

**49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan  
Press Conference – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**Opening comments:**

“Alright guys, injuries from the game: [RB] Jeff Wilson [Jr.] left with illness, he returned. [CB Akhelo] Witherspoon had cramps, he returned. [OL] Mike Person, stinger. He had that at the end, so he dint return. [DL Julian] Taylor, jaw. We’re still evaluating that. That’s it. Go ahead.”

**This is probably a stupid question, but what does TE George Kittle mean to this team?**

“I was going to mess with you, but he means a ton. You guys all know that. It was hard without him and to have him back tonight, obviously what he did in the pass game. But, what he does in the run game is equally as important. It was great to have him out there.”

**Is he playing with a broken bone is that what’s happening here?**

“Yes, there’s all types of different broken bones, but he definitely has one. He had one right on the first play of the Arizona game. But it was stable then. It’s a bone chip, so it was stable then but he’s got to play through some pain with it. We had to rest him for his knee to get healthy, which took a couple weeks. The bone was stable, but that’s going to cause him some pain for a little bit.”

**Everyone talks about Green Bay Packers QB Aaron Rodgers and his off-schedule plays. He’s made a career of that. He didn’t have much of that tonight. What did you guys do so effectively?**

“It looked like pass rush and coverage and we kept him in the pocket, I think, fairly well. Guys weren’t open in rhythm, from what it seemed like. We did a good job mixing up our plan, where sometimes those four, I know we brought some pressure in the first third down and we got them, just changing the stuff up schematically so they had to change up their protections. Obviously, we have a good front four too, who can rush on their own. From the clips I saw live, it looked like our coverage was very tight also.”

**You talked the other day how few of your guys have been on winning teams and I’m just wondering how impressed are you with how they handled this moment? Primetime, big opponent.**

“I’ve been very impressed with them. I’ve been very impressed with our guys since we got together in OTAs. We’ve got a really good group of people. We’ve got a smart group. We’ve got guys who love football. Very high character in how much they work and how much they dedicate to football. I think that’s what started us out this year, playing so tough, playing so well together. We got a lot of wins early, which I think a lot of people didn’t expect. And when that does happen, you always worry if it’s going to change people and things like that, but our guys haven’t changed at all. I think they’ve got even more locked in, even more focused. Our guys aren’t just in there pumped about where they’re at, they’re pumped about the possibilities of where we can go and that’s what excites them the most. Hopefully we can keep working and make that happen.”

**Can you talk about the night LB Fred Warner had and the way he’s really developed in this defense?**

“Yeah, Fred has been unbelievable all year. Today, I’ll see it better when I watch the film, but just every time I looked up he was making plays. Going sideline to sideline being able to make some big hits and not get penalties while doing it. And, what he does just from getting us in the right call standpoint, he’s unbelievable. We’ve got a bunch of checks, mix our scheme up a lot and Fred doesn’t make a mistake all game.”

**Why did CB Emmanuel Moseley start and play the first quarter and then Akhello took over for him the rest of the game?**

“We’re still just trying to ease Akhello back in. Akhello had a pretty good week of practice. Still thought he was about a week away to get his starting job back. It’s a matter of time before he does get that. We planned on putting Akhello in a couple series each half. We knew when this day ended that he was going to get a couple series and then E-Man, I think his ankle is a little bit sore. On special teams, I forget what happened, he never had to come out, but he got a little bit banged up and when we gave Akhello his role that we planned to put him in, he was feeling better. We just kept him in.”

**With the familiarity between the two teams, what was the challenge of mixing things up, but still sticking with what you believe in?**

“That’s almost a challenge every week, just because people know each other and have worked together. You kind of have an idea of what people like to do and where they go, but the tape is still the tape and every team in this league knows each other pretty well, especially when you’ve been calling plays for a while. Unless you just got in the league and you’re first doing it, then people have to wait and see what you’re about. [Green Bay Packers head coach] Matt’s [LaFleur] done this long enough, I’ve done this long enough, [Green Bay Packers defensive coordinator Mike] Pettine has, [San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Robert] Saleh has, so I see it the same as every other week.”

**What’d you think of San Francisco 49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo’s performance?**

“I thought Jimmy was great. I thought we did very well in the run and the pass game. The opportunities that he had in the pass game, from what I can think back to, seemed pretty flawless. I think he protected the ball, weren’t close to any picks. I thought he protected the ball when they did get there in pass rush and made some big plays when he had too.”

**You put OL Daniel Brunskill in for OL Justin Skule at a certain point. What did you see from each of those two guys and why the replacement?**

“That was just a call [San Francisco offensive line coach] John Benton made, our O-Line coach, during the game. I know Skule, there was a couple push in the pocket on two of them. I believe one of them was a sack. I’m not sure what happened on the other. Brunskill has played a lot of football too, just like Skule. Both of them did a great job when [T Mike] McGlinchey and [T Joe] Staley were out. With Skule, we weren’t going to make him go the whole time. So, we planned on getting Brunskill in. He came in and I really don’t even know which one is in when the play happens. I only notice if a bad play happens. I ask who it was, so I don’t know how long he stayed in for, but since I didn’t say his name again, I’m sure he did a pretty good job.”

**It’s safe to say DL Arik Armstead benefited from an even better edge rush, but what else has gone into his season in your mind?**

“Arik has been great since we got here. Going against Arik in training camp and OTAs, even from our first year, he’s a guy who I hated going against him as an offensive coach. He’s very hard to block in the run and pass game. I thought he did some real good things for us the first two years. I think he’s had some unfortunate injuries. I think this year he’s been able to stay healthy, play in every game and I think just the way we’ve changed up our D-Line. Our style of play, it’s benefitted all of them, but probably him the most, just in terms of never having to kind of read and react. Just being aggressive every play, going right at the quarterback, reacting to run. With his length and size, just allowing him to be a little bit more decisive and the rest has been him. He’s had no hesitation and he’s stayed healthy.”

**What was the explanation you got for the foul on CB Richard Sherman in the endzone?**

“They just thought it was unnecessary. I didn’t see it, but they said he pushed a receiver out of bounds in the back. I do know that with these quarterbacks, especially scrambling quarterbacks like Aaron, as soon as they break the pocket, that’s something we want them doing if they are by the sideline. Push

them out. Usually you're allowed to do that once they leave the pocket, then they can't come back in and make a catch. They told me it was unnecessary and I didn't have time, so I didn't totally know what they were talking about."

**Is it accurate that the chipped bone in Kittle's ankle is less of a problem than his knee at the moment?**

"Yeah, in terms of reinjuring and stuff. When you find out a guy has a broken ankle after the first play of the Arizona game and then we're told he can come back in, that doesn't make sense to me either. So, I get it when people hear broken bone. Just to help you guys with that, because I needed it too, it's like a piece of tree bark came off. It was just a shaved part of the bone came off and when you do that, it's still stable. You can't break it worse and you're able to go with it, but it's extremely painful. So that was a choice he made in that game, which we'll make it for him if it's not stable. But, if it's stable as long as he can tolerate the pain. But, the stuff he had in his knee, since we're getting more detailed on it, I think it was a popped capsule, whatever that means. That took a couple more weeks to heal up and once that was healed, it was pain tolerance with the ankle. Hopefully I don't have to talk about medical stuff longer than that."

**Talk game plan then. What opens up for you just generally when you have Kittle in there as opposed to when you don't?**

"Kittle helps out so much on the edges with our runs. When we lost our tackles, that's always tougher when you take a step back even though Brunskill and Skule have done a great job, they haven't been out there like McGlinchey and Staley have and when you lose the edge like that just a little bit in the run game, but you have a tight end who's like Kittle in the run game, then it can really help you on the edges. So, when he's out there we just can stretch the defense more, which helps us get outside. It also helps us cut back, so it gets our run game going. And when it gets our run game going, everyone knows what he can do in the pass game. I think a lot of his catches today were off of run actions, especially the 60-yarder. They came up on the run, cut the crosser and got him over the top. It kind of opens up everything just like all good players do."

**Did you know it was going to be there when you called it?**

"Yes. That's what we were hoping for. We were hoping to get a quarters look and we did and then you just hope you have the time for it to set up, which is why we faked and rolled out to the left and we had the time and they cut the crosser and the rest was just those guys making the play."

**It's a really tight race at the top of the NFC. Do you guys pay attention to the other teams in the standings or do you focus on inside the building here?**

"We're very well aware of how tight of a race it is, but it's way too early to sit there and focus on it. The way things are going, I'm sure that'll be the last week that really is worth knowing what's out there. There's a lot of football to play and a lot of games and a lot of good teams out there."

**Like Arik Armstead, DB Jimmie Ward is finally healthy and being able to show what he's able to do.**

"Yes, definitely. Jimmie Ward, as I think I've said in here, has been one of my favorite players since I've walked in this door just because of the way he plays, how important football is to him. He goes out there and gives it his all. I think it's been hard for me to watch for him because people have gotten down on him just because he's gotten hurt most of his years here. But, that doesn't take away from how good of a football player he is. Jimmie is a guy who plays hurt, plays through anything. He's just had some very bad breaks in his career so far and this year he hasn't. To me, he's playing like he always has since he became a rookie in this league. But, the longer he stays out there, the more people notice."

**49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo  
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**CB Richard Sherman said that everybody would follow you into a dark alley. What does that mean coming from a player like that?**

“Sherm’s one of those guys, whatever he says, it carries a lot of weight just in the locker room with our guys. He’s a leader of the team, he’s been here before and he just sets a great example from the moment he walks into the building to when he leaves.”

**After a pair of punts in the 1st quarter, TE George Kittle said you rallied the entire offense and had some words for them. Can you say what you said and how did you kind of rally the troops there?**

“Yeah, the defense got a fast start, we got the touchdown right away and then we kind of just, we were in a little bit of a lull it seemed like. I don’t know, I just thought everyone needed a little “get the juice going” type of thing. I just kind of brought everyone up and I think it did us well.”

**How much does George Kittle change what you can do on the offense?**

“George, he’s awesome. The energy he brings on the sideline, getting guys involved, getting guys talking in the huddle even, it’s little things like that. Obviously, you guys see what he does on the field. I throw him a 2-yard route and he takes it for whatever, 20-30 yards, runs a great route, scores a touchdown. It’s all the little things that he does, though, that goes so unnoticed.”

**What do you think you’ve done to earn equity of your teammates in terms of being able to have that voice in a setting like that and to get everyone charged up in that moment?**

“I wouldn’t say it’s anything crazy. I just try to be myself. I think guys respect that. They’re going to see through you if you try and be fake and stuff like that. We have a great group of guys, especially, it’s just from top to bottom. It’s a great group of guys to be with, and I wouldn’t want to be with anyone else.”

**You had another combination of offensive line succeed today. This time, it was a guy, OL Daniel Brunskill, who was playing out of position on the left side. Did you have to tell anything to him when he came into the game and what was your impression of how that cohesion worked with the new look?**

“Yeah, I didn’t really have to tell him anything. Dan was ready to roll. O-line, it’s a tough group. They’re always mixing and matching with injuries and things like that. You’ve got to tip your hat to those guys up front. They were battling tonight. They got it going in the run game and everything we do starts with those guys. They played great tonight.”

**Can you walk us through the touchdown to Kittle?**

“Yeah, we canned the play, got into the pass play and everything, and George just ran a great route. He had the corner post, basically, on it. He literally turned the corner around, I’m pretty sure. It makes for an easy throw for me. Those are the throws you get a little nervous on, though. It’s just so wide open that you don’t want to miss him, but when you have a guy who can run routes like that, and we have multiple guys who can do that, it makes my job a lot easier.”

**He said you guys have been practicing it all season and it was finally time. Did it ever look that good in practice? It did seem like you had a lot of time to set up and throw it down there.**

“Yeah, we had the boot on and everything and yeah, I felt no one around me or anything like that. Great play design from the coaches. We’ve kind of been holding onto that one for a little while, but it was a great route by him. You’ve got to tip your hat. It was fun.”

**Was he able to run it in practice this last week given the way he was just getting back in practice?**

“Yeah, it’s always a little different in practice because you’re going against the scout team and you don’t know if that’s the legit, real look that you’re going to get, so you’re always a little hesitant on it, but I’m telling you, it played out exactly like it did in practice. It was nice to see.”

**What did you think of WR Deebo Samuel’s 42-yard catch and run for a touchdown?**

“Deebo’s a fighter, man. It’s week after week. This guy, he shows up in big moments, even dealing with what he had last week with the shoulder and all that stuff. He’s unbelievable. For a rookie to be so mature like that, it’s awesome.”

**I know you guys always talk about not going up against the other quarterback, but it sounds like part of that meeting that you had was because Packers QB Aaron Rodgers was on the other sideline. Is that true and what is it about Aaron that brought that out of you?**

“Yeah, I don’t think it’s that specifically. In the moment, that was the right thing to do I thought. I thought I would bring the guys up, get them going. Aaron, he’s one of the best. I love watching him play, even if we’re not going against them that week. Just watching his highlights and things like that, he does so many amazing things on the run, in the pocket and it’s fun to get against a guy like that.”

**Three of your touchdown drives happened within three plays. How did it feel to get those quick strikes and what gave you the access for that?**

“It was kind of weird. We only ran six plays in the third quarter, I think it was, so we kind of left our defense out there. We scored on two plays and we were only out there for, I think, a minute. Not ideal, but you’re never going to be upset about a score. Our team has been doing a great job of playing complimentary football. I think all three phases playing together and just complimenting one another, it’s done good for us.”

**Head coach Kyle Shanahan said that he thought tonight your performance was flawless. Do you feel yourself settling in just being able to get this many starts in a row and are things slowing down for you?**

“Yeah, I think just the understanding of the offense, obviously having great players around me makes my job a lot easier. When the defense is playing how they were playing, special teams, there’s a lot that goes into it. As far as just being comfortable with the offense and getting the game plan down throughout the week, it’s become easier and easier. Just got to keep trending in the right direction now.”

**How important was it to get this win at home before you head out for two, really tough back-to-back road contests?**

“It was good. I’ve got to give a shout out to the Faithful, they were rocking tonight. The stadium, just the energy, even just walking in early in the afternoon, you could feel it. It was really cool to have Levi’s loud like that. We’ve got a good stretch coming up here. Baltimore will be a great test for us, so it’ll be a good one.”

**49ers DL Arik Armstead  
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**How much fun was that?**

“A lot of fun. It was a dominant performance in a big-time game. It was a lot of fun.”

**When the defense goes out and establishes a tone in the beginning of the game, what does that do for the whole team?**

“We pride ourselves on that, stopping the run and getting after the passer. Any time that we can do that, I think that we will have a good chance at winning the game.”

**It was a close loss to the Seahawks a few weeks ago, but what did you guys learn from that?**

“To just keep fighting and to keep playing. It was a hard loss, but we have to keep going, fight through adversity and find a way to win.”

**Five sacks for you guys facing Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, what is it like to put on a performance like that against the hall of fame quarterback?**

“It is great. Going into this game we knew that it was going to come down to that. To first stop the run and then get after him and put them in bad situations, we were able to do that tonight. I am so proud of my teammates, so proud of everyone especially my D-linemen and the rest of the defense on how we played tonight.”

**49ers DL DeForest Buckner  
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**What was the mentality coming in, knowing what you guys had to do to them?**

“Yeah, win first and second down, stopping the run early. All so we can play the game we want to play, which is getting after the quarterback. That’s what we did from the start.”

**How big was LB Fred Warner’s forced fumble and obviously DL Arik Armstead’s recovery to start the game? How much of a tone setter was that for you guys?**

“Oh, it was a big tone setter. We came out guns blazing. That’s the kind of energy you want us to start off with, especially with a team like that. For the offense to capitalize off of it, it was just a great start to the game.”

**You obviously want to pressure Green Bay Packers QB Aaron Rodgers, but how important is collapsing the pocket and taking away any lanes for him to squeeze out? How much of an emphasis was that for you guys this week?**

“We knew he was a Houdini in the pocket. You know he’s was going to make plays and extend them. He got out of it a little bit. We tried to bring as much pressure as we can. We don’t want to rush reserved. You want to rush to win. When we couldn’t get to him and he got the ball out, we had to make sure that we could, obviously legally, hit him and try to get him on the ground as much as we could and make himself pick himself up, so we can wear him out a little bit.”

**49ers TE George Kittle  
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**How has it been to deal with the chipped bone in your ankle?**

“It’s football. It’s fine. I mean, yeah. It’s a mindset. You just have to go out and play football. That’s all it is.”

**Has the knee been more of an issue, or the ankle?**

“I think they both looked pretty good tonight. They are good.”

**You had a 61-yard touchdown from San Francisco 49ers QB Jimmy [Garoppolo]. Can you describe just how you got open, how it felt?**

“Oh my, we’ve been running that since Week One, and I have to run it like two or three times a week. That’s like a 50-yard route every single time. I’m just like, ‘Hey [San Francisco 49ers head coach] Kyle [Shanahan], relax. I’m a tight end.’ We finally got the call and ran it, so that was pretty fun. It’s just a corner post. Perfect coverage to run it against. Jimmy gave me a perfect ball and I had to unhitch the trailer and out-run a couple guys. It was pretty fun.”

**Kyle says that a lot of the run sets that you’re in open that up –?**

“Oh, 100-percent. Yeah, the run game is the only reason those plays work because when you’re in 13-personnel with three tight ends, most the time you’re going to run the ball. You’re not going to have a tight end run a corner-post for a deep ball for 61 yards. So, our run game is definitely the reason that I get open on those plays.”

**49ers T Mike McGlinchey  
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**What impresses you most about the defense?**

“They are just relentless. They play 11 guys so strong, so complimentary of one another with the pass rush, the coverage, our linebackers. We are missing one of the best linebackers in football and we have two rookies who are stepping up in [LB] Dre Greenlaw and [LB] Azeez Al-Shaair. It is a testament of what [general manager] John [Lynch] and [head coach] Kyle [Shanahan] have done in evaluating talent and people and who they are as people because that is important too. It is incredible to see how smothering all 11 guys can be and that is what they do week in and week out. They just shut down one of the best to ever play football in [Green Bay Packers QB] Aaron Rodgers and that is pretty impressive.”

**Do you guys feel the impact in going against them week in and week out?**

“I think so. You don’t get as much live work these days but we certainly did in training camp. [San Francisco 49ers DL] Nick [Bosa], [DL] Dee [Ford] and [DL] Arik [Armstead], Arik is having one of the best seasons he has had and one of the best seasons by a DE this year. Those guys have made us so good up front on the offensive line. It does make it a little easier, they are the best in the NFL, and there is nobody better than them.”

**As an offensive line do you think you guys got into a rhythm?**

“Yes. I think we found ourselves again. We had a couple of, I don’t want to say down weeks, but we didn’t hold up to our standard. We got back to our basics with our game plan and our execution was huge.”

**What does getting back to the basics entail for you guys?**

"It is honing into my techniques, honing into my scheme and what I am being coached to do. Taking that the extra time to study myself and other opponent. I've been studying more of my opponents than myself and these last two weeks, I had to get back into the feel of things. I was knocking some rust off of things after sitting out for five games or four games, whatever I missed. I felt like I got back to myself tonight and played a pretty good game of football."

**49ers WR Deebo Samuel  
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**Talk about how good the offense was tonight?**

"We did a pretty good job of moving the ball and just following the game plan to go in there and execute."

**Can you talk about playing against the packer defense?**

"I think we played well as a whole, just beating man coverage. We knew their defense would do a lot of crazy stuff so we had to find the holes in the defense and capitalize on that."

**How does the defense set you up by dominating in the early part of the game?**

"The defense is really unbelievable. The energy they play with and the physicality they play with, it just gives us the urge to do that on the offense."

**Tell us about the play you made and the chance for you to run free like that?**

"It was just an end breaking route. When I see the ball, I take the ball. When I turn the corner all I see is the end zone. I was like, I got to get there."

**How much fun is it to be the counterpart to a defense like that? Does it make it easier on the offense?**

"Most definitely. The field position they give us is kind of outrageous. We just go out there and capitalize on that."

**49ers CB Richard Sherman  
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**Most games that Green Bay Packers QB Aaron Rodgers plays in don't look like that. He wasn't able to make any of the big plays we've seen him make. What did you guys do so effectively in the game in that regard?**

"We just played our game. We just played disciplined football. Our D-Line, they hunted and in the secondary, we just tried to play tight coverage. We played a lot of man-to-man. [Defensive coordinator Robert] Saleh called a lot of man-to-man today and we felt like that was the plan to try and stop the run and stop [Green Bay Packers RB] Aaron Jones. You have to step up in the secondary. [CB] Ahkello Witherspoon played a heck of a game. [DB] Jimmie Ward played really fast. [S] Jaquiski Tartt played really fast. Obviously, you see the linebackers. [LB] Fred [Warner], [LB] Azeez [Al-Shaair], and [LB Dre] Greenlaw all played a good game because you have to when you play man coverage in those situations. They still got some plays that we're going to have to correct and be better on but whenever you play a Hall of Famer like that, you never know. He can go for 400 at any given time and he can take the game over at any given time, so you've got to play as hard as you can, as fast as you can, for as long as you can and you let the chips fall."



**There has been so much talk about you guys having to play the Packers and the Ravens and the Saints. Did you think all that discussion was being overlooked by not saying those teams have to play you guys?**

“Yeah, but what’s new? Apparently, nobody has to play us. We’ve just got to play everybody else. We’re just the punching bag that people come punch on. We don’t worry about the outside noise, though. We talked about it before. Before these rooms were filled, there was only six or seven of us and the locals. At the end of the day, we understood what kind of team we have. We don’t worry about the opponent because you can’t control what they do. You can control your execution, your effort, your attitude and your approach. Most of the time, that will be good enough. If you do your job effectively, you fight hard, you trust your teammate, you play disciplined football, especially on the defensive side, then that will be enough to give you a chance to win. Now, sometimes the ball doesn’t bounce your way. Sometimes, there are great players out there. Like I said, Aaron Rodgers is a Hall of Famer. Aaron Jones is a great back. [Green Bay Packers WR] Davante Adams is one of the best receivers in this football league. You know they’re going to make their plays, but to give yourself the best chance, you have to play disciplined, sound football and 11 people did that for four quarters for us. That’s what you appreciate. You hope that our D-Line gets the All-Pro recognition that they deserve because they do. You can give it to [DL DeForest Buckner] DeFo, you can give it to [DL] Arik [Armstead], you can give it to [DL Nick] Bosa. Anytime you got a Bosa, you’re probably going to have two Bosas in the Pro Bowl. You’ve got to give those guys their just-do. When you have the discussion and you say, ‘Well, they have to go play this guy,’ then it becomes weird because these guys have been consistent throughout, regardless of who they played. Then, you start to lose that discussion and you start to give these guys more credit. I don’t think they are getting enough.”

**49ers S Jaquiski Tartt  
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**You are one of those guys who is everywhere on the field, when you see San Francisco 49ers LB Fred Warner out there do you feel like you guys are kindred spirits because he seems to be everywhere as well?**

“For us, I feel like everyone is always everywhere. Every time we have everyone running to the ball. It is just being relentless, that is our mindset. Be relentless every play. Other teams will see that on film and they are going to see everybody running to the ball. That is just how our defense rolls.”

**When you are coming in for a blitz, what is going through your head?**

“I hope that I come free. I hope that I get a strip sack. Maybe make a play like [New York Jets S] Jamal Adams did against the New York Giants. That is always my mindset to be able to strip the ball and possibly get a score from it.”

**It seems like at least nationwide for you guys to make that statement win. Do you guys pay any attention to that? Was tonight that statement?**

“To be honest, we just want to come out every game and play the style that we play and show the world that we are serious.”

**When you have that front seven doing what they do and making your job easier on the back end, how much confidence does that give you guys to play free?**

“It gives us a lot of confidence. We are all attached to one chain so when one person messes up it affects the whole defense. Our D-line and linebackers have really been doing their jobs and we play a complete team game.”

**49ers DL Jullian Taylor**  
**Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019**  
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**How does it feel from the defensive side when you guys come out and establish the tone of the game?**

“It is what we have prepared for throughout the week. No matter who it is, we want to come out and dominate. It was just one of those weeks where somebody just caught it. It doesn’t matter who we play to be honest, it is just how we prepare, how disciplined we are and it shows on the field.”

**You guys set a pretty good statement at the beginning of the game.**

“Yes, it is pretty good. You never know those match ups out there. That is the crazy thing about football. You never know how the drive is going to go. Luckily today’s game went our way. We prepared for it so it was no surprise to us.”

**The guys in the secondary did a great job in covering. When they do that you guys have time to get to the quarterback, that is a pretty good thing for all of you?**

“Yes. Absolutely. It all works together, we are a team. There are 11 people out there, it is not just one player making the play. There is someone causing him to make that play. It is all a team effort. I am proud of how we played and how we are sticking together throughout the season late in the season and now it is just time to finish.”

**49ers DB Jimmie Ward**  
**Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019**  
**San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**How does it feel to have the year you are having based on all you have been through?**

“I take it one game at a time. I still haven’t felt like I have done anything too much. I just make tackles, which is something I have done since I was nine years old, and make a few pass break-ups. I am waiting to get some picks and make some touchdowns, that is when I get excited.”

**Speaking of the pass break-ups, can you take us through that pass break up on the right sideline against Green Bay Packers TE Jimmy Graham?**

“It is just a classic [Green Bay Packers QB] Aaron Rodgers play, rush coming, scramble out of the pocket and throw it deep. He has great accuracy and hit him right in the hands and it was me and Jimmy Graham fighting for the ball. It was basically who wanted it more.”

**Did you know it is going to be in the perfect spot right there in his hands, and does that make it easier to defend?**

“Yes. I have seen him do that. I broke up a pass over my years of playing against Aaron Rodgers a few times and he hit it right on the money scrambling, so yeah.”

**So, what do you do, just play the hands?**

“Yes, really just play the hands because I am at a phase right now where I can see the ball and he is great at knowing that the DB can see the ball so he throws it up and gives his guy a chance to make a play.”

**What was the mindset of the DB’s in terms of staying with the receivers and how did you do it so effectively?**

“You know the term cover them twice came from Aaron Rodgers. He was one of the first guys to start that.”

**49ers LB Fred Warner  
Press Conference – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**There has been so much talk coming into this game about how you guys have to play this team, and this team, and this team. Did you guys tell yourselves, ‘Hey, these teams have to actually play us, as well?’**

“In terms of playing all these different teams, I feel like what helped us a lot this game was just focusing on what we have right now. I think if you look too far ahead, you might get overwhelmed. We were able to focus on what we have right now and I think that showed in the score. It was great having a full week of work. Monday, all the way leading until now, that was huge for us. It was a good win.”

**Can you take us through the forced fumble to start the game tonight?**

“Yeah, that was kind of just a crazy play. It was just, we had pressure on. It was effort. I just kept going. I got blocked at first and then I saw him kind of scrambling, so I just kept going, kept going. Finally got to him and kind of just, I saw him holding the ball close to his chest, so I just went after it. [San Francisco 49ers DL] Nick [Bosa] picked it up so I’m thinking we have a chance at a touchdown. Afterwards I saw Nick’s little graphic showing up on the big screen and I’m like ‘So, did I get it or not?’ It was funny.”

**What’s your mentality been like as far as forcing those fumbles? Obviously, DL DeForest Buckner was in here talking about starting this in OTAs and what not. What’s your approach been to punching the ball out like that?**

“It was something in the offseason, you know? I don’t know where I read it, but it was just me trying to add something to my game. Like you said, it starts in OTAs. I made a big point of it, to myself, that I was going to practice really hard at trying to add it to my game. The rest is history.”

**49ers CB Ahkello Witherspoon  
Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**How did it feel to get back out there?**

“It was fun being out there, just having a blast playing football again. I was a little rusty, but just having the opportunity was a blessing. I had a blast.”

**Talk about that statement game from the defense.**

“I think the rush first and foremost is where it starts. [San Francisco 49ers head] coach [Kyle Shanahan] always preaches rush and cover. For us to be out there and be up front in your face and let them do their thing. All we are trying to do is buy them another split second to get around that edge and to get up the middle. [Green Bay Packers QB] Aaron Rodgers is very good at getting out of there, so to actually finish those, is what’s important”

**You guys unfortunately lost to the Seattle Seahawks, does that loss get you more motivated to win a game like this?**

“I don’t think more motivated is the answer. I think we lost a close game. I think we learned from it more than anything and applied some of those things we learned from that game to today and beat a pretty good team.”

**You mentioned finishing plays, that is harder against Rodgers than it is against most quarterbacks. Was there a lot of conversation about staying with the receivers? How did you guys do that?**

"We call it cover them twice is how we go about it. So, whatever the first route is you have more work to do. If you have that mindset coming in, it doesn't catch you by surprise. Aaron Rodgers is going to be himself, but not as often today thanks to our defensive line. He is going to get his. He is going to get out of there and be athletic, throw on the run. So just having that mindset across the board, D-line try to get him the first time, but if they don't, we are there to cover you on the second one."

**How much fun is it to be the counterpart to a defense like that? Does it make it easier on the offense?**

"Most definitely. The field position they give us is kind of outrageous. We just go out there and capitalize on that."

**Packers Head Coach Matt LaFleur  
Press Conference – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**Opening comments:**

"First of all, you've got to give the 49ers a ton of credit. That's a pretty darn good football team. I'm disappointed with myself, with how we got outcoached and we got outplayed. Bottom line, it's unacceptable and we've got to look at ourselves and there's a lot to correct if we want to be the team that we want to be."

**How concerning are special teams right now? I know we've asked you a lot about that, but today kind of seemed to hit the climax of that for the season.**

"Yeah, no, obviously, first of all, our punt game was not good today but we can't ask our guys to punt, I don't even know how many punts [Green Bay Packers P] JK [Scott] had, but we've got to do a lot better job on offense. So, there was a lot of stuff today that was concerning quite frankly."

**This is the second time in three games there was kind of a no show on offense in the first half. What do you think, what goes into that? What do you think's going on?**

"I think we're going to have to take a good hard look at it. If I knew the answer it wouldn't happen, but it certainly wasn't good enough today and we've got to look at our plan, what we asked our guys to do. I think we talked about discipline going into this game. We had a lot of penalties and that's stuff that we can control, and that's what's really hurt us this season, is when we get in those get back on track situations we have a hard time digging ourselves out of that hole."

**What do you say to the team after a game like this? There was so much hype and obviously, two contenders. What was your message to the guys after the game?**

"That we got outcoached and we got outplayed, and we've got to man up. We've got to look at ourselves critically and get a lot of stuff corrected, and we've got to be honest with ourselves. It just, it wasn't nearly good enough. And again, give them credit. That's a good football team, but we've got to be a lot better."

**Anything about the handling of the Bye, looking back now that you've played the game, that didn't go so well, or that you think where you might have erred?**

"Yeah, I'm sure I'll have a better time, more time to sit back, reflect on that moving forward, but right now there's nothing that really comes to mind."

**How difficult was it to adjust to their pressure all game upfront--?**

"Yeah, no they got after us pretty good. Again, it definitely hurt us when [Green Bay Packers T Bryan] Bulaga went out, but even up to that point they were still getting pressure. We just have got to have a better solution for our guys. We knew that was a good defensive line coming into it. I think they were tied for first in the league in sacks and I think they had another five more today. I didn't feel like, obviously our plan wasn't good enough and then we didn't play good enough either."

**What do you think of San Francisco 49ers DL Nick Bosa?**

"I think he's a damn good player. He got after us."

**Is Bulaga's injury, does that look like it might be serious or what do you--?**

"Yeah, I don't know. I mean, right now I haven't sat down and talked to Flee so I'll know more tomorrow."

**Just generally this season you seem pretty optimistic. I know after the Chargers game you guys, not just you, players were hoping that was just a one-off thing. Now that it's happened again does that dampen the optimism anymore?**

"Listen, I know those questions are going to come up any time you get whipped like we did today. I still have a lot of confidence in our guys, but we've got to be critical of ourselves and every one of us, coaches, players, everybody involved and figure out why this happened and make sure that it doesn't happen again, because I do feel like we have a lot of talented players but it just was bad ball."

**You guys played a lot of, you played pretty good offense while Green Bay Packers WR Davante Adams was out and so you would think when he comes back that things would improve. What do you think has happened there?**

"I mean, I don't know. That's another thing we've got to look at. Making sure that we're not over reliant on trying to go to him, but just two of those games have been absolutely abysmal."

**Packers QB Aaron Rodgers  
Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**How difficult was it for you to get any kind of rhythm against that pass rush and defense?**

"There wasn't a whole lot positive tonight. A lot of the stuff we talked about during the week, eliminating negative yardage plays, obviously we didn't do that. They got after us up front, and the coverage was good on the back end."

**You guys have had a couple of losses in the last few games. How do you explain that?**

"It's just a couple of bad performances. Both games we were bad on third down. Tonight, we were terrible on third down. We didn't do a good job of establishing the run both games. In the games that we got out and played well on offense, we had a good run game. They shut us down. We couldn't really run with the ball, and we couldn't really throw with it either."

**You guys have had to play without Packers RT Bryan Bulaga times before. How tough was it tonight, and going forward how will you survive?**

"Bryan has been a rock at right tackle. I think [Packers T/G] Alex Light did a nice job. Tonight, they threw the rhythm. We have to keep finding ways to give those guys those ends. We've got some really good ones. Obviously, they have three really good ones. We have to slow them down a little better."

**Is this loss going to be the first real test for the locker room?**

"I think every loss is a test. We have leadership in this locker room. It kind of surfaced there in some postgame remarks by some of the guys. I'm not going to get into who said what, but it was definitely

encouraging hearing some of those voices. I feel good about our culture, but we have to improve on offense and set the tone a little bit better than we did. Obviously, I fumbled on the first drive and gave them seven. We just didn't get anything going."

**Obviously, you guys are better with Packers WR Davante Adams. It just hasn't seemed to click like you would like. Can you pinpoint why it hasn't with him back in the lineup?**

"I think we were just pretty bad in the passing game tonight. Today we tried to get him his touches, but when you go 0-for-13 or whatever on third down when I was in there, that's not going to get it done."

**We've seen you come out of these games downtrodden, but you seem like you're still fairly encouraged. Why do you feel like you're still in an okay spot, if you do?**

"I feel good about the locker room. I feel good about the leadership. We didn't play very physical tonight, and we obviously didn't execute. I felt good about the energy pregame and the approach. We had a good week of practice which is why it's so surprising of a performance, but you have to give them credit. They played really well, but I still like our chances. We have a week to bounce back from these kind of things and put ourselves in position to come back here and play again."

**What do you think was the biggest difference on not converting those third downs?**

"We had some of those third and extra longs that we talked about during the week about not wanting to get into. They mixed up their scheme a little bit and played a little more man on early downs, some man on third down. The blitz pattern was something like we expected. They just had good rush patterns."

**Did you feel the intangible focus was there tonight and something else threw you off?**

"It was their execution that threw us off. You have to give them credit. We had a mental error on the first drive and obviously a questionable penalty on Davante after getting the ball out past the 40. Ultimately, tonight came down to execution, and we were pretty bad on offense."

**Packers WR Davante Adams  
Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**How do you explain the struggles offensively tonight?**

"We hurt ourselves again. We just keep putting ourselves in these tough positions. When it's third-and-forever or second-and-forever, it's tough to comeback against a good team like that. We just have to put ourselves in a better position in early downs. That'll be a start and then the rest you still have to execute, but you definitely put yourself in a terrible spot when it's second-and-20 or second-and-whatever because of holding or jumping offsides or just not moving the sticks. We have to be better there."

**There's a good chance you're going to be back here again this season. What's the most important thing you take away from this game?**

"I have to watch the film to see exactly what led to such a bad game for us. Like I said, it starts with our offense. We can't speak for anyone else, but we can speak for the offense and we didn't get it done. Once we review the film we'll know the details, but the early downs stuff is a big indicator and also third downs."

**Did you get a sense of how difficult it was for Green Bay Packers QB Aaron Rodgers with the pressure the San Francisco 49ers were putting him under?**

"They've got some beasts up front. It's tough. We still have to take care of business but they've got a really good team. They've got a really good front and they've got some impact players but we still have to come up with a game plan to stop guys like that. We didn't do that today and that's what it's about."

**Packers T David Bakhtiari**  
**Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019**  
**San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**You and [Packers T/G Alex Light] were thrust into a tough environment and tough situation, and things didn't go your way as a team. What's your message as a veteran to a young guy?**

"Grow. Take it as a learning experience, and at the end of the day, everything is valuable, whether it's positive or negative. It can either negatively impact you as a player, you as a man, and your career, or you can use it positively to learn from your mistakes and grow. Take them as learning lessons. Myself, I've had a lot of success, and I'm still reinventing myself every year, every week, every game, every play, because there's a lot of film out there of me. I had a little talk out there after the game with him just letting him know that he is a starter in this league, and he has the intangibles. It's your ability to watch the film, grow from what you do well and learn from your mistakes."

**Before this game you guys didn't shy away from this meeting in terms of what it may or may not mean for home field advantage. When you come in and recognize that going in and then a performance like this happens, what's the message to each other, the coaches on down, and then after?**

"More. We've got to give more. We've got to do more. We've got to be more. Being a first seed or being a second seed, having that home field advantage, it's not a given. It's earned. For us to go out there and have that performance, hey, it's in the past now. We need to grow from that. That's the biggest thing we can take from that because if we don't, then frankly that is something you can take from us."

**Packers DL Kenny Clark**  
**Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019**  
**San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**In the NFC race, a lot of the heavyweights just keep winning. What do you say in this locker room about moving on from this because it's clear that every win is going to be vital in terms of seeding?**

"We don't worry about that. Everything is still in front of us. If we win games we're going to be right where we are supposed to be. No one is going to over react. We are 8-3 and it is what it is. We have a big test against our opponents next week and we have to go out and put on a great performance. "

**Is there a sense that you will be back to play the San Francisco 49ers? Is there a sentiment in this locker room that you can't help but play better?**

"Yes. Looking at everybody in this locker room, I felt that way. It's hard seeing how everybody took this loss, so, we'll be back up here."

**Can you talk about the big plays you gave up? What was going on with your defense?**

"I think they got the running game going a little bit. They also got us with the play action and misdirection and they kept making great plays. They got that big play in the first half, first quarter. I think we had three or four good stretches where we got them behind the chains and we were trying to get that momentum back. We were playing really good defense. But we just didn't do enough and it's definitely an eye-opener for us. It will help us to see where we are as a team and as a defense. The only thing we can do is just get better from here."

**Are you surprised at how flat you were after having the extra week to prepare?**

"I honestly don't think we were flat. We were really energized and excited for this game. I would not say we were flat, but they definitely out played us in all areas."

**Packers T/G Alex Light**  
**Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019**  
**San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**As for the offense as a whole, did you have a sense as to why the game went the way it did?**

“We didn’t get the job done enough tonight. I need to come in tomorrow and be critical of myself. We just didn’t play our brand of football. I don’t know what it was. It just wasn’t in us tonight. We have to regroup and get ready for the [New York] Giants.”

**What makes the San Francisco 49ers defensive front so effective?**

“They’re all first rounders. They all have unique gifts. They all do everything different. We have to win our one-on-ones because it’s going to be a one-on-one with them because they’re so talented. It just comes down to us winning our one-on-ones.”

**Coming off a bye, how frustrating is this?**

“Very frustrating. We had two weeks to prepare. Like I said, we didn’t come prepared tonight. We didn’t play our brand of football. We have to be better next week.”

**Packers C Corey Linsley**  
**Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019**  
**San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**Obviously losing Packers T Bryan Bulaga hurts as he’s really played well for you. What impact could that have?**

“We’ve said it before, we have the utmost confidence. It’s tough coming in middle of that game against that front, but with a week of preparation, I have the utmost confidence. He’s a great guy and we have a lot of great dudes in our room.”

**You said you need to be in better situations. I think you had 11 or 12 third-and-sevens or longer. Does that make it impossible especially against a defensive front like that?**

“It obviously makes it difficult on us. Third-and-sevens are obviously created by the first two downs. We have to do better up front. We have to do better overall. I’m a little disappointed in this loss. In our room, I know every single one of those guys is disappointed. We definitely want to come back strong next week.”

**You’ve been talking all year about those third-and-longs. Why has this been a problem you haven’t been able to fix?**

“Some games we do well and in our losses, that’s been a characteristic. Sometimes it’s been a penalty, sometimes it’s been different stuff. We have to watch the film in this game, but we just have to do better regardless.”

**Packers LB Blake Martinez**  
**Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019**  
**San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**What is the most frustrating part about tonight’s game?**

“All across the board, it was little mistakes here and there. It was understanding situations for me. There are certain things that are easy to fix. We just did not make those corrections throughout the game.”



**Is this loss similar to your loss against the Los Angeles Chargers?**

"In a sense it was similar. It was a back and forth thing where we couldn't make a play or our offense couldn't make a play. There was no momentum shift throughout the game."

**How surprised are you, coming off of a Bye Week, having so much time to prepare and playing like this?**

"I'm definitely surprised. I think, just starting the game off, we didn't do the things obviously necessary to get the momentum in our favor and they got the ball on the two-yard line. We always want to make a stop in those situations. The game just started in a bad way for us."

**There's a chance that you will see the San Francisco 49ers again here. How much do you want to see them again especially here?**

"We definitely want to see them again. We are competitors and we want to be able to show our true selves. I don't think today was our true self."

**Packers LB Za'Darius Smith & LB Preston Smith  
Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**How frustrating is this loss, especially coming off of a Bye?**

Za'Darius Smith: "It's a whole lot. I know one thing, it leaves a bad taste in all of our mouths. We've just got to go in tomorrow and watch the film and see what we did wrong. I think we got outcoached and outplayed by this team. Just go in tomorrow and watch the film and correct our mistakes."

**To be outcoached and outplayed by another NFC contender, what do you make of this team leaving out of this game? As a team, do you guys feel that what you want to achieve or that you're closer than the score indicated?**

Preston Smith: "As a team, we're close to where we want to be, but we're far at the same time. We're not far from where we want to be. We've got a lot of work to put in to be the team we want to be and leave a mark. We want to leave a mark as a team."

**What do you think you need do, team-wise, to get there? What's needed to close that gap?**

ZS: "We've just got to be critical of ourselves. We've got to take away all of those explosive plays. We've got to try to prevent explosive plays on defense and on offense, get those explosive plays, and then they can get in a rhythm."

**How tough is it that we're still talking about explosive plays, you guys are coming off of your Bye, and you guys have so much talent on that side of the ball?**

ZS: "I don't know. This is a situation that has been going on for weeks. It's just something that we've got to keep practicing and get better at, for sure."

**Was there anything about this game that reminded you of the Chargers game?**

PS: "Their offense found a way to get their playmakers a ball, which was killing us. [San Francisco 49ers TE George Kittle] had something like six touches for 120-something yards. They found a way to get him involved and get him involved in a big way. We knew coming into this game that if he was playing that he was going to be a key piece of their offense and helping them to get going. He did that tonight for his team, and he played well for his team tonight."

**Packers CB Tramon Williams  
Postgame Quotes – November 24, 2019  
San Francisco 49ers vs. Green Bay Packers**

**When you look at the tape, what was probably the most frustrating part about tonight?**

“The loss. We lost. We didn’t really put up a fight. We knew what we were coming up against. We knew we were coming up against a really good team. We also knew that we were a good team, and we didn’t showcase it today. That’s more of the frustrating part about it.”

**With two weeks to get ready, the stakes, and the performance like that, was it too many young guys that didn’t understand the stakes, or were you just outplayed?**

“I can’t say that. At this moment, we just got outplayed. Those guys did what they had to do. Nothing went right for us today. We’ve got to go back and take a long look at ourselves in the mirror and try to get better from it.”

**You’ve been part of some good teams here, some great teams, and some mediocre teams. At what point in the season do you know where you’re headed in terms of how you feel it’s as the rest of the season unfolds?**

“It kind of depends, really. We got off to a good start. We know what we’re capable of doing. I think a loss like this doesn’t hurt you as much, even though we know that this is a team that is going to be there at the end of the day, who we’re going to have to face and going to have to beat. We know that, but we also know that we’re capable of doing that. At this point, we’ve just got to watch this game, get better from it, and continue on with our season. At the end of the day, it’s only one game. There’s so much put into this one game because it’s two top seeds who are playing, but at the end of the day, it’s one game. We’ve got to continue taking care of business these next weeks, starting off obviously with the New York Giants. That’s just the way we’ve got to do it.”

**What were they doing to create space for San Francisco 49ers WR Deebo Samuels on his long cross and San Francisco 49ers TE George Kittle on his long run?**

“One thing about [San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle] Shanahan, I think everyone knows that he’s a really good play-caller and coordinator. He attacks you and he attacks leverage. He knows what he’s doing. We knew that. We just have to be better.”