

# Chicago Bears Media Conference

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Chicago, Illinois, USA

Green Bay Packers

Coach Matt LaFleur

Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Bears - 22, Packers - 16 (OT)

MATT LEFLEUR: Certainly we need to be able to handle all the adversity and continue to battle and fight. Unfortunately, just some of those plays at the end of the game didn't go our way. We had a fumble in the red area. We didn't field an on-sidekick. And certainly the fourth down right there in overtime, where we botch a snap. And just too many errors in critical moments that got us beat.

So give Chicago credit. It was a hell of a game. We knew they were a team that was going to fight to the end. It was a playoff-type atmosphere, which we expected. But I was really, really proud of the way our guys competed, the way they battled.

And we just gotta -- it's tough. It's always tough in this league to have to rebound and get it together, but that's exactly what we're going to have to do, and that's exactly what we will do to get ready for a tough Baltimore team.

**Q. Matt, was the on-side kicked blocked well enough?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I saw the ball, I'm watching the ball the whole time. As far as "was it blocked well enough," I have to go back and watch the tape. But I thought we had an opportunity to field the ball, we just didn't field the ball.

**Q. Big picture, how much does this one hurt? You had the game in hand and had a chance to be in first place coming out of here.**

MATT LEFLEUR: It does hurt. You feel like you're rubbing salt in the wound there. But that's the reality of it. It should hurt because these guys, all of us, we put a lot into this thing. And we had opportunities. You're up two scores late in the game. And unfortunately, it flipped pretty quick.

**Q. Do you have an update on Jordan or Romeo?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I don't.

**Q. What did you think of the way Malik played?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I thought Malik went in there and did a hell of a job. He was poised. Made some plays with his legs. Made some plays with his arm. Made some off-schedule plays. I felt like the operation was pretty smooth, for the most part. But just not enough at the end, obviously.

**Q. What's your message to the team after the amount of injuries (inaudible)?**

MATT LEFLEUR: That's football, right? And you've got to stay resilient. I've said it many times, in my opinion, whether it's football or life, that's the key -- just staying resilient. You roll up your sleeves, you get back to work, and you continue to fight. And that's what our guys will do.

**Q. What did you think about how the defense performed in the first game since Micah went down?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I thought there was outstanding play. It's unfortunate we gave up -- obviously Chicago got an extra possession right there with the -- on the sidekick and the extra possession in overtime. But all and all I thought our defense played well.

**Q. Anything (inaudible) could have done differently?**

MATT LEFLEUR: He's trying to make a play. It's unfortunate. It's one of many unfortunate plays late in the game that kind of went against us.

**Q. With all the bad stuff that happened, you go 0-for-5 in the red zone. Is that the thing that's going to be --**

MATT LEFLEUR: That certainly is problematic. That's two games in a row, I want say, that we haven't been very good down there. So we've got to look at what we're asking our guys to do and how we can go out there and execute a little bit better.

**Q. Josh's last play, I think, was the fumble. Was he injured on that, or just decide to go with Emanuel at that point?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I don't know, to be honest with you, in



... when all is said, we're done.®

regards to if he's injured or not. I was not told that. I thought he was running pretty well, though. I thought he was running hard. I thought he was doing a good job. He was fast, decisive. As far as the conversations with Ben and Josh, I'm not quite sure where that went.

**Q. Do you have a problem with the hand-off to Jordan?**

MATT LEFLEUR: It's football. I've got to see it to -- I saw it live. So I've got to go see it again. But stuff happens.

**Q. You're obviously focused on getting Malik ready, but when Jordan manages to get up and jog off the field and into the tent, are you thinking, okay, maybe we're going to be okay here, or what are you thinking?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I just know when a guy gets hit in the head like that -- I was prepared for the worst, I would say, in that moment.

**Q. You really do talk about adversity all the time and about how you can come out on the other side. How much adversity have you created by giving this one away?**

MATT LEFLEUR: A lot. Certainly a lot. But if we can regroup and gather and learn from it, then it can be a great lesson.

**Q. I think you could come back down here in a couple of weeks for the playoffs. Is that something you relish after tonight?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I'm not even there with my mind. I've got to process what happened, how that happened, and just try to find ways for us to not put ourselves in these tough situations because the majority of the game I felt like we were pretty much in control of the game. And certainly it's extremely disappointing when you can't finish the job.

**Q. On the second to last touchdown, that fourth-and 4, (inaudible) was open. Any idea what happened on that one?**

MATT LEFLEUR: It was the zero blitz.

**Q. The guy was wide open.**

MATT LEFLEUR: Yeah. So obviously somebody let their man go.

**Q. Was that a miscommunication between Hobbs and Nixon?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I've got to go back. I'm not exactly sure what happened. When stuff like that happens, it's not like in the moment, you're just like -- it's, all right, now we've got to flip the script and you transition into offense. There's not enough time to sit there and ask a million questions.

We all know we've got to get it corrected. I trust our coaches to get that stuff corrected. But your mind immediately goes to, all right, let's try to go win this in regulation. We don't win it in regulation, then we go into overtime. So there's just not enough time to get all the answers that you'd like.

**Q. Offense and (inaudible) special teams costing you games here and possibly down the stretch.**

MATT LEFLEUR: It's never one play, though. There were so many plays in this game that if they go different, or if we make a play or if we don't fumble or if we aren't 0-for-5 or whatever in the red zone. It's never just one play. It's never just one phase.

And that's why I have so much confidence with our guys, that these guys will rally around each other, they'll support one another. They'll lift the guys that need to be lifted up and they'll battle. We saw it tonight. Our guys competed for 60-plus, however-many minutes in overtime, and I'm really proud of their effort. But unfortunately, we didn't get the outcome that we all desired.

**Q. How tough of a spot are you in at tight end without Tucker? You didn't have Whyte and it sounds like Fitzpatrick tore his Achilles.**

MATT LEFLEUR: It's less than ideal. I'm certain that Gutey and I will have some conversations probably here on the plane in regards to what we've got to do. I feel like we've got some guys capable on our P squad, so we'll take a look at that, and we'll come up with a solution.

**Q. Was the decision to start Morgan at right tackle? And how did you think he did?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I think he did fine, just without dissecting the film. I always think it's funny when you guys ask that question immediately after the game when you haven't had chance to grade all the tape.

But it felt like he did a good job. We've got to go back and look at it and see. But there was a lot of reasons behind that. Number one, I think that just he's a very talented young player, and he definitely feels more natural at the tackle position. So we gave him an opportunity.

Also, if you noticed, lately, we've had DK playing a ton of



tight end. A lot of it is due to our situation at tight end, but also I think he went out there and performed well. So I would say it was twofold in regards to why we did what we did.

**Q. (Inaudible) close or ankle for next week. Was it close tonight?**

MATT LEFLEUR: I would say -- close today? No. They were not close today. But they're getting better. So we'll see. I think it will be day to day, maybe we'll know more by the end of the week.

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