



*Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. San Francisco 49ers
Week 13
11-30-25*

Opening Statement:

"Injury front, I think you guys have most of these, but Maliek (Collins) has a quad injury. We'll get imaging on that. You know, we have to play complementary football to have a chance versus a good football team. And they had a drive start on the 16 after a big punt return that led to a touchdown. They had a drive start on the 18 after a muffed punt that led to a touchdown. They had a drive start on the 25 after a failed fourth and inches, led to a touchdown. A fourth and one on the plus 42, led to a field goal. So that's not the way to play a good team where you're giving them short fields. That's not the right, with our defense, we got to make them earn it. And I don't think we did that today. And that's on me to get it fixed. Listen, it's a good football team that you're facing, and guys fought their butts off, but just not enough, especially with some of the field position that we put them in. But with that, I'll take any questions."

Kevin, when you had the fourth and one from your own 33, 10-8 in the third with the defense playing as well as it has in the elements and all that, why go for it in that moment?

"Felt good, Daniel (Oyefusi). I think, you know, there's always the obvious risk when you go for it in those situations, but if you feel good about the plays you have and your players, you feel good about converting on those distances."

Why specifically did you go with, I guess the timing, why specifically did you go with the sneak with Harold (Fannin Jr.) when you've been running the wildcat to jumbo packages as much as you have?

"Yeah, just felt good about the call. Didn't get it done."

Was there any confusion leading up to it? It seemed rushed.

"We had a couple guys in and out of the lineup due to injuries, so that caused it. But we obviously lined up. It was a quick count, so I knew that the play would get off."

Kevin, did you think that Shedeur (Sanders) built on his first start last week against the (Las Vegas) Raiders?

"Yeah, I'd have to look at it, Mary Kay (Cabot). Obviously he's battling like all of our guys are battling. I know there's plays he wants back, but we'll look at it, we'll correct it."

Will you start him next week?

"Yes."

So many injuries on the offensive line, guys in and out. How did that affect today?

"It's just part of it, Jeff (Schudel) with injuries. Don't like it, but it's just part of it."

Kevin, it felt like you had success running the ball, but then on the short yardage, even before the fourth and one, it was second and two or whatever. How disappointing, and why do you think it didn't work on the fourth and one?

"Yeah, I'd have to look at it to give you a good answer, Scott (Petrak), other than to say that they made a play, felt good about the concepts that we had up, but they did a better job."

Was Wyatt (Teller) dealing with an injury? If not, why did you guys rotate Teven (Jenkins)?

"Yeah, I rotated Teven throughout the game. I wanted to see Teven in this game, but, you know, obviously want to always get our guys as many reps as we can."

With the jumbo package that Teven is usually in as the sixth offensive linemen, do you think that led to some confusion, because it looked like Wyatt kinda...

"No, it was really due to the injury that we had previously."

Just one more on that Fannin play, you know, the Wildcat has done so well with Q (Quinshon Judkins). Why did it not work?

"Well, it was fourth and inside of one, I think, so it was inches. So as you guys know, quarterback sneaks, the most effective play in that situation, we did not execute. That's on me. We'll get it fixed."

When you say that Shedeur will start next week, are you still taking this week by week or are you prepared to say that he's kind of your guy?

"Yeah, I'm not going to get into all that, Mary Kay, other than to say we all have to just play better."

You mentioned the mistakes on special teams, and we've asked you throughout the season about the job Bubba Ventrone is doing; I say that all to ask, why do you think that major changes are required?

"Yeah, we'll just make sure that we keep coaching our guys, Daniel. We had some young guys make some young mistakes today."

On a positive note, what did you think of the touchdown throw Shedeur had to Harold?

"Yeah, I thought that was really well executed. Thought it was a good call by Tommy (Rees) in that situation. Felt really strongly about that call, that play. We've kind of been waiting to get to it for a couple weeks. Had the right time for it."

On the long punt return, it felt like Grant (Delpit) maybe ran by it? Did you get a sense of that?

"I don't know. Yeah, I'd have to look at it. I'm not sure."

You guys are going to have a losing season, how disappointing is that to you to know that's going to be the case?

"All of it, losing is always disappointing, Mary Kay. It's frustrating and for your players that work so hard and put so much into this, you want to be able to put them in positions to succeed. And obviously we didn't do that today."

You mentioned Maliek, is there any fear for long-term concern or with any of the other guys like Dylan (Sampson) and Isaiah (McGuire)?

"Absent imaging and testing those type of things, it's hard to say."

How do you think the defense did given the fact that they were put in bad spots a lot of the game?

"Yeah. Again, a very good offense, as you know. Battled. Of course there's going to be things that we can clean up, but you can't play that way. Putting a good team on a short field that many times."

Kevin, on the field, was it a difficult day to throw because of the wind?

"It was, yeah. It was definitely going away from the Dawg Pound."

What kind of offensive adjustments were you trying to make in the second half? It didn't look like anything was working in the second half offensively.

"Yeah, we just have to find a way to stay on the football field. I thought there were some good things happening in the run game but just not enough really."

Will you try to get more involved in some of the special teams since that's been an area of concern?

"I'm responsible for all of it, Mary Kay. I'm involved in all of it. We'll get it coached up."

Kevin, you said multiple times that you can't put the team on a short field like that. So when you decided to go for it on fourth and one, given a two-point game, still a lot of time left. Is that something where like the analytics set to go for? Was it a gut decision for you?

"No, it's always my decision. Listen, I take in information but it's always my decision. We're going against a good team. You're the underdogs. You're going to have to play in some situations aggressively. I feel good about those two calls and those two concepts on fourth and short. I have to trust our guys based on the matchup, based on who we have, based on who they have, those type of things."

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Browns QB Shedeur Sanders
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Shedeur (Sanders), just how frustrating was it to have the mistakes and turnovers that you guys had and not be able to win?

“Yeah. It doesn't feel good, doesn't feel good at all to be here in front of y'all and not on top. But it comes with it.”

Shedeur, the pass to Jerry (Jeudy) there, I think it was on the first series, was that just the wind catching it a little bit? On top of that, how much did the wind impact some of your throws today?

“I would say, overall, it's about spending time. It's about spending time in those situations and being able to gauge. All quarterbacks know you got cut through the wind whenever you throw - so then at the same time, you gauging the speed and time to distance and travel and everything, and I just calculated off. That's all it was. It was just a missed shot. So then when I miss that shot, I got to stay on myself to keep shooting.”

Shedeur, you went out for a little during the game after a slide. What happened there?

“Yeah, it was just a little ankle. It was a little ankle. But we good, though. We good.”

How would you assess the way you played today, Shedeur?

“By wins and losses. Obviously we lost, so I ain't play well. There's definitely things on film Imma look back and want to get back and want to see. But at least moving forward, I know what we could do differently going about the week and being able to get fully prepared for every possibility.”

Shedeur, you talked so much these last couple of weeks about trying to get the offense on the same page. How difficult is it when there's injuries and things that are changing out pieces and parts of the offensive line?

“I mean, life difficult in general, so that's not a big problem, I'll say to me. I just got to be better overall. I got to be able to rally everybody together when adversity is hidden. So even when I'm off, I got great teammates around me that's able to pick me up and keep going. But I think overall, I just got to have more of a role like that and better at that.”

How about your touchdown pass to Harold Fannin (Jr.)? Can you just take us through that?

“Yeah, we practiced it, I'd say for like, three, four weeks. And we got the look that we wanted, and we executed it.”

It wasn't productive - the second half, offensively. So, were you guys trying to do things differently to adjust to what San Francisco (49ers) was doing?

“Nah, of course. We was running the ball - we ran the ball very well. And when we got in certain passing situations and field position, everything like that, it wasn't the best. It was a comfort level. I think, like, as players and as teammates, we have to be able to gel with each other and be comfortable with each other in every situation. That takes time, that takes a lot of things. So, this team is not going to be a microwave thing - we're going to have sparks here and there, but it's going to take time to be able to develop that chemistry with everybody, to be on the same page with Jerry (Jeudy). Of course you want to be able to get him the ball, but you got to understand it take time. I'm more of a trust person, and that's just what it boils down to. So, we have to spend time on task with all those guys, and be able to trust and be able to see things at the same lens. A lot of time out there, I would say passing wise, we're not seeing everything at the same lens or certain guys aren't in the same spot that we seen and we practice. Spot - I'm saying, like, who lined up where. You know, if you put Jerry on this side or Jerry on this side. Like, we just got to just be comfortable and just make everything consistent.”

How do you balance that need to be time on task with your desire to do well and win?

“Well, I’m sure everybody’s frustrated now, so I think we all...I think it’s easy for everybody to jump on board. I think we all want to win. I think that’s what Cleveland, I think that’s what the coaches, everybody wants to win. So, I feel like we will be able to do as necessary to get that result.”

On those two fourth-and-ones that didn’t work. Did you like Kevin (Stefanski) having the aggressiveness there even backed up in your territory?

“I mean, first, that’s a rude question to ask - if I think it was a great call by my coach.”

Did you like the aggression? Did you like the call?

“I like being out there playing. So, whatever that comes with, it comes with. We’re not going to be here and ever point fingers at no coach or do anything like that - that’s extremely disrespectful, and that’s not even in my place. So, I’m thankful for being out there, honestly, and I’m thankful that he trusts us as an offense to be able to go out there and be able to execute. Did we execute? No, we didn’t. But, I’m just thankful that we have that trust.”

Kevin said that you’re starting again next week, so how much are you looking forward to getting back at it and having an opportunity to build on what you did this week and go out and do it again next week?

“Yeah, of course I’m thankful. Like, in the midst of everything that’s going on - wins, lost, anything. I remember when I wasn’t playing, so I never forget that feeling. So, I try my best to not let that happen again, for me to be in that position. But we fell short today, and we just can’t continue doing that. We can’t continue doing that at all. So, I know we let a lot of people down - we let the coaches down as players and everything today. But we’ll be ready to go next week.”

I know you said you view it in the lens of wins and losses, but there were three straight drives where you guys get into San Francisco territory in the first half and you finally get points. Did it feel like in the first half, as an offense, were making progress before things changed in the second half and the game got away?

“Honestly, I don’t even know how to answer that question. I just got done playing.”

Did it feel like you guys were building momentum?

“Yeah, you could tell whenever we build momentum, you can see it. I’m sure y’ all able to see it when we out there, when we confident, and I’m sure y’ all able to see when we out there and we not. So, it’s about being more confident whenever we are getting slow, it’s about rallying the guys, and I didn’t do a great job of that today, rallying everybody together whenever things aren’t going our way and staying focused and staying on it. So that’s something off the field, I know I got to improve is, even when I shoot my shot and I miss, I just got to keep shooting and I got to keep having everybody, bringing everybody together, you know what I’m saying? Cause I know the offense, I know the team count on me to do my job and do what I got to do. And I feel like I failed them today.”

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Browns DE Myles Garrett
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Hey Myles, Kevin (Stefanski) talked about how the defense was put in such bad spots today. So how did you guys think you handled it given the short field you were given all game?

"Not well enough. You know, we gotta hold those short fields to three or less. And we know we have a higher standard than what we showed down on the field today."

Did the 49ers do anything that you were not prepared for?

"No. I mean, we kind of went over a whole bunch of different scenarios and different schemes that we were going to run. So we were well prepared, and we just got to execute a little bit better."

Myles, as a defensive player, what's going through your mind when the offense or Kevin makes that call to keep the offense on the field, especially in their own territory? Are you thinking like "Pin them back, let's just keep playing strong defense, I like the aggressiveness," what's going through your mind when you see those kinds of aggressive calls from the offense?

"I mean, whatever happens, we got to put the fire out. So, you know, if they end up converting, then, you know, we just got to be ready when the time's called, and if they don't, then we're up right now, you know, lock in. Everybody understand what your job is, and, you know, let's get the ball back to the offense. Let's get them back in rhythm."

How good a job did (Brock) Purdy do getting rid of the ball? It looked like you had a bunch of pressure, but you were only able to get to him one time.

"Yeah, I feel like there were a lot of ops. Well, there seemed like there were a lot of ops, with how close it was. But, you know, he likes getting out on time or, you know, he sees me, and, you know, credit to him, he also avoided the rush pretty well, too. So him getting the ball out on time, them having a solid unit as well, you know, chipping, those kind of things. They were doing what they do best."

It looked like you said something to him one time when you got close. Can you share that with us?

"It was something like, 'Just get me another one'."

Myles, there was a moment, I think it was after Maliek went down, where like Jauan Jennings was talking with some guy, just what happened on the field after that?

"Well, I can't speak for how he was raised, but if you have nothing good to say, don't say something to somebody. So he had a lot to say that was demeaning and disparaging towards some of our players. And I was just trying to separate everybody. And I tried to go up and ask for what the problem was, and then he started coming at me and, I mean, some guys just roll like that. I don't feel like that belongs in the game. But, hey, if that works for him and them, then more power to him. But I'm just trying to keep my guys focused on the game and not worried about stuff outside of it because we're focused on what's on the field."

Does none of that have to do with Maliek, how Maliek got hurt or anything like that?

"No, he was just yapping."

So, speaking of Maliek and him getting hurt, just how hard is it to see him get carted off? What a nice job has he done for you guys this whole entire season?

"He's been amazing. He's done a great job. I mean as far as his trajectory, he was going to have a double-digit sack season which he had yet to do. And it sucks seeing him go down, and just hurt seeing that look on his face, just disappointed, knowing that he had so much left for the year and giving more to this team. So, we're behind him 100% and we're going to support him however we can."

Wyatt was talking about how you guys are such a young team and sometimes gelling takes time in those situations. How do you balance patience with some of the young guys along with obviously your urgency to win every week?

"Time waits for no man, you know, got to be urgent with everyone. It's not just the older guys who've been through it. No, the young guys got to understand this goes by quick. Little did I know, I'd be nine years in, talking to you all. So don't take any time for granted. No, we got to win now."

The fact that you guys are going to finish with a losing record, Myles, and you've been talking so optimistically. How tough is that knowing that's set in now, the playoffs are really unlikely?

"I don't know how unlikely they are but we got to continue to fight to win. Whoever's our next opponent, they're going to get our very best and let the chips fall as they may. I can't worry about how the end result's going to be. Just worry about giving it your very best every play."

How have your first nine years in the league taught you about managing, like what you said about "it goes by quick," what has that, your experience, taught you about since you've been in the league?

"Every second is a gift, so don't waste any of it. You're either getting better or you're getting worse. Whether that's a workday, an off day. Do something that helps improve who you are as a person and as a player to help adding, putting pennies, nickels and dimes into that piggy bank until you achieve the goals you have set out for yourself. And I think as a player I've developed a lot. I think I came in pretty raw, and I had to work on my craft. And I think that can be said for a lot of guys in there. But they continue to work and continue to grind and that's life. That's football. You got to continue to work at who you want to become and who you want to be. And we know this isn't good enough. So we got to continue to go back to the whetstone."

Hey Myles, Shedeur (Sanders) has talked about learning to be a better leader, pulling guys together. How difficult is that for a young guy, for a rookie, even in his position, to do that, to learn how to be a better leader?

"I think the main hurdle to get over when you're a young guy and they're trying to be a leader is the fact that you really don't understand or realize if you have that platform yet. You just kind of have to be, you know, given to you. You kind of have to be, you know, pushed into it or guided into it. You know, let yourself, be that person, have that role. And that's by us as veterans enabling that, those younger guys, those first, second, third year guys. Let them know that, you know, this is our team just as much as yours. Take ownership of it and don't be afraid to say what's on your mind. If you see something, say something. This game, like I said, it goes by quick, so we can't be mincing words just because we're scared to say something or you don't feel like you have the right, yet, everyone has the right to say something as long as you're out there giving your very best, speak up."

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Cleveland Browns Players
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S Grant Delpit

Do you feel like it's something with this team that you guys just can't seem to put together four full quarters?
"Yeah I mean we killed ourselves today. I think they got the ball in plus territory four times, it just put our defense on our heels. And on defense we didn't get any takeaways, we didn't get the ball back. So then we just killed us in that aspect."

Was (QB Brock) Purdy getting the ball out quick?

"Yeah they were quick snapping, motion, screening, anything they could do to try and slow our D-line down. They did just enough."

Does it feel like the preparation for special teams is where it needs to be each week?

"I think special teams is just more like a one-two in the moment type of stuff. You can prepare all you want, but you gotta be willing to give that effort, so that's all it is."

DT Shelby Harris

Let's start with (DT)Maliek Collins, how tough was it to see him go down, especially the way he's been playing this season?

"(DT) Maliek (Collins) is one of our leaders. He's one of our favorite guys, and it's always tough to lose somebody like that who's having a career year and someone who is truly happy for everyone else's success. That hurt the whole defensive line right there. That is one of our guys and you never want to see somebody go down like that."

Were you guys holding your breath every time somebody went down, you were one to kind of get up slowly. Was it one of those types of games?

"It happens, but at the end of the day we are all supposed to contribute where we can. People go down, people got to step up. That's the name of the game, an unfortunate part of the game, but there should be no lapses. The worst part about it is losing your brother, but the best part about it is seeing your brother get a new opportunity."

Why do you think these mistakes keep snowballing?

"You just have to learn how to snap out of it. The good teams figure it out. You have to learn how to not let this thing compound into something even worse. So if there's one mistake, we got to nip it in the bud and start brand new and then start the ascension from there. We got to do a better job of cutting it off and not letting it turn into multiple mistakes."

RB Quinshon Judkins

What did you guys do differently with the offense in the second half?

"Different formation, different defense. Originally they had like four-two box, so not that many guys in the box. And then in the second half would come on and they would have a lot of people in the box, like eight or nine people."

You had a couple of injuries on both sides of the ball, how tough was it to see some of those guys go down and the injuries continue to just pile up throughout the game?

"It was definitely tough because you see how hard those guys work throughout the week and the way they prepare and for that to happen it's definitely frustrating not only for me but for them as well. We have a lot of great guys on our team, they all step up and go out there and do their job."

How do you think (QB) Shedeur (Sanders) handled this?

"He is a really great guy and is a great quarterback. He always handles things well. He is really good at what he does and everybody in the room believes in him, everybody on this team believes in him, so he'll continue to go out there and perform the way he does."

How much are you starting to really relish when they call that Wildcat formation and get the ball immediately in your hands to sort of make a play?

"I didn't know that we were going for two on that particular one but once they dialed it up I saw the down and distance so I'm going to go get it."

WR Gage Larvadain

Special teams has been something that has been having issues all year, what is it going to take to fix those things during practice this week?

"I think we are coached up well, Bubba (Ventrone) and (Kyle) Hoke do a good job. I think we just got to go out there and make plays, execute, do your job."

For you as a player how do you respond and bounce back after muffing that?

"It hurts because you feel like the world kind of crashes down on you. This is what we do for a living so you just have to be better, just prepare."

When something like that happens, how does the team respond to you to try and lift you up to make sure that it doesn't spiral, to make sure that you can get through that?

"We do a good job of rallying together. Our defense goes out there and do what they do. And you really feel bad because you put them in a position to now make their jobs harder. I don't feel bad for myself when something like that happens. It makes you feel bad for your team."

RG Wyatt Teller

Is that hard to hear, a coach telling you that [to rotate snaps]?

"It is, but that is exactly why he's there. That's his job."

What is your role then with (OL) Teven (Jenkins) to get him ready?

"Whatever it takes. Things that I prepare or the way that I've done stuff, just how can I help other players, younger players, or anybody."

To see (OL) Jack (Conklin) go out again, how tough was that?

"It's always tough when you see your buddies go down. I think that (OL) Jack (Conklin) plays so hard and prepares so well, so hopefully it's something minor and he's back very soon."

Why do you think that at this point in the season, the mistakes continue to happen?

"I think that we're a young team. It takes a long time to gain that experience and that maturity. I was starting half the games my first and second year, and finally had a chance to start my third year. I gained the experiences my first two years that allowed me to be a week one starter in year three. It's the same thing with a lot of players now, but we have (LB) Carson Schwesinger who is an absolute dog, but it takes a long time to get that experience and maturity. We're going to be fine. We have unbelievably talented young guys, a very talented team, you just have to have your eyes in the right spot and execute. That's really what it comes down to operational execution."

Speaking of execution, on those fourth down plays, what was missing?

"That's a good question. When they have 17 guys up on the line, it's hard to get a yard, but all jokes aside, I think that if a defense really wants to stop the short yards play, they can add line movement, run throughs, and stuff like that which nullifies the line. When you punt one on one across the line, it's tough for everyone to win their job."

How do you balance that patience with those young guys with the competitive nature you guys all want to have?

"I think two weeks ago, I was screaming a little bit, so we get passionate. I just feel like there's little things that you have to complete to handle the big things."

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Head Coach Kyle Shanahan
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Opening Statement:

"injuries from the game - (49ers LB) Nick Martin had a concussion; never returned. (49ers OL) Ben Bartch left with a foot [injury]; didn't return; and Juice (49ers FB Kyle Juszczyk) left with ribs, did not return."

Any idea of the severity in Juice's injury?

"No. They didn't show anything broken here, but we'll check again tomorrow."

Where do you think this game seemed to turn; maybe on that fourth down stop where they botched that snap?

"Yeah, this is actually how we kind of expected today to go. We were really hoping we could get some turnovers; not turn it over on offense. We were hoping for some big plays from special teams, which we got the huge one with Sky (Moore) on the return; got a huge one on the turnover. I looked at it as almost our D got three turnovers. I think we got them off on three fourth downs. When you play that way, just eventually you're going to get the points and we did. I'm proud of the guys for not turning it over in some situations."

Have you talked to QB Brock Purdy to confirm that he is okay coming back from injury or sensed that he's further along?

"No, the week he came back he was 100%. We haven't been worried about him since. We don't have a concern with that."

You had said he wasn't going to be healthy until the offseason.

"No, he's fine. Anytime he runs, he's doing all right."

On the broadcast they said that he had been wearing a steel plate in his cleat, but he isn't anymore, is that correct?

"Those are questions I don't ask him, so I'm not even sure."

Did you happen to catch his touchdown celebration?

"I did. Yeah. I thought it was pretty good. He told us he was gonna do that if he scored –told the team, so we had pressure on him to do it. He couldn't let them down, so it was nice."

Was that the first time you ever called a zone read for him?

"I don't think so. I called a few."

When they scored at the end of the first half there, how important was it for 49ers TE George Kittle to make that catch and get down there?

"That was huge. We were almost not going to go for it, just going into the wind like that with 30-something seconds left. The odds of their pass rush making something bad happen seemed a little bit higher than going and scoring, but (49ers WR) Ricky (Pearsall) made that big third down, got us down there. Throwing that go route in the wind like that, just going into that way, that was a big time play by Brock and a huge catch by George."

How did 49ers RDT Jordan Elliott and 49ers SS Malik Mustapha getting that fourth down stop in the first set the tone for your defense?

"I thought the D was setting the tone all day. I mean they got that one score with the double move they ran. It felt like nine plays in a row, set it up, and got that score. Every drive after that, I thought our D was real good. We made some adjustments at halftime, did better in the run game in the second half. That fourth down was big. Just turnovers when we stop them on fourth down."

Anything even specific you can share about what you adjusted, especially in the run game?

"I think just going more five man fronts."

How impressed were you with LDE Clelin Ferrell coming in here with four sacks in four games?

"He's done a helluva job. We loved having Cle here a couple years ago when we had him, since his first day here, he's been the same guy. He's giving us a lot of juice when we've been down."

When you're facing Browns DE Myles Garrett, obviously have you have 49ers LT Trent Williams, but it seemed like Brock was able to sense him from pressure a couple times. How did you guys do against Myles?

"He's a challenge. I mean, someone you're thinking about every single play. You think about him throughout the week when you're trying to game plan. He moved around a lot more than usual today, which made it a little bit tougher. We weren't perfect against him, but I was proud of the guys."

To be 9-4 at this point, what's your assessment of where you guys are going?

"I love where we're at right now. I believe we'd be in the playoffs today if it started, and we got four more games left to make sure we continue that. It's been a long wait for a bye week. I never had one this late. I don't know anyone on our team who has in the past. It's finally here. Mentally and physically, it will be awesome to rest. We'll be able to come back from that with four games to play for a chance to get in the playoffs. It'll all you can ask for."

Do you give them the whole week?

"We'll come in for a couple of days. We'll do a day after the game tomorrow. We'll probably do a little bit of a work out on Tuesday and decide from there."

In the first half, it looked like Browns QB Shedeur Sanders had a couple long completions including that touchdown to Browns TE Harold Fannin, Jr. and in the second half, was it just a matter of turning up the pressure on him?

"No, not really. We stopped their run better in the second half. We had them backed up on that one long drive. I think they ran it, I'm just guessing, like 10 times in a row. They had a double move set up and we had come off in a certain coverage and left the guy wide open. After that, though, I thought we put him in some more situations, having them in some third and longs. When it's third and long it's tough to get guys past the chains. That's when our guys stepped it up and got some sacks."

What has Skyy given you the last three games?

"I think Skyy's been awesome. We keep saying we've been feeling him for a while now, getting better and better. Every time he gets the ball, we feel he's got a chance to go. Our goal this week was to score on special teams, which he got real close again. But as long as you end up scoring on offense and that big one then it doesn't matter. So we told him thanks for allowing the offense to get those points because that was huge in this game."

49ers LB Luke Gifford said this week he felt like special teams talked about it feeling they could be a weapon now, not just kind of placeholdering. Do you feel like they are taking a step in that direction?

"Yeah, definitely. I think they have been a weapon. You know, probably at least this last month. Both returns, you know whether it's the kick return or whether it's the punt return. We made some big plays in that, and we made some big plays at some important times too. The biggest challenge today, what we're saying with the special teams, was that we're hoping to get some big plays, but also not making any dumb plays with penalties and things like that. We had one, which ended up giving them a two-point conversion, which was disappointing. But besides that one, I think we were pretty clean the rest of the day."

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San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Brock Purdy
Cleveland Browns vs. San Francisco 49ers
Week 13
11-30-25

How big was it to not have a turnover today?

"It was huge. Coming in here against a great defense like that and just the conditions that we were playing in. It comes down to protecting the ball and letting the defense do their thing, and then when we have the opportunity to strike on offense we have to capitalize on it. That was really the mindset. Last night, when all the quarterbacks were going over the game and right when we got on the field warming up, you can tell that it was going to be that type of game. That was really our mindset."

When the 49ers were facing 3rd-and-10 before halftime, at what point was it to be aggressive and try to score points?

"I mean we need it. We needed some momentum, obviously we were trying to be smart. Within that there's a game of alright, I have to be aggressive and go for our matchup when we get it and our opportunity to push the chains and move the ball down the field. (WR) Ricky (Pearsall) won on his 1-on-1 matchup. Even though it's like windy and stuff, you have to make it happen at some point. I feel like that drive really got us going, it got our confidence going. It bled into the second half for sure."

How much fun was it to compete against Browns DE Myles Garrett?

"I have nothing but respect for him. It was fun competing against him for sure, but it's always 'Where is he?' on the field."

What was the exchange you and DE Myles Garrett had on the field?

"We had a bootleg and I rolled out and he was right there, and I was like 'O, man,' so I threw the ball away. He was like, 'Come on, bro,' and smiled at me. And I was like, 'Sorry, bro.' (laughs). But, it's nothing but love and respect. He's really cool. He's a monster. Have to be smart in certain situations like that."

When were you wearing a steel plate in your cleat?

"Just that Jacksonville game (on Sept. 28) is when I wore it and then after that I didn't like it. All the games since I haven't worn a steel plate."

What's the equipment you wear under your arm?

"I've been doing that my whole career, actually. It's just later in the season, games get a little colder and whatnot. I just throw it on. It's literally just like an arm heat thing. But, yeah I've been doing that."

How did your touchdown celebration come about?

"Yeah, I've always been able to dougie, I just haven't really done it publicly. My wife can actually tell you, I annoy her in the kitchen with all that kind of thing. That's where I got my practice. I told the team, if we score we are going to have some fun and I am going to hit the dougie. I got an opp to do it, so I did it."

What was the play call on your touchdown run and how long have you practiced that?

"It was really just read the guy at the end of the line of scrimmage, and if he crashes, pull it in that situation. We practiced it this week for sure. It happened and once I got in the end zone, I was there by myself for a little bit and I was like 'Alright, I'm going to Dougie.'"

How do you feel going into your late Bye Week?

"Every game is so huge. You have to find momentum throughout every game, and it doesn't matter what you have done in the past, good or bad, it's about the next game. We are 9-4 and we have our Bye, which is great for us to be able to heal up and feel good, but we have to have the same mindset come the end of next week when we get back and ready to game plan for our next game. That mindset, we can't lose it. Every game matters. It's huge. This is the most important time of the year for sure, but we just have to take it one day at a time, one game at time, and keep building our momentum."

When did you learn about the inclement weather?

"Honestly, two days ago we got here and there's snow everywhere. Yesterday, it was snowing late at night. I woke up this morning and was like, 'It is what it is. We just have to go find a way to win.' It didn't matter how or what, protect the ball, play within our offense and let our defense and special teams do their thing also and be smart. It didn't matter what it was going to look like, you just have to find a way. For me as the quarterback, protect the ball and get it done. That was the mindset."

What can you say about WR Skyy Mooore and his 66-yard punt return-the 49ers' longest since 2010?

"He's the man. His kick return against the Cardinals (98-yard opening kickoff) and today to be able to have that punt return like that, create some momentum, allow us to score pretty quick. He's the man."

How important is that complimentary football?

"It's huge. Special teams, I think they have been the heart of our team with getting us great field position, allowing us to score quick and getting stops. Obviously, when another team messes up and our guys are running down there and capitalizing by getting the ball back for us. Our special teams have been amazing. It's a three-way area of winning: offense, defense, and special teams. If you overlook special teams, it can hurt you, but we are on top of it and our guys have been balling in that area. So, a huge shoutout to our special teams."

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San Francisco 49ers TE George Kittle
Cleveland Browns vs. San Francisco 49ers
Week 13
11-30-25

Walk us through that catch you made at the end of the first half:

"It's called Spartan. It's basically a box-fade, wide and go. Guy was playing outside leverage which is usually not a good thing, but he kind of just opened the gate. (QB) Brock (Purdy) threw that into some hard wind, and I was just really happy he gave me the opp on it. If there was no wind, I think that was a really easy touchdown. It's fun to just work on those plays. To get that and then have a doink kick go in, it's huge for the momentum. How about (K) Matt (Gay), just stepped up and made every kick that we needed him to since (K) Eddy (Pineiro) has been out. Huge fan of him.."

It has been said that Brock has been practicing the "Dougie" all week, and Kyle (Shanahan) said he promised you guys that he would do it, but you looked shocked by the touchdown celebration...
He just was really good at it, and I was surprised. A white guy has a little motion."

George, how comfortable are you at 9-4 going into this bye week? How well-positioned do you feel this team is to go into the bye, then go into the stretch and make a run?

"I think, looking from the outside in, if people had said you would be 9-4 going into the bye, and you're not going to have (LB) Fred Warner and (DE) Nick Bosa and Kittle is going to miss the first five weeks, and (QB) Brock (Purdy) is going to miss six or seven games, I think a lot of people would have laughed at everybody. Kudos to our coaching staff, Coach Shanahan, (John) Lynch for bringing in the right guys to fill in those spots. Developing players, taking advantage of those situations. How about (DE) Clelin Farrel, just coming back. It's fantastic. We're set up really well. These bye weeks get tricky, because I think guys have been looking forward to it, so I think Kyle's message tomorrow is 'get away and do whatever you have to do, but remember when we come back, we have four incredibly difficult games that are hopefully going to set us up to do something fun."

Even with the three-game winning streak, how much is everyone looking forward to the bye?

"I think everyone is looking forward to it. When you have a Week 14 bye, and keep in mind it's like Week 11 or 12, and you're sitting around like 'we have three more games...', you don't want to look ahead, but we think 'we can do it.' We can lock in for three games, then everyone is going to get that time off. I think it will be great for everybody. When you're at this part of the season, if you're 100% healthy, then you're probably not playing the game right. You're not playing with enough effort, you're not playing with enough grit. I think everybody will take a little bit of time, rest up, work out a little bit and just be ready to roll and hit the ground running."

With all the injuries, was there ever any doubt you'd be at this point? Or did you always, for a lack of a better term, keep the faith in the locker room?

"I don't think there was ever any doubt, I would just say that when (QB) Mac Jones came in and just started slicing and dicing, I think that just gave everybody a lot of confidence. Then, (RB) Christian (McCaffrey) is having the year he's having - 800, leading the NFL in targets, catches, all of the above, and rushing, he's a monster. Our O-Line has stayed relatively healthy the entire time. If (C) Jake (Brendel) was down for a game and a half, (C Matt) Hennessy came in and played at a high level for us. I think guys are just stepping up. When you lose your people, like the guys you pay as franchise players, and guys step up and they can still play at a high level, it just gives the whole team confidence. We've had a bunch of rookies step too. I just cannot get over (DL) Alfred Collins, I just think he's such a good player and you see his effort out there. If you guys watch the all-22, I just think he's making so many plays, so much effort and so much hustle. I'm just so proud of him."

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**San Francisco 49ers DE Clelin Farrell
Cleveland Browns vs. San Francisco 49ers
Week 13
11-30-25**

How have you been able to come in and fit so well into this defense?

"For me, it's not taking anything for granted. When I came back this team was right in the thick of it. At the end of the day, the biggest reason why I came back here was to win. I'm just thankful for my teammates, coaches, everybody in the building just helping me get prepared and be ready for the moment. It was good."

It seemed like in the first half there'd be a lot of pass rush if you could stop the run. How did you guys turn that around in the second half?

"Talented young quarterback, but fresh. Maybe the playbook wasn't going to be as big. It was a cold environment, a lot of wind. We knew they were going to come out and try to run the ball with a good back. 10 [Quinshon Judkins] is a good back. Once we got that under control we were able to get some pressure on that offense."

After being a healthy scratch a couple weeks ago, do you feel any vindication?

"I wouldn't say vindication. I'm not owed anything from this team. My first two games, I was just trying to get back into the swing of things, and go out there and help the team. I'm just ready for the opportunity whenever, and just trying to be prepared."

Myles Garrett gets a lot of attention because he leads the league in sacks. You got two sacks and he got one today. Does it fire you up at all knowing there is a guy on the other side of the field?

"I learned that you can pull motivation from anything. I think the biggest motivator for us and every other team is that we got something we're trying to get to at the end of the year. We hear the noise, obviously the offense had a great task with Myles, but as a D-line we're just focused on taking that next step in the right direction."

What has ultimately changed from when you got here until now as you're playing cleaner, less mistakes?

"From my perspective, being new, this team didn't listen to any of the noise. I think the biggest word is belief, regardless of who's in there. This team has shown that we have a lot of good players that can really really play, regardless of who is in there, that have the confidence and the coaches giving us that belief. That regardless of who's out there, we have a chance to win games."

You bounced around a little bit last year, it's like "oh this guy is maybe at the end" but you have four sacks in four games. Your career high is four and a half sacks in a season. Are you peaking?

"We shall see. I think I'm just trying to stick to my process. At the end of the day if you're focused on results you'll always let yourself down. I'm just focused on the process, and the process really panned out today. I'm gonna try and get two more next week. I'll look up at the end of the year and I'll have a better response on peaking."

Kris Kocurek had a few words with you in the locker room, what did he have to say with you?

"Belief. Players here, we all came in here and do different things. Regardless of winning, Kris just tells us believe. And that's all a player needs to go out there and have the confidence to really cut him loose. For someone like myself, definitely being in a new group, he just really reemphasized, you got this. Let's take this game over, let's really have our own impact on the game."

You haven't been around all season, but can you sense from the guys who have been around how much they're looking forward to a bye, that has seemed like it's taken forever?

"It most definitely has. I've never been a part of a bye this late in the season. These guys really emptied the tank this week. That was one of the first things I realized. The routine, the way guys are in early. With a bye week coming up, and regardless of what people say about the Browns, you can kinda get a little bit lax but, guys really emptied the tank this week with preparation. It's just not taking it for granted."

Around the trade deadline, there was a lot of talk about this team adding a pass rusher, especially when you lose Nick Bosa early in the season. You and Keion [White] came in here with expectations for impact. Was today proof of concept, when he gets a sack and you get two?

'I don't think one game is proof of a concept, I just think today proved that everybody that's on that D line, regardless of whether you've new or been here, is committed to wins, and doing whatever that takes. Whether that's getting sacks, or stopping the run, or fighting all day and maybe getting a sack and maybe not, just trying to make a play at the end. Like Alfred Collins back against the (Los Angeles) Rams. It's just that commitment to winning. Regardless of wherever you're playing at, if you're winning, your play just looks ten times better. I think that mindset leads this team to all the other stuff."

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**San Francisco 49ers RB Christian McCaffrey
Cleveland Browns vs. San Francisco 49ers
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How does it feel finally going to the bye?

"It feels great, I mean anytime you get a win going into a bye it's a big deal. You know, you get some time to freshen up, get some rest, and come back ready for a stretch."

How long has it felt to get to this bye?

"Yeah, I can't believe it's here. It's nice to get some rest."

How well do you think you guys are positioned here? You are 9-4 going into the bye and have a chance to kind of recharge before the final stretch?

"Yeah, I think, for us it's just about one day at a time, right now. Just rest up and recover, and when we come back we take it just one game at a time like we have but I love our character, I love our urgency, and I like where we are at."

When Fred Warner went down and Tarron Jackson went down. Was there any doubt in the locker room or did you guys keep the faith, knowing you could get to this point?

"Yeah, I mean you always have faith. Any time you step on a football field you have a chance to win. Our guys don't blind, we don't worry about outside distractions. We just focus on what we can control and just maintain that competitive stamina through each game and the whole year."

Did you know much about Sky Moore before you got here and the lift he's given you guys with some big plays?

"Yeah, I obviously knew who he was, but man this entire year any time he gets the ball I just love the way he hits it. You know, he's built for this team. He plays with zero hesitation and it's good to see him break for some of these long ones because for the whole first half of the year we were like, 'He's hitting it the right way.' Every time the ball is in his hands he's playing with no hesitation, he's fast, and he's physical, and he runs really hard. We knew it was just a matter of time before some of these big ones were gonna start to hit, and he's been doing a hell of a job putting us in a great position."

What can you say about the offensive lines play today against Myles Garrett in that one?

"They did a heck of a job. That was a trenches game, and you know it wasn't pretty. I hope we get more explosive runs, that one is on me but they did a heck of a job against a really good defense. Like I said, for them to come out and for us to maintain possession on some long drives, that was big and again that was a complete football win. Like I said, those offensive linemen work so hard and continue to open up wings, it is just up to us backs to hit them."

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