

**49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan
Press Conference – December 15, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons**

Opening comments:

“Alright guys, no injuries to report right now, so go ahead.”

Were you satisfied that that call did break the plane of the goal on the Falcons WR Julio Jones touchdown?

“That’s what I saw on the scoreboard too. Yeah.”

Obviously, TE George Kittle was very involved in the game. Did you want your other receivers to step up and be more involved as well?

“Yeah, definitely. I thought they had a real good game plan. I thought their guys played real hard and schematically they did a real good job. We had a number of opportunities and came up short on a few. I know we’re going to watch the tape and there’s going to be a number of plays we’d like to have back. But, I take my hat off to those guys. They played hard and had a real good plan.”

I know schematically, you can’t just say we’re not going to allow Julio Jones to beat you, but how do you allow Julio Jones to keep getting the ball like that?

“He’s pretty good. We’ll look back into it. I think we did have bracket coverage there on him at the end, which is two people on him. It looked like when they motioned him across and got him outside the tight end and he came right under him, it looked like the second guy who had him was obviously a little but too deep on him.”

Can you discuss how difficult it is for a team to bounce back after playing those three games in a row against quality opponents? To have a team that isn’t going to the playoffs coming here, is there any type of emotional letdown when you come into a game like this?

“No, there wasn’t today. I think that team played better than us today. I didn’t see our guys not playing hard. I think our guys played hard but they played better and coached better.”

What happened on George Kittle’s fumble out of bounds?

“I couldn’t see. I think, I couldn’t see well, I’m guessing that when he switched arms it just got away from him because it didn’t look like anyone hit him on it. And George played his ass off today. He played really well, but I know that’ was one he’d probably like to have back. I think the ball just got away. That’s what he told me when he came off. I didn’t see it. You guys probably saw better than I did.”

Did you consider going for it on 4th-and-1 the next play?

“I didn’t. I mean, if would have been inside one, from what I saw, I thought it was closer to two. I wanted to make them go the whole field to see if they could get a touchdown.”

It’s not how you wanted, but you did clinch the playoffs. Does that make you feel better despite the loss?

“Not much right now. I’m glad we’re in. It starts with that. [Vice president of communications] Bob [Lange] just told me that walking in, so that’s cool but doesn’t make me feel better right now.”

What was your message to this team going into these last two weeks?

“Whoever you play, if you want to win you have to play and coach better than we did today. Again, I give those guys credit because it wasn’t like we played terrible, but we didn’t play good enough to beat that team. They played better than us. We have a short week here with the Rams coming in. On a short

week, I know how important it is for guys to recover, get tomorrow off, just their bodies, really be smart on how they live their life every single day right here. Everything matters right now and you get towards the end of the year, there's not a lot of guys left, guys are wearing down. Everything is about right now, so our guys need to bring their best. It's not just what you do on Sunday, it's what you do every single day to prepare for Sunday."

Obviously you lost, but what's it been like playing four out of five where the play goes down to the last minute? I don't remember seeing that too often in football.

"I don't even realize it to tell you the truth at the time. Lots of games come down to the last time. Our first year here, I think we lost five games in a row by three points or less. We've been able to pull out those close games, find a way to do it. We came up short today. I know we'd like to have that last play back. It didn't just come down to that last play. There were a number of plays we could have made today where it would have never come down to that."

I think Kittle had 16 targets, do you tread the line as a play caller thinking 'maybe I'm using this too much, maybe you're too dependent on Kittle sometimes'?

"No. If we were throwing to him in double coverage I would. We don't have plays, except that last one that was a screen to him. You don't just call plays that say 'Go to Kittle'. You might want to start there and if they don't double him, he usually gets it because he usually wins and if not you progress. There are a number of plays we try to get to other people, but Kittle got the majority of it today."

Kittle broke the record for most receiving yards by a tight end in their first three seasons. Any thoughts on that?

"Credit to him. He's a hell of a player. It doesn't surprise me."

The strength of your team seems to be the depth and I know today you lost, but does that give you a pretty good feeling going into the last few weeks having that depth and having those guys you can depend on?

"Yeah, it's needed. We've been through that a lot this year. I think offensively, we had some bigger injuries in the beginning of the year and we were able to get most of the guys back, except losing [C Weston] Richburg last week, which is a huge one. I think our defense this game was the first time that they were battling a little bit more than they usually do with missing some starters. Hopefully we can weather the storm a little bit. I know we're going to get a few of those guys back, but it's been the theme with us all year. Our backups came in and play well. I thought they did a good job today, but everyone else out there has to play a little bit better too."

Obviously, I know the result is not what you wanted. Considering that you guys have lost by such narrow margins in all three of your losses, is that something that's encouraging for this team?

"No. We're not looking for encouragement to tell you the truth. We've got a pretty good record and we feel good about where we're at and that is cool we're in the playoffs because that was our goal to get in that tournament. Now that we're in it, now we want the best situation possible in that tournament and all we can do for that is win these next two games, So, I think when you get to this point of the year and where we're at and what we've done, we're encouraged by one thing right now and that's winning. That's what it's going to be the rest of this year."

How do you think QB Jimmy Garoppolo played and why do you think he was unable to get the consistent rhythm like he did last week?

"I think Jimmy played like the rest of the offense. I don't think anybody stuck out and played bad or poorly, but I don't think anybody played good enough to win. Definitely starts with me. I thought Jimmy had some good plays. Missed a couple like guys always do. I give a lot of credit to them. I thought their

guys played hard and did a good job schematically with their plan. I thought they had a hell of a day and we need to be on our stuff to win and we weren't."

I apologize in this was already asked, but was this tough emotionally to play this game after what preceded it?

"No. I think they're all like that now. No, I don't see that by any means if you think about that right away and we address it early in the week, I didn't feel, throughout the week in practice, I didn't feel today on the field. Guys were into it and they were competing. When you play a team like that who, to me, played very well today. You better also and we didn't. That starts with me and it goes to everyone else. We've got to play better. It doesn't matter who we're playing or when we're playing."

**49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo
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What's the feeling now going forward and getting over this game?

"Just, especially with the short week, got to look at it, watch the tape, see what we did wrong, see what we did right and just assess it. Going into the short week, just got to be ready for the Rams now."

DL DeForest Buckner said, "Thank God it's a short week," because you guys just get back on the field. Is that your feeling and the feeling in the locker room?

"Yeah, any loss is frustrating. This one, just how it happened and everything that went along with it, but yeah, having a short week this week will be good for us. Kind of turn the page and move on."

Why was it so hard to get into a rhythm today?

"I wouldn't say it was one specific thing. I think it was just things going wrong, us not making plays when we needed to, just little things like that here and there that throughout the course of a game, they add up. Just little mistakes that we can't make."

I assume this does not feel like you just clinched a playoff berth?

"Yeah, I heard that in the locker room. Yeah, mixed emotions right now. It's always good to get into the playoffs and everything, but just how it happened, it's tough."

Not to be negative, but you have seen enough of Atlanta Falcons QB Matt Ryan to know that he's capable of doing this. When you're watching on the sidelines, and you're thinking, "Oh boy, he's got enough time."

"Yeah, I think they had one timeout there in the end, and they started moving the ball pretty quickly. I thought our defense played great all day. They gave us an opportunity offensively. Special teams got the turnover, but yeah, you give a good quarterback like that much time, it's tough."

In the locker room after this, everyone's talking ownership of different little things that they could do better. What does that say about what you've got in there?

"Yeah, I think it speaks to our team, the mindset that we have. I think, starting with myself, I need to be better. I think a lot of guys in the locker room have that mindset. When we watch the film tomorrow, we'll all see the same thing. I think if we all have that mindset, it'll help us get better quickly."

Both head coach Kyle Shanahan and LB Fred Warner said that the team came out maybe not with the energy that they should've. Do you believe that they could've come out with a little bit more energy?

"Yeah, definitely. I think we could've had more juice in the beginning, but we really can't rely on just having so much energy. We have to go execute at the end of the day. When your number gets called,

whatever it is, you have to execute your job and I think it's just the little details like that. Obviously, having the energy and all that comes along with it, but we've got to just execute better."

Was there anything different TE George Kittle was doing today that was allowing you to connect with him better?

"Nothing crazy. Like always, his run after catch is unbelievable. The guy played a hell of a game, he really did. The energy he brings in the huddle, on the sideline, all that stuff is awesome. You've got to tip your hat to that guy."

Kyle had a 21-play drive, I don't think I've seen too many like that. I'm sure you haven't seen too many like that. Did it make you feel more comfortable that you could do that, or is it because you had to work so hard you're thinking, "Oh boy, this is going to be a rough, a challenging day?"

"Whenever you go against a defense kind of like that, that style, you know it's going to be long drives. They're not going to give up many big plays. 21 plays, it was awhile, so it felt like that out there. It was good for our defense, keep their offense off the field. I guess a defense like that, you just got to execute play after play and in that drive, we did that."

I was going to say, maybe you wore them down a little bit or that was the thought, maybe, thinking in your head?

"Yeah, I think it was definitely good coming off the sideline. I think we finished off the first quarter on that drive. Yeah, whenever you keep the other team's offense off the field like that and tire out the defense, it's always a good thing."

Kyle was saying he didn't really consider going for it on fourth and one after George's fumble on third down. Was there any part of you that wanted to go for it there?

"I think, yeah, the competitor in me, obviously, but when you're playing the numbers game, go up a touchdown instead of only two, so I think that was the right decision. As a competitor, you always want to, but Kyle makes the decisions and we'll always follow him into battle."

**49ers DL Nick Bosa
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons**

We're going to all mention it, is it possible there was some emotional letdown after the last three games you guys have played?

"At this point in the season, it's just a grind so we have to prepare better. Get our bodies more ready. We've got a short week this week so we've got to really take advantage of our time off."

How tough is it with the injuries you guys have been dealt? Earlier in the season you had so much depth, but now it's pretty limited.

"Yeah, that happens. Every team is dealing with it, but I trust every guy who goes out there. I know I let all of them down."

Why don't you think you played well?

"Because I didn't win my rushes. I did the wrong things on a couple plays and I just needed to be more of an impact player."

Any consolation at all that you guys clinched a playoff spot, or is that something that you're just not thinking about?

"It's our goal, so it's a great thing, but it just hurts to let one go like that."

49ers DL DeForest Buckner
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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How do you take this win in the big picture, can you look at clinching a playoff spot or do you kind of focus on this loss?

“Yeah, I just heard about playoffs. It’s a nice consolation, but we didn’t handle business today. Thank God it’s a short week, we can go onto the Rams. But we’ve got to look at this loss hard and fix our corrections because they played hard today.”

What were some of the things that weren’t working right from the defensive line perspective?

“The last drive, we’ve got to make something happen up front. We know a lot of people depend on us to make something happen, especially the back end. We can’t put them in a bind like that. Like I said, we’ve got to watch the film. We’ve got to get after it and just take it like a man.”

You guys had some success today stopping the run. How did you guys adjust to that without DL D.J. Jones and some of the depth you guys lost?

“Yeah, that was one of the emphasis going into this week, stopping the run and making sure we get opportunities to get after [Atlanta Falcons QB] Matt [Ryan]. We got him a couple times, but we didn’t get him enough. It’s a testament to the whole defense taking on that challenge since the past couple weeks we’ve been struggling against the run. It’s just every guy stepping up in that aspect.”

49ers FB Kyle Juszczyk
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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What were some of the challenges presented to you guys by the Falcons today? I mean, it went literally down to the final seconds.

“Yeah, they had a great game plan. They came out and they gave us something different that they haven’t shown all season. They came out with five bigs, three linebackers and took a DB out, so it was just something we had to adjust to. I felt like at times we did a good job, but could have done a little bit better.”

What does that say about you guys, though, just knowing that guys are gunning after you?

“Yeah, I think it says a lot about us that teams have to switch things up. They know if they just give us their vanilla defense that it might not turn out the way they want. It’s a compliment to us, but it’s also something that we’ve got to handle better.”

What’s it been like these last five weeks? Outside the Green Bay game, every game has been crazy and down to the last second.

“Yeah, it’s been high drama, but I feel like we’re built for it. I just keep saying that this is going to be good experience for when even more is on the line, you know? So, we know that we’ve got some big games coming up with the playoffs and this kind of stuff is just good experience for us.”

**49ers TE George Kittle
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Can you take us through what happened on the third and short fumble?

“Just dropped it. I tried to switch hands with it, so I could get a stiff-arm in. It didn’t work out well for me.”

What does this game teach you guys going into these last two games and then the playoffs?

“If we don’t play at our level, like we played last week or like we’ve played all season, anybody can get beat on any Sunday. We definitely have to play better. I don’t think we played with any type of intensity that we’ve been playing all year. We’ve got to figure out that.”

There have been a lot of close games recently. Is there any consolation that you can learn anything from games like this? Last year, you would’ve lost them. This year, you’re winning a few of them.

“Yeah, close games, you definitely learn what your team is made of. I hope our team learns from this game that if we don’t bring the intensity, then it will be a quick season ending.”

**49ers T Mike McGlinchey
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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TE George Kittle is a leader on the offense and is very vocal about it, but what’s the message from his teammates to him after that fumble? It may or may not have cost you guys a first down.

“Nobody’s worried about that. George Kittle, what he does for this football team far outweighs a glimpse like that, you know, could of, should of, would have, I don’t care. That play, we got to protect a little better, maybe the ball gets him a little more time to get down the field. Nobody’s thinking about that.”

I assume that this doesn’t feel like you just clinched a playoff berth.

“No, it doesn’t. That is something to be proud of, but no it does not. We would have liked to have been on a victory and had done that. Unfortunately, we didn’t, but we’re in the dance now and we got to close out these next two weeks and hopefully put ourselves in position for a nice road to the Super Bowl.”

Is there any solace in the fact that if you guys do take care of business in the next two weeks, everything that you want is still right there in terms of positioning?

“Yeah, I think it’s one game. [Head coach] Kyle [Shanahan] hit it on the head, it’s one game. We are going to bounce back, we are going to get better from this. We are going to see things on tape that we aren’t going to like and things that we do. Most importantly, we’ve got to clean up the ones we don’t like the most and capitalize on them in the future. Like I said, we left too many points on the board on offense. That game shouldn’t have gotten to the point where it was and we got to be better.”

**49ers T Joe Staley
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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I know you don’t go against him much but, Atlanta Falcons DT Grady Jarrett seems like one of the better defenders in this league. Did you guys have trouble with him today?

“Yeah, he was playing inside. He is a very talented player, we saw that on film. I don’t think he gets a lot of love, but he definitely gets a lot of love from players in the league because of the way he plays. He is dynamic and does a lot of good things for them.”

You probably have been through more games like this than any other player in this locker room. Is it just going back looking through tape? What is your process of getting over stuff like this?

“We get back and we watch tape. That is what we can do. You watch tape and you learn from it. This loss doesn’t define our season going forward. This isn’t something that is going to linger in this locker room. It is a bad loss, and credit to them. Obviously, we would love to be sitting here with a win. It would be a different story. We are going to learn from this, we are going to own it and then have one hell of a week of practice, and that is all we can do.”

Is it a weird feeling to clinch a playoff spot this way?

“Yes it is weird. I don’t even feel good. We want to clinch by winning. I think the main thing is we have two games left in the season and we take care of business, and we play how we know we are capable of playing in this locker room. I think we will look back and this is a huge learning experience from the season, and we will carry that forward to the playoffs.”

**49ers DB Jimmie Ward
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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Any consolation, despite the fact you lost, that you guys are in the playoffs? Win or lose, you’re in there.

“No, we kind of lost today. They made more plays than we did and an L is an L, so we just got to watch film and get better.”

How confident were you that you stopped him on that last play?

“I was confident, but at the same time, I didn’t know how close he was to the goal line. It was a bang-bang play.”

Doesn’t seem like there’s any weak teams in this league, even the Falcons came in here playing pretty well. Do you have to have that mindset even if you’re playing a team that’s not that good all of the time?

“Oh yeah, you’ve got to. You can’t take anybody for granted. You’ve got to come prepared, you’ve got to play great, and then you’ve got to show up each game day.”

**49ers LB Fred Warner
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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Can you pinpoint as far as the difference in how they were able to finish against you in the final two drives?

“They just made more plays than us honestly. I was trying to think back in the locker room of anything I could have done differently. There were so many chances in that game to close it out. I wanted us to be in that situation honestly so the defense could be the reason that we end the game, but unfortunately, they made more plays than us on that drive.”

In a tight game like that, do you miss someone like CB Richard Sherman on the field and sort of his expertise and experience?

“I mean, Sherm is the leader of this defense. Of course, we were going to miss him in the game, but we are fully confident in the players we have in [CB] Ahkello [Witherspoon] and [CB Emmanuel] E-Man [Moseley] out there at corner. It didn’t make me any less confident in what we were capable of.”

DL DeForest Buckner said, 'Thank god it's a short week' so that you can move right on to the Rams. Do you feel that way, that you can't wait to get back on the field?

"Oh yeah, absolutely. Anytime you lose, you hope that you can get back going quickly to get this taste out of your mouth. Obviously, it sucks to be in this position, but we have a great test ahead of us."

Even after this week, you still control seeding if you win out. Is there any solace to be found in that?

"Yeah, we're onto L.A. I think we're going to focus on them right now and all that other stuff will take care of itself as long as we take care of business."

**49ers CB Ahkello Witherspoon
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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What were the challenges covering Atlanta Falcons WR Julio Jones?

"Trying to get a beat on what route he was running. He did everything on the route tree. I think they did a good job getting it in his spots to break some of the coverages we were doing to try to contain him."

After the long the road trip is it hard to get up for this one?

"No, when they put the ball down we are ready as a team. Our character, from top to bottom on this team, really doesn't waiver. You have a game like last week, where we competed our tails off, and then you come out this week you have to do it again. No one really cares about the circumstances on this team. We just care about when the ball is snapped."

You have played in so many close games and I know there is little consolation when you lose. Is that something that helps because of the fact you have been in these close games, and maybe late in the season or in the playoffs you might face a similar situation?

"The next close one we win, I will give that to you and say that we won it because of this one. Until then, I don't like losing close or any type of losing. As far as learning from it, we go in and watch tape on the close losses, just like we do the blowouts. I think learning is each and individual play on getting better on coverages. I don't think you really learn by getting beat by only two points. It is just about football and getting better every week."

**Atlanta Falcons Head Coach Dan Quinn
Press Conference – December 15, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons**

Opening comments:

“That was awesome. At the end, game on the line, those are the moments as a coach that you totally live for. It makes you feel most alive, it was awesome. We knew we would have to have a good road mentality to come out here. The last couple times on the road, we had one in New Orleans, at Carolina and here. You’ve got to really be connected and make sure you’re ready for a fight. We knew this was a very good team, talented spots in a number of spaces. We knew it was going to be a game where it was going to come down to it. I was really proud of the guys, down 19-10 in the fourth quarter, to make sure it was going to take every second of this game to go finish it out. There were all sorts of plays made back and forth. When you saw [Atlanta Falcons WR] Julio [Jones] and the game that he had and their tight end [San Francisco 49ers TE George Kittle] was a difficult guy to deal with as well. Both those guys, it was a blood and guts kind of day for all sides and it was a hell of a fight. But, to have a comeback win on the road I thought it showed a lot of toughness about the men in the locker room, what they stand for, the group and I’m glad to open it up for your questions.”

On the Atlanta Falcons TE Austin Hooper play and the Julio play, both are inches away and one went in your favor at the end. What was your vantage point on Hooper’s and then Julio breaking the plane there?

“I generally just try to hold on to good thoughts. I definitely thought Hooper’s was a touchdown, 100-percent about it and then I just got on and said okay if it’s not here, here’s where the ball would be and spot it to [Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator] Dirk [Koetter] to go. On those two, I don’t have a great vantage, 50 yards away and I can’t quite tell. I see the replay on the scoreboard, but it’s not as good as some of the TV shots that you guys get. Once you saw it on the ground, I knew there would be a shot that it wasn’t going to count so just getting ready for the next play, make sure Dirk had the information of where, what hash and what distance to go so he had it ready to go because in the moment you get excited and you want to make sure that if it doesn’t go our way what’s going to be the play call and that’s what we had to do.”

At 4-2 since the break, is this a thing of what could have been for this year’s team?

“No, I don’t want to go back to look or look too far ahead. I just want to stay in the moment with this group of guys. We had said however we dialed it up this is where we’re at and the next block is going to be and we’re right in the middle of this one. We had one last week and another battle for it this week, we knew it was going to be a tough opponent, but we’re pumped to be able to head back home in front of our fans this weekend coming up. We’ve just got to stay right where we’re at.”

What was your message to them after the game? I would imagine it was a little bit more positive than some others?

“It took a lot of heart and a lot of extra heart to get this game won. I was really proud of the guys, I thought just a remarkable performance by Julio in terms of the amount of catches. It was difficult, [Atlanta Falcons WR] Calvin [Ridley] was out too. There was going to be a lot where he would be put into different spaces. He was Z, he was X, he was outside, inside, screens, but all in all I thought it was just a tough team performance. The coach side of me certainly doesn’t like the penalties and that’ll be something easy for me to get back into tomorrow. We were going to be bold. Took a shot on an onside kick. We took some shots that we thought we would take, but it was the heart of the team to come back and fight at the end.”

I know you’re focused on the moment, but what does it mean to you to have this team bounce back the way it has in the past?

“It means a lot. When we spend this much time and care about one another, you love one another so you want to fight so when it doesn’t go exactly as you’d hope for them, you want to get it to that space where you can. What I love about them is their attitude to fight for it. That means a lot to me personally and I always want to make sure I’m giving them my best so they’re going to get it every time. At the end of the day, there’s a lot of fighters, that means a lot to me because they are going to go battle for it and I think that was a clear example of that today.”

**Falcons QB Matt Ryan
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
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Could you take us through the last play of the game?

“It was a play call where we read it across the board. We started with [Atlanta Falcons WR] Russell Gage on the left-hand side. They covered it well, but we knew we had [Atlanta Falcons WR] Julio Jones coming back to us. It was just a physical, strong catch by him. He did a great job of body awareness to know where he was at and making sure the ball was across the plane.”

It looked like he contorted his body just enough to score the touchdown --?

“That’s what great players do. They find a way to get the job done. He just has an awareness for where he’s at and what he has to do to get the job done. That was a special play.”

Atlanta Falcons TE Austin Hooper’s play before that looked like it was close too.

“Close. When you’re down that tight in the red zone, there are going to be tight window throws. It was a great effort. The call didn’t go our way. At that point, you have to have the mindset of just getting right back to it and finding a way to get the job done the following play.”

Where does that rank in your list of fantastic finishes?

“It was a good one. We’ve had some good wins, some wild wins throughout my 12 years. Against a good football team on the road, that ranks up there. It was a good win.”

Can you talk about the roller coaster of emotions at the end of the game where you have a touchdown and then you don’t have a touchdown with two reviews?

“Honestly, I think everyone was pretty calm. Just understanding whether it goes our way or it doesn’t go our way, we have to be prepared for the next play. I think all of our guys had the right mindset the entire day. That last couple of plays were basically a microcosm of what we dealt with the entire day. There were ups and there were downs. We had to battle through. I thought guys stayed the course, and we did enough to get the job done.”

The team was thin coming in to this game on the offensive line. Can you talk about the job they did today?

“I thought our offensive line played extremely well. That front seven and that defensive line is one of the better ones in the league. I know they’re missing a few guys, but they’re tough to go against. They’re strong, they’re fast, they’re physical. They’re excellent against the run and excellent against the pass. I thought our guys battled up front and got the job done. We had a good plan. We executed the plan well, but our guys up front played well.”

At 4-2 since the break, what does this win say about the team and what could have been this year?

“Obviously we’re disappointed not to be in the playoff picture, but you can only control what’s in front of you. The second half of the season we’ve done a better job of that. We have two weeks to finish it out

the right way. We have to keep the same mindset we've had of excellent preparation during the week, and then going, cutting it loose and having the right mindset on Sundays."

You needed all of Julio Jones today. Can you speak to his performance?

"It was no secret that our plan was to get him involved. We targeted him quite a bit. Pass interference was a huge play. We had a couple of others that didn't go our way on those types of calls, but we gave him some chances, and he delivered."

**Falcons S Ricardo Allen
Postgame Quotes – December, 15 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons**

What is your reaction to that last play and Atlanta Falcons WR Julio Jones' touchdown catch?

"That's what you do. You give it to your best player. When the game is on the line you have to give it to your best player. That's what he does. He came through. We fought right on through the last two seconds and we went ahead for the first time in the game. The fight was well worth it."

Did you think Atlanta TE Austin Hooper's catch was a touchdown?

"Yes, I thought it was a touchdown. He had it gripped with those big old paws of his. It popped up again but I think he had it. That was a touchdown but they were not going to give it to us. They made us fight right up until the end and we got in there again."

Talk about someone like San Francisco 49ers TE George Kittle today. It seems like he is a handful?

"He's the kind of player that you have to keep your eyes on all the time. He's really good at running after the catch. He puts in a lot of effort blocking and he brings his A game every time he steps on the field but they had number 85 and we had number 11."

Can you take us through the play in the end zone where you had that block against Kittle?

"He caught me one time trying to fight against him and slammed the mess out of me. I kept fighting, but he's pretty strong. He's a great competitor. He's the kind of player you want to go against again and again."

**Falcons RB Devonta Freeman
Postgame Quotes – December, 15 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons**

On those last two plays of the game, what is kind of going through your mind? Obviously there was a lot going on. Can you walk us through that?

"It's just a lot of emotion and you have to do your best to control those emotions. However they come, you just have to accept it."

What was said between you all after Atlanta Falcons TE Austin Hooper's touchdown was overruled?

"We just move on to the next play. I didn't see it because I had a route. I looked at it on the replay, it looked like he had caught it"

What does it say about this team that you guys have played so much better this half of the season and were able to come in here today and get a win against an 11-2 team?

"We just keep fighting. We just keep playing and sometimes it just turns out like that. We can't do anything about the first half of the season now. We just have to finish these last two games strong, enjoy this victory and get ready for next year."

Falcons TE Austin Hooper
Postgame Quotes – December, 15 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons

How does this win feel for you and the team?

"Oh it feels great. I had all my family and friends in the stands. It's something, you always dream of. I was confident even when the game was not going the way we wanted it to but, in the end, we got the win and that's really all that matters."

Have you had a chance to see the replay of the ball that you caught in the end zone that was ruled incomplete?

"Yeah, I saw it. I mean, you know, obviously I'm biased. I want to score the game winner at home but in the end [Atlanta Falcons WR] Julio Jones scored it for us. He's a tremendous leader. He's a tremendous brother in the locker room and we won. It really would have haunted me if we didn't. The fact that we won makes all well that ends well."

What should we take from how you played, not just today, but the second half of this season?

"Records aren't indicative of what a team is made of. We've got a lot of fight. We've got a lot of grit and we've got a lot of talent on this team. Just because we messed it up early on it doesn't mean that we have to mess it up all the way. I think you guys are starting to see what we can do because the San Francisco 49ers are the number one team in the NFC. They are phenomenal at every position. It seems like they have Pro Bowlers at almost every position on both sides of the ball. Today, our fans were able to see what we can do against one of the best teams in the NFC."

What kind of vantage point did you have on Julio Jones' touchdown?

"We were running a man-to-man crossing route so I basically saw the guys who were manned on Julio. I got in the way of two people then Julio ran free, caught it and went and did Julio Jones things."

Falcons DT Grady Jarrett
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons

What did you think about the last drive that the offense put together to win the game?

"It was amazing. I think everyone on the sideline had confidence that it wasn't close to being finished, even on that close call with [Atlanta Falcons TE Austin] Hooper. We thought he had it. We still had time left, and we still had an opportunity to win the game."

Did you have a feeling, based on the way that Atlanta Falcons WR Julio Jones was playing, that he was going to be the one to win it for you guys?

"Absolutely. He always says to us every time he may have a mishap or a drop on a ball, he'll say 'I know a big play on the way.' That's 100-percent. You can go back on the film and watch that. He holds himself to a high standard. He doesn't need anyone telling him nothing. He knows that he's going to get it back for us. It wasn't a surprise to me, and it shouldn't be a surprise to anybody."

You were able to hold one of the league's top offenses to one of their lowest outputs of the year. What was your mindset going into this game against these guys?

“We wanted to come out and put our best foot forward. I think we did that. Everyone put on a good performance today. It felt good, and we want to continue to build off it until the end of the season as best we can.”

Defensively, what were some of keys? You all were able to get some hits and some pressure on the quarterback in the pass rush.

“It was important for us to come out and get to the quarterback. Even when we didn’t get the sack, we still got a lot of hits and got him off his spot and made him uncomfortable. When we got sacks, it felt good to get to him.”

**Falcons WR Julio Jones
Postgame Quotes – December 15, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Atlanta Falcons**

How would you describe that last touchdown at the end of the game?

“It was just 11 guys doing the right thing and being resilient. [Atlanta Falcons TE Austin] Hooper did a great job by running his route and taking his guy out of the picture. I came in underneath Hoop. Before the play, [Atlanta Falcons QB Matt Ryan] told everyone, ‘Hey, get in the end zone.’ Then it was pretty much the last play, so we needed to get in the end zone and score. He delivered a strike to me, and it was a touchdown.”

Did you kind of feel where you were on that last play?

“Yeah. Like I said, before the play happened, Matt was in the huddle. It was one of those things where either it was going to be two plays, or we were going to score right there and everyone was going to get in the end zone. When I was going, I know I was running down the goal line when he stopped me because he was trying to protect me in that situation to getting in the end zone.”

When you guys took the field with 1:42 left in the game, what did you guys say as an offense as you took the field?

“Just ‘One play at a time.’ You know when your number is called, you make plays. We didn’t really have to say too much. We got a lot of guys leading everybody. The guys that are coming up, like in the second year, they did a hell of a job today, playing their roles and doing what they had to do.”

How were your emotions in those last couple of seconds? You had a touchdown, then it was overturned, you didn’t score, and then you get the winning touchdown--?

“I don’t play the game on emotions. For me, I just go out there and just play one play at a time.”