



BENGALS POSTGAME QUOTES

AUG. 12, 2022

ARIZONA AT CINCINNATI

ZAC TAYLOR

Head coach

Initial comments ...

"Obviously, we set out to win the game. That didn't happen today so that part wasn't what we wanted. But I thought the guys today played with really good energy in the fourth quarter and responded to some adversity, so now we'll get a chance to really evaluate the full scope of the tape and see kind of what got us in the hole. I've got a pretty good idea of some of the penalties and the turnover, but (it was good to) see how guys responded for some of those bad times and look forward to doing that tomorrow."

What did you think of Dax Hill's debut tonight?

"He jumped out at you. He made two real good plays, one down there in the low red (zone) and one on the field there on third down. Those are big time plays, so that's what stands out and then you'll evaluate the rest of it and see how he was. But that was exciting to see from Dax."

What were you hoping to see from Jackson Carman tonight and the reason for playing him as much as you did?

"We want those guys to get as many reps as possible. They're competing for their job and the best way to compete is in the game. He's still a young lineman. He's in his second year and we just wanted to see him get a chance to go against a different defense, and again, we'll assess where he's at tomorrow."

How did Brandon Allen leaving the game affect your plans for the quarterbacks?

"For the reps for those quarterbacks, we got Jake (Browning) in there a little sooner than anticipated. But I thought Jake managed the game really well. The statistics are not going to reflect some of the really tough spots that he was in that were no fault of his own. You want to get back on track on second and third down, and those are really tough spots to be in. I thought Jake found his own rhythm there and did some really good things for us, and managed us in some really bad situations for the quarterback. I thought he did a really nice job."

What are your thoughts on Jake Browning being able to move around and throw?

"He felt comfortable moving around and extending some plays. That was good to see and helped prolong some drives. He had the big scramble there that got us into the end zone on that first touchdown we scored. You need the quarterback to move you and put you in the end zone and did some good things that allowed us to do that."

What did you think of Evan McPherson's performance?

"You just start to take it for granted. Those were two exceptional kicks. He's had a great camp so far."

Do you anticipate signing another quarterback due to Brandon Allen's injury?

"I wouldn't think so, but it's hard to see. Brandon feels pretty good right now. We'll just see where he's at and assess that and figure out where we need to go."

So is it just protocol at this time?

"We just want to make sure when a guy takes a hit to the head. A couple guys got pulled out for one play – Clay Johnston, Thaddeus Moss I think was another just because the referee assess it or somebody from upstairs assesses it and they just want to get checked out."

You mentioned Browning being able to make plays off script. How tough is it to evaluate when there's so much of it?

"It's pretty easy to assess the quarterback. We'll watch the tape and (ask ourselves), 'Are you playing on time, are you putting all 11 guys in position to be on the same page to be successful?' If we take a loss yardage on first down and it is second-and-14, that's not on him and now it's, 'Are you helping us get back on schedule to a third and manageable as best you can control?' Sometimes he couldn't but I thought just staying there in the game that he was doing a good job managing the team."

Kendric Pryor has made some plays in camp. What did you see in him tonight?

"He's done a great job. I think our receivers as a whole have done a really good job. Kendric stood out today. They called his number and he made all those plays that came to him, and that's really impressive to see. He had the go-route against a really funky coverage, and he did a really good job in his battle and making a catch there."

What are your thoughts on throwing a challenge flag late in a preseason game?

"We want to score points. Kendric made a great catch. Drew (Plitt) made a really good throw that allowed him to have a chance there with a safety coming over the top. You want to reward those guys. We were starting to get some momentum there; we just scored a touchdown on the drive before and want score again. It gave us momentum going into this week. That game was out of hand and we probably weren't going to win at that point, but I want our team to feel that momentum surge and take advantage of it and let it parlay into a good week of practice, and then going into next week against the Giants."

With the offensive line, how much do you weigh penalties in the first preseason game?

"We have to be more disciplined – have to be much more disciplined. You can look at it as simple as this – and I haven't seen the tight end's holding call on the touchdown, so who knows if it's a close call or we can do something differently. But those are those momentum changers early in a game. You lose a touchdown there and kick a field goal and that maybe is where the game starts to change. Those little moments we've got to be on top of. I'm just putting that one out. I've got to see the clips to really know what happened. There's just some early moments in the game where the penalties maybe disrupt a drive, on offense or defense. On that

first drive we played really good defense and had a DPI and the field is flipped and they go down and score a touchdown. Those early gains can change the momentum and put you towards a win or a loss.”

Chris Evans had some big plays that came back due to penalties. How impressed were you with him tonight?

“He did some good things. We’ll let those backs play a lot in the preseason and continue to assess them. His stats aren’t going to reflect some of the really good runs that he had, so he did some positive things for us.”

Was the slow start by the offense due to a lack of contact in practice?

“No. The penalties are what really hurt us earlier.”

How did it feel to have a large crowd for a preseason game?

“It’s awesome. It’s as good a crowd as I’ve seen for a preseason game. You could feel the energy and the excitement. I wish we could have come out a little faster to give them something to cheer about in the first half. But we appreciate the excitement. Just driving to the stadium you could feel energy around the city, just for preseason game number one. That’s really cool to see and we appreciate that.”

We saw Joe Burrow running before the game. How is he progressing?

“He’s been running and doing some stuff like that. I think he’s getting better every single day.”

Is he throwing?

“Just some light tossing. I think you probably saw him in practice.”

Did you know Jessie Bates was here tonight in a suite?

“He was in my suite, I think (laughs). I didn’t know that, no.”

Does that suggest anything?

“He’s the best person to answer that. I trust that he’s in great shape and whenever he gets back he’ll be ready to go.”

Do you get tempted to ask Evan McPherson to save some of these for the regular season?

“I could have gone for it. That would be the only way to communicate that.”

DAX HILL

Safety

How did it feel to be in an actual NFL game for the first time?

“It felt good. I felt comfortable out there. The first series, all the jitters went away, so it felt like football.”

Did you have a chance at both of those interceptions you weren’t able to pull down?

“I did. I did. I just kind of fumbled it back on the first one. I had it in my hands, and now that I’ve looked at it, it kind of bounced out at the last second. I could have had that one.”

Zac Taylor said you seemed to really jump off the field tonight performance-wise. Overall, how did you feel like you did?

“Overall, I felt like I did well for the first time playing in the NFL. I feel like there’s corrections to be made for sure, but like you said, we’re just going to watch the film and correct that.”

How much did having big pass breakups in the first half help your confidence?

“It really did kind of boost my confidence knowing I can play in this league. Just having fun with my teammates is most important, being out there and making plays and helping my teammates is what it’s all about.”

Did any of your teammates give you a hard time for not making the interception?

“Everybody on the sidelines was really coming (down) on me for not coming down with it, but those are the plays I really have to make.”

Was the speed of the game what you expected?

“I would say in the beginning, it wasn’t as fast, but toward the second quarter, it started to get a little fast. There were highs and lows throughout the game.”

KENDRIC PRYOR

Wide receiver

Did you expect to have the performance you did tonight?

“Yes, a little bit, because I’ve just been building off the last couple of practices in camp and visualizing myself making those type of plays. I know the type of player I am. My numbers may not have shown that in college, but I have the opportunity now and I’ve made it to where I want to be. I just want to continue to show I can make those plays at the highest level. If they keep calling my number, I’ll keep making plays.”

Your phone is blowing up — have you had a chance to talk to any family members yet?

“They’re outside waiting on me ... I know they’re happy for me and won’t be too mad about me taking a while. I haven’t got a chance to tell everyone ‘thank you’ because talking to my friends before (the game), they’re helping me keep my mental right, not trying to make things bigger than what they are. This is a game I’ve been playing my whole life and having those positive thoughts and being confident, (I’m) not trying to go out there and do anything I haven’t done (before) or doing too much. I’m just going out there, playing the same game I’ve been playing and doing what I’ve been doing my whole life. It just feels good to have friends in my corner to help me out with stuff like that.”

No matter what happens from here, you scored a touchdown in the NFL. That has to mean something to you?

“I’m just soaking it all in tonight. Yeah, I had a good game tonight, but we’ve still got another week to prepare. I just don’t want to be that guy that does it (only) for one game. I want to continue to build off that. I may not have the same game as this week, but whether that’s blocking or just doing my job helping my teammates get open, (maybe) they’ll have a good game next week. I just want to be that team guy, doing what I can to help out the Bengals.”

EVAN McPHERSON

Kicker

It seems like you've been in a groove since the postseason last year ...

"Yeah. We feel a pretty good chemistry among everybody in the specialists group. I would say I'm pretty comfortable with everybody. I feel like right now I'm comfortable with long kicking ... Like you said, I'm just in a groove right now."

What was it like to hear the crowd cheering for you as loud as they were?

"It's kind of weird because, normally for a field goal, you just stay quiet and that's pretty much it, but it was really cool to see the crowd get involved. It kind of brought me back to the 65-yarder (I made last year). The crowd cheering me on kind of gave me a little extra adrenaline."

How do you not overswing on kicks? You seem to be so controlled no matter what the distance is ...

"It's just confidence in how I strike the ball because I know if I strike it wrong, I don't really have to overswing from any distance. It's just (a matter of) having confidence in my ball striking."

CHRIS EVANS

Halfback

You had a couple of long runs and a touchdown wiped out by penalties plus a long kick return that had a flag. It was kind of a strange night for you, no?

"Yeah. With it being preseason, this is just all about getting it on tape. I don't really care about the stats (as much as) just showing the coaches I can be trustworthy and make a play when the time comes."

You had a 65 yard run on the first offensive play of the game for the Bengals. Did you know pretty quickly it was coming back?

"I didn't find out until after the play and I was heartbroken. I was mad because I was running as fast as I could. Dude had an angle, but I got it on tape so I'm not mad about that. I got it on tape the coaches know what I can do. I'm not mad about the highlight or anything as long as the coaches know what I can do. Whether we fix the blocking or not, I've got that on tape. Anything they need me to do, I'm going to make the most of it."

The first kickoff returning you did came late last season so you're still raw in that category, but that 40-yard kickoff return had to feel good ...

"Yeah. Hit it and get it. Everyone up there on the front line is the hardest thing to do in football, to run backwards and block a grown man running full speed, so I've got to help them out by running full speed and just being decisive and making sure I can get them on the blocks if they set them up and I hit what I need to hit."

DREW PLITT

Quarterback

You had an impressive debut — six-for-six with a touchdown pass and a seven-yard run. How thrilling was that tonight?

"It was nice. I don't know about 'thrilling.' It was a weight off my shoulders to be able to get in there and get those first couple reps. Going six-for-six is something you want to start your first drive (with), but I had a lot of help from the wide receivers, the offensive line and everybody all around me. At the end, it was a thriller, but starting it, it was a weight off the shoulders."

How would you review Kendrick Pryor's one-handed, falling over backwards catch?

"Unbelievable. I don't think there's any other word for it. That's a huge help for me going six-for-six, but that's a huge confidence booster for him going forward. He's a great player, and obviously he had that touchdown at the end, so we're looking to capitalize on that and keep moving forward."

Obviously as the third quarterback while Joe Burrow has been out, you haven't been able to get that many reps in practice.

What was your comfort level when you got the chance to play tonight?

"I've been comfortable with the plays; it was more (an issue) of getting out there and actually getting to see a defense and not just drawing them up on a board or piece of paper. That was the biggest difference and that's where a lot of the weight comes off my shoulders came from, being able to go out there and play and see those plays against a defense, read it and execute it the way it's supposed to go."

Did you have a big rooting section for you here tonight?

"I did. My family and friends are here, so I know they were excited to see me out there on the field in general."

What was going through your mind when you got in the game?

"Just go out there and play football. At the end of the day, that's what it is. I'm confident in what I can do and my abilities, and to me it was just going out and making the throws and executing what was called."

You threw the first Bengals touchdown pass in Paycor Stadium. What are your emotions?

"Just excitement. Thrill. For me, it's a dream come true. I know it's a cliché, but I'm going to say it all the time. Growing up in this city and being able to come to work every day, and it's really not a job if you look at it the way I am. It's awesome."

What was the last Bengals game you went to?

"I was at the Chiefs game when we clinched the AFC North. The season was over, so I was getting ready to go down and train and the whole family came down to see the game. It was awesome."

Was the touchdown pass you threw to Kendrick Pryor a double move?

"Yeah, just a double move. He had a great route, great catch. All around it was a great drive by everybody."

Who gets the touchdown ball, you or Pryor?

"We'll discuss it. I have it right now, but if he wants to cut it in half and split it, we can do that."

What do you think will happen when Joe Burrow comes back?

"That's part of the game. For me, going out there was to take advantage of the opportunity that I have in front of me. That's what I try to do – just go out and play football. Whatever happens, happens. It's a business, but I'm going to go out there every day and take

advantage of the opportunity.”

JACKSON CARMAN
Guard

How do you feel it went today? Did you expect to play the first half, then Cordell Volson would play the second half?

“Yes, I did expect that I was going to play the first half and Cordell was going to play the second half. I thought it was good, we all have a lot to learn from that first experience, but it was good to go out there for the first time this season and be able to put the pads on.”

There were a lot of penalties tonight. Do you attribute that to jitters from being back on the field?

“It’s the first preseason game, so there’s always going to be stuff you got to work out. That’s why we’re out there doing it, getting better and learning.”

What do you get out of a game like this?

“More experience going against different jersey colors, and being able to just get together and learn and work.”

What do you have to do to earn the left guard job?

“Just keep on doing the best I can do, be the best player I can be, and the best person I can be. Not really worrying about outside noise, just getting better one day at a time.”

Did you improve the more you played tonight?

“Definitely. I felt like it got better as time went on.”

What feedback did you get from Frank Pollack throughout the game?

“Just technical things.”

What adjustments did you make throughout the game?

“As a unit, there were some different things we adjusted. There was nothing major that we adjusted, we were just trying to work our scheme and technique in the way that Coach Frank wants us to do it.”



CARDINALS POSTGAME QUOTES

AUG. 12, 2022

ARIZONA AT CINCINNATI

KLIFF KINGSBURY

Head coach

Initial comments ...

What would it mean to have Victor Dimukeje blossom into a consistent pass-rush threat?

"It would be big. We loved him coming out [of college] as far as his size, a physical, stocky player that is explosive. He can play the run, he can play the pass, obviously. We want to see him continue to develop, but that was a good start tonight. He's had a nice camp and hopefully he can continue to get off the ball like he has."

How did Zaven Collins and Marco Wilson play tonight?

"I have to watch the film and see but I thought they moved around pretty well. On Marco, there were a couple plays his way that I'll have to see kind of what happened on those but it's good to get those guys out there and get them playing some meaningful snaps."

How did Trace McSorley play tonight?

"He handled the offense like I want him to. Obviously, there's some decisions, throws he'd like to have back. He likes to play in those game-type situations. He tends to make plays with his feet, move around, and find a way to put the ball in the endzone."

What was the process for Kyler Murray calling plays in the fourth quarter?

"He called about six [plays]. He called a couple really nice plays, but it just didn't work out. He does a good job with it, I'm impressed."

What were your thoughts on Greg Dortch's play tonight?

"He continues to make plays when his number's called. Our biggest deal with Dortch is to continue to fine-tune his game. Understanding the scheme consistently, day in and day out. Execute the plays and really master the system. When he knows what he's doing, when he has an opportunity to make a play, he usually does."

How do you think the running backs played?

"I'll have to watch the tape and see what was there. It was nice getting Eno (Benjamin) in the starting role. When (Jonathan) Ward came into the game, he scored a couple touchdowns. I thought Key (Keaontay Ingram) stayed low and caught a couple nice passes. They've had nice camps and they just got to keep going."

What's the benefit of having a quarterback that can call their own plays?

"What I found is they'll call their favorite plays and sometimes they're not that open. They'll tell you 'Hey coach I don't like this, but I like this'. When they believe in a play and call it on their own, they usually find a way to make it work. That's always been my belief is to trust our quarterbacks."

How did the game go overall for you personally?

"Anytime you get out of the preseason healthy and play a clean game with substitutions, penalties and no turnovers, that's what we want out of it. Long way to go, a lot of stuff we got to get better at. We preach playing clean and I thought we did that for the most part."

TRACE MCSORLEY

Quarterback

You were saying the other day one of the big things you wanted to do was get a win. How does it feel to come out of this with a victory?

"It's huge. Like I said, the main goal was getting a victory. Having been able to come in and do that, got a lot of guys with some good touches, and good tape out there. It's good for us to be able to go in the room and keep improving on it. It was a great week."

Is there anything that you were really happy with, or something that you really want to try and get better at after this?

"Yeah, there's stuff that we'll be able to go back and look at. We were pretty efficient it felt like, took care of the ball, didn't have any turnovers, so that's overall going to be winning football for us. Some of the times, I probably could have just taken some of the things underneath and not try to force it down the field too much. I got a little bit greedy at times, but that's something we'll be able to get back and watch the film."

One of the things Kliff Kingsbury said he likes about you is your ability to move around. Is that how you want to play?

"Yeah, that's a little bit how I want to play. Obviously, I'm trying to take a few less hits when I can out there. That's how I've always played – see a lane and go – and still be able to have that in the pocket. I think it's just another element of my game, when I see it and feel it just go with it and make a play."

A.J. GREEN

Wide receiver

You played here for 10 years. Coming back in this stadium, so many new faces, a new name. What was it like walking back in here and coming to the visitor's locker room?

"It was a little weird coming to this side. I've never been on this side before, so that's a little weird part about it. It was good to get back in a not hostile and stressful environment, playing in a real regular season game. It was good to see everybody – real good."

You were talking to Tyler Boyd and Ja'Marr Chase ahead of the game. What was that conversation like?

“They’ve got a great team. They’ve got a young, great core that’s going to be good for a long time. I got to talk to Joe (Burrow), and he’s itching to get back out there. It’s fun just to see those guys. We text on and off during the season, so it was good to see them in person.”

You played with Tyler Boyd for five seasons. What was it like seeing him?

“It was crazy. He’s a leader now – a leader in that room. I was talking to (wide receivers coach) Troy (Walters) and TB’s the leader. I knew he would be from day one, once he got his opportunity that he was going to be a great player. That’s great for him. He’s an unbelievable receiver, and he’s got those guys rolling. I’m happy for him.”

What was it like last season watching the Bengals do something they hadn’t done in 30 years?

“It was weird, man. They’ve got a great team. It’s crazy because we had great teams, but they’ve got a real good team. I was cheering for them, and I talked to TB (Tyler Boyd), I talked to Jessie (Bates III), talked to Tee (Higgins), Joe (Burrow) as they went on that playoff run, and they got hot. They’re going to get back there. They’ve got a great team that’ll be competitive each year.”

How has it been in Arizona these past couple years?

“I feel good. I couldn’t choose a better place to be with this organization. Kliff (Kingsbury) is unbelievable, an unbelievable coach the way he runs that organization. It’s a blessing to go from there (Cincinnati) to Arizona to keep playing, keep prolonging my career, and I feel like I can still play for a while.”

Did the receivers have any chatter about Kyler Murray calling the plays tonight?

“No, we know K1 is going to do that. He does it all the time. We’re just happy to have him back after he got COVID, so it’s good to have him back out there.”

Did you get a sense of what he was like as a play caller?

“I don’t know. They went three-and-out, so I don’t know how good he is. But he’s a smart guy.”

What are your personal goals going into your 12th season?

“It’s crazy, it flew by. Just coming back after 10 years, I’m by far the oldest guy of any of their receivers. But my numbers were never a big thing for me. My personal goal is just to win. I had a pretty good season last year, and now this year going into year two in this offense, I’m more comfortable, and I think I’ll be much better.”

Do you have any sentimental feelings about the city of Cincinnati?

“Yeah, Cincinnati watched me grow from a boy to a man. I came here at 22 years old, living downtown at The Banks. But then my oldest was born here, my youngest was born here. Cincinnati will always have a special place. Miranda (Brooke) still talks to the teachers at Cincinnati Country Day, they all check in on the boys. Cincinnati will always be a special place.”