

# Chicago Bears Media Conference

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Chicago, Illinois, USA

## Tyson Bagent

### Postgame Press Conference

Bears 30, Raiders 12

TYSON BAGENT: How is everybody?

**Q. You had a lot of family and friends in the stands today. How are you dealing with the pressure or even the emotion of having your first career start here?**

TYSON BAGENT: I feel like I dealt with it good. I felt like I had the team, my family, kind of really rallying behind me, giving me a lot of support this week, which I think gave me all the confidence in the world to go do what we did today.

**Q. Were you nervous today?**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah. Yeah.

**Q. Was there a point at which you weren't anymore?**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, I feel like I settled in after the first snap. I feel really nervous the whole week until we get on the field for pregame, and then it usually goes away. But just like any week, there were some nerves.

**Q. I asked you last week, I said moving forward if you're QB 1, how confident were you getting this team to victory and you liked me dead in the face and said, "I'm very confident." Where did that come from and what did you do today?**

TYSON BAGENT: I feel like I played a million games at quarterback. I was able to win the job in high school my sophomore year, and then I started every game through my senior year of college.

So that's seven years of starting, understanding what the week of preparation looks like, and going through pretty much every concept and run concept that there is.

Repetition, mother of all learners and I've been pleased to have a lot of repetition in my life.

**Q. How much physically was is it different?**



TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, it's just like any game. The big boys on offense and defense I thought played extremely well today. Any time that you're able to do that, it makes things easier for everybody. I thought they did an outstanding job today.

**Q. The touchdown pass, can you walk us through that play and what you saw and how that play unfolded for you?**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, I guess in a sense we were running snag. So check the flat, had a Cole on the snag route. Had a corner route by Moon. Just kind of high-low in the corner. He gave enough depth where, really, he was kind of in the middle. I could have probably thrown it to either him or Moonie, but it was enough space, and focal point this week was get the ball out of your hands.

So it was easy, especially how he was playing today of the get it to him and let him break a tackle, which he did, and that was kind of the extent of it.

**Q. How do you describe what D'Onta did today?**

TYSON BAGENT: I thought D'Onta played out of his mind today. I thought he played extremely well. Kind of a little glimpse of some things he was able to do last year. I know he was itching to get out there and have a good game. Just because like he told us in the locker room, a lot of watching in the season for him so far, so it was only a matter of time before he was able to break out and have a game like he did today.

**Q. Several times you avoided negative plays; how much focus do you put on that?**

TYSON BAGENT: I feel like that's a staple on how I've always tried to play quarterback, just getting the ball out of your hands, and just trying to combine that with making really good decisions. I think I got away with in college a lot of times getting the ball out of your hand, but also forcing some things because I had that freedom to do so. I think at this level, we are trying to be plus two in that section, what Coach Flus preaches to us every week.

So I just kind of had that in the back of my head all week, like, hey, if it's not there, play the next play. End every

... when all is said, we're done.®

drop with a kick, which we were able to do today.

**Q. What did it do for you, what did it mean to you to have all these parts of the game that you don't control go your way, offensive line holds up, defense plays well, Foreman plays well.**

TYSON BAGENT: I think it means a lot to a lot of people. We have been looking for a win here at Soldier Field for a while. It basically means the world to everyone else when you're able to play well in the trenches, when you're able to control the line of scrimmage, run the ball well and stop the other team's run game. I thought it was an outstanding team effort today.

**Q. Your first drive at corner, you guys take a lot of time off the clock. What did that do for the timeline, a team that has not been great at protecting leads.**

TYSON BAGENT: I think it's hard to start fast in the second half when you have such a controlling first half. So I think that was just another one of the focal points. You know, don't let this be a comeback story at the end of the day.

I thought Coach Getsy (ph) at halftime, on the whiteboard, able to dial up some outstanding plays that we were looking forward to running in the second half, and I thought we were able to execute a lot of those.

I thought the screen was perfect. I thought, you know, still running the ball effectively, getting the ball out of our hands and taking our shots downfield when we can. So I thought he dialed up some amazing stuff today.

**Q. Placing that drive --**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, that screen is one of them. The screen is definitely one of them that stands out. I think that we couldn't have executed that any better. That's been on the call sheet for a couple weeks, so for him to have the confidence in me, the O-line, everybody to execute, kind of a high risk play when you throw the ball back across the field. I thought it was great.

**Q. Patrick was celebrating after that screen.**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, he had been waiting for that play to call, yeah.

**Q. The Hail Mary, 60-yard, think you could get it to the end zone from about 60?**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, I mean, I've got a cannon (Laughter) I wouldn't be here if I didn't. I think that there

was -- you know, we're playing in the Windy City. I had one this week that came off my hand a little funny but never want to get it twisted. Nate's got a very powerful arm as well. But I like to think that I've got an extremely strong arm and the ball most definitely would have got there. But it would with me, too, so I have obviously no problem there.

**Q. The quarterback sneak in the first quarter, what was the strategy on that, trying to avoid Crosby?**

TYSON BAGENT: I think not necessarily Crosby, although I think our whole game plan was centered around where he was on the field. It was one of those things where we ran a lot of Q sneaks this year, so being able to sneak it in the B gap just because they want to take the A gaps away and take a slide step to the right or left depending on which one looks better is kinds of something we talked about really before the game. Just be ready to execute the Q sneak in the B gap other than the A gap.

**Q. How anxious does this make you to want to get back out there again?**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, I think, you know, winning is contagious. So you know, we get a little bit of a break early this week to enjoy this but just really making it a focal point to the staff and the players. You know, let's get back on the horse. Let's get ready. Play another good team coming up this week.

So it's 17 weeks in this regular season, so not really a whole lot of time to sit back and enjoy this. Obviously when you win, everybody is a little more excited to get back out there.

**Q. Your first NFL start as a rookie, are you able to process that yet or is it still a little too fresh?**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, yeah, where I come from, I've got a bunch of friends, a bunch of family that understand, understood how big this was, just really in life. Not a lot of people get to say they started an NFL game, let alone win an NFL game.

So definitely had a lot of those conversations today. I think the staff understood it, too, and the players. That's why everybody has rallied behind me as well as they did.

So I was able to take it in with a handful of different conversations that I had throughout the week.

**Q. How was Justin in his role supporting you today?**

TYSON BAGENT: You know, I couldn't really ask much more from him. The QB room as a whole, Justin and Nate,



when I talk about people that rally behind me and had my back throughout the week, just different things to look at and just with the amount of experience that they have, Justin and Nate were pivotal in how we were able to execute today and the way I played today on the field.

**Q. You talked Wednesday about beating the odds and getting this opportunity. What do you think -- you had that bravado that everybody talks about. How do you think that helped you today, that confidence?**

TYSON BAGENT: I think that football gives me the ability to let loose. I don't know how loud I would be in my life if I didn't have football just in general. It gives me that alley way to scream and shout. It helps me out and hopefully it infiltrates the people I have around me and gives them that same feeling, whatever it is, that they can also be that part on the team. Whenever you can be excited, just be happy that you're able to play football, and everybody plays like it, you get kind of what happened today.

**Q. How big of a crowd did you have here?**

TYSON BAGENT: A lot. My paycheck probably won't look the same this week. So I had a lot of people here.

**Q. What do you do tonight now?**

TYSON BAGENT: I've never really been away from home my whole life. So this is new for me, not being able to see my friends and family like I usually am I believe able to. I'm going to relax and enjoy the time that I'm able to spend with them tonight.

**Q. After your second week as a starter, where is your confidence level now?**

TYSON BAGENT: The same. You shouldn't allow for your confidence to rise or drop, win or lose. You just kind of, you know, play the next play as a lot of people like to say, and that's what I look forward to doing this next coming week.

**Q. How was the crowd?**

TYSON BAGENT: It's amazing. So Soldier Field was off the chain today. You couldn't ask for a better weather day. I thought the crowd got involved right when they needed to, and I thought that helped our defense to continue to be as dominant as they have been the last couple of weeks, and kind of gave the offense a confidence boost with the chunk plays and all that was around the Soldier Field today.

**Q. You're aware of the hype around you. It's only**

**going to get louder now, so how do you handle that?**

TYSON BAGENT: I think no matter how big, no matter how big it is, I feel like I'm a pretty grounded person. I don't like a whole lot of fancy stuff. I like to keep it simple. So it's really easy to turn the phone off, so that's about all it takes.

**Q. Did you get the game ball tonight?**

TYSON BAGENT: Yeah, there was three, and Coach was nice enough to give me one, so I appreciated that.

**Q. What was his message?**

TYSON BAGENT: Just that it was my first career start. Pretty big deal for any quarterback that get his first career start. Just everybody rallying around me and making me feel good, I always appreciate that.

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