

# Pittsburgh Steelers

## Media Conference

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

## Kenny Pickett

Postgame Press Conference



Steelers - 27, Bills - 15

**Q. There's been a lot of criticisms of the offense the last year, but you guys came out -- first team came out, scored twice quickly. What have you seen from some of the newer guys and even a guy like Calvin who was here last year but didn't play?**

KENNY PICKETT: I think there's a lot of new guys on the team that bring a lot of different aspects to the offense. I think you're starting to see it throughout preseason. And Calvin is definitely one of the guys who put a lot of work in the offseason.

And I think we're doing a good job of getting the ball in space, and he did a good job in the return game to set us up for that second touchdown. Can't say enough good things about the new guys on our team.

**Q. Looks like there was a third down and you completed a pass to Robinson, I think, before the long run. Looked like they showed you single and then shifted right into cover-2 just before the snap. Did you catch that and react to it, or did it just work out that way?**

KENNY PICKETT: Yeah, we were expecting cover-2. It was a good call into that. Allen did a great job finding the zone, and we picked up the first down. And obviously Jaylen did the rest after that. It was a good sequence for us.

**Q. What is it about Jaylen, when he touches the ball he always -- seems good things happen?**

KENNY PICKETT: There's some guys have a knack for making plays, and Jaylen is one of them. I think his toughness, speed. The different aspect -- it's like thunder and lightning with him and Najee. I think those two have a really good balance off each other. They both do great things. They both do things differently. It's great to have that combination in the backfield.

**Q. That's one of the things that Allen can really bring to the table in terms of knowing where the sticks are, finding holes in zones?**

KENNY PICKETT: That's something that stuck out to me day one, just his IQ and his understanding of defense and offensive football, knowing when to sit in zones, run versus man. All those type of things that get you open on third down and in the red zone, Allen does a really good job of.

**Q. Were you supposed to do just two series, or was it, well, can't get much better than that --**

KENNY PICKETT: Plan was two series. Plan was two series. Obviously it went well and went as we hoped. Every time you want to get out there, you want to put points on the board, so that's what we did.

**Q. Was the plan (indiscernible) primary on the touchdown or did you --**

KENNY PICKETT: Coverage took me there. The primary is always -- there's no such thing as like a primary on any coverage. The coverage changes every primary and where you start with your eyes. So that's what dictated me to go there.

**Q. Can you explain what you saw of that one?**

KENNY PICKETT: Cover-2. Same thing. I wanted Tay (phonetic) singled up. They ended up putting the safety over the top. That told me it was cover-2. And I had Pat and the linebacker down the middle. So that was a good matchup that we talked about leading up to this game.

**Q. Any understanding where we're at at this point in the season, what's it been like to see the efficiency and rhythm that you guys have been able to put out here the first couple of games and maybe the growth of this group?**

KENNY PICKETT: It's good to see all the hard work kind of coming into the games. Obviously it's preseason but we put a lot of time in together. You want to come out here, put points up. That's what we're doing. We're going to



continue to do that and continue to push for perfection, have a short week of practice and then we're back on the road. It will be a quick turnaround here.

**Q. Does it mean anything to you that you're scoring from distance consistently?**

KENNY PICKETT: Yeah, you want to expose the plays like we've been talking about all offseason, something we need to improve on is explosive plays. It's good to have some explosive touchdowns, runs, passes, you name it, we want to continue to do that as an offense.

**Q. What was your interaction like with Damar before the game? What was that like?**

KENNY PICKETT: I didn't get a chance to see him before the game. I saw him after. But it was great to see him. Obviously playing with him here for, what was it, three or four years. Same with Dane. I have a lot of great memories in this stadium with those guys. It was really special to see them at the NFL level. We're doing exactly what we said we'll be doing when we were in the Pitt locker room in Southside. It's a really cool experience.

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