

# Miami Dolphins Media Conference

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Miami, Florida, USA

## Coach Zac Taylor

### Visitors Postgame Presser



Bengals - 45, Dolphins - 21.

#### Q. What's going through your mind?

ZAC TAYLOR: Proud, not surprised by the response our guys had. We expected to come down here, a lot of questions about how these guys are going to respond. We saw how they responded all week. We knew how they would respond. To come down here put together the performance they did, especially settling down at halftime and coming down getting four straight turnovers, three turnovers on downs, and offense responded with four straight touchdowns. Special teams unit doing a great job controlling the field position the entire second half. Proud not surprised by the response we had.

#### Q. Felt like the game got in your favor with (indiscernible) schedule, the corner, what did you see from Drew there?

ZAC TAYLOR: That's usually how it works. They had a tough time containing Drew today. But Drew is just Mr. Reliable. He's there in protection, has a great feel, very similar to the Buffalo touchdown he scored a couple of years ago, the same protection, where he has this awareness where Joe needs my help right now, I'm out of protection world, and I've got to find a way.

He was trying to score. I was hoping he stayed inbounds to keep the clock running there at the end of the half. Drew he was hoping on getting in the end zone. That's a huge play right there by Joe and by Drew and by the protection to give him the time to be able to extend the play like that.

#### Q. (Inaudible) had that big run -- runs after that first quarter. Talk about the effort that it takes?

ZAC TAYLOR: They're an explosive team. They're really tough to defend, especially in the run game with the play-actions off of it. They did a nice job in the first half, finding rhythm.

But I thought our defense did a really good job settling down and knocking those down for two to three yards, putting him in passing situations. With a rookie quarterback, we knew that was going to be challenging. I thought the defense had a great response. The big touchdown, they got us on it, got a lot of people on that. I thought the response after that was good by the D.

#### Q. Started utilizing all the weapons. T here and Damar and Chase Brown, was this an example of how your offense can be, play to perfection?

ZAC TAYLOR: I feel like we've shown this a million times over the years. Unfortunately, this year we just haven't been able to do it. But this is no surprise. I was walking off the field Drew Sample, he said, this is how I'm used to these games going, when we've got everybody on offense ready to roll.

So, again, we've got another opportunity this week against Arizona to come back home and do it in front of our fans, and I expect our guys to respond the right way.

#### Q. I know you're in the game, is it bittersweet, this is what you want it to feel like going into --

ZAC TAYLOR: This is what it is. This is the situation we're in, this is what we can control. So after the season, you'll have a chance to reflect back on things we've got to do differently.

But I think right now, this is all we can control this week, what was our response in the building, to a lot of people are after us right now. The response was tremendous by our guys. To put together such a complete game, I thought, was really impressive.

#### Q. Seen it a million times, (inaudible) how big was it to get him going coming back?

ZAC TAYLOR: I told Jamar to come punch me in the stomach if we didn't throw "double go" by the midway point in the second quarter.

We got to it a little earlier than I initially planned. We were



backed up. Felt like the moment to go do it. T did what T does, he goes up and gets it. Ran the double move there on the goal line. I thought he did a great job with his patience so Joe had time to put it up. He's caught so many touchdowns in the back right corner of the end zone getting his two feet in. Expecting nothing less from that connection.

**Q. The connection of Chase Brown, and (inaudible) was he able to do for you guys on offense, being able to stay healthy and you guys praise his work ethic and making sure he's ready to go. What did you think about his performance today and what did you see?**

ZAC TAYLOR: I think it was great. I think Chase is a huge weapon for us, does a great job with his explosiveness, tremendous match-up in the passing game as well that he probably doesn't get enough credit for. He's won a lot of those choice routes underneath.

He caught a CO for a touchdown today when he was match up on a backer. He's been a great weapon for us. I'm happy to have him. I'm good with the direction he's heading.

**Q. Seemed like you started with D.J. and tried to go. You got J.D. and Newton to come up.**

ZAC TAYLOR: D.J. was battling the flu. For him to even get out there and get IVs and go out there and play, it would be hard to get through an entire game.

So certainly appreciate D.J. doing what he did and fighting through it. Fortunately, we got to a point where we could get him out.

If you've got the flu, midway point in the game, it's going to beat you up pretty good. Again, I appreciate everything D.J. do what he could to get through this game and get through it.

**Q. (Inaudible)?**

ZAC TAYLOR: Awesome. I saw D.J. make a good contested play towards the end. I thought the response was great. I thought J.D.'s pick was awesome.

All those turnovers those guys got was, a lot of them were combination plays, where one guy was knocking it out, one guy's tipping it, the other guy making the play. J.D. was just one-on-one man coverage, went up, made a play, big-time.

**Q. The sideline, when did it start to snowball in your favor and turnover, getting -- you scored 21 points.**

ZAC TAYLOR: Exactly what I thought, we have to finish. I've got a lot of respect for the Dolphins and the coaching staff there. They're really good coaches, good people. But we needed to have a killer instinct to finish that game out.

We wanted to continue to be aggressive to the midway point in that fourth quarter, for our guys, for our sake, our identity moving forward, we need killer instinct keep, throwing the football and keep finding ways to finish drives and not let them try to get any hope and get back in the game. I thought our guys did a great job of that.

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