

San Francisco 49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan

On thoughts on why they couldn't get their offense off the field

"A little bit of everything. It wasn't good enough at all. In all three phases, special teams played the best. But I thought we struggled to tackle, struggled to get a rush. We made too many mistakes in the secondary. Felt like we didn't challenge them enough in man either. So, a little bit of everything."

On if tackling issue is a part of lack of healthy bodies and talent

"Yeah, makes it harder. We played a lot better last week. We can do a lot better than we did today."

On if the injuries today are potentially serious

"We'll see. Two ankles. [49ers LB] Dee Winters with his knee, just inflammation. Hopefully it will be all right."

On how he feels QB Mac Jones played and handled pressure

"He made some plays, and he missed some too. I don't think anyone on offense did that good. We had to really take advantage of it. They held on to the ball as good as any team that I've been around. Going against them, we had to really take advantage when we did get the ball. Too many mistakes. When the defense is out there that long, we can't go three and out. Too many of those today. I thought [49ers QB] Mac [Jones] made some good plays. The touchdown at the end of the second quarter, the touchdown to 'JJ' [49ers WR Jauan Jennings] down the field. Just collectively, as an offense, too many mistakes."

On if games like this damage the team's morale

"I would hope not. We got beat today. Credit to them. They kicked our ass. We've got to take it like men, go to work, and play better next week than we did this week."

On what the message to the team is

"Definitely. There's not much to sugarcoat there. I was really disappointed with how we looked for all four quarters. First half was unacceptable. Second half didn't get much better. Not much to say about it except that we'll look at it on the plane and figure out all the things we can correct and did mess up. I expect the guys to come in tomorrow with a chip on their shoulder ready to get back to work."

On if he thought things were turning going into halftime

"I knew we had a chance, especially when we started with the ball. I thought we had a chance at the end with the fourth quarter. There were a couple of opportunities we could have came back, and we didn't stop them. Made it two-score lead there at the end, which was tough. They outplayed us a lot today, but I still thought we had our opportunities to find a way at the end, and we didn't get it done."

On if he wished DB Lenoir Deomondore went out of bounds on the play going into halftime

"It will be good stuff to review with him. It was tough, 11 seconds before the play. We need awareness of that when it happens. I think when you catch it by the sidelines, I think he has time to look to score. I think once we can't, we've got to get down immediately. I think it was a little greedy, just get in on him for that. It was a hell of a play by [49ers DB Lenoir] Deomondore, nice to break the stretch of not getting a pick. A good situation to cover with all our guys tomorrow."

On if there will be defensive reinforcements after this game

"Nothing changes anything. It has to do with what's available out there. Does it help us this year, does it help us next year. Usually, as things get closer, you get an idea on who's real, who's not. We'll evaluate that."

On if it the defensive game plan to force the Texans to execute long drives

"No, it wasn't."

On if it is frustrating to try to find the answers when players continue to get injured

"Injuries are part of a game. I used to get a lot more frustrated with it. I'm more used to it over my career. The frustrating part is trying to find answers and not working throughout the game."

On what he has seen from DB Upton Stout so far

"I've been happy we got [49ers DB] Upton [Stout]. We loved him in college and loved him since he's been here. Good to get him back out here today after his injury last week. He's a young guy with a promising future."

On if he is happy with the effort of the guys

"There was no place in particular I was questioning anybody's effort. I'll be able to see that in more detail when I get on the plane. Collectively, as a whole, I felt our team a little bit more today. There was nothing where I saw guys loafing or anything like that. It will be easier to see when I study the tape."

On if he is referring to seeing more energy today

"Just coming out. I felt them in the locker room and everything. But the first half was tough. I think it was 14 first downs to 2. Just the time of possession and everything like that, it was just a tough first half. An unusual first half."

On being successful last week filling the roles of injured players, if this was a reality check that he has got to continue to use those players after initial success

"I mean, our reality is pretty realistic on what we deal with every week. So we knew we had a tough game versus Atlanta. We thought we had a tough game today. All those things, you guys can write about that stuff, but it's definitely hard when you lose really good players. We've had that situation throughout this year. All I want us to do is play as good as we can play. You can deal with whatever. Today, we didn't play as good as we can play. Thanks, guys."

San Francisco 49ers QB Mac Jones

On the second touchdown pass that 49ers TE Jake Tonges intercepted

"Yeah, he made a good play. Definitely need more of those."

On how he feels about not being able to get in the flow of the game in the first half

"Yeah. I'm not sure. I feel like we prepare a certain way for that, for the opening drives and really like the way we do it here. I've been in that situation far too many times where it just hasn't gotten going, and today just wasn't our day. So at the end of the day, you've got 30 more minutes to play. Did okay, but definitely a lot to clean up, and just got to be more on our Ps and Qs."

On if he thought the touchdown pass to 49ers TE George Kittle would provide the spark they needed

"Yeah, for sure. I scored on a similar play last year against the same defense. We put that in and had that thought on the same play. [49ers TE] George [Kittle] just made a good play and the line gave me enough time to rip it in there. Definitely want more of those."

On his thoughts on his pass that got intercepted at the end

"On the goal line, they jumped a double slant when we were backed up, and I asked for it. Kyle and I were talking about it, and [49ers WR] Jauan Jennings got banged up on the play before. It was unfortunate. I don't think that was either of our faults. I was going to throw that 10 times out of 10. He usually comes up with it the majority of the time. Just a good play by the DB, and that guy's been playing well all year, 'number 4' [CB Kamari Lassiter]. He just made a good play."

On if it were one-one-one would he want to take his shot

"Absolutely, yeah."

On Head Coach Kyle Shanahan's remarks about coming in with a chip on your shoulder

"I think it's good. My process isn't going to change. I'm going to come in to work and follow my schedule, and I do that whether we win or lose, so I don't think that changes for me. But it is good to get the wakeup call. I know I want to get back in the ring. To do that, you've got to practice well and have a good process leading up to it. I know we have the right guys. It wasn't our day today. It is what it is."

On if what they saw from the Texans defense was expected

"Yeah, They do what they do. They've done the same thing the past five years. They're really good, though. They've all played together for a long time. Got a lot of respect for those guys. I've gone against them three times in the last year. Every time I left the field, I thought they were the best defense in the NFL. We've had a couple of those the past couple weeks. It's about us, to be honest. When we do what we do, I think it can be pretty good. When we don't, that's what you get."

On how he's going to stay engaged with the team once QB Brock Purdy is back

"I don't know. We'll see. I think I've played a lot of different roles in this league. Like I said, my process stays the same. You prepare as a starter, and I definitely wanted to just be better today. I feel like every game we've played when I'm back there, we've had a chance. Today, I didn't feel like we had a chance. That's been kind of how I feel about it. But I know I can get us to that fourth quarter. When I

do, usually it ends up good. And the guys around me have done a great job when we've been in those situations. So that's my goal every week is to get to the fourth. We couldn't do that this week."

On what it was like with Texans DE Will Anderson Jr. lurking

"He's definitely lurking. They've got two great defensive ends and really good inside guys too. I've known [DE] Will [Anderson Jr.] for six, seven years. I have a lot of respect for him. Every time I play against him, you got to have a plan for him. They definitely had our number today."

On what it felt like being on the sideline for so long with a low time of possession

"Yeah. Honestly, just stick to my process, prepare, do my stretching and stay warm, whether it's long drives or not, but I feel bad for the defense because when you're out there for that many plays, it's hard to play. You get tired. Even if we just get a couple first downs, it gets some pressure off them. Got to be better there. Obviously want to score points, but just moving the ball and flipping the field can be good. I thought we did that better in the second half, but you've got to put points up to beat people. Like I said, try to get to the fourth quarter. Our defense has come up clutch in those situations. So has our offense. Most every game, we've been in the fourth quarter we've won."

On the mistakes on offense and if he felt it unraveling today

"I'll have to watch it, honestly. I don't think the operation was as clean as I'd like it to be. It starts with the quarterback and pushing tempo in practice and cranking up the noise and really treating every day like a game, getting in and out of the huddle. Really, everything before the ball is snapped. I can live with post-snap mistakes if we have a drop or I don't throw a good pass, but if I'm not looking in the right spot or people are running the wrong routes, you have no chance. We know that. 'K.B' [49ers WR Kendrick Bourne] knows that. We've played a lot of football together. So, the veterans guys on the offense, I feel like we have a veteran group, and we have to have the want to get back in the ring and keep fighting."

San Francisco 49ers TE George Kittle

On his touchdown reception in the second quarter

"It was really fun. Basically, I just read the safeties. If it's a single high, I'm across the field. Split safeties, I'm down the middle. [49ers QB] Mac [Jones] could not have put a better ball out there. Literally hit me. I didn't even have to adjust. He hit me in the backside number. Perfect ball. When you score right before half and you know you're going to get the ball again, it was an opportunity for us to lap them. We came out in the second half and went three and out. Didn't get the lap that we wanted to get."

On 49ers TE Jake Tonges' touchdown reception in the third quarter

"Mac told me he was throwing to me. [TE] Jake [Tonges], just sticky fingers. I'm glad he caught it. I would have been mad if he'd have tipped it up and it went out of bounds. It's good for the tight ends to score on National Tight Ends Day."

On staying focused when the defense is having trouble making stops

"The first half is tough because we had 12 plays in the first half until the last drive. We didn't do anything to help our defense in the entire first half. I thought our defense was playing at a really high level. They were doing bend but don't break. Their kicker had four field goals. They didn't punt once either, right? But, I mean, I thought our defense played really well for the pieces lost during the game, guys who had to come out during the game, guys who came in during the game and guys who were

missing. I thought our defense played really well. They were flying around, hitting people. If you're holding a team to four field goals and two touchdowns, our offense has to score points. When you're three and out, three and out, three and out, three and out, we're not doing anything to help our young defense who is adjusting and trying to figure out the way they want to play football. This is really on the offense. I was very proud of how our defense played today."

On the offensive approach for today's game

"When you have 12 plays in the first half, you can't get a rhythm. You can't run the ball. That's what it is. How many attempts did [49ers RB] Christian [McCaffrey] really have? We just didn't have any attempts. The run game is because you can stay on the field, you convert third downs. You're on the field, you're having 10-play drives, that's the run game. Credit to them, they completely took us out of it because, again, we had 12 plays until the last drive. We couldn't get Christian going. We couldn't get our run game going. I still think we're still getting decent chunks, but we're not converting on third down so we're not running the ball. Second half, we have to throw the ball every time."

On how the offense will look once 49ers WR Ricky Pearsall, QB Brock Purdy and WR Brandon Aiyuk return from injury

"I love playing football with [49ers WR] Ricky [Pearsall] because he's like 'KB' [49ers WR Kendrick Bourne] and he's so full of energy and so full of love of the game. So that's a guy I love playing with. I think I've said a thousand nice things about Brock [Purdy]. You guys know exactly how I feel about him. He's the best operator of our offense I've ever seen. Then [49ers WR Brandon] Aiyuk, we paid him 30 million dollars for a reason because that's how good he is. You can daydream and think with that stuff. I can't wait to start playing with those guys again. Currently, we're playing with what we've got. What we've got is enough to win football games, especially today. But when you operate the way that we did in the first three or four drives, which is honestly, really, really bad is what I would say from missed assignments to procedure penalties to holding. Whatever they were, we just played bad football on offense today."

On moving onto the next game

"I'm a big 24-hour rule guy. Whoever started that was a genius. You can be sad and depressed about it for 24 hours and let it go. You can't do anything to change it. All you can do is learn from it. That's all we're going to do, I hope. There are opportunities all over the football field. There is. There are so many places to learn from it. It's a humbling sport. Look at yourself in the mirror. What did I do wrong? What can I get better at? If it's something you're going to let anchor you down, it's going to be tough football for us moving forward. Hopefully, we have guys who can let it go after our meeting tomorrow, and we can move into Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday with a fresh start. Hopefully, there is a chip on our shoulder. Hopefully we practice hard. I think we will. We have bright guys in the building, aggressive guys in the building and guys that want to win."

On if he thinks the team could benefit from the trade deadline

"Would you have asked me that last week when we held the Atlanta Falcons to 10 points? I don't think so. I think we have the right guys. Let's talk about who else got hurt on the defensive line. I don't know. We'll see what happens, but I think we have a lot of the right guys in the building and a lot of guys who like to play football the right way. I think [49ers Defensive Coordinator Robert] Saleh gets our young guys playing the right way. The more reps the guys get, the better they'll get. But I don't ever worry about a trade deadline thing. There's nothing I can do. I'm not going to go into [49ers Head Coach] Kyle's [Shanahan] office and say we need to trade for somebody. I just want to get back out there and play more football because that was a horrible first half. It was a really bad performance by

our offense, and we left our young defense out to dry today. I thought they played really well. I said before anyone else showed up, the whole day they played bend but don't break. They gave up two touchdowns and four field goals. Our offense has to score points. I've said that since the start. We have a veteran offense that needs to score. Yes, we're missing some key guys, obviously, but we have to score points. We didn't score points today. We didn't help our defense out at all, the entire day."

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