



## **POSTGAME QUOTES**

**Carolina Panthers vs. New York Giants**

**Sunday, October 7, 2018**

### **Carolina Panthers**

***Head Coach Ron Rivera***  
***Carolina Panthers***

**RE: Special Teams putting on a show today**

They did, especially the kicker. They did a nice job, did things they are supposed to do and gave us an opportunity at the end on the offensive side to win the game. Really just feel fortunate. We played a good football team out there. Every time we had the opportunity to put them away, they just kept fighting their way back. We made some mistakes, things that we need to get corrected, but you have to give that football team credit. They have a two-time Super Bowl MVP, an All-Pro wide receiver, they have a young running back that has some excitement to him, they have a big massive offensive line. You have to give them credit.

**RE: Team composure leading to win**

That is a good point because I did lose my composure a little bit in the third quarter and I think it might have affected our guys and that's on me. I have to be able to maintain even though I don't agree with what happens. I've got to maintain it because the guys feed off of the energy I have, so that's on me if we want to talk about being helter-skelter, that's on me.

**RE: Mike Adams and what he brings to secondary**

Again, just a veteran guy. A guy that can be a calming, steadying force out there which he was. As I said, we made some mistakes and some things we need to take a look at and get corrected. But again, I just think when you have a veteran out there, he can come up with some things that will happen. I thought he did a great job, just quarterbacking the guys back there.

**RE: James Bradberry**

That's what it is. He has to see those types of plays and continue to fight out there. Every week we have asked him the tough thing and that's to play the best receiver and he has done that. He has played the best receiver every week that we come up against. As a team, you go right down the list of all the guys he played and he will continue to do that because he is that kind of a quality corner in this league.

**RE: His impression of challenged play before talking to referees**

To be honest with you, I believed our guy had control of the football, 100%. My challenge was based off a challenge that happened last week. I watched the Dallas/Detroit game. There was a challenge very similar and it was called a catch so that is what I went off of. I assumed that was what we were going to get and I assumed incorrectly.

**RE: Hoping for consistency week to week in officiating decisions**

Yes, that is probably the best way to put it. I was hoping for a little consistency because to me I believe I saw the same thing. It's something that we do every week. As there are certain elements of my staff that will watch that with our analytics guys who break it all down for us. That specific challenge came up as I said against Dallas and Detroit.

**RE: Nervous on 63-yard field goal**

Piece of cake. Piece of cake. Come on now, you know I don't change my expressions.

**RE: Eric Reid**

I think he went out and played the kind of football game we were expecting him to. There were some things he has to shore up. He moved around early very well. You could see him a little heavy-legged at times and we have to be willing to pull him out at that point. We did it in the first half. I didn't see if we did it in the second half or not, but the guy came out and gave us all he had and that's what it's all about. It's about all on the field, giving it all for your teammates and winning football games. That's what we have to continue to work on.

**RE: Concern about Eric Reid's playing shape**

That's why we had a plan that we had in the first half, and that was after a couple series we were going to take him out which we did. We put Rashaan Gaulden in and gave him an opportunity to play a little bit there. I think we did in the third quarter; I'd like to say we did it in the third quarter or at least that was what the plan was supposed to be. Again, I really did like what I saw early on. Later in the game we made some mistakes as a defensive unit, some things that we let slip and let happen and we have to be better than that.

**RE: Lift from Curtis Samuel today**

I tell you what, both him and DJ Moore came out and made some plays with their speed, their power and their strength as runners once they get the ball in their hands. Curtis, that was an electrifying catch and run and scoring like he did with breaking the tackles. You can say the same thing about DJ. You know, I think we missed some opportunities on offense. You guys know I always talk about it, you would much rather see us score touchdowns than kick field goals, but like I said though, it is what it is right now. We are going to continue to work and get better at it.

**RE: Eric Reed kneeling during National Anthem**

I'm not going to talk about a guy exercising his First Amendment rights. What I'm going to talk about is a football game because to me it's about what happens on the football field and then what you do off the field.

**RE: Cam Newton's performance today and his block for Christian McCaffrey**

It was pretty exciting to see. He is a competitor. He wants to win. You saw it when he was trying to run for those first downs. He is going to give you everything he has out on the field. He is going to lay it on the line and he is going to try to help this football team in any capacity he can. We saw that. A couple decisions I know he would like to have back. One of the interceptions was not his fault. A little miscommunication in terms of the route that was run. Again, he at the end of the game gave us an opportunity and like I said, Graham came through.

**RE: Cam Newton's maturity in final drive**

Yes, it does. But he has a thing about doing that against the Giants for whatever reason. This is the second time where he has had to come back and save us with a nice drive to put us in position and Graham kick a field goal. Hats off to the Giants though. That's a young, scrappy football team with a new coaching staff, new coordinators. There are going to be a force to reckon with very quickly because that team is going to mature quickly.

**RE: Injury update on Devin Funchess and Ryan Kalil**

I think Devin was cramping up. I'm not sure on Ryan. We will see what the doctors say but he walked off under his own power and everything like that so hopefully its nothing and just a matter of time

**Quarterback Cam Newton  
Carolina Panthers****RE: Vantage point during Graham Gano's 63-yard field goal**

I always have the same vantage point. I get right where the snapper is, take a knee, and wait. As soon as he kicked it, I didn't do something that I always do. Mayhem broke out. I usually try to touch every single person that's out there, but everybody rushed out there. So, I just went to Graham. I am happy that we got a kicker like that. A wise man once told me that a great quarterback is only as good as his kicker. Over the years you see so many quarterbacks get bailed out by the kickers. I shouldn't say bailed out, I'll just say helped out and Graham put the whole team on his back today. Well, on his toe today.

**RE: Thoughts going in to Panthers' final possession**

I better figure something out. I've got to do something. It was such a sub-par game as far as production on my part, but you're going to have games like this. Ugly wins, but I'll take it. This team is going to keep growing, keep building, and the fact that we had this type of game was good for our morale going forward. This was as close as any playoff game we've played. I know it's just the fourth game for us this year, but we still need to build that type of steam of how to win football games and I'm happy we did that today.

**RE: His block**

Did you see it? Did TD [Thomas Davis] see it? I want to make sure TD saw it. We've got us a thing and now he's back at practice and I can't wait to show him. Matter of fact, he's going to come watch film with us just so I can tell him that he's lucky I wear the red jersey in practice. At the end of the day, I was just trying to do my job. I always say, whatever coach asks from me: running the football, throwing the football, blocking, catching. I'm a football player. I just try to put my team in the best situation.

**RE: Were you imagining it was Thomas Davis during that block?**

Never, never, never. Those type of thoughts are only in training camp. But if he were to have some type of altercation with me, I could just tell him that I've got film. He's got a lot of film too, but I'm 6-6, 250 lbs. You know what I'm saying? I never really liked the Bulldogs anyway, but that's neither here nor there.

**RE: Wide receivers' ability to compile yards after the catch**

These guys are very dangerous, elite route runners, and elite run-after-catch guys. They turn into running backs or fullbacks. It's physical. As a DB you're really not known for your tackling ability and for those guys to have that mentality to get upfield and make as much as possible, it only helps the team. As the game keeps going and going, they'll get more confidence in themselves and the whole plan. We'll be better from it. Fun [Devin Funchess] had a very fun, quiet, good game. A lot of big key catches and everybody is peaking right when we need them to peak. The moment wasn't too big for us as an offense to win or to get the ball in winning position later in the game. That's what you like to see.

**RE: Meaning of 3-0 at home, Thomas Davis & Greg Olsen coming back**

Great. Like I said, we're peaking in the right spots, but nothing is going to be given to us. We understand that we're in one of the most, if not the most, competitive division in football. Every game counts.

**RE: Curtis Samuel's return**

Cupid has come along and helped us. He's always been a key asset for us. Ever since day one, I don't understand or he may not understand his threshold of greatness. Today you saw it. A guy who is very slippery when he gets the ball, resilient when he's running, and shows you the capabilities that he has. Like I told him after the game, you just have to build on it. He's such a young, fun, exuberant player. We have to get the ball in his hands as much as possible.

**RE: 4<sup>th</sup> and inches to Jarius Wright**

Janky. He's like a little roach. I say that with all respect. He's always in the crevices. Sneaky, very sneaky. I love him too. The moment is never too big for him to make that play. He's very deceptive and for him to be in that position and for him to be the second read on that, he made the most of it and got some run after the catch.

**RE: What was said in the huddle during the Giants' late lead?**

We kind of do this once per week, practice two-minute drills. I was kind of ticked preparing for a two this week. I don't know if anyone knew, but I threw a pick. Just the law of astrology, I gave a lot of energy to that. So that's why I think I threw some picks today, but we didn't have a good showing in practice. I wanted to bounce back from that and [Graham] Gano makes a lot of wrongs right today. I'm just happy we were able to win today.

**RE: Eric Reid kneeling during National Anthem**

How did he play? Okay, cool. I mean, that's all the things that I really care about. We are all entitled to our own opinions. As the man that he is, anything that he stands for, as his teammate I'm going to stand with him too. If he feels a type of way, obviously we have to talk about it as men. We are all held to a high standard and at this particular point, he understands that he's on a team that has a lot of weapons and he's one of those weapons. So for all I care, as long as he's out there not being a distraction. I didn't see a distraction today. He has value to this team, valuable points that he's standing for or kneeling for or whatever. At the end of the day you've got to respect it. That's how I feel.

**RE: Is Mike Adams going to let you know about his 2 interceptions tomorrow in practice?**

Nah, Old School ain't like that. Old School is one of those old, lunch pail, get in work hard and get out, deceptive type of players. If Cap [Munnerlyn] would have had the game that he had, he would have told everybody. He probably would have had a big banner or helicopter riding around the whole thing. Not Old School. He's a person that comes to work, a very cerebral guy. I've seen it on the sideline, the guys that have been running the same exact kind of RPO and didn't get bit again. I'm happy that happened during that time because it came off a pick that I threw, but at the same time I have to do a better job protecting the football.

**RE: Was the Giants defense doing anything different to pressure you?**

No, no, no. It was a lack of focus and I've got to be better.

***Safety Mike Adams***  
***Carolina Panthers***

**RE: Team effort in the win**

It definitely was. I just spoke about that. We played well in all three phases and that's what it takes to win in this league. Sometimes one man has to pick up the slack for the offense or defense or special teams but this week, everybody pitched in which was great.

**RE: His interceptions**

We talked about it all week – disguise, just disguising. On both plays, I just disguised. I was down in the box and then I just popped out both times. I guess Eli (Manning) thought it was one coverage when we were playing another and he ended up throwing it right to me. So, I got blessed on both plays.

**RE: The performance of Odell Beckham Jr. and Saquon Barkley**

We knew (Odell Beckham Jr.) and (Saquon Barkley) were dangerous, so we didn't want to try to just take them out of the game, we just wanted to minimize them because they are good players. If you try to take them out, then you start making mistakes so we just wanted to minimize what they do. We definitely minimized Barkley but Odell ended up getting off. But I'll take the win over that any day.

***Cornerback James Bradberry***  
***Carolina Panthers***

**RE: Back and forth of the game**

We just have to be with one accord. Defense, offense, and special teams have got to play a solid game together and match each other. Sometimes we play good on defense but we didn't play too good on offense. Sometimes we play good on offense and didn't play too good defense. So you just want to match that up and just play good overall.

**RE: Odell Beckham Jr. knocking the ball out of his hands**

He's got some strong hands. He came down and knocked it out really hard. I wasn't expecting him to do that. I just got to be stronger with my hands and catch that ball and take advantage of my opportunities.

**RE: Showing emotion after he knocked the ball out of Beckham's hands**

I just knew I saved a touchdown. I let the emotions get to me and it was a good thing. We got off the field and held them to a field goal I believe, so it was good things.

***Kicker Graham Gano***  
***Carolina Panthers***

**RE: The game-winning field goal**

That was fun. I don't even think it's hit me. I didn't think it was that far when we went out there, I knew we had one – I think it was six years ago against Atlanta – that was 63 that was tipped at the line so that was in my mind just get the ball in the air. I really don't think about a whole lot because I know the group in front of me is going to do its job well. We take a lot of pride in it, we practice it all the time and in pregame I'll try to back it up and kind of test my distance. I'm just very blessed to have that opportunity and to have the guys around me.

**RE: The reaction on the field after the kick**

That was madness. That's the only word I can use to explain it. I just don't think it's hit me yet. I was going nuts. I think the first thing I saw was Mike (Palardy) reacting that it went in because I couldn't really see over those giants in front of us – not the other team, just our offensive lineman. But I just have no words for it.

**RE: The offensive line**

I just invited the whole O-line that blocked for me and Mike (Palardy) and JJ (Jansen), I wanted them in here as well. Hopefully they come in for the TVs. Honestly, I can't do it without them. One misstep here or there could be the difference so I'm very thankful for those guys and just blessed with the opportunity to be here.

***Linebacker Luke Kuechly***  
***Carolina Panthers***

**RE: Special teams running out of the tunnel**

I just think, you look at today, the impact that those guys made, they just don't always get the recognition they deserve. They had two of the, arguably, biggest plays in the game – the punt where Colin (Jones) scored and obviously Graham (Gano's kick) – so those guys, there are three phases to each game and they're a huge part of what we do and they deserve it. That's why Colin's a captain and that's why those guys should have the opportunity to run out there. Those guys bust their butts, they do a great job on scout team, they do a great job on special teams during the week and those guys work extremely hard and deserve all the credit they can get.

**RE: How he felt the defense played**

We did alright. I thought we did better in the run game, obviously they popped a couple plays on us but that's a really great back (Saquon Barkley) but we did a really great job, we had a couple guys that made some big tackles in space on him which is very difficult. Obviously, Mike (Adams) had the two picks. We were around (Eli Manning) a lot on third down, I don't know what the stat ended up being on third down but I think early on in the first half and even in the third quarter, I think we did a really good job. Obviously, they scored quite a few points on us but it's always better to correct after a win.

**RE: His thoughts before Graham Gano kicked the game-winning field goal**

I've seen him kick it before and it's one of those things: JJ (Jansen) with a good snap, good blocking up front Mike (Palardy) with the hold and Graham's just got to put it through. Graham's got great range, you saw it today, he does it in practice all the time. He practices his butt off. Those guys deserve it so that's why they got the opportunity to run out of the tunnel.

***Cornerback Captain Munnerlyn***  
***Carolina Panthers***

**RE: Importance of special teams**

A lot of people forget about that. That's why when they introduced the guys today I thought it was a great thing, because they're a part of this football team. We got guys like Ben Jacobs, Graham Gano, JJ, a lot of other guys who put they sweat and tears in those special teams. I'm so happy they got the opportunity and got the credit getting their name called out today.

**RE: Being undefeated at home**

That let's you know we've been defending our dirt. That's an old saying we used to say, we've definitely been defending our dirt. We've just got to keep this thing going.

**RE: Mike Adams**

My old guy, he always says he's my pops. Mike had a tremendous game. We know what he's capable of doing. He still looks young. I always tell him, "You've still got a lot of football left in you," and I truly believe that. He's a smart player. He knows how to put himself in position to make plays and he still can run. He came up huge for us when they were driving down the field. Having momentum, he stepped in that slant window and picked it off.

***Defensive End Julius Peppers***  
***Carolina Panthers***

**RE: The game coming down to the last kick**

Sometimes you get them like that. Today was a little bit of a back and forth game but sometimes it's hard. It's never easy to win in this league, so even if you can get them on a field goal with time expiring, it's a great day.

**RE: Defense in the second half**

You have to make the plays that you need to win the game and the offense had that drive right there at the end, made a couple plays. Graham (Gano) came through, had a hell of a kick and I think the good teams find a way to win. Today was one of those days when we had to try to find a unique way to get it done.

**RE: Special teams getting to celebrate in that way on the field**

It was great. It's a team game, we need all three phases, obviously. Sometimes we win on defense, sometimes the offense has a great game and they win, but today special teams won it for us. It's a great thing because you are going to need those kicks, you're going to need those plays on special teams to win games and today was it.

**RE: Talking to Saquon Barkley**

It was nothing, it was nothing. It was just a little fun out there, he's a great back, great guy too, so it was nice to try to at least get a hand on him one time.

**RE: This win**

It's a special win because it's a win that we need to stack early. We need as many wins as possible, no matter how you get them, whether you win by one or 20. At the end of the day, the win is why we're here and we got that today. It is unique because every week, you never know what's going to happen, you never know who's going to be the guy and today it was Graham that came through for us.

**RE: His reaction to Eric Reid kneeling**

I don't really want to get into all of that, but I just wanted to give him a hug, offer some support to him and let him know that he wasn't isolated out there.

**RE: If it is important to embrace Eric Reid**

Yeah, obviously. We are very excited and thrilled to have Eric on the team. Obviously, he is a great player and he adds that to our team. He also adds a sense of culture to our team and we're embracing it and we're going to support him in everything he chooses to do.