



BENGALS POSTGAME QUOTES

AUG. 11, 2023

GREEN BAY AT CINCINNATI

ZAC TAYLOR

Head coach

Joe Burrow was on the field for pregame warmups. Was that a sign of progress?

"No. I think things are good, and he's progressing as he should."

What was the objective for Joe Burrow going out for pregame warmups?

"Just to get some throws in."

Did you get any impression of how Joe Burrow felt afterwards?

"I think everything has been positive."

I assume that that was not the first time that Joe Burrow has thrown since getting injured ...

"Yes."

Do you have any more injury update on Joe Bachie?

"Yes, I think we'll find more out about that later."

What is your impression of how Tycen Anderson played tonight?

"I think the turnovers were big. It should have created a lot of momentum for us. A pick-six and then another one, really, to put us in scoring range right before the half that should have been — at minimum — a 10-point swing for us. Walk away with a field goal because of the pick, or a touchdown ... Instead, we have the turnover and give it back to them. They score a touchdown, they're up 21-16 at the half. So — again — just didn't really complement each other in the different phases. Offense had a chance to go build a lead, go into halftime with some great momentum, get the ball to start the second half because the defense had gotten us some turnovers there."

What did you see from the quarterbacks, Jake Browning in the first half and Trevor Siemian in the second half?

"I saw some good things. They moved the ball at times. Ultimately, their job is to get us in the end zone. Offensively, we didn't get the ball in the endzone at all. Kicked some field goals, had the defensive touchdown. Ultimately, that's what we're judged on — protecting the football and getting the team in the end zone. Not enough of that tonight."

Dax Hill ... That was probably the most you've ever played a starter in the preseason. What was the thinking there?

"Just get him more reps. He hasn't been a starter yet on defense, and so just to get him in-game reps and get him in the group of things, I think that was good for Dax."

What led to the decision to put Jackson Carman back in?

"Those were just decisions we had to make up front."

How do you think Jackson Carman faired tonight?

"We'll have to watch the tape on that, for the offensive line."

What did you think of Chase Brown and Andrei losivas tonight?

"I thought they both showed good things. Chase had more of his opportunities in the pass game, so the rushing stats aren't going to be anything to write home about. I thought in the passing game, he did a good job being where he needed to be and making some guys miss. There was that big conversion he had. Then, Andrei ... I thought Andrei won some good, contested throws. One of them — the touchdown — was close. I thought he made a good play on it. Had some other good plays for us, really didn't go down at first contact several times. So, there was a chance for some yards after the catch. So, I thought he showed some good things."

Do you have any first impressions on Myles Murphy and how he did tonight?

"We'll have to watch more. I saw him in there making some plays in the run game. So again, we'll have a better understanding of the value of those guys as we watch the tape."

As the game unfolded, how much could you tell the confidence of the two quarterbacks in Andrei losivas to make a play?

"Yes, I think you saw that certainly when he had one-on-one opportunities. They found a way to target him, and that is a good sign of their faith in a receiver."

What are you looking for in the evaluation process of running backs in preseason games?

"Just the tempo of the run game, how we want it. Hitting it where we think we need to hit it. They didn't have a ton of opportunities. There were some run alerts where we threw the ball — rightfully so. That took the ball out of their hands. So, tried to get them the ball, and sometimes the defense, some of the fronts they were playing presented the quarterbacks with some throws that they rightfully took. So, maybe not as many opportunities as we wanted despite us trying to get it to them. They did pass protection — so again — we'll have the chance to evaluate what opportunities they had in pass protection. There may not have been many to see."

To that point, scripted practice might be a better evaluation than these games?

"It is — but again — as a running back we don't always go high every practice. We have one live period to see how a guy handles contact and keeps moving the sticks. You're going to see that a little bit better in the games."

Chase Brown isn't a very big guy, but he had a couple of third-and-one conversions. Were you impressed with the physicality there?

"That's good; that's good movement by the offensive line giving him that opportunity. It's good to see any of our backs in third-and-one. We expect those guys to be able to get us enough, and he stepped up and did that. That's not going to show up in the stats, either. That'll show up probably as two carries for two yards, and those are big runs for us in that game. So, that's a positive."

Did you see Andrei Iosivas do some of the little things, too? It looked like he had a nice block on Kwamie Lassiter's catch on the screen on the outside ...

"No, that one doesn't come to mind. I'm sure he did a good job."

What was your first impression of Brad Robbins?

"It's good to get out there in front of the crowd and get that first game under your belt. I'm sure that there are some things that him and Darrin (Simmons) will be able to work on, but it's good to get out there and hold — first of all — for some of those good field goals. I thought that operation was really good. Then, a chance to watch the tape and work on some of the things that Darrin wants to work on."

When will Drue Chrisman be able to get back into the mix at practice?

"I think this week we'll be able to get him back in the mix."

What is next for Joe Burrow now that you've seen him throwing?

"Just keep progressing the way that we're doing with the trainers and strength staff. Just keep progressing that way."

ANDREI IOSIVAS

Wide receiver

How did it feel to be out there for your first game?

"It was good. I thought I made some plays; I left some plays out on the field as well. It was a really good learning experience for me, just getting out (there) in my first NFL game. Coming from the Ivy League and going through camp and getting out there on the field, it's just — football is football. I just take every experience I can and (try) to learn as much as I can from it."

You were targeted 10 times tonight — what do you think that says about the trust they already have in you?

"I've been making plays all camp, so I think they know who they can go to in the one-on-one situations or if they see a coverage that they know I'm the target — they'll probably throw it to me most of the time. Building that trust — building that chemistry — every day in camp is what led to that."

On that 50/50 pass in the end zone that was almost a touchdown, how close were you to bringing in down in bounds for the score?

"I mean, my foot was ... if I was next to the line, it was (close). I knew where I was, which is why I tried to be like a ballerina (on my toes), but I'll get the next one. Next time, I'll hold my leverage better."

DAX HILL

Safety

Can you talk about Tycen Anderson's performance tonight? What do you like about his game?

"I'm excited for him, what he can bring to the table and just who he is (as a player). I'm right next to him every day. He's versatile, he's a heavy hitter and can tackle. And, obviously, he's a ball hawk too. He can do it all."

It seemed like the defense got off to a solid start on the first couple of drives. How important were those for you?

"I feel like that just starts the momentum of our season because the younger guys, we have to step up this year and I felt I was a vital of the secondary and the team."

Head coach Zac Taylor said he was excited to see how you were going to communicate out there and show your leadership. How do you feel you did?

"I feel pretty comfortable. Mike Thomas actually put me on the spot pregame. He wanted me to say some words — that's something I'll just have to continue to get used to doing; I want to be a leader as well. If I can contribute no matter what it is, I'm going to do it."

MICHAEL J. THOMAS

Safety

For Tycen to have the performance he did tonight on the field, how excited are you for him?

"I feel like a proud big brother knowing what it meant for him losing all of last year (to injury), seeing him work, putting in the time and seeing what it's meant to him. He's a new father, so he has some diverse responsibilities, and now he's getting his opportunity. I've been there with him since last year, working with him through to this training camp. For him to get in this first preseason game and have that type of game with those big plays, I know that feeling. I've been there before, so I'm just proud of him."

What emotions went through your mind when you saw him have the interception return for the touchdown?

"I told Tycen when you get in the game, hopefully you'll have that opportunity to have that 'I'm here' moment. (I told him) 'Go make the play. Don't think about it. If you see the play and something we talked about or from film or practicing against them (this week), believe it. Go.' To see him break on the ball and pick it in stride — he almost had to cradle it to keep from dropping it — it was like (a rush). Again, I know that feeling. I've been there before. I'm just at a loss for words. I'm just proud of him, man. He's earned it. He's earned it."

He really credited you, Chidobe Awuzie and Mike Hilton for helping him through last season. How did you take it upon yourself as one of the leaders in the defensive back room to make sure he was still in a good head space coming into this game this year?

"Because one, you mentioned Chidobe — he was going through that himself dealing with an injury. I, for one, know what it feels like to have the game taken away from you due to injury or (something else).

"My first two years in the NFL, I was on the practice squad and I couldn't go out there and play. I remember just wanting to be out there, and you can tell that's where he was last year. All throughout training camp and OTAs, he's just been grinding like 'I can't wait for my opportunity. I'm looking at what I did last preseason and I should have made this play,' and I was like 'You're going to have the

opportunity this preseason. Be ready for it and take advantage of it.' I'm so proud of Tycen to have that type of game, (because) it's been a long time coming, and I know he's going to follow it with even more plays like that. Again, I'm at a loss for words, but that's how you want to do it. I'm proud of Tycen."

TYCEN ANDERSON

Safety

Tycen, two picks tonight. One was a pick-six. What was going through your mind after the pick-six, bringing it back for a touchdown?

"Just a lot of hard work went through to get to this moment here. I'm just so blessed to be in this position. A lot of things that you guys didn't see that I was going through last year, and I'm just blessed to be in this, part of this, with the group of guys that we're here with. (I'm) just happy to be able to make those plays when the ball comes my way."

Coaches have been talking about wanting to see players like you make big plays and really shine out there and you did that tonight. How good does that feel at the end of the game?

"It feels super good. Can't wait to just go celebrate with my mom, my dad, my sisters, my lady, and just my entire family."

What did you think of the defensive line play? Because their pressure up the middle (was a) really good aspect ...

"Yeah, for sure. When those guys are rushing the passer and clogging up gaps in the run game (it makes) our job easier in the secondary. So, none of that is possible without those boys up front for sure."

JORDAN BATTLE

Safety

How do you feel after the first game?

"Obviously, there's improvement needed. Obviously, we're going to go in and make some adjustments and come out better next week. Next week is the goal. The goal is to get a win. It doesn't feel good that in my first game as a Bengal that I lost, even though it's a preseason game, but it's just a standard you hold yourself to."

It looked like you had a tackle for a loss. Can you talk about that play?

"Yeah, it was a tackle for loss. Just chasing the ball down off a blitz. Extra effort. Yeah, off a blitz. Coming off the edge."

Was it your blitz?

"Yeah. My blitz coming off the edge from the opposite side, just chasing the ball down. Extra effort plays. Getting to the ball allows you to make a play."

CHASE BROWN

Halfback

Albeit being the preseason, what was the moment like for you to finally experience this in front of the fans?

"It's surreal. My first NFL game being a home game, especially with a great crowd, a great energy. I think back on where I came from back in Canada, playing house league football with my brother and running out there and on to an NFL field playing against the Packers. It was a lot to take in in one moment. But what I'm looking forward to most is just learning from this tape and going into next week a lot better than we were this game."

What did you want to put on tape tonight and how do you think you performed?

"The main thing for preseason (is) to show that you can operate and that's the main thing. They're checking calls and being clean protections and that's just what I'm trying to put on tape."

Every time you had the ball, it felt like you were trying to make a play. Is that a mindset you have to have even in the preseason?

"I feel like in preseason, that's your time to show that you can make plays and show your skill set and what you're able to do. And honestly, I wanted to be more successful in certain areas of the game. But like I said, you learn from this week, you learn from these plays and going into the next week even better."



PACKERS POSTGAME QUOTES

AUG. 11, 2023

GREEN BAY AT CINCINNATI

MATT LaFLEUR

Head coach

Initial comments ...

"It was good to get back out and playing football. I loved the energy from our team, I thought there were a lot of good things to build upon. I thought all in all, it was a really productive week for us and something to build on and move forward and I'm really excited about our team now."

Did you intend to play Sean Clifford as much as you did?

"Well, I think that he's a young player and he needs to play and so that was kind of the intent going in. I didn't know how long — a lot of times, with the quarterbacks, it's kind of a feel thing, and when to pull somebody and put the other guy in. I do love the fact that he had battled through some adversity, throwing the two picks, and then coming back and led us on a two-minute drive. So, I thought to see him not be fazed by those situations, I thought it showed something that you can't coach that, you can talk about it all you want, but that is intrinsic and he possesses that. I'm just happy that he was able to battle through that and overcome."

What did you think of Jordan Love tonight and the throws he hit and the throws he missed?

"All in all, I thought it was a good first performance, but it's only a very limited action. And I'm sure he would love to have the throw to (Luke) Musgrave back. But I think there's a lot to learn from it. A lot of good came out of it. I thought, just the poise he showed, the command he showed — it felt we were getting in and out of the huddle quickly. So, I thought it was a really good first exposure for him for this season."

On the deep ball to Christian Watson, it was on the money. Can he throw that differently?

"I think there's something to look at there. We've been talking to him a lot about putting more air on some of his go balls. I thought the safety got a pretty good jump on it, it appeared. It did look like an accurate ball. But what can he do to maybe hold that safety just another step, so he can't make a play on the ball."

Obviously, Jordan Love's health is the most important thing. Do you want to play him more in the preseason?

"I would anticipate him playing some more as well. Whether that's next week or whether that's Seattle, we'll kind of see how see how the week goes, see how practices are going. We've got two big practices coming up against New England that are going to be really good for him. And we'll just kind of play by ear."

What stood out about your defense and how they performed Wednesday against the Bengals and did that play into decisions and playing time?

"Well, we had kind of had an idea of what we wanted to get out of tonight in terms of how many snaps, we knew we're going to let our starters go for a series, held a couple of people out. It just was all precautionary, like Jaire (Alexander) and Kenny (Clark). But I thought it was a pretty good performance. I think there's a lot to clean up on, one thing that is evident, you give up big plays in this league, you're going to give up points, but I was proud of the fact that we rallied and we kept them out of the endzone and just gave up the field goals."

Emanuel Wilson really flashed in the second half. What has he done this camp to catch your eye?

"Yeah, that was by far the best I would say he's looked. Anytime you rip off an 80-yarder that's a pretty good deal. He had two touchdowns, one on one of the counter plays that we ran. It was a big night for him. I know, 14 years ago, he lost his father. I was really happy for him to come in his debut, rips off over 100 yards and two touchdowns."

You're talking about collective so often. How valuable is it for these different young guys with successful nights like this? Can they build off that and what does that do for them?

"I think confidence is huge. I mean, whether it's in football or in life, and anytime you go out there and you perform well it definitely gives you confidence. I thought there were a lot of great young players out there whether it was (Dontayvion) Wicks or (Malik) Heath or (Carrington) Valentine. A lot of guys got in there and did a really nice job."

What is it about Carrington Valentine? A young seventh-round pick, what is it about him?

"He's athletic, he's long, and he competes. He's not afraid. I love that about him. He's got a great demeanor. I think he is extremely coachable. I think he's been working really hard. Quite frankly, from the moment we've gotten him he's had a great attitude, comes in to work each and every day. You saw it early on, and you continue to see it — the guy, he shows up in practice and he makes plays, and he competes. I'm really excited about what he could turn into and develop into but it's only one game, he's got to realize that all these guys do. You've got to go out and do it consistently. So, that starts by your practice habits and hopefully that translates to the to the field on game day."

The whole week here there was a lot of positive reinforcement, obviously a lot of teaching material as well, but just what do you think this does for a young team to have that kind of positive reinforcement?

"I think it just gives us shot in the arm. In terms of training camp, it can get very long, and it can get pretty monotonous. Doing the same thing, it's like, rinse, wash, repeat. So, it was good to break up that monotony. Coming on the road gave us a chance to really bond, we had the team dinner, we had a team function last night. We brought in Oz Pearlman, which was a pretty cool experience. So, I thought all in all, there was just a lot of good that came out of this. Competing against a really good football team in practice. I know they didn't play their starters tonight but I thought there was great energy throughout the course of the trip, which gets us excited as coaches and you want to be around guy that loves the game and that loves to compete and wants to get better. I think we've got a bunch of guys in that locker room that want that."

Is there any concern over some of the injuries tonight?

"Yeah, unfortunately, Tyler Davis, it's going to be a significant injury. Not quite sure what the word is on (Luke) Tenuta yet and Caleb Jones. TD, my heart hurts for him. He's been a key contributor to our success over the last couple of years, whether it's on special teams or carving out a role in our offense, he's a consummate professional. He's a great teammate. Just a great human. We're going to miss him."

What do you think about Anders Carlson at this point, the two missed extra points tonight?

"I don't want to look too far into it. That's one game, but if you learn from it and get better and make the necessary adjustments, then a lot of times you come back stronger from it."

What did Sean Clifford see on that one that was returned for a touchdown. Did he misread the coverage?

"That was a pretty good disguise, the safety dropped down. He also had pressure in his face, which makes it a pretty difficult play. I'd rather see him obviously take the sack than throw a pick-six. I think that's something that he'll learn from, he's a smart guy. Those mistakes are only fatal if you don't learn from it. We're running a shallow cross concept and all I told him was 'You've just got to see out in front of the receiver, and you see color there, you can't throw it. I'd rather you take the sack.' But he showed no fear in the pocket and was able to throw the ball, just made a bad

decision.”

Did Joe Barry work upstairs tonight? Are you just trying something out for preseason?

“I just know from my own experience of being up there and being a play caller, I think it’s a much less emotional environment up there and you can really see everything at a much better vantage point. So, I just wanted him to experience that and try it out and then we’ll kind of reconvene and talk about it, but I thought all in all I thought he was doing a good job getting the play calls in.”

You mentioned the Bengals didn’t play a lot of their starters, what kind of test do you think this really was for your offense?

“I think anytime you go out there and you compete against anybody in the National Football League, it’s out there for everybody to see and you’ve got to perform. I think it’s good for us especially having a bunch of young guys, specifically more so on the offensive side of the ball, but there’s also a lot of young guys on the defensive side of the ball that were going to have to contribute for us. So, it’s good for the guys to kind of go through a pregame routine, get their process right, to get their mind right to go out and play football. I don’t really care who’s playing, who’s not playing — it’s just it’s more about us and going through that experience and making sure that our process is right on.”

What do you do at center? Are you really trying to push the competition?

“That was more or less just trying, you’ve got to have guys ready to go in case you know something bad happens, so just wanted to get him some game reps in there at center.”

JORDAN LOVE

Quarterback

What did you think of your playing time tonight?

“It was fun — a fun game.”

What are your thoughts on your three throws to Luke Musgrave?

“There was the one I wish I could get back. That’s an easy throw, a routine throw. I just couldn’t come up with it. Other than that, I think we played well. The passing game was in stride. We got that one down the sideline to Christian (Watson), but the safety man made a really good play on it. Other than that, I think, on those two series I had, we came away with that touchdown at the end. I was happy about that. Obviously going for it after that, I think we played really well.”

Going into this game, was the plan with the play-calling to throw the ball around like you did tonight?

“I think that’s just the way it played out tonight. We do have a lot of weapons — a lot of guys we can spread the ball out to. Some of it just comes down to the play and the coverage that we’re getting, and who comes open. We’ve got a lot of weapons — a lot of guys to spread the ball to.”

On the miss to Luke Musgrave, was there something you could have done with perhaps more air?

“I think that was the one to Christian (Watson) down the sideline. Yeah, that’s one thing we talked about — some of my deep balls, and just continue to try and put air on it and give guys a chance. That’s one thing I was trying to do out there. The safety made a really good play. I was trying to hold them as much as I could with my eyes. He covered a lot of ground to make that play. It’s a good one to go back on and keep working on that.”

There’s so much inexperience on the roster with a lot of young guys. What does a game like this do for everyone in terms of positives?

“I think, in a game like this, everyone is able to get reps, get in there and get a feel for the game. It’s huge. Like you said, we’ve got a lot of young guys and just need to continue to build that and get the chemistry down and get those reps in-game vs. practice. It’s a good stepping point for us.”

How much more do you want or need in terms of preseason reps?

“I’m not sure. We’ll see. I think it’s valuable to get some reps. I’m not sure how many is valuable. I had fun in there tonight with two series. It was a great time just getting back, getting a feel for the game.”

What did you think of the way Sean Clifford bounced back from the interceptions?

“He did awesome. Obviously, it’s tough as a quarterback. You have to have that ‘next-play’ mentality. He did exactly that, and bounced back with that two-minute drive, and put the ball in the end zone to finish with a touchdown before the half. And obviously in the second half, we came out rolling. He did a really good job bouncing back. The first game is definitely not something that’s easy to do, but he did a really good job.”

What did you see on the touchdown?

“It was a crossing pattern on Cover One. We ran the same concept in practice earlier in the week and it’s just reading off the safety, seeing which crossing route he’s going to take. In practice he took Romeo (Doubs), and this time he chose Christian (Watson), and that opened up Romeo. I saw the DB trying to make a play and just tried to put it over the top, and Romeo made a great play out there going up to get it.”

Is that the guy you were watching?

“You try and key off that. It’s one of those things that come up, and if anybody wins, automatically you take him. On Cover One, you’re just trying to play off that.”

The receivers like Romeo Doubs and Jayden Reed seem eager to make the contested catches. Your thoughts on that?

“That was a great job tonight. That’s one of the things we’ve been working on — contested catches. Obviously, we’ve been seeing it against our defense in practice, and things like that. Reed made a really good play on that, going up and getting it and make sure he’s safe with that ball. That’s one of those things to keep working on, keep building.”

What can Luke Musgrave be in this offense?

“The sky is the limit for him. He’s a really good player — an explosive player — and very fast. I think the more we just continue getting him the ball ... Like I said, I wish I would have connected with him on the over-the-middle on that one. We targeted him on the screen, and the defense made a really good play. We just need to keep feeding him the ball and see what he can do after the catch. He’s going to be a really good player.”

EMMANUEL WILSON

Running back

Can you describe the emotions of this moment? (Wilson’s father, Manuel Wilson, passed away 14 years ago on Aug. 11, 2009)

“I can’t really explain the emotions, but I know he’s proud of me for reaching my goals.”

What was it like going out there before the first snap of your first NFL game?

“I was nervous at first, and then I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and got the call to do what I’m supposed to do. After that I was good.”

Did you feel your father with you today?

“He’s always been with me since the day he died. I can’t really explain it, I just know he is always there for me.”

Were you aware this was the day?

“My cousin and my brother told me. I didn’t look at the date until they told me about it. The whole week I was really thinking about it. It’s also a blessing though.”

What was his name?

“Manuel.”

Walk us through the 80-yard touchdown ...

“When I saw the hole open, the defenders were right there, I bounced it outside. I said in my head ‘If I don’t make this touchdown I’m going to get cussed out in the meetings.’ I just hit the corner and turned on my speed.”

You were running the ball well before that ...

“Coach told me before to just do what I did in college, and I just did that.”

ROMEO DOUBS

Wide receiver

Overall, how was the chemistry with Jordan Love?

“I thought it was pretty good. Both drives we took the opportunities we had.”

Was this a productive trip to Cincinnati?

“It was pretty good. We have to build off it and move on to the next one. After our day off it’s back to square one.”

What’s it like going against someone like Carrington Valentine?

“I’m glad we have him. We’ve been competing in OTAs, and I’m excited to see how he builds from this.”

CARRINGTON VALENTINE

Cornerback

How do you feel after tonight?

“I just want to keep stacking days. Camp’s not over, there are more preseason games left. I just have to keep being consistent.”

Did it feel good to make a play in your hometown?

“It felt good. My friends, family were all here. I grew up watching Bengals games, so coming here and playing against them felt good.”

How many people did you have here?

“I had a lot. I couldn’t even tell you.”

How important is it for a young guy to make plays in moments like this?

“It’s really important. Every day you step on the field, it’s your resume. You have to show you’re a playmaker.”

Are there any plays that stood out?

“I don’t know if it was one particular play, but the first snap is always the one to get under you. You feel the tempo, the feeling, and roll with it.”

What about the pass breakup on the left sideline, did that get you into the game?

“I was into the game, locked in before it started. That’s just who I am.”

AARON JONES

Running back

Was Emmanuel Wilson’s moment more special for you?

“Yes, 100 percent. My heart was with him, I was tearing up on the sidelines. We both play running back, we have a relationship playing the same position. He’s going through a lot, so to see this happen for him, for the person who’s not here, is special.”

You were one of the first guys in the end zone after Emmanuel scored ...

“I told him ‘Your dad is with you — that was for him and he had the best seat in the house. Keep doing it.’ He just looked at me, shook his head, smiled and dapped me up. I knew today was the day, and it’s something I can relate to. Just saying something like that goes a long way. He showed out tonight and I’m so proud of him. This is his night and his dad’s so I want him to go enjoy it.”