the defender made a great play on it, right? I mean, I thought he started the game great. We had a play-action to start the game and they got depth. He checked it down. We got a first down. We had a second down and he hit KC [WR KC Concepcion Jr.]. And we get a first down. We get a nice run at second and five, right? Let's see if we can push the ball down the field and check it down. And that's going to happen. Otherwise we're just going to run it and throw a quick game. And I'm sure he'd want that back, but I think he'd let it rip. That was not tentative on that throw. And some of the throws at the end of the game, at the end of the game, he was not tentative. I mean, he made some good throws towards the end when we gave him time, and when we had opportunities to get it down the field. We never got into a rhythm. It's so hard to judge. Like, it's so frustrating. Like, you watching it, us calling it, us doing it, it wasn't good enough. But it wasn't just one player. We all got to own it and then fight like hell to get better. That's what we're going to do.

Q. You said you felt good about showing up ready to play. So of the operational things, is there something you can point to?

TODD MONKEN: Well, it's usually not one thing. We've got to get in and out of the huddle, our substitutions. Our guys got to be ready to go, our skilled players. And then when we're down on the clock, we got to do a better job when we're asking for the football of getting the football, because sometimes you're going to be down on the clock. But we only had a couple of them and I took a timeout. So, let's not go beyond that and I'm not trying to pile on myself for God's sake. But we got to be better. And that's something I pride myself in and whether it's the length of the calls or us getting in and out of the huddle or our skill guys getting lined up. I mean that's the way it is. And that's not good enough.

Q. Were you surprised by the play of the defense?

TODD MONKEN: First of all, this is the NFL. I would just say that. I would just say that if you do this enough, you're going to get humbled. That's what we do. It doesn't matter what team in the NFL. We didn't play well enough and we didn't coach well enough, and that's always going to be it. You're going to get tired of me saying that. It's a "we" thing. It's not a "me" and it's not a "they" thing. It's a "we" thing. And we're going to fight like hell to get

better. That's what I've always done, that's what we're going to continue to do. And our guys, I have no reason to believe that we're not going to come back tomorrow, look at it, own it, and fight like hell to get better come Wednesday.

Q. Defense, did you see it as the players adjusting to something different than what they were doing last year?

TODD MONKEN: I can't comment on that now. I really can't without really seeing it. Did I see it with my eyes? Of course, but in between series I'm looking at what we're doing offensively to try to get that right. So obviously there's a lot to learn. There's a lot to learn and grow from here. I'm disappointed, but I'm fired up to get back to work. That's all you can do, right, in life and as a football team. That's what we're going to do. We're going to own where we could be better. And that's a really good football team. I mean, holy cow, at the end of the year last year, they won eight in a row and then lost at home in the playoffs and could have won. And they got a hell of a quarterback and really good coaching staff. And we just weren't good enough today. And, again, we started the way we wanted and we just didn't really finish the first drive to give ourselves a chance. And then really that part through to the halftime really was where it was won and lost.

Q. You opted for leaving the starters in late despite sort of the lopsided score. Was the thinking there trying to get some valuable in-game reps and what did you kind of think of some of maybe momentum that the offense got at the end?

TODD MONKEN: 100 percent. I mean, I like I like watching good football. I like when shit works. I mean, I think our guys needed that. I mean, we needed our guys to play. I mean, we need our guys to play. I don't care who it is that's out there. Spot the ball, man, let's go play. And I wanted our guys to gain some confidence if we could. And luckily you know what started the last drive? Us being able to run the football. That's what started that drive. And we had a check down and we got some yards out of it. That's what we didn't do after the first drive. Play calling, coaching, playing -- we never got that going. It's hard to really get that momentum going when you're a play here, a play here, and a third-and-eight and you're off the field.

Q. Back to defense, Defensive Coordinator Mike Rutenberg seemed to be substituting with the heat index in mind. But do you think they just wore down early?

TODD MONKEN: It's all a part of it. It's a good point. This style of defense -- and even they subbed -- they were like us, they were subbing guys in and out trying to keep them fresh. We didn't force them to sub. We didn't force them. In the first, second quarter, we went three-and-out, three-and-out and two-and-out. They didn't have to sub. Hell, they got to go and sit down. If you have an extended drive you'll have to sub, especially early in the year

with the heat. That was what was expected. And we're going to rotate our guys. If you're going to ask your guys to play all out, you've got to feel good about your depth and go play. Obviously, like I said, that's a part of it -- our rotation, our coaching and the way we played.

Q. You started four rookies on offense in this game between WR KC Concepcion Jr., WR Denzel Boston, the two linemen. Obviously you want to watch the tape but just your initial thoughts on how they handled the moment and how they performed today?

TODD MONKEN: Well, they're fine. They're fine. I mean, again, it's hard to really -- it's a little easier with the skill players because they're detached. You can watch them a little bit in their play. But obviously the turnover by KC, not ideal. But I don't think, with those guys, the moment's not too big. I think [T] Spencer Fano is going to be a tremendous player. KC and Denzel are going to be tremendous players. [T] Austin Barber is going to be a tremendous player. And until I see the film, it's going to be hard to really say. But the moment was -- and we just got to get in and out of the huddle with more efficiency -- play calls, the length of the calls, possibly, because we were up against the clock a little more than I like. And we've got to be able to -- again, that's part of playing the game. It's never the same. The closest thing we had to that was really (inaudible) and a couple of drives against the Bears. We'll be better because of it.

Q. G Zion Johnson, obviously it looked really bad there, then he came right back in --

TODD MONKEN: Well, he came back in. So, we'll have to see. Obviously the adrenaline, anybody that's ever had some form of injury and gone back in, we've all -- if you played basketball, you've played noon hoops, you figure it out and you get your ankle back and you go play, and then the next day, well, man, holy cow, not as good as I thought it was. But for him to come back and play, real credit to him and fight. We'll have to see tomorrow when he gets back in, but again, credit to him.

Q. After the first interception, Deshaun, do you feel he still played with a ton of confidence after that, or do you think that over the next few drives he might have been a little rattled?

TODD MONKEN: I think he did. Again, I can't speak for him. I would never want to speak for Deshaun. I got a lot of respect for Deshaun, how hard he's worked and come back, and there was a lot of good. Unfortunately, there was not enough early in the game. And there wasn't enough opportunities to really get moving. And that's really where when we went three-and-out and three-and-out and two-and-out, and then we just didn't really ever get started and get them into a substitution pattern and really playing plays off plays. So, it just wasn't good enough. At that point, you're going to be behind the 8-ball. You're not going to

get the defense off the field and you're not putting points on the board, and it's going to be like that. And that's obviously the challenge with where we're at.

Q. The drive at the end of the first half where Deshaun started to get something going, he had the one to WR Jerry Jeudy and then you guys just kept going backwards. Does that kind of encapsulate sort of how this thing went?

TODD MONKEN: Yeah, I mean, it's never one person. It's not. The focal point is going to be on the head coach, the coordinators and the quarterback. That's what it should be. That's where it should be. Gotta coach better. We've got to scheme it better and we've got to play better. But that's a perfect example of it, right? There's nothing he did in terms of the holding calls. Sure, we had a delay. Some of that's against him. But ultimately we've got to play better and got to coach better, and we will.



BROWNS QUARTERBACK DESHAUN WATSON
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Q. Can you just start with, you were driving, you're going down and ready to take it in when you throw the pick and you kind of went from there. So what happened there?

DESHAUN WATSON: It was just a guy made a play. I saw the coverage that brought the blitz late up the middle. They timed it up very well. Got knocked off platform, and 23 made a good play. That's pretty much how that kind of played out. Then we just couldn't get our rhythm back. Couldn't put drives back to help the defense. And Jacksonville made plays and got points and we didn't. And I think that's where the game kind of got away.

Q. Deshaun it seemed like a little bit operationally there was a lot of choppiness, a lot of struggles. What do you sort of attribute that to today?

DESHAUN WATSON: Yeah, I think just trying to get in and out of the huddle, being down on the clock, trying to operate, getting in the best play situation -- best play possible in each situation. And sometimes the clock was against us. And you know it just didn't go our way. We've got to be better with that, in and out of the huddles and having ourselves getting to the ball and having the chance to have more time on the clock to get in the best play.

Q. How confident are you that you can just shake this off and come back strong next week in Tampa and have a good performance there?

DESHAUN WATSON: That's the plan. Each week is different, regardless if it went the other way. We would be saying move on from this one tomorrow as we watch the tape. So we get another opportunity next week. Try to put one together and get a W. We've got a lot to learn on from this tape and keep pushing forward.

Q. The operation starts with the play being called. Was the play getting called late?

DESHAUN WATSON: No, I wouldn't say that. Once the play ends, they start the clock. So we switched personnels, guys coming from the sideline. So, again, it starts with me and Coach Monk [Head Coach Todd Monken] and me taking charge of that huddle and getting guys in and out to make sure they have the operations. You can just put that on the

quarterback and making sure that, again, you've got to figure out what the defense is doing, doing a lot of disguises and making sure if they're man, zone or whatever that check is for us to get in the right play.

Q. What were you hoping for today and what were you expecting?

DESHAUN WATSON: I mean, we were hoping for a W, you know what I'm saying? We put in so much work, especially myself, to come in and be successful. But it's the NFL. It doesn't go that way all the time. You play, you learn and you have those opportunities. It's great. The NFL is a hard league. You've got to be week to week and try to be better each and every time. And what I was expecting is obviously better results for us, better operational for us offensively. And it just went against us on the road. We've got to learn from that and grow from it and be better.

Q. This wasn't the performance you expected out there after almost two years off, but just individually what is the biggest hurdle you would say to getting to play the type of football you want to play and how quickly can you get to that?

DESHAUN WATSON: I think we've just got to find a rhythm overall. I mean, of course everyone's going to look at the quarterback in this situation overall. I haven't even looked at the box score or whatever, the stats. So I don't even know what that looks like. But yeah, we've got to put points on the board. That's what you've got to do in this league. Playing the quarterback position, you're the leader in that role. And we didn't do that today. We only got 10. And we left a lot, I left a lot out there. So obviously I take that responsibility full throttle. And we've got to look at the tape and see how we can be better and try to attack Tampa Bay next week to be able to get points on the board to be able to get wins.

Q. Did it feel differently? You've come back off of breaks before, in '22 and in 24'. Did it feel differently for you this time in terms of the rust and just getting back into kind of true game speed?

DESHAUN WATSON: Honestly, I'm not even sure. '22 is such a blur. It was so much going on. I can't even remember how '22, other than playing in Houston, it happened so fast. I'm not even sure how to answer that question, honestly.

Q. Obviously you had the preseason, but just to be out here for an actual meaningful game after your time off and all that, where were you at kind of emotionally and mentally both like pregame and then throughout?

DESHAUN WATSON: I mean, that's a lot of emotions, honestly. Two years off. Back against the wall. It's definitely a lot of emotions, a lot of anxiety in a good way because you just don't know how the game is going to go. You don't know how your body is really going to

hold up playing a full four quarters at a hot tempo. This is my first time being able to put my body through that. And came out healthy, which was a positive. Wish we would have got the W. But at the same time, definitely just a lot of different emotions from just all over the place. But I'm happy that I was able to come out healthy and put together a healthy game. And now we just got to get some Ws and get points on the board.

Q. When you're getting hit that often, physically I know it takes a toll, but can it be mentally difficult to get past that when it just seems like you're on your back frequently from the from the (inaudible)?

DESHAUN WATSON: Yeah, especially for a quarterback, because you've got to call the play, you got to think, you got to be able to move to the next play. You got to be able to operate, see what the defense is trying to do to get the ball in the right position, right spot. So it can definitely do that. But you know you just got to build that stamina. And again I think answering his question is just kind of like you got to, the reps and the time and the opportunities that I get I got to continue to just grow from that and build on that. So it can definitely be tough. But at the same time, you know, you got to keep pushing through.

Q. Other than the touchdown to WR Denzel Boston, you didn't target him much. Was something preventing you from getting the ball in his area?

DESHAUN WATSON: There's a lot of cloud coverage. They played a lot of 2-out shell when we were in zebra, 11 personnel. So they were taking away those crossers and digs. So it was hard to kind of get outside. And towards the end, they kept trying to show a 2-high, but the backside safety would poach, as we call it, backside. So he would be one-on-one. So I wish we would have found that earlier on in the game. But they did a good job of trying to cloud and pack the, what we call pack the paint, pat the middle of the field and make us throw it outside or check it down for sure.

Q. After that first interception, did you sort of get a little bit rattled by that and have to gain your confidence back?

DESHAUN WATSON: No, I mean, bad plays are going to happen all the time. You look all around the league. Everyone throws interceptions, everyone makes bad plays. You've got to give the defense credit. He made a good play on that. Even though I got knocked off my platform a little bit, I thought I got it over him. He reached up and grabbed it. So you've got to move on to the next play and try to move forward and try to put something positive on the next drive. And we weren't able to do that. So it didn't really bundle up my confidence. It's just we didn't get back on track like we wanted to.

Q. You've dealt with a lot of adversity. How does your experience and what you're going through help you for next week in your preparation to move forward from this?

DESHAUN WATSON: Yeah, I mean just keep moving forward, keep stepping forward, keep smiling, regardless of who's against me or who's with me. I think that's more beneficial for the team in that locker room. I've had a lot of support in that locker room after the game telling me to keep my head up, keep pushing forward, keep working. They're behind me, so that's always positive to see and hear. Yeah, we just got to keep going. The adversity is going to be there. You've got to embrace it. That's the only way -- I thought it was going to be gone two years ago, but I guess not. So you just embrace it and keep pushing through until you break that wall through.



**JAGUARS HEAD COACH LIAM COEN
POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY
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Q. On Parker's diving touchdown and effort in the opener?

LIAM COEN: Heck of a play. Had man coverage, he had outside leverage. I think he dove down and ran a really good route. Got the nickel to dive down and undercut him [on the route]. He ended up being pretty open and made a great catch. [Trevor] had really good protection, really all day. Was pleased with how we started fast, especially getting Parker [WR Parker Washington] going early.

Q. Trevor obviously had an outstanding game, what did you think of his performance?

LIAM COEN: Yeah, I thought he spread the ball around, trusted the guys that were in to make plays. Again, I thought we protected him really well, thought we mixed it up from the run game and some different things to keep them off balance to allow Trevor to continue to do what he does. He did some really good stuff off schedule again today, especially the touchdown to Jakobi I thought was a phenomenal throw and play in the back of the end zone, so was definitely pleased with the way that Trevor ran the offense today.

Q. Liam, it seems like you never really know what you have until you go out and actually play in week one. How proud are you of the way your team played all four quarters?

LIAM COEN: Yeah, I was pleased with the way in general starting fast and something that we've been really missing, talking about working on in different ways. I thought we were a more physical unit. I thought our defense played phenomenal. Really had the short field on the kickoff return that they busted out past the 50 and held them to three points and then they get the big win at the end there, but I really thought our defense came to play and made our kicks. Got to clean up some things on kickoff (returns).

Q. It's been a while since you've been in the same place two years in a row. Is there comfort in that continuity or do you feel like you're building something here? This is the first step.

LIAM COEN: Yeah, I think there was some good things to continue to build on. I definitely felt like when you go back as I did this week and watch Carolina week one kind of versus what we were able to come out here and do in terms of putting it away and making it our brand of football and not playing somebody else's game, playing our game, I think that's something that as we grow together and as we continue to know about each other more and more and trust each other more and more as coaches and players alike, that you can try to play your brand and play your style of football game, as much as possible.

Q. Coach, along the same lines as that, sort of big buzzword in sports right now is the "the standard." I know you've used it a lot here as well. You get a performance like this on tape, what is that going to do for your team's confidence? You can point to this game, that's our standard. The first game of the season.

LIAM COEN: Yeah, I think there's a lot of good things we can point to from this game in terms of being more physical. We play at our best as a team here in Jacksonville when we're playing grimy, physical, nasty, and we're flying around with relentless pursuit. That's in all three phases. That's setting the tone up front on the offensive line and playing nasty and getting after it.

Our backs I thought did a great job after contact today. Obviously, I think we tackled pretty well, fairly well. I thought we got after the quarterback and, look, when you have a group of guys that are hungry, want to get a bad taste out of their mouth with the first time them playing a game since, obviously, Buffalo. Yeah, you're trying to elevate the standard every single week.

Q. Liam, you've turned the page from a year ago, the carryover would be nine straight regular season wins. How different is it for you knowing that your team knows how to win again? You had a lead, last year you were third in the NFL in most offensive snaps with the lead. How different (is that) in a year?

LIAM COEN: Yeah, that's a good point in terms of -- I told the guys last night I know I'm going to sleep really good on Saturday night knowing that every single Sunday I'm not really too concerned if our team's going to show up or not. Is it going to always be perfect? No. I can't say that. But I do know that our team's going to show up on any given Sunday and play their tails off and hopefully play our brand of football. And, yeah, it's good to know that you've got guys that are bought in. They're all together. I think our locker room is extremely tight right now. And look, ... it was a spread around game, it was a true team win, and I think that's where you can point to the standard and point to having confidence in each other to be able to go out and spread the ball around like we did. Josh Cameron catches a touchdown and then it's like the next drive, all right, I want to get Breton involved and on that drive, he

catches a touchdown. So, I have confidence in them. They have confidence, I think, in what they're doing and hopefully it continues to carry over.

Q. You mentioned earlier in the week the trust you have in the rookies. Josh making that play, one of his first snaps on the field. What did that say to you?

LIAM COEN: That was a heck of a throw by Trevor as well, threading the needle. But, man, Josh has continued to put that on tape. He's done it for us all throughout training camp, really, making contested, tough catches. Even when he's covered, the quarterbacks do trust him to put it in his vicinity and he's going to make a play. I thought BT had some contested catches as well today that I was pleased to see. But, yeah, for Josh to be able to come out here in his first NFL real action, minus the pre-season, and catch a touchdown on a contested catch and then he had to come back on our sideline, then I thought he ran a really good route on Ward on, and that's got to give him a ton of confidence moving forward.

Q. Can you expand on what you liked from Bhayshul?

LIAM COEN: Yeah, man, I mentioned the yards after contact, I was very pleased with. I thought he trusted the reads. He was getting outside on some of the outside zones. Probably could have got to some more of that as the game went (on), but I thought he ran nasty. I thought he ran violent. He took some shots and kept his contact balance going and was falling forward a lot. I was very pleased with him. We executed a screen to him as well, which, whew. (Laughter). But, yeah, I thought Bhayshul really showed up today. I thought the confidence and the momentum that he had from Carolina to Tampa to this showed up. It showed up in the week of practice. It showed up in his preparation and then, again, showed up today.

Q. Real quick on Trevor, he's kind of notoriously started slow. What did you do today to make sure that that didn't happen?

LIAM COEN: Yeah, look, shoot, we've been pressing it so much in practice. It really started to kind of show itself from an improvement standpoint, I think in the Tampa joint really when we got the first play and had the touchdown in that joint. But, really, I think we communicated to him and to the players our opening script earlier in the week. We got more to some of the -- being ahead in game one, it allowed us to jump ahead a little bit in terms of, all right, Friday we were practicing more of the openers and one of the things that we wanted to get to early on ... he had a great grasp of the plan on Friday when we did our meeting and our call sheet meeting on Friday and Saturday. So, I think we were just a little bit more intentional. The time helped, so that's something we need to make sure carries over, that we can continue to get ahead of as a staff within the normal work prep weeks, but I think he just had a really good grasp of how to attack this defensive structure early on, the

things that we wanted to get to early on. It was nice to see him start to move around early on, too. I think that's a huge part of his game that he can lean into, especially early on in a game. You're not exactly sure what you're going to see, what you're getting. Hey, man, go be you and go run around. That typically helps. Great. Thanks, guys.



**QUARTERBACK TREVOR LAWRENCE
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Q. Trevor, four touchdown passes to four different targets. How pleased were you with how you were able to spread the ball around today?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Yeah, I think it was awesome. Guys ready to play. A bunch of different guys getting open and winning and you know, up front, able to just progress and get through my progressions and get the right guy the ball. So those guys did a really good job up front protecting. Just a clean day, I thought we operated pretty smoothly besides a couple of plays. Definitely a lot to build on and good start for us as an offense.

Q. Trevor, you have seen all of Parker's touchdowns. Where does that first one rank today in terms of difficulty?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: It's pretty good. I just saw video of it. I didn't see it -- I got hit right when I threw it so I never saw him catch it. Pretty sweet catch. That's up there.

Q. A lot of chatter externally about his future. How well has he separated the business and the football since training camp started?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: You would not even know that's going on just the way he carries himself. He's been the same guy. Just comes to work every day, does everything the right way. So, yeah, you wouldn't even know that's going on in the background. So really just impressed with how he's handled that, but not surprised. He's a worker and he's a stud. Had a great day today.

Q. Liam talked earlier about making sure you started fast and that sort of goes back to some of the preparations you guys made during the week and how comfortable you felt with everything on Friday. Can you just take us through that and how that kind of helped today?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Yeah, I thought we had a great week of practice. We really pushed ourselves physically just to be ready for -- it's hot today, the heat. I'm sure Cleveland coming down, that is a factor, obviously, in the game. We're able to practice in that every day. We really pushed during the week but also just had clean practices. Not everything is perfect, but really clean, detailed, felt like there was a really good understanding of the plan from everyone on offense especially by the end of the week. Just our process too, not having another -- having one year under my belt game planning with Liam and Grant and that process and how we talk towards the end of the week and really dialing in the plan. I really felt like it was buttoned up pretty good by the time we walked into the building Saturday and then got to touch up some stuff. So, yeah, I felt really, really good about it.

Q. Was it a priority for you to make sure you personally started fast?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Yeah, that's always the goal. You want to start the game fast and play well in that first possession so you can settle in as soon as possible and not give the ball back to the other team. I think that's always something you want to do, but I think it comes down to preparation. Also, every game is different. You don't know exactly what the defense is going to do first series and so there's a lot of moving parts. For us to start fast today like we did, that's the goal moving forward, obviously, and going to continue to build on that.

Q. Trevor, you kind of half-answered what I was about to ask, but second year in the system, sixth year as a pro now. Four TDs to four different receivers indicates a level of comfortability about not just the execution, I think, of the game plan but also as far as what your input is into the scheme and the things you like and what you want to do. Can you talk a little bit more about that and how that's evolved over the last 15 months or so?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Yeah, I think just the understanding of what we're doing and when certain plays go in and I know what I'm looking for and what we're trying to get done and if I don't, being able to communicate and ask the right questions or as the week goes on, if I'm not feeling great about something. It's like, hey, let's go through this one more time. Or maybe it's I don't really like that that much, can we adjust? Is there something else we can do there? There's a great relationship in working dynamic between all of us in that regard and our coaches are really good, too, so it's not like there's a ton of stuff where I'm like I don't like that. There's things that pop up every once in a while if I don't feel comfortable. But I think it's just about the communication and also as you play more and have more experience, you know you have seen all these installs before, you have seen these plays come in, so, yeah, you know what you're looking for a little bit and you play these similar types of defenses. I also know what I have experienced in the past that I'm like this worked good against them or I have done this before and I didn't love that, so that's part of it, too.

Q. Trevor, the Jakobi touchdown, can you talk us through that? He said that as a pass catcher, he kind of has to stay in shape when you're breaking because he has an opportunity to break. Just that chemistry. Can you kind of talk about that chemistry?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: That's something we always talk about in the offseason especially, that second play when the scramble starts and the best teams at it are the guys that can react as fast as possible and continue to work and get open while the play gets extended. Our guys have done a good job of that. Sometimes it's hard to practice in the offseason. A lot of things are on time. You don't scramble as much because the quarterback is not live in practice. You will sit in there and have a couple of extra hitches and get the ball out. But in games, it really comes to life and that's such a big part of especially, that wasn't in the red zone but in the red zone, that comes up a lot because defenses are good. It's not a lot of field to work with. Scrambles, I think, we talk about leads the league in touchdowns every year, scramble plays. So that's a big part of our offense and something that I think that those guys enjoy and are good at and obviously that I'm able to do and continue to build on it.

Q. Trevor, you mentioned you guys got a lot of the work done that you hoped to accomplish today, much of the game plan did work. What were some areas, maybe some packages where you said, okay, that's something we have to improve upon. One I know, 13 personnel, I know a couple of times maybe didn't go exactly the way you guys were hoping for.

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Yeah, we had a couple short yardage plays that we didn't convert on. We didn't have a ton of third downs where we were behind the chains, which was nice. It was a lot of third-and-shorts. But I think some of those short yardage runs we'll have to look at and see what we can do better as far as we weren't able to convert on a few of them. That's just off the top of my head. And then I think a couple times in two or three series we had a few wonky plays that were like the snap and I had the one where I went past the line of scrimmage, stuff that can't happen, you have to clean up. We were able to kind of get out of that hole by making a great play the play after, but it's not always going to be that easy. We just got to find ways to eliminate the negatives and not rely on having to make a second and 20 hero play to get out of it and just stay on track.

Q. You hit on it a little bit, but how much further ahead do you feel in year two with Liam at this point in the season compared to last year during the opener?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Yeah, I feel really comfortable, really confident in what we're doing. I think last year at this time, I knew what we were doing but it was still -- you're still getting used to the game plan and the moving parts of the offense, which was a lot, which is a big change for me. I think there was that dynamic of still trying to get completely comfortable in it. I think all that stuff I feel really good and like I said, we got to have a short memory and enjoy it tonight. It was awesome to get a win in Week 1 but excited now, we have a big challenge next week and got to turn the page and go put together another great game plan.

Q. Also a match-up of National Champion Clemson quarterbacks. Any extra chatter this week leading into this?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Yeah, not really. I got to chance to see him [QB Deshaun Watson] real quick after the game after the storm was rolling in and wished him good luck but, no, not too much there. We didn't talk before the game.

Q. Hundredth career touchdown pass to Josh Cameron, that was his first touchdown reception. Who's getting that football?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: Josh has it, so... (Laughter) I didn't even realize. Someone said it in the locker room, hundredth touchdown I'm like oh where's that ball at? They're like oh, it's Josh's first one, so he can keep it. I got to go get 200 now, I'll keep that one. (Laughter)

Q. Cole van Lannen does play and Ezra and Anton switch sides and the rookie at left guard. So no pre-season, your first time out, four new offensive linemen, just your thoughts on how they did?

TREVOR LAWRENCE: They did a great job. You look at that front, the front is good, Cleveland's front. I think those guys really protected well. We ran the ball pretty well for the

most part, too. I thought they did an awesome job. And like you said, to not have the live reps all together as a unit, especially me back there behind those guys, it's a good feeling when you come out Week 1 and play like that. That's the challenge to do that every week. These guys have been -- they work really well together. Rob [OL Robert Hainsey] is kind of the glue guy in there getting them right. I think that's helped E-man [OL Emmanuel Pregonon] and he's done an awesome job as a rookie stepping up and just really smart and physical and been a great player. And all the other guys have played great, too. Excited to have Cole [OL Cole Van Lanen] back. Obviously, it's a big turnaround from the injury coming off last year and for him to play like he did today was awesome, so just excited to build on that too.



**DEFENSIVE END JOSH HINES-ALLEN
POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

Q. Josh, what kind of chaos and disruption do you think you and DE Travon Walker brought throughout today's game against Cleveland?

JOSH HINES-ALLEN: Just guys flying around, trying to make plays for the defense and Tray started off just effort sacks. I think a lot of these were just effort sacks, just being relentless in the rush. We may not win on the first rush but if we can track it down and give everything we can, I think that's kind of how our game plan was today. But I think there's a lot to improve from today. I can't wait to watch the tape and improve and get back next week. Got Denver, big challenge for us. We're looking forward to the match-up, though.

Q. Got the turnover pretty quickly in the game. Obviously, that's how you guys kind of got rolling a little bit last year too. Was it good to see that happen that quickly?

JOSH HINES-ALLEN: Yeah, it was actually kind of crazy. In the coin toss when they wanted to receive it, I was like oh, okay. So, we got that interception, for me it was like that was the statement right there. This is when the game is going to turn, that fast. We kind of continued to do that. Offense came down and scored and then it was just like let's -- I wanted to hold them to zero all game. Kept them to under 100 rushing yards. I know they had that one explosive the last play of the game, but we stopped the run, eliminate explosive, create turnovers. That's our recipe for success and we accomplished 89 percent of it, so I'm happy with that.

Q. Josh, biggest free agent loss for your side of the ball and maybe for the team as a whole was LB Devin Lloyd. People were asking, even up to kickoff today, what are you guys going to do to replace him. Your man, LB Ventrell Miller, stuffed the whole stat sheet today. Talk about his performance from your perspective and how proud you are of him making the plays he did today.

JOSH HINES-ALLEN: Yeah, we trust Ventrell. Day one, I think it was definitely a grind for him knowing the expectations that was set on him, but for him just to play his game, get comfortable in the system, communicate, run fast, be physical, which he already is and once he starts to understand the scheme of everything and lining up and just knowing where the ball was going to be, we knew what type of play we were going to get from him. Just to see him make physical tackles, tackle after tackle, being in coverage, making plays on the ball, that's what he does. And, again, I'm still going to say, he's going to lead the league in punch-outs I think. Well, I know he's going to lead the league in punch-outs. Let me be more affirmative on that. The effort that he played with today, we can expect that every week from him and he expects it every week for himself, which is great to be part of.

Q. Josh, it's one thing to see it on the practice field. It's one thing to see it in a meeting. But to see what you guys were able to see on the field, just how good did that feel today?

JOSH HINES-ALLEN: Again, it was a great opportunity, a great challenge for us. We had everything against us, less crowded space and it was super hot, obviously. We had all the external noises that we can also be challenged from as a defense, as an offense, who we're going to be. We never were the same team after a great year, and so always battling expectations and going out there and playing our brand of football. Playing the brand of football that each individual player knows they can play at. That's us. We just want to continue to play at a high level, continue to be where we're supposed to be, offense, defense, and special teams. Again, I think there's still areas to improve, but I think it was a great first step of where we're trying to get to.

Q. To piggyback on that, how much different does this year feel with Head Coach Liam Coen kind of knowing what to expect from everybody and how much better can this team be overall?

JOSH HINES-ALLEN: I think it's just a carrier for what I just said. I think it's -- we just got to keep executing, keep playing fast. We know what type of players we have in our locker room and we have ballers at all, at every level of this offense and defense. I think if we can just continue to stay healthy and just execute what's being called, I think we have a really great, talented room and just got to keep doing that.

Q. Josh, you said you guys had a lot of external noise, made a statement today. What do you feel like you as a defensive unit proved today?

JOSH HINES-ALLEN: That we can continue to still be one of the best units in the National Football League. There were areas where I feel like we can improve, can improve from last year. We still want to be the number one rush defense. We still want to create takeaways. Also, we want to do a better job on getting to the quarterback and getting him down. I don't know how many sacks we had today, but I think it was a good start from where we need to get to.

Q. Five sacks today. Throughout your career, the offense has struggled with three-and-outs consistently. What's it like to be on the sideline and see them score as soon as they get the ball twice, going out and playing complementary football?

JOSH HINES-ALLEN: I think we have a lot of trust within each other. I don't think we ever, especially these last couple of years, it was never like we got to, defense be ready. I feel like when we get to the sideline, I feel like we're going to have time to kind of catch our breath, communicate what needs to be fixed because we do have that trust in the offense. It's going to be out there and do the long drive, 13-play drives, going to get us points. That's the expectation we have for our offense. Even if they don't, they do get a three-and-out, then they have trust that the defense is going to get the ball right back for them. So that's the complementary football that we're going to continue to play and expectations we have for each other.



**LINEBACKER FOYE OLUOKUN
POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

Q. The performance today from you guys, what was your overall assessment?

FOYE OLUOKUN: There's definitely stuff we can get better at, but going into the game, it's about assignment ball and arriving violently, I think we did that. I was able to kind of predict how the game was going to go with their runs and runs in the boots, and then eventually the RPO game. So, we felt like key-wise we were on top of things, communication-wise we were on top of things, but we can definitely play a lot of plays better. But we took the ball away, that's always a testament. I think we stopped the run pretty well. They had to start kind of throwing it, and then just things that we can always clean up though. I like the way we hustled and I like the standard we're setting to start off the season.

Q. And speaking of taking the ball away, you got the big interception to start the game on the first drive. How big was that?

FOYE OLUOKUN: I mean, they were driving. So, I'm happy I caught it. Yeah, it was cool. I don't know what to tell you. It was fun, though. I like starting off the defense the right way, getting the offense a better field position, going in to score the touchdowns, so complementary football. But that's just the way we play team ball here. I think [LB] Ventrell [Miller] had a great blitz to kind of get him off the spot, and now my three is kind of in the backfield. I was able to play up the quarterback. Catch the ones they throw you and you'll have a hell of a year, so it was nice.

Q. You been working on the hands? That was a pretty good catch.

FOYE OLUOKUN: I used to be a receiver in high school. All-state, St. Louis, Missouri. I'm happy I caught it because as I get older, I have to tape more and more stuff on my hands. So, I caught it, so I'm happy I did that.

Q. And how about LB Ventrell Miller, how do you feel he played next to you?

FOYE OLUOKUN: Oh, he's great. We're communicating. We watch a lot of film together now. We're able to communicate a lot of the looks. He's a missile, right? So, I get to play off of him when we're diagnosing what we're seeing. Mid-play, we're talking. He played well, and I told him to keep doing that for his confidence in himself. But you keep doing that, they're going to have to tell you what you—he played very well. So, keep stacking off of that, and let's keep building off each other.

Q. Are you proud of the way you came out given that you didn't play a snap in the preseason? Was there some curiosity about that?

FOYE OLUOKUN: Right, usually you get a couple of drives in the preseason. Kind of get used to calling it, tackling and all that stuff. I hit the tackle dummy a lot this week, but you can't replicate playing live reps. I'm happy we just came out with the juice and really, tackles are going to be a team thing. Everybody owning their leverage, taking a shot, knowing your brother is going to back you up if you miss it. I think the way that we just played with the right energy and came out with physicality that we preached all offseason kept building it up to this first game and it showed today. We've got to keep doing it. We've got a war next week. We know how physical that team is and reading the keys and everything, but we've got to do it twice to win that next game.

Q. Coach is always talking about needing something to improve upon, but the performance was pretty solid. What do you think you're going to find that you need to do better?

FOYE OLUOKUN: We'll watch the tape and see. They've got to find that out. So, I'm going to find it out as well. I have some things in my mind, but I want to watch the tape and make sure they're right. We always know we should get better as the season goes, so this next game is a big game. I'm already kind of thinking about it, but we've got to come out with the right energy and the right execution on our plays in order to come out with a win.



**WIDE RECEIVER PARKER WASHINGTON
POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

Q: Was there any kind of message to the team today?

PARKER WASHINGTON: No. I was just having fun. I just wanted to bring energy and go out there and celebrate with the guys and have a great win today.

Q: What was the first touchdown? Describe what unfolded and what you saw coming out of your break?

PARKER WASHINGTON: They went man. Me and Trev [QB Trevor Lawrence] have been on the same page about wanting to hit throws down the field and just being able to execute that. It was special. It was cool to just start with a nice drive and start strong.

Q: What was that touchdown celebration? Was it The Undertaker?

PARKER WASHINGTON: Yes, yes. It was funny. I was just on Tik Tok, and I was thinking, I saw a little WWE thing. I said OK, let me think about The Undertaker. He was one of my favorite wrestlers growing up, so I was like, let me see if I want to do something like that.

Q: Was there a different celebration when you got to the sideline?

PARKER WASHINGTON: (Laughs). No, I was just bringing energy to the team man. It was just cool to just start strong and have some fun and have a great win today.

Q: What did you think about WR Josh Cameron getting his first career touchdown in the NFL? What was the moment like for you to see him achieve that?

PARKER WASHINGTON: I mean from the get-go, from day one, those guys, those young guys are special. They attack each day like pros, and that's what is making them get these opportunities, and they are executing. Like I said, today, I was like hold up, we are going 13? I can't even get Josh off the field. But they are ready. They are making plays and that is what it's all about.

Q: What did you think about Trevor's performance?

PARKER WASHINGTON: He's a baller. It's his second year in this offense. We are all confident in him. He knows what he is capable of and he knows he is special. He goes out there and does it each week.

Q: Who has advised you the best on how to separate business and football?

PARKER WASHINGTON: I mean, I feel like you have your support system, your family, your agent; that is what it's all about. Me, personally, I have always been great about keeping the main thing, the main thing. My job is to come out here and have some fun and play ball.

Q: Have you been surprised how easy it has been to focus on the game?

PARKER WASHINGTON: I feel like that is what makes me special. You know, just being able to go out here and block out the noise and go have fun.

Q: What does it mean to you to start the year so strong?

PARKER WASHINGTON: That is what you dream of. That is what you put the time in the offseason and focus on. Just coming out here with how do I start strong and most importantly how do I finish strong? That is the mindset. That is the key to being the best pro you can be and that is how I want to attack each day.

Q: What does it say you guys picked up where you left off offensively eight months ago?

PARKER WASHINGTON: We got a chance to really dive into the offseason and figure out what we are good at, and that is what it's like. You have a first year in a brand-new offense. I would hope the second year, you start to figure it out and get on the same page on what we want it to look like, and we have done that. We just wanted to build on that and continue to have fun and go out there and make plays.

Q: Four touchdown passes for Trevor to four different receivers. State your case as maybe the best or if not the best receiving teams in all of this league.

PARKER WASHINGTON: We came out here and attacked it this offseason. We have some young guys who are ready to roll. The tight end room is great, and the wide receiver room is great, running backs, the whole offense is special. Like I said, we want to continue to showcase that, continue to get better and continue to have some fun.



**RUNNING BACK BHAYSHUL TUTEN
POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

Q. Bhayshul, how good of a start was that for this offense?

BHAYSHUL TUTEN: It was a great start, I think we came out moving the ball like we wanted to. Looked explosive overall, in the pass game, run game, blocking wise, and I think that's what we wanted to showcase, so I think we did a great job today.

Q. How much do you guys feed off QB Trevor Lawrence? When he's playing that way, can you feel it?

BHAYSHUL TUTEN: Yeah, you can definitely feel it. When he is playing to the best of his ability like we know he can, the offense starts clicking and he makes some big plays downfield with some great throws and we feed off of that as a unit and we love him.

Q. There's always a lot of questions until Week 1, until you're actually on the field and play in a competitive game. What questions did you guys answer today?

BHAYSHUL TUTEN: That we're very explosive, a great offense, and that we're out for blood. A lot of people doubted us, and we loved that. Coach Liam [Head Coach Liam Coen] preached that every day, forget what the naysayers say and go out and prove them wrong and I think today we did that.

Q. Now you have something to build on, you set the foundation with a W. Talk a little bit about moving forward, lots of football is left.

BHAYSHUL TUTEN: Yeah, a lot of football left, like you said. But we do a good job of taking it day by day, we're going to enjoy this win, but come back tomorrow, the rest of the week and prepare for the next game. So, we put it behind us pretty good, just onto the next, one game at a time.

Q. The O-line hasn't really played a snap together really with OL Cole Van Lanen coming back in, OL Emmanuel Pregon obviously over there and OL Anton Harrison at left. How do you feel like they did and moved people today?

BHAYSHUL TUTEN: They did great, they moved the D-line amazing. They created holes for us, and like you said, our first game altogether, but you know we've been seeing it all throughout camp, and OTAs and things like that, so we're not surprised.



**DEFENSIVE END TRAVON WALKER
POSTGAME MEDIA AVAILABILITY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

Q: Is that the whole idea?

TRAVON WALKER: Yes sir. We just want to continuously grow off of what we did last year. Obviously, I feel like that was a great example for how we want this defense to be. The standard for the defense, and we just want to continuously build off of that.

Q: What's it like to be healthy?

TRAVON WALKER: Man, it feels great. It's one of those things that you kind of take for granted. Until you just said something about it, I really haven't thought about it until now. It really is just a great feeling to just be healthy and be able to use my hands and things of that nature, and obviously get back into my groove.

Q: Do you wonder how you were going to start in the first half defensively and individually? It's the start of a new season, you haven't played in eight months, to start the way you did, how satisfying is it?

TRAVON WALKER: I wouldn't say I wondered how I'm going to start. I know this is a game where nobody is going to be perfect. There's going to be ebbs and flows of the game obviously, but you just have to come to the sideline and breathe. Take a deep breath or whatever happens, and move on to the next play.

Q: Head Coach Liam Coen mentioned being able to build on something after last year, you guys know the standard and know to play your brand of football. How much of a difference did you feel today versus this time last year?

TRAVON WALKER: Man, I feel like we definitely started a lot faster. Not to say we didn't start too fast last year, I really can't remember all the way back that far, but we definitely started fast today and that's something we want to continuously to build on every week from now and here on out.

Q: How does it feels to be ranked number six among the franchise all-time sack leaders. What does that mean to you?

TRAVON WALKER: It means a lot to be amongst those greats. It really means a lot. I just want to keep chopping wood and keep going.

Q: How dominant were you in the first half?

TRAVON WALKER: I did alright. I had some [good] effort plays out there. I feel like that's what the game is all about. A lot of guys, most plays would be effort plays. We just have to keep running to the ball and god will reward you. I did alright.

Q: How big was LB Foye Oluokun pick?

TRAVON WALKER: Man, that was amazing. First series, obviously they got down the field a little bit, past the 50, but the defense, we just bowed our neck obviously and, in that moment, Foye knew what his reads were, and he made a play. A big play at that.

Q: Game one, week one, got the win, you move on, you're winning. Talk a little bit about getting it done.

TRAVON WALKER: Like you said, we got the win. Obviously, this was by far not perfect by any means. We were not perfect at all, so we want to get into this office this week and we want to make those corrections. We want to see how we can continue to build and get ready for next week.

Q: In that last drive of the second quarter, they're false starting and getting delay of game calls. Does that tell you that the defense was kind of in their heads?

TRAVON WALKER: Definitely in their head a little bit, and then I also said that the heat was pumping out there. I would give the heat some credit, and I'm going to give the fans some credit as well. It was sounded great out there, and the crowd was active. I feel like we're going to need to continuously grow on that as well from the fans' standpoint and continuously play ball how we play ball.