

Chicago Bears Media Conference

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Chicago, Illinois, USA

Nick Foles

Postgame Press Conference



Chicago Bears 20, Tampa Bay Buccaneers 19

Q. Early in the game, looked like you were missing some throws and settled in after the interception. What changed from there? What went right for you after that?

NICK FOLES: Yeah, I missed one specifically where I was rolling to the right and had A-Rob, and I was shocked it came off my hand like it did. It just sort of -- it didn't come off right. But other than that, you know, it felt good. You know, there's obviously some throws where stepping up a couple times, you get hit and you can't really get it out there.

But there will be a lot of things that we can look at on film to get better at, because we left some stuff out there. But they did some nice things on defense to make it so it was difficult to do that, so they did a nice job.

Q. What have you learned over these two and a half games about how to communicate what you want out of specific plays, to your teammates, to your coaches and how to be that demanding on the sideline?

NICK FOLES: Honestly, we are continuing to grow together. This is something that doesn't happen overnight and I felt like today was a big one because it was just -- I keep saying, like it's a fistfight. It wasn't an easy game by any means. We just kept fighting, kept fighting, and everyone just kept, you know, throwing punches.

I would say the big thing from tonight was we got to learn how to go through a fistfight like this and come out on top. You don't want them every week, but if that's what it takes to win every week, that's what we'll do.

But I think in the moments at the end of the game, obviously a lot to learn from from all of us, coaches, players, everything. Just continue to gain that rhythm, because this is my first time with a lot of these guys and a lot of these coaches. So this is the first time they have

seen me in one of these games and first time I've seen them. So tonight was a big night of learning.

Q. We've heard some of your coaches talk about you just having no memory, it seems like, from play-to-play. On that second-to-last possession you had three that were real close interceptions. How do you go from that to the big throws you made on the game-winning drive?

NICK FOLES: They did a nice job on the second-to-last drive of really get something pressure on me as I was trying to throw it, and that made it difficult. They did a nice job there, but I think the big thing is just trusting my teammates and trusting the guys in the huddle to where, you know what, I can have that short memory because I trust them and I'm going to lean on them, and we have to continue to believe in one another. And doing it tonight showed it and we just continue to gain confidence with one another, working with one another to obviously win these games. Because it's not easy in those situations where you go -- I think we were three-and-out on the second-to-last drive, and it wasn't pretty, and then all of a sudden, moved the chains and get into field goal range.

But I think once again, tonight was a big night for everyone in the huddle, offensively, just continuing to learn who we are as human beings and athletes within this game.

Q. On the first touchdown drive, there was a third down conversion and it looked like you beat a blitz with a quick outlet pass to Montgomery. Do you remember that play specifically and the way that the first half had unfolded to that point, how big was that moment to finally get a drive to push forward like that?

NICK FOLES: Yeah, I mean, Coach Bolts is known for bringing all these different pressures and different blitzes and different stunts. It's a lot of work for the guys up front. They really grind it out and gave us time to get the balls out quick, and there's times where teams will drop the bat.

So it's one of those ones in those situations, I was yelling to David, "Hey, get out! Get out! Get out! Go! Go! Go!" because his protection didn't come, and you know, sometimes the check-downs are good.

As quarterbacks we are always looking to be aggressive



and push the ball down the field but there's times where they zone it off and drop everyone out, and getting into the check-down can sometimes be hard, but I felt like there was some big ones tonight.

Q. The other play to David was the one in the final drive that set up the field goal. Can you walk us through what you saw before snap that led you to go in that direction and kind of the throw to David, as well?

NICK FOLES: Yeah, they were showing a pressure look and they did bring pressure but I was trying to figure out where the safety would be.

So we were able to get ourselves into a play to where we get David on linebacker or safety going up the side and we were able to get a little bit of a pick action, the defender sort of collided and dropped it in there where he could make a play and only that was a huge play in the game to get us into really good field goal range for chiropractic to kick it through.

Q. What can a win like this do for you guys over the next ten days emotionally?

NICK FOLES: I think emotionally, winning tonight is huge, obviously where we are right now, 4-1, but that's a really good time. Tampa is a really good week. We get a little bit of a break here which is nice, just for everyone to kind of take a breath for a moment and then get back to work and allow us to look at ourselves and see where do we want to go from here offensively. There's a lot of areas to improve and we all know that, and that's exciting because I feel like we're putting these pieces together, and it reminds me of some special teams I've been on where the first part of the season, you go through this and then you finally figure out what works and what you want to be and you start rolling.

I think these next ten days are big. Specifically these next three for everyone to take a breath and everyone get back to work on, I think it's Monday.

Q. What does it do for you when you see the defense have a performance like that and frustrating Tom Brady throughout the night?

NICK FOLES: Any time you can frustrate Tom Brady it's a great day and our defense did that today. He started out a little hot, but I could tell -- I've been told he got a little frustrated, so obviously he's an extremely talented player. But I was really proud of our defense and what they did today.

Q. You mentioned the ten-day layoff here. What do you want to accomplish now that you do have kind of a

breather to take some stock in what has gone on the last couple weeks and then also to try to build the offense for the rest of the season?

NICK FOLES: Yeah, I think just taking time to really think back of what we've done these last couple weeks, where we've maybe had some trouble, where we've lost our rhythm. Because I feel like our rhythm has been sporadic a little bit and we really got to get this thing flowing a little bit better. I know Coach Nagy feels the same way. What does that mean? What do we want to be?

So there's a lot of those conversations that we can have, and they are, you know, easy to fix. We've just got to figure out what they are and it's not the first time I've been in this situation, a lot of teams in the NFL are in this situation a lot of times. We have the pieces and the people here to get this thing right, and you know, continue to improve as a team.

Q. The Bears came into this game not being able to beat Tom Brady in his entire career and you had a huge win against him in the Super Bowl a few years ago. Was that stat lingering in your mind before this game or was it something you just didn't pay attention to?

NICK FOLES: No, it was something I didn't really worry about. Different situations, different team, different moment. For me it was more about my history last year with the Bucs. I had a rough game against them first half last year, so that was definitely emotional for me with what happened in Jacksonville. To come here and get this win versus them after everything that happened last year was huge.

And obviously my first win as a Chicago Bear and it was an emotional one, it was a fistfight. It reminded me of like a good 'ole fistfight from Philly and now I get to do it in Chicago. I really enjoyed getting in the locker room and celebrating with my teammates, probably a little more tired than I thought I would be just because of everything, but I'll sleep well tonight and I think everyone's really excited about the victory.

Q. What was your view on the touchdown pass to Jimmy and then also what have you really come to appreciate about playing with the defense that you have the luxury of playing with?

NICK FOLES: Jimmy, one-on-one, that's a hard match up and defense will start giving us different looks but the good thing about it is we have the talent on the offensive side of the ball to spread the ball around. So if they want to start taking Jimmy out, we have other guys that can do it, but



Jimmy is a tremendous player. Like I said, I've really enjoyed being his teammate.

And then what was the second part, sorry?

Q. Just what you've come to appreciate about having the luxury of playing with a defense --

NICK FOLES: You're getting me at like midnight right now after a game, so -- having a defense like ours, we went against them every day in training camp. I've played against them. I said when I got here, it was probably the toughest defense I ever faced.

And for us to go out there and battle together, it's great. I think that, you know, team ball and obviously offensively, we want to continue to get rhythm and get things moving and be more productive. We all feel that way. Obviously it's great to get the win, but we want to be better.

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