



**Kansas City Chiefs vs. San Francisco 49ers**

**Saturday, August 24, 2019**

**Preseason Game 3**

**49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan**



**SHANAHAN:** “Kyle Juszczyk had a hand contusion. X-rays looked okay. They just told me they got it. Raheem Mostert had a thigh contusion on the last day of practice. That is why he did not dress today.”

**Q:** Did you feel good about the first team offense?

**SHANAHAN:** “It was definitely better than the week before and that would have been hard not to do, but it was cool that they got to stay out there longer to get in a little bit of a rhythm. We started off a little rough, but completed a good third down which allowed us to stay on the field some. I thought they had a good first half.”

**Q:** Did you think Jimmy Garoppolo looked more comfortable?

**SHANAHAN:** “Yeah, it is not a big surprise when a guy is out for a long time, especially coming off of an ACL. That is just how football goes sometimes, especially in the preseason. Last week was not nearly as bad as it looked, but it definitely did look that bad live and today everyone was on the same page a little bit better. We moved the chains a couple of times and you just get into a rhythm and you start forgetting about things and playing football.”

**Q:** Do you think Jimmy settled down?

**SHANAHAN:** “I thought so. It looked like it. He definitely missed a couple early, which guys do. That is not always coming off of an injury. That happens in games. You have to rebound from them. That is very tough in preseason games when you have to rebound, you are taken out. Fortunately, he knew he was playing the whole half and he took advantage of it.”

**Q:** Did you sense any relief from Jimmy or was it just public stress?

**SHANAHAN:** “The public stuff is what it is. That is just our profession. It is not like I sit in there and review articles and radio shows with him. You just try to coach him and go through practice and talk about the coverages and plays you are expecting. Tell him what you plan on calling and you go through that throughout the week. If you feel a guy is struggling with things outside of football, you always talk to him. We have those relationships. Jimmy was pumped for today. When guys don’t play well the week before and everyone is talking about it, all guys want to do is get back out there and it could not come fast enough. I am glad it worked out for him.”

**Q:** Was setting up the play action key for Jimmy today?

**SHANAHAN:** "It is key for every quarterback in every game we have ever been in. It is a lot easier when you get first downs. You can set that stuff up better and that they are going to play more than two series, so that made it a lot easier."

**Q:** Did you sense he got too high or too low in these two games?

**SHANAHAN:** "A little bit. Jimmy does get amped up sometimes, which I think can be a quality. It is definitely a quality at times. Sometimes when it is hard to focus, you have to bring him down a little bit. You deal with that ebb and flow throughout games, throughout the week, throughout the season. I thought he did a good job today. Hopefully he will have a good week of practice and see how next week goes."

**Q:** What about Jimmie Ward?

**SHANAHAN:** "Jimmie is a football player. It does not matter whether he is hurt or how long he has been out. When you allow him to go, he is going. He has been that way in practice all week. I know we threw him out there today and I think he was able to play both nickel and free safety. From what I saw he played pretty well."

**SHANAHAN:** "The good thing about Jimmie and it has also been tough for him throughout his whole career is sometimes he is the best or second best player at every single position depending on what personnel is out there on offense. You have an option to put him out there in a lot of places. We want to put him at safety, but we have had some injuries. His injury opened up some room for Tarvarius (Moore). I know those two are competing in that area, but we are going to have our best guys on the field. We have a lot of options with Jimmie."

**Q:** Is Mike Person healthy?

**SHANAHAN:** "Yes, he is healthy. We would have kept him in longer. We just wanted a chance to look at some other guys."

**Q:** Did any wide receivers stand out to you today?

**SHANAHAN:** "Yes, Jalen Hurd did not dress because of back tightness. It looked like Richie (James Jr.) made some good plays today. I know Jordan (Matthews) needed to get more open on that deep one. He missed but he came back and had a few good plays after that. The group from a whole played pretty well. I know we had one false start. I think that was on (Kendrick) Bourne. I thought the group played well as a whole."

**Q:** Is Nick Mullens in the lead for the number two job?

**SHANAHAN:** "No, we have just been going with it consistently. Nick won the coin flip the first week. And C.J. (Beathard) won second week. Nick was up this week and I expect C.J. to be the fourth game."

**Q:** Have you seen (Matt) Breida make a catch like that?

**SHANAHAN:** "Breida will surprise you with some of those catches. He has made some in practice. I don't know if he has had the opportunity in a game like that, but we got them in their coverage. I didn't know if he was going to get to it, but he can run and he ran through the ball. He was not worried about the middle third safety coming to hit him and made a hell of a play."

**Q:** Has his receiving ability from day one to now made a jump?

**SHANAHAN:** "He has come a long way in that. Breida works at everything, but that was not his area of expertise when he got here. He got a lot better at it in his last year, his second year, and he is continuing to improve this year."

**Q:** How is he doing on the route running?

**SHANAHAN:** "A lot better. It has been tough for our guys to guard him one-on-one in practice."

**Q:** Did you run a more advanced version of your offense than normal in preseason?

**SHANAHAN:** "Not really, we just stayed out there more so I think when you stay out there more and you are able to balance the run and the pass a little bit better. It kind of opens up more things when you get the run game going you are able to run plays because you had the chance to call something off of it, some bootlegs off of it, play actions off of it. Third down is always just third down for everyone in the league, but I just think it worked out that way."

**Q:** Have you seen enough from Joshua Garnett?

**SHANAHAN:** "We know that he has the ability. I was just telling our team we have to cut down to 53 in six days I think. There are a lot more than 53 NFL players in there and it is not just about the ability and who is the best. It is who is going to be available. It is not just 53 for week one. It is who is going to be the 53 who we think can play with us throughout the year. We have had the last couple of years I think we have been in some situations where you cannot always pick that. You have to pick the guys with the upside and things like that, but the most important thing is if the guys are going to be available. I know Josh wanted to go tonight. He will go next week though. He has a legit injury. He has a cast on. Hopefully he will be able to play through that and show us that, but he is competing with some guys. There are a lot of guys on our roster in the same situation."

**Q:** What did you see from Jeff Wilson Jr.?

**SHANAHAN:** "He came back bigger. He put some weight on. He runs more. His style is more like a bigger back, especially compared to our other guys, but he has always been that same weight. He came back about 15 pounds heavier. He got hurt early on, so we have not been able to look at him since he has been healthy. He shows that he carries that weight well and he looks like a very similar runner to what he was last year, but when you are running the same and you have added 15 to 20 pounds that is a good thing. I think he ran pretty well in this game tonight. I think he ran well last week and we will see how he does in this final one. We will make a decision on a bunch of guys."

**Q:** What was your stress level this week?

**SHANAHAN:** "Pretty low, I mean it is preseason. If I read all of your guys' stuff all week, I might be stressed. My wife is probably stressed. I am sure Jimmy Garoppolo's family was stressed, but none of it totally matters. It is what you do in the season. I have been in the league long enough to know that. The season is stressful enough, so I am not going to sit here and get worked up about stuff that you cannot control and that doesn't matter until it counts."

**Q:** Is the lessening of penalties because of a rhythm or more snaps under your belt?

**SHANAHAN:** "Both, you want the quarterback to have command of the huddle. Annunciate very clearly, we don't just line up very static very much. We put a lot of pressure on guys and we move

around a ton and we feel it gives us a schematic advantage. It also helps players get an advantage and leverage and things like that. It is something we do a ton. We have been playing with a lot of young receivers for a while and they are still young. That is something we challenge them with all the time. If that is something you struggle to do, you are going to have a hard time being on our team.”

**Q:** Any thoughts on Andrew Luck retiring?

**SHANAHAN:** “I was just told about it before I came in here. It probably shocked me as much as everyone. He is one of the best guys in our league and one of the most impressive people I have been around as going through the interview process and stuff. I am sure he has a very good reason for everything. That was crazy to just hear that. We have three very good quarterbacks. We plan on having three this year, but just like every other person on our roster if someone thinks there is a way to upgrade our team, we will always listen.”

**Q:** You plan on keeping three quarterbacks?

**SHANAHAN:** “Yes, we are not ever going to just get rid of NFL players. I know we have three NFL quarterbacks that can help us.”

**Q:** It is rough with all of the injuries you have had...

**SHANAHAN:** “It is very rough. That is why there are some tough decisions, but that is something that if you have three NFL quarterbacks, they are not easy to come by regardless of where you draft them or anything. When you have that, you do not just give that away. Sometimes that takes years to find.”



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**49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo**



**Q:** What did tonight mean for you personally?

**GAROPPOLO:** "It is what it is. All of the hearsay and whatever noise is going to go on, you just have to ignore it and just go play football. I thought it was a good step coming back here to KC where it all started and everything. So, just to get that out of the way is another step in the right direction."

**Q:** Was there a moment where you stepped on the field initially and took it all in?

**GAROPPOLO:** "Yeah, pregame I did. I went and checked out the spot and everything but once I did that it was over with and time to move on."

**Q:** Not to add too much drama to that moment, but when you go to that spot what do you do?

**GAROPPOLO:** "I don't know. Just think about it. A lot has happened in the year since then, so I don't know. I thought it would be good to go back there and just remember everything that I've gone through."

**Q:** Kyle Shanahan said it might be kind of eerie to come back here just because of what happened.

**GAROPPOLO:** "A little bit. Leading up to it and everything, enough people talked about it, so I definitely thought about it, but it's good to get it out of the way is the best way to put it. This is another step in the right direction, like I said."

**Q:** How much of a rhythm were you able to get into and how much did it help being able to run a more diverse portion of the offense?

**GAROPPOLO:** "I thought it was good. A lot different than last week. Like I said, once you get the first first down you start to get into a rhythm. The run game was looking real good. I barely got touched. There was the one sack, but the line blocked tremendously up front and I barely got touched. That makes everything a lot easier."

**Q:** There was a third-and-six on first drive where you hit Marquise Goodwin and it seemed like after that you started throwing a little bit more accurately and getting into that rhythm. Did that play start to click things in for you?

**GAROPPOLO:** “I wouldn’t say it was so much that play. I think just being on the field for more than three plays like last week I think it got us into a good rhythm. All of us across the board I think we need to get into that rhythm, and it was good for us.”

**Q:** Is it almost a relief to get that many plays in a row?

**GAROPPOLO:** “Yeah it was good. We had a couple long drives so it kind of gets us ready for the season and everything. That’s real football when you get into the nine, 10, 11 play drives and it’s only going to help us going forward. I think all of that stuff added together made for a good night.”

**Q:** It looked like you felt the kind of touch you needed to put on that throw to Matt Breida. Can you talk about the angle that you have there to get it over the safety?

**GAROPPOLO:** “I wish I could have put it a little closer so he didn’t have to dive for it and make it a little easier on him. He made a tremendous catch on it. Most of the time it’s receivers making that catch, but when a running back can do it it’s so hard for defenses to plan for that. It’s a credit to him. It was a tremendous catch.”

**Q:** How different is his game now that Matt Breida is able to make those catches more often?

**GAROPPOLO:** “He’s come a long way definitely. All of the backs, Tevin (Coleman), Jeff (Wilson Jr.), Raheem (Mostert) all of those guys, having that element to your game as a running back makes you so much harder to cover and harder for D. Coordinators to plan for them. It’s only going to help us going forward.”

**Q:** Kyle Shanahan said the plan for right now is to keep all three quarterbacks on the active roster. From the comradery in that room what does it mean to have both of those guys with you?

**GAROPPOLO:** “It’s awesome. We have a good group, all four of us. It’s a tightknit group. We all get along with each other and help each other out on the sidelines. Those guys are talking to me just as much as the coaches are. It’s a great group to be around.”

**Q:** Is this performance today going to help you get through not playing next Thursday?

**GAROPPOLO:** “Like I said before it’s another good step in the right direction. Just getting this out of the way, last week getting that out of the way and just kind of checking the boxes off and now we’re just getting ready for the season. It’s a good night.”

**Q:** When are you going to start looking at Todd Bowles’ defenses?

**GAROPPOLO:** “Tonight.”



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**49ers Players**



**S JAQUISKI TARTT**

**Q:** On playing against the Chiefs offense:

**TARTT:** "I think we played pretty well, with the exception of one play. They caught us with a big play, and I definitely should have made the tackle on the running back. For the most part, I thought we did well."

**Q:** The defense looked fired up for this game, like you were looking forward to facing this type of offense. Was that the mindset pregame?

**TARTT:** "Yeah. We want to see where we're at. An explosive offense like that, as a defense, we're trying to make the 49ers a defensive organization. I know we got Kyle Shanahan as a head coach, but for us, we're going to win this year because of our defense."

**Q:** How is the pass rush impact (addition of Dee Ford, Nick Bosa), going to impact the secondary this year?

**TARTT:** "It's going to help us tremendously. The quarterback won't have time to sit back there and buy his receivers some time. With the new additions of them, it's going to be great this year."

**DB JIMMIE WARD**

**Q:** What's the toughest part about stepping back in and picking up where you left off?

**WARD:** "Really, it's just getting my wind. There were some times out there when I got winded and I was trying to breathe. I ended up taking the shield off my facemask and taking my mouthpiece off too and I was like 'Skip it. I just need to breathe.'"

**Q:** How was the first hit?

**WARD:** "I did that in practice, so it was normal."

**Q:** How comfortable are you now moving around and dropping down and playing free safety?

**WARD:** "I don't know. It's hard to answer that question. I just basically do whatever [Def. Coordinator Robert] Saleh tells me to do to the best of my ability."

**Q:** This injury you had in May, how frustrating was it for you to go through that again?

**WARD:** "I wasn't frustrated. It happens. Injuries happen. I just learned how to pray and move on."

**Q:** How much has the changes in the defense, playing more interchangeable safeties, how much does that effect your game?

**WARD:** "I think it just helps me to know the whole defense. Because I'm in so many different parts of this. Our base defense is cover-three. I'm learning what the linebacker does and sometimes what the defensive end does. It works out perfectly, when I'm moving around."

## **RB JEFF WILSON JR.**

**Q:** On tonight's performance.

**WILSON:** "I've got to give it all to the big guys up front. The receivers were blocking great for me on both of my touchdowns. I was trying to find the right hole and hit it."

**Q:** On both touchdowns.

**WILSON:** "I was just trying to get one-on-one on the first one (touchdown) and that happened. I had space. So, I took it to the outside and tried to outrun them. On the second one, that was all up to my O-line and the receivers. Jordan Matthews made a great block that helped come off the back side and that gave me a good clear vision of the endzone. Kudos to him and the O-line for doing their jobs."

**Q:** How well is the offense coming together this preseason?

**WILSON:** "Everybody is gelling. Everybody is getting a feel for each other. Everybody knows what to expect. Everybody knows what we're trying to accomplish on offense. It's all going in one direction and we're going to try to keep that going."

## **TE TYREE MAYFIELD**

**Q:** On playing in Arrowhead.

**MAYFIELD:** "I've been in the stands before, but never on the field. It was a cool perspective."

**Q:** What were some of your memories of coming down here as a fan?

**MAYFIELD:** "I remember sitting underneath the goalpost in the pouring rain and a player giving me a piece of the field. That was cool. I kept it. Now I'm playing on it."

**Q:** Who it was?

**MAYFIELD:** "I don't even remember who it was. I was in shock when he gave me a piece of it."

**Q:** What did you learn at St. Joseph Central (High School) and then (University of) Wyoming that helped you get here (the NFL)?



**MAYFIELD:** “Just grinding. In Wyoming, all we did double reps and work for what you get. I had to do that at Central and it carried over.”

**Q:** What’s the experience been like to get a shot in the NFL?

**MAYFIELD:** “It’s been crazy. I just want to prove that people from a small town, like St. Joe, can make it in the pros.”

**Q:** What do you have to say to the people in St. Joe (MO) who are following you?

**MAYFIELD:** “I appreciate the support. I know a lot of them were out here today – even some of them I’ve never met before. I just appreciate the support.”

### **DB D.J. REED JR.**

**Q:** On Byron Pringle.

**REED:** “Besides football, everything that Byron’s been through and for him to be in this situation, he’s the definition of perseverance. I’m proud of him. His story. The person he is. How hard he works. His passion for the game. It’s all coming to fruition. I saw in OTAs that he and Pat Mahomes had a good connection. He was ballin’. I’m just proud of him. He scored today. He’s tremendous football player. That’s my boy. That’s my brother.”

**Q:** What was it like coming in here and getting the W today?

**REED:** “It felt good. We’re 3-0 in the preseason. In our opinion, preseason counts. That’s the mindset. We want to win everything. To be 3-0 in the preseason, that’s very good leading up to Tampa.”

**Q:** How do you feel you did in the return game today?

**REED:** “I felt like I did alright. I got thrown out there, which I was happy because that’s a big part of my game. The guys did a good job of blocking for me. I didn’t get to make anything crazy happen. But, I was able to get the chance to go back there so I was very thankful for that.”

### **LB KWON ALEXANDER**

**Q:** How nice is it to get back out there again?

**ALEXANDER:** “Legendary. It felt great. I was out there having fun. Just moving around, just trying to get to the ball. It was great.”

**Q:** Was there any anxiety?

**ALEXANDER:** “No. No anxiety. I’ve been here before. It’s just about me having that confidence just going out there and doing what I do best. Having my team’s back and they have mine. So, everything worked out perfectly.”

**Q:** Did you want to play on Monday, or had you known for a long time that you weren't going to play in the first two preseason games?

**ALEXANDER:** "I was just ready whenever they told me I was going to be ready. When I go out there, I just knew to do my job and have my team by my side and whatever I had to do I had to do."

**Q:** After dealing with an injury and missing a significant portion of last season what's the first hit feel like when you get back in there?

**ALEXANDER:** "Just a regular old hit. Everything was the same. I've been practicing so I've been getting a little contact but tackling it felt great, especially making it. So, it was great on the first drive."