



MIAMI DOLPHINS QUOTES

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Postgame – Oakland Raiders

Oakland Raiders Head Coach Jon Gruden

Q. It seemed like you had things going your way a little bit but you gave up a lot of trick plays.
COACH GRUDEN: We certainly did. That's how I summed it up. We got hurt on a jet sweep. We got hurt on a trick play and didn't finish the drives in the red zone. That's the story of the game. Although there are a lot of stories behind the scenes.

Q. Can you put your finger on what's going on in the fourth quarter; you guys have been outscored, I believe, 37-3 now?
COACH GRUDEN: That's just my responsibility to fix it.

Q. Was the heat a factor out there for you guys?
COACH GRUDEN: It affected me. It was hot. It was hot for them too. We lost some players. Dwayne Harris had an IV. Jordy (Nelson) had to go back and return punts. Donald Penn got hurt. We played our third left tackle most of the game today – or right tackle, I should say. Hopefully we get them well.

Q. That last interception, what was the play call there?
COACH GRUDEN: He just saw man-to-man coverage. He decided to take a shot and unfortunately it didn't work out.

Q. You ran the ball ... You guys were running the ball pretty well at that point.
COACH GRUDEN: We tried to run the ball. We saw a lot of coverages and different blitzes. We had them off balance. We moved the ball very well. We just got fooled that particular play. That guy (Xavien Howard) made a great play. (He made a) great play in one-on-one coverage.

Q. How disappointed are you at 0-3?
COACH GRUDEN: We have a lot of work to do here. We're going to continue to work. I'm proud of the way we're competing. We played three teams, I think, that might be undefeated. I don't know. We've played three good football teams. We played them hard. We have a lot of work to do here. We'll continue to work and we'll get this show on the road here hopefully soon.

Q. Is the optimism of the players have said you had after the first two games change now?
COACH GRUDEN: No. We'll get on the airplane and get ready for the next one.

Q. The play to FB Keith Smith, what was your thinking on that one?
COACH GRUDEN: What was that?

Q. The early call to FB Keith Smith on fourth-and-1, just ...
COACH GRUDEN: We were at the 1-yard line. We ran a wedge play with the fullback. It looked great on film. We just didn't get it done.



Q. Is that a testament to your guys' faith in FB Keith Smith on that third-and-1? It was a similar route as last week in the flat.

COACH GRUDEN: He's a 240-pound fullback. It's less than half a yard. We didn't get it done. Bottom line.

Q. People adjust, but you've been so good on opening drives. You script right there. Do you get frustrated why that doesn't continue?

COACH GRUDEN: We mishandled a couple balls, honestly, on third down today. We got in trouble in pass protection a couple of times. It's hard to go 80 yards in this league repeatedly against a good defense. Hopefully we start getting some turnovers and some returns on our special teams and set up some better field position. That pretty much summarizes it.

Q. What was your assessment of the special teams today?

COACH GRUDEN: I thought (Mike) Nugent did well kicking the ball. I thought Johnny (Townsend) was up and down punting the ball. We had some penalties that really hurt us. It started us way, way behind in field position. All three phases, we've got to all pick it up, and it starts with me.



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Oakland Raiders QB Derek Carr

Q. Starting has not been an issue in terms of games this season. You've gotten off to fast starts and of course the way you finish has been the difference. What have you made of the unevenness that continues to presents itself?

DEREK CARR: I've been part of years where finishing was easy, right, and the beginnings were the problem. This is just what we have to deal with right now. I think we need to finish our practice better, finish our lifts better, finish meetings better, finish everything better because clearly we're doing everything better at the beginning. But I think we can finish in all phases better and I think that's what's going to put us over the hump. It's no secret. We're running the same plays. We're getting the same looks and all of those things. We've just got to ... I think the little things we need to finish better.

Q. The way you guys were dominating, frankly in the first half. It was obviously surprising to see the halftime score, what it was. It seemed like you guys should have been up even further. Do you think when you look back at this game that you'll find plays where different things here and there and it might have been beyond reach for them late in the game?

DEREK CARR: There's no doubt about it. Again, we've put our defense in a bad spot. That's on us. We could have finished with so many more touchdowns. We were moving the ball again ... (It's the) third week where we're moving the ball. We had a good plan and we had some good routes and good things going on and good runs and all of that kind of stuff; but when we got down to the red zone, I think that will be a point of emphasis for us just to finish those drives.

Q. Back in the first half, you guys got the ball back with 52 seconds left. Was there any discussion about possibly trying to go down the field on that instead of kneeling down?

DEREK CARR: Yeah, I think with no timeouts and being backed up, that's going to be tough and that's again Coach (Gruden)'s call; but I understood why. In a sense, it's going to be hard with no timeouts to keep trying to get out of bounds, get out of bounds, get out of bounds, just for a field goal, let alone go and try to get a touchdown because they're going to play the soft coverages and all of that kind of stuff and try and let the clock run out. That's Coach (Gruden)'s call. You'd have to ask him.

Q. Head Coach Jon Gruden said at the end, on the throw to the end zone, you saw one-on-one. Was that a play call? Did you switch to something you saw?

DEREK CARR: We have plays that are built in, with certain stuff. If we have one-on-one, we can go to certain looks (and) those kind of things. I just saw one-on-one with Martavis (Bryant). Obviously he was hot and he was doing some good things. I just gave him a chance, just like I have a hundred other times in my life. They ended up making a good play. It sucks, right? The outcome sucks; but I think going back through in my head, getting one-on-one with that guy I'd probably have to do it again.

Q. How do you feel being 0-3? Is it not what you expected?



DEREK CARR: Terrible. It's not what I expected at all. Terrible but not down. Trust me, I know how to deal with adversity, and you don't do it by going in the dumps and stop working hard and give up. That's what I think soft people do and that's not what this team is. And that's not the way I was raised. When things get hard, when life gets hard, you put your head down and you grind and you make sure whatever you can do, you do better. And that's all. That's it. Like I said, I think we can finish better, obviously. But whatever we can do, you've got to stay up. You don't feel good because, again, we don't work this hard to lose games. But you keep your head up and you keep going.

Q. The heat out there was bad on both sides, did it affect you guys out there?

DEREK CARR: It was hot; but, again, I lived in Houston and Fresno my whole life. So it was a nice day.

Q. Is there still a sense of optimism or is this transferring more to frustration?

DEREK CARR: Oh, no. I've been on teams where it's just frustration, and I can assure you that's not the case. I can assure you, especially with everyone learning (Defensive Coordinator) Coach (Paul) Guenther and Coach Gruden's new stuff, and we're trying to execute it the best we can at a high level and all these things. And we're doing it, almost there, right? So there's no sense of, 'Oh, we've got to give up now.' We're almost there. If you talk to anybody in that locker room, we're one play here ... All throughout the game, one play here, one play here, one play here. We're right there where each man says 'I can give a little bit more, I can do a little bit more to help us.' So I mean, go in there and look at it. Look at our guys and talk to them. Everyone is obviously mad at losing but not one person is giving up. Again, that won't happen as long as I'm here.

Q. When you look at your locker room, the competition and the number of veterans that are here have been in the league long enough to know 0-3 does not dictate your season. You have 13 games left. It's still out in front of you. How much do you think you guys are built for this process the position you're in?

DEREK CARR: We're definitely built for it. Again, like just talking to our guys, you see it on their face. We gave ... No one can deny we gave it all. We gave everything we had out there. We were moving the ball. We were stopping them. Doing certain things. If you talk to anybody in that locker room, they're like 'We're right there, just keep going.' We've all, at some point, everyone in that locker room has been in this position at some point. And it feels hard. People say bad stuff. They're mad at you and all of that kind of stuff; but nothing is going to change it. No one is coming to save us. No one is coming to help us. It's on us and so we understand that. I think having a veteran group makes it a lot easier, especially as leaders. You don't necessarily have to go to every guy to make sure they're all right and make sure, 'Hey, keep going, keep doing the right thing.' We've got a roomful of guys that are all going to do all the right stuff.

Q. When RB Marshawn Lynch says – publically when he decides to speak to reporters – and said this offense is one play away from being the most explosive offense in the NFL, what does that tell you?

DEREK CARR: It should tell you how we really feel. As critical as you guys need to be of us, I think you guys see it too, right? We're moving the ball against some good defenses. Those first three defenses that we've played have all been top tier defenses, right? I think the fact that we've been able to do those things; but then we're right there and we screw it up. We have a bad play in the



end zone. Or like you said, one broken tackle here or one thing here. We're all sitting there thinking, like, 'Man, if we just get it together and we all start clicking, once you get it rolling, it doesn't stop.' I remember just a couple years where we've just hit a win streak and they just come; they just roll. So, again, I think we have a group of guys that believes that. I think Marshawn obviously talked to you so he really believes it, right? And so I think that the fact that he said that just tells you how everyone else really feels.

Q. You saw some disconnect on the first interception. It looked like WR Amari Cooper didn't really know maybe the ball was coming?

DEREK CARR: Yeah. Obviously I had ... '91' (Cameron Wake came up the field, so I stopped, got back inside, and Coop had him beat. So I let it go; but he never saw me. He never saw the ball, so he stopped. Again, that's something, like, obviously you don't want it to happen because we had a big touchdown kind of thing; but he didn't see me. He didn't see the ball thrown. I can't get mad at him for that. It's not like he just ran the wrong route or something or blatantly did it. I promise you, he wishes he had that one back. We had the look, we had a good look for the play, so I wish we would have hit that one. That would have been fun.

Q. You take a lead into halftime, but do you go into the locker room feeling like maybe you should have been ahead by more? Do you feel like there's more out there?

DEREK CARR: Absolutely. Yeah, absolutely. I think we left a lot of points, a lot of touchdowns out there. I think that's been a thing for us really the last couple of weeks. I think that we can score more touchdowns and help our defense out. I think that not only can we, but we should. And we will.

Q. If you go back to 2016, you guys were really good in the fourth quarter. What's the key there and how do you grasp it?

DEREK CARR: Just making the plays. I think when it comes down to it, if you were to go back and look at that year, there's times where things could have went the other way or whatever, and we just happen to make the play or just whatever it was. The only way that you can do that, and I've been doing this for five years now, is you consistently outwork your opponent. You just consistently outwork them – every practice, every meeting, every time you go lift, every time you are studying film. You have to consistently outwork everybody that you're going to play against, in your mind. It's the mindset. And so when you hit the field, all 11 guys, we can all look at each other and say, 'Yeah, I watched him practice. I watched him work. I know that he'll make this play. Right?' So I think that as long as we get back to that, we're going to be just fine.

Q. TE Jared Cook in week one, WR Amari Cooper in week two, obviously WR Jordy Nelson with the huge game today. What did you see from him today and I suppose the bigger picture overall?

DEREK CARR: Yeah, I mean, I've seen ... Obviously I've seen what he can do. You guys saw it at practice and during camp and all that. He's a big play guy. All his time in Green Bay. We got him on some good looks. We got the first one they brought inside pressure and – or outside pressure – and we were able to hit him in the middle, right? And he split them and almost scored. Then obviously the touchdown, he ran a perfect route. Again, the big play, I think it was the next drive or a couple drives later on the seam route. He set the stem right. He's a friendly guy to throw to, I'll just say that. Obviously he's very talented. I love Jordy. I love throwing to him. He had a big game. I wish we could have won so he could have felt better.



Q. That big hit, did that rattle you a little bit or did it just feel good to take a hit?

DEREK CARR: Never. Which one?

Q. On the interception.

DEREK CARR: No, (I'm) never rattled. I'm always ready to get back up and fight somebody. Even if you can't breathe, you try to get back. (I'm) never rattled. My goodness. Funny question.



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Oakland Raiders WR Amari Cooper (transcribed by Ken Mendonça)

(When you look at the film, what do you think is happening late in games?) – “We don’t execute the way we are in the first half. We’ve been up in the first half of all three games, come out there in the second half and we’re not as effective.”

(It seems any given week, somebody can have a huge, productive game. It’s less about the individual effort and more about the team. With WR Jordy Nelson, what did you make of him today?) – “He had a great performance. He went out there and he was Jordy Nelson. We have the ability to go out there any given day and any guy on the offense can make a huge impact; but like I said, we have to continue doing it in the second half.”

(How bad was the heat out there for you guys?) – “It was hot, obviously. It’s Miami. That doesn’t have an impact on the game. It’s football.”



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Oakland Raiders WR Jordy Nelson (transcribed by Armando Gonzalez)

(Does this game feel like last week's game as far as the outcome and the way it went down?) – "Yes, I mean they are very similar. I think we've played well in spurts. We need to finish drives on offense and get touchdowns and finish games, obviously. That's what it comes down to and we're extremely close but it makes a huge difference in this league. We got to continue to grind and just continue to improve and kind of you need to breakthrough that barrier and then they can start coming."

(Is it one of those things where you can really go back and look at the film and go, 'Ah ha, this is what we need to do more of?' Is it that simple?) – "I don't think it's that simple. It's simple to find some areas that we can improve on, but then the execution throughout the week and then in the following game is obviously the difficult part. That's why we practice all week and we have to go out and execute on game day. We'll look at it and find the areas to improve and like I said, continue to grind and get better."

(RB Marshawn Lynch says you're so close.) – "It is and like I said, I've been on some teams where a few years ago we lost four in a row. Then all of a sudden, we broke through, got a win and went on a six-game win streak. Sometimes you just have to breakthrough that barrier, get over that hump, get that winning feeling and things can start rolling. We will just get back to work tomorrow and start preparing for another game."



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Oakland Raiders RB Marshawn Lynch (transcribed by Ken Mendonça)

(Why do you feel it's been a challenge for this team to close out games?) – “To be honest with you, it's like we're just a play away, a check away from being, probably, the most explosive offense in the league. It comes with time and it comes with preparation, and I don't think we're going to stop doing that, so any given moment it could click.”

(How bad was the heat out there for you guys?) – “Oh man, it was hot. I'm still sweating.”

(What is most important for this team down 0-3 to get out of this hole?) – “I think what's most important is that we rally behind each other more than anything. If you are on the outside looking in, it looks terrible; but we know what we have in this locker room. So if we get behind each other, I think we'll be able to turn this around.”



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Oakland Raiders OT T.J. Clemmings (transcribed by Paola Argueta)

(Your job is obviously to be ready to go in at a moment's notice. How tough is that to actually have to do that?) – “We’re mentally prepared for it. It is tough. You want to be able to go in there and help the team get to a victory, that’s for everybody on the team. I wouldn’t say it’s hard if you’re mentally prepared. If you’re not prepared then that happens.”

(Do you feel you settled in after that first series pretty well?) – “Yes.”

(Did you get some momentum running the ball?) – “Yes. We did some good things, getting a few yards on some of the runs that we had in there. We knew that we could run the ball on them and that’s what we did. We just have to try to finish a couple places here there and I feel like that would have made the game totally different.”

(Do you feel like it took a series for you to kind of get it rolling?) – “Not a series. Just a play.”

Miami Dolphins Head Coach Adam Gase

Talk about the two plays at the end there, the reverse toss that WR Albert Wilson threw to WR Jakeem Grant and then the one where Wilson took it around the corner for the touchdown. Big plays when you really needed them the most.

ADAM GASE: Albert had probably two of the biggest ones we needed and it took four quarters for us to really get in any kind of rhythm. They did a great job versus the run game and we knew we were going to have to throw it to win it and had a couple plays we really liked that have been working well all week in practice and really we have been working on them for a couple weeks, so for those guys to go out there and execute it perfect, it was good to see.

It looked like for the good majority of the game that the running game on both sides of the ball would be your downfall. You had a hard time running the football, they ran it well. What were they able to do running the ball and what were they able to do to defend your run?

ADAM GASE: I think they did a good job on offense of really holding on to it and it was like death by a thousand paper clips. They did a good job of just getting first down, first down and it just felt like every drive was really long. It's tough. You've just got to stay tight and just they have enough weapons where if you get too tight, then all of a sudden they go over the top and the drive becomes shorter. On the offensive side, we just couldn't get it going. We were trying to do a bunch of stuff that we had to run through early and we just didn't have the ball enough to really get into that kind of rhythm.

What can you say about the way CB Xavien Howard played? He comes up on a play where everybody else quits and he stays after it and makes the interception and then makes a huge play in the end zone and comes up with a big, big interception for you.

ADAM GASE: Yes. He looks like the guy we have been seeing since training camp, so I think he's just trying to figure out a way to get better every day. He's done it. He's practiced well and we're starting to see that translate to the game.

You win this game but I think that you guys have talked about it in each and every game, there's still a lot of room for you guys to improve. Is this the kind of game today where you win, so that's the good news; but a lot of things you can work on to try to get you guys better by next week?

ADAM GASE: I think there's a lot of factors involved in this one. We had a lot of injuries. It felt like a lot of guys didn't come back from what happened to them on the field. Having the ejection, that really hurt us up front. It was a sauna out there. Really, that's why we keep as many d-linemen up as we do so we can rotate those guys. I think a lot of guys had to step up and play situations where they haven't done it really in anything but a walkthrough. We had a lot of guys playing special teams that haven't had a ton of live reps because we lost some special teams guys.

Where did you draw up that play? Do you remember?

ADAM GASE: It was just straight thievery. I mean we stole it. It's an old (Mike) Martz play. It's just nobody watches his old stuff. They might now. (laughter)

Have you used it before?

ADAM GASE: No. No. I think that he scored on it probably in 2001 or something.

What do you call it?

ADAM GASE: I don't know. I'm not telling you guys that. There's plays off of plays. I don't want to tell our terminology.

You took that when Mike Martz was visiting?

ADAM GASE: No, it's just ... We've got all kinds of stuff of his and we kind of talked about some stuff when he was here and what we could do because we were really trying to expand Albert (Wilson) and Jakeem (Grant)'s packages and just keep growing them. We've got guys that can do a lot of different things. They can throw it, they can run it, they can ... We have done a couple of things already this year that really has worked to our benefit.

How many more of those are there?

ADAM GASE: A lot.

What did you see of the defense that made you think that that play could work?

ADAM GASE: I mean it's one of those plays that we ... It's plays off plays. We have run similar plays to it and it's just one of those things where you just don't think that's going to come. I'm glad it worked and it was good timing. I thought those two guys made a really good execution of the play.

Are you playing down the trick plays that won this game for you?

ADAM GASE: Maybe a little bit. (laughter)

What do you think of the team's confidence now going 3-0 knowing that next week you have the Patriots?

ADAM GASE: I don't think they're really focused too hard on that right now. We'll enjoy this one for the next 24 hours and then after that, we'll worry about moving on to the next one.

Has that play worked in practice?

ADAM GASE: Yeah.

Every time?

ADAM GASE: Mhm.

What was it like for your defensive linemen on the sidelines? Oakland had the ball at one point for 8:37 and then coming back they had the ball for 9:44, plus you were down three of them by the end of it.

ADAM GASE: Really, for me, I was just thinking, 'How can we give those guys a rest and kind of regroup and be ready to go for the next series?' That's a tough situation to be in because there's nowhere else to go. Those are the only guys ... Those were the guys left and we knew they were gassed and they were, you could tell they were fighting though. And that's why I love this locker room as much as I do. Those guys, they just kept laying it on the line, trying to find a way to stop them.

Did you get a good look at the DT Akeem Spence play?

ADAM GASE: I couldn't see anything, so I just know that the guy came over and told me that he was out.

CB Xavien Howard with another pair of interceptions. Obviously it comes in a massive moment but where have you seen his development?

ADAM GASE: I just think his ability to stay tight in coverage and then he does a great job of finding the ball and finishing the play. It's tough to do. When all of a sudden you become the receiver and the receiver's hanging on you and it's vice versa than what he's used to, it's not an easy catch to make.

Talk about the importance of just getting out of the game 3-0 and how important that is to your season.

ADAM GASE: Well, any time we play at home, our guys are taking a lot of pride in making sure that we're coming out of this place with a W. I thought the crowd was ... It got really loud, especially on third downs with the defense out there. There's great juice to where you can feel it. Our players are feeding off it and we've just got to make sure that we take care of business when we're playing home games.

Miami Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill

I guess your small guys came up big today so to speak.

RYAN TANNEHILL: They played great for us. We have known the talent they have had since the spring and saw flashes the last few games. Jakeem has had a couple big plays for us – the return in the first game – Albert made some big plays for us, but today they really came out big for us, some explosive plays. They combined on the reverse pass there, obviously saw both of them, and then Albert there on the last one. So, proud of those guys and the way they played.

What were they able to do to make it so difficult for you guys to run the football?

RYAN TANNEHILL: I think they did a good job up front. I'll have to go back and look at the tape and really take a look at it. We felt good about it coming in, but have to give credit to them. They were doing a good job of shedding blocks it seemed like and making plays.

It had to be frustrating, started to move the ball, throwing the ball down the field and then penalties would bring them back, you lose the yards gained plus the penalty yards. Seemed like that was going to be kind of, that was going to drag you guys down in this football game before the big plays. How frustrating was it not to be able to keep those drives moving when you were having some success?

RYAN TANNEHILL: We had a couple penalties that hurt. The two pass interference calls hurt. Neither one of them were pick plays, so it was kind of surprising to see those called. But, yeah, evidently we didn't do a good job with our technique and the official called it. Those plays hurt and one was a big third down that we converted, one was to start a drive. Whenever you're losing big plays like that and going and losing 10 yards, not only plus the yards gained, it's definitely a kick in the knee.

When you look at those two guys WR Albert Wilson and Jakeem Grant, how much they've meant to your offense these three weeks. It's funny you think back a year ago when [Jakeem Grant] was just trying to make the team catching punts, now he's become one of the biggest weapons you have on your offensive football team.

RYAN TANNEHILL: Jakeem has done a great job of growing as a football player. I think we saw his talent early on his first couple years on special teams, and then he really came on this spring as a receiver. It started back in March where he was working out there with me twice a week. And to see him grow as a receiver and his route running ability, his technique and the way to use his speed and his size as an advantage as far as leverage and getting the edge on guys, it's definitely showing up big for us so far this season.

You guys are 3-0 and I think you would agree you guys haven't played your best football yet. A lot of room for improvement and this is one of those games where you kind of struggle and struggle. You got a lot of things to look at to improve on as you get ready for next week, but you're 3-0, so the best of both worlds, I guess. You get to see what you can improve on, but you're in pretty good shape.

RYAN TANNEHILL: I think that's the game of football is sometimes it's not going to be pretty, but you have to have the grit and the togetherness to be able to stick it through and find a way to win. I'm proud of this team on the way we did that. Defense had a couple big stops for us down in the red zone, the one early on stopping them on fourth down. And on offense we just kept battling. It wasn't pretty, but our guys hung together, we made some big plays when it mattered and we found a way to come out on top.

You had trouble obviously running the football. Was there a point in the game you're like, 'We're going to win this because I'm throwing the football,' and win it that way?

RYAN TANNEHILL: You kind of get the feeling as the game's going on, the rhythm of the game and what it's going to take. They were doing a good job taking away the run. I felt like when we did throw the ball, we were doing a good job of getting open down field. They were giving me a good pocket, so I knew that if the number was called then we would be in a good spot to execute.

With the way you have this quick-strike offense do you feel like you're ever out of a game?

RYAN TANNEHILL: No. That's the thing is you don't want to be in that position, but with the talent that we have and the explosiveness that we have, we just have to keep doing our job and not press, not try to do too much, everyone just execute and do your job and we'll find a way to get in the end zone.

Is there anything different go through your mind when that trick play is called?

RYAN TANNEHILL: I'm just thinking about my responsibility, making sure we line up right, the Mike point, and then everyone's good with the motion and helping out with the tight end on the block. But there's excitement in the huddle. The play comes in and everyone kind of gets excited. Anytime there's a big shot call or a trick play, you can feel the offensive line kind of get excited. I think there was definitely some excitement leaving the huddle. And we were excited about that play coming into the game, it looked good during the week and I said earlier, you never know how those things are going to turn out. It could be perfect like it was, or they could defend it well, but you never really know. Proud of the way they executed. Albert did a great job of selling it and then throwing a great pass and Jakeem caught it and made a couple guys miss and got in the end zone, so it was great execution all around.

You are a quarterback so you know what it feels like to see a receiver wide open down the field and I guess you're thinking, 'Don't miss.' Do you appreciate the WR Albert Wilson pass more because of that?

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yes. Yes, I do. I know how hard that is to be running full speed laterally and make that throw. The thing is during the week, he was consistent on making a perfect throw. It wasn't ever a question. He never stretched Jakeem out or made him adjust really. It was always a perfect throw. I was impressed during the week and he came out and executed the same way during the game.

Did he come to you for any tips?

RYAN TANNEHILL: No, after I saw him run it the first time, I thought, 'He's got this. He doesn't need any tips.'"

Any tips from him?

RYAN TANNEHILL: No. (laughter) Tips on speed maybe.

Speaking of WR Albert Wilson, talk about how you guys have been able to jell with him being new to the team. Sometimes it can take a moment for that relationship to be the way it needs to be for you to be clicking on all cylinders, but you guys have seemed to have handled it well in these first few games already.

RYAN TANNEHILL: Albert came in and jumped in with both feet. He was here in the spring, in March. As soon as we signed him, we were out there throwing twice a week, had a good turn out. He's just a

grinder. He comes to work every single day and puts his heart into it and just works. When you have that kind of buy-in from a guy and a guy who is willing to sacrifice and do whatever he can for this team to win, he's going to have success. He can't help but have success. I'm really proud of him and the way he's come on for us.

Are you aware that the two pitches to WR Albert Wilson and WR Jakeem Grant went for scores went down on the stat sheet as touchdown passes by you?

RYAN TANNEHILL: Is that a question? Yes, I'm well aware. (laughter) Bonus, man. No question.

And happy about it.

RYAN TANNEHILL: Yes, of course. (laughter) Why wouldn't I be?

What about the touchdown to Kenny Stills, which probably was a little bit more up there on your degree of difficulty scale.

RYAN TANNEHILL: That was a tough one. It was third-and-long. They came down, safety came down over Kenny. I saw him kind of playing flat footed. Offensive line did a good job of giving me a little time and Kenny was beating them with speed, so I put it out there. Kenny made a great catch in the back of the end zone. That's tough to do running full speed, you know you're going to run into the wall, to concentrate, catch the ball and get his feet in. That was a big play.

RB Frank Gore said he believes something special is building in in that locker room.

RYAN TANNEHILL: I believe we're on the right track. The patterns that we have established so far, the way we work in practice, the way we support each other and stick together through adversity, we're on the right track. Are we there yet? No. But the patterns we're establishing are going to take us there. We just have to stay the course, keep working and take it one game at a time.

It looked like the first quarter early on it was a lot of the usual underneath stuff, taking whatever you could get. It looked at some point it evolved into challenging them more vertically down the field. Did anything change defensively that you thought that would allow you to do that or was it just ... I was wondering how that evolves as far as going for the short stuff and then eventually going for the long stuff?

RYAN TANNEHILL: They changed things up a little bit. Nothing too crazy. That's just kind of the way the game fell, the way the game was being called and the way we were playing on offense. There was nothing too crazy that I can say about it, it was just kind of the way the game went.

Miami Dolphins WR Albert Wilson (transcribed by Daniel Chavez)

(When you scored that final touchdown, could you see in the Raiders face sort of them resign?)

– "They got behind me so quick, I didn't really see their faces."

(How surprised were you when that play call came in for you to throw the ball?) – "It's something we've been working on. I'm ready for everything he called; every play, every run play, every pass play, every throwing play. Whatever he has for me, I'm ready for it."

(When you saw WR Jakeem Grant that wide open, did you think don't airmail it?) – "Exactly. That's why I was just 'Get the ball to him' because I knew he was going to score so that's pretty much all I had in my head."

Miami Dolphins CB Xavien Howard (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(Tell us about that interception late in the game.) – “It was a tight space. He was trying to do a double move and I ended up reading the quarterback the whole time. He just left the ball in the air and I took advantage of it.”

(You’ve had some good games at the end of last year. You’ve had some good games in your career. That interception at the end, you might not win without that. How emotional was that one?) – “That was a game changer. That meant everything. I think we took the soul out of them when I caught that interception. Our offense got on the field and attacked and scored. That’s what it was all about.”

(The secondary has had seven or eight picks in three games) – “Wow, I didn’t even keep up with the numbers; but last year we had like nine interceptions the whole season. The team, we build together in the secondary. We hang out a lot together in the off-season together. We’re building off of that and keeping the chemistry strong in the back end.”

Miami Dolphins WR Jakeem Grant (transcribed by Anthony Gutierrez)

(Jakeem how much fun was that fourth quarter with the play calling and obviously with different results?) – “I mean, it was a lot of fun. What turned it over was the big catch from DeVante (Parker). That’s exactly what we wanted from him and we’re glad to have him back. That’s what just sparked it. Once that happened, the wheels just kept turning and the ball just kept turning over and I can say that we were on fire.”

(How many times would you estimate you practiced the play where WR Albert Wilson throws it to you?) – “Every practice man. Every practice we had, me and Albert were practicing and you know it was just like that chemistry. I knew that it was going to be a touchdown and all he told me was, “Make sure you score and if you get tackled by one man in the open field, you owe me \$100.” And now he owes me \$100 for scoring because that’s what we do.”

(When WR Albert Wilson scores that last touchdown, could you see the resign in their face, the defeat in the Raiders?) – “Oh yeah, definitely. You could tell it just took all the air out of them and it was just like ‘man, there it goes, there goes the game.’ And that’s what we feed off of. We like that.”

Miami Dolphins C Daniel Kilgore (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(You said you’re still working some more plays that we haven’t seen that may surprise some people?) – “We’ll just never get too high. You never want to feel like you’re accomplished. This offense is a great bunch of guys who will continue working and that’s the mentality that we want to have on offense.”

(How willing would you say Head Coach Adam Gase seems to be to dial up these special plays?) – “He has a good feel of everything. I’m still trying to figure it out, obviously, being new to the team; but he’s done a great job. Once Coach Gase gets rolling, he’s rolling. Like I said earlier, you just never know when a certain play is going to be called. So you have to stay dialed in and do a great job executing the game plan.”

(When there’s guys who are as fast as WR Jakeem Grant and WR Albert Wilson, what kind of impact do you think that has on the defense?) – “It’s big time. You can use their athleticism and ... Their speed

is wonderful to have. It's just more weapons for the offense to be able to use. They did a great job today."

Miami Dolphins S Minkah Fitzpatrick (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(The speed that WR Kenny Stills and WR Jakeem Grant and WR Albert Wilson have, as a defensive guy, how difficult is it to defend the speed?) – "It's tough when you have one guy that's fast, but when you have three, four, five guys that are fast like that, it's really tough to defend because you get mismatches in the back end. You might have a linebacker on one of those guys one play or a safety on one of those guys the next play, so it's just mismatches all over the field. When you have guys like that, that move, it really helps our offense."

(It seems every three seconds another guy was going out with an injury. Even G/T Jesse Davis was on the defensive line. The challenge of doing what you guys did with seemingly half the defense injured.) – "It's football. That happens. No matter who you ask, there's always going to be somebody that says we had a game where half our team was missing. It's next man up and you got to do what you got to do."

(You're used to big situations having played at Alabama and all that, but how would you describe the feeling of making your first NFL start?) – "It was awesome. It was a whole lot of fun. We could have played better on the first couple of series, but we went out there, we finished. Like I said, it was a lot of fun. It was a blessing, for real. I'm just excited for next week."

Miami Dolphins DE Cameron Wake

(It was nice to see the young guys get their turn and do things like CB Xavien Howard did today. What did you say to him in the locker room?) – "We have a thing. The left side corner's best friend is a pass rusher. A pass rusher's best friend is a corner. So I think that he understands that. He made good plays today. Some of the guys up front are doing their best to try to get pressure on the quarterback to maybe throw an errant pass and he picked it off. He did his job and vice versa. The quarterback tried to make that read, he doesn't have time, we get a sack. So playing hand in hand, I mean, obviously, nothing to take away from him; but I think working together creates plays for everybody all over the field."

(What kind of challenge was it out there today with rotations just down to three ends and three defensive tackles and it's hot?) – "Well, welcome to South Florida. That's part of the business. In this game that we love, injuries are a big part of it. It's not if it's going to happen, it's when it's going to happen. I think you've got to take your hat off to the guys, the way we train out there in the heat day-in and day-out, when it's not so much fun; but those are the times that it pays off. I think, we all spoke about it, if we hadn't gone through some of the things we went through over the course of camp, OTAs, those long days, hot, struggling through it, maybe we wouldn't have had the tolerance to fight through a game like today. So again, my hat goes off to those guys who are out there literally getting down deep in your soul and going to a dark place and pulling out whatever you could to make sure you finish this game. And those guys did so, me included. So I think it's a tribute to the coaching staff and the way we practice and the way we play and it paid off today."

(After you got your sack and DT Akeem Spence was ejected, how important was it for you guys to hold them to a field goal on that drive?) – "We do our best not to clock watch or scoreboard watch, but you've got to stay in the game moment to moment. Every play, you've got to go out there and do

your best to keep points off the board. That's our job. Like you said, we shot ourselves in the foot and made some mistakes we made as far as extending drives. We just had to go out there and say, listen, we've got to put an end to this. Whatever it takes. Like I said earlier, it doesn't matter how many guys we got, it doesn't matter if you're tired or hurt, nobody cares. Go out there and get your job done and we did today.

(From a defensive player's perspective from the gadget plays that went for touchdowns, how did that look from your point of view?) – “Well, we have seen them already. (laughter) So it was a surprise to you guys but we have but we have been seeing them all week. But it's another one of those things where it's a little bit leery as far as what's going to happen, especially having seen them already. I don't know if they worked perfectly but they worked and it's definitely a lot of fun watching guys run down the sideline untouched, high-fiving and going in the end zone and scoring. That was a treat for sure.”

(Do you wish they would stay on the field longer, so you could have got some rest?) – “(laughter) No, no, we like getting points on the board. So we'll take our chances when we go out there.”

(There's been some unsportsmanlike penalties by some members of the defense the last couple games. What is it that you kind of say to your teammates so you don't shoot yourself in the foot?) – “Well, I mean, I don't even know what happened. I would love to go back and see the video; but regardless of what it is, you've got to do your best to kind of stay focused and look at the big picture. You may lose the battle, win the war. That sometimes may be the case. Again, I didn't see the play. I have no clue what happened. It sounds like it could have been called either way, I don't know. I'm sure you guys will go over the film, but things are as they are. You've got to be mindful of that.”

(How did G/T Jesse Davis do on the defensive line today?) – “I've got to watch that film too, but it was a bit of a surprise coming in seeing him in. (laughter) I thought something was mixed up. ‘What are you? Okay. Let's get down in a four point and do exactly what you don't like us doing when we're going against you.’ He did a good job.”

(In all seriousness. Did you recognize G/T Jesse Davis right away?) – “Well, I knew the situation. I think ... We didn't have enough guys, so again, whatever it takes and sometimes it takes an o-lineman to go in there and be a defender. I'm sure he had fun with that as well.”

(When are we going to see you on the offensive line?) – “I'm going to have to go talk to ‘Coach Wash’ (Offensive Line Coach Jeremiah Washburn) and see if we can get some plays called. That would be interesting, I'm sure. (laughter)”

(3-0, what does that mean for this football team right now and what is your mindset as you move forward?) – “I hope it's something that builds confidence in the guys. If you look at our team the way it's built and games like the first home game, the longest game in history, and games like the past game where it could have gone either way and we had to fight and scratch and claw and do whatever it took to get that W. I hope ... I mean it builds character, regardless of what else goes on. It wasn't pretty but whatever it took to win, guys did it. And 3-0 feels good. It definitely feels good, but at the same time, you've got to wipe the slate clean. Enjoy it for the next 24 hours or so, pat yourself on the back and get in there tomorrow and fix the things that we didn't do so well and erase the board and let's move on. We've got to be 1-0 after next week.”

(After the 24 hours, you look up to New England. That's a team that you guys need to try to unseat and that's what you guys want to do, that's what you have an opportunity to do, go up there and try to beat a good football team in their backyard. They've had a lot of success when you guys go up there. How much will you think about that and how much will you try to just get everyone on the same page and get that job done?) – “Well I think that, like you said, for the next few hours we'll enjoy this one; but quickly we'll be moving on. I don't think the narrative is going to change. You've got to go out there and you've got to do whatever, especially on defense. Read your keys, play what's shown, be where you're supposed to be for the entire game. It can't be 'Alright, four or five plays I missed out,' because good teams will capitalize on that. It's no different than any other week. You've got to go in there and we've got to wipe the slate clean, 0-0 and be 1-0 when the week's over with.”

(When the team was practicing way back in the day, the wildcat. LB Joey Porter I remember said 'Really, this is what it has come to?' When you see the trick plays that you've been practicing in front of you for the last two weeks, you thought what?) – “I hope it works. (laughter) I mean, trick play ... I mean, it's offense. They motion, they've got different sets, it's part of the game. And as a defender, whatever your keys are, you read your keys and you have to do your best to make the play. And whether it's a reverse, throw back, whatever it is. I'm sure they have keys that they're supposed to read and I guess somebody dropped the ball. Again, as I spoke earlier, one play can either make you or break you. You can't have – on defense – you can't have one mistake, two mistakes. That's two touchdowns and you lose the game. Offense, they can have a couple series and not work out so well and go on and hit a 70-yard touchdown and they're back in business. So as it stands for us on defense, it's every play, 60 minutes, no matter what.”

Miami Dolphins DT Davon Godchaux (transcribed by Lexie Balboni)

(On making plays in critical situation.) – “It's all about getting penetration, it's a group effort, all the D-tackles. We all got penetration. At the end of the day, we were tired as (expletive). Three d-tackle, I was tired. 'VT' (Vincent Taylor) was tired, Jordan (Phillips) was tired. We were all tired but at the end of the day we have to find a way to push through it.”

(When DE William Hayes went down, how much of a challenge was it for the unit to overcome?) – “It was big because Hayes is my guy. I kind of wanted to shed a tear on that, no lie; but at the end of the day we had to get up and keep fighting. I got nicked up on my ankle, Branch got nicked up, but we had to keep fighting through. There was no way I was coming out of the game with two minutes left and leaving two d-tackles. There was no way. I couldn't look myself in the eye the next day. There was no way I was coming out.”

(How much more strain did that put on you guys not having that rotation?) – “Like I said, there was a lot of strain. Oakland was trying to run the ball. They had some success but it was a lot of strain. They have a great offensive line. It was a lot of strain. It was one o'clock in Miami, it was hot. It's no secret, but we found a way to push through. At the end of the day, we got a W and we're moving onto New England.”