



BENGALS POSTGAME QUOTES

OCT. 14, 2018

PITTSBURGH AT CINCINNATI

MARVIN LEWIS

Head coach

Initial Comments ...

"That is a disappointing way to lose a football game, (after) we get back and get the lead and so forth. We had some good things throughout the day, but not enough to win the football game throughout. When we get depleted, we have to step up and get to the next guy, and the next guy has to make a play. That was a great job by the offense of going down the field and giving us the lead after the field goal. But we have to figure out a way to stop the (Steelers') offense and win the football game."

What was your thinking about the defensive call on the go-ahead touchdown?

"We are not going to second-guess anything. They made a play and we didn't."

What is it going to be like to get this team together after a loss like this?

"We'll be fine. We'll be ready to go."

Do you expect the league to take a look at Vontaze Burfict's hit on Antonio Brown?

"I don't know what play you are talking about. There were a lot of plays out there."

The one where he hit with his elbow ...

"Again, there are a lot of plays out there, and the league looks at every play."

Fans are frustrated by these losses to the Steelers. How frustrated are you?

"It's frustrating to lose games at home, especially division games. We lost this one today. We just have to rebound back. We don't get the chance to whine about it or whatever, we just have to get ready to go. That's what we have to do as a football team. It's unfortunate we lost the game today, but we have another one (Sunday) night in Kansas City, and we have to get ready for that one."

Do you take any consolation in the offense doing what they had to do, and getting the go-ahead TD late in the fourth quarter?

"It's a 60-minute football game. It's three phases, and one has to win it. The offense drove the ball twice before halftime and came up with scores, which were big in the football game. But we have to figure out a way at the end of the football game to make a stop. Third down-situations, whatever it was, we have to find a way to get it stopped. We had some new guys in there, we were depleted a little bit, and everybody has to get on the same page. We just have to stay true through it and have great eyes, and execute the calls."

When you say 'Get on the same page,' do you think some of the defensive players were confused? It looked like on a couple plays, they didn't know where to line up ...

"To make it kind of a general statement, that all time it's a part of playing offense and defense. We all have to stay on the same page and see it through the eyes all the time."

Was there even a chance Tony McRae got picked on the go-ahead touchdown?

"I can't tell you. The emphasis on the play is to rub the guy at the line of scrimmage. Whether or not it happened on that play, I'm not sure."

ANDY DALTON

Quarterback

On the last drive, were you thinking about the clock?

"You can look at it now and say we could have taken up more time, but I don't think teams will think about it in real time. It's unfortunate we left too much time. Ben's been good in that situation for years, and we weren't able to get it done."

What clicked for the offense on the drive?

"We just made the plays. A.J. Green had a big play. A couple of guys made some big catches. Tyler Boyd made a few. At the end of the day, guys were able to make plays, and we were able to punch it in when we got down there."

Despite all the drops earlier in the game, you kept feeding the receivers. What is your thought process behind that?

"You keep putting it where you need to. It was wet out there, but you can't make that an excuse. Our guys know they have to make the play. We responded well. As the game went on, we didn't have that issue."

Does the loss sting more because it's Pittsburgh?

"It stings only because it's in the division. It could have been anybody out there. ... We had a chance to take another step up. It's tough to lose this way, though."

Is this the most confidence you've had in an offense in your career?

"We feel really good about what we've been able to do. When we need plays, we go out and get it done. We just left some out there today."

Tyler Boyd continues to impress. What does he do for the offense?

"He's been great all year. You have A.J. on the other side, getting a lot of attention. Now Tyler gets a lot of attention too now. But he's still making plays. It's been great for him, he's playing with a lot of confidence."

You had to throw the ball a lot. Was Pittsburgh forcing that, by focusing on stopping the run?

"I think it's more how we went into it. There's different looks that you're given. It's the way things were getting called."

What do you think of the way C.J. Uzomah has played?

"He's been great. Ever since he's been here, C.J. has been solid and does everything you ask him to do. He's done a great job and is a really good player."

Does the offense miss being able to line up multiple tight ends?

"Injuries are part of the game. It's unfortunate they've come at a physically demanding position. We are down a few tight ends, but yeah, that was a good package for us. We just have to adapt and adjust."

Did you notice how many players on defense were hurt in the second half?

"That's why you have depth on the team. We had several starters out at the same time. You never want that to be the case, but it was."

How do you get this Pittsburgh losing streak out of the team's head?

"Every year is different. This is just one game we lost to the Steelers this year."

A.J. GREEN

Wide receiver

There's frustration and then there's frustration — does this type of loss, especially to this team, frustrate you the way it frustrates the fans?

"It's frustrating, man. We put in a lot of work. The fans, they come to watch the game; we put in the work. We all know how hard we work, so if you think it's more frustrating for the fans, try to be out here (in our shoes), not seeing your family the whole week, (going to) the meetings and coming out with an 'L' after putting in all this work, putting in 10 hour days each day. You think it's frustrating being a fan? Come walk in our shoes for a week."

When Joe Mixon scored, there was a feeling you may have left Ben Roethlisberger too much time ...

"It's always tough. It's always tough when you leave a great quarterback like that (time). It could have been vice-versa. They made the plays. That's why that guy is a Hall of Fame quarterback. He's been through situations like this hundreds of times and nothing's too big for him."

There were four dropped passes in the first half; you had a couple which is unusual for you. Did you feel like there was a chance to get a lot more points that were missed?

"It's tough, for me. I think the first one, that could have kept the chains moving. The second one, I converted a third down but the first one, I feel like we definitely could have gotten some points out of that. I can't let that happen. (I'll) try to stick it through, but you can't have drops like that."

Despite the loss, the offense is playing incredible at the end of games, as was the case against Atlanta. How's the confidence you have in each other this year?

"We always have confidence. We know that we're a great offense. When it's clutch time, we make the plays. Nobody out there flinched one time. Even when things weren't going our way, we continued to fight for each other and that's one thing we do. We play for each other."

Tyler Boyd said he still feels like the Bengals are the better team; do you still feel that way after a loss like this?

"Of course. Like I said, we had some errors. Like I said, I had two drops that really cost us some points I feel like, especially the first one. I've got to do better on my end, I've got to do a better job. Andy threw a great ball so I've got to make those plays."

ALEX ERICKSON

Wide receiver

Do you think you guys left too much time for the Steelers to go down the field and score even though you were focused on offense on scoring yourselves to take the lead?

"We left enough time on there for them to go down and score. We know the personnel they have and we knew that it was up to our defense and it was going to be a tough stand, but you know, at the end of the game, that's just part of the game. As a team, we lost as a team. There was no one unit or one play (that was responsible). It was as a team."

It looked like the previous games' fourth quarter magic was alive and well until the end of the game. It was an unbelievable drive to pick it up and score, right?

"Yeah it is. We're built for those moments. We train hard for those moments and practice our tails off for those moments and when the time comes, we've got to go execute and we were able to drive down the field and go execute. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough though."

You and punter Kevin Huber had big games for the special teams unit between his kicks and your returns ...

"Yeah. We were really looking ourselves in the mirror the last couple of weeks special teams-wise and we've had a lot of minus plays, you could say, and this week we really put a focus on it and really hammered down the details and were able to be a positive part of this team."

CLAYTON FEJEDELEM

Safety

How frustrating was today with guys going down left and right? Was it hard to communicate with new guys playing with each other during a game situation?

"We practice with different groups all the time, so communication was fine; it's just not making the plays. It's never good to see someone go down because first and foremost, that's your teammate, that's your friend. You don't want him to be injured. It sucks. But besides that, too, there are guys who are out there who are not starters (and starters) do have more time, more reps (and are used to) more time working together, so the communication together is sound and everyone just kind of feeds off each other."

Did you see the hold that was called for a penalty on Dre Kirkpatrick on the Steelers game-winning drive?

"Yeah, I was over-the-top right there (on that play) and I don't feel that was a hold. I don't think it was at all. They were just kind of

scrambling and running into each other. Sometimes you've got take it out of the refs' hands."

As the offense was driving for the Bengals for the go-ahead score, were you watching the clock hoping the Steelers would have as little time as possible?

"First and foremost, you hope (your team) scores. That's going to put you in position to win the game. They did their job. Ideally, there'd be less time on the clock but it's up to the defense to make a stop."

Did you think Roethlisberger recognized the Bengals defense on that touchdown pass in the fourth quarter for the deciding score?

"I think he knew just how we were lined up; I mean, everyone was right there in front of him and that's how we were lined up on a few of our goal line plays. He'd seen it a couple times (today) already."

TYLER BOYD

Wide receiver

Can you put into words your emotions after a game like that?

"I can't really explain. I'm just very upset. We had a great game all around, I felt like. I felt like we should have pulled it out. The offense, we did a great job. It was a tough game. We'll be back next weekend. We're going to get the win."

When you want to beat a team this bad that you haven't beaten at home, how much more frustrating is it for this team and for you, being from Pittsburgh?

"Regardless I hate losing. I don't like to lose regardless of who the opponent was. We all want the win, especially me. We've got more opportunities and we'll see them down the road."

Doing what the Steelers like to do, were they playing any head games out there?

"Not too much. I felt like they played clean most of the plays. It was a hard fought game. We expect these games every time we get to play them. It's real fun going out there and challenging those guys and going out there and competing against them. It was a tough game."

DRE KIRKPATRICK

Cornerback

What did you think of that defensive holding call at the line of scrimmage?

"Trash. I don't care if they fine me. It was trash. Come on man, it was a critical situation."

You play this team so many times. Is it one of those things where it just stings that much more when you lose to the Steelers?

"We're better than them — they're not better than us. They got the win, we got the loss but they ain't better than us."

Is there a reason why these losses to the Steelers keep happening?

"I don't know what it is. I've got to watch film."

You had a good day today ...

"It doesn't matter. We lost."

Do you feel that Tony McRae got picked on that touchdown play at the end?

"We lost. I don't think he got picked — I seen it. We lost."

JESSIE BATES

Safety

What happened on the touchdown to Antonio Brown?

"They picked the nickel guy. It was pretty much like a screen play. It was Cover 0."

It was a battle out there with some guys going down ...

"It was a physical game. We expect that coming into it. Obviously, we didn't expect anybody to get hurt but that's part of this game. You've got to adjust to it. One guy gets hurt — a starter or backup — and you've just got to adjust to it and keep playing football."

You came with the blitz on that play (touchdown to Brown). Was that to try and push them out of field goal range since they were already in it?

"I'm not sure. I don't make the calls. I'm pretty sure we thought they were going to run it and they ran a good play against us."

So you were anticipating the run?

"Right. We were in Cover 0 so there was no guy to close it. Everyone had their eyes on their man. It was a good play."

What did you think with 1:18 left. Ben Roethlisberger has a reputation. What were you trying to do when he's got the ball?

"The same thing that you guys (media) thought — stop them. Keep them out of field goal range and win the football game. That's my thought. There's no thought of doubt that they're going to score, that they're going to drive on us. Stop them and end the game. We didn't execute that and that's what hurts."

VINCENT REY

Linebacker

Was it emotional for you to be up with 1:18 left and to experience a loss?

"Our offense had the ball and I was sitting on the sideline and we were like our offense is going to score. They've been doing it all year. When they scored we were ready. We knew they had three timeouts and were going to be in their regular offense. We knew it was going to be four downs, and we had to stop them. We got some good plays and they hit us on some good ones. They had the big catch and then they had the one play at the end when they scored the touchdown."

You've been through a number of these games. Was there any thought of here we go again against the Steelers?

"No. I really feel like this is a different team. Even in the good times we're not getting too high and in the rough times we're not getting too low. We know it's a team game. Sometimes the offense isn't doing as well and the defense is picking up, sometimes when

we're (defense) not doing so well, special teams picks us up, so we trust each other. We came a little short. I like to think we ran out of time. It was a good fight and we're going to get better from this."

I know they all count the same but is it worse to lose to the Steelers?

"The worst part of this game is we don't ever want to lose at home. It's a division team that you know well. Cleveland, Baltimore and Pittsburgh, you know these guys well and they also know you well. Just to let them escape out of here and not get the win, that really hurts me. I think about all the things that I didn't do well, we didn't do well as a defense, and as a team."



STEELERS POSTGAME QUOTES

OCT. 14, 2018

PITTSBURGH AT CINCINNATI

MIKE TOMLIN

Head coach

Initial comments ...

"Man, that's big-time AFC North football. Man, we're humbled to be a part of this series. We respect it. It's good for the game of football, and you just saw why it's good for the game of football. There's two teams competing their tails off for 60 minutes and fighting for a lot of things. We kept it real simple today, though, for the victory. We were able to get that done through a lot of effort from all three phases. We made some plays, we missed some plays — that's life. It's good to learn while you win. Hopefully we're finding our rhythm. Hopefully that is a signature of our game moving forward, that we can learn and win. I'm appreciative of it today.

I don't have a lot on the injuries. I'm sure there's some bumps and bruises associated with play. It's just really good to be back in this building, and be back in this building with Ryan Shazier with us. We love and respect Ryan, and we've learned a lot from his struggles since the last time we've been here. He's inspired us. Hopefully he's inspired many outside of us. It was good to get a win today, and good to have him with us."

Can you talk about that hug you guys had in the pregame and what was going through your mind?

"It's a lot of those moments: it was the first home game, it was when we went to training camp in Latrobe. It happens every now and then. Some things are bigger than football, obviously. This is one of them."

Obviously you're in the moment, but what kind of appreciation do you have for your guys going to work there in that game winning drive?

"I'm not surprised by it. Those guys relish the opportunity to rise up in those moments, whenever those moments are. I thought (having) three timeouts was significant. I'm not surprised when seven (Roethlisberger) and company deliver."

Why not challenge James Conner's play at the goal line after the 25-yard run?

"I didn't see it. You don't get opportunities at replay (on the scoreboard) at visiting stadiums."

Can you talk about what comes over Ben in those last 90 seconds? How he can control himself?

"It's probably not what comes over him. He's probably just himself when others aren't, in those moments. He's been in it so many times, he's built for it, and because of that, we're built for it."

Can you talk about Antonio Brown's touchdown? Obviously, you guys were already in field goal position ...

"Just two guys that have made a lot of plays together. That just added to their portfolio. You guys have talked a lot about plays they haven't made thus far. Talk about this one."

Did you feel this game had changed, in terms of after-the-whistle stuff than the past few years?

"I don't know what you're asking."

I mean, did you feel there was less extracurricular stuff in this one than there has been in the past?

"I still don't understand what you're asking."

Sometimes guys scuffle after the whistle ...

"I'm not talking hypotheticals. I'm talking about what happened in the stadium. Does anyone have any questions about what happened in the stadium?"

Regarding your offensive line, I don't think Ben was touched much today, let alone sacked. Can you talk about the job they did?

"They did an awesome job. (Carlos) Dunlap and (Geno) Atkins and company, we talk a lot about them at the top of the week. There's a reason why the group is 4-and-1 coming into this game. That front has a lot to do with it. We've been in some real battles with them. I can't say enough about Al (Alejandro Villanueva) and (Marcus) Gilbert and company getting up in the face of those guys. The interior people against Geno, who's the league leader in sacks. For an interior guy, that just speaks to his talent. I can't say enough about their efforts, not only in the passing game, but we had some alleys in the running game as well. I thought that that was critical to us being unmanageable in the third-downs, where those guys don't get an opportunity to make the type of splash that we've seen them make in the end of recent games — like the game against Miami, for example. You've got to stay on schedule versus these guys — it's an advantage to them when you're not. There's a lot of reasons why you should be excited about the efforts of the men up front."

How would you describe the game James Conner had?

"It was appropriate. He had a look in his eye, and he had a good week's work. James just wants to put his hand in the pile and be one of the reasons why we win. He wants to prove that, like a lot of young guys. JuJu (Smith-Schuster) wants to prove that. They're getting opportunities to do it, and they're delivering."

Describe how, going into the bye-week here, you're a much different football team than earlier in the season ...

"We're the same team with the same warts, trying to get better. It's much more fun to do that with a W."

BEN ROETHLISBERGER

Quarterback

On the last drive, you started it kind of slowly and casually but you knew what was going to happen ...

"You know what, goodness gracious, give the glory to the Lord. That was fun. When they scored, to look up and see three dots by

(our name on the scoreboard), with three timeouts and 1:22. If they're going to score, score now so they can give us some time. There was just no real panic. I talked to (special teams coordinator) Danny Smith before the drive and said, 'Tell me what yard line you need,' because really the thought is to get us into field-goal range and win it that way. But things happened differently."

You even went to get a drink of water in the middle of that ...

"Yeah, my mouth was crazy dry. It was unbelievable. Sometimes you've just got to take a breather."

What yard line did you need for a field goal?

"He wanted 32, was the number."

Talk about the touchdown play. They went zero coverage on you ...

"Yeah they blitzed everybody. We had a great play call, and really once I saw them starting to roll down into a zero (-safety coverage), I knew what they were doing. If they weren't, they were disguising it. It was 'catch the ball, deliver it, and let the rest happen.' It was one of those ones that you're playing it out in your mind, and I knew they were going zero, and it was in my head that this could be a touchdown. Worst-case scenario, we're moving the chains and getting some yards, but there's a real good chance he's going to score on this play, as long as I do my part and get him the ball. Everyone did awesome. Justin Hunter was a guy there that... it was a huge play on his part, by running up through there and clearing it out for (Brown)."

Was the key to get it out of your hand as quickly as possible at that point?

"As quick as you can, accurately. You want to make sure you don't miss the throw. But yeah, once you see that look, it's how fast can I get him the ball."

You connected with JuJu Smith-Schuster several times on that drive. What did you guys have working there?

"Well, we've been doing it for a while. JuJu works the middle of the field, he works some 'out' stuff, and he creates mismatch problems. Got one right over the top of (Vontaze) Burfict's head there at the end, and that was fun, because I could see JuJu as he was running past him. I was thinking in my head, 'JuJu, turn around, I'm ready to throw it.' Dropped right over his head, and he did the rest."

On that zero-coverage touchdown, is that film study, or is that just experience on your part?

"You saw them bring everybody down, and the play we had called worked out. That's why he went to that side and not the other side."

Were they thinking 'stop the field goal'?

"I don't know. I assume it's how can they can the ball out of my hands fast, (get) sacks, or things like that."

How many times do you think you went to something other than your first option today?

"A lot. A lot. Check downs, tight ends..."

A majority of the time?

"I'd have to go back and look at it, but I mean a lot. More than I could give you a number on. Sometimes that's what happens when they cover things, and guys just keep moving and making plays. From the second play of the game I think, the first read wasn't there. To me, when things like that happen, that's the o-line protecting. No sacks, on the road, against a really good pass rush — that's kudos to them."

What were you thinking on the incomplete third down?

"Which one?"

Where they called defensive holding ...

"I knew we were going to go for it on fourth down, but once I rolled up, it was right in front of me. I saw the whole play happen. I knew there was going to be...it was kind of a free play because I saw the flag being thrown. I'm more mad I missed JuJu, because we could have declined the penalty and picked up a big chunk of yards there."

The linemen said you told them before the drive that 'They gave us too much time ...

"They're not supposed to give those things out (laughs). It was one of those things on the sideline before I went out, I told the guys, 'This is what legacies are made of for all of us. Let's go take care of business.' And that's what makes it fun."

What is it about the Bengals and last-minute victories? You seem to have a way of doing that here especially ...

"I don't know. My best friend Jamie Cooper is from here, and he's getting married, and he said he's not going to have the wedding here (laughs). I don't know. It's AFC North football. It's just a lot of fun to win here."

What does it do for the offense when James Conner is breaking tackles, and Vance McDonald is breaking tackles? What kind of momentum does that build?

"There were a lot of plays like that tonight. I know on one sideline, Vance broke a tackle on Burfict, and then other guys. James was breaking tackles. It gets guys going. It gets you juiced up that guys are being physical. It's a lot of fun to see. Guys aren't going to quit on plays. James, I thought he was a bowling ball today. He was all over the place. What a great game. Now I know it's his last game for us, so we're glad he did well in his last one (laughs)."

You were one of the first ones to go visit Ryan Shazier in the hospital last year. Describe your emotions coming back here ...

"Walking off the field with him was emotional. Just because obviously what happened, and what he means to us and this team. I mentioned in the prayer afterwards that we're thankful — thankful that he's walking now and doing things. Obviously he's not to where he wants to be and playing football again, but just the fact that he's able to walk, and to see him walk off that field, and to walk with him, it was special. This is a place we'll always remember. Not just for football, but for life."

Are you sure it's Conner's last game or are you just assuming?

"(Laughs) I don't know. That's just what I've heard."

Has anybody heard anything from Le'Veon Bell?

"Nope, I'm just going off what I hear from reports from you guys."

Knowing the difference between winning and losing and what it means in the standings — especially in the AFC North — what was it like to come out and get that victory, knowing the consequences if you would have lost?

“Standings — that is what it is. I don’t know where we stand, in terms of how many games (behind)... that’s whatever. We’ve just got to win football games. We didn’t have a very good September. We’ve got to play better in October. We’re going to enjoy this win of AFC North football, and have a little bye, get a little rest, and get ready to go.”

ANTONIO BROWN

Wide receiver

Can you talk about what you saw or felt on the Vontaze Burfict hit over the middle?

“Just you know, a nasty hit. I was able to come back in the game and finish the game. Any time you come in here, they call it The Jungle, you know there’s going to be some hard hitting and some things that are going to be challenging for us and the calls. I was grateful to get back up and come back in.”

Did you feel like it was beyond the limit of the rules?

“I don’t know. I couldn’t really see how he hit me. I felt it, but I was able to get back up and finish the game.”

Could you talk about the touchdown and what you saw in their coverage, and did you think you could hit it?

“We had the perfect play call. Those guys were in zero-coverage. I knew it when I came in and motioned down, and the corner backed up, I knew we had an opportunity for a catch-and-run.”

How big was the block by Justin Hunter?

“It was a great block.”

What was the calmness level for you and the offense going on the field for that last drive?

“We had three timeouts left, and we’ve been in that situation an awful lot, and I knew we were going to do it.”

Ben Roethlisberger said he had to go away from his first option a lot today. How challenging was it to stay in the moment and wait for this opportunity?

“Well, it’s been a patient game for me all year. Ben tells me all the time to just stay with him. And I knew if I stayed with him that there was going to be opportunity. And that’s what we did.”

When you caught that ball, did you see the whole wide open field?

“Yeah, it was wide open.”

Why in the money moment does it always work with the two of you?

“I’m just grateful it worked. I’m excited about it. That’s how it is. When I come out to the games, they’re going to be rolling two people my way the whole game. And I know as the game goes on we’re going to be presented with opportunities. It’s all about being positive, about staying poised, trusting in your belief, and letting the game come to you. Today in the clutch moment, I had the opportunity to make a play.”

Do you feel you’ve grown in that regard, with learning how to deal with that?

“It’s my job.”

What about dealing with adversity — you’ve had a tough week. How are you able to stay in the moment, as you say?

“I’m from Miami, Fla. I walked on at Central Michigan. Adversity is nothing to me. I’m used to it. Ask my mom — she’ll tell you.”

Based on the coverages today — double- and triple-teaming you at times — were you surprised they left you in zero coverage at that moment?

“No, I knew I was going to have an opportunity. They had zero coverage a couple plays earlier in the drive, and in the same formation I had an out-and-up on a guy, and I had a step on him, and I think he knew. So when he saw me motion back to that same formation, I saw him get back in zero coverage on that last play. And I knew once I was able to get inside, I’d be able to run away from him.”

The Cincinnati writers earlier in the week were saying that William Jackson can cover you and he can shut you down. How good is he, and how did the game develop that way?

“He’s a great player and young competitor. Everyone wants to shut me down. It’s their job to try and shut me down, and it’s my job to beat those guys. Today we got the better of the matchup.”

What’s been the difference with this team the past two weeks?

“I think we’re hungry. We understand that if want to achieve our goals of playing January football, we know we’re going to need to beat AFC opponents. And it felt really good to get that one.”

Was this the same level of physicality between these two teams?

“Absolutely. A lot of big hitting. James Conner was running into guys and bulldozing guys. Obviously there was a lot of talk, but that’s Cincinnati ball.”

What did Ben say when he came into the huddle on that last drive?

“He said, ‘Let’s do it.’ He let the group know we’ve been in this situation numerous times. It’s time to do it. Everyone believed, and we got it done.”

Did you feel like they left you too much time on the clock?

“We can’t control the situation we were in. We’ve just got to respond to the situation.”

What was it like in the room after the game with Ryan Shazier?

“It was heartfelt. Ryan is a unique player, a unique individual. He’s one of the guys who lets us know it’s bigger than football. To see him go through this journey, it gives a lot of us courage and inspiration to see him walking around and smiling. And I know he felt good about what we were able to do for him today.”

Ben joked that this was James Conner's last game. Do you expect another running back to join you this week?

"We'll see."

Have you heard from him or communicated with him at all?

"We'll see how it goes."

JAMES CONNER

Running back

Did you think you got into the end zone on the run where they ruled you were down at the one-yard line?

"I thought I did, but I needed to stay up. That's one of those plays I wish I could have finished."

Was it inspiring to see Ryan Shazier here?

"Yeah, for sure. He was here with us, and he walked out with us and walked in with us."

You guys played really physical up front – what set the stage for that today?

"The goons. The goons up front. It always starts up front with the o-line. As they go, we go."

RAMON FOSTER

Guard

Did you guys look at the clock when you got the ball back for the final drive?

"Yes, we were chirping out how much time was left. Initially, one of the things we said was that there was too much time. Ben is surgical out there. Our guys wanted to win this game. The month of September was really bad to us, and we have to find a way to right this ship, and we have three straight divisional games. We'll see how it goes with the rest of them."

Is this a game you really needed?

"Yes, because we're on the road against the team that's No. 1 in the division right now. I'm not sure where we stand right now. It's good to have it a little jumbled right now. No one is really on top – everyone is just getting into position."

ALEJANDRO VILLANUEVA

Offensive tackle

It seemed like the Bengals scored too quickly in their final offensive possession in the fourth quarter ...

"You don't know how the game will unfold. You still have to go down the field. Cincinnati is the best defense we've played all year, and it's a tough task. Hats off to Ben for keeping the offense moving, and Antonio Brown for coming up with a big play."

Did anything stand out to you on the last drive?

"I remember that there was a lot of man-to-man blocking for me. It was man-blocking the whole game ..."

Why? (interrupted answer above)

"... It was the strength of the formation. You have Geno Atkins, who's very good at doing twists. So I was thinking I needed to stay vertical and come off at the last minute and hit Carl Lawson, who was coming up the edge with a lot of force – and hopefully that can create a bubble for Ben to throw the ball."

CAMERON HEYWARD

Defensive end

When the Bengals went up 21-20, did you feel like they left too much time on the clock?

"As a defensive (player), you're annoyed because you gave up the lead so late. I have confidence in our offense to do that. I've seen them do it multiple times. Once we had a second to see what the offense was doing, we knew they were going to score."