

CINCINNATI BENGALS

HEAD COACH ZAC TAYLOR

(on a QB Joe Burrow injury update) “It looked like he sprained his wrist. [He] fell on it early in the game and then felt it on the touchdown pass.”

(on whether QB Joe Burrow hurt his wrist before tonight’s game) “Not that I am aware of.”

(on QB Joe Burrow’s status) “I have no idea. All the information I have is two seconds worth, then we went to go try to win the game.”

(on if he knows the next stage of QB Joe Burrow’s injury evaluation) “I do not. We’ll find out after this game.”

(on the defense’s play) “I think there were some positive things I saw from the defense. This is a good offense. They can extend plays with their quarterback. Some of them were probably good calls. Some of those penalties extended drives, and that’s the way it is. Now we’ve got to buckle up. We’ve got to get them in good third-down positions. Some of those drives got extended, and they scored points. Our guys got to find a way to keep competing downfield. It’s a challenge. So, again, I know we are disappointed with the loss, but I’m not discouraged about where this season is headed after this game. These guys are going to stick together. We’re going to take the long weekend here and regroup and get ready for Pittsburgh next week.”

(on QB Jake Browning’s play) “I thought there were some positive things from [Jake Browning]. That’s a tough, tough defense to face in your first NFL action. I was proud that he went in there and let those guys compete. Again, I can only imagine the situation he finds himself in when you’re down. It’s the situation like he’s in, but I thought he competed and did some good things for us.”

(on the QB plan at halftime) “[Jake Browning] would be playing.”

(on if he knows which play QB Joe Burrow got hurt) “I don’t.”

(on if he was aware of QB Joe Burrow attempting to warm up after injury) “Yeah. I saw that.”

(on if he was aware of QB Joe Burrow was wearing a wrist brace pre-game) “That was the first I saw anything about it.”

(on his confidence in QB Joe Burrow starting and playing in the game) “Absolutely. I mean, watch how he played the first half. He did everything we needed him to do.”

(on his message to the team post-game) “We are not going to let one game define us. This was certainly a big game for us. Our guys were excited about [playing] on the road. It didn’t go our way. In a long season like this, what you’ve got to do is be able to regroup. We know what kind of guys we have in the locker room. We’ve done this kind of situation before. We’ve got to rally here at the end of the season, the last seven weeks. Great opportunity at home against Pittsburgh to get started on that track. So, you know, not to let the guys forget we’ve had a nice stretch there, four games winning, we were in a good area. We lost [by] a last-second field goal, and then we lost a tough game Thursday night on the road to a really

good team, so don't get it twisted on what kind of team we have. We've got a chance to regroup. All the things that we really wanted to do are still in front of us. We're going to have opportunities to do that. We control our own destiny at this point by just winning these games that are in front of us, starting with Pittsburgh. I know our guys are going to be fired up with the right mindset to be able to do that."

(on if the team was deflated after losing QB Joe Burrow) "Um, no. Obviously when you lose your starting quarterback, it's disappointing. That's tough, but I've really felt like our guys knew that we were still in the game and kept fighting. Again, it just didn't go our way. We didn't put enough points on the board and didn't find enough ways to keep points off the board. I really, really felt the guys kept the right mindset as the game went on. We just didn't get it done."

(on whether he talked with QB Joe Burrow) "No, I haven't. No, I was just at the point where it was [Jake Browning] in the game. I'm focused on making sure Jake's in a good mindset and our communication was good. You know we are just trying to find a way to get a win."

(on how to rebound from this loss) "One game at a time, and it starts with Pittsburgh. We've got a home game. It's a big one. Our guys will be up for this game. That's the only thing that we can control at this point. I know our guys are excited to put this one behind us and move on to Pittsburgh."

(on how QB Joe Burrow looked during the week) "Really good. Really good."

(on if he has seen quarterbacks with sprained wrists before) "I don't. No. I don't recall."

(on if it is concerning that LB Logan Wilson's tackles have resulted in players getting injured) "No, no. I don't know anything about that."

(on the extent of QB Joe Burrow's injury) "This just happened. I don't know."

(on CB Cam Taylor-Britt's injury) "I don't know definitively what it was. I want to be careful as to what I say."

(on the buildup leading into tonight's game) "The vibe was AFC North on the road, Thursday Night, good environment. Our guys were fired up and ready for this one. I know the score was a two-score game. I get that. I know what the perception would be. Our guys are fine. I didn't feel like for one second the wind was out of our sails, and guys were letting things happen. I felt like every single down, down in and down out, on defense, those guys were competing their tails off. On offense, our guys were fighting like crazy. It's a good football team. It is. [It's] disappointing that we didn't come through. But again, not discouraged in the slightest about what our guys are capable of the rest of the season now."

S JORDAN BATTLE

(on how difficult it was to keep the team's spirit up with many injuries) "You know, obviously, it's part of the game. It's a war out there. But it shouldn't be no excuse for us or no reason for us to keep going out there and keep fighting. Things are going to happen in a game, but we have got to learn how to respond. We obviously fought out there; it was a good fight, got them into a lot of third downs. I'm proud of the effort, but the defense has got to get out there and capitalize down the stretch."

(on how QB Joe Burrow's injury affected the team emotionally) "Obviously, you know, Joe's a big part of this team. But when Jake [Browning] came in, we had all faith. Jake has been in that position before, and we all had faith in him. Obviously, Joe's a big loss in the game – the best quarterback in the league. It's going to affect any team if he goes down. But like I said earlier, it shouldn't be any excuse for us to go out there and, you know, keep fighting. That should give us an extra edge as we see a guy go down of that caliber."

(on what it was like competing against QB Lamar Jackson) "It was a great experience, going out there, playing a lot of snaps, having the game ahead. Obviously, you know, you want to win on top of the stats. It's a team game, and when you have a game like that, and you get a loss, you don't feel like you had a great game because, you know, a guy like me, my pride is, you know, I don't like to lose. I come from winning programs from high school, to college, to here. This is a winning program as well. So, we shouldn't expect anything less than a 'W' in any game we play."

(on the pass interference penalties) "We can't play the refs. Just keep going out there, keep pressing guys. Stay in the receivers' faces. I know, obviously, some of the calls weren't good calls, but we can't control that. We have to keep going out there and playing and playing hard and just keep having faith in our guys. Guys in the DB room, we've just got to keep having faith in our guys in the DB room."

(on the importance of the mini-bye for the Bengals) "Yeah, for sure. I think we can use any break to get our bodies right. Like I said, we've got a good stretch coming – what seven games, seven games straight now? [We're] trying to go 7-0. So, you know, use this weekend, these extra days, to get our bodies right, come back next week and get ready for Pittsburgh."

QB JAKE BROWNING

(on his game performance) "I felt calm the whole time. I felt like I was throwing the ball where I wanted to. Obviously, I had too many three-and-outs and put our defense in a tough situation. Even when Joe [Burrow] goes down, I'm going into the game fully expecting to win, so I'm pissed that we lost."

(on what went through his head when he found out he was going into the game) "I saw when [Joe Burrow] threw that he grabbed it, so I started warming up a little bit then, but that is kind of what I have to run through every week. Everyone is hoping that everyone stays healthy, but it is kind of my job to say, 'Alright, what if [Joe Burrow] gets hurt?' I have to prepare like he is going to get hurt. So, for me, I think I kind of ran through that scenario. Before every game, I kind of think through that scenario, so when it does happen, it is not the first time it is all happening in my head. So, I felt calm, felt like we were going to go out and win the game, and obviously, we didn't do enough. [We got some] first downs [and] some drives going but had too many three-and-outs. Like I said, when I went in, 'Here we go. Let's win the game,' but unfortunately, we weren't able to do that."

(on if he knows if QB Joe Burrow will be ready to start) "No, I don't [know]. Yes, for sure. I think having a short week and playing in basically the first non-preseason game I have played in since I think like the 2020 Rose Bowl ... So yes, I definitely think I have some stuff to build on, and I got some reps. It will be nice to see myself on tape and be able to critique that and see what I can do better. As far as [Joe Burrow], I have no idea. You will have to ask him or [Head Coach Zac Taylor] or someone who has knowledge on that. But I'm going to prepare like I'm the guy, like I do every week."

(on a sideline conversation between him and QB Joe Burrow) “I had no idea. Everyone started asking about this wrist thing. I had no idea why. I thought they were talking about someone else on the team.”

(on what the conversation was like when he was coming off the field after the first drive) “I was kind of switching roles, where I was like, ‘Damn I wish I would have done this.’ [Joe Burrow] was like, I think you threw it to the right guy, and it was an accurate ball.’ So, it was kind of like a reassurance; it was kind of like role reversal, where [Joe Burrow] was saying, ‘You’re playing well, and keep moving around, and stuff like that.’ It was good. It was how you would expect from [Joe Burrow]. He’s pretty self-aware and tried to do everything he can to help us out. But unfortunately, we couldn’t get it done.”

(on going up against a No. 1 defense) “I’ve got a lot of confidence in myself. I think I’m borderline delusional when it comes to optimism; like, ‘Hey, I’m going to go win the game.’ But it is subjectively a tough situation. My first real non-preseason NFL action against the No. 1 defense in a short week. But, it’s why I have a job. If [Joe Burrow] goes down, I go in and try to win the game.”

(on how the team felt when QB Joe Burrow left the game) “As far as the team, we just keep fighting one practice at a time. Kind of what [Head Coach Zac Taylor] said after the game, [and] Joe Mixon said the same thing; just one practice at a time. I think if it is a situation where I am the guy moving forward and I have to play, then obviously the mindset is just one practice at a time and just keep trying to get better. I’ve done that on practice squads and in practice for a couple years now. I’ve always kind of gone through what my opportunity becomes; here is what my routine would look like. So, I feel ahead of the ball on that and follow coach’s advice one practice at a time. Just keep rolling. I mean, I watched it from the sideline – the ups and downs of the season. [It] seems like every year I’ve been here, we start off slow and then something happens. You’re either a Super Bowl winner, or you are the worst team in the NFL. It’s kind of a roller coaster that comes with the job.”

(on the biggest part of his routine to help him stay ready) “I just think going through and being prepared and not overthinking it too much. What would this be like, kind of playing in my head? ‘Hey, here is what it is going to feel like when [Joe Burrow] goes down, and I go in,’ so when it happens, I feel prepared for it.”

(on people questioning his abilities, and his own confidence) “I think that most of the people that think that are outside of this locker room. I think going into the Monday night game, where I looked like I was going to play up until the last second, it was kind of encouraging for me. [There was] a sense of optimism and excitement around [getting] a shot to play, and not a sense of doom and gloom. I think it is kind of the same thing. I get a lot of confidence going against our defense every day. That’s obviously a very good defense, but I’ve been doing scout teams for a while. You are running the worst play against the worst look, so it was nice to go run some plays, and I have all these people open. So, I’ve kind of been preparing like I’m going to be the guy. I get a lot of confidence from my teammates and keep pushing.”

(on what the main objective was when he got on the field) “Just stay in the moment, play-by-play. On the sideline, I probably looked like I was zoning out. I was staying in the mindset of one play at a time. Don’t look at the score, don’t look at whatever. Don’t think about the situation or anything like that. Just what’s the play, run the play.”

(on the most encouraging thing he can take into the future) “Like I said, I have a ton of confidence in myself. I guess there is maybe more, but we lost, so it is kind of a weird thing. But I didn’t feel like I was out of place or anything like that. I didn’t really feel that way coming in either. I have had a lot of really

good years on practice squads waiting for an opportunity, so [if] this opportunity continues going forward, I have a lot of confidence in myself, [and] I think my teammates do too. So, that just kind of stacks on top of each other, and we will see what it looks like going forward.”

WR JA’MARR CHASE

(on how frustrating it was to see QB Joe Burrow hurt) “Not something I was expecting. I didn’t know if he had any problems or anything. So, it’s just tough seeing something happen during a game like that, but I hope he gets well.”

(on what he noticed from QB Joe Burrow after the injury) “I couldn’t pay attention; I was trying to be locked in on the game.”

(on how the locker room handled the injuries) “I don’t know. It’s part of football. Next man up. I’ve got to say, it’s what I’ve always been heard and told. But the new guys got to step up. We have to adjust and make plays.”

(on if he expects QB Joe Burrow to fight through the injury) “I don’t know. I don’t even know what really happened to him. So, I can’t answer nothing with Joe.”

(on how serious QB Joe Burrow’s injury is) “I talked to him, but like I said, I don’t know anything, really, to his injury. So, I don’t know nothing about that.”

(on how frustrating it is losing this game) “It’s not fun losing, especially on Thursday Night Football. The whole world was watching on this day and nothing else playing, so it’s not fun losing like that. You’ve got to do better.”

(on if he felt like the team was down emotionally during the game) “We are losing, bro. I mean, feelings everywhere.”

(on how Baltimore was playing earlier in the game, defensively) “They were throwing a couple different coverages at us, probably some quarters, some three (*inaudible*), with that 11 hole, so mixing it up a little bit.”

(on what has to happen for that team at 5-5) “Got to adjust, make changes probably. You know, get back in the lab and keep working. I mean, we’re already here now; we can’t turn back now. So, we’ve just got to keep working, marching forward step by step and one day at a time right now.”

(on if it feels like it’s just one of these years the team can’t catch a break) “I don’t know, I’ve only been in the league three years. So, it’s a tricky question for me.”

(on if the previous years have been better than this one) “Maybe.”

(on if he thinks the team has the character to fight through this adversity) “We kept fighting the whole game. That’s one thing about us that showed, and I love that for us. But, you know, we don’t want to finish like that. We want to be up finishing like that.”

(on if he's tired with dealing with adversity) "It's part of the league, man. I guess, you know what I'm saying? I'm not used to losing. I'm not a loser, so I love winning. So, when I lose, I don't like the feeling, you know what I'm saying? So as of right now, we've got to adjust, make changes, move forward, and take it a day at a time."

(on what changes he thinks are coming) "I don't know, that's a question for Zac [Taylor]."

(on if he knew QB Joe Burrow was hurt) "No, I didn't know. I didn't know nothing. I didn't even know he even hurt himself."

(on how the team felt going up 10-7) "I mean, we were catching momentum, but still he never said nothing. Never taped his wrist up, never showed nothing, so I don't know nothing."

RB JOE MIXON

(on the drive that put the Bengals up 10-7) "I feel like, you know, pretty much we were hitting on all cylinders in that situation. So, you know, we pretty much just got to figure out and try to keep clicking the best we can and find a way to be successful."

(on if when [QB Joe] Burrow went out, did it change the game?) "Well, obviously, when we went out, you know, people feel a certain type of way. Especially him, being a competitor. But when it comes down to it, everyone else still stuck in there did whatever we could to fight and just fell short."

(on how quickly he realized Joe [Burrow] was hurt) "Like I said, I didn't know until we went back out right before halftime, and everybody was like 'Where's Joe?' and sure enough, he wasn't in there. That is when we found out, and after that, it was what it was."

(on his message to the team after the game) "You know, 'Everyone just stick together, and that's to say the least.' I'm going to keep the rest between me and my teammates."

(on all the injuries the team has sustained) "It's definitely tough, especially with the caliber of players those guys are. We've just got to figure out a way, you know, to pretty much pick up where everyone is leaving off, and I know we have the guys in the locker room. They are all made of the right things, and that's why they're here. I feel like we just need to get everyone on the same schedule and then pick up where they left off. At this point, it's next man up, and I know the coaches and our players have nothing but confidence for whoever is going to step in in whatever they do."

(on what he said to the team specifically after the game) "Like I said, I'm a leader in this locker room and a captain for a reason. I'm here to do whatever I can to keep this ship here going and keep everybody together. I'm going to do my best, you know, do whatever I can, make that happen and build on this performance."

(on how he builds on his performance tonight) "I really can't. I don't know what direction that we're going, but when it comes down to it, I mean, everybody, we did some good things today. Obviously, there were some negatives, you know, in terms of the outcome, but when it comes down to it, there's some positives out there. We're going to eventually figure it out, watch the tape and learn from everything. Everything that went positive, we just keep building on it and just keep everyone together."

