

Carolina Panthers Media Conference

Sunday, December 24, 2023
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

Bryce Young

Postgame Press Conference



Q. Bryce, did you think you had one second left as the clock ran down?

BRYCE YOUNG: We were just out there playing. I'm just out there playing. Obviously I wanted to get that, but they got cameras. They got the refs. We're just trying to get a snap as quick as possible.

Q. Bryce, in a losing effort obviously, but did you feel like that was as well as you've played this year?

BRYCE YOUNG: Really I think it's as good as we've looked as a unit. Whatever stats or whatever they say, you point at one person, and you say it was a good game, it's all of us.

I think this was a good building block for us as a unit. Again, that's all 11, plus with all the substitutes, of course. We all stepped up.

There's obviously still stuff to clean up, myself first and foremost, and us as a unit, there's still stuff we left out there, stuff we've got to get better at and keep improving.

Ultimately it wasn't enough. So we've got to be better. But it's a good place for us to build from as a unit.

Q. Your two wins this year, come from behind in the fourth quarter, last drive, this one at least attempting to tie the game on the last drive. What are you getting out of being in these situations your first season?

BRYCE YOUNG: Again, being able to understand the moment, know what's going on, we all do that. We all embrace that as a unit. It's something that -- it's what you play football for. Obviously we -- especially in the past, we put ourselves in bad situations that have made ourselves do that. We don't have to do that. So we want to try to be better at that.

But when those moments come, I just have full faith and confidence in my guys that we're going to step up. We're going to execute. We're going to do what's right and be

able to move the ball. We all have that faith in each other. So I think that's where it stems from.

Q. Bryce, Smith-Marsette had two more big plays today. What kind of weapon is he for you?

BRYCE YOUNG: Yeah, Ihmir's been doing a great job. Obviously we're starting to see it come more into effect on Sundays, but what you don't see is how hard he's working throughout the week, practicing super hard, spending extra -- asking questions, making sure he's putting good stuff on film.

That's someone who worked his way up to earn those -- the snaps he's getting, and he's doing a great job with it. So I have all the faith in the world in him. He's doing a great job. Again, us just getting the ball in his hands and him making plays has been great to watch. So I'm super excited to watch him grow.

Q. Your thoughts on the Doubs catch, what you saw, it happened right in front of you in realtime. You said it was a drop. What did you see? Can you take us through that moment?

BRYCE YOUNG: I just play quarterback. I'm not a ref or an official. The call didn't go our way.

Q. With that being said, you threw for over 300 yards for the first time in your career, for you to have a losing effort when there's questions about the time at the end and questions about that catch, does it sting a little more?

BRYCE YOUNG: The sting is that we lost. You can try to make up whatever moral victory you want with whatever. At the end of the day, we do this to win, and we didn't get that done. I didn't do enough. We didn't do enough. We all take accountability for that.

Again, we'll watch the film. There's stuff to learn from, stuff to build off of it. But it's fresh right now. We didn't get the job done. Ultimately we've still got to be better.

Q. Chris said that you were in complete control this

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whole game. Was that the game plan? Was it something they were doing that you just recognized?

BRYCE YOUNG: Really just feeding off my teammates. On top of that, the coach is doing a great job getting me prepared throughout the week, us being able to work together, build stuff, talk about things throughout the week, watching stuff. The credit goes to my coaches for putting me in that position, and then my teammates as well, us being able to rally around each other and the faith we have in each other.

Q. One of the narratives this year has been that -- outside has been wins and losses, great, but Bryce's development is paramount. Do you feel like today was sort of just a symbol of how far you've come as a rookie?

BRYCE YOUNG: Again, I haven't watched the tape yet, so I think there's stuff that I can build off of and still stuff to clean up. That's not at all our thought process. The goal is only working day in and day out throughout the week to win games on Sunday.

We have to earn the right to do that, and that's what every player will say that that's what it's about. For me, it's about doing everything I can to help that winning effort and to be valuable for the team so we can win games. Really that's how I see it.

Q. You've been saying all year that you had the pieces to succeed. What made them work today?

BRYCE YOUNG: I think just as a unit, us coming together and executing. Again, we talked about it the whole time. There wasn't some -- we didn't have these magical new plays. We didn't have these magical new schemes. We had some new stuff, and T.B. did a great job of dialing it up and installing stuff and getting the call at the right time. That's definitely part of it.

But what we talk about all year, it's just execution. Just beating the man in front of you, doing the little things, feeding off each other, not having mental errors.

Again, there's still stuff to grow from, but I think we did a better job of cleaning that up. Really that's what it boils down to.

Q. The explosive plays and the offense have kind of ramped up here. Talk about what's been the key behind that. Not just your play, but maybe the coordination from Thomas Brown, the route concepts. What has led to the bigger explosion in the passing game there, 20-plus yard plays?

BRYCE YOUNG: Yeah, T.B.'s been doing a great job of dialing stuff up, putting everyone in position to be successful, marriage of run and pass game, creativity, things like that. T.B.'s been doing a great job of that.

On top of that, for me, it's just getting the ball to the open receiver. They're doing a great job of getting open. They're winning matchups. They're taking advantage of that. I'm super grateful for that, just trying to find the right people and get to them, but the credit definitely goes to them.

Q. Bryce, if you could take us through the two fourth quarter touchdown passes to Chark, specifically what you saw, what you did.

BRYCE YOUNG: The first one, just an in breaker, had good leverage. Again, great job from T.B. dialing that up and getting us good leverage. Great job from D.J. being able to keep that, hold that.

We've repped that play a good amount of times. So just being able to execute, also with a clean pocket. Line doing a great job giving me time and the ability to make that happen. Again, it's a unit effort.

Then on top of that, we were kind of a full field thing on the second one. Was able to step up and find a lane to extend. Great job again from D.J. of breaking off his route, working with me in scramble drill, and then just trying to keep the play along to give him time to work. Then it's a great job catching it in the back of the end zone.

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