



ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. CINCINNATI BENGALS
OCTOBER 8, 2023
Bengals Head Coach Zac Taylor

On QB Joe Burrow's response and WR Ja'Marr Chase setting the franchise record:

"I thought he did a great job. I thought the guys in front of him did a great job and gave him a great opportunity to do a good job. All those skill guys stepped up. You know, Ja'Marr. Nothing really surprises you. You just keep finding ways to get him the ball. It can come in so many different ways because of how flexible he is as a football player and his football IQ. I say it all the time - you can put him in a slot, you can put him in a Z, you can put him in an X, you can put him in the backfield. Just keep getting the ball in his hands and good things are going to happen. We got so many other great, great players involved to take the pressure off him. We can't just lock in on him. I think that's the critical part of things. I was proud of the way that those guys played today."

On when he sensed Burrow was good to go again:

"It's hard for me to say. I thought this week he moved around a little bit better, so he had that sense as the week went. I can't tell you how many times on the headset we said throw the ball away on his touchdown to Ja'Marr there on the goalline. We said it a lot. Those two just found a way to make a play and the line held the guys off of him. It was good to see him move around today. And again, like he said all year, it's probably just going to get better and better each week."

On Burrow being able to do more than expected

"He did stuff on his own. We only called one naked to Ja'Marr for a good play. Again, try to take that pressure off a little bit. When he moved, that was his decision."

On Burrow's plays being reminiscent of 2021 plays where he was told to throw it away but kept extending plays:

"They're great quarterbacks, but you can't just keep them in the pocket and put them in the box. You know, they're going to extend plays sometimes where you're thinking they shouldn't. They're going to hang on to the ball for a second longer than people feel comfortable with, and usually great things happen when that happens. That's the special magic that he's got that you don't want to ever take away from him, and he does a great job. Knowing when to make it work and knowing when to get rid of the ball."

On the 63 -yard touchdown throw to Chase:

"They started to cloud Ja'Marr a lot, so the only way to get him away from that cloud really was to get him across the field to the quarter side. The protection, again, was outstanding right there. Joe did a great job with his landmark in the pocket. It was a great throw, a perfect throw. Not many guys can get that last burst to be able to track it the way Ja'Marr did. That's a great connection between those two. You know, that's, that's a play you get one full speed rep up every week. And you want to hit it when it's there. And I thought those two did a great job connecting."

On the sequence at the end of the first half to go for it on fourth down and how much was the defensive situation a consideration in deciding to go for it:

“It was all encompassing. A lot of it was the possession before. We knew going into this game, it's a tough structure to throw against. The way that they play with their leverages and that coverage structure inside the five. We'd thrown the ball three plays in a row on possession before and kicked the field goal, knowing that it was gonna be hard going in. I was a little bit stubborn there. We told our guys we're gonna, we're gonna run this ball in the next time we're the load red. We ran it for four straight plays. We expect to be able to get that ball in. We didn't, but knowing that we're gonna be able to pin him inside the two with, we had three timeouts at a time, that our defense, you can get a safety or give us a great field position. The third option is the best option. And that's just go ahead and get a touchdown yourself.”

On feeling unencumbered that Burrow could make the plays he wanted him to do:

“I just call the game how we see it and it felt like we got more normal downplays than we have because we've extended the drives longer. So that makes everyone's job easier and it takes the pressure off of the protection, it takes the pressure off of those guys to be perfect on every play, when you can string together more plays and overcome some of the second longs and third downs we had. We just haven't done a great job necessarily all of us, myself included in these last couple weeks. We were just able to free up and play the style of ball we're used to.”

On WR Trenton Irwin stepping up:

“You don't even have to think twice about it. We love ‘T’ because he's a premier player in this league and we know what he does to a defense. We know the plays he makes. Duke (Tobin, Director of Player Personnel) and his staff have just done such a great job of acquiring depth. In a lot of different ways, shapes, and forms. And Trenton's one of those guys that you have full confidence in. He knows what to do. He can play all three positions. He's going to catch every ball that gets thrown to him. He's going to run with great detail. We were close on that free flicker. That was the same play that we had against Cleveland last year. But I thought Trenton stepped up and did exactly what we knew he would be able to do.”

On the importance of defense today:

“The starting point was two three-and-outs for our defense to start the game and the offense scoring 10 points. Right there the defense got the stops and the offense piled on some points and we had some good special teams plays in the mix of that– great return by Trenton, great blocking on that. Then you look at the end of the half, the defense gives up a touchdown and the offense drives all the way down to the one, doesn't get in but eats up some clock and puts them in good field position and then the defense does a great job turning it into seven points. Then you turnover quickly in the second half offense scores seven, so I just thought the sequencing at the end of the second quarter beginning of the third, even though it wasn't perfect it was a good example of this team playing together feeding off each other and being able to take control of the game there.”

On how the stop on fourth and one on the goal line changed the game:

“Execution. I think it was a four point game at the time, could have been an 11 point game but that was a huge stop. The defense rose to the challenge and I think that was (LB) Germaine

(Pratt) who was the one who had the contact there. That was a critical point in the game for us for sure, that's a turnover."

On if it's rewarding to see offense perform well:

"We just don't overreact, to the early part of the season we correct what we can correct. There was never any wholesale changes needed, we knew how close we were and we knew what it could look like. We have to continue to build off of days like today, that's a big part of it but there was never any overreaction or anything like that from us and we just stayed the course. When you trust what you're doing and believe in your process there's plenty of time for it all to take shape and for us to get the footing that we needed to get. I thought today was a good step in the direction that way."

On if message to the team was that this was a must win game:

"No. Those weren't my words. Again, we just needed to play our best brand of football against this game against Arizona that's it. And then next week we'll stack another one against Seattle and to just take it one game at a time, don't worry about the big picture right now. We're going to be in great shape if we can take care of our own business at this early part of the season, and that's what our guys did today."

On impact Burrow has on team after this performance:

"He's done really good things for us these last couple weeks, again we look at every play as it should be and we feel like he's done a great job for us. Today we just had more plays and we were able to take more shots down the field, called some different protections that allowed us to take more shots as he started to move a little more. He made a couple plays where he extended the plays, that's always a bonus that we'll gladly take and don't want to force that on anybody."

On naming WR Kwamie Lassiter II a captain:

"Kwamie has been everything that we want to be around, he's done a great job on our practice squad and did a great job when his number was called last year when he came in against Tennessee when we elevated him. He's a guy that's very dependable, we have a lot of trust in him. His dad was a tremendous player here in the late 90s early 2000s and I think that's a really special moment for a guy that is exactly what we want to be about, able to maybe have a moment for himself and his family to honor his late dad. It's someone that (Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator) Darrin (Simmons) knew, Darrin was with him at KU [Kansas University] and his dad went to my Junior College Butler County so there's that fraternity. It's special for Kwamie, it's a bonus that he got a catch on red alert. Hopefully it was a good moment. When the right people are doing the right things you want to find a way to draw attention to that and Kwamie is a great example. I met his mom in the elevator earlier in the preseason and what a great woman, it's no surprise Kwamie has been raised the way that he has. Anytime you can give a player that kind of moment you want to be able to do that."



ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. CINCINNATI BENGALS

OCTOBER 8, 2023

Bengals Quarterback Joe Burrow

On how he felt in today's game overall:

"It was good, we still got a lot of room to improve. We left some yards and points out there but it was a good start."

On getting the win and the team's performance today compared to the first four weeks:

"Anytime you get a win it means a lot. In this league it is hard to win. So we're going to enjoy this one, come back tomorrow and focus on being 1-0 next week."

On the 63-yard touchdown to WR Ja'Marr Chase:

"Zac (Taylor) called a great play. I saw something at halftime that I really liked and that's credit to him. I don't know, I mean he (Ja'Marr) was open."

On moving around during his first touchdown pass and if that gave him confidence:

"That was big, for that exact reason like you said. It's something I haven't been able to do for the last couple of weeks. When your quarterback can't do that, can't steal first downs, can't extend plays, can't find guys downfield, it's tough to move the ball. So it felt good today and I'm going to continue to get healthier and I'm excited about that."

On taking a few hits knowing he would be okay with his injured calf:

"There were several plays at the beginning of the game that I was testing it out, and that kind of led to some of the runs in the second half."

On whether scrambling for a first down gave him confidence with the injury:

"It did, it did."

On if there was one play where he knew he felt like himself:

"It was the first touchdown, the first touchdown I was able to slide right, plant my leg, throw back across my body and after that I felt like I was pretty good. Obviously there have been a lot of moments where I thought it was good and it turned out not to be, so I have got to keep getting healthier, keep working on it, keep working on my body and it'll be good."

On if it's a mental thing to play as well as he did today:

"It was a lot of different things. I played okay. Ja'Marr played great as he always does. The offensive line played really well. It was a combination of a lot of things."

On WR Ja'Marr Chase's performance and getting him back on track:

"He's obviously one of the best in the league. So we're going to continue to feed him. We're going to find ways to move him around so teams can't take him away. We're going to continue to get better at that. He's going to continue to do what he does."

On connecting with the deep ball:

"We were able to connect on that one. We have to continue to connect on those. One means nothing if we go 0-for-12 in the next one. So we're going to continue to get better."

On Cardinals QB Kyler Murray reaching out to him about ACL recovery:

“We just talked about the process. I’ve been through it so I gave him some insight. He’s a great guy and I was happy to talk with him. He’s going to come back better than ever.”

On if there’s pressure to get back on the field after sustaining a torn ACL:

“Yes, as professional football players when you’re not out there with your guys it’s always really tough. But at the same time you know you have to think about your body, what’s best for your career and what’s best for the organization. So if you’re not ready you can’t come back. It’s tough. I’ve been there but it is what it is, and it’s part of this profession.”

On how big of a deal it was to play complementary football today:

“It doesn’t matter how well you play on offense, if your defense doesn’t play well you’re not going to win. So whenever you have a defense like that it makes our jobs easier. We have to continue to play complimentary football like you said.”

On if this win can be a turning point in the season:

“This kind of feels like last year in New Orleans a little bit. It means nothing, like I said earlier, it means nothing if you don’t go out there and build on it. We’re going to celebrate tonight, but get back out there and work tomorrow.”

On why this win feels like the Saints win last season:

“I knew we had to win it. We had to win in New Orleans last year too. So similar feeling.”

On how close to 100 percent he is:

“I felt really good today. I’m going to continue to test it out in practice. See where I’m at on Tuesday. Usually a day after a game, two days after a game, it is a little sore. So we’ll see how it feels these next couple days and continue to get healthier.”

On what Bengals WR Trenton Irwin mean to the offense:

“Many, he was great. He was great today. We have so much depth in all positions across the team that I feel really good about. When you have a guy like Trenton come in when (Bengals WR) Tee (Higgins) goes down and come in the play the way that they did, it makes your job as a quarterback way easier because you know whatever the defense shows, you’ll be able to spread the ball around and get it to the guy you think is open.”

On if he feels the team showed some resilience today:

“Yes. By no means was it perfect. It was hard, that’s a good defense and they were moving the ball well at times. So we had points in that game where we had to come up big and we did.”

On his third touchdown today and how the play happened:

“They were doing a great job at the goal line stopping the run, so we called a little play-action and had to buy some time. And that’s the kind of play that you don’t get if your quarterback isn’t mobile and can’t slide and make that extra second count, and that’s what we were able to do.”

On if that touchdown was meaningful after the early struggles this season:

“Yes, it was something that I haven’t been able to do these last couple of weeks. So getting back healthier, it’s exciting.”

On his outfit today:

“This was all free. The sweatshirt was made by my friend Mikah that I went to high school with. And the shoes are from my friend Scott, who most people know of as Kid Cudi. All my friends put this outfit together for me, so I got great friends. Thanks guys.”



ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. CINCINNATI BENGALS
OCTOBER 8, 2023
Bengals Wide Receiver Ja'Marr Chase

On setting the Bengals single game receptions record:

"I didn't know, but I asked (QB) Jake (Browning) on the sideline, 'What's the record of most catches in a game?'"

On what he saw on his 63-yard touchdown reception:

"Basically it was a post from the split of the field. I saw it was coming to a single safety. Once I saw the safety get out of there I knew it was a touchdown. It was just like we drew up from practice. Perfect play, perfect play call."

On Bengals QB Joe Burrow's 63-yard touchdown pass:

"Outstanding throw. Joe told me after the play "I didn't overthrow you that time.""

On when he knew Burrow was playing like himself:

"When I saw him take off the second time. Not the first time, but the second time. I thought it was crazy the second time, honestly."

On if he did anything special to get open on his long touchdown:

"No, my job was just to run fast with speed across the field and let Joe throw it there."

On if the offense is closer to being back on track:

"We've taken a step closer to who we really are. We keep facing adversity this year. It's not going to be an easy season and right now we just keep taking it step by step into next week."

On his celebration following his second touchdown of the game:

"No, I just didn't know what to do with the celebration. I haven't been planning any celebrations honestly. I haven't been in the endzone so I've got to start planning them now."

On if he moved where Burrow was pointing on his first touchdown:

"No, that was my route. He just threw the ball early. That was my route."

On if Burrow looked like his old self on the first touchdown of the game:

"He was moving in the pocket a good bit on that play if I'm not mistaken. He looked really good from my perspective. When I saw him look at me that's when I got out of my route and he just got me the ball."

On if he's going to start planning touchdown celebrations:

"100%."

On if his performance felt normal:

"It felt fun, let me say that. It didn't feel normal. It felt fun. It's fun when you're having fun."

On if the game felt like a turning point for the season:

"Definitely, you could say that. We definitely needed this win. We needed that New Orleans win (last season) bad too. I just want to say we're making the right steps forward right now. Just keep pushing and moving forward."

On the route he ran on his third touchdown:

“The route was a slant, but he walled me off inside. The play before I was messing with him and it was a run play. I was just messing with him and they gave him a good release like a slant. The very next play, they came back and walled me off on a slant, and I just went over the top of him and Joe scrambled. I just stayed with Joe like a scramble drill.”

On what it’s like being in the scramble drill with Burrow:

“I’m always alert when he’s running. It doesn’t matter if he’s in the pocket still. If the play breaks down I’m always alert to get out of there and try to make a play for the team.”

On why he and Burrow work so well together:

“We’re always talking.”

On his performance this week compared to last week:

“7/11. That’s all I’ve got to say, brother.”

On if he impressed himself with his performance:

“No, we’re just a very great team when we have great play calling. Receivers did an outstanding job on assignments today. Offensive line did great up front in giving Joe time to throw the ball today and we looked good out there.”

On if the Cardinals put pressure on Burrow:

“They didn’t pressure too many times. Any time we checked it out of the zero blitz (inaudible) we checked out of it every time.”

On whether he got pressed:

“I didn’t get pressed I don’t think the whole game. I got pressed one time on a slant, but I didn’t catch it.”

On what the offense’s performance without WR Tee Higgins says about their ability:

“We know how good we are, and Tee is just that other piece that we have and that weapon. Right now we’re just figuring out what else we can do right now. We have a lot of other people we have in the team we can use. We’re just using the pieces we have and making plays.”

On breaking the franchise record for catches in a single game:

“It feels good, but that wasn’t my goal to break that record. I didn’t know that was going to happen. I just caught as many passes as I could if they came my way.”

On the long term confidence it gives the team when QB Joe Burrow plays like he did:

It shows us who we really are. We already knew what we were capable of from the jump. We’ve definitely faced adversity from the jump, and right now we’re just getting that wagon going again and moving forward.”

On if QB Joe Burrow is back:

“What did he look like today? He looked pretty good to me. I’m not going to answer that. I think y’all can see.”

On if he would start Burrow in fantasy football:

"I don't even know how to log into that."

On where he was lined up on his touchdown plays:

"I think I was outside the majority of them, but I was still getting moved around alot today."

On his Deion Sanders celebration:

"I did. I don't know where that came from. That just came out of the hat."

On what goes through his head when QB Joe Burrow scrambles for yardage:

"I looked around and turned to (WR) Tee (Higgins) and said 'Tee, what the hell is he doing?' I don't know if Tee heard me but I definitely have turned around at Tee like, 'What the hell?'"

On whether he thinks QB Joe Burrow should be running now:

"If he feels good and feels like he can run, do it. I'm not going to tell him what to do. He already doesn't listen to me."

On his thoughts on the win:

"I'm just happy we got the win at the end of the day. That's what matters the most. Going back home to Cincinnati with the win."

On what he did with his game balls:

"I gave two to my day, and I kept the third one. He just wanted a ball so why not."



ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. CINCINNATI BENGALS

OCTOBER 8, 2023

Bengals Wide Receiver Trenton Irwin

On the team and Bengals Quarterback Joe Burrow's performance:

"The offense was clicking. I think he's still trying to figure out what he can do, what he can't do. But, I think the offense was clicking in general. I think we could've done the same thing last week had we figured out certain things- this and that. You saw the first drive of last week, so it was cool to see the offense going. Defense made some plays. We played some complementary football and came down the line with the win."

On if the win is a relief for the team following the losing streak:

"It's good to see we can do what I know we can do. I hadn't seen that in a while and it's been a little bit weird because not a lot has changed. I was like what the heck is happening? It was good to see what we know we can do, and that's reassuring, but we still know we can do it."

On seeing Burrow's mobility on a first down scramble despite his calf injury:

"That man was in kill mode. He was in kill mode from the get go. That's my boy! From the get go you could see it. It was cool to see it, cool to have him scamper for a first down when he hadn't done it in a while. You could see it in his eyes though. We were feeding off that and everyone in the whole huddle was hyped."



ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. CINCINNATI BENGALS

OCTOBER 8, 2023

Bengals Defensive End Sam Hubbard

On whether he was expecting the football to go where it went when he recovered the fumble:

"I don't want to say too much teamwise, but it's something we practice. I'm proud of being in the right spot at the right time."

On Bengals S Jordan Battle and his game changing play:

"Great. I'm excited for him to get an opportunity like that. He's eager, he's ready. I like his energy and I'm happy for him."

On what makes Bengals QB Joe Burrow and Bengals WR Ja'Marr Chase a special quarterback-receiver combination:

"They're both special when you put them together. I like having them on our side."

On his favorite moment from today:

"Just getting into the endzone every time. Every time we're happy to see it."