

# Chicago Bears Media Conference

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Chicago, Illinois, USA

## Matt Eberflus

### Postgame Press Conference

Bears 30, Raiders 12

MATT EBERFLUS: The defense felt that out there and also really the offense appreciated the fans as well, being real supportive of our young quarterback and the efforts he made out there today.

But at the end of the day the one word that stands out to me is complementary football, and that's what it's all about. We wanted to come into the game and run the ball and we did a really nice job of that, controlling the game that way and also being able to stop them and I thought that was really good by the offensive line, the defensive line. When you can own the line of scrimmage like that, I always think that's a positive.

Then the other part is being up front, protecting the quarterback and the defensive line, affecting the pressure or rush or whatever it may be, that was excellent.

Obviously the ball being plus three gives you a high percentage to win, and we capitalized that after we got that in the short field there. We end up scoring a touchdown, which is great. Obviously when you score on defense, that's also a good percentage for winning, too. That was good. Great to see Johnson get a couple picks, multiple picks, his first time. That was cool to see that. But yeah, overall just 14 points off the turnovers, that was excellent, and complementary football all around.

The talk about Tyson, we talked about it all week; there was poise, pocket presence. He did get some pressure sometimes and he did abate the rushing. He got the ball down the field, and I thought he did a nice job of distributing the ball with skill and that was good to see to multiple receivers and all those things that, was good.

Foreman did a nice job of running the ball, Evans, those guys did a really good job, and our hat's off to Chris Morgan. Chris Morgan did a really good job setting up those runs during the course of the week, and did a really good job in terms of the protection.



When you're dealing with a rusher like that, I think we did a solid job of that, disrupting his timing and his pass rush, an all-pro player, and you certainly have to be able to take care of that guy. And I thought we did a solid job of that during the course of the day.

With that, open it up to question.

#### **Q. Put the last second Hail Mary?**

MATT EBERFLUS: He has a big arm, and that was outside of our normal time to do that in terms of field position. So we just put him back there.

#### **Q. With Tyson, how did he do, just the overall operation, keeping everything organized and everybody where he should be in his first start ever?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, I thought he did really well. He did really well in terms of the operation, getting the play call in and out. Sometimes because of the situation, it could be the gain that you just had or whatever, you know, the shot clock for the play-caller is going down, it's 23, stops at 15, and he's got to be able to rip the call in there. And it's a longer call and he's got to get the call out, and you have to get to the line of scrimmage before you get the play -- inaudible -- and I thought he did a nice job of getting the play off in a timely fashion all day, and he did a nice job.

#### **Q. You said you wanted to be a team that scored a lot of points, and 30 points is a lot to score. Is that the going to be the identity?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, I think there's multiple ways to win but we believe in running the ball, we really do because where we live, where we play football here in Chicago, that's an important part of it and stopping the run is also very important to us. That's always going to be something that we want to do.

Now, you don't have to do it every year but it's something that's good for us.

#### **Q. How did you go about trying to make sure that Tyson is able to manage the game and not put the entire game on his shoulders per se?**

MATT EBERFLUS: That's a great question and that was



really the whole thing. We wanted him to have good rhythm, timing, good protection; don't let 98 direct the game. Those were all our keys to victory. And distribute the ball to skill players, and when you're able to run the ball the way we were, they have to come up the line of scrimmage and in some good advantageous pass passions for us offensively. Overall it was really great effort by the whole group.

**Q. Did that impact your decision in the first half to not choose to back the timeouts; if it runs out, it runs out?**

MATT EBERFLUS: So we're right on the cusp. It was 50 and we were 53. Typically we can get a play in but it took more time. The guys got lined up. Took too long.

**Q. Right before the third down play, to not call timeout after first or second?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, that's above.

**Q. Justin, physically, how is he two days later, and what's the challenge for you going forward in terms of managing that?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, so with Justin, we'll see where he is tomorrow. He's going to visit with the doctors. I know his spirits are great. I know he's done a great job during the course of the week, and he did an awesome job today working with Tyson on the sideline, talking to him before the game, going through the first 15, all the way through.

But in terms of his health, where he is, all that, we'll know more.

**Q. Tyrique made several big snaps against Davante Adams, several big moments. How would you evaluate how he did going against Adams?**

MATT EBERFLUS: He did well. He did well. Tyrique is a young corner, so he's going to continue to grow. This matchup was obviously a big matchup. He wasn't matched on him the whole time but he was some, and again, he'll learn from that.

He's going to play against a lot of really good receivers this year, and the important part of being a rookie is just to keep learning. You know, take that, put it in your file and learn for the next time you play that particular player because it's all about the one-on-ones and all about the matchups out there.

And you've got to be able to have a short-term memory out there. So that's important. That's what was so great about Jalen. Jalen ended up getting the DPI on that go ball

versus No. 11, and he just went on to the next play. Just move forward to the next play. He knows fundamentally what he can do better, and he ended up getting those couple picks.

**Q. When you're so far off of what you had planned going into the season, when you have backups in there and guys out of position, why did it work today?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Well, you know, Lucas is at center. We like that. He was back there healthy. We like that. You know, putting Teven back over to where he played last year, I think that's very comfortable for him, and then having Cody back in his spot, that left spot.

So you've got a lot of experience in the middle part of your offensive line there. I mean just look at the total reps of being at center, right guard, left guard, there's some familiarity there for those guys and comfort level. That's what I think most of it was.

But again, the coaches did a heck of a job and those players did a heck of a job. It's not easy to move around, and as you guys know we moved around a lot, so they did a good job.

**Q. Foreman, what's left an impression on you?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Really, for him, his ability to stay positive. Because when he was down, and then we activated him up, he was the same guy all the time, and that was pretty cool. He was doing show team stuff and this guy was a heck of a back. Just at the time we're heavy at back at the halfback position.

Again, he took it in stride, and he knew his opportunity was going to come. Last week, you know, he wanted to perform better and today he did. So I think he's just got to start stacking performances and keeping that positive, can-do attitude like he did.

**Q. The DPI on second and 25, what was the explanation you got? You seemed pretty hot about it for the next couple minutes. What were you trying to tell them?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Sometimes you agree and sometimes you disagree, right, and we rarely agree to disagree. I think that situation, you know, they called what they called. And when you get them in second and 25, you know, we had just pressured on the play before because everybody thinks you're going to fake coverage there, and so we got him in a good situation. And then they end up giving him a new set of downs. That's why I was -- my lid came off a little bit.

**Q. If Justin is healthy, is there any question who your starting quarterback is?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, Justin is our starting quarterback. Again, Tyson is the backup, came in and did a nice job. Again, we don't know where Justin is. We'll see where it is. We don't know if it's a week-to-week thing. We'll assess it more tomorrow.

**Q. What were certain elements of the offense that you were able to lock in after six weeks, and why do you think that is, the screen game, the downs, and why did that happen today versus the first six weeks?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, I just think it was all the guys working together. The operation was nice. They did a nice job and distributed the ball to the skill. Let the skill run and let them move, and I thought we did a good job of that.

**Q. How do you evaluate how Tyson did specifically with timing throws and anticipation?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, good. I thought he did a nice job. Those speed outs, the one that he hit to D.J. at the end in that big third down, that was nice. That was good. And really, the ability to evade and then also throw the ball, I thought he did a nice job. Nice, accurate passes there, too.

**Q. What happened to Brisker on that two-point?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Yeah, I don't know. I don't know. I know he got hit and I don't know where it is. I don't have the answer for you right now. But it was -- it's a legal pick because you're allowed that within one yard, so you're allowed to come down and pick and do the rub. Again, have a couple ways to handle that defensively, and that's what it was.

**Q. You held them to 39 yards rushing, what's going on there, the last couple games -- are they just finally getting to know each other or what's the difference now from the beginning of the year?**

MATT EBERFLUS: Well, we had some guys injured in the beginning of the year, and then we had our secondary issues going forward, and now we've got guys back. I think it's just continuity. They have got me calling it, and continuity is there. I think it's important. And then we're aggressive. Not only aggressive with the calls but aggressive with techniques when you want to play that aggressive style.

But it takes all of us, right. It takes all of us and it's

important that we play together and play with good fundamentals and good technique, and that's the players; and they are doing a really good job of improving every single week with the fundamentals.

**Q. Brisker's injury concussion or bodily injury?**

MATT EBERFLUS: I don't know yet. I don't know. I know he was hit right here. I don't know where it is right now. Andre has not given any updates yet so I'll know more tomorrow.

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