



## BENGALS POSTGAME QUOTES

DEC. 2, 2018

DENVER AT CINCINNATI

### MARVIN LEWIS

#### Head coach

##### Initial Comments ...

"I'm disappointed with our football game today like that. We have an opportunity to get things done, and we shot ourselves in the foot with the penalties that we had today. We took back offensive plays throughout the day and that really, really set us back on offense for the day. We'd get positive plays and then set ourselves back, and then, obviously, we can't drop a punt. And then we allowed a 60-yard touchdown run. It boiled down quickly to about three plays in the football game. We knew (we didn't want to) be behind against the rush. We had to keep running the ball on offense to keep those opportunities going, but the penalties, it just set us back. That hurt us bad.

Defensively, we've got to keep playing better, and we can't allow a run like we did today. And we allowed two third-down conversions that make the difference there at the end. We had a chance to get the ball back at times, and they make the third down and make the touchdown catch after the fumble. That's a catch that we've got to make."

##### Did A.J. Green re-aggravate his toe?

"I haven't heard anything about A.J. It looked to be that."

##### If that's the case, do you think his season over?

"I don't know that."

##### Did you feel you made the best use of Jeff Driskel's athleticism today?

"Well, it's different. We did do some things to use Jeff's athleticism, but we've also got to play to against the defense. You just can't really draw it up and say, 'Hey, Jeff's going to run around,' because of the edge (rushers) that they have. They ended up staying in base defense against us. We had some throws in there, but the penalties just set us back. We hit some runs, and we hit some throws against the base defense early in the game. They've got this symmetrical defense, so it's a little different."

##### You've had 20-25 penalties the last two weeks. To what do you attribute that? Is that due to the new players that are in there?

"The special teams guys are trying. Again, it's hard to say because some of them aren't fouls, but some of them are. We've got to do better, that's all. We've got to do it the right way, the way they're coached to do it."

##### On offense, you went with Clint Boling at left tackle today. What was your thought process with that?

"We felt like with Cordy (OT Cordy Glenn) out, that was our best lineup and gave us the five guys on the field that we felt the best about."

##### Going back to penalties, you said they need to do it like they're coached to do it. Do you think because it keeps happening that maybe there should be a different approach to it?

"If your hands are on the outside of the framework of the body, they're calling holding on you, and you've got to do a better job. We've got to invent another player. I don't know if we can do that right now to go in there. But that's the thing — we've got a block in the back, and we've a hand on the outside on the draw. Billy Price is a young guy — he's going to keep learning, understanding it and do it right. There's no other way for that. We're going to have to grow through that. He's going to have to grow through that in his career, and that's part of it. Some of the penalties we had on offense today — we had a false start reacting to the rusher — I can't recall them all, but I know the special teams penalties particularly hurt us when we're returning a punt. We don't ever need that. We think those should be let go. Let the returner make them miss. They're giving us the ball. We don't need to get set back."

##### Alex Erickson is as consistent a guy as you've had. Is what happened out there today with his fumble symbolic of the way things are going right now?

"We just need a clean catch. That's what Alex does. It's unfortunate, but we've got to go stop them on defense. We can't stop them on first down and then give up a throw over the top. We can't do that. We make a big stop on third down, and then we're driving and we throw a ball up again (that was intercepted). That's just understanding to live and make the next play. You can't have the turnovers we had today on offense."

##### You have to look at the tape, but overall how did you feel Jeff Driskel handled things?

"Well, he put the ball at risk, and you can't do that. He's trying to throw the ball away, and you just can't throw it away in the field of play. He's got to understand that. He took a grounding down there in the red zone, and all those things (hurt). Again, you've got to play on time, and that's what we'll look at when evaluating him."

##### With a new quarterback, were turnovers a concern?

"Jeff was going through the progressions. That's what the quarterback has to do. But we do have to get the ball down the field, there's no question about it. We've got to be able to drop back, handle the pressure and get the throw down the field, or else the whole thing squeezes in on you."

### JEFF DRISKEL

#### Quarterback

##### How would you assess your first start?

"I just didn't do enough to get it done. The job of the quarterback and the offense as a whole is to score enough points to win a football game, and we didn't do that today. Not good enough."

**On the interception, did you think you had a play you could make there or, once you let it go, did you think, 'Uh oh?'**

"That was a play that I could make, it was just a very poor decision. When you get under pressure like that, you just have to be smart with the football, especially when you're down there getting in position to score points. That was just a really poor decision, and it hurt our football team. Just a bad decision and bad throw."

**You didn't get a lot of opportunities to get out and make plays with your feet. Was that a product of the game plan or what the defense was giving you?**

"I thought Denver did a nice job of not giving me the looks to really get out on the perimeter and run the football, but that opened up lanes for our backs. They hit the holes really hard and ran through tackles. That was a product of how they were playing us."

**What's that like, spending the whole day with Bradley Chubb and Von Miller coming after you?**

"They're premiere edge guys, and we knew that and it's tough. It makes it tough. At the end of the day, you have to be able to play on time, get the ball out and not take sacks and strip sacks, like I did at the end of the game. You've just got to be able to get the football out and get it in your playmakers' hands early, because we knew they were coming at the edge all day."

**How difficult was it to keep the offense on track, given the number of penalties by the O-line?**

"It's always tough when you get behind the sticks. We preached all week about being great on first and second down and not setting ourselves back. As an offense, I thought we were in some tough spots. As a play-caller, when you're third-and-long, that makes it really tough. There's not that many calls on the sheet when you're third and ten-plus. We didn't give ourselves enough opportunity to really convert on third down, and that was tough."

**It appeared early in the game that they had you doing a lot of short passes, and that that might have been progression stuff. Would you have liked to have rip it down the field earlier than you did?**

"Early on, we had a really nice drive there. It was (11) plays, 60 yards, and then we stalled out. We were moving the football in third-and-manageable, and we were moving the sticks, so it was working."

**Did you think you would get more carries as a runner?**

"I don't know. Sometimes, those things happen naturally. The way that Denver was playing defense today — they were playing a lot of single-safety, box-type looks and that happens sometimes. You've got to be able to throw the football for them to back off, and for there to be more running lanes."

**You guys had a new quarterback, new left tackle and new left guard. Is that part of the reason for the penalties?**

"I think that's part of it. That's not an excuse. We've all got to be out there and be on the same page and eliminate those penalties. It's something that we worked this week, all throughout the week. We knew it hurt us last week, and it hurt us again this week. We've got to continue to work on it, and we can't let that affect us in games to come."

**A.J. Green went down with a foot injury today and didn't return. Considering he's a leader on this team and a prime target for you, what were you thinking?**

"The play he went down on, that was one of the first plays he had single coverage. When you lose anybody, especially a guy like him who can take over a game, it makes it tough. I'm just hoping for the best for him and his health. Any time you lose an A.J. Green, it takes its toll on the football team."

**You were sacked on the play he went down. But if you had been upright and he wouldn't have pulled up hurt, you probably would have had him ...**

"It was a one-on-one look, and I'm going to take A.J. every time. My eyes were down the field, I looked over, and unfortunately he was down. Like I said, I'm just hoping for the best for his health."

**On the intentional grounding call, did you see C.J. Uzomah and throw toward him? It looked like he was there. Were you surprised by the call?**

"In that situation, we knew we had points. We were down in the lower red-zone. I was just telling myself, 'No sacks here. Get the ball out.' I thought there was somebody over there, but obviously they weren't close enough."

**It looked like you were having an animated conversation with OT Bobby Hart after that play. Was that confusion there?**

"You know, we were out there, we were battling. Sometimes, you get a little heated and you have to talk things out, and we did. We moved forward. It was really no big deal."

**Have you ever faced a third-and-39, like you did at the end of the second quarter?**

"That's tough. That's tough when you're behind the sticks like that. You can't really put yourself in that situation — that's the best way for me to explain it. We've got to clean some of that stuff up. In weeks to come, give ourselves better opportunities on third down, because I thought when we were third-and-manageable we did a good job of moving the chains."

## **JOE MIXON**

### **Running back**

**When you get your chances, you really busted out a few times ...**

"I'm just doing what I can for the team and trying to put them in the best position to win."

**Third down situations were tough today. Were the penalties a big part of that?**

"Yes. We can't have them. They hurt us. It's the little stuff like that that becomes bigger as the game goes on."

**They're strong on the edge, but you were able to run on them a few times to soften it up ...**

"Yes, but we only had so many runs. Plus, the penalties hurt."

**Does it boil down to not beating yourself?**

"Yes. We beat ourselves today."

## **JESSIE BATES**

### **Safety**

**How do you move forward and try to snap out of this slump?**

"It's frustrating just because we're putting time into this. We're so competitive and don't like to lose. Me personally, I'm a sore loser so its tough to lose."

**How frustrating is it to feel things slipping away during the game?**

"I try to take it one play at a time, one possession at a time. We're a good team. We have to control what we can. No one is going to feel bad for us."

**Controlling what you can is tough with all the penalties you incur ...**

"Yes. It's something we need to back up. It's part of our job to do it. It's frustrating."

**How difficult have all the coordinating changes and injuries been to the continuity of the team?**

"We're still running the same things from the first week of training camp. It's not an excuse for why we're losing."

**How tough is it to see a teammate and guy like WR A.J. Green go down like that?**

"He's one of our main guys. He's injured, but that's part of the game. We have to continue to address the problems. Prayers up for him though, hopefully he can get healthy."

**Does it feel like the season is slipping away?**

"No. That's not the way I'm looking at it. I'm sure that's not the way the other guys are looking at it. Our motto is to take things one day at a time and try to get better."

**BOBBY HART**

**Right tackle**

**You had a bunch of penalties. Do you account all the new changes for that?**

"There are no excuses, no matter who's in there or what's going on. It's your job to get things done. It's a bottom-line business. If your job doesn't get done, everyone is accountable."

**You were animated after QB Jeff Driskel's interception ...**

"Yeah, that's just part of the game. You get caught up in the emotion of being a competitor. That's all that was."

**Were you telling him to get rid of it?**

"I wasn't. That stays on the field."

**That play was classic LB Von Miller ...**

**Did he jump on the red-zone sack?**

"I don't know if he was offside, but he got a good jump. I saw him going, and was hesitant because of my first false start. You have to play through it. Later in the game, I feel like I got on it better. It's rough. He's a darn good rusher."

**Are penalties contagious?**

"No. It's a bottom-line business. You have to do your job. That's what it is at the end of the day."

**Does it feel like the season is slipping away?**

"No. It is definitely not. We just have to keep grinding and going at it. We'll keep getting better and focusing on the little things, and it will happen."

**It was a tough assignment for LT Clint Boling going against LB Bradley Chubb ...**

"I had my own battle going on. I couldn't see how he did."

**How do you think Jeff Driskel did? What was he like in the huddle?**

"He's a great player. I've known him since high school. He was in Florida, and then the number one quarterback at Florida. We go to all those camps, so I was around him a lot. I always thought very highly of him."

**How was his cadence?**

"I don't really remember."

**When WR Cody Core got the touchdown, did you feel like things turned?**

"Yes, for sure. We just have to keep doing our job and it will be alright."

**You've lost four in a row and haven't won since October. What's the mood around here?**

"We have to keep pushing. No one on this team will quit. We'll get back at it Monday, watch the tape, and get after it from there."

**ALEX ERICKSON**

**Wide receiver**

**Do you think the penalties on special teams are the result of so many new guys being added to the roster due to injury?**

"I don't know. I think the new guys are just giving a lot of effort, scraping and scrapping to make sure the (opposing) guy doesn't make the play. They're riding that fence of penalty/no penalty, and we've been on the wrong end of it a fair amount."

**For weeks, the team has been saying they can turn it around and get back on track and a playoff berth. Does that feel over now?**

"Yeah, at some point, it's not even about that; it's about being a professional and being a competitor and just doing your job no matter what your record is. It's up to you to perform. If you don't, obviously there are going to be consequences. We just have to focus on our jobs, be professionals, and just prepare and play the (San Diego) Chargers to get a win."

**TREY HOPKINS**

**Guard/center**

**How did Jeff Driskel handle himself in the huddle in his first NFL start?**

"I thought he did great. Driskel's a guy that has really stepped up and taken charge of the huddle and kept guys positive. He has

kept guys on the same page and displayed a level of leadership that you need and expect from a starting quarterback.”

**The depth of Denver’s defensive talent really seemed to shine today. Do you agree?**

“Yeah. They have depth at every position. They have talent at every position, and then came through today. It was really a battle up front today for us.”

**TYLER BOYD**  
**Wide receiver**

**It seems like you guys had chance to make some plays, but the penalties just killed any chance for momentum ...**

“We left a lot of plays out there, for sure. I know I did. We just didn’t play our best, man. (We had) a lot of penalties. We have to play perfect. We have to out-execute our opponents, and we failed. We have to come back next week, pick everything up and start rolling again.”

**It has to be tough to see what’s happening with A.J. Green’s injury. Did you get a chance to talk to him?**

“Yeah, at halftime. He’s a dog. A lot of us were worried about him initially, asking him if he’s good — if he’s fine. And he said he was good, he was feeling great, he was ready to go. He’s the type of guy who’s going to leave it all out there.

“When he says he wants to win, he really wants to win. He’ll do whatever it takes to get on the field, make plays for us and help us any way possible.”

**Can you point your finger as to why this season has been slipping away for so long?**

“Not really. I just thought we’ve got to play better games. We’ve got to win more battles, more plays. If we win more plays than the opponent, we’ll win. We just keep getting beaten. We keep losing. We need to execute like I mentioned, each and every week. We’ve just got to find a way — whatever it takes, whatever the sacrifice is going to be to get back to the way we started our season when we started 4-1.”

**Are some of the mistakes just mental errors that come from having a young team?**

“I think everybody’s prepared well, each and every game. But a lot of guys are going to make mental errors, regardless whether it’s a rookie or a veteran. We get that. It just can’t happen consistently, because the margin of error in this league is very limited. We have to do our best. We’ve got to do our job. That’s why we’re here.”

**How did Jeff Driskel handle himself in his first start as the team’s quarterback?**

“I think he handled himself great, coming out there and having his first start against one of the top defensive lines. He delivered great balls at times. I know there are plays he (wishes he could) take back, but he did great, in my opinion.”

**DRE KIRKPATRICK**  
**Cornerback**

**You hate losing; how frustrating has this stretch of defeats been for you?**

“It’s very frustrating. I wish we could turn it around. We’ve have to figure out a way. We just have to come to work every day and prepare like we’re ready to win. No matter what the outcome is, we have to go out there and do our job.”

**This third season in a row of losing ... how bitter is the taste of that getting?**

“Yeah, it sucks. We just have to figure it out, man. Like I said, I just want to see us challenge ourselves to turn it around before the end of the season. That’s the only thing I can say right now — go out there, week in and week out, and finish this year strong. We had a little burst last year, but we’ve got to be consistent with it. You can’t just go out there early in the season and win a couple of games, you know. This (the end of the season) is when teams get hot, so we’ve have to pick it up.”

**The team has a lost a lot of key players this season. It’s a young team, and there have been mental errors. Can you point your finger to the key to the losses this season?**

“I’m going to point the finger at myself. I’m not going to point it at anybody else. You know, (I’m going to ask myself), ‘What can I do to do my job better? What can I do to make this team better? Whether it’s being hurt and still practicing, still playing, or whatever else I can do to contribute ... I don’t have any control over anybody else, so I’m definitely going to point the finger at myself, because obviously there are things I could be doing better. It’s frustrating, but it’s where we’re at right now.’”

**Has it been challenging for the team this season with the change in defensive coordinators?**

“Yeah. Everything’s been challenging for this team. Putting in a new defense, having to learn it week-in and week-out, all the new things ... But at the end of the day, that shouldn’t be an excuse. We’re pros. We’ve have to be able to adapt and adjust. They pay us a lot of money not to go out there and be out of place or things like that. They pay us a lot of money to be in position, so that (change) shouldn’t affect (anything). The coaches, the play calling, none of that. We’re pros. We’ve got to adapt.



## BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES

DEC. 2, 2018

DENVER AT CINCINNATI

### VANCE JOSEPH

#### Head coach

##### Initial Comments ...

"We had three injuries during the game today, and none of those guys returned. Chris Harris had a break in his lower leg; Josey Jewell had a leg/ankle sprain; and Derek Wolfe had a rib injury."

##### With Harris' injury, how do you think you will compensate for that one?

"We'll see. Obviously today, (Isaac) Yiadom stepped in and played at a high level. Justin Simmons was moved to the nickel position, and he's a special player for us. He's a capable of doing a number of things on the back end. However, we'll see moving forward what next week's opponent presents and how we will attack that."

##### Is there a leadership aspect to this situation, in regard to moving ahead without Harris?

"Well, yeah. Chris is one of our leaders. He's one of our better players, and when you lose those types of people, obviously you don't gain anything. You lose something. As you know, we've lost three players already this season who were leaders on our interior offensive line, and we haven't flinched. We won't flinch now."

##### Can you give us a status update on Harris' injury. Will it require surgery, and do you know if he's out for the year?

"I'm not sure. We need more time to evaluate his injury. Obviously that will happen more in-depth when we get back home to Denver."

##### Which players were given game balls for their play today?

"Our entire offensive line. Also, Phillip Lindsay. He had 19 carries for 157 yards and two TDs. Next, the punter Colby Wadman — he accumulated a 42-yard net and had four downed inside the 20-yard line. Lastly, Domata Peko, as he returned to his old stomping grounds here in Cincinnati."

##### What do you make of what Phillip Lindsay has been able to accomplish this season?

"I think you judge lead backs by their durability. He's available every week. It seems like everyone sees his physical size and they're amazed of what he's doing right now. He's a tough guy. He's fast through the hole, so he successfully avoids contact through the first line of defense, which is important. Also, our (offensive) line is blocking well. His ability to get to the second level with speed is impressive. It's hard to tackle a back like that when he's not touched on the first level. His maturity and mentality each week has been very impressive."

##### How would you assess Courtland Sutton's return today?

"He is getting better and better. You know, we have a lot of young guys playing. We currently have 22 young guys on this roster that are helping us. But Courtland, he is getting better each week. We know what he can do. With the 50-50 balls for him, it's 70-30. When the ball is in the air, he's finally showing that he's capable of winning those battles. He needs to continue to make big plays and help us win in the pass game."

##### Does it mean something to you to be back to 6-6?

"Absolutely. To be back to even in this league, especially after how we started, is definitely a good feeling. We're going to get back to work on Monday with a singular focus. Our goal is to win every day, and we approach each game as if we're 1-0. We need to win every play. I know it sounds kind of boring, but we have a young team and we need to keep our focus. Our leadership guys are carrying us. You know, (have a) small focus. We need big-picture awareness, but overall small focus."

##### Was the takeaway battle a focus for you, and did you expect the weather to play a factor in that today?

"We knew it was going to be windy and that the turnover ratio was going to be huge. Defensively, this was a tough game for Joe (defensive coordinator Joe Woods) to call, because we didn't know what to expect from their quarterback. Obviously we watched the tape this week in preparation, and we knew (Bengals QB Jeff Driskel) was very capable. But really, the most we had to go on was their preseason game film. So we didn't know exactly how to play this guy. It took us almost a half to figure their play calling out, but we did. Joe and his staff also did a good job containing (Bengals HB Joe) Mixon. Once A.J. (Bengals WR A.J. Green) left the game with an injury, things became easier for us."

"Defending RPOs is becoming a very common thing in this league. Those types of plays are a quick game and cannot be thrown downfield. So that's the only beauty of defending RPOs. The corners have to do a good job in coverage, and our run defenders have to do a good job defending the run in the box. We have a young roster with good depth, and right now they're getting their chance to showcase their talent. 'Next guy up,' because our opponents surely won't care."

##### Are you ready to talk playoffs?

"I'm not. We've won three in a row, and we've accomplished this by winning one game at a time. We're going to take things slow with this young team."

##### At 3-6, how did you portray a sense of urgency without portraying a sense of panic?

"Our tone has never changed. We were playing good football. We weren't getting blown out of the building. We never had any issues with guys not playing hard or not believing in the process. We played some of the best teams on our schedule very close, and we just didn't finish those games. We're not surprised where we're currently at, and we expect to win every week."

### CASE KEENUM

## **Quarterback**

### **What started clicking in the second half?**

"We got some turnovers there. That was huge. I think we got 14 or 17 points off turnovers today. I think we've been really good at that when we've been playing winning ball. We play with some confidence with some takeaways and scores. That can shift the tide in games when you're behind or trying to come back or in your head you try to bury some opponents. We made some good adjustments. Coaches did a good job at halftime. We came out with a great game plan. We were able to execute based on what they were doing. Got to give them a lot of credit. They have a great defense. They played really hard. We knew coming in here was going to be tough — tough atmosphere — but it was fun."

### **Was the wind a factor throwing the ball around?**

"Yeah, it was a little bit. Growing up in West Texas, that was more of a breeze. I thought guys did a great job with ball security, obviously. That was big. You win the turnover battle again — that's huge. If we can continue to do that we're going to be very hard to beat."

### **Seems like the more guys you've lost to injury, the better you've played. What do you think it is that have made guys step up like that?**

"I think it's a mindset. I think everybody that's been playing is doing a little more. It's hard to replace guys like Matt (C Matt Paradis), Ron Leary, guys up front like Max (G Max Garcia). On the defensive side, it's hard to replace those guys. At the same time, like I've talked about, it's a next man up mentality. It's another opportunity for someone else to get a shot. Everybody else has got to do a little more. Everybody's got to step up and do a little more. That's what you call a team. It's not a one person sport. It's 11 guys out there, and we're out there together. I think that's what's been so great about this group is we've stayed together through thick and thin. We're battle tested."

### **What did you see from WR Courtland Sutton today?**

"Yeah, more of the same. I know he was a little down production-wise last week, but he's a guy that if he's not open, he's clearing out routes, he's taking a lot of people with him. He deserves a lot of attention because he's a really good player. As seen today, you just have to get it close. He made some big plays for us, especially on third downs. Loved throwing him the ball today."

### **Are you at all surprised when you see these big performances from RB Phillip Lindsay?**

"I mean, I think I just keep answering the same questions about him after every game. I don't know what else to say about him. But I think the league knows about him. I think opponents know about him and key on stopping him, but he continues to do so. He's having a heck of a year. He ought to be in the Rookie of the Year category, Pro Bowl, all that stuff — he deserves all that. He's not playing for that. After the game the coaches gave him and the offensive line a game ball, and he doesn't want it — he wants to give it to the offensive line. That's the kind of guy I want around. He's a special dude. He's going to be really good for us the last quarter of the season."

### **Do you think his speed surprises people on the field?**

"You'd have to ask them. He ran by a few folks today. It's a lot of fun trying to run and catch up to him to go to the end zone and celebrate (laughs)."

### **Did you feel like this could have been a trap game, so to speak? It took you guys a while to get going ...**

"Yeah, I don't like the word 'trap game.' We were just a tick off here on a few plays. Whatever it was — whether it was focus or a little thing here or there — on the first three drives I could point to one little thing whether I made a mistake on a play, just having a play break down, whatever it was, we just couldn't get going. But the defense was playing lights out today. For us, the offense was stalling out and not scoring points, and to still be in a tie ball game — they were playing lights out. It was awesome to lean on them heavy in the first half, and then be able to reward their turnovers with points, I think that's great team ball."

## **VON MILLER**

### **Outside linebacker**

#### **Initial comments ...**

"Great team win. The Bengals played tough, as we expected them to play. In the second half, the defense got rolling, the offense got rolling, and we were able to come away with a win."

### **What was the reaction in the huddle to losing CB Chris Harris Jr.?**

"Man, it was hard. Everybody in Broncos Country knows what Chris Harris means to our secondary and our team. That was a huge one right there. I know it's cliché to say, but next man up. We've got a lot of great rookies here. So we're going to have to keep playing well to keep us on our way to where we're going."

### **What did you guys do differently in the second half?**

"I guess we just jelled. Coming into this game we didn't really know what to expect, so kind of just feeling them out in the first quarter and a half — they scored a field goal right at the end of the half. Just feeling them out. Took a little bit too long. As a defense we've got to get started quicker than that. At the end of the day we got the win, and that's all that really matters."

### **When you know you're thin in the secondary, do you dial it up a little bit more yourself knowing you've got to get the heat on the quarterback?**

"That's how I feel on every single play. I could go out there with just me and (Bradley) Chubb on the field and it would be the exact same way. Doesn't matter who we got out there, I feel the exact same way."

### **Does it mean something to be 6-6 and back even again?**

"Yeah, we're 6-6 — we're .500 — still got four games left. These have got to be our best four. These have got to be our best four. Took a long way to get here and we've still got a long way to go."

### **You said there wouldn't be a letdown like last year. What is it about this team that made you think you could come in here and get a win today?**

"As a team and as a defense, we always have confidence that we can go in and win a game. We had that confidence coming into this game — we just didn't want to go out there lax. We knew we were going to play well, we just didn't want to go out there lax and give them something cheap. We didn't do that."

### **What have you seen from RB Phillip Lindsay, today specifically?**

“He’s just out of this world. He’s a great running back and a great teammate. It’s really no surprise to me especially, because I’ve seen it time and time again at practice. I can see the aura around him when he’s walking through the locker room. He’s going to be great. He’s going to be great.”

### **Does he get the edge on you in practice like he gets the edge on everybody in the game?**

“Nah (laughs). Me and Phil are boys.”

## **PHILLIP LINDSAY**

### **Running back**

#### **When you saw the wind blowing like this, was there a feeling among you and the offensive line that this could be that kind of day — physical, ground-and-pound football?**

“We went into the game thinking we were going to run the ball. That was the game plan, but the wind does change different things. We just stayed on course.”

#### **What did getting a game ball mean to you?**

“It was the offensive line’s and mine. It meant a lot to all of us. They’re doing a great job. I can’t stress that enough, about how well they’re playing right now. They actually get mad if I don’t get five yards. They’re always telling me to stay behind them — ‘Don’t do your own thing, let’s stay the course.’ I’m proud of them, and I’m going to keep on following them.”

#### **Case Keenum just said you didn’t want anything to do with the ball, and just gave it to the offensive line ...**

“I don’t like that attention. It’s not about me, it’s about the team. That’s how it’s always been in my life. When you have family, and you’re in the middle of two older sisters and two younger brothers, it’s about them. It’s about your family. That’s what it’s about.”

#### **So your older sisters taught you that it’s not about you, it’s about them?**

“Well, my family told me it’s not about (any) of us, it’s about all of us together. We work as a unit.”

#### **Can you go back and introduce yourself to us the way you introduced yourself to the team? Because we just got a pretty funny story about that from Domata Peko ...**

“When we first got to the Denver Broncos, all the rookies had to stand up in front of everybody, so I was kind of nervous anyway. You had to say where you were from, who you were. So I say, ‘My name’s Phillip Lindsay, I went to the University of Colorado, and I’m from Colorado.’ Everybody started laughing — little dude (laughs). Peko has never dropped that since (laughs). Every time I walk by his locker he says it (laughs). It’s a good little story.”

#### **He said some of the guys are calling you ‘pit bull’ because of your running style. Is that a nickname you’re okay with?**

“Yeah, I like it. I like it. The defensive line gave me that name. When the defensive line gives you a name, you take it (laughs). So we have this couch, and rookies aren’t supposed to be on it, but I’m on it, so they try to kick me off of it. They throw me off of it. But when they turn their back, I get on (laughs).”

#### **Do you think you’ve earned the right to be on the couch?**

“No, they’re not going to let me on the couch until my next year. But I’ll still be on the couch.”

#### **Do you think your in-game speed surprises people?**

“I give a lot of credit to (Strength and Conditioning) Coach Loren Landow. Before he was my strength coach with the Denver Broncos, he was my coach for prepping for the combine and pro day. He got me healthier, and he got me more explosive and back to myself. When I was at the University of Colorado, I was banged up, beat up. By this time of the year we were done, but you just kind of miss opportunities. But when you’ve got people like Garrett Boles running people off the line — he was chasing them (laughs) — it works well.

#### **Do you believe in the rookie wall?**

“I told you all before, it’s a mindset. (Running backs coach) Curtis Modkins, he took Royce (Freeman) and I into a room and just described and explained that there’s no such thing as a rookie wall, it’s just how you guys act, it’s how you guys prepare, and it’s how you guys treat your bodies. When you’re trying to win games and get into the playoffs, you don’t have time for a rookie wall. Everybody has your back.”

#### **You mentioned Garrett — what is it like seeing a big man like that running on the outside about to take out someone?**

“He probably had the fastest meter time we’ve ever seen (laughs). It feels good, you know what I mean? They love me, man. And I love them. They do a lot for me. They put their bodies on the line, and Garrett’s out there chasing people down. So I follow them. I follow them, I make the right reads, and my job is to make people miss, get to that next level, and use my speed to take it to the house. That’s my job.”

#### **As someone from Colorado, explain saluting after an NFL touchdown ...**

“It feels good. I got a lot of stuff, because the first game, I saluted with my left hand. I was more ramped up and stuff. It was my first time doing it — a little jitters. I did it out of respect for the soldiers. I did it out of respect for DT (Demaryius Thomas), who did it because of the soldiers. It’s a big thing, and it’s about doing it right. I’m excited and proud that I could do it.”

## **DOMATA PEKO**

### **Defensive tackle**

#### **How did it feel coming back to Cincinnati?**

“Good, man. It felt really good to get back to Cincinnati. Last time Cincinnati came to Denver, we didn’t come out on top, but it felt really good to come back to Paul Brown. I played almost 90 home games here I think. I’m real familiar with this area, and it felt really good to come out on top today. Big win.”

#### **Was it more emotional than you thought it would be?**

“It was actually pretty cool. It was a mix of emotions, man. You’re happy to be back and see all your old teammates and coaches and all that, but then you’re kind of mad because you’re not back, you know what I mean? It was a mixture of emotions, but I feel like Cincinnati fans are showing me a lot of love out there. All I kept hearing was ‘We miss you, man. We miss you, we miss you.’ It was good to hear that. I just thank God for my players, my teammates. They all came out today and got the job done, because we have a

bigger thing on our mind. Our eyes are on the prize. We started off pretty weak this year — pretty slow I'd say — but now we're rolling. We've got three in a row — we've created a little win streak here. We've just got to keep it moving."

#### **What has clicked over the last few weeks for you guys?**

"Man, I just think we have a lot of confidence now, man. When we got that first win over the Chargers I think, they were on a five-game or six-game win streak. And then we beat Pittsburgh — they were on a five-game win streak. If you look at the playoff picture, those guys are at the top of the list it seems like in the AFC. And to go up there and get W's like that, that was huge for us, and I think that just created a confidence. Yeah man, we're really playing with a lot of confidence right now. Whenever we touch the field we feel like we're the best team out there. We just keep that rolling man, we should be in really good shape."

#### **What was it like when Chris Harris Jr. went down out there?**

"Yeah, that sucked, man. He just made a tackle — I think he said he got some friendly fire. We're definitely going to miss Chris. I think big (Derek) Wolfe went down so we're going to miss him as well. That's the name of the game man, when someone goes down it's got to be the next man up. And we've got some good players in this locker room, and I think the front office did a good job of creating depth for our team. We've got a lot of depth, so hopefully we won't skip a beat. Losing someone like Chris is real tough for our team, but we've got the players here to overcome that."

#### **At the two-minute warning feeling the love from the fans, what did that mean to you?**

"It felt great, man. I kind of felt like that I, I don't know, like I left here too soon. I felt like I had more to give. I had more to give this city and to my old team, but it's just the way the game goes, and the way the business goes. No one's ever going to be on one team for their whole career, unless you're someone special. That hardly happens, because even Peyton Manning had to leave Indy. It felt really good to get the love from the fans. Being here for 11 seasons man, I was always raising up the fans, and getting them hyped, and getting them proud, and just to hear that they still love me here felt really good."

#### **So they did give you some love?**

"Yeah they did, and they're showing a lot of love here in the city. Right when I got off the bus man, the security was showing love — everyone, man. They remember your boy out here. So it just felt really good. I just want to thank God for keeping me strong. It's my 13th season in the league. Not many players can say that, and still going strong and really energetic."

#### **You've made it 13 years, that's got to feel special ...**

"Yeah it is, brother. I think it is, man. Being able to play so long at a high level, man — that's definitely God up there — so big thanks to him. Feels really good to be back here at Paul Brown man, and to see some familiar faces. I'm super excited to get the W."

#### **Are you surprised at all seeing Phillip Lindsay and what he does out there on the field?**

"Oh man. Big shout out to Phillip Lindsay, man. I'm so happy he's on our team. I'm happy we picked him up as a free agent, man. I remember at training camp and OTAs he was wearing No. 2, and all the guys were like 'Who the hell is that No. 2? He's making plays on us, man.' And now the world knows, it's Phillip Lindsay, man. The funniest part about it, we had introductions to meet the new guys, and Phillip Lindsay said 'My name's Phillip Lindsay. I'm from Colorado, and I went to Colorado (laughs).' It's stuck in my head forever. Now we call him the pit bull, man. Teams are starting to see he's a pit bull, man. He plays with a lot of energy. I love that guy, man."

### **JUSTIN SIMMONS**

#### **Safety**

#### **It seems like you lost a few guys but never missed a step ...**

"Yeah, our defense has always had a 'next man up' mentality— '1-0' has been our mentality for the last three weeks. We talk about it in the meeting room and on the practice field — '1-0' pertains to everyone — second string, third string, practice squad. We have a next man up mentality."

#### **Three straight wins has to give you confidence ...**

"Yeah, for sure. We're not surprised at all with where we're at. We can't be complacent. We'll come back and watch some film, because there were some times during this game when things got a little sloppy. So we'll watch some film, fix those mistakes, and we'll be 1-0 going into the game next week with San Francisco."

### **SHELBY HARRIS**

#### **Nose tackle**

#### **Can you tell when you're on a roll as a defensive lineman?**

"Yeah, it can happen to anyone. If you get hot, everything is working. All of your moves are connecting — you're feeling powerful. It's just like that sometimes. If we have a hot man, let him stay in and let him roll. You need to get hot, especially down the stretch."

#### **Speaking of getting hot, can you say something about how RB Phillip Lindsay is playing?**

"He's balling right now. He needs to keep it up. He's a young rookie out there doing his thing. We needed that today. It was a big momentum push today."

#### **You're on fire — what's working?**

"My teammates are putting me in positions to make plays. I'm telling you, it's my little girl. I'm blessed."

### **CHRIS HARRIS JR.**

#### **Cornerback**

#### **Did they tell you how bad your injury is?**

"I'll be alright. I'll be back."

#### **How long?**

"I don't know. Probably like a month. I came back from an ACL, and this isn't as bad as that."

#### **Do you think you'll be back this season?**

"I don't know. If we make the playoffs, I know I'll be ready for that."

#### **What was the pain like?**

"It really wasn't that painful. I didn't have the same power. Just knowing how I play with my speed and my power, I couldn't get



back up to it. I just knew I had to get checked out. When I got checked out, something was there.”

**Is there any surgery involved?**

“No, I don’t think so.”

**BRADLEY CHUBB**

**Outside linebacker**

**Do you feel like you guys played well today?**

“As a team, we played well on both sides of the ball. There were some plays we could correct, but fortunately those plays didn’t come back to haunt us. We have to keep moving forward for next week.”

**Some of the guys are saying the motto is ‘1-0.’ What does that mean?**

“It means, ‘Don’t let the moment be bigger than it is.’ We have one game at a time. Focus on what we have to do, win that one game and move on to the next week.”

**Do you feel like that puts pressure on you not to have any mistakes?**

“Mistakes are going to happen, but it’s about how you build from them and how you bounce back from them. Sometimes things won’t go our way, but at the end of the day, we’re stilling winning the game. You try to limit the mistakes, but they’re always going to happen.”