

Chicago Bears Media Conference

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Chicago, Illinois, USA

Matt Nagy

Postgame Press Conference



Cardinals 33, Bears 22

MATT NAGY: As far as injuries, we have no injuries to report. Andy did have an injured left hand on his non-throwing hand, something we're looking into. So we'll keep an eye on that and see where that goes, but other than that, no injuries to report with our team.

I think big picture when you look at this game, obviously stating the obvious is the turnovers, having the four interceptions, the short fields, giving them the ball at the 28, the 15, the 12 and the 28 coming away with -- they came away with three touchdowns and a field goal from that.

In the end, that's what it comes down to is those turnovers, the momentum and the short fields for them, against that offense and that team, it's hard to overcome.

I did think offensively trying to get that -- the run game going, the balance of run and pass, the 4th downs and being good in the red zone is all what you want, but in the end none of that matters if you're giving them the ball, especially on short fields.

Credit to them and their coaching staff. They've done a great job, and so with that I'll go ahead and open up to questions.

Q. How was Andy hurt? Was it on one of the interceptions?

MATT NAGY: I think it was on the second interception. On the return, yeah. Yeah, on the one with Cole.

Q. Late in the game we saw you had a walkie-talkie. Looked like you were talking to Andy directly.

MATT NAGY: I was, yeah. So our headsets went out for basically the whole second half. When we were backed up I'm trying -- it's like high school out there trying to yell the plays that you're getting from up top. We started doing that before we had the walkie-talkie, someone was giving me

the play, I've got to yell it down to Andy and make sure he gets it, and then a couple series later we got the walkie-talkie, which is clear for Andy. I'm basically the conduit to Andy and Bill, so that's what we did.

Q. Basically you could talk to Bill through your headset but Andy had no communication with Bill?

MATT NAGY: Correct, yeah. So I obviously have all the coaches online upstairs. They can talk to me. Andy couldn't hear Bill. Bill was calling the play, I had the walkie-talkie, so Bill was saying the play to me and I was relaying it in to Andy. So there was a whole little deal that goes on there in those moments. That's what the walkie-talkie saved us because otherwise you're yelling plays like high school.

Q. Were you given the numbers for --

MATT NAGY: Yeah, we have some numbers that we use for wristbands in general, always, and for backup if those situations happen. At the same time you've still got to communicate those numbers, and it's loud and there's different things going on.

Q. Is Bill calling all the plays or are you calling some?

MATT NAGY: Bill is calling all the plays, and I have input situationally if there's a feeling or something. There's been always -- nothing has changed from any other games. Today was a normal day. We had the headset go out. Literally it's like going through a second half without a headset, so we've got to be able to adjust and use the walkie-talkie and that's where there's communication between myself, Bill and Andy.

Q. That's the second straight week that that's happened. What's going on?

MATT NAGY: I don't know. I wish I did.

Q. When you're playing a team as good as the Cardinals are, you know you've got to be near flawless to win. How deflating are four picks like that?

MATT NAGY: I mean, you look at, okay, you go back and you say, okay, how are the picks happening? That's what the guys are doing. The first one we got man coverage,



which is what we wanted on that play, and you saw what happened there, and the kid made a good play after the tipped pass by our own player. The second one we got what we wanted.

But in games like this with the elements, you guys can see it, I think Kyler was slipping -- the ball was fumbling early in the game, too. I think there was more weather in the first half than the second half rain-wise. It was slick in the first half.

Then you have the play action, the ball got tipped on the third pick, and then the fourth -- and then you had the screen. So between all four of them, the order that they're in, throwing a pick on a screen, Andy will tell you those are -- you don't want those, but you're just trying to float it and have touch over the top of that.

No matter who you're playing, four turnovers is going to hurt you. Our guys know that. They care, and we don't want that to happen, but it did, so we've got to regroup from that.

Q. How do you keep yourself and your locker room engaged?

MATT NAGY: Yeah, just continuing to make sure that -- I think that's where it goes back to who the people are that you have in the room and making sure that they understand that it's okay to be upset. It's okay to be frustrated after a game. There's a lot of emotions. We all want to play better and coach better, they know that. But in these times you want to make sure that these guys are understanding that it's our job, it's our obligation to make sure that we give it everything we've got, and we can't worry about other teams. We can't worry about other people, players, coaches. We've got to just worry about us and coach and play hard.

Q. Your offensive star was David Montgomery, talk about his performance and what it meant --

MATT NAGY: I thought it was great to get David going. That was an emphasis for us. We thought being able to come in and get him going a little bit more this game via the run and the pass, he had some good targets, Andy did a good job of checking it down when we had him or got it to the flat. I thought he ran hard. David was motivated after the Detroit game. He wanted to be able to get back -- he's hard on himself, but to have 21 carries and average 4.3 yards per rush, that was good for the offensive line.

Again, what's tough is that you look back and you say, dang, man, you look at how at the end of the game how things went, how the game went against this offense, and

in general with the team, being able to have the time of possession, being able to have three-for-three in the red zone, four-for-four on 4th down, we just -- those turnovers got us. This is the NFL, and when you play the best team in the NFL, as of right now record-wise, they'll make you pay. That's a credit to them. We've got to understand that.

Q. When you say you have turnovers, throwing errors, bad snaps, missed tackles, things like that, people slipping, how much of that do you excuse to the weather and the conditions and how much of that is a discipline issue that's ongoing?

MATT NAGY: No, I think today just because you see it on both sides, I do think that weather was involved, but at the same point in time, our guys know that. They understand that. So you've really got to look the football in, you've got to be secure with what you do. For us, we just right now don't have room for error with that offensively. We've got to be really good. We've got to be sharp with our details. We've got to be sharp with our execution. We had a big focus going on this week about being great in the red zone, not coming away with field goals, being good on 3rd down in the red zone.

So you have some plays like that that occur, and you kind of go back to the start of the game on that very first pass with the interception.

Our guys understand that. Our guys, they know. They know what's going on.

Q. Andy has been the starter for more than a decade. Do you expect somebody with his experience to have four interceptions? If it were Justin you could see, okay, experience --

MATT NAGY: One thing with Andy is Andy has done a great job in his career of being smart with the football. He's very smart. He knows where to go. He knows when to get the football out. There's no stat in the NFL for interceptions that occur that aren't on the quarterback, but there probably should be, and I think that every game is a little bit different.

Andy is going to be the hardest on himself, and there's different reasons why. Some guys throw four touchdowns, and it was a hell of a run by a wide receiver or a tight end, too, and quarterbacks don't get credit for that. But when you ask that question, I think Andy understands that no matter what, he wants to be able to put us in good situations and positions, and he tried today. He tried to do that, and it's unfortunate that the turnovers happened. It's a part of football. But he continued to battle. He battled the entire game, and he was a leader with these guys, and

he never stopped fighting.

You've got to give him a lot of credit for that.

Q. After the 4th and 2 in the first half, what was your thought process in deciding whether to punt or go for it?

MATT NAGY: Yeah, we tried to get them to jump offsides and they did a good job of holding, but I knew going into that that's what we were going to do. You could say, yeah, go for it and if you don't get it, then why did you go for it; you give them a short field. We've been giving them the short field the whole half. That's the biggest thing. If you don't get it, kick the ball to them, see what they can do and they ended up doing nothing from it.

Q. What did you like about the trick play when you put it in?

MATT NAGY: We've had that in a little bit, and they played it well. That was the secondary part of the play, throwing it to 17 down the sideline. Andy did a great job because he had a guy right in his face, made him miss and went right from his first progression to second progression and made him throw and give those guys credit for executing it.

Q. Where do you get any confidence that you guys will be able to compete next week with Green Bay with all the really good teams you've run up against this year have beaten you?

MATT NAGY: Yeah, just keep fighting. Let the guys know we're in this thing together. No matter who we're playing, whatever their record is, whoever they are, we know again Green Bay is another team top of the league in record-wise, unbelievable quarterback and they're on a roll right now. The only thing we can do is keep fighting and sticking together. I know it can sound old. I know it can sound monotonous, I've got you, but when you're in these moments and you're in the locker room together and you're fighting together and everyone is practicing and you're in meetings together and then you go out on that field together, we're always going to give it everything that we've got. That's all we can do no matter who we're playing. It just so happens that they're up next, and they're a hell of a football team coming off a bye, and they'll be ready, too.

Q. The 1st downs that the Cardinals had, even though they had a lot of short fields, can you look at that as a positive?

MATT NAGY: No, because we lost. We don't care about that. I think that's the stuff that is nice to have happen

when you win, but these guys -- players and coaches, it's just like last week, you win at the end on a field goal, and we won the game, and so you're able to coach off of that. When you lose, you've got to look into the whys. We understand that. There were some 1st downs going on. Defensively they had some 3rd downs successful plays at the start of the game, that touchdown pass at the beginning of the game.

The only thing that matters is winning and losing. That's how we all look at it.

Q. Barring injury will Teven Jenkins remain purely for depth purposes throughout the rest of the season?

MATT NAGY: Most likely. I don't know that for sure because we're going to work through it, but I think for him, again, just getting him into the groove of every rep he gets in practice mentally, physically, just getting him up now on the active is good. It's depth. We'll see how those guys are doing.

I just go back to J.P. has been doing a good job there at left tackle, and I love Kevin's attitude. He's had a great attitude. He knows that he's improving each day, so we'll kind of take it day by day and see, but in the end I know we're make the best decision for him and us.

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