



POSTGAME QUOTES

Carolina Panthers vs. Baltimore Ravens

Sunday, October 28, 2018

Carolina Panthers

Head Coach Ron Rivera
Carolina Panthers

RE: Today's performance

Yes, I believe so. I thought our guys came out and did some good things in all three phases. Defense was a little disappointed when we came out in that first series and was a little discombobulated in terms of being able to settle in, get them into a positive situation for us. We did miss some tackles early on but once they settled in I think they got a feel for what to anticipate. I thought Eric (Washington) did a nice job calling the defenses. On the offensive side we got into a really good rhythm. Norv (Turner) mixed in some personnel very well. Cam Newton made some great decisions and really just pleased with that. Special teams, fortunate enough for us, they caught them with a little illegal procedure, which helped us out obviously, but then I thought our guys settled in and we had a couple nice returns as well.

RE: DJ Moore and receivers' performance today

We had him playing in a few different spots so we moved him around to try and make it difficult to key in on him. I think all of the receivers did some really good things. We saw some with Curtis Samuel. We saw Jarius Wright make some plays and then Devin Funchess makes his plays that he always does. I thought Greg Olsen really came up big and made some plays. Ian Thomas got his opportunities again so it's good to see Ian back out there. I think both backs when they had chances to run the ball, ran hard. That was good to see. I was really pleased with the decision making, as I said earlier, of our quarterback.

RE: If DJ Moore and Curtis Samuel on field at the same time affects defense

Yes, most certainly. At that point there are so many different things that we can do with those two young men on the football team. But again, at the same time, we have some guys that have specialties as well. Coach Norv Turner and the offense will continue to devise things that fit what we do.

RE: Fourth down play with Taylor Heinicke

What happened on that, we wanted to throw the Hail Mary initially but Cam didn't want to throw it. He didn't want to strain himself out there in all honesty. So Scott Turner suggested we put Taylor out there. So they went out there and what happened was, they had a guy go out to jam on Greg Olsen so we were going to throw the Hail Mary with Taylor. But as soon as that guy came in, Greg signaled over to Taylor and Taylor saw him, and it was a pitch and catch. At that point get as much as you can and get out of bounds with time on the clock. Those two executed it very well.

RE: Was the delay intentional for the fourth down Heinicke play?

No, the delay was not intentional. Because at that point, in all honesty, Cam just didn't kneel, didn't want to throw it. We didn't want him and he had every reason not to. We thought, you know what, that's a good decision. So we didn't want to put him out there into a bad position. I'm not going to take credit for a couple of guys playing very smart football. Those guys deserve all the credit, both Taylor Heinicke and Greg Olsen.

RE: Why was the 61-yard field goal not attempted?

Crosswind. He was really concerned. Chase Blackburn had told me prior to that, that there was crosswind coming through on that side and he wasn't as accurate from that. But hopefully the way he hit that one, he might have made that one too. He is kicking the ball very well. But they had come to me and explained to me where they thought the ball needed to be and on that last play, where we picked up those extra few yards, we were able to kick it.

RE: Cam Newton's arm

He did not want to strain himself throwing it and take a chance hurting himself. No, he just didn't want to do it. He came to the sidelines and told us and again, I'm going to listen to what my players have to tell me. I thought it was a heck of a decision by him, just being upfront. We have a little bit of a new normal with him as far as we have to be smart, and we had an opportunity to not make a bad decision. As I said, I'm just going to be upfront with you all on this. I'm not going to take credit for what the players did.

RE: Difference in why is Cam Newton not running the ball as much compared to last season?

I think a little bit about some of the things we do and the way we do them. There are some differences in the style of offense we have. Again, going forward, it's really about the decision making process that the quarterback has. I think he understands what is happening underneath, a lot more so and he sees it even better.

RE: DJ Moore versus opposing team's secondary

I would just say he was a victim of a guy. He was trying to make some extra yards and really what happened in that situation, you have to give credit to Josh Norman. He is a very crafty football player. He understands that and it's always been part of his game. He victimized DJ. But like I said then, I'm not going to pull him out. This young man needs to play football. Curtis Samuel needs to play football. These young players need to be on the field. That's how they develop and we are going to develop as a football team with those kind of players.

RE: How much emphasis has been placed on knowing when to protect the football?

I think that part was one of those things that he learned instantly. Because again, if you go back and watch the rest of the game where you see him getting the ball, he protects it. He knows when he needs to curl up with it. I have to admit, I held my breath a couple of times today watching him fight for those extra yards. But then I see him bring it in, cradle it so he has gotten the message and has done a heck of a job.

RE: Captain Munnerlyn against Willie Snead IV

His hamstring tightened up on him, straining to try and keep up with Willie. Willie is a heck of a football player. Those two guys had a heck of a battle. When you really watch a slot player play against a quality nickel and you see them battle and fight and scratch and claw and do what they can, I think that is very impressive. Those two positions are very valuable to a football team.

RE: Secondary stepping up today

It was. As I said, it was a team victory. I thought the pass rush harassed the quarterback and was able to get him to dump the ball underneath. Also, I think Eric Washington mixed up our coverages very nicely. So there really wasn't a chance to get a beat on what we were trying to do.

RE: Seeing young offensive players' performances bring excitement for future?

It does. I am excited about what it potentially can be but again at the same time, we have to continue to do our job. I thought the offensive line played tremendously, especially against one of the best pass rushing defenses in the league period. They did a heck of a job. I thought what Coach John Matsko and Drew Terrell do with these guys weekly, is impressive. Again, the protections that are devised by the coaching staff gives these guys the chance to give the quarterback an opportunity to make plays.

RE: Do you see a difference in Cam Newton this season?

I do, most certainly. I think a little bit is also his maturation as a football player and understanding the game even more so. His development the first seven years is exactly what we are hoping for. Now we have an opportunity to take another step with him. He has done a great job embracing the chances and the demands that this style of offense that Coach Norv Turner has brought to this organization. I'm pretty excited about it.

RE: The decision to hire Norv Turner?

I think it's been a very big plus for us. There is a lot of things we still have to work out as a team but again, what he has brought, what Scott Turner has brought, has been really good for our offensive team.

RE: How does a 10-play, 99-yard drive affect the opposing defense and your offense?

That can be demoralizing. It's tough because when you have opportunities to get off the field, you want to do it. Believe me, as I said in my opening statement, I was a little concerned because they went down on their first drive and that to me was a little disappointing because we had some opportunities so you have to credit them. We were fortunate that we made some plays when we had to.

RE: Special teams downing ball at one-yard line

That was, I think, one of those things that gives you an opportunity as well. Because if you can hold him down there, you'll get the ball with good field position and that's exactly what happened that led to our first score.

**Quarterback Cam Newton
Carolina Panthers**

RE: His kids growing up and watching him play

To them, they don't know who I am. They just know me as Daddy. She doesn't care. She doesn't care about anything. I'll try to keep it like that as long as possible. No matter how high you get or how low you get, having children balances everything out. It put a lot of things in to perspective.

RE: Previous slow starts versus today, hitting the ground running

We played great complementary football. It started with the defense and even on special teams, we got great field position by a good spot on the punt return. Thanks to Kirko [Curtis Samuel] and [Michael] Palardy and those guys, we wanted to do a good job and capitalize on good field position.

RE: Panthers most complete game this season

I wouldn't say that. I hate labeling games. That was a great team win. We just look forward to moving forward as the season progresses. We plan to keep on getting better.

RE: Today's protection by the offensive line

Our offensive line is playing as confident as they ever have. For guys labeled as undesirables or misfits, they sure are doing a great job. C.C. [Chris Clark] with his leadership, being on a couple teams and playing great quarterbacks, he understands what it takes to win. For him, knowing that at the left tackle position and helping

guys like Sweat Pack [Taylor Moton], Trai [Turner], and Rhino [Ryan Kalil]. It's a correlation of guys putting great work in throughout the week and showing up on Sunday.

RE: Young guys complementing each other, what does it say about the future?

I think they look for each other to feed off. From veteran leadership to whatever. Kirko [Curtis Samuel], Denniston [DJ Moore] they come in and you sense that they don't know, but they're willing to learn and that's the first step to making the first stride. I put the pressure on them last night and told them that for them, with Default [Torrey Smith] being out, it's going to be very important for them to come in and get a groove early on and that's what they did.

RE: Challenges missing reps and practice

I didn't have the practice reps that I wanted to have and when I was supposed to practice, it got shut down because of the rain and what not. Just as much pressure as it is to me, it's for everybody else. It shows a lot for our team and what kind of veteran leadership we have.

RE: Carolina's Hail Mary at the end of the first half

I don't know. It looked good to me and it's something we've been working on at practice. All of a sudden, we called it in the game and it worked to perfection. But for me not being in there, it was just a feel thing and I knew how I was feeling at that time and felt that Heineken [Taylor Heineke] put our team in the best situation.

RE: Capitalizing on breaks

You have no idea. Especially so much going in to just scoring and when we score the way we did, a score correlation of the pitch and getting a good bounce to the bounce pop-up. It's just a bounce in the right direction.

RE: DJ Moore's ability to put mistakes behind him

He just has to keep learning and something that's so important for young guys, the game is never over. We had little mishaps, little miscues. The difference in college and pros is you may only have that one rep in practice. That one rep may be in walkthroughs. It's impossible for everything to come together and go over everything. We talked about it, but we'll learn from it and we'll get better from it. DJ is such an exceptional talent and dynamic player with the ball in his hands. We have to find ways to get the ball in his hands. From running the football to toss sweeps to chucking the ball down-field, he's ready for it.

RE: Carolina's variety of options on offense

We possess a lot of issues for the defense and that's what this offense was built for. We have dynamic players all around the field and it's great to see young guys step up. Kirko [Curtis Samuel], I just mentioned Denniston [DJ Moore]. We already know what we're going to get in C-Mac [Christian McCaffrey] and just to see Greg [Olsen] being his old self, is big for our growth.

RE: DJ Moore's performance and outlook for the future

I wouldn't even call it a light switch because he's always possessed that. It's weird, you kind of get a different feeling from different players when they come in and DJ is as even-keeled as anybody else. He's one of those players where if you don't talk to him, he's not going to talk to you. It's important for me to get a gauge of what pushes him and vice versa. For him to feel comfortable, knowing where he's come from, this is different. And making sure that the biggest distractions may not be the ones when you face defeat, but also the ones when you face success. Bouncing back from a game like this, seeing how he moves forward, and we're hoping for good things moving forward.

RE: Playing teams that are struggling

What I'm not about to let you do is nuke this win. The Ravens' defense is one of the best defenses we've played all year. It was a great team win for us. We can't really get ahead of ourselves with preparation for the next game because we obviously haven't done the scouting report on them. It doesn't really matter. We just have to find ways to win football games no matter who we're playing. Today presented a lot of different issues and we just have to find ways to win.

RE: His best Halloween costume

When you say the best, is that considered the worst? I tried to dress up as TD [Thomas Davis] and I scared myself, so I didn't even bother to finish that. There was one Halloween, one of the makeup artists from The Walking Dead did my makeup. My dog, Joe Webb, were in there getting our makeup done for about three hours and it literally took us four hours to take it off. From the paint, the glue, the plastic stuff. It just makes you respect the art and the work that those guys go through. Especially watching films like The Walking Dead.

RE: Panthers' 99-yard drive and its effect on Ravens' defense

I don't know what it does to them, but I know what it does for us. It gave us superior confidence knowing that we have the talent to one, create cushion and two, punch it in. We got the players in, that can attack in many different ways and that's what we wanted to do today.

Safety Mike Adams
Carolina Panthers

RE: The defensive performance today

We didn't (start fast) – we gave up a touchdown on the first drive – but we finally got it together, we buckled down and started playing good defense. Getting off on third down, created a couple turnovers and they went for it on fourth down, which was big, and we go off the field.

RE: The talk about the Ravens having the No. 1 defense

It fueled us a little bit, I'm not going to lie, the fact that they're No. 1 coming into our house. No disrespect to them because they're playing good football – 27 sacks, 11 sacks in one game against the Tennessee Titans, we do a little research too – but it kind of fueled us because we wanted to go out here and play well. We wanted to be the No. 1 defense today.

RE: Whether it's more fun playing with the lead

Actually no, because when you're playing with the lead you have to be at full focus and you saw what we did last week, right? Now you've got to stay on edge and keep going, when it's a nail-biter you know what you have to do so I think it's better.

Linebacker Thomas Davis
Carolina Panthers

RE: The defensive performance in today's win

For us, it was all about going out and doing what was asked of us, not more than what we're supposed to do and what we're capable of and that's what we did. After that first drive we did a really good job of really settling in and executing the defense.

RE: The defense's preparation

With this team, when they bring Lamar Jackson in he adds a totally different wrinkle to their offense and you have to be prepared for that. I think our coaches did a great job making sure that we were prepared for that and ready to go.

RE: His message to the defense

Finish the game. All the talk about what happened last week, about what Philadelphia allowed us to do but I talked about what we did. We went out and did our job in the second half and we finished the game and I wanted today to be no different. Take that same approach like the score is 0-0, go out and finish the game and that's what we were able to do.

Cornerback Donte Jackson
Carolina Panthers

RE: Defensive performance as a whole

That first one was everything that we gave them, but we were able to come back on the sideline and tighten up things we had to tighten up and get back after it. Then we were technically sound the rest of the game.

RE: This game being a statement win

Our offense played a hell of a game. Those guys kept us going and we fed off of that a lot. They were out there scoring points and we just were in a rush and urgency to get them back on the field because we knew they were playing a good game and they were hot. We got this thing cookin and it's starting to be something really, really special.

RE: Where John Brown ranks amongst receivers he's guarded

He's up there, he's up there. Just from what he puts on film every given week. He's a great player, explosive player, and I knew I had to come with my A game today in the matchup on him.

Defensive Tackle Kyle Love
Carolina Panthers

RE: Talk of the Ravens having the No. 1 defense

We're not really worried about what people say about us or anything about hype or whatever, we're just trying to do our job, be the best Carolina defense that we can be. We've got a lot to work on still and we've got to come back better every week so that's what we'll continue to work on.

RE: The forced fumble

We just had a great defense called and I just executed my technique. The kind of scheme they ran offensively didn't work against that so I was able to be there. Sometimes you're unblocked and sometimes you have to make a play when your number is called and that's what I did.

RE: If not getting the strip sack last week fueled him

Yeah it's fuel to my fire every week because I don't have any sack numbers right now so I'm working harder and harder each week to try to get that number on the board. I'm just trying to do the best I can for our team.

Running back Christian McCaffrey
Carolina Panthers

RE: The complete game

We've been talking about putting a complete game together and that's a hell of a team we just played so to do that against them was good. At the same time though, we've got to look at the tape. We've got a lot of ball left so we've got to work on consistently doing what we just did.

RE: The fast start on offense

Yeah that was huge, we talked about starting fast all week and making sure that everyone was locked in from the jump and our guys did that. You see DJ [Moore] make a couple really big plays, Curtis [Samuel] make a couple big plays, [Devin] Funchess make a couple great catches and obviously Greg [Olsen]. Then up front they didn't allow one sack all game. We go as our offensive line goes and they did an absolutely unbelievable job today.

RE: How last week's win influenced this week

Each week is a new week. Obviously, that was a great win last week but we were focused on this week the whole time. You appreciate all wins and you celebrate all victories but we've got a lot of ball left so we're going to get back to the drawing board and see if we can capitalize on some of the good things that we did.

Wide Receiver DJ Moore
Carolina Panthers

RE: The big win

We knew they were going to be aggressive but we knew we just had to go out there and execute the game plan. We had a good game plan going in for third downs and we didn't want to get backed up so we could keep attacking.

RE: How this win feels

It feels great just to know that we went out and executed the game plan. Just to know that we could go out and do it throughout the game and end it how we did, it was awesome.

RE: The offensive line's performance

They gave up no sacks today. They did an awesome job and they always do an awesome job throughout practice and throughout the week just planning to be the best offensive line they can be during a game.

Cornerback Captain Munnerlyn
Carolina Panthers

RE: Whether this was the most complete game they've played all year

Oh yes, most definitely. We came out and we executed the game plan. It didn't start pretty, they went down the field and made it 7-0, but we climbed back from that and took off from there.

RE: Playing defense with the lead

It's a whole lot different. We like when we have the lead and this time, we kept climbing on them, we didn't loosen up, we kept playing our regular calls and went out there and executed. It's definitely different and it's always more fun when you can do that.

RE: Whether this is a statement win

Anytime you can win in the NFL, it's a statement win. It's hard to win in this league. I've been in the league for a long time and it's definitely very hard to win in this league, so when you can go out there and play against the No. 1 defense in the NFL and a pretty good Ravens team – they're still a good football team – and do what we

did today is definitely impressive. We just have to keep working and next week we have Tampa Bay coming in – a division opponent – so we’ve got to keep working and get ready for that.

Tight End Greg Olsen
Carolina Panthers

RE: What worked today

I felt like we had a really good plan. We knew what a challenge this was going to be coming in and playing these guys. They’ve given a lot of teams this year fits. We felt really confident about our scheme. Our coaches really gave us a lot of opportunities to be successful out there and put us in good positions. You know, we’re pretty dynamic with DJ and Christian and Curtis and Cam, Funch, we’re pretty dynamic and with our ability to run the ball out of a lot of formations, we felt like it put a lot of pressure on them. Just seeing, especially in the first half, we just really found our rhythm and we were rolling as good as we have so far this year, if not the best.

RE: Having a lead the majority of the game

Coming in at halftime up 17, right? Yeah we were up 17 at half...but again we know what it’s like to be that team 17 down. They’re going to come out and they’re going to give you their best crack there early in the third quarter, so we knew we needed to come out and match that if not exceed it. We sputtered there, the defense did a great job in the second half giving us a couple short fields, the fourth down stop, and then the pick. We got three points out of those two drives, so that wasn’t great. We’ve got to do a better job finishing. I think that drive there in the fourth quarter that Cam ended up scoring was a big-time drive and then obviously that drive at the of the game running that clock out before Graham’s last field goal took a big chunk of time out.

RE: The last play before Graham’s field goal to end the half

That was one of the craziest plays I’ve ever been a part of. We were torn between kicking a field goal, the wind was crazy, throwing a Hail Mary. Then we decided to go Hail Mary with Taylor, we got lined up and all of the sudden the guy that was out on me started walking in to rush the passer, so I just started screaming for Taylor. I knew we had five seconds, so I thought we needed like three yards right? I don’t know how many yards we ended up getting, we needed two or three. So we didn’t have a far way to go to get Graham kind of over the hump and...I don’t know, it was wide open and Taylor...I don’t know if he heard me or if he saw the same thing. I didn’t really do anything, I just kind of flowed off the line and you’ve just got to try and catch it and then obviously it’s a race to get out of bounds. I could have gotten some more yards, we ended up having two seconds, but considering we only started at five that was...to steal those three there at the end with the pick...he (Flacco) tries to throw the ball away, you get a pick and then the next thing you know you turn it into three points it’s a huge, it’s a huge difference in a game like this.

Wide Receiver Curtis Samuel
Carolina Panthers

RE: The offense when he and DJ Moore are on the field at the same time

You can’t just say these guys are going to run down the field and catch the ball, you’ve got to watch out for the run threat, bubble screens; there is a bunch that we bring to the table which helps out Cam [Newton] and the offense.

RE: Being younger players going up against older defenses

For me and DJ, we’re both young, but we’ve both got personal goals. We’ve both played in big games before and this stage is no different to me or to him so we’re just going to go out there and ball every day.

RE: What the statement was with this game

We just wanted to show that we could get out early and put points up on the board. We just wanted to show that we've got a dynamic offense with a bunch of people that can make plays and we ran the ball well.