

Pittsburgh Steelers

Media Conference

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Quarterback Ryan

Tannehill

Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Tennessee - 13, Pittsburgh - 19

Q. (Audio from the live stream was disrupted for the commencement of the press conference.)

RYAN TANNEHILL: It's a sick feeling. Any time you walk away with a loss, it's a sick feeling. And for as many mistakes we had throughout the game, to have a shot there at the end and to be moving the ball, with the ton of confidence that we had in the huddle, that we were going to walk away with the win, find a way to score at the end.

Felt confident moving the ball down the field. You know, we had some big runs, good pass completions to keep us going there. But, unfortunately, just came up whatever it was, a few inches short.

Q. What do you think about that play? Did you think you guys had it at first?

RYAN TANNEHILL: I did, I did. You know, I knew it was going to be, like, right about the sticks. They did a good job of taking away the deeper options. They kind of popped right there.

Big body receiver, I thought he was right there at the sticks for the first down. Unfortunately, we were just a couple inches short there.

Q. (No microphone.) Can you put your finger on that? What was --

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, all different things. It has to get cleaned up, obviously. You turn the ball over as many times as we did, you're going to put yourself in a tough position.

The defense kept us in the game by the way they played. Huge stops after those turnovers, holding them to field goals.

But, offensively, we got to play cleaner football. And, you know, I felt like we moved the ball throughout the game. We were doing a good job. I felt we were pretty good -- I don't know where we ended up, but pretty good on third down throughout the game.

(Audio from the live stream was disrupted.)

Q. (Question concerning a snap exchange.)

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, I don't know exactly what happened there. It's wild. I don't know how many snaps I've taken with Ben over the last three years, and I don't think we've ever had one on the ground at practice or anything.

It's a sick feeling. And, you know, for whatever reason, I didn't get a handle on it. Not something I'm worried about moving forward. But just terrible timing for something like that to come up.

Q. Ryan, for Julio to not be able to finish a game again, how difficult was that to see a guy who's been fighting to get back and then another setback with a hamstring?

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, it's tough. Obviously, we want him out on the field. You know, had a shot to him on the first play of the game. Just couldn't get the ball off.

We stretched the field with him. We were feeling good. He's been moving well all week. We were excited to get him rolling and then, you know, you lose him again. Definitely not where we want to be.

Q. You talked about needing to play cleaner football. That's been the same conversations for the three of the last four games. Is there something about the messaging about the turnovers that's not working when you have 13 in three games?

RYAN TANNEHILL: No, I don't think it's the messaging. I think we're focused on it. It's something that we talk about, something that Vrabel preaches. We talk about it on the field, we talk about it in practice.



We emphasize it and work drills to have good ball security and finish. Just, unfortunately, we're not translating it right now.

So we need to find a way, as an offense, everybody who touches the ball, everybody's who's involved to carry over what we work in practice onto the football field on Sundays.

Q. How do you flush this when you have such a quick turn in two days and you're playing San Francisco? How do you kind of go about that?

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yeah, we have to turn the page. You know, you have to evaluate, clean up the things that, obviously, need to be cleaned up. But turn the page quickly, get your mind right, and flush this.

And then, you know, start working to get your body right. You know, it's going to take a few days to physically get right, physically start getting ready for the next game.

Obviously, Thursday Night games are tough, have been, and always will be, physically. So being able to mentally flush this, reset, and come out firing on Thursday.

Q. How would you compare the Steelers pass rush to what you've seen around the league? They, obviously, had it going in this game. But it's kind of a roller coaster ride for the Steelers this year.

RYAN TANNEHILL: You know, they did a good job. They were disruptive the whole game. Obviously, we knew coming in, this was a disruptive group and had a ton of respect for them.

Obviously, you know, T.J. Watt's, you know, got a million sacks on the year and -- (audio from the live stream was disrupted.)