

Atlanta Falcons Media Conference

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Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Coach Raheem Morris

Postgame Press Conference



Buccaneers 23, Falcons 20

RAHEEM MORRIS: Just talking about this game going down to the wire, obviously like to have a couple have those things back, whether to be a kick or possession. Those things always come up like that, especially in this game. It's something we have to go correct and clean up tomorrow.

Q. You talk about missed opportunities. Can you talk about the kick at the end with Younghoe? This is something that's come up before in the last year, kind of how you address it with him and also the team?

RAHEEM MORRIS: Yeah, he missed it. I'm not going to sit here and pretend. I can tell you about the technique of what happened with that miss, but we got to make those kicks. Those are very makable kicks and we got to lock in and make those kicks and get it down.

Q. Running the football today seemed pretty tough. Curious your thoughts with the offensive line and how they were holding up against the run?

RAHEEM MORRIS: They did a nice job. It's nothing to do with the run. They do a nice job putting zone pressure on these guys. We got to do a better job of playing versus pressure, get some runs off, increase some of those things. We were not able to get that done.

Luckily our quarterback got us going and was able to go out there and sprinkle the ball around a little bit, and that really helped us. But we got to find a way to run the football better, particularly with the two backs we have and the guys up front.

Q. After Koo's struggles last year, what made you confident things would be different with him this year?

RAHEEM MORRIS: It goes to your preparation, your offseason, watching him training, watching him do what he has to do.

Got a lot of confidence in what he's done for us in the past. If that stuff doesn't happen you have to make those corrections. You got to have confidence in your guys and I always will.

Q. Penix has showed his composure throughout the game, the way they battled back. Can you speak about that?

RAHEEM MORRIS: Yeah, that's what he's shown since he's been here. He's been excellent and poised in great moments and big moments and moments like that just then. I can't say enough positive things about the young man and what he was able to do even up to his last throw potentially giving us a chance to win it in regulation.

I can't say enough good things about him right now.

Q. Will you give Kreig a shot to compete for the starting job this week?

RAHEEM MORRIS: We gave him a shot to compete the whole offseason.

Q. Will that continue? Will you re-up that competition?

RAHEEM MORRIS: It's always highly competitive every single week. We don't make those decisions in a whiplash-type decisions. We always come back and figure out what happened. We don't know what happened right now.

Q. What did you think about the pass rush today?

RAHEEM MORRIS: Started off well. Got a chance to get (indiscernible) just can't get them on the ground.

Had to scramble for a big third down, scrambled for a bunch of plays, rushing yards, and Baker is tough to get on the ground.

But it was much improved. Something that we saw that was able to get to them. Got the one sack I believe.



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Maybe the sack in the first play. I'm not sure.

It was much more improved.

Q. (Regarding Drake.)

RAHEEM MORRIS: I don't. I don't know. I know he hurt his shoulder. We'll see x-rays and make a decision.

Q. How do you make sure this doesn't snowball?

RAHEEM MORRIS: You know, we are not an emotional team that way. We always go back and make decisions based on how we can play better. We're not really emotional that way. None of my guys are and none my coaches are.

We got to find way to get a win next week. We got to clean up and correct the things that happened to day and try to get to get a win next week. We were that close today.

I don't think anything is causing panic. I think our guys will find a way to win the game next week.

Q. What's the overall opinion on Michael Penix, Jr. performance and specifically decisionmaking today?

RAHEEM MORRIS: Like I said just a minute ago, I can't say enough good things about him. Getting us in the right reads, the right protections to throw the ball in the right areas, making the right plays at the right times. He was lights out. We got to help that kid.

Q. What was your assessment of the pass rush today specifically the rookies Jalen and James?

RAHEEM MORRIS: I got to go actually look at those two in particular. We did what we did (indiscernible) in a spot and he was able to scramble out, couple tackles, so we got to figure out to get him down on the ground.

Q. Coach, what did you make of the play by Diablo? He was involved in run fits, also involved in coverage. What did you make of your (indiscernible) linebacker?

RAHEEM MORRIS: You know, we missed a big time opportunities out there, whether it be interceptions in a couple different occasions and I know Divine was a part of that. He was definitely a part of us in coverage. He did such a nice things in those things, whether it be run fits or in the passing game. He definitely affected the pass when he had a chance to rush in there and did some really good things as well. He's as advertised and he did a nice job for us today.

Q. Coach, what did you think about the officiating today? I think you challenged four times.

RAHEEM MORRIS: Those guys are human. They're going to make mistakes. We're going to make mistakes. That's why we have the amount of cameras we have in the stadium, for those type of things. That's why we have the rules we have, in order get those things played out the right way.

Our stadium did a great job of showing what needs to get shown and to be able to challenge those things when they came up. I'm never going to point fingers at officials for making high speed decisions on the grass. That's impossible for just about anybody. So they got to make those decision -- and they got it right at the end of the day that's all I can say.

Q. On that last one with under two minutes with Bijan, they ruled him in bounds and you come up and spike it and they review it and put time back on the clock. I don't know, I thought after you ran the play you could go back and review two plays before.

RAHEEM MORRIS: Anything under two minutes when he steps out of bounds, they review all those things. They take care of it upstairs. He stepped out of bounds. They went back, gave us 21 seconds and a chance to go out there and finish off the game.

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