

# Chicago Bears Media Conference

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Chicago, Illinois, USA

## Ben Johnson

### Postgame Press Conference



Vikings 27, Bears 24

BEN JOHNSON: All right. Obviously disappointing way to start the season there for us. Have a 17-6 lead, see it go the way it did there in the fourth quarter.

We said going into week one that the team that would make the least number of mistakes would win the game. Unfortunately we were on the wrong side of that. We made too many there late in the game - myself included. There were a number of things that I could have done better, a number of things that a number of guys could have done better.

When you look down at the stat sheet and you see 12 penalties, that's got to get cleaned up in a hurry, yet we've been saying that all training camp, as well.

We'll find a way to get that done. It's going to be a collective effort. No one's pointing fingers. Statistically I really think the defense did a really good job up until the very end. That fourth quarter, things got away from us a little bit. But up until then, they kept us in that ballgame.

Offense was stalling out. Some good, some bad. I thought Caleb played well to start the game for the most part finding completions and getting us moving.

We weren't good enough on third down or fourth down as the game went, which we knew that was a good team on those downs. Of course, when you have the penalties, hard to establish the run game quite like we wanted to, it felt like we were behind the sticks most of the time.

Second-and-long, third-and-long is where we lived, which was a struggle for us offensively. Guys did play hard. They played with great intensity, great effort. I hate to see that they didn't come out with the W there at the end.

No one's going to feel sorry for us. It's going to be a quick turnaround here to get going for next Sunday in Detroit, our first road game. So we got to turn the page here quickly.

#### Q. What happened offensively?

BEN JOHNSON: Just inconsistent. We felt like we were going to get some completions to get us going there, get the ball in our play-makers' hands. Those were a little bit harder to come by. I thought Caleb did a good job working the pocket there early in the game.

The running game, I didn't feel the rhythm as I was calling it. There was some good, some not quite so good. Didn't seem like we were all on the same page the whole time. Like I said, that's a reflection of me as much as anything else. We said as long as we were communicating the Mike point, we'd be on the same page, we'd be fine this game.

#### Q. What about Caleb throughout the game? What happened with his game?

BEN JOHNSON: Yeah, no, I thought he started off really well. I don't know. I'll have to go back and look at exactly where those incompletions came in. It certainly felt like it dried up a little bit. Probably a credit to Flores and the Vikings, as well, making some adjustments on their end. Some things tightened up, as well.

#### Q. How would you describe the way that whole drive, go from a chance to put them away to missing the field goal, how that maybe deflated things?

BEN JOHNSON: Yeah, no, I think you certainly feel it when you're on the sideline there. You got it moving, got it going, then all of a sudden it starts going backwards. Negative plays are happening, whether it's penalties or the intentional grounding, things of that nature.

Yeah, I mean, it cost us some points big-time.

#### Q. You talked about finding some sort of rhythm within the offense. In this game your tight ends only accounted for about four receptions. How much of a role do you think that played?

BEN JOHNSON: Each game's different. They knew that they were going to have a workmanlike approach to this game. They were going to be big factors in the run game and in protection as well. As a result, the receiving game might not have been quite as big this week.



**Q. The first possession after the second quarter, you come down and decide to go for it on fourth-and-three. Take us through your decision makes process. Does Caleb need to hit that throw with Moore open in the middle of the field?**

BEN JOHNSON: Yeah, I'd have to go back and look at exactly from his viewpoint what that looked like. We like the called and we like the decision at the time.

**Q. At the end of the game after you scored the touchdown, what was the conversation about on-side versus kicking off? Were you hoping that kick was going to go out of the end zone?**

BEN JOHNSON: Yeah, the intent was for the ball to go out of the end zone.

**Q. Did you consider outside kick?**

BEN JOHNSON: Yeah, we did. We felt like if we would have kicked it out of the end zone, gotten the three-and-out, we'd have gotten the ball back with about 56 seconds.

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