

Atlanta Falcons Postgame Quotes
December 1, 2024

HEAD COACH RAHEEM MORRIS

Opening Statement:

“Appreciate the team's efforts. Appreciate everything the guys did today. You just can't go out and turn the football over four times and expect to win a football game. There will be a lot of things to go back and correct. There will be a lot of things to go back do. We've got to find ways to win games like that. We've got to find ways to win those in spite of or regardless of what happens. Appreciate the growth mindset from a lot of the guys that happened. We just can't win football games that way.”

On what led to the interceptions today:

“We've got to go look at tape, obviously, but we've got make better decisions in some cases. We can't turn the ball over. We've got to throw the ball to the back of the end zone at the end of the game and try to win that thing, try to fit it into a tight window. It is what it is, man. We can't have those things happen regardless of what it was or what the reasons are. We won't make any excuses for them. That happened today. That guy has carried us all season. He's done such a marvelous job. It's hard to throw that guy under the bus [with] what he's done for us and what he's done for this organization. We'll bounce back, we'll bring him back and we'll get ready to go.”

On the progress in the pass rush:

“I won't go gloating about the pass rush today. We've got to go look at it and see what we did well, what we did better, watch the guys. But just give the guys the credit. They got the sacks, they rushed the passer and were able to create some things for us on defense. We'll be able to watch the tape, find out what went really well. Hopefully it's repeatable and we'll be able to go out there and find a way to get those results again.”

On whether he plans to stick with QB Kirk Cousins at quarterback:

“Yeah. We don't have any issues with that, man. I don't think that's going to be the issue around here. That guy has carried us. That guy has got us to the point where we're 6-6 and we're first place in the division. Still got everything in front of us, despite what happened today. It's up to us to bounce back and find a way to win football games, and there's no better man than [No.] 18 to go do that for us.”

On whether he is pleased with what he is getting from TE Kyle Pitts:

“He's done a really good job all season based on what his total production is for what's going on in the big picture. He has a lot of receivers. Compare him to his peers, he's done such a good job. We got so many people that we've got to get the ball to. Sometimes those days happen. I would like to see Kyle get more production. I would like to see him have more opportunities. Whether it's us getting it to him or him doing a better job, we'll figure those things out as we go.”

On whether he thought about making a switch at quarterback late in the game:

"No."

On the Chargers' defensive performance today:

"They did a nice job. I think they're one of the top-ranked defenses in the National Football League. They've got really good football players. They've got a really good pass rush. They're coached really well. Derwin James is one of the best players. I don't even know what they call him: stars, safety, dime, whatever you want to call it in the National Football League. He showed up today, made a bunch of big-time plays. Those guys are a very good football team. Well coached. Lot of hats off to those guys."

On the comparison from last year to this year:

"I wasn't here last year. We're not dealing with that. We're going to come out here and fight, find ways to get better. Come out next week, try to get us a win [and] go find a way to win versus Minnesota."

On whether he feels he needs to address the team's confidence or just buckle down on what the team is already doing:

"I don't necessarily worry about our team's confidence. I think our team comes out every single week with the ability to go out there and have reasons and ways to win the football game. When you have ability and a way to win a football game and you know what it takes to go out there and do it and you don't do it, it's really clear what your purpose was that day. We didn't get that done. We've got to go get our purpose done. We got it done in a couple phases. This wasn't a debacle. This wasn't one of those things that we had before the bye. This is one of those situations where we've got to get that one phase of our game fixed, and I know we can do it."

On whether he was pleased with what he saw today as far as improvement in the red zone:

"No question. The beautiful thing about it was I loved the fact that we didn't get the penalties that set us back. It was turnovers today that really set us back in that situation, and that was some of the things you've got to be able to go in and punch those things in. You can't kick field goals in this league and win football games. You've got to score touchdowns. You've got to be able to go out there and force your will on your opponent. They moved the ball very nicely up and down the field. Once we get in those situations, we've got to score points. We'll have an emphasis on our red zone offense for sure, but go out there and detail our passing game up even more to make things come to life for us, whether it's Kyle Pitts, whether it's Drake London, whether it's [Darnell] Mooney, whether it's Ray-Ray [McCloud III], whether it's Bijan [Robinson], whether it's Tyler [Allgeier] and any other weapons that we have currently in Atlanta that we can go out there and utilize in order to score touchdowns."

On his thoughts on the offensive drives stalling recently:

"Definitely got to execute. Looking at the last three weeks, you've got to go out there and execute better. The previous reasons were penalties stopping us from getting to the 1-yard lines and things of that nature. Today, it was lack of execution of some of our core concepts that we

wanted to get done or some of our new concepts that we put in versus these guys. And again, I don't want to take credit from what the Chargers were able to do on the defensive side of the ball and the things that they were able to accomplish. They played better than us today on defense and their offense, especially in the red zone. A lot of hats off to those guys."

On whether he was considering a switch at quarterback late in the fourth quarter:

"Kirk [Cousins] was brought here to put us in a playoff position, to put us in a position to go out there and find a way to get in the playoffs, get a home playoff game, win this division in the South. Everything is still right in front of us. We've got so much confidence in our young man that we drafted, and we're still sticking with our plan. Kirk is here to develop and then grow and to make us go and find a way to get wins, and that's his job. He will continue to do that for us, and I got no doubt in my mind that he's going to bounce back and ready to go, particularly versus his former team."

On K Younghoe Koo's body language after the missed field goal and his ability to bounce back:

"I did not see his body language. I saw the miss. I saw the results. I don't get caught up in the emotional roller coaster of those things. I know he came back and kicked one that he's got to make. We've got to make all those things, particularly in the range that he's able to make those things. He knows that. We know that. That's something we've got to make sure we address and do the right thing."

On what he needs to see from QB Kirk Cousins in a response to his play today:

"Don't turn the ball over. It's really simple. He did everything right, except turn the ball over today. You look at your stats, you can look at yards, you can look at receptions. You can do all those things today. If you turn the ball over today, you're going to be in trouble. Execution in the red zone. All those things."

QB KIRK COUSINS

Opening Statement:

"Obviously, disappointing outcome, disappointing play. I look to myself and say I've got to play better. It hurts when you feel like your defense played winning football, you feel like your special teams made big plays, felt like the run game did a solid job. I've got to play better, and so [I] take responsibility, and you go back and kind of have to watch with a really critical eye and talk about, okay how can I make sure this never happens again and that's the mindset. So disappointed right now. It hurts. Feel like that was a game we had a chance to win if I played at the standard I expect to play at, and I'll take any questions you have."

On whether he feels like it was good to get a game like this out of the way heading into Minnesota:

"I don't know. I don't think it's ever a good time for it. I think whether it had been -- every game I say this -- a great performance, a bad performance, anything in between, you have to treat it as a standalone event and be able to get back on the horse and get to work the next week, and this week is no different. So that's how you approach it."

On what the offense needs to do to finish more drives with touchdowns:

"I thought we did fail to get in the end zone at the end of drives and just a couple of those pass plays that we weren't able to connect on. Each one kind of has its own reason. They did a good job in coverage, and they do a good job of mixing rush and coverage, and made it hard to get points."

On what he saw on the interception he threw in the end zone:

"I just saw Drake [London] matched and as I kind of ran up, I just wanted -- he's so good at going up and I just thought I'm going to give him a chance to kind of go up. But it was just trying to do too much. I think I can just throw that ball away. I think, in rhythm, may have been able to kick it to Darnell Mooney as well. So, you go back and watch that. But I just kind of misinterpreted where I could put the ball to Drake and tried to give him a jump ball."

On whether there is something he needs to do to get back on track after not getting results the last three games:

"Well, certainly when you haven't played at the standard you want to a few weeks in a row, you know, you do want to change that, turn it around. I've never felt -- whether you're playing really well for several weeks in a row, I've never felt like the games carry over or vice versa. You just have to perform the best you can each week. I think there's plays in the Saints game you look back, outside of the interception of the end of the game, felt pretty good about the execution, and then the Denver game certainly those first two drives felt like good execution and we just weren't able to sustain it and then this game certainly the turnovers. So, it's not any one thing that's showing up every game. You just have to go back and try to become better as a player and a tough game like this gives you, certainly, an opportunity to do that."

On where he thinks the team's confidence is at this point:

"Well, I feel our defense played high-level football today, and that's the thing is that it's a team,

it's complementary football. We all have to do it together to create the result we want, and so I think our defense's confidence should be high coming off of this game. I think there's a lot of players on offense who played at a high level and fought really hard and executed well. I think there's no reason to not just get back to work and believe that we can go out and play at a high level moving forward."

On whether it is a shock to his system to have a four-interception game and whether doubt enters his mind:

"No. I think it's just disappointing. It's just disappointing. It's hard to feel good about it. So, you've just got to get back on the horse and get back to work and play your best up ahead and look forward. But you don't gloss over it either. You're hard on yourself and try to learn a lot from it."

On how he feels physically at this point in the season:

"I feel pretty good. I feel, I think today coming off the bye week I felt really good. I would love to tell you that I'm fighting through something, but that's not the case. I think I felt as good today as I have all season."

On whether being a veteran makes it easier to move past a game like this and get back on track:

"Potentially. Potentially. I think it always helps to have experience and to draw from that, and so I certainly have that and, potentially, it can help. But you've got to go do it."

On what happened on the pick six:

"No. It wasn't any miscommunication. I think it was just a poor decision. I was trying to be - maybe made too quick of a decision, be a little too decisive, if you will. I should have just let it develop a little longer, feel that, okay, it's covered and progress, which really is what probably needed to happen. A little too decisive."

On how the team makes sure this three-game losing streak doesn't snowball further:

"I think it's every week, whether it's a good game, a poor game, you have to get back and work hard to prepare and to not let your guard down after a good game, to not press after a poor game. You just have to kind of be steady and go through your process and try to chase that consistency, and that's what all of us are chasing every week. Regardless of an outcome, you feel like that's always a challenge that you're trying to handle."

On whether there is something tangible he can point to on how the team was able to limit penalties:

"No. I don't have a great answer for you there. It is important to stay out of penalties. I think it did help us today. But nothing specific I can point to."

On what his message to the team is moving forward:

"It's similar to what I've been saying here the last few minutes. [We] just have to get back to

work, understand each game is its own entity and just plan on putting together the right preparation all week long to be able to go to your next opponent and play your absolute best.”

On the team still being in first place in the division and whether that softens the loss at all:

“Well, I certainly think that some of these questions have been about moving forward, and I think when we're in a situation like you just articulated, that's why moving forward is really important, because we have so much football ahead of us that if we can execute at a high level and win, we do have what we want to go get. That's where the moving forward part is really important.”

On what Raheem Morris backing him means going forward:

“I think there's no entitlement in the NFL. You just have to go earn it, and if it ever was that, I wouldn't want it. I need to play a level that justifies being out there, and so that's the way I'll always view it. I've always felt, through my whole 13 years, that it should never be about anything but earning the right to be out there.”

CB CLARK PHILLIPS III

On their defensive success against the Chargers:

"Just playing hard and trusting each other, playing our assignment. I feel like we got in a good rhythm in terms of rush and coverage, and it all plays hand-in-hand. We just got to keep on stacking."

On slowing Chargers WR Ladd McConkey down:

"I felt like we did a good job just kind of blanking him. Just getting hands on him when we can, and then always having our eyes on him in bigger situations like third downs and stuff like that. We just got to keep on going. Wasn't enough to get the 'W' today."

On the team's mentality following multiple losses in a row:

"Keep on playing, you know. Don't get too high, don't get too low. Just keep on trusting each other, trusting the scheme, trusting each other and winning."

On what they were focused on for this game coming off the bye week:

"I think every room has something different. For us, we wanted to cover better, make sure we're on receivers, defensive line wanted to rush better. So I think it all plays hand-in-hand, and today, like I said, we did pretty good. I felt like we took a step in the right direction, but it wasn't enough to get the 'W.' So we have to get back to the drawing board and come back next week ready to play."

WR DARNELL MOONEY

On the message after this game:

"That's one we've got to win after the bye week and two losses. We kind of have to put it behind us and just move forward. Know that we've got a lot ahead of us and we're still winning our division or whatever, I believe so, and just got to treat every game like a playoff game"

On the offensive stalls:

"Just got to put points on the board at the end of the day. Get down at the red zone. Go score. Go and receive points."

On whether he talked to QB Kirk Cousins to help him through his struggles in the game:

"I mean, it's [the] equivalent of someone dropping a pass. You don't want to go and set fire."

G CHRIS LINDSTROM

On the support for QB Kirk Cousins:

"Yeah, Kirk [Cousins] is fantastic. We love him. He's the leader of this team. He drives us every single day. He's the guy who brings energy every single day, and he's there for us. He's a huge reason why we're here in this spot, first in the division. We've hit a bump in the road, but it's not going to stop us going forward."

On the mentality of several losses in a row but being first in the division:

"I just think there's urgency. We know we obviously don't want to let those go. But, heading into next week, I just think we're going to be attacking the preparation."

On offensive struggles after bye week:

"It happens. It's pro football. Those guys are great on the other side. I think you've just got to look at what we need to do. Obviously, like I said, we did a better job eliminating penalties, but we've got to be able to run the ball down to the red zone too."

DL GRADY JARRETT

On the defense having five sacks on the day:

"It should've been six, I missed that one at the end. I had him and let him go. But we still got the stop and got them in field goal range. But just an amazing improvement by the whole group. I'm excited to continue to build off that and continue to hunt. It was super encouraging that everybody got a piece of him and it was great to be a part of it. We want to continue to build off that performance for the defense."

On message to the team for the bye week:

"To regroup, reevaluate, see some things we could do better and see what we've done well. See what personnel that we can put together to be more effective. Coach Raheem turned the heat up on us this week, which is good for everybody involved and I think we definitely responded well. So, I'm just super excited to get back to work, we control what we can control and always trying to find ways to get better"

On building off of defensive momentum into next weeks game after a loss:

"You know it's now or never. You have to flip the mindset fast. We're disappointed today to be unable to get the win. But at the end of the day, you get an opportunity, that's all you can ask for is to have the opportunity to go back. We definitely need to look back on this one and see where we can get better at all phases. We have to respond fast. That's the reality, we have the guys to do that, the coaching staff to do it and it's going to come to fruition. I'm excited to see it happen."

Los Angeles Chargers Postgame Quotes December 1, 2024

HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On CB Tarheeb Still:

"He's been just so locked in. The thing that impresses me the most is how locked in he is for a young player. I mean, they can get a little drifty, just in their preparation as the season goes on. But he has been locked in. Cool as the other side of the pillow, as Stuart Scott used to say, he's been tremendous. Derwin James, that's the effect that the leadership has on players. I mean, there's nobody like Derwin James. All you have to do is watch him. It's infectious. But, you know, the antidote for complacency, or a short week, or a tough situation or a little adversity is leadership. And, you know, leading us is Derwin, and Khalil [Mack], and Justin [Herbert], and Bose [Joey Bosa], and Rashawn Slater, and Denzel Perryman. I just can't say enough about those guys and what they've done. But, you know, what a beautiful thing. I mean, what a beautiful thing we are all witnessing. It's players, it's coaches, it's the personnel department, it's ownership. It's an entire organization coming together, playing complementary, winning football. It's a beautiful thing."

On the offensive struggles:

"It's a beautiful thing we're witnessing. Complementary, winning football. Yeah, there were times that we weren't at our best offensively. And then, you know, that two-point conversion is, that's as big as any two-point conversion you could have in a game. It made all the difference at the end. We were at our best when our best was needed most. You know, it was as good as a two-point conversion that wins a game where you're down one and you go for two. I mean, that made all the difference there. But, the defense was incredible. Overcame a coaching decision by me that I wish I had back. So, yeah, I think I'll be better with my coaching decisions. Our offense will be better. And there was a defense, you know, playing their best when their best was needed most."

On the fake punt:

"It didn't work. I thought it was a good time to catch them by surprise. You know, they did a good job defending it. We didn't exactly run it the way we had practiced it. And it just came up short and that's on me. You know, those coaching decisions are, you know, they're good when they're right. And, there's the beautiful thing, you know, our defense gets the turnover. Marcus Maye, who just, as you know, was signed this week. Yeah, Wednesday. Didn't really practice. I know he didn't practice Wednesday. And Thursday, didn't on Thursday. By the time we got through all the physicals and everything. So Friday was really his first day. And, you know, Derwin James again. Here's Derwin, 'Coach, I'll get him ready.' I'll tell him, 'Hey, be in the post, be in the half, be in the flat.' And the coaches did a great job of getting him ready. And he's a pro. You know, similar defensive structure, right in and making plays. Jesse [Minter] called it. Jesse predicted that he would get an interception. First game, when we were looking at signing him. So, Jesse had the crystal ball out. Yeah, it was great."

QB JUSTIN HERBERT

On today's offensive issues:

"Yeah, obviously not the way that we want to play. We're not impressed or pleased with how we played, but we're very happy that we won. Our defense came up with some huge stops, got a bunch of turnovers. They showed up and we've got to do better as an offense."

On what goes through his mind when he watches the defense perform well:

"It's awesome. To have a defense that's playing like that, it's great for a team. We won because of the defense today and we've got to do a better job as an offense, like you said. We'll have to take a look at the film, see where we can get better and improve, but a huge shout out to the defense for playing the way they did today."

On the Falcons sacks today:

"I can always get the ball out quicker. I can always find the odds and understand that they do have a good pass rush. I've got to be able to be smart with the ball, get the ball out and understand that you can't take negative plays like that. So, that's on me and we're going to watch the film and we'll get better from it."

On losing RB J.K. Dobbins:

"It's always tough to lose a guy like J.K. [Dobbins], but fortunately we've got three running backs that really stepped up. They've done a great job in protection and running the ball and we trust those guys. Not the outcome that we'd like to have on offense today, but we got it done. Defense got it done. We're hoping for J.K. to get back as soon as he can, but the three guys behind him have definitely stepped up."

On what today's win says about the team as a whole:

"Not much more can be said about the defense. They've done such a great job this year. The way they fought, they stayed out there. I think we lost at times the possession battle and we've got to do a better job of getting first downs and keeping those guys off the field. They fought. They continued to fight. They've done such a great job this year. That's on us as an offense to be better, but to have them show up like that and really hold a good opponent like that, it allows you to win games."

On whether there's consolation in scoring field goals as an offense:

"There are things that we're going to look at and say, 'Hey, we did some pretty good things,' but there's going to be a lot of things that we're going to have to watch on film and say, you know, 'We can do a lot better at this.' That's where we have to be critical and honest with ourselves tomorrow when we watch the film, but it really was the story of the day for the defense to come up with those big turnovers. We've got to do a better job of limiting turnovers and executing in the red zone."

WR QUENTIN JOHNSTON

On what he thought about WR Ladd McConkey's performance:

"That's starting to become the norm now. I said in an interview before, I'm so lucky to be on the team with Ladd. So happy and stuff like that, not only for him but just the things that he's doing for his team. The name he's making for himself in the NFL in his first year is just amazing. So all praise to him, I'm very happy for him."

On where he thinks the offense is overall after the game:

"I feel like we've been doing okay but I feel like we still have a ways to go, just to be our full offense as far as just putting together complete games, complete drives, and stuff like that. But at this point in time, I'm not mad at anything we're doing. I'm happy with the results, obviously we're winning right now. We're just going to keep doing what we're doing and continuing to build on each week."

On what a strong defensive performance does for the offense and whether it provides motivation and breathing room in a tight game:

"Both, breathing room for sure. It motivates us to see them playing consistent, playing hard and stuff like that. That kind of helps project us into doing the same thing."

On his reaction to CB Tarheeb Still's pick six:

"I mean shoot, he was due for one of those, that's my dog. He does that all the time in practice and stuff like that. He was due for that. I was just really happy for him, just waiting on the sideline to come celebrate with him."

S MARCUS MAYE

On how much of the defense he knows after joining the team on Nov. 27 off waivers:

"A good bit. I had long nights, long flights of studying, early mornings of studying. Watching film, I had one walk-through, a semi-speed practice and get ready to play. So the glory of God, getting me through everything. I had to miss Thanksgiving with the family and everything like that. So just to finally be here, to play ball, get a win with this new team, definitely thankful."

On what his week looked like after signing midweek:

"I flew in Wednesday night, Thursday morning had a walk-through, no, Thursday morning I watched practice, Friday had a walk-through, and we flew and here we are. Yeah, so from Miami to Los Angeles, so four or five-hour flight there and then turn right back around. Learning new playbook and everything like that. So it's been a couple days, but I'm finally glad it's settled in."

On what it's like joining a new team and having to learn and adjust to the schemes:

"It comes with it, it's part of the nature of the business that we are in. But you just got to be a pro, you got to know how to study, you got to know how to be able to adjust on the fly, things like that. You got to roll with the punches, be able to adjust on the fly and everything like that. So just having to learn a new playbook and study. New teammates helping me out there, coaches working with me. So it's been a group effort."