

QUARTERBACK JAXSON DART

POSTGAME VIDEO CONFERENCE

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Patriots 33, Giants 15

Q. How would you assess your performance in this one?

JD: Not good enough because we lost.

Q. Jaxson, would you take us through the hit and what happened on that play. You were running to the sidelines, what did you see what happened there?

JD: Scrambling out of the pocket, trying to get the first down and guy made a good hit.

Q. It sounds like a broken record, Jaxson, just asking you about the hits, taking them and protecting yourself and things like that. Is there anything you would have done different on that one?

JD: No. Look, like, I understand the question, but this is football. Like, I'm going to get hit if I'm in the pocket or outside the pocket. I feel like I played this way my whole entire life. It shouldn't be any shocker to anybody if you followed along with my career. We're not playing soccer out here. You're going to get hit. Things happen. It's just part of the game.

Q. It seemed after that play there were some full-times you could have run and maybe you didn't run as much until Tracy got hurt. Was that kind of your thought process on some of those plays, maybe just didn't want to move, just kind of go with a different idea?

JD: Not really sure what plays you're talking about specifically.

Q. I think there were some -- well, I'll ask you were there times you thought about running and maybe thought, hey, after that hit, maybe not run or something?

JD: No. It didn't hurt so that didn't play any thought in my mind.

Q. Do you think taking that aggressiveness away from you would take you away from your game?

JD: Absolutely. Like I said, I played like this my whole life. Turn on my high school tape, turn on my college tape, it's not a shocker to anybody. It's how I've played. I felt like if you just watch the game, like, I did slide. I did avoid a lot of hits, so you're going to get hit. It's football.

Q. This may come off as a dumb question but when you're playing in high school, when you're playing in college, the competition is a little bit different. The size, the speed, the physicality's a little bit different where maybe these hits here are a little different than the hits you would have been taking in high school so you feel them a little bit different. Does that factor in at all?

JD: My body feels good. I got knocked out of the game against Chicago on a fluke play. You watch the hit, I lose control of the ball and I don't brace myself because I'm trying to re-catch the ball. It's not because of the hit. It's because I lost the ball.

So just like any other league, you take new steps, there's bigger, faster players. My body feels good. I'm going to play aggressive. I feel like if I just turn into a complete pocket passer, that's just not how I want to play the game. I feel like there's an advantage to me using my legs. So, yeah.

Q. Jaxson, is there a part of you that looks at Drake on the other side and says that's where I want to go. That's what I want to do for this franchise, what he's done for that one?

JD: Yeah, he's done a great job. I'm not into comparisons. Everybody's journey is different. I've known Drake for years and he's done a great job. He also went through a struggle his first year, too. Everybody's journey's different. I'm just trying to do my best to change this franchise around a little bit and do my part. Just got to stay diligent.

Q. Did tonight's game plan make you too much of a pocket passer?

JD: No, I don't think so. I just think we got down. We got down big early. Game plans have to change. You're just playing catch up the rest of the game. It's a little bit

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different when it's a tight game. You can really stick to a game plan. I felt like me trying to extend my plays in the pass game, keeping my eyes down the field was more sufficient than me trying to run and get five yards. Trying to play catch up a little bit in those situations.

Q. Jaxson, you didn't see Theo respond like you did, I know it resulted in a personal foul, but he ran out there rammed him back when that play happened.

JD: Yeah, I would do the same for him and that's kind of the relationship me and him have. You saw the O-line get in there, too. We all got each other's backs. It's not fun losing. It's not fun with this losing streak. It doesn't look super bright from the outside but we have each other's backs and sometimes it just takes time to turn things around. I think that obviously we want that now. Everybody wants that now. I'm hoping that we can continue to build and find any way we can find a momentum.

Q. Jaxson, the way you fell behind as a team today, do you feel like it took you guys out of sync a little bit? It seemed like you were scratching and clawing trying to fight your way back into it and never really got to that situation where you felt like you were comfortable.

JD: Yeah, we got beat in all three phases of the game, so when you get down like that, it's not ideal and I felt like we had a little bit of a spark. We were able to score, had that touchdown. We got the two-point conversion, we're down two scores and defense got us the ball back and then we didn't capitalize on it, so like you said, we were just scratching and clawing. You kind of have to -- when you're in that situation, your game plan is out the gate a little bit. You're trying to find any way you can to play catch up.

Q. Your teammates admire your competitiveness, your fire, but they also have been telling you to protect yourself better. What do you say to them?

JD: I thought I did a good job tonight.

Q. But what do you say to them when they tell you you need to protect yourself better?

JD: Just tell them thanks for looking out for me.

Q. Jaxson, are you looking forward to the time and are you confident that eventually this will sort itself out and you will play with the aggressiveness that you want to? The coaches will realize that you're doing that but still protecting? This has become a major talking point around you now. It doesn't seem to be that way about a lot of other quarterbacks. Is this just

a growing phase you have to get through or is this something different?

JD: I'm going to keep playing aggressive. Hopefully everybody can take a second to watch my tape going back to high school and realize that this is not a shock. I play the game aggressively. I took one hit that people are talking about. I slid. Got out of the way of a lot of hits. I appreciate people wanting me to be healthy and all that stuff and I want to be healthy too. I play this game aggressively. I'm not just going to change how I play the game.

Q. Do you think on that play you should have stepped out of bounds a little sooner, or what was your take on the play?

JD: I was trying to get to first down.

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