



**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS VS. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2025
POSTGAME QUOTES**



49ERS HEAD COACH KYLE SHANAHAN

Opening Statement:

“Alright guys, injuries from the game: (George) Kittle had an ankle, did not return. Tatum (Bethune) zinged his ankle, he ended up coming back. Skyy Moore was evaluated for concussion and got cleared.”

Any indication on the severity?

“No, not yet. Played with it for a while and just got too stiff, so find out tomorrow.”

What were your overall impressions of a Brock Purdy coming out hot out the gate, and just kept attacking?

“Yeah, he did awesome, man. Played really well. Got on him for a couple he missed, but it was pretty close to a perfect game. So he did a hell of a job.”

What were the couple he missed?

“Whatever those incompletions were.”

Jauan Jennings has had eight touchdowns this season, what has he meant to the wide receiver room and this offense?

“Jauan (Jennings) has been huge. The way he stepped up last year when BA (Brandon Aiyuk) went down with his ACL and Jauan played as our No. 1 receiver all last year. He's had a lot of injuries this year. He's battled through them all, and he's been able to come back, and he's finishing the way that he's – to me, has always been.”

You know that you guys control your own destiny. Do you have to talk to the team about playing one game, don't peek ahead to the Bears or the Seahawks? Or are your guys such veterans that they kind of know the drill?

“I think both. I mean, last night was the first time I mentioned anything about that, just because we got in the playoffs last night. I told them all year, I don't want to talk about that. But, last night, we got in. So I was able to talk about that. When you know you're in the playoffs, then you shift your goals next, and that's trying to make the playoffs the best situation you possibly do. So love to try to play a home game at Levi's (Stadium), and we know the only way to do that was to win tonight versus the Colts. We got that done, and we got to look to do that versus Chicago.”

Can you share at all what that conversation was like with the team?

“I mean, just at the team meeting, the game ended right before we got in there, and I just told the guys how proud of them I was. I remember starting this offseason, bringing the guys over to my house, back in OTAs, and all the vets, guys that have been here three or four years. It was all guys who every time we've gone to OTAs, it's been all about trying to get to a Super Bowl, trying to win a Super Bowl. And I wanted to make sure that we didn't really talk that way this year. We need to focus on just trying to be the best team we could be, and we'll see what happens. And it's kind of been our motto all year, and I was just so proud that actually now last night, could congratulate them and actually talk about the playoffs, because they are in, and they got in there. And now it's time to position ourselves to try to do something special.”

Would you say is the biggest difference from this year's team and last year's team?

“I mean, each team is so different. Each game so different. But, I mean, we had so much turnover this year, so we do have a ton of new guys. We have a ton of guys who have been here who stepped it up. We've – I don't think we've dropped any games that we should have won. I think we've been able to stay consistent throughout the year, and I think we came in with the mindset just taking it one game at a time and trying to get better throughout the year. And I think we have. I think we did today, and it's important that we continue that.”



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What was your impression of Philip Rivers and those two-straight touchdown scoring drives to open?

"He's unbelievable. He looks like I remember, the ball always goes to the right spot. He lets it go as fast as anyone. Can understand almost every coverage you're in. He got them in at so many good plays today, and ball was coming out, and he's amazing."

How important was it to get that quick takeaway, especially with getting the ball to start the second half?

"It was huge. I mean, pretty sure it was Tig (Ji'Ayir Brown), who made the play. It was awesome. They got him on a post there right before, I think on that third-and-long. And he came back and got it right back for us and let us get a touchdown. So, thought he played unbelievable. Our special teams has been unbelievable, and to get that first turnover, I thought was kind of momentum that gave us the lead, and we were able to keep it throughout the game."

Did you consider challenging the throw to Jake Tonges in the endzone?

"I did consider it, but I was a little reluctant off the information I got earlier on one. But I was thinking about it, and I still don't know what I was going to do. I was thinking about when they were on the line. I didn't know Brock (Purdy) was going to go quick count, so I didn't get to make that decision quickly. When I saw he scored, I was glad that I didn't, but then they told me that he scored, so I'm sure Jake (Tonges) is upset with me, but it ended up alright anyways."

What was the explanation on the penalty on Deommodore Lenoir?

"I didn't see that either. They just said that the play was over and that he can't go hit the ball. I think – I mean, I didn't see it. So I know our guys always go for the ball. I was told that he threw a punch at the ball and hit the ball, but they said it was too late."

Why was it important for you to shift the focus this year away from, 'Let's get to a Super Bowl,' to 'Let's just be the best?'

"I just think when you have a veteran team who has gone through all that stuff, and I mean, since '19, when you come up short in the Super Bowl, that's all you want to do when you come back in '20, is talk about that. And things don't go well, and it makes it really tough year. But then going to the NFC Championship or the Super Bowl the next four years, or three out of the next four, I mean, that's just all you can focus on. And especially – I remember guys like (Nick) Bosa in '19 was a rookie, or Deebo (Samuel), in '19 was a rookie, and they think that's all the NFL is about, get into the playoffs and try to compete for a Super Bowl, and then the next year doesn't go right, and it kind of crushes your team a bit. And I wanted guys to just know, you can't always look at it that way. If you do, and a couple bad things happen, a couple of injuries happen, and you can get very deflated. I wanted guys to just focus on being the best they could. And when you've spent your whole time in the league with guys like Brock (Purdy) and stuff, that every year you're in there, you're going to the NFC Championship or something. And I had to kind of tell them the reality that's not always the case, and get that out of your mind. Doesn't mean you can't do it, but we need to focus on just being the best team we can be, and earning the right to talk that way. And those guys did that. They earned to get in the playoffs, and we'll see what we can do in it."

Thomas Morestead hasn't punted this month. That goes into it all going right offensively, but is there a reflection? Is Brock Purdy playing the best he's ever played? Where is he?

"I think he's playing pretty consistent is how he's played. I think Brock (Purdy) has played a pretty high level since he got in this league, and I honestly think, I think he's playing very well, but I think he's always played pretty good."

Do you sense that there was less of a deflation in the locker room, amongst the team when you did get those big injuries this year because of that changed mentality from years past?

"Maybe to a degree. You can ask them. I mean, that's – possibly. I mean, everything you talk about is Super Bowl or bust since OTAs and stuff, and then you lose someone like Fred (Warner) and (Joey)



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Bosa. So that can change that. We weren't talking about that from the beginning. We were just talking about trying to be the best we can. And that was a setback. It's hard to be the best you can when you lose some good guys like that, but guys never changed how they worked that next week. That was so cool, like, we just lost Bosa, and I thought one of our best games was next week, on a four day rest, if I remember right, versus the Rams. When we lost Fred in Tampa Bay and coming back here, and thought we had one of our best games next week versus Atlanta. So, I just have been real proud of the guys and the character we've that played with all year."

How challenging was Philip Rivers for your defense? Do you feel like it got better as the game went on?

"Yeah, I do. I thought we played a little bit more man in the second half. Any time – I don't remember what it was exactly, I think it was like a third-and-7, third-and-16, maybe a third-and-10, (Philip) Rivers, you got to slow down. He was hot, and then they made those big third downs, which you're going to get blown out if that keeps happening. And I thought the second half we tightened up, played a little bit more man, did a real good job in that, made some stops in the red zone. And they didn't run it a ton, but when they did run it, we shut it down. So I'm real proud of the guys with that."

What do you think of how Christian McCaffrey did? He's over 1000 rushing yards now and had a few big-time catches.

"I thought he had a hell of a game. I know he was battling stuff last week, and just for him to go out there and run the ball the way he did versus that run defense, I think that's one of the better run defenses we've seen on tape. And I was proud of the guy, how the guys blocked, and Christian (McCaffrey) seemed like he ran real well today."

49ERS DEFENSIVE LINEMAN ALFRED COLLINS

Your first NFL sack, take us through it.

"I blacked out, but just very happy I was able to do that for my team and first of many."

You and C.J. West both got your first NFL sack. What do you have to say about you guys?

"It's a testament to our hard work. Our team, teammates, d-line pushing us. Our coaches, everybody pushing us to be better."

A little bit tougher start, Philip Rivers having a good first couple drives. What did you guys do to adjust?

"We just stuck to the plan. We fixed what we needed to fix and continued to play."

What was Robert Saleh like during the first couple drives? It was a little challenging out there and then you guys turned it around.

"Like I said, he just told us what we need to get better at, what we need to do better. Do our part in the back end. We did so and we picked it up."

Did this feel like your most complete performance as a team this year?

"Yeah, we played together. Offense did good things, special teams did good things, defensive did good things. We still got a lot of work to do, but it was a great game all together."

49ERS RUNNING BACK CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY

How fun is it to be part of an offense that hasn't punted in two games?

"Really fun, man. It's a testament to everybody showing up, doing their job, playing complete football. Starting with the o-line and Brock (Purdy), just being great on third down and opening up good lanes."



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What was working so well for the run game tonight against a defense that has been pretty good against the run?

“Those guys up front did a hell of a job all day. The coaches did a great job scheming it up and they blocked their asses off all day. And so, it made our job easy.”

You accomplished a couple of historic things today of going over 1,800 scrimmage yards for the fifth time in your career and tying Marshall Faulk for the most receiving touchdowns all-time by a running back. Are you at a point right now where you can reflect on that and appreciate those accomplishments?

“Yeah, I mean that stuff’s awesome, man. You don’t play the game for that stuff, you play the game because you love football and you love playing with your teammates and going out there and competing. But anytime you hear stuff like that, it is cool. I don’t take it for granted and to be mentioned with guys like that’s a huge honor for me.”

Did this feel like the most complete team effort for you guys this season?

“I don’t know, I’d have to go back and look. I know that when we can not punt and continue to move the ball and finish with touchdowns instead of field goals, I think it’s a big deal. And just again, I give all the credit to those guys up front, Brock (Purdy) doing his job and receivers getting open. I think that’s really – when that’s rolling and Brock’s doing his thing and the o-line is doing what they’re doing, it’s a fun offense to be a part of because we have the staff that can scheme things up.”

49ERS QUARTERBACK BROCK PURDY

How fun was it to throw five touchdown passes and go toe-to-toe with Philip Rivers?

“That was cool. To be out here playing against Philip Rivers and the Colts, they’re a great team, but it’s more than anything, just taking it one drive at a time. And as an offense, just having the standard and trying to play with that standard with the guys that we have out there, man. So, to go out and execute like we did, and to keep doing that – just really proud of those guys man. Just everybody, and our team. Defense getting stops in clutch moments and the turnover at the end of the game to seal it with Dee Winters. Just feels good to play together as a team and win on the road. Tough environment – *Monday Night Football*, Philip Rivers. They’ve got some momentum over there and stuff. So, huge win for us.”

Kyle Shanahan said that he talked to you guys last night about officially making the playoffs. What was that conversation like? Did you talk about the remaining schedule and the path that you guys could have?

“Yeah, he spoke to the team and just basically told us obviously, ‘Congrats on making it to the playoffs.’ It’s not something you can just overlook. It’s pretty cool to do that. So, felt good about that. But obviously, the challenge is just winning one game at a time and try to be the best that we can going into the playoffs. And obviously we know what’s at stake with the first seed and all that, but we can’t get our minds wrapped around just that. We have to go handle business and play a really good team in Chicago next week coming to our place. So, we have to be locked in. We have to watch this film. We have to get better. But it was cool to hearing coach sort of congratulate us. But also, there’s a lot of work to be done.”

Kyle Shanahan said that going back to OTAs, it was less about Super Bowl or bust and more about being the best team you can be. How has that kind of shaped you guys and helped you get through some of the adversity you’ve seen this season?

“Yeah, I think that was awesome that he did that. Because the last couple years the culture and the teams that we’ve had, that was a realistic goal to go attack the first seed, go make it deep into the playoffs, go make it to the Super Bowl, win it. Those were great goals and realistic. This year, I think it was just really cool for him to understand our team, where we’re at and the turnover and all that kind of thing. And being real with the older guys that have been here, and the challenge of, ‘Hey man, we’ve got to win some gritty games early in the year, middle of the season, late in the year, and see where we’re at when it’s all said and done.’ So, I think it’s just been really cool because that’s been our mindset. We just



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take it one week at a time. We haven't been getting wrapped up in the playoff picture or anything like that. And then, once we just handle business one week at a time, we're sitting in a good spot. So, it's just really good coaching on his part, and you can see his experience coaching and stuff, to be able to relay that to all the guys."

You've had some big series of games before. When you have a stretch like you're having right now, do you feel really locked in and in the zone? Is there anything different when you're producing the way you are right now?

"No man, I think it's just putting pressure on myself. Every drive before I go out there like, 'Hey man, go out there. It's one play at a time. Every play has a life of its own.' But put pressure on yourself to be detailed, do the fundamentals right. Like living in that kind of mindset rather than trying to make stuff up, or just say, 'Hey, let's get into a rhythm here.' And it's like, actually take action in that. So, that's been my mindset. And obviously, to be able to win games like we have and put a streak together, it's great ball. But we don't get wrapped up in that. We have to legit watch the film, get better, and go blue-collar win it the next week. That's our mindset."

When it comes to the mindset you talked about of it doesn't have to be the Super Bowl or bust, what was the difference for you as a player? Ever since you've been here, it's kind of been about working to go to the Super Bowl. Was it a little freeing, or was it just a different mentality?

"Honestly, it sort of hit me like dang, all I've heard since I've been here is we got to make it to the Super Bowl. And I've looked at that like, 'Let's go. We got a great team to go do it. I just got to be on top of my job and do my part and we're going to roll.' And then so just hearing Kyle (Shanahan) say that early in the offseason, for me, it was like all right, we got to find ways to win games – like I said, early in the season, middle and late. And it's not always going to be pretty. Since I've been here early in my career, we were dominating teams, and game was basically over in the fourth quarter. And so now it's like we got to find ways to win all the way through the very end, and keep stacking those wins. So, you never take a win for granted in the NFL. That's something that I've learned in the last two years. So, I don't know, I think when he told us that, I sort of started getting my mind wrapped around for the type of season that we've had."

This might be a stretch, but two years ago on Monday night against Lamar Jackson, you said you tried to do a little bit too much. Obviously, Philip Rivers isn't going to be the MVP, but there was a lot of hype around this game. Have you grown in that way, just in that part of your game, mentally?

"Yeah, I would say so. Not letting the environment or the situation of the season and the game dictate how I go out and think throughout a game. I feel like right now it's, I got to be my best one play at a time, be smart with our team and where we're at, but also like still have the chip on my shoulder to go attack. And so it's all of that. Not that Christmas game a couple years ago was like man, we're Christmas, Monday night, MVP talk. Hit a couple completions early in the game, felt good, and then after that, I'm getting complacent with going through my reads and stuff and making the right decisions. So, definitely have learned from that, but there's always still room for improvement."

Now that you've clinched a playoff spot, can you guys talk about trying to win a Super Bowl and focusing on what a special season this could be down the stretch?

"I mean yeah, I think that's obviously the reality of what could happen if we just take it one game at a time. But for us, once we get in the playoffs and everything too, that's going to be a brawl in itself. So, that's a whole other road for us, man. We've got to go put on a good showcase and win the game on Sunday against Chicago. So, I think that's where we're at right now. We've got to watch this film and get better from it. But more than anything, it's – how can we be our best going into playoffs? You want to play good football going into the tournament."

I'm sure you weren't sitting on the sideline focused on Philip Rivers, but he starts with throwing two touchdown passes to start the first two drives. Is any part of you thinking this is wild?



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“Yeah. I mean obviously, when we watched the what it takes film earlier in the week – even the game against Seattle – Philip Rivers is going through his reads, he’s moving the ball, smart with the ball. Physically obviously, you could see that he needed to get a little bit more on his throws or whatnot, in certain instances. But outside of that man, he’s playing quarterback at a high level, making decisions and stuff. So, when I saw him doing that the first couple drives, I was like, ‘That’s a Hall of Fame quarterback right there, going through his reads and making you pay.’ So for me, it was how can we go and be our best on offense every drive and go – just the beginning of the drive, to go score. That was our mindset every drive. Especially going against a guy like Philip Rivers.”