



BROWNS POSTGAME QUOTES 9-20-26

HEAD COACH TODD MONKEN

(On how he felt his team performed today)

"I'm really proud of our guys and how they keep battling. Obviously not an ideal first half, but I'm not going to focus on that. You're going to try, you are, but I'm not going to go down that road. I will have enough time to go down that road after watching the tape. The way our guys battled and finished the second half, so proud of our guys. That's a win for our players. This is a players game and our guys made plays and had a great week. Trusting the process, believing that it's a week-to-week league. We didn't put our best foot forward last week and that's what's gonna happen when you don't. We played a lot cleaner this week, not perfect, but I'm gonna enjoy this win for our guys. Again, this is a players game and they make it go. All they've ever done since I've been here is exactly what I've ever asked them to do in terms of their work ethic, in terms of every single day that we asked them and they've let me be me, which is really cool."

(On what the team did to stay prepared during the weather delay)

"We fueled, we hydrated, we played music, we kept their vibe up. We said we are in the driver's seat. We're up by [four] – they need a touchdown. We're in the driver's seat. I told them that there's no other group I'd rather have out there than our defense to close it out. Because that's where we're at, after last week, and after how hard they played and the job they did to close it out, that was awesome."

(On Deshaun Watson's performance)

"I mean, he played his rear end off in the second half and he's doing it really without us running the ball very well, which we are certainly going to be doing better there. That starts with me – schematically and then calling it because that's hard to win when you can't control the line of scrimmage and you can't comfortably turn around and hand the ball off. But, he made some really nice plays with his legs. The first third and one that he got to Harold (Fannon) that extended the drive. There were a couple of other plays that he made with his legs. I thought he was in control, not perfect, and none of us are. Nobody's going to make more mistakes than I make. I promise you. There's many decisions that I have to make as a head coach and we are not mistake free. We're human. And when we do that like we did last week, we own it and we fight like hell to fix it. I am very happy for Deshaun (Watson). I am happy for us and the team. There's nothing like a locker room after a win. I don't care, there's no drug, alcohol, nothing that makes you feel like when you win as a team."

(On if Deshaun Watson will be the starter next week)

"I'm going to enjoy this win and I thought he (Deshaun Watson) played his ass off. I'm so happy for him. I'm just going to leave it there. Good for him. Good for 22 months of working his [butt] off to get to where he's at. I'm going to leave it at that. This is a players game. There is nothing like the locker room."



(On the adjustments made after the first half)

"We just got the ball out of our hands. Just get the ball out of our hands. They were pressuring us on some of our under center trying to throw it down the field. We just decided we were going to get it out of our hands and that was without a run game. They did a good job of taking that away. I am a big Todd Bowles fan, man. I am a big Todd Bowles fan. I am a big fan of Todd Bowles. I just am. He really tests you with the pressures they gave and we certainly can be better than that. I thought Deshaun (Watson) did a good job at distributing the ball. In the first half, we had lost yardage plays and penalties. We had holding calls and we didn't convert when we had opportunities. Some of that is players and some of that is coaching and that's what this game is. It is a we thing. It's not a me thing and it's not a them thing. We've got to coach better and play better. We will continue to do that if we continue to trust the process and put in the work every week like they did this week."

(On why the defense was so much better this week)

"It's a week-to-week league. It just is. Just look at the scores. Just look around, man. We just went back to work. That's a credit to Rutty (Mike Rutenberg) and his staff and our players. Were they happy about the game last week? Was Rutty as a coordinator in his first game? Was I happy in my first game as a head coach with the way we played? No. You know what they did? We pulled our big boy pants on and go back to work and fight like hell to fix it and that's all you can do. And that's what they did and that's what we're going to do. We're going to enjoy this win and we're going to go back to work and get ready for the Carolina Panthers."

(On why he believed in Deshaun Watson after last week)

"First off, I believe in all of our players. I believe in our staff. I believe in this organization and where we are headed. He is just one of those pieces, and whoever we put out there, I expect them to play well. Whoever goes out there – offense, defense – they expect us to scheme it up to give them the best chance of being successful. That's what a team is. There's a trust on both ends of it. There's a trust that we are going to put our players in position to be successful and there's a trust that they are going to go and execute. I am very happy for Deshaun (Watson) and for our team. He's just one piece of that. He played better because I called it better and because our players played better around him. This isn't a one-man game, this is not, and it takes everybody. I'm super proud of our guys. I am super proud of the week they put in. That's all you can do. All that does it give you a chance. It doesn't guarantee anything. But if you don't put in the work and you don't pull your big boy pants up, and fight like hell to fix it, it's not going to work and you're not going to get better. That's what we're going to continue to do. I got the greatest job in the world. I'm the head coach of the Cleveland Browns for God's sake. How cool is that."

(On how the locker room felt after earning the first win)

"Again, it's not about me. It never has been. It's about the players, and it's always going to be that way. I'm happy for them because they put in the work. We all put in the work. As coaches and players alike. This is a tough business, which is why we get paid a lot. Man up when it's not good enough, and it wasn't good enough last week by me. There's a lot of things today that weren't and I'm going to go back to work to figure out how we can be better. But there's nothing like that, if you've ever been a part of the team, there's



nothing like a celebration after a win. There's nothing like it. It's everything you do this for. Everything."

(On how they went about the scheming during the delay)

"At some point, we are going to be in four-minute and we were in two-minute. There are only so many calls you got. I really didn't think it would get down to where we'd have victory [formation]. I didn't think that. I thought we'd get an earlier stop and we'd have be in two-minute or four-minute. We got together with our skills guys and we talked about all the plays we needed if we needed chunk plays because it could have happened there, right. [If they] get the touchdown, how are we going to advance the ball. Our coaches did a great job taking that information to our players. That's all you're doing. You're prepping for what-ifs. We hydrated, we fueled, we got our guys ready to go and played music. We talked about how cool it's going to be to close it out that way and our guys did it. They backed up their preparation there and went out there and got it done."

(On what it says about the team that they were able to withstand a long weather delay and still come out and secure a victory at the end)

"Well, we needed it. There's only so much you can talk about things in life. Ultimately, we're judged by wins and losses as coaches and we're judged how we play on the field. It's not the name on the back – the player's name on the back. It's based on how they play on the field – not their history, not what they've done in the past. It's what they do every week, it's the same as us. At this point now, it's all about winning. It's about them winning their matchups – the players on the field. That's what it's all about. At that point, it's you out there and it's us collectively together. I thought our guys did a great job of hanging together. We had a couple scuffles Wednesday, which is good. It's awesome, because guys didn't like it. They were pissed off, right? You've got to be a little pissed off. It wasn't the standard. Browns are going to Browns? [Screw] that. The guys took that to heart."

QUARTERBACK DESHAUN WATSON

(On if he thinks tonight's game was his best performance with Cleveland)

"I don't know. I'm just happy we got the win."

(On his emotions following Cleveland's win)

"I'm right where I'm supposed to be. Leave the journey in God's hands, keep working hard, keep pushing forward and let the outcome be the outcome when it comes."

(On if the second half was ideal for him as a quarterback)

"It was good – we're just making plays. [I was] telling 'Monk' (Head Coach Todd Monken) at halftime to trust me with the ball in my hands and let me go out there and operate. Just let him scheme up and call the plays and I'm going to trust his mindset, and let's go execute."

(On how it will feel to play in Cleveland after tonight's win)

"Honestly, I'm just happy with this win. Right now, I'm focused on right now and enjoying this win with my teammates. And honestly, I'm ready to go see my family. That's all I'm focused on."



(On how he spent the weather delay)

"We went over some stuff – the end-of-game kind of things – process and plays. Then we just kind of hung out and chilled from there."

(On how the team felt about Head Coach Todd Monken's previous press conference comments)

"I wouldn't say it was a topic of conversation. I think that 'Monk' (Monken) said what he said and that's how we all feel."

(On the team's shift in attitude after Wednesday's practice)

"The attitude was amazing – it was good. You felt the energy. Guys want to win [and] guys are passionate, so it's going to be like that, especially when you have brothers in [the] locker room that are all together. Heck, even me and 'Monk' went head-to-head a couple times. It's all good – it's all love. That's what you [have] to do to sometimes pull out a win like this."

(On if he felt like the stakes were high in tonight's game for him to deliver a strong performance individually)

"No ma'am."

(On WR Denzel Boston's performance)

"Boston is, again, a heck of a player, a young guy that keeps improving each week. Him, KC [Concepcion Jr.] – just get the ball in their hands and [they] make [the plays]. I did get onto him on that fade that I threw him in the [end zone], though. Most definitely [he should have had that], and he knows that too. He has to control that. We talked about it in that two-hour break, but I'm going to keep coming to him and keep giving him those opportunities."

(On he and Head Coach Todd Monken's relationship)

"Our relationship – it continues to grow every day. The more we talk, the more we're around each other, the more we go through certain situations – we're [going to] build that [relationship]. That's part of this game and this league. You're going to have some ups and downs. You're going to go back and forth. You're going to agree to disagree. But at the end of the day, we love each other. We've got respect for each other, and that's what matters."

(On if he ever thought he wouldn't get to experience a win as a starting quarterback again)

"Nah ... never that."

(On TE Blake Whiteheart's touchdown)

"It was good. We kind of set that up. My stomach kind of dropped a little bit when he slipped. I thought he was about to fall, but that was something that we've been working on, and he did a good job of getting released on the backside, and the o-line did a good job of protecting that backside. Just get the ball to him and let him do the rest, and we got a touchdown."



(On correcting last week's operational problems)

"We cut down the play clock. I know the play clock starts at 40 seconds, so we cut it down to 37, sometimes 35. The whole offense was on the sideline, like we were in a real game. Usually, we're kind of stacked behind each other on the plays, but we put a big emphasis on that to make sure that operation wasn't going to [hinder] us from trying to get a win."

(On if he feels like himself again)

"Every week I'm getting more confident and more comfortable with myself. Like I told 'Monk' and I told the team, I feel good. I'm healthy. I trust the work that I put in these last two years. If you've got to put the ball in my hands, I'm ready for it. So, whatever we've got to do to make the team win and keep drives moving, I'm ready for."

(On corrections they made ahead of the second half)

"I mean, I think we started off pretty good with heavy packages. Then they started coming out and adjusting on their end, bringing the 'cat' blitzes. If y'all remember from Chicago, they were doing it with the Bears, so trying to pack the paint. We got in the [shotgun] and started operating from there, letting our receivers work, getting the ball out quick and making them go side to side. I think that helped us out. Once they adjust, we adjust it. It's just like boxing. You just keep going pound for pound until somebody gives up, and we got the last one."

(On the Browns' defense closing out the game)

"It was great. It was great. We were all together in there. We were hanging out on the golf cart, chilling, playing music, eating snacks. They kept coming to us on the offensive side like, 'Hey, y'all did y'all job. Just know that we're going to handle our part too,' and they kept their word, and they did it. So, it was a good, complete team win. It's great to get a win in this league."

DEFENSIVE END JARED VERSE

(On how it felt winning the way the team did)

"It was definitely a great feeling. Browns fans: seeing all of them travel, the people that live here [and] the people that represent Cleveland the way they do, to get that win for them was probably the biggest thing."

(On what he did for his mindset during the two-hour delay)

"Me personally, we knew what the situation was. We go out there [with] two minutes, if we stop them, we win. If we don't stop them, that puts the offense in a very tough situation depending on how much time is left. I knew they were going to throw the ball; there's not a lot of time left for them to get the run game going. I just thought about what rushes I wanted to hit, what moves I wanted to hit, how I was going to keep the ball as such."

(On what a defensive sequence like the one at the end of the game can do for a younger defense)

"It's as simple as that. That's the standard. Last week, I don't know what it was, but the vibes weren't right, vibrations weren't correct, people's mental, myself included, weren't



all on the same page. This week people came in and you could see the look in everybody's eyes that it was going to be a great game. I woke up feeling great. I knew it was going to be a great day for us."

CORNERBACK DENZEL WARD

(On the victory)

"It feels good to be back in the winning column - great feeling. Great team win. Just glad we were able to finish it [and] regardless of the delay, we were able to get it done."

(On the message that was delivered before returning to play after the weather delay)

"The whole message was just to go out there and finish - finish what we started, and we were able to go out there and do that."

(On what this win does for the team's confidence)

Yeah, I think it boosts us. I think it's a great starting point for us – a building block – and we're going to try to stack one over the other."



BUCCANEERS POSTGAME QUOTES 9-20-26

HEAD COACH TODD BOWLES

(On the team being out of sync)

"Too many penalties, offensively. Too many missed tackles in the second half, defensively. Nobody is coming to save us. We have to fix ourselves and we have to fix it in a hurry."

(On his message to the team before returning to the field from the weather delay)

"[We were] talking about how we're going to get down the field and going to score and how we have to defend. You have to go through the scenarios of winning the ball game and leaving time on the clock. It didn't come to that, but that was the message going out."

(On his message to the team after the loss)

"What I just said – nobody is coming to save us, you know? The penalties and the missed tackles – we have to correct ourselves and we have to do it in a hurry. We've dealt with adversity before. This is an adverse situation again. [It's] the first time at the beginning of the season, but we're 0-2 right now and we have to pull ourselves up by our boots, and we've got to win."

(On the decision to pass the ball during the rainy conditions at the end of the game)

"[To] make it tough both ways, you know? You [have to] factor the clock in there, as well, and you're not going to get it just going putt, putt, putt, putt, putt, putt, so we took a shot at some passes. It just didn't work out."

(On if he knew the warmup period after the delay would be 10 minutes)

"Yeah, we knew."

(On what the Cleveland Browns were doing to have more success finding the end zone)

"Missed tackles. We had our hands on them, [but] we couldn't bring them down. We had two guys collide and miss [Browns WR Denzel] Boston and he ran for a touchdown, so we have to tackle better."

(On wide receivers Emeka Egbuka and Chris Godwin Jr. not being as involved in the first half)

"It's not that they were taken away. I'd have to look at the film to tell you for sure, but I know they doubled them a few times."

(On the challenges that come with a multi-hour delay)

"I mean, they were doing the same thing. That's not an excuse. We were ready to play. We came out, we warmed up, we had 10 [minutes], they had 10 [minutes], so we have to go out and make plays."



(On how to get the team back on track)

"We can't commit the penalties. We have to have a better ground game early, early in the first half. [We] probably have to throw some quicker passes, as well."

(On the heavy use of the running backs in the screen game despite them not yielding a lot of yards, and if it was an attempt to prevent turnovers)

"Not at the same time – it was something they were giving us on tape."

(On why the outside pass rush hasn't been able to get going)

"They're getting back there – we just faced a mobile quarterback and he was elusive, stepping up in the pocket and moving some things. I thought we had a better pass rush than we had last week. [There are] still some things to work on, but we've got to get going."

(On his message to Tampa Bay fans going forward)

"Hey, we're dealing with adversity. We're going to come out and we're going to correct our mistakes, and we [have to] get going."

QUARTERBACK BAKER MAYFIELD

(On if it was difficult to throw the ball in the rain at the end of the game)

"I mean, they were doing a decent job of covering it up and subbing the ball in and out. Unfortunate, not making the plays all day in the red zone. It was the same story, ended up with field goals instead of touchdowns down there and obviously negative plays. Just not getting enough completions down there. [It] came back to bite us in the end."

(On his frustration with the offense)

"[I'm] frustrated because it's close. You can feel it. You can see it. We're moving the ball at times, and then just shooting ourselves in the foot. So, that makes it more frustrating when you know you're right there. Our group is more than capable of handling stuff like this, but we [have to] really be self-critical, look at the tape, get stuff fixed and [we] just can't keep making the same mistakes over and over."

(On how much the team talked about the game plan during the delay)

"Yeah, we talked a decent amount, obviously. [We] kept talking as the time kept getting delayed. But yeah, it's one of those situations where you're trying to take off as much clock, but also most important thing is to still score. Getting two first downs and then running the clock out and ending up in the end zone. [We] can't have negative plays, and just [have to] make it happen somehow."

(On if the rain affected WR Ted Hurst's ability to catch the ball in the end zone in the last minute)

"Yeah, obviously, not an easy catch. Ted is somebody that I trust, that's not going to change anything for me going forward, but yeah, tough play. I don't know, I didn't get a real good look at it, but I know he had a chance at it. The ball is going to keep coming back to him, going to keep finding him. We just [have to] be able to make the plays in the end. Obviously, just [have to] trust that 'Mek' (Emeka Egbuka) is going to come out of



that break a little slower with conditions and give him some air to run under it, on the fourth down play too.”

(On how difficult it is to start on a two-game losing streak)

“I mean, it’s still going back to what I was talking about earlier. It’s shooting ourselves in the foot, not making the plays when we need them, knowing that these are fixable things, but that also makes it more frustrating. [We] just [have to] get it corrected. Like I said, we [have to] be hard on ourselves, watch the tape, get those things fixed, flush it and move onto the next. [We have] another home game next week against a good opponent.”

(On how shocked he is to start the season 0-2)

“Pretty shocked. But, that’s where we’re at, so [we have to] fight our way out.”

(On what the offense needs to do to get the deep ball going)

“Yeah, I just [have to] continue to communicate on landmarks and things that we’re trying to draw up. [We have to] look at the tape, but it’s timing, it’s landmark throws and just trusting those guys to be in the right spots and also just putting it on them.”

(On what happened on the interception he threw)

“It’s no excuse, but [I] kind of had a little bit of a sweaty ball and at that point, if I can’t put the ball in a perfect position on the sideline – because the throw is there. The guy [has] depth, but he’s not all the way to the sideline. I’ve made that throw in practice to Ted [Hurst III] a ton of times so, at that point, just check it down, be smart. It just sucks.”

(On if the loss hurts more because it was against Cleveland)

“No, [it] just stings more because we’re 0-2.”

(On his a lot of throws to the flat early on)

“Yeah, they sink out into coverage quite a bit, [they] get a lot of depth. They drop the tight ends and the [running] backs quite a bit. It’s just what they put on tape. We were trying to take advantage of that, to lull them to sleep, bring them up closer to hit some of those deep shots later in the game. But yeah, trying to take the completions when they’re there.”

LINEBACKER ALEX ANZALONE

(On his thoughts on where the team is right now)

“We’re in a bit of a hole. We’ve gotta dig ourselves out of it.”

(On how to get out of the hole after going 0-2)

“It starts with Wednesday practice, that’s really it. That’s all you can do, put one foot in front of the other, correct what we need to correct and then go from there.”

(On whether the locker room believes they can dig themselves out of the hole)

“For sure, yeah. We’ve got the guys, we’ve got the right group. It’s just a matter of putting it together and in my experience, you hit adversity at different points in a season



and we're hitting it early and we'll see where it goes. But this isn't something that's necessarily new to me. I've been in situations like this before, we just got to dig ourselves out of it."

(On if the Browns were performing well, or the Buccaneers weren't performing to their best)

"I think the first half, obviously – I'm only going to speak defensively – was good. I think the one explosive touchdown, that was a big play. It's hard for me to say without really watching the film, but that one series, it kind of felt like they were driving the ball down the field a little bit. Teams like that, you got to get them behind the sticks to really do what we do best, and we just weren't able to do it."

(On if he feels the team is practicing properly)

"Yeah, for sure. Sometimes there's adversity in this league and some teams hit it early and we're hitting it early. We have the right guys that know how to practice, know how to do things the right way. Guys have been there, done that, and some young guys that know how to play too. So, all we can do is just focus on one day at a time."

WIDE RECEIVER TED HURST III

(On the reason behind the volume of short passes)

"We've seen a lot of man coverage and we have got to [create] opportunities and get open for the quarterback."

(On the Browns' defense preventing the Buccaneers from getting explosive plays)

"I feel like nobody can stop our offense – it's just self-evaluating, doing your job and doing it to the best of your ability. I wouldn't say they did anything to where we couldn't drive the ball down the field."

(On if it feels like the team beat itself this week)

"Yeah, I would say that."

(On his connection with QB Baker Mayfield and what they can improve on)

"I would say I have to do my best to make the opportunity and make the play for him when he gives me a chance. It's always good to keep working on our connection – you can't put enough time and effort into it."

(On the rain playing a factor on the ball at the end of the game)

"No, honestly, I just have to make that play."

(On Head Coach Todd Bowles' message after the game)

"We are 0-2, but at the same time, this doesn't define us. We dug ourselves in a hole a little bit, but like Bucky [Irving] said, it is just adversity. We've got a great team and we're just going to shake back from here."



(On his final target and if he thought he should've scored)
"Yeah, I am always going to think I am going to score. Always."

RUNNING BACK BUCKY IRVING

(On if he thought they were going to score on the final drive)
"Every time we've got the ball, I think we are going to score. [It's] just being able to trust what our play caller, Zac [Robinson], calls and then try to execute at a high level. We trust what play calls he calls, and we're going to keep running them."

(On what prevented the offense from getting into the end zone consistently)
"I mean, it happens when you don't execute at a high level like you're capable of and that we set the standard to be. We have to be able to know the 24-hour rule on this game, put it to bed, and move on to the next."

(On his message regarding what people should know about the makeup of this team)
"I'm not really too concerned with the outside noise. We always start the season off on a high note – it's just some adversity right now, and it's good to have some adversity early in the season. [Let's] just learn from this game and move on to the [Minnesota] Vikings ... We are going to get this thing fixed in no time."

LEFT TACKLE TRISTIAN WIRFS

(On what was working well offensively)
"I thought we were moving the ball well - a couple drives stalled out with some penalties. They're all post-snap penalties – guys are trying to play hard – there's never a question of the effort in this room. I think everybody cares a lot and everybody feels sick about it."

(On the penalties to the offense were setting the team back)
"Yeah - what did we have, three today on offense? Yeah, they set us back."

(On if the team is lacking in cohesion)
"No."

(On how the time was passed during the weather delay)
"Everyone was trying to stay loose - trying to stay warm – we had the bikes in here not knowing how long it was going to be [or] how short it was going to be. Trying to get your calories in and stay hydrated. I don't know - I thought it was ridiculous with two minutes left in the game to call a lightning delay from ten miles away. But, I don't make the rules."

-BUCCANEERS-