

Indianapolis Colts Media Conference

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Baker Mayfield

Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Colts - 27, Buccaneers - 20

Q. (Indiscernible).

BAKER MAYFIELD: Having an open line of communication with those guys and being honest about how I feel. At first it didn't feel very good, and then it eased up as the game went on, but (inaudible) it's there.

Q. Couple times you had it within a one-score game. You were sacked six times today including the one where you fumbled. How tough was it to try to operate with that kind of pressure?

BAKER MAYFIELD: You know, they did a good job on the back end, to be honest with you. A few coverage sacks, a few of those things. We just have to be better early obviously. Not (indiscernible) on the first drive on that first-and-goal would have helped to punch in a touchdown instead of a field goal.

But we just have to be able to finish. And it came down to touchdowns instead of field goals in the red zone. (Indiscernible) few opportunities there. Big difference in the ball game. Just have to find ways to be better.

Q. Mike Evans, two more touchdowns. He seems to be available to you when you need him.

BAKER MAYFIELD: Mike played really well today. A few catches that were pretty impressive. Obviously the one early on where they brought cover zero. He (indiscernible) up his route, I threw it early. He did a great job finding it.

The first touchdown down to him he ran a good route, I think. I think the DBs were a little confused trying to pass off the pattern. But when you're tackling (indiscernible) leverage, and it was a good job by Payne on the outside with his route and second touchdown for Mike was just a good play call. Run a couple out routes and Mike did good job with speed and keeping the safety and using leverage played good today.

Q. Speaking of pain, do you think he had that catch?

BAKER MAYFIELD: Yeah, I did. But he's a talented guy, a guy that we're going to continue to work into the system and he continues to make plays for us and he's good in the run game. Just growing his role a little bit just building that confidence, I think today was a good day for him.

Q. Was there any way you were going to be kept out of going back in that game?

BAKER MAYFIELD: If there's some good tests, run around on it. If I feel like I'd be hindering us, there's a different side of it. I feel like I was good enough to go.

Q. And you were rolling out and everything on it too.

BAKER MAYFIELD: Adrenaline is a hell of a drug.

Q. Losing six out of seven is a tough stop in the NFL for any team. What makes you confident this team (inaudible)?

BAKER MAYFIELD: To be honest with you, there's no moral victories. But we've always shown fight and heart when we're in these ball games. It's just a matter of guys having the accountability to do your job, not mess up, do the little things right and handle business. That's what it's coming down to. It's not for a lack of effort or lack of preparation, being on the same page, we have that. I'm a firm believer in that. It just comes down to the guys doing the things right when it comes to Sunday. It's all the things you do during the week, just carry it over and good things will happen. I'm confident because it's under control and we can do it.

Q. Was there a concerted plan to come out, throw any more today, just be more aggressive (inaudible)?

BAKER MAYFIELD: Yeah, just some tendencies, but obviously we ran the ball pretty well today. The guys up front played well in the run game, try to see some big, big runs instead of chasing the ball. Yeah, rushing tendencies we were trying to attack and at the same time the run

game as well.

Q. You mentioned accountability. Are there any particular areas you want to see more accountability?

BAKER MAYFIELD: Critical down and distances, doing the right things. Just penalties. Just simple things that we can control. There's not one specific area. It's things we can control. It's not losing (indiscernible) anything else. Doing things right.

Q. You talked about when the adrenaline wears off and you're really going to feel it. Any idea what this upcoming week is going to be like for you?

BAKER MAYFIELD: A lot of treatment, mental reps early in the week and see where it goes from there. MRI tomorrow and go from there.

Q. Did you get a look at the sideline, Kyle threw, sometimes almost rare in the NFL to have a guy come in and ask him to throw that pass.

BAKER MAYFIELD: There was one of the -- there's only pictures on the surfaces on the sideline. Looked like it was really, really close. Looks like Chris got one foot down. But Kyle's prepared. There's no doubt about that. So speaks volumes, just to be early in the game ready for that. We trust him.

Q. Was it a defender that hit your ankle?

BAKER MAYFIELD: Honestly, I have zero idea. We'll see.

Q. Baker, end of the day, it's just red zone for you guys, everything's red zone, whether it's first and goal whatever. You score touchdowns, it's a different season.

BAKER MAYFIELD: Completely different. I guess it's been our Achilles' heel so far. It would be the difference, probably three wins.

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