

DALLAS COWBOYS VS. CINCINNATI BENGALS POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

CINCINNATI LOCKER ROOM

HB, Joe Mixon

On first down execution and communication on the field: "I feel like, as a whole, we have to take initiative. Everybody. Coaches, players, everybody is involved with everything. I'm not going to finger point or anything like that. We have to put it on us to come out and execute. Be ready to play. For some reason, it seems like we've been coming up short in that area. We've been starting off slow; little penalties here and there that have been killing us. And get back on track. We just have to execute more."

On the response process from a tough game last week: "We just have to go back to work on Monday. That's where it starts. Watch the tape, learn from it and then get back to work on Wednesday. It's hard coming off of a loss. The best thing about it is, we have another opportunity come Wednesday. Watch the tape on Monday and on Wednesday we get back in the building and execute the game plan. Basically, throughout the week we just have to pre-start faster. Execute on first and second down and not play from behind."

On coming within a field goal in the last two games: "We know who we have in our locker room, especially offensive-wise. The defense has been playing their ass off. They had little hiccups here and there, but at the end of the day, they are balling on defense. We have to do whatever we are going to do on offense to counter what has been going on. Everybody has to take initiative on each other and execute and start fast. We have to finish these games."

WR, Ja'Marr Chase

On what is behind the slow start on offense two games in a row: "We've been having false starts, penalties first quarter, second quarter, first half, period. Not executing our plays right. That's the only thing that is really holding us back that I can see."

On what he attributes that to, whether not being sharp or something else: "Gotta know the snap count, that's all. Gotta know the snap count to know what we are doing. Know our assignment."

On the lack of big plays after having been one of the most explosive offenses last year: "Gotta take some shots. I don't think we took any shots today. That's about it. We just didn't take any shots, I don't think."

On whether that is because there is not enough time in the pocket: "That could be the case. We had to go to a quick game. We gotta take some shots still. You gotta get that protection down, too. That's the only way you can take shots. If Joe doesn't have time, you can't throw down the field."

On knowing the team is better that this: "You gotta come out and execute. No penalties, no false starts, no offsides. Just handle our business the right way."

DE, Sam Hubbard

On the defensive effort: "We just settled in and played our game, our defense. First half, we weren't playing our defense. We just settled in and did what we do. Gotta do it earlier."

On the first two drives and what the Cowboys did: "I think we just misplayed a run on that long run. Just better tackling."

On his big plays, including a tackle for a loss: "I think we just keep fighting. That's our defense; that's our team. We just can't put ourselves in a position where we have to claw it out at halftime. We'll learn from that and keep trying to make improvements."

On 0-2 and what is the message from team leaders like him: "You just can't let it affect you. You gotta go back to work. People look to you, your demeanor and how you handle yourself. All you can do is go back to work and I am excited to get back to work."

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On the Cowboys going for it on 4th down early and whether the defense was settled and ready for it: “Yeah, we just got caught by surprise. We gotta be better with substitutions there. We weren’t expecting them to go for it. But more and more teams are doing that in this league, and that’s just the way it is.”

OT, La’el Collins

On what it was like being back in Dallas: “It was great. I got to see a lot of my old brothers. I got to go out there and compete with my teammates. It sucks anytime you don’t get the job done. Just gotta get back to work. It’s a long season.”

On Micah Parsons: “He’s just a helluva player. That’s what it is. That’s probably one of the best defensive fronts we are going to see this year, if not the best. Just gotta get back to work.”

On the communication issues and if they are a problem: “We just have to come out and set the tone from the first play. I feel like we kind of made it harder on ourselves. But what I love the most is that we stayed in it and kept fighting.”

On 12 sacks over the last two games: “We don’t want our quarterback getting hit, getting sacked. None of that. But, end of the day, we gotta put this behind us. We have two games in 10 days, so we gotta get ready for it.”

On whether he is surprised that the offense looks this disjointed so far this season: “I think the biggest thing is, obviously a lot of talent on the offensive side. You just gotta put it all together. This is our first time playing together, these first two weeks. I think we will be fine. We will get on the same page and just start doing what we do, and that’s coming out and setting the tone. Lock in on it and own it. Take it like a man under the chin and keep pushing forward.”

WR, Tyler Boyd

On whether he thinks defenses are keying in on what they do well and taking it away: “Every team kind of knows what you do. But at the end of the day, you have to go out there and stop it. They played a certain coverage, which we see every single day. We just have to all connect. From the line to the tight end to the running back. If we all aren’t sound, then we can’t win on plays. As long as we get everybody up to par, then we’ll be straight.”

On why there haven’t been as many big plays as people are used to seeing from this team: “Just guys not being dialed in, not doing their jobs. If we just do the little thing right – if it is one person who doesn’t make a block, or one receiver who doesn’t run a certain route the right way – one person could jeopardize the whole play. You can’t point any fingers at all. Because we started together, we are going to end together. We have to find a way. We have to figure this out ASAP.”