KYLE DUGGER POSTGAME VIDEO CONFERENCE January 1, 2023



Dolphins - 21

Q. Kyle, take us through the play, how big of a spark was that, how good did that feel?

KD: Just cover-two dropping as the middle player. Got some odd drops, saw my threat was eliminated, so I was able to get my eyes back to the quarterback and get around to the backside vertical.

Once I got my hands on the ball, I know I needed to score. It helped the team greatly. That was the goal.

Q. I think you just heard Bill talk about Devin. There's been a lot of guys that have passed down tradition and leadership. Is he somebody you've looked up to, feel like you want to take the baton from as far as being a leader in the secondary?

KD: 100%. Dev, he's been huge, somebody for me to look up to, talk to, learn from. It's been a huge blessing for me to have him in that room with me. I'm super thankful for it.

To answer your question, yeah, I definitely look to take that, learn from what he's done, how he's led for so long, continue to try to do it so well. I'm definitely lucky to have him in there.

Q. What did you see on the interception return? Seemed like there was a low probability of you making it to the end zone. What did you see?

KD: High entry, as the coach would call it. High entry from a couple O-linemen. Really just saw a little gap at the very end. I think it was the quarterback in a way. I saw high entry from the O-lineman, a small gap. I knew I had to get into it to get in the end zone.

Q. Obviously it's been a tough couple of weeks. What does it say about the resiliency of this group to do what you did today?

KD: To me it's not a surprise. It's kind of just really something that I've always known that the team and the defense has had. I've seen it every day. I know they're going to fight. I know they're going to continue to fight



whatever the situation is, whatever the adversity is. I know they're going to keep it pushing once it hits.

It was no surprise to me. It says a lot, I guess, about the resiliency here.

Q. On that play, when you got the call and also saw the formation that the Dolphins were in, how much of an idea did you have you were going to have the ability to make a play? You were coming from the line of scrimmage, dropping 15 yards.

KD: I don't really remember. I know the stick situation had a lot to do. We knew it's probably going to be some vertical routes, vertical route concepts downfield. That had a lot to do with it.

As far as making the play myself, you never really know what it's going to be your time to do that. I was in the right place at the right time, so...

Q. Three touchdowns this year. You have enough room in your house for all these touchdown balls you're scoring.

KD: They don't come back to my house. I don't keep that kind of stuff (smiling).

I'm making sure I'm trying to get the next win, next thing I can do to help the team honestly.

Q. I think it's like seven defensive touchdowns. Do you go into games expecting to score a touchdown now?

KD: We don't go in expecting, but we know we need to score. It's a point of emphasis for us to help the team.

We don't go in thinking we need to, I think you said need to score. We don't think we're going to score.

Q. From your offensive teammates' perspective, the go-ahead drive, what do you feel for those guys to come through with the way they did with the fourth-quarter drive to take the lead?

KD: It was huge for us. We appreciated it obviously. It just helped the team out. We didn't really expect nothing

. . when all is said, we're done."

less. It just means a lot. It was great.

Q. With all that you have been through as a team, how much are you looking forward to the opportunity that you now have in front of you to go to Buffalo, get a win and you're in the post-season?

KD: We're very excited for it, the challenge ahead, knowing we got to put a lot into the week. We're super excited for the opportunity. We're going to make sure we do everything we can to make it a good game.

Q. When you get the ball in your hands on the interception, does it bring you back to your punt return days, lobbying for punt returns until Marcus gets back?

KD: I'm not trying to take a spot. I'm trying to do whatever they ask me to do.

When I was a punt returner in college, definitely brought me back to some running back days back when I was little, things like that.

Q. I remember last year coming in in training camp you talked about feeling like you're a different player than you were as a rookie. Hard on your rookie performance. How far do you feel like you've come and how far do you feel you can go? Where is the future in your eyes?

KD: I still have a lot, a ton of things to work on and get better at.

As far as how far I've come, I'm a lot better now than I was then. I'll say that. I've learned a lot. I definitely know I have so much to learn still. I mess up still things. I know I shouldn't be messing up. Things like being consistent, it's still huge for me.

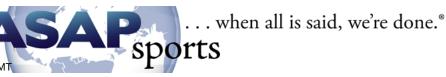
I got a lot to work on still.

Q. Seven touchdowns by the defense doesn't happen very often in the NFL. Obviously not by accident. What does that say about an awareness of a defense, instinct of a defense, to be able to do that?

KD: It just kind of shows that the mentality is get the ball and go score, get the ball and go score. Drive the drive, down the down. That's just the mentality of us.

I think that's really the thing that highlights the most.

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