



**ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
OCTOBER 31, 2019**

49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan

Opening statement:

“(George) Kittle – knee and ankle. He returned, but then went out there the last couple drives. (Arik) Armstead had a throat (injury). He returned. (Kwon) Alexander had a chest (injury). He’ll get an MRI tomorrow.”

On LB Kwon Alexander’s injury:

“We’re guessing somewhere with his peck. We’ll see tomorrow.”

On QB Jimmy Garoppolo’s play tonight:

“He played great today. He played in rhythm and made a lot of off-schedule plays. They got a great pass rush. They have some real tight coverages. They mix up a lot of stuff. I thought Jimmy played a hell of a game. His best game yet, probably.”

On if Garoppolo’s performance allowed them to use shotgun in the late third down rather than run the ball:

“That helps. Just being down a field goal was more of it. If we were down seven with no time outs, we would have got it. They were moving the ball pretty good, and we thought we had to take a chance there. Definitely makes it easier to make that decision with the way he was playing and some of our guys were doing in the past game.”

On if the Garoppolo to WR Emmanuel Sanders connection was what he expected:

“Yes. When you’re watching him, you always know he’s a pro. He’s even been better than expected since he’s been here with how unbelievably smart he’s been in picking up the offense and going out there that much especially here on a short week. That game would have been real tough without him.”

On the third-and-four play in the fourth quarter:

“That one toward the sideline, I was right by it. He had to push a little bit extra on it to his depth just to get away from Patrick (Peterson). Jimmy (Garoppolo) let it go early. I had a clean view of it. I didn’t think Emmanuel (Sanders) was going to get his head around it right when he did, and it hit him right in the chest. It was impressive by both of them.”

On if TE George Kittle would have been in the final third down play if not injured:

“Yes. The play was called to Deebo (Samuel). No. 1, the progression, Jimmy (Garoppolo) had to scramble to the left and got a huge play to (Ross) Dwelley. Dwelley’s been huge for us this last month. We were messing with Dwelley all week. We said the No. 1 goal in this game was to win, but the No. 2 goal was to improve his yards-per-catch average because we think he was at zero or one. To do that on the last play was pretty cool. I know the guys were pumped up.”



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On what makes Garoppolo good on third downs:

“That’s usually where quarterbacks earn their money. You can do a lot of things on first and second down. You can mix and run or pass and kind of even out the game, but on third down that pass rush is coming and they always even out their coverages and blitz called. You need a good guy back there and everyone knows how well Jimmy can throw. He was on tonight throwing. He got it to the right spots and when it wasn’t there, he made plays with his legs.”

On if he can wrap his head around being 8-0:

“Not really. It’ll be nice to get a couple days off here. Probably get a chance to sit back and reflect a little bit, all of us. That’s the good thing about playing a Thursday night game. I’m glad we were able to pull that off so we could enjoy our few days off; 7-1 would not have felt nearly as good. You only feel as good as your last game. We’re really excited about being 8-0, but it doesn’t mean anything. It just means we can enjoy our couple days off even more.”

On how their defense played tonight:

“They battled. I thought they did a good job in the first half after that first drive. We let them make a couple big plays on some screens. They had a horse caller in that third down which kept that drive going. Got out of a gap on that first play of the game on their power that sprung a big one. We just got beat in the man coverage there at the end. I thought ‘Emann’ (Emmanuel Sanders) actually was in a good spot to make the play. He ended up undercutting and going for the pick and just missed it, and that’s why we gave up that explosive. Defense has been great all year. Definitely didn’t have their better games today, but it was good enough to win.”

On if he was curious to see how Garoppolo would perform in a game like this:

“Not really. I was curious how our team would respond. They were able to move the ball on our defense better than usual. We were able to get the run game going at times but not consistent enough which means you’re not going to win unless you make some plays on third down and do some stuff in the pass game. We all know Jimmy can throw it and get his numbers. He’s gotten it before. We haven’t needed it this year, but he’s done it before. I thought the most impressive thing was the amount of times we threw, how many plays he made and that we had no turnovers with it.”

On how encouraging it was to have no turnovers from Garoppolo:

“It was very encouraging to play that well and not have a turnover. It means he had a very good night, especially with some of those pass rushers too.”



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49ers Quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo

On his success on third down plays:

“I don’t think it’s anything crazy, I think it’s just good execution across the board. We lock in on that. On a short week it’s a little different, but it’s a big emphasis for us, third down, red zone, things like that. I think it’s just guys executing.”

On if he feels more comfortable with his body and being able to move around in the pocket:

“I like where I’m at. I think there’s still room for improvement and everything with the knee, but I was pretty happy with it. I thought those guys up front battled tonight. They gave me a lot of time. There wasn’t a lot of pressure or anything like that, so credit to them.”

On what TE Ross Dwelley is like during the week and what he does that enables Garoppolo to trust him in-game situations:

“He’s just locked in. Every opportunity he gets, whether it’s a choice route, something down the field, blocking – he’s just locked in and you love to have a guy like that. A guy you can trust and (a guy who) in big moments makes big plays.”

On his on-field chemistry with WR Emmanuel Sanders:

“He’s picking things up very quickly coming from a similar offense (in Denver). Just his body language on routes, I can kind of anticipate what he’s going to do, and I think we have room for improvement but I’m pretty happy with where we’re at.

On when he realized that the passing game was going to need to be the focal point:

“On a short week, you don’t really know what the game is going to be so you kind of (make) in-game adjustments, kind of get a feel for the game, and it was just guys stepping up in critical moments was the big emphasis of this game.”

On if he felt locked in during the game:

“Yeah, just the same as any other game. It wasn’t anything different for me out there. Just more opportunities, different opportunities, and I thought guys were making plays with the ball in their hands.”

On if it bothers him when people call him a caretaker or game manager:

“It doesn’t bother me. Most of the people saying this stuff are just people, so it’s their opinion. I don’t know, you can’t think too much about that stuff. It’s not going to change who I am, who I am as a quarterback. It is what it is.”



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On his chemistry with WR Emmanuel Sanders:

“He’s savvy. He knows what to do, feels space when it’s zone and he beats the guy when it’s man. It’s a nice combination. He’s so smart that he just does things that, as a quarterback, you love to see, and it makes it easy on you to throw the ball to him.”

On how satisfying the 16-yard completion on third-and-11 on the final drive felt:

“It was a pretty good feeling. All those third downs at the end there, they were all pretty big. It’s our job as the offense when we get the ball like that with minutes left, we keep the ball for the rest of the game. That’s how you win football games. So, it’s never easy, but I thought our guys did a great job tonight.”

On how different the game is when he has to move around in the pocket and he’s feeling pressure:

“I kind of like it actually. It kind of gets you into the game when you’re just being a football player. I guess instincts would be a part of it. But like I said before, those guys up front were battling tonight. That was a good defensive line we went against, and we’re going to see them again, but our guys did a great job tonight.”

On his touchdown pass to WR Dante Pettis in the third quarter:

“They went zero on us, he hit a corner route, and I knew he had leverage on the guy, so I just wanted to get the ball out before they got to me. He did a great job running under it and made a play.”

On if this was the best game he’s ever played:

“No. It was really fun. I had a great time out there. It was a great atmosphere; the crowd was rocking and everything. The faithful showed up again as usual, but I think we’ve got a long way to go as a football team.”

On if it’s hard to wrap his head around being 8-0:

“Not hard to wrap your mind around. I wouldn’t say we expected to be here, but you want to win every game, so we have that mindset. I think we have a great locker room in there with guys with the right mindset and they come to work every week.”

On what the team’s ceiling is:

“8-0 is not going to get you anything, but it’s a good start. We’ll take the weekend to heal up, get some guys back and make a run at this thing. I think we’ve got a good group here. We’ve got a long way to go, but we’re on the right track.”



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On how important was to have a game with a strong offensive performance:

“We’ve done a good job of winning in different ways this year, whether it’s offense, special teams, defense and mix-and-match all of them. That’s how you create a good football team, though. You’re not relying on one part and everyone’s playing together and playing complementary football, and I think that’s where we’re at right now.”



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49ers Cornerback Richard Sherman

On watching the offense put up big numbers:

“It’s awesome. I’m so thankful for them. Jimmy G (Garoppolo) played his balls off. Our offensive line did a great job. Running backs, everybody deserves credit, Kyle for drawing it up. They executed great the whole game, and they were clutch down the stretch.”

On what the win proved to him about the team:

“You’re thankful for your offense. You’re thankful for how they played. We let them down, myself included. You have to get him (Andy Isabella) tackled at that point. The guy breaks, we have to get him down. I have to make that tackle and get him down and give us a chance to continue to defend. It’s humbling for the defense. We need to be humble; that was a humbling game. We need to be humble on all levels, and I think there’s accountability on all levels. We’ll watch the tape, and we’ll watch it critically, and everybody will watch it and judge themselves critically. That was not championship football.”

On his outlook after the win:

“It’s not about the results. It’s never about the results. It’s about the process. It’s about doing things right. It’s about playing right. It’s not about the results. The results will be what they are. Thank goodness our offense executed, but it’s about the process. It’s about executing the way you’re supposed to. It’s about doing your job repeatedly, with robotic consistency. So, the results will be what they will be, sometimes you’ll win, sometimes you’ll lose, but if you do what you’re supposed to do, when you’re supposed to do it, how you’re supposed to do it, you’ll have the results you want. To sit here and say, ‘Man, we won,’ is not how I am. It’s not the accountability we need, and is not leadership.”

On the timing of the defense’s struggles:

“It happens, and it happened at a good time. We have time to go back to the drawing board and correct those mistakes. We get to see this team again in a couple weeks. We have a tough game against Seattle next week, so you need to tighten things up. I think guys need to tighten things up, myself included. You always have to start with yourself, and I need to tighten things up. I have to be where I’m supposed to be. I have to get the guys on the ground, and we’ll do better as a defense.”



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49ers Tight End George Kittle

On how he's feeling after the win:

"Great, are you kidding me? 8-0."

On his hit to the knee in the beginning of the game:

"It is what it is, it's football, stuff happens. You either decide to go back out or you don't. I tried to give my team everything I could. The fourth quarter, I couldn't really go anymore and I'm happy to have a guy like Ross Dwelley stepping up. I can't really say enough about Ross and the plays he made and I'm so happy for him."

On what happened on the play he went down with the knee injury:

"If something happens I try to push through it as much as I can. But if it comes to a point where I feel like I'm a liability to the team and I'm not the best man for the job then I talk to my coach about it and we make a decision. I definitely thought that Dwelley was more mobile than I was in the fourth quarter."

On QB Jimmy Garoppolo's performance:

"He's pretty good, I don't know why people think he is. He makes some pretty gutsy throws out there doesn't he? Goodness gracious. In addition to that strong chin-line he's incredible, goodness gracious. I can't say enough about how he brings us along whether it's on the sideline or in the huddle and the leadership that he has. The fire that he has too, he just gets the people going. To see him make those plays and allow him to get people off his back that say, 'Hey, maybe he's not what we think he is.' When everyone in this building and in this locker room knows what he is. It's fun to see that."

On Garoppolo's consistency on third-down:

"I messed one of those up for him in the beginning, that's my fault. He does what he always does, the consistency that I see every single day. Whether it's our Thursday third-down practice or whatever it is he's always locked in, he's always ready to go. He's one of the most professional people I've ever been around. He practices enough and the stuff he puts in allows him to make those plays. He's not out there just scrambling throwing the ball around trying to make a magical play. He's built for that, and that's what I love about him."

On if he was more fired up for this game playing against Cardinals S Budda Baker:

"No, he made a couple of good plays and I just had to remind him that I was going to be here all night."

On if he can wrap his head around the team's undefeated record halfway into the season:

"You've got to give me a little bit, then I will be able to. It's pretty special. I was 8-0 one other time and that was in college, so this will be pretty fun. We're just going to keep enjoying it, we've got 24-hours to celebrate this one and then I can't wait to play Seattle on Monday Night Football."

On how it felt to see Garoppolo have a great performance:



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“Unfortunately tonight we really couldn’t rely on our run game the entire game. They had a great game plan for it. I’ve seen him do it, he does it all the time in practice. The throws that he makes are incredible and I’m just so happy that he got to showcase that tonight for everyone else to see because he’s an incredible quarterback and without him we’re not winning this many games.”

On WR Emmanuel Sanders:

“Yeah he’s pretty good too, he’s decent I guess. Like I said before, Emmanuel is a guy that has won before and he knows what it takes to win. He’s one of the most professional guys I’ve been around, so having him come into the wide receiver room and helping guys like Dante (Pettis), Deebo (Samuel), Kendrick Bourne, even Marquise (Goodwin) he helps. So when we bring a guy like that in, he elevates the play of our other guys and you can’t say enough about the wide receivers tonight. They played a hell of a game, they made some hard catches, they did what they had to do to get the job done.”

On how much better the team can be:

“I don’t know, we’re undefeated, so you tell me. When you get the 49er legend Joe Staley back, you get Mike McGlinchey back, you get Kyle Juszczyk back, you get a lot of pieces to the puzzle coming back. You can’t really say enough about the guys that stepped up for those guys, (Justin) Skule, (Daniel) Brunskill, (Ross) Dwelley, without those three guys you don’t win all those games. The plays that they’ve made are amazing to watch. I’m just so happy for all of them. They took advantage of the opportunity they got when they were in.”

On what his mindset is when he catches the ball:

“Score, don’t let them tackle you, make them tackle you. Safe to say creative angles. I wasn’t the most mobile person tonight and they still took creative angles on me. Try to be as violent as possible and see if they can match your intensity.”



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49ers Defensive Lineman DeForest Buckner

Opening statement:

“Collectively, probably our worst defensive game. They caught us in bad positions. We just have to come out next time more prepared as a unit. All around had mistakes today. Like Richard (Sherman) said, it was a humbling experience and we had to get back to the grind.”

On how much he attributes their performance to the short week:

“You can’t use the short week as an excuse. They had just as much time to prepare for us. You can’t use that as an excuse. Guys just have to hone in on the details and little things like that. We have to be better prepared the next time we play them because we play them in two weeks.”

On playing the Cardinals again in two weeks:

“Definitely. Most definitely. The best thing about it is that we can get better as a team, as a defense at 8-0. It’s better to get better at 8-0 than 7-1. You can’t take the wins for granted. Nobody said it was going to be easy, it’s the NFL. Any given Sunday, Monday or Thursday. You can’t take it for granted. You can enjoy it a little bit, but it’s back to the grind.”

On the team finding several different ways to win:

“A couple years ago, we were finding ways to lose. We couldn’t find a way to win. Just to see the growth in this team. It’s still a pretty young team. Guys are learning to finish those games and find a way to win.”

On their standard of winning:

“That’s the standard we have as a team for each other. Like I said, you just can’t take the wins for granted. It’s hard to come by, and it’s hard to win in this league. That’s just the standard we hold for ourselves. We know we can get better as a unit and we’re a lot better than we displayed out there tonight. It’s a humbling experience and we got time to take care of our bodies and really get back to the drawing board.”

On QB Kyler Murray’s ability to move in the pocket:

“He’s like a little squirrel back there. Like a little squirrel running everywhere and everything. Next time we go against them, we have to do a better job at containing him and keeping him in the pocket. Obviously, throughout the week we learn some of his mannerisms and stuff like that. We just have to keep to rush and bring the pressure and the back end needs to continue to hold up and allow us to get back there.”

On if he meant “little squirrel” as a compliment:

“Take it how you want to.”

On what their team can do with everyone healthy:



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“The ceiling is however high you want to make it. We’ve been playing really well with guys down and the guys have been stepping up really well. To have some of those guys back is going to be very exciting. We’ve been missing them for a couple weeks and the fact we’re 8-0 without them just shows the depth on this team and how we really trust one another to get the job done.”

On the offense picking them up:

“Obviously, we had games where defense gets us out of the hole or offense gets us out of the hole and tonight the offense played very well. Jimmy (Garoppolo) had a great game throwing for a couple touchdowns and they moved the chains when they needed to move the chains at the end to get those first downs to seal the game. The offense played great and special teams played pretty good. It’s just one of those games. Like we said before, find any way to win. The offense found a way to win for us today.”

On how concerned they are with LB Kwon Alexander’s injury:

“Every time you have a guy go down, you’re very worried for him and concerned for him. The best thing that Kwon can do for us and himself right now is to get healthy and figure out what’s going on. We know he wants to be out there and he’s itching to be out there. He’s one of those guys that he’s going to give it all he has. Obviously, something’s hurting with him. He just needs to get back healthy and he’s going to be missed.”



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49ers Wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders

On his 22-yard reception from QB Jimmy Garoppolo on third and four in the third quarter:

“What a throw by Jimmy. It was one of those throws that, obviously, I made the play, but I couldn’t even take the credit, I couldn’t even pound my chest, because I just had to point at Jimmy. That was definitely a Dilfer dime, watching SportsCenter or whatnot, but it was just so easy. Literally, I turned my head and the ball fell in my lap. Jimmy was on fire tonight. I remember after he threw the touchdown to (Dante Pettis), that was on the same drive he threw the touchdown to Pettis, I walked over to him on the sideline and told him ‘Man, you’re blinking right now. I’m loving it.’ What a great night for Jimmy.”

On what it’s like playing with a quarterback when you know he’s in the zone:

“I didn’t know that. This is one of those games that Jimmy had a coming out party for me. I’m looking forward to just continuously gaining chemistry with him and getting better and better and better. The sky’s the limit.”

On the confidence of the offense as a whole on third down:

“I think it’s just all about going out and making plays, not overthinking it. You just have to go out and do your job and that’s what I’m trying to do. I’m just trying to go out and do my job. Sometimes I don’t even know if it’s third down or first down, it doesn’t matter. At the end of the day when Kyle (Shanahan) calls a play, I have to go out and execute at a high level and that’s what we’re doing as an offense. I feel like that’s the reason we’re having a lot of success.”

On what he feels is the key for him and Garoppolo getting on the same page:

“I think it’s just energy. It’s a lot of positive energy. You know how Jimmy is, he still has his Eastern Illinois backpack. You have to love the guy. He’s a very humble guy, very hardworking guy. He’s young, but at the same time, the sky’s the limit. In his head he wants to be great, he works hard. We stay after practice, we catch balls after practice, and all that hard work is paying off.”

On if he and Garoppolo have put in extra work after practice every day since Sanders was traded from Denver:

“Yeah. Not this week so much, because it was a short week, but last week we stayed after practice even when I was sore. I just wanted to run routes and get him to understand how my body moves so when I get ready to stick and come out of my cut, the ball could be there like today.”

On if the 49ers characteristics are similar to the Super Bowl teams that he has played on:

“Yeah, a lot. Belief. Even when the game got sticky, guys didn’t waver. Guys believed that we were going to go out and make the plays and that’s what it takes. And just from team chemistry. You’ve got a lot of good guys on this team, you’ve got a lot of grown men on this team. Guys who can have fun but at the same time can focus in and hone in to be able to win games.”

On if the two Super Bowl teams he has been on have similar characteristics to this team:



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“A lot. Belief, when the game got sticky, when the guys didn’t waiver, when the guys believed that we were going to go out and make the plays, and that’s what it takes. Also just from a team chemistry, we got a lot of good guys on this team, we’ve got a lot of grown men on this team. Guys who can have fun but at the same time can be able to focus in and hone-in to be able to win games.”

On what he makes of the 49ers locker room:

“It’s very unique. When I first got here...obviously to start a season undefeated 8-0, you’ve got to have a special locker room. You’ve got to have a special group of guys and I didn’t know what to expect when I first got here. Coming into this locker room and seeing the guys, I really loved it. I think it starts with Kyle and just seeing how he is. The guy is wearing Yeezy’s with a backwards hat when he walks into the team meetings. He’s making us laugh, but at the same time we know how to focus. I think this team is just a reflection of him.”

On how important it is for him to be a leader of this team off the field:

“I don’t give it a thought, I just be who I am. I just go out and try to work my butt off. I catch balls after practice, before practice, I’m always catching balls. I feel like if you try to make guys do something then obviously that’s tough. Just be an example, I just try to be every single day. I’ve learned from great wide receivers like Hines Ward, I’ve worked with Demaryius Thomas and Wes Welker, I’ve played with Peyton Manning. Those guys have a sense of discipline. I feel like in order to be great and be able to make plays in this league you’ve got to have that discipline. I’ve just been blessed to be around those guys and being who I am I guess they’re picking up on it as well.”

On having TE George Kittle as a teammate:

“He’s the coolest. When I first got here George was one of the first to text me making sure I know the massage therapist, making sure I know his house is more than open at any time to come over and hang out. He’s one of my favorite guys on the team.”



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49ers Wide Receiver Dante Pettis

On what this win says about the team:

“We knew what we were getting into. We knew they would probably stack the box and that it was going to come down to one-on-one battles on the outside, and that’s pretty much what happened.”

On his touchdown catch:

“He (Jimmy Garoppolo) really made some nice throws, so I’m going to have to go back and watch that one. Before the play, he just told me to stay alive, and it might come open and that’s what happened. The corner dropped off, took the out route, and I was wide open.”

On the multiple offensive contributors:

“We have a really tight group, so everybody wants to see another person succeed, and we’ve done a good job of making the play when our numbers are called.”

On being 8-0 at the halfway point:

“You can be a little excited. Not many teams can say they’ve been 8-0, but at the end of the day, we know that it’s only the first half of the season, and we still have at least eight more games to play, so what we did in the first half doesn’t really matter. It just set us up for the second half of the season.”

On the next game against Seattle:

“We’re excited for that game. Every division opponent is a good game, so just the fact that it’s on Monday night is really cool, too.”



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49ers Linebacker Dre Greenlaw

On how he feels following his first NFL sack:

“It feels great, credit to my coaches for making the call, and credit to the defensive line and the guys up front for making it happen.”

On how gratifying it is to step up and make a big play in tonight’s game:

“For me personally, the guys tell me to be ready at all times, be patient, do my job, and stay consistent and everything is going to happen. I did my job, and it happened the way it was supposed to.”

On the significance of his 19-yard sack to change the momentum of the game:

“I’m just trying to do whatever I can for my team.”

On winning a close game:

“We don’t like the way it ended. We feel like we should have done a lot better, especially on defense. We may be 8-0, but a lot of guys are down. We just want to play good, perfect ball. We know we have to go out there every night and give it our all. It feels good to be 8-0, but at the same time, we know we could have let one slip.”

On playing against Cardinals QB Kyler Murray:

“I’ve had to play against him a couple of times. He can move now, no doubt.”

On his thoughts heading into another division game next week in Seattle:

“We just have to make sure we all get healthy and make sure we got everybody ready to rock and roll. Take it one game at a time, make sure we prepare, make sure we’re healthy and we’re ready to play ball.”



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49ers Wide Receiver Kendrick Bourne

On QB Jimmy Garoppolo's performance:

"He's always poised, so you can never really tell if he's flustered or anything because he's always the same. I think that's the reason he's so good, he doesn't really get flustered by anything. After that Luke Kuechly pick, you didn't see any fall off, he wasn't really tripping. We came right back out and had the same mindset of getting down the field."

On what makes WR Emmanuel Sanders so impactful:

"I think it's his route running. He runs his routes a certain way, so he gives Jimmy good indicators of when he's going to break. As a young guy I just watch stuff like that, how he threw that ball today, he threw it before he was even looking. Emmanuel runs his routes, giving indicators of when he's breaking, like leaning into a guy and breaking so Jimmy sees that cue and he can just throw it. Jimmy makes great throws already, so if we can run great routes for him and make it easier for him, the better he's going to play. The better we'll be overall."

On the offense's ability to get production out of everyone:

"I think it just says, kudos to Kyle (Shanahan). He knows how to use us. We say all of the time, he puts us all in a position to be great. You see us rotating all of the time and stuff like that, coming in and out. You see me and Richie (James Jr.) or Dante (Pettis), we all have certain plays for us, and people sleep on us, me, Dante, people like that coming off the bench. They're more worried about Emmanuel and then we come in and they kind of relax on us so we hit them with big plays. He knows how to use each and every one of us."

On the team's ability to get the job done no matter how the game goes:

"Shout out to the offense today. We couldn't really run the ball, they were stacking the box, so it really came down to the wideouts today and I'm proud of all my guys. We all have resilience. I think that's the biggest thing with all of us. When George (Kittle) went down early, none of us were panicking. We were hoping he was okay, but we just had to step up, whoever's next, and then Dwelley ended the game with that first down. Who would have thought? Who would have thought I would have scored? We really have weapons everywhere. I think that's the biggest thing. You're only as good as your third team, so I think we all take it seriously, like we're first team players and that's why when we come out there, everything works out."



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49ers Tight End Ross Dwelley

On if he found the pregame talk about his yards-per-catch average amusing:

“I mean yeah, but it is what it is at that point. I’ll catch the ball whenever and just find a way to win.”

On if he knew he needed extra yards on the final catch to get the first down:

“Yeah, definitely. I always know where the first down marker is so I knew when I caught it I needed three or four extra yards so I ducked my head to get it.”

On if he had practiced that final route before or if it is usually intended for TE George Kittle:

“It’s designed for George (Kittle) to be in there but really we’re pretty interchangeable. Obviously he’s a hell of a player, but I was trying to do my part. I’ve run that route a bunch of times.”

On his nickname of “Baby George”:

“That’s a heck of a compliment, so I’m fine with that.”

On TE George Kittle being a leader in the locker room:

“He’s a great guy, he’s a great leader for this team. He’s a big reason we’re 8-0. He’s a heck of a friend too, we’re good friends and he’s a heck of a guy.”

On how watching TE George Kittle has helped him improve his game:

“Just everything. His blocking, his run-after-the-catch. Like I said in the offseason, his grit, how hard he plays, it’s just contagious.”

On filling in at fullback this season:

“Like I said earlier, I’m just trying to do my part for the team to be 8-0. So it was great.”



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Cardinals Head Coach Kliff Kingsbury

On challenging RB Tevin Coleman's run in the fourth quarter:

"It was tough. We thought his foot stepped out. I know it was a tough angle looking at the TV, thought he stepped out and thought the ball was short of the line to gain and in that situation thought it was worth taking a shot."

On the overall effort:

"Effort continues to be there from the first game on, we got way down and they battled back. I think effort is continuing to stand out week in and week out. Execution wasn't what it needed to be tonight, and that's a very good football team. We got to give them credit, they made a bunch of plays there. On third down they kept them on the field and then defensively that's a really good group, physical up front, got a great pass rush and put us in a lot of negative situations."

On RB Kenyan Drake's performance:

"That's what he expected, that's why we traded for him. I think his skillset is perfect for what we do. He's explosive, he runs tough. For him to come in and learn an entire game plan and we didn't pull anything back, we knew we'd have to call our best game against those guys. Really impressed by him all week. His level of preparation showed out today."

On the fourth down play at the end of the first half:

"I wanted to get a kodak timeout, one of those looks at it and wanted them to hopefully burn their best play. They ran a play and it worked for us initially, but then obviously looking back on it would've rather gotten that stop. It just didn't work out for us this time."

On how the play at the end of the first half affected the momentum:

"I don't think it did. We came out and played really well in the second half. Once again, our guys understand decisions will be made that we think are best in that moment to win the game. That one didn't work out for us and that's on me, but our guys continue to fight."

On CB Patrick Peterson's performance:

"I'll have to see the film. He's still getting back into playing shape and understanding our scheme. It's the first time he's ever played in this scheme full-speed and live game reps. There was no preseason, there was no even training camp. It was limited because we had other guys taking those reps. He's a very good football player, he's a dominant player and I'll have to watch the film. I really don't know if it was the coverage call, or if it was man coverage. I'll have to watch it to get a better answer for you."



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On the 49ers converting on third downs:

“That’s the goal obviously. I thought we did good job against the run, had them in a bunch of long situations. Have to give them credit, though. Jimmy (Garoppolo) stepped up, made a bunch of great throws, played about as well as you can play. He was really sharp tonight. Our guys were close, but they made the plays when they had to.”

On the offensive line’s performance with the absence of RT Justin Murray:

“Really proud of Justin Pugh. We asked him to make that move to get out there for the betterment of the team and he hadn’t done that in years. He stepped out there and competed his tail off. Mason Cole stepped in. Going against a very good front, we saw at times that it was hard to slow those guys down, but they battled and gave us a chance at the end.”

On when the decision was made to play Pugh at right tackle:

“Beginning of the week.”

On RB David Johnson’s injury:

“He’s progressing nicely. He wasn’t 100 percent, so we decided to sit him, but we’re hopeful for the next game.”

On his decision to throw the challenge flag in the fourth quarter:

“We thought it was worth it to put them in a fourth down situation where they had to make that decision and then you can get the ball right there or punt it and get it back. We felt like we had to take that risk.”

On WR Andy Isabella’s touchdown and if he was expecting him to make that play:

“We wanted to get it to him with speed. That’s why he came all the way across the field. We lucked out that they rode with man coverage that play. He’s really hard to cover. The DB actually had great coverage. It was a tremendous throw and tremendous catch to stay in bounds. He has elite speed, he really does. He’s still developing as a wideout, but that speed is something you can’t coach.”

On his conversation with QB Kyler Murray after the 19-yard sack:

“I don’t remember exactly what was said, but I think that was just talking through some things.”

On if the game situation affected the game plan coming in:

“Not too much. We were actually able to stay on schedule pretty much throughout the game. We would have had to go two-minute there had we gotten it back. But for most of the game we were able to stay on schedule and run the ball effectively which really helped.”



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Cardinals Quarterback Kyler Murray

On how tough it was not getting the ball back after WR Andy Isabella's touchdown:

"Defense played great all night. Obviously, trying to win the game, got to get the ball back, but there's a lot of things that we could point to. That's a good team. I think obviously if we got the ball back, I feel confident in us going down and scoring, but it just didn't end up that way."

On how impressed he is with RB Kenyan Drake after only being here for four days:

"Super impressed. To be honest, I kind of felt or knew what he was capable of. Everybody's situations are different, but in this offense I felt like if he just felt comfortable enough to understand the plays and concepts he would thrive, so he had a great day."

On if there was a point where he could tell Drake was going to be comfortable in the offense:

"The first couple of days, he could tell, obviously he's not familiar with a whole new playbook, a lot of terminology that he doesn't understand yet. Yesterday I felt like he started to pick it up. Even the guys, Zach (Zenner) as well and Alfred (Morris), everybody is kind of getting more familiar with it, so I was confident with the guys who were going to be in there today."

On whether he had to tell Drake where to be during the game:

"Yeah, that's my job. He's out there looking for me to help him out, so whenever he didn't know, it was my job to tell him."

On how he thinks the team did against the 49ers' defensive line:

"Like I said, that's a great team, they're undefeated for a reason. Got guys on the d-line, it's tough, but at the same time, three points. We lost by three points, we were there the whole time. I think we just have to make a couple of adjustments and I'm confident with our guys."

On at what point he saw Isabella on his touchdown play:

"It was tempo. Got him in a man look, which is what we wanted obviously. Tempo always slows down the rush, and obviously for us that was big. Seeing man, him running across, I know Andy's fast, I've been with him for the last couple of months, so I knew what I had in him, and yeah, he's my first read."

On whether he thinks the Cardinals' opening drive took the 49ers by surprise:

"I don't know. I know what we're capable of, I know we're a good team. It's just frustrating at times, but we're going to continue to get better."

On whether he likes when the team picks up tempo during the game:

"Yeah, I love it. I've never held up as much as we have, but when we go fast, we have the advantage because we know what we're doing. Defense is on their toes and they have to react to us and that's pretty much it."

On whether he talked to WR KeeSean Johnson and WR Andy Isabella about sticking with it, as they both have seen their playing time decrease:



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“Yeah. Those guys have been the dudes probably their whole life, so if you haven’t had the situation of having to sit or wait your turn, it’s tough. But they’ve done a great job of being patient and obviously they both ended up scoring today, had big days for us. I’m confident in all the guys. Whoever is in there is in there, and we just have to ride with it.”

On if he’s looking forward to a weekend off:

“I just want to win, but I guess it’ll be nice.”

On if he feels like the team is making progress even with the losses:

“I feel like we should’ve won the game. Obviously, they’re a great team, but at the end of the day I’m confident enough so I feel like we should’ve won the game. I’m not really satisfied with coming up short.”

On helping Drake and what he told him throughout the game:

“Like I said, he was more familiar with it. He’s been here for four days. He wasn’t really familiar with it the first couple of days, but he was pretty good, he was pretty good on his own. A couple of times he needed help and I just told him what to do, which is my job.”

On OL Justin Pugh moving to right tackle and OL Mason Cole starting at left guard:

“I’m confident in our guys. Pugh did a good job. Mason did a good job. We just have to execute a little better.”



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Cardinals Wide Receiver Larry Fitzgerald

On getting the offense going in the second half:

“We feel like we left a lot of plays out there. We had one play for 88 yards, so that was kind of deceiving on the numbers. They did a good job on the back end rushing the passer. They are a really good defense. They are a top-five defense in the league. Glad the way we ran the football, and were able to control the line of scrimmage in the run game and hopefully we can build off that and try to bounce back next week in Tampa.”

On RB Kenyan Drake’s performance:

“He is a constant professional. He went to Alabama; he has been coached and prepared to play at the highest level, and it was great to see him jump in and contribute and be a dynamic playmaker like he has always been his whole life.”

On miscues early in drives hurting the offense:

“You have to stay on schedule because the offense is predicated on staying ahead of the sticks, ahead of the chains and not getting behind schedule. When you get down in first-and-20, second-and-20, this defense is built to stop those type of things. You can’t put yourself in bad positions against a really good football team like this.”

On if the 49ers were shot of the first down on the third-down play that was challenged:

“Absolutely. I thought his foot was out of bounds from my vantage point, but they disagreed with it. It is unfortunate. They did more to win the ball game.”

On having a chance to win the game:

“There is no moral victories for us. We are a good football team. We felt we could have beat them today. They were better than us today because they made more plays than us. The penalties and the missed opportunities, those are on us and those things are correctable, and we will get corrected. Fortunately, we will be able to see this team in two weeks.”

On how quickly Drake learned the offense:

“That is impressive. To be able to do that on such a short week, it is a testament to his intelligence and his willingness to learn to get into his book. I can only imagine he hasn’t had much of a life in the last few days in the building all day, at home doing the same thing, but you know he cares. It matters to him and that is why he has been able to have the success he’s had.”



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Cardinals Running Back Kenyan Drake

On if he expected to be used this much after only four days:

“I feel like they came and got me for a reason, to come out here and make plays and help this team win games. We fell a little short in the win department, but I like the direction that this team is going. I feel like we can continue to use this confidence. We played against a really good 49ers team. We’ll take this confidence into Tampa Bay next week and try to get a win.”

On adapting to the playbook:

“That was a testament to the guys around me. Kyler (Murray) did a great job putting me in the best position to continue to make the plays that I need to make. The team communicated with me really well. It’s a testament to them and them putting me in the best position to have success. All I had to do was come in and learn the game plan. It’s not like they threw the playbook at me. There was a specific game plan that we had to work on and try to make the plays out there.”

On if he felt he exceeded expectations:

“This offense is wide open. Coach Kingsbury told me that he was going to give me the ball but I didn’t know to what degree. To go out here and make plays and help this team win games is what I’m here for. They gave up an asset for me so regardless of the short week they were going to expect me to come in and produce and help this team win games. I put it upon myself to do my part and make sure that the things that I do can be a testament to the hard work that I put in.”



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Cardinals Safety Budda Baker

On the importance of the offense having a good second half:

“It’s great to see. Last year, I didn’t really see that too much. It’s very great to see that the offense is clicking. They made enough plays for us to win. They scored a lot of points on one of the best defenses in the league. Personally I’m mad because the defense could have made more plays.”

On what’s changed in his game:

“Each week I have a different job. Today’s job was a bit of everything. I was in the slot on the receiver, I was on (George) Kittle at times, I was in the post I times and I was blitzing. I had a lot of variety in the things that I did today.”

On how he approaches tackling bigger guys:

“You have to wrap up. If you hit them high and don’t wrap up he is just going to run over you. On the slant I was off balance and I didn’t wrap up.”

On the loss and how the team is going to move forward:

“We had three games in 12 days and now we have, I think, 10 days off. We’re just going to recoup, get healed and hopefully get this next win.”



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Cardinals Wide Receiver Andy Isabella

On if he believed he and WR KeeSean Johnson would score:

“Yeah, absolutely. We’ve always believed in each other since we roomed in the hotel together when we first got here. We were just motivating each other. We were splitting every series. We were always lifting each other up and when he’s not in it was my turn. We just keep cheering each other on and keep being teammates.”

On when he thought his touchdown was a possibility:

“When I cut it back, I saw the two guys overplay it and I thought I had a shot. My legs almost gave out on me, but I made it in there.”

On if the DB made it hard to catch the ball on his touchdown:

“I was almost a little surprised I caught it because I thought he was going to get a hand on it, but he didn’t. We created enough separation to get open and finish the play off.”

On being able to make an impact in the NFL:

“Just keep believing. You go through a whole journey, a lot of ups and downs and twists and turns, but what I think KeeSean and I have done so well is just keep fighting, showing up every day and keep putting in the work. It paid off tonight for us.”



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Cardinals Wide Receiver Christian Kirk

On how incredible it is to see RB Kenyan Drake play so well in his first week with the team:

“It is, but at the same time, like I said I saw the way that he played at Alabama when we played against him. Just the physicality and the kind of spark that he brings. It is surprising, but not as much to me.”

On at what point did he realize Andy’s (Isabella) catch was going to be big:

“Right when he cut back and he started running towards me. I was just making sure I got the block that extended him into the end zone.”

On how Andy was moving his arms at the end of the run:

“You could tell, he does that when he gets a little tired. You know, that is a long run, he’s got little legs too. But he is fast enough to get into the endzone though.”



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Cardinals Defensive Lineman Corey Peters

On stopping the run:

“Stopping the run game was one of our main goals for the week. But we didn’t do as great a job of stopping (Jimmy) Garoppolo. We’ll get in tomorrow and watch the film. Figure out what we can do better and get to work on it.”

On the timeout called before the fourth down stop at the end of the first half:

“It’s unfortunate but it is what it is. We’re not going to second-guess things that happen in the game. Our job is to stop them and we didn’t get it done.”

On how he measures the team against San Francisco:

“I think we know who we are. This is the NFL. We can beat any team in this league on any given day. Our problem this year has been consistently giving up big plays. I think that when we play our best ball, it’s very clear of what we’re capable of. We just have to figure out how to eliminate the negative plays and be more consistent across the board.”



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Cardinals Offensive Lineman Justin Pugh

On the transition from guard to tackle:

“It was a short week and a guy went down. It’s the nature of this business. Just go out there and have a little fight and let the chips fall where they may. Obviously, we didn’t get the job done tonight.”

On the success of the running game tonight:

“The tempo was good for us. We just can’t have those lulls where we go backwards, get penalties and put our defense in tough spots. I’m proud of how we fought tonight. It shows what kind of character the guys in this room have. We didn’t pull it out and we’ll go back to the drawing board. They are a good team and we’ll see them in two weeks.”

On playing next to OL J.R. Sweezy:

“We did some good things. He’s a great guy and I knew he would have my back and help me with everything. It’s about flipping plays in your mind too. You only have two days to get the nuances of the position down. It took me a few times.”

On RB Kenyan Drake’s performance tonight:

“It was unbelievable. It was huge for him. But we didn’t win the game. We get paid to win football games and we didn’t do that tonight. We have to go back and look at the film and be our toughest critic and see where we can improve. I know we are, I can see it and I know who this team is/ I know that we’re getting better and better every week. We’re going to start to get things going our way.”



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Cardinals Wide Receiver KeeSean Johnson

On his first career touchdown:

“It’s just a dream come true, but we want to just keep working for many more. (Wide receiver) Andy (Isabella) and I talked about it just this week. We knew we were going to get our opportunity, so we were just talking about taking advantage of it and let’s make some plays and get in the end zone and it happened tonight.”

On he and Isabella both scoring their first career touchdowns:

“It’s really dope, especially talking about it and motivating each other since day one. We’re both here and both got our first touchdown on the same day, so it’s great.”

On if his drop early in the game affected him:

“There are things you could dwell on and it could keep hurting you throughout the game, so it’s just something that you have to let go and continue to fight. I know I can catch, so I have to let it go and continue to keep battling.”