

# Pittsburgh Steelers

## Media Conference

Monday, October 18, 2021

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

## Head Coach Pete Carroll

### Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Seattle Seahawks 20, Pittsburgh Steelers 23

PETE CARROLL: This was a heck of a football game tonight. And the illustration that it shows us that it ain't ever over, you know, and how you start doesn't tell the story of how you finish. To see our club come back like we did in so many aspects of our game and play like that, to give us a chance to get ahead and have a chance to win the football game, it was beautiful. It's a beautiful thing. And everybody had to hang to do that. All phases had to do it. It was really impressive. And the hard part is we lose. And I can't help these guys with that one. All the effort, all the plays, all the come-through and the heart and all that kind of stuff, you know, okay, but we didn't win. So that's the game.

But, God, dang, I'm proud of these guys. Jeez. I was so proud to see that happen. See them fight like that and turn the game. And the guys up front, the offensive line played like they did in the second half, come through and keep knocking the line of scrimmage like they did, give our running backs a chance to go.

Alex's effort was phenomenal. DeeJay Dallas played excellent football for us. Homer was hobbling. And he almost broke one to win it. So there was a lot of great plays and a lot of great effort in this game.

But good job by their guys. They hung tough and got the play they needed at the end and finished it off. Credit to Mike and his team. It's a great program. And they show you -- they show you why. They do great things.

#### Q. How is Darrell?

PETE CARROLL: The preliminary -- I'm giving you preliminary because I usually don't do this, it's because I want to give you something positive -- they were clear. The CT scans were clear. So that's a really good preliminary report for you. There's more tests to be done and stuff like that. So we're thrilled about that news.

#### Q. (No microphone.)

PETE CARROLL: Yes. And he was so mad by having to be taken off the field like that. He wanted to get up. They wouldn't let him do it because they had to do all of the secure methods to take care of him and all that. Man, he didn't want any part of that.

#### Q. Moving hands and like everywhere?

PETE CARROLL: Everywhere. Yeah.

#### Q. How tough is it for guys to kind of get back going after seeing somebody go down like that?

PETE CARROLL: I don't know. I don't know. How tough -- it doesn't matter how tough it is. We just do it. And that's what our game calls for. It's a great competitive group. They really are. They show you. Everybody was watching. They showed them what they're made of and who they are and what they're all about. Those would be the same guys in the meeting room on Tuesday when we come back, you know.

#### Q. What was your assessment of Geno tonight?

PETE CARROLL: I thought he was solid. I thought he managed the game well. He gave us a chance to win the football game. Unfortunately, gets that ball knocked out on that last play. I don't know who made the tackle, but it was a great hit.

And it kills him because -- Geno knew these were extraordinary opportunities for him. And he wants to come through and show that he can do it and play and all that. And it kills him that he wasn't able to finish it. But I thought he played tough as hell. And he was clear and calm and poised, exactly like you'd hope he would be. And this game was not too big for him at all. He was right there.

#### Q. What happened to Alex? DeeJay was in late.

PETE CARROLL: He got hit in the glute and he got hit in the hip too in the front of the same side I believe. So his hip was kind of jacked up. So I thought he played a fantastic football game. He looked so good, made so

many good plays. But he couldn't finish it.

**Q. How much did that change your deal in overtime and what you wanted to do versus what you did?**

PETE CARROLL: Well, Alex was the man. DeeJay did a nice job too. DeeJay really filled in well for him and particularly in the passing game like we counted on. But we would have loved to have Alex keep making those runs. Made some phenomenal 5 and 6 yard runs with great feet and determination and all of that. And we certainly missed him.

**Q. Did you say anything to Geno after the game? And what were your thoughts on the play there? Did it just breakdown and Geno tried to do something in the middle?**

PETE CARROLL: He just got hammered. He got smoked on the hit.

Yeah. I did talk to Geno. I talked to Geno the whole night and stayed with him the whole time. Made sure he felt the support and the calm and the poise and all of that.

Russ did a nice job with him too. Coaches did a nice job. Geno was clear. He was clear throughout the game and really there for the opportunities and all of that.

**Q. With all the good things that happened that you've pointed out, is it hard to reconcile that with the fact that you lost the game?**

PETE CARROLL: Yeah. It's really hard. That's the point. Yeah. I can't help these guys with the reality of we didn't win the game. But the things we did to show who we are and what we're all about and why we work so hard and care so much, that was there. That was legit. Really, really deserved the chance to win this game with all of that. And, unfortunately, they made one more play than we did.

**Q. How is Damien?**

PETE CARROLL: He's got a shoulder -- AC sprain on the shoulder.

**Q. How was that debut for Tre Brown?**

PETE CARROLL: I thought it was really good. He looked really good. The opportunities he had, he was right where he was supposed to be. I've got to see the film and all of that. But when he had the chance to make some plays, he looked like he was on it. That's all he's shown us. I've told you guys that. That's what he's been doing.

And that was a really good first go. Here it is on Sunday night and the whole thing, and it was not too big for him at all. He's been brought up right in the way he played in Oklahoma and all those big games and all that. This was not too big for him. He was really poised and did a nice job. Deserves to play more.

**Q. What was Jason Myers' max field goal tonight, the furthest that you would have gone?**

PETE CARROLL: We were right at it. The one we kicked, the one we kicked, that was right at it, right there. And I was -- in this night, I was trying to play defense and back him up and all that. You know, that was just the way we were going to try and play this game, keep it close to the vest in this instance. And that was the choice instead of give him the ball right there.

**Q. I know it worked out in your favor at the end with the review by the officials. What did you sense in what they were trying to accomplish?**

PETE CARROLL: Good question to bring up. And I don't have all of the scoop for you. But this is something we have to talk about. And I don't know how much I should really tell you about the conversation.

But the way we saw it was it needed to be challenged. And the way they immediately saw it was I think he threw it. That's what we're hearing. So I had go against what they were telling me. And their assessment happened in just a few -- you know, 20 seconds or something like that.

And we see real difficult replays go three, four, five minutes or something like that. Well, I thought this play, if given all of that time, we'd have a chance. And even though they were -- the recommendation is you shouldn't challenge this, I went against it and I threw the flag and stayed with it, you know.

They gave me the choice. Do you want to give up a timeout? Do you want to challenge it? Give us a chance. I want -- let them see this one. I think we got something here. And the more we looked at it -- I'd only seen it once. And the more we looked at it, I didn't think it was a difficult call. His hand -- the actual movement was coming back. He was pulling it down and pulling it in. So they made the right decision. That's the good thing.

**Q. Any clarification from the refs on why it actually took that long and what they were going through? Because we actually heard Mike Tomlin as we were walking to his press conference pretty upset on the length of time and about the whole conversation in general.**

PETE CARROLL: The recommendation -- here is what I tell you. I don't know. Maybe I'll get in trouble for this. But the recommendation it was incomplete pass that was the first thing that came out -- you know, the officials. And they called incomplete on the field. And it came -- when they looked at it quickly, that's what came back. And that's why they were telling me I wouldn't challenge this because they're already telling us it's incomplete. Anyway, sometimes you've just got to take a shot.

**Q. Did you guys expect to get more pressure on Ben today?**

PETE CARROLL: Yeah. I would like to. Yeah. They did a ton of run-pass stuff. He was reading the defense. And sometimes he'd throw it, sometimes he'd run it. Saw a lot of perimeter stuff. That's kind of their run game. And we knew we were going to have to give and take with that.

So it was -- of course we would like to get more pressure on him. But I thought we contained the thing, you know, I thought we contained it pretty well and held the score down. In the second half, guys played really good. We were one score -- one drive in there, what was it like two or three penalties on the one drive. That was the one we gave them one.

**Q. The screen game isn't working the way you guys were wanting it to.**

PETE CARROLL: The guys were chasing them like crazy, man. We're trying. It just has not been as effective as we would hope.

**Q. Talk about that seven defensive back package.**

PETE CARROLL: Just trying to get our guys on the field and see what we can get out of them. We've been -- we did a couple different things tonight. I don't know how well they worked. We were okay on third down in the second half. We were 1 for 6 in the second half, which is what gave us a chance to stop them.

Those guys have a little bit of ability to make a play more so than some of the other guys that are out there. It's basically when we can put them in the spots that's good for them, you know.

**Q. Did Jamal not see that ball that hit him?**

PETE CARROLL: I don't know. It was really loud though. It smacked him pretty good. I didn't see it well enough.

**Q. You got him going more tonight than we've seen**

**him in terms of rushing?**

PETE CARROLL: Yeah. I thought he was very active tonight and did a nice job. We did have a number of things in the plan tonight.

**Q. This is unfamiliar territory for you guys. 2 and 4. No Russell Wilson. How do you feel like your players are going to respond?**

PETE CARROLL: I think they -- look what just happened. This is exactly what we were talking about during the week that we were going to have to come through, hang forever and find a way and to support Geno's effort. We were going to take the heat off of him and everybody absorbing the responsibility to contribute.

And that's what wound up happening. And so we don't have any other way to do it. We have no choice. There's no choice. Fortunately, we come back on Monday night. We get an extra day. But there are no options. Come back and freaking battle. That's how we do it.

**Q. What was your message to them?**

PETE CARROLL: That I didn't have a good answer for them. If I could make them feel better, I would because we lost the game.

However, I could not talk about the effort and the comeback and the grit and all of the guts that it takes to keep believing and keep counting on one another and keep pushing each other. The sidelines, it was gorgeous. It was so electric down there. And everybody was feeding off each other and helping each other. It was a beautiful thing. And the game gives you those opportunities sometimes. And that's the sick part is we don't get the win to capture all of that the way we'd like to.

**Q. That was the plan to only play Tre Brown that one drive early before Sidney got hurt?**

PETE CARROLL: No. The plan was to get him in on the third series and see what happens.

**Q. With Collins do you have any idea to his status going forward?**

PETE CARROLL: I don't know. I don't know. Balure [phonetic] was revving it up over there. He was getting ready.

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