



***Kansas City Chiefs vs. Cincinnati Bengals***  
***Sunday, January 29, 2023***  
***AFC Championship Game***  
***Bengals QB Joe Burrow***



**Q:** What is going through your head right now?

**BURROW:** "It's a tough loss. We didn't make the plays that we needed to win this game, and they did down the stretch. That's what it came down to."

**Q:** How much was your wrist bothering you towards the end?

**BURROW:** "It happened in the last couple of plays so not much."

**Q:** Do you feel like the pressure that Kansas City put on you guys was what you expected it to be?

**BURROW:** "They did a good job, they had a good plan. They did a good job of creating one on one matchups up front to let their guys go and try to win. They did a good job of that."

**Q:** On that last drive, how confident were you guys that you would be able to get into field goal range to kick the game winner?

**BURROW:** "Yeah, that was the plan. It started off strong but we had a penalty or two, and we just weren't able to do it. We had a big third down conversion, but we just weren't able to convert the last couple of plays to extend that drive."

**Q:** It felt like a lot of your plays today were really gutsy. Is that what it takes to win a game at this level?

**BURROW:** "These games are never going to be pretty. You just have to find ways. It felt like the tide was turning our way, and it felt like we were going to find a way to win this game. Like I said, we didn't make the plays down the stretch."

**Q:** How much did what Chris Jones was able to do change what you guys were able to do? Did it take away some plays from your playbook?

**BURROW:** "Yeah, he's so good. He makes it so hard on you. He's so big, strong and physical. He really understands what you're trying to do to him up front. You have to give them credit, they had a really good rush plan. They let their big time pass rushers go to work."

**Q:** What did you make of all of the trash talk between the Chiefs and the Bengals this week?

**BURROW:** "I just think that's what makes football fun. It's all love at the end of the day. They know the respect that we have for them and we know the respect that they have for us. It's an intense, emotional game and things like that are going to happen but I think that's why the game is fun."

**Q:** You guys have been on such a roll. Was this loss kind of stunning for you guys?

**BURROW:** "You always expect to win the game. You never go out there expecting to lose but that's not always how it turns out."

**Q:** What do you say to Joseph Ossai, if anything, to try to comfort him?

**BURROW:** "There were a lot of plays other than that that could've turned the tide in the game and won us the game."

**Q:** What were your thoughts on that 4<sup>th</sup> and 6 and connecting with Ja'Marr Chase?

**BURROW:** "Find that guy. Unbelievable play by him."

**Q:** When you look around this organization and think about the future, do you feel good about where you are?

**BURROW:** "I feel great about the direction that we're headed in. That's the great thing about the NFL, it's not like college where you only have four years, you have as many years as you want to, hopefully. We will come back, have a great offseason and get better as a team, get better individually and come back next year ready to go."

**Q:** Do you anticipate that this is going to be a team you see a lot in games like these over the next 5-7 years while you and Patrick Mahomes are in the prime of your careers?

**BURROW:** "I think you can expect that. We know the kind of team that they have, the kind of quarterback that they have and the kind of coaches that they have. We expect to be back there and I think they do too."

**Q:** Now that you have played a few of these games on the road, how badly do you want to be able to play these kinds of games at home?

**BURROW:** "Yeah, that's the goal. The goal is always to have the one seed. Homefield advantage in the playoffs is such an advantage, so that is always the goal. We'll try to come back next year and get it."

**Q:** Zac [Head Coach Zac Taylor] called this the closest team that he has been a part of. How do you feel about that and what this team could look like next year?

**BURROW:** "Yeah, those guys know how I feel about them. There is not one guy in that locker room that I don't have a lot of feelings for and really care for. They all know that. I tried to communicate that a lot throughout the year, and I think that's why we've been in the positions that we were in."

**Q:** Do you feel like this is a game that will make you guys stronger?

**BURROW:** "You learn from every loss just like every win. We will go watch the film, make our corrections, get better and head into the offseason with an extended offseason as opposed to last year. I think we can take advantage of that and get a head start on getting our bodies the way we need to going into next year."

**Q:** How do you try to live in the moment in these games but also be able to move on from this especially having been here last year?

**BURROW:** "Even last year, the expectation was to always be in this game and to win it. I think we have the guys in that room, going forward, that will put us in that position, along with the front office and the coaching staff. I feel very good about the direction that were headed in. We've been in this game for two straight years. We have won one and lost one. Obviously, this one hurts but we will come back stronger."

**Q:** Did they do a lot of different things in this game versus when they played you guys earlier in the season?

**BURROW:** "They doubled us a little more, mixed up what side they were doubling and clouding. We'll have to watch the film and really digest it before I make some more in-depth remarks but that is off the top of the head."

## **HEAD COACH ZAC TAYLOR**

**Q:** What did you see on the play with Joseph Ossai at the end of the game?

**TAYLOR:** "It is tough. It was a tough play, but it did not come down to that. You know there was a lot of other plays that we just missed out on, and they made one more play than we did."

**Q:** What do you say to him on the sideline to pick him up?

**TAYLOR:** "It is hard. We are emotional. We worked really hard to get here. Any play that people feel for, you are going to take it hard. We want guys like that this means a lot to. They care about it and their teammates. Joseph (Ossai) comes to work everyday man. He loves ball. He loves being a part of this team. It did not come down to that play."

**Q:** On offensive efforts tonight...

**TAYLOR:** "That is hard. We just didn't make enough plays and couldn't get it done today."

**Q:** What did the officials tell you about the third down do-over?

**TAYLOR:** "That they were going to do the play over and the whistle had blown somewhere."

**Q:** What were the challenges for trying to slow down Chris Jones?

**TAYLOR:** "It is hard. We tried to stop the line when we can. They did a good job with their packages. They make it really difficult. He is a great player. He is a defensive MVP kind of player. He stepped up really big in these moments today and you have to give credit to him. We have a lot of respect for him and he made some big plays today."

**Q:** What did you say to the team in the locker room after this game?

**TAYLOR:** "I am just proud of this team. I am proud of the character of these men, and this is where character is going to be tested the most in moments like this when it is fresh. You were so close to winning an AFC Championship back-to-back and going to the Super Bowl on the road. There have been a lot of obstacles thrown at this team, and they knocked them all down. We just couldn't get past this last one here. Again, we have great character, and we want to represent our team and our city the right way."

**Q:** What was your thought process on going for the 4<sup>th</sup> and six?

**TAYLOR:** "We wanted to go get a touchdown and Joe (Burrow) made a great play. We were just down seven, and you don't want to run the risk of not putting points on the board and making it tough and then you don't know how much time you are going to have left. I trust our guys. I think it was 4<sup>th</sup> and six. That was an area we talked about, even before the game started of potentially going for it. It matched up very well."

**Q:** Did you think there was a player in the area for the intentional grounding play?

**TAYLOR:** "It is hard to tell. I do not know."

**Q:** What did you think about the catch Ja'Marr Chase made on the six-yard line?

**TAYLOR:** "Awesome. It was a great play. Joe just put it up and let him make a play. They were trying to double him, and he split the double team. Ja'Marr does what Ja'Marr does and he made a big play for us."

**Q:** How do you think Joe Burrow handled the pressure he faced all day today?

**TAYLOR:** "Awesome. I thought that he extended plays when he needed to. He always kept his eyes on the field. He made some big plays with his feet. He had a great quarterback draw. He does what he does. He gives us a chance, and as a team, we just came up a little short."

**Q:** How big of a loss was Tyler Boyd with his injury?

**TAYLOR:** “That was hard. It was hard for him to get through it. I think there ultimately at the end Trent (Taylor) stepped up and he felt good about it and did a good job.”

**Q:** Did Drue Chrisman miss the last punt? Was he supposed to punt it directionally?

**TAYLOR:** “We will talk about that one tomorrow.”

**Q:** How do you feel about this organization’s chance to be back in this game again next year?

**TAYLOR:** “It is a special organization. There are special people leading it. It is a special group of coaches and players who love representing our city and our fanbase. It is just time to get back to work. We will be using this offseason to get ready to next year.”

**Q:** In the drive before halftime, were you taking a timeout and expecting a review?

**TAYLOR:** “You just have to call it like they give it to you. It is hard to tell.”

**Q:** Was there any option to make a play with four seconds left before the half?

**TAYLOR:** “Four is the cutoff. Four means it is in someone else’s hands of when that last second ticks off. A ball could get tipped and that causes an extra second or two to runoff. We knew going into that play that there were eight seconds before, had there been five, probably take a shot. Four seconds gets too dicey. You have to take the points.”

**Q:** How different was the Kansas City defense today?

**TAYLOR:** “Really there was two sacks on third downs, we were just a little bit behind the chains there. I thought they really rallied. I thought it was a great chance and you know they have pressures and all that stuff. It is a really good defense. It is a pressure defense. They have a good front. I thought our line really fought hard and gave us a great chance to win the game.”

**Q:** Does it ache even more since you have not lost in such a long time?

**TAYLOR:** “It aches, trust me. Our goal was to win the Super Bowl. To be seconds away again to get back there and watching them celebrate, it is horrible because this team has invested so much in each other to get to this point. We have been playing playoff football since Halloween, we just didn’t know it. We had to win 10 games to be here. I am really proud of the way these guys show up. They are so consistent every single day. The way they fought until the final whistle today. It is hard to find anything you don’t like about this team.”

**Q:** On the disappointing last few minutes of the game...

**TAYLOR:** “There is no doubt. You think you are going to go down there and win the game winning field goal with no time left. Unfortunately, it just did not go that way.”

**Q:** How would you assess the defense’s performance today?

**TAYLOR:** “Our defense is outstanding, the men, the coaches. I am really proud of those guys. They fought every single week. They are dependable and they gave us a great chance today.”

**Q:** When do you think you can fully appreciate everything this team accomplished this year?

**TAYLOR:** “I think I appreciate it now. You have been a part of enough of these now. I have been fortunate enough to go to two Super Bowls and now three AFC Championship games. You try to live in the moment. Last year just happened so fast for us. This year, it was an expectation, but you are able to appreciate every step of the way. There are four teams left, 28 at home. We do not take that for granted. We just

appreciate every second with these guys at practice and at meetings. It is such a fun group. They love ball. They love each other. It is a great honor to be the coach of these guys.”