



DENVER BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES

Patrick Smyth, *Vice President of Public Relations* (patrick.smyth@broncos.nfl.net)
Erich Schubert, *Senior Manager of Media Relations* (erich.schubert@broncos.nfl.net)
Seth Medvin, *Media Relations Coordinator* (seth.medvin@broncos.nfl.net)

DENVER BRONCOS vs. ARIZONA CARDINALS

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BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK

On an injury update

“Coming out of the game, [S] Omar's [Bolden] got a foot we're checking out. [DE] Malik [Jackson] is being evaluated for a concussion and [S] David Bruton's got a hip. That's where we're at.”

On the defense's control of the game

“It might be the greatest defensive football game I've ever been a part of as a coach. On both sides of the ball, it was just tremendous. It was a battle all day. Offensively, early in the game, we had a chance to make a couple big plays we didn't make. Then it was battle from then on, but [we] found a way to be at our best at the end with a huge drive. Defensively, like I said, we were at it all day long and then make the great play there at the end. That was [S Darian] Stew[art]. Just a tremendous play between he and David [Bruton Jr.] in the back end.”

On if it seemed likely that one of the corner backs would have an interception due to the defensive pressure

“I think it was kind of that way on both sides, both offenses were struggling. They make the play defensively coming out. Defensively, we were close to making a couple big plays. We talked about turnovers turning the game--Two defensive touchdowns. You just keep battling. The good news is, as much as we were struggling offensively, nothing ever got away from us. We just needed to put a good drive together or something. It's nice to know you can win a football game like that. We physically held up and got it done.”

On if the ineffectiveness of the running game hurting the passing game

“I think that we knew it would be tough to run the ball against them, but we didn't want to give up on it. At one point in the game, we got really out of whack as far as heavy run-to-pass. We struggled to run the ball at all coming out of the locker room in the second half. We just tried to do everything we can to stick with it. Obviously, the defensive touchdown gives you a little bit more patience as a coach. No, it's just a struggle all day. Give them credit. They're a great defensive football team. They got after us. We struggled with some situations, but we just kept battling.”

On his rhythm with QB Peyton Manning

“It's got to be better than it was today. I've got to help him out better. Obviously, we've got to play better than we did offensively. Whether it's run or pass, it doesn't matter, but he kept battling and had us in the right situations there at the end of the game and made some big third downs. That's part of this league -- got to keep battling, but we've always got to get better.”

On the importance of a defense that did not fold after allowing a late first down

“Clock-wise, we were at the point, I think we had one timeout because of an injury, so we lost a timeout. We weren't going to be able to do anything as far as hanging onto some time. It was about whether or not we were going to stop them. They got four

new downs. The thing we did today, we played everybody. You go back and I think it was a key factor. One of the big third downs there at the end, I know [OLB] Von [Miller] and [OLB] Demarcus were standing by me and [Defensive Coordinator] Wade [Phillips] on the sidelines and we talked about everybody having to contribute.”

On if this game felt different as the head coach

“No, it was another battle in the NFL. It was a great football game and just, like I said, it's hard to win in this league. I know for us a team, we talk about being physical, holding up physically and winning these type of football games. You've got to be able to win all kind of ways in this league. For us to find a way to win this game the way we did today is a big step.”

On the importance of the final offensive drive

“It was huge, but I think the most important play was the first down play coming out of our end zone when [QB] Peyton [Manning] found [WR Demaryius Thomas] D.T., I think, for a first down. Or else maybe it was second and short, I can't remember, but we kept ourselves in second and short. I thought [RB] Ronnie [Hillman] came in and gave us a little juice. He made some really nice plays. We even had a chance there at the end -- we break a tackle on that third down. We've got a chance to finish the game the right way. It was hell of a drive. What was it, close to 11 minutes somebody told me? 10 minutes, 50-something seconds and 17, 18 plays. That keeps your defense off the field and you're getting something done.”

On why Manning was sacked more today than usual

“I think it's a combination of things. Obviously, we can't get him hit like that. I'm thinking of three sacks right now. One was a play-action pas and one was a max protection that we busted, I want to say two of them might have been max protection. I'm thinking of three of the sacks, I don't know if there was four or not. We're in the best possible protection we can be in and we're getting sacked. I've got to go back and look at it. We're going to have to play a lot better. We as coaches have got to figure out how we can help them play better up front because we've got to protect them.”

On if it is okay to win games this way

“You better be able to win this way in this league. It's just too tough a league. You've got to have confidence as a football team, when you get one of these games, that you will find a way to win. I don't think we ever panicked. We kept battling and did that. You're going to have to win some in this league 42 to 35, too. We know that. But today we got it done and it was a tremendous job defensively and just a gut check as a football team.”

On how to improve as a team before Kansas City

“It's a tough start for us. You play a late game on Sunday and then turn around and play Thursday on the road. There's not much time for us to get everybody fresh and get a game plan going. It's another challenge in this league. You know it is coming. You've got to be able to handle it. We've got to get our guys fresh and ready to go. We're probably playing in as a tough a place as you can play in this league. We understand that.”

On if he is surprised Manning has not scored a touchdown this season or preseason

“Obviously, we've got to get that done, but I sure am excited about the fact that we won today. That's what matters -- finding a way to win. We played a great football team today. They played a great game just as well as we did, but we found a way to win. That's the most important thing.”

On what it means to be given the game ball from Executive V.P. of Football Operations/GM John Elway

“I'm excited, obviously. It means a lot to me, but I'm just more excited for the football team. To me, we have been working toward a mindset that we can win games this way -- physically, as a football team. To walk out of here today and get it done the way we got it done, that's why I'm so proud of these guys. It took everybody we had.”

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK PEYTON MANNING

On if a defensive win is still a good win to him

“Yeah, it's a team win is what I think. Our defense played outstanding. [CB Aqib] Talib made a good play, obviously, to kind of negate the turnover that our offense had, so that was huge. Of course, a great stop at the end. You're getting down there,

Baltimore had some momentum and just refused to break. To get the turnover there on that third down, keeping them from getting one more shot at it was really fun to watch. Everybody did their part. Just a great defensive performance. Offensively, certainly did some good things to start the game. We had a 16-play drive to start the game and then an 18-play drive at the end of the game. Of course, settled for field goals, which wasn't enough to win, but certainly like to finish those with touchdowns. We've just got to find a way to punch it in the end zone."

On why the offense relied more on the pass than the run

"I'm not really the spokesperson for that. I'll just tell you that Baltimore's got a really good defense. They were pretty stout all day against the run like they have been against a lot of teams. In the end, I thought our line hung in there. On that last drive, we created some holes. They sort of got more comfortable there on that last drive and created some nice holes. [RB] Ronnie [Hillman] and [RB] C.J. [Anderson] made some nice runs. That's kind of what you've got to do verses these guys. It's not going to be these gaping holes throughout the entire game. I think we've got to build off that last drive. That'd be pretty impressive."

On the chemistry he has with the wide receivers

"Everybody is looking for these summaries of our offense and our team after Week 1 and I just don't think we're going to be able to do that. It's Week 1. We're a work in progress. If you need a catchy headline for your little article or whatever it is you might be doing, we're trying to get better every single week. What's another cliché I can think of? We're chipping away. Something along those lines."

On why he played in the shotgun to start the game

"Like I said, these are pretty specific offensive scheme questions. I don't think I'm the right guy to have to answer those type of questions. Every game plan's going to be different. However, our coaches think we need to attack a certain defense based on what they're doing. I think you'll see a mix of that probably throughout the entire season, but every game's going to have kind of a different game plan, different type of identity."

On throwing short passes and less deep passes

"Once again, every play may have a deep threat on that play with a short throw, as well. [I] had a couple of chances to [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders]. [I] just missed him by a little bit. It's not a team that you want to sit back there and test how long you can hold the ball against. I think the smart way to play against those guys is to try to get the ball out of your hands quickly and take some shots. We had some chances for some other shots down the field but weren't able to quite get everything taken care and couldn't really get the throw. That just happens in Week One. We're going to keep grinding and try to play better, certainly against Kansas City. That would certainly be our objective."

On the encouragement of having a good defense

"Sure, we're excited about the win. Great win. Beat Baltimore at home in Week 1 against a team that we just know is going to be in the postseason. They always are. They're always a Super Bowl contender. It's a tough team. You beat them at home. Like I said, the one thing that no matter how many times you ask it, this is not three different teams we have here. We don't have a Broncos offensive team, a Broncos defensive team and a Broncos special teams. That's how you have to ask the question, right? But the Broncos beat the Ravens today. There's your summary right there."

On his analysis of his performance

"Just fair, I guess. We were kicked off to a good start. I thought we were going to have some pretty good things and felt in a pretty good rhythm early. I thought we were pretty good on third down on day. Usually [we were] pretty good on third down. It just seemed like we had to overcome too many each drive. We had to overcome some third-and-longs and had to do another one three plays later, which was tough. We had some self-inflicted wounds with some pre-snap procedure penalties. I had a delay, [which] actually, we overcame. We had some pre-snap penalties which set us back and it just hurt us being able to finish those drives. I'm pretty tough on myself most weeks so you'd be hard pressed for me to tell you that I played great, even if I did. I'm going with fair."

On why he incurred a delay of game penalty

"Earned the delay? Just trying to get a protection square. Trying to get their guys accounted for. Just couldn't get the snap off in time."

On not looking as comfortable in this offense

"I'd expect that to be the case. It's kind of a new."

On having days off in training camp

"That's really I think irrelevant. When you make some changes, everybody's kind of feeling their way out. It's just going to be a work in progress and we're going to try and improve throughout the season."

On if he wanted to call an audible in the game but didn't feel comfortable

"No."

On why the offensive line performed better on the last drive

"I just think we probably got into a rhythm. Maybe the offensive line -- we were going against a really good front -- they probably got a little beat on some of the things they were doing in their front. Everybody just executed and did their job. Of course, it couldn't have happened at a more critical time. That's what we can, I think, build off of as an offense of what we did when we had to have it -- backed up on our own four, just trying to change field position and keep from punting. We'd been having some three-and-outs and been punting a little bit. That's not what you want to do. Baltimore's got the wind with them. We're down three. To flip field position was critical, but to convert those third downs and go down there and get a field goal was critical. It made a huge impact on the game. Now our defense has to give up a touchdown, as opposed to a field goal, and you're looking at over time. That was something we can build on and I believe that we will. Like I said, it came at a really critical time."

BRONCOS S DARIAN STEWART**On his interception to end the game**

"I just saw the ball. It allowed me to have vision and I was able to make the play."

On Head Coach Gary Kubiak's emotions after the game

"I think any time you win in this league, you have to take it. He's happy. As a defense, we played a good game and we made something happen out there when we needed to. "

On getting help from S David Bruton Jr. in coverage on the final play

"I think I could've got there, but he was in perfect position to at least tip the ball up a little more for me. I appreciate that from him, definitely."

On if Ravens TE Crockett Gillmore got a hand on the ball on the final play

"I just saw the ball. I don't know if his hands were on it or not. I just tried to grab the ball and made the play."

On playing his former team

"Yeah, I made a play. That was big. I think as a defense, overall, I think we've done some good things after today."

On if his interception was the play of his career

"It's up there. Yes, definitely."

On how it felt to make the interception against his former team

"It felt great. That's my old team and it was just good to go out there and finally get to hit them. I wasn't ever able to touch them last year, so I was active today. It was good."

On the irony that former Broncos S Rahim Moore wore No. 26

"I'm aware of it, but that's one guy. I'm not one to make anything out of it. It's a new guy, so I'm able to make that play."

On how gratifying it was to cap off a good defensive performance

"We knew that someone had to make a big play. They were able to get the ball all the way down to the 10. [Ravens QB] Joe [Flacco] came to me, so it was good."

On how good the defense can be

"I think that we can be No. 1 absolutely, without a doubt. From the rush to the secondary and linebackers, I think that we have what it takes. It's just staying consistent and just playing ball. I was thinking the other day, the potential that we have in that room is big. Every week there's someone that's going to have to see us."

BRONCOS CB AQIB TALIB

On his pick six

"It was a premium look for us. We were going to get the play all day. I checked the situation. I saw the look. He threw it right to me."

On getting pressure on the quarterback early and often

"It's a dream come true. It's a DB's dream to have that kind of pressure up front. You put that kind of pressure on a quarterback, he's throwing off his heels a lot. Receivers have to get in their route; not a lot of dancing at the line. It's a DB's dream to have pressure like that."

On the defense stepping up

"We try to make it happen all day. We don't really pay attention to how the game is going. Every time we go out, we try to make a play trying to score touchdowns. I'm sure our offense is trying to do the same thing, special teams trying to do the same thing. That's just how we are as Broncos."

On being OK with the philosophy of winning games defensively

"If the defense wins it, makes a big play at the end to win it, that's great. But at the same time, after the touchdown, we were up three. Peyton put together a 10-minute drive to put us up six and make them need a touchdown, so that was huge for us by the offense."

On the dropped pass by Steve Smith Sr.

"I think when you really look at it, [Bradley Roby] got a hand on that ball and kind of misdirected it, you know, changed the course of the ball and made Steve drop it. It was a huge play by Roby."

On playing a short week

"We're professionals. We've all played on Thursday nights before. We've all done it before. [Coach Gary Kubiak] has a great gameplan for us as far as how we're going to practice this week. If we come out pretty healthy, we'll be all right."

On S Darian Stewart becoming rising star in secondary

"Huge play. That was another pretty good look for us. We had a good idea of what was coming. [David Bruton] got a hand on the ball. Bruton played real good defense on the seam route, tipped it up and [Darian Stewart] ended the game for us. It was a great play."

On playing under Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips

"There's not a lot of talking on Wade's D. He calls a play, we line up and just go. There's not a lot of checks. There's not a lot of communication at all. His defense allows you to play so fast. I think it's paying off for us."

On the possibility of a Peyton Manning team having a defensive identity

"I think John Elway had like 115 yards and won the Super Bowl one time, so it's definitely possible."

On Ravens OLB Terrell Suggs' season-ending injury

"He's one of the greatest edge centers, pass rushers, edge players. Period. With him down, that's a huge loss for them. I'm just now hearing that. That's sorry to hear."

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BRONCOS S DAVID BRUTON JR.

On the defense being aggressive

"No doubt. Our main responsibility on defense is to get to the ball. So if we have multiple guys around the football, good stuff is going to happen -- like the last play, me pulling it out and Stew [S Darian Stewart] with the pick. It's great stuff. It's just how we've been taught since April, since we came back for OTAs, and that's what we want to do."

On what he saw on the interception

"Oh, three-by-one, I knew they were going to go to their tight end. He [Ravens TE Crockett Gilmore] is a big target; he's made plays throughout the preseason. They went to him on the fourth down [earlier on the drive], so I felt like they probably had something. So I was just playing for that, and if he ran it out, he ran it out. I was going to take care of that middle read."

On whether he proved that he should play extensively

"Yeah, I definitely think so. They said they had confidence in me and I think I've shown that they can continue having confidence in me with live bullets. I'm very ecstatic that the coaches have confidence in me to play every down."

On the defense making the difference-making plays

"It's great. We know that we can go out there and win the game. Sometimes it's going to fall on the offense; sometimes it's going to fall on the defense. Sometimes special teams has got to make its mark. I feel like we definitely, as a defense as a whole, we made plays, whether it's getting to the quarterback, getting to the ball, no matter what it was, we made the plays that we needed to make."

BRONCOS TIGHT END OWEN DANIELS

On the offense looking like 'Peyton's offense' vs 'Kubiak's offense'

"I think the tempo was more Peyton's tempo. We were running our plays for the most part, what we've done previously in Kubiak's offense. The tempo, which we want to do here, we want to keep it up tempo and wear those guys out. I think we definitely were when it came to the fourth quarter and that big drive we could tell how tired they were getting. We have to play better though that's the bottom line."

On the defense and how much they helped the offense

"You can say that a bunch more times. They've been playing super well all of the preseason and to see them step up today, obviously, a huge defensive battle. We have to be better on offense. But the plays the defensive guys made, scoring a touchdown. Big stops there on defense, especially there at the end by [S] Darian [Stewart]. It's hard to pass rush over and over again, but those guys were and you can't say enough about them."

BRONCOS CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.

On S Darian Stewart's interception

"That was a great play by Darian to just come up big. He [Ravens QB Joe Flacco] was really watching me and Robe [CB Bradley Roby], then he [Stewart] came out of nowhere on the tight end. That's great awareness. That's something that we've missed in the past and to be able to have that in the middle, that's huge."

On CB Aqib Talib's interception and return

"Some games, [QB] Peyton [Manning] needs a boost, so that's what we had to do. We had to give him that little boost and then usually everything turns around. That was a great play by Talib and was really a game-changing play."

On the defense's ability to stop the run

“That's what we were going to do. We were going to load the box and you can throw the ball on Talib and me. That's what it's going to be all year. We expected a challenge, and we're glad to have that challenge. [Defensive Coordinator] Coach Wade [Phillips] has a lot of confidence in us and that's how it's going to be all year.”

On Talib gambling on his interception

“That was film study. We had a great film study and he was able to know the route concept. With that pressure, Flacco, he had to get rid of it and Talib made a great play.”

BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER BRANDON MARSHALL

On the game

“In the end we came out with the ‘W’. To me, that’s all that matters.”

On the defense making it look easy against a great QB like Ravens QB Joe Flacco

“It’s never easy. I just think we played our techniques. We ran to the ball, we out-physicaled them I think and that’s why we stopped them.”

On how good he feels for S Darian Stewart (former Raven, current Bronco)

“I feel great for him. The team didn’t sign him back or whatever the case may be and he came here and got the game-sealing interception against his old team; I bet those guys are regretting letting him go right now.”

On the challenge of dealing with a short week before Thursday night game at Kansas City

“It’s tough. Everybody’s body is a little beat up after the first game so everybody is a little tired. But, everybody has to go through it. We just have to push through the circumstances and we can’t control that.”

On what it was like to have the game come down to the defense needing to make a stop

“It was awesome. It was one of the first games that we won like this, since I’ve been here at least. It felt great to be able to say that the defense won the game for us. We put our offense in great positions and we put ourselves in great positions. I just think it was a great day and we won the game. It was a tough win and now we’re going to Kansas City.”

On this defense being aggressive and designed to win football games

“This defense is great. [Defensive Coordinator] Wade [Phillips] and those coaches do a great job with the scheme. Historically, it’s a great defense and we have the players to play in it and to dominate. When you bring that defense here, with all of our talent, the sky is the limit. That’s the style of defense we play. Everyone is a one-to-one battle, I had the running back on that play and I beat him on the one-to-one and I got the sack. It’s great to have that happen in my first game back. I’m just elated right now.”

On Ravens QB Joe Flacco getting rid of the ball quickly to avoid sacks

“He did. He knew we had pressure (coming). But when he got rid of the ball, most of the time it was incomplete so that’s great. Kudos to the secondary, kudos to the rushers and everybody got to the quarterback and we covered well all day.”

On blitzing in a close-and-late situation like that:

"It feels good. I think whatever [Defensive Coordinator] Wade [Phillips] decides to call is a great defense. He's a seasoned, very seasoned vet as far as play calling, being a defensive coordinator, and we have the players to play the defense regardless. He might feel like we have such good rushers, we might not have to blitz, but then he might say, 'OK, let's dial it up, and have everybody have one-on-one [coverage], or somebody's going to be free,' whatever the case may be, and that's why we did great today."

BRONCOS KICKER BRANDON MCMANUS

On whether being in a low-scoring game adds more pressure for him

"I don't think you can look at it that way. Obviously, you don't want to put any added pressure on yourself. Trust me, each kick is hard enough alone, so you don't want to add any pressure to yourself. I was just obviously excited that we got this win and had a great game."

On the Broncos going with him as the kicker

"Yeah, obviously it definitely helps to have a big leg, but I know I had to work on some accuracy in the offseason. I did that and I was happy to earn this job and show to this team that I can do this job well. It's great to have a great game and have a team win today."

On whether he feels more confident when he lines up to take a kick this season

"I wouldn't say I ever felt unconfident. I just knew that no matter what I would be in the same spot on every single kick. I knew that I would have the same rhythm compared to in the past I might have been a little off and it might have resulted in a missed kick. I know that I'm in my right groove out there now and I don't think I have any more confidence or any less."

On being only the second player in NFL history to have two kicks over 56 yards in the same game

"Obviously I don't know those types of stats, but that's definitely exciting. It was a great win to start the season I would say."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER JORDAN NORWOOD**On the final defensive play and his emotions from the sidelines**

"That's exciting. I think my heart was racing as much as everybody else's and they held them off for the win."

On whether he felt he was going to be so involved in Week 1

"I don't know; that was up to the coaches. I was ready to play and we'll go back and look at the film to be able to tell you how I did. I think I did alright."

On having to play Kansas City in such a quick turnaround

"I'm excited about it. I'm excited to get back out there and have a chance to get to 2-0 before anybody else."

On his anticipation leading up to this game

"Yeah, it's exciting. For me, it's been a year or two since I've been out there, so I was excited about it. Just really excited to get this win, honestly."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER EMMANUEL SANDERS**On his performance despite not playing in the preseason**

"Yeah it felt good to be back out there; the first drive I got an opportunity to catch three first downs so I was excited about that. You know, this game is about being able to get in a rhythm and I was able to get in a rhythm early."

On the offense not appearing to be in a rhythm throughout the game

"Yeah, you know it happens. But the good thing is we still won the game. We have an opportunity to go in the lab and just keep getting better. We have guys like myself that haven't played in a preseason game and we're just trying to find our way. The good thing is, as long as we win our games there won't be any complaining from me."

On the inefficiencies on offense being a result of timing or just bringing in a new offense

"I think it is a little bit of both. I think it is just an adjustment that we have to make, but at the same time when we took our shots we weren't able to connect on those. I should have run faster on some of those deep balls and we wouldn't even be having this conversation. So, that's two touchdowns right there. We just have to continuously get better. I think we have the guys in this locker room that are willing to do that."

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On the fans booing the offense at one point

“Ah, I don’t know. It is what it is. You know how it is, one day you’re getting booed, the next day you’re getting cheered. That’s the process of the NFL. We all understand that. So, we just have to get back in the lab and create some touchdowns. The good thing is we have an opportunity Thursday night against Kansas City.”

On how vital it was to get a win leading up to the Kansas City game

“Any time you win, no matter what team is four days away or one day away, any time you get a win in the National Football League you have to celebrate that and I’m extremely happy.”

On his thoughts on the defense and their performance

“The defense always plays spectacular. [Defensive Coordinator] Wade [Phillips] has said several times that this may be one of the best defenses he’s ever coached. They showed up today and thank God. They made a big play at the end of the game, but we expected that out of them. [CB Aqib] Talib’s touchdown definitely sparked a lot of energy in the stadium and throughout the team. It was good to see those guys score on defense.”

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER DEMARCUS WARE

On the play of the defense

“It’s just another day. We always talk about, from a defensive standpoint, of just being consistent. It sort of rolled over from the preseason to the season and that’s what it’s about. As a defense, being able to close the game out shows that we really matured from last year. We have to keep it up each game.”

On the magnitude of the win

“It’s a big win for us and the thing is that we have a short week. We can get to 2-0 fast or we can go downhill. We’re going to take it one step at a time, get ready to practice tomorrow and get ready for Kansas City.”

On tying former New Orleans and San Francisco LB Rickey Jackson on the all-time sacks list

“I didn’t even know that, but that’s a big deal when you talk about being consistent throughout your career. There is a lot more ball to be played. I’m just going to get out there and do what I need to do.”

On missing a few plays

“[OLB] Von [Miller] and I hit each other. He just kneed me in my thigh. We were trying to get to the quarterback at the same time. After that you know how it is, your muscle sort of cramps up a little bit once you get that impact, then it loosened up and I was able to go back out.”

On the playmakers in the secondary

“That’s what has really been helping out the pass rush. Guys, especially in [Defensive Coordinator] Wade’s [Phillips] defense, being able to rush the passer up front is first and foremost. In the back end, they’re able to make the quarterback hold the ball for us to get pressure and then making the plays that they need to make.”

On if there is room to grow as a defense

“There’s always room to grow. You just have to be your worst critic, forget about this game and get ready for Kansas City because it’s a short week.”

RAVENS HEAD COACH JOHN HARBAUGH

On OLB Terrell Suggs’ injury

“Suggs tore his Achilles [tendon]. He’s going to be out for the year. I’ll say this about Terrell Suggs: you try to define why things happen. Here’s a tough, tough break for a guy who’s done nothing but work above and beyond to a degree—at least as hard as he’s worked his whole career, but I’d say more—and prepare himself and be the kind of leader that you just admire so much.

This guy has been such a leader for us. Why does that happen to a guy on a play like that? I don't even know what happened out there; all of a sudden I look back and he was on the ground. But these are the things in life that happen. Adversity is how you respond to it. It's about how you react to it. It's about how you come back and play the next game, how our young guys step up and how our older guys wrap their wings around those young guys and they play the way they need to play. That's what a team is all about."

Opening Statement

"Obviously a very good football game against a good team, great stadium. They got it done at the end. Congratulations to [Broncos FS] Darian Stewart, a great player and guy we know well and have a lot of respect for. He made the play that made the difference in the game."

On mistakes that decided the game

"Every game is like that in the National Football League. You're going to play all these plays, and it's going to come down to seven, eight, nine plays that are going to be the deciding plays of the game. That's just the way it works. That's what makes the league so great."

On what he learned about his team in the opener

"I think we'll figure a lot of that out when we watch the tape. I didn't learn anything new in terms of our heart, effort, competitiveness and will to fight and win football games; that's the thing we'll carry forward with us. We need to continue to keep getting better. We'll look at the tape and figure out where the specifics of that are."

On how the return of healthy players has improved defensive secondary

"I probably already knew that; it wasn't a surprise. I felt like we all knew they were all going to play really well back there and they did. Defense played really well, and the offense at the end had the drive and almost found a way to win it. Within all that, both sides of the ball—you win as a team, you lose as a team. We all know we can play better to whatever degree it takes to win a football game. That's what you strive to do, and that's what we'll keep fighting to do."

On why the offense struggled

"It's not rocket science. We weren't able to run the ball with consistency, get out of third-and-longs, and then (Denver's) pass rush cranks up a little bit. I thought they covered very well. They got into man coverage and covered well for most of the day. They played really well. At the end, we were able to get the thing moving a little bit. We've got to do better in all phases: offense, defense, special teams. We all have to do better. That's what you do. You take it from where you're at and you find a way to improve."

RAVENS QUARTERBACK JOE FLACCO

On the final play of the game

"I had plenty of air on it. It was just one of those plays where you know you got caught down the middle and it's going to be some kind of contested catch. I'll rerun it with him. I maybe could have put back on the edge of him, but kind of just wanted to give him a chance to go up and get it with his size. Didn't think it would get picked off like that, so that was a pretty good play. That is all that we can ask for in that situation, to play as bad as we really did on offense and then have a shot like that at the end."

On what the offense did wrong

"I'm not going to get into them now, but we just – we really didn't do anything the whole game. We have to go back and look and see kind of what it was."

On Broncos CB Aqib Talib's pick-six

"They were man-to-man and looking inside. They might have went one-on-one outside of [WR] Steve [Smith Sr.], he was just running a little out of route. So just taking a leap of faith there and really [LCB] Aqib [Talib] did a just – he did a good job of cutting off the inside. I didn't have anything under the route, so I wasn't too worried about throwing that ball. I liked Steve's one-on-one match-up, just one of those ones that didn't work out."

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On the play by the quarterbacks

"Well, we did have two touchdown passes to the other team, but other than that yeah, it was an ugly one, and it wasn't too fun to be a part of."

On what the team said at halftime

"I don't think we had much in the second half either. Listen, the biggest thing was maybe get a little more tempo going, try to wear them out a little bit with that. We weren't really keeping with the field so long, so trying to find a way to do some of that. It worked a little bit, but at the end of the day not too much."

On improving for the next game

"We've got a lot to work on obviously. We're a lot better than that. A pretty poor showing, but you got to keep your head up and you got to move on quick because in this league the next one comes up on top of you like that, so we've just got to make sure we stay confident and bounce back as soon as possible."

On the Broncos' pass rush

"It was just on the edges. I had, even late down the stretch there, I probably had another shot at Steve if I don't get batted or hit my shoulder or something happens like that, so I think those guys did a good job of getting around the edge. I think as the game went on we got better, but you know, they still did enough to I guess disrupt me a little bit."

On stretching the field as an offense

"What you saw was what we had, and we didn't run a ton of plays, I don't think. We didn't run the ball very well to start. We were only completing a couple of yards at a time. It's tough to say. Yeah, we're going to have to stretch the field more, but we've got to create the time and we've got to run the ball really well."

On having the right players to succeed offensively

"Yeah, of course. There were a couple of plays in the game where you can see that, but we've just got to be able to spread them out a little more and just not let them pin their ears back and come after us a little bit. I don't think we ever got those guys out of rhythm. They were able to play downhill in the run game, they were able to get after the quarterback without really any repercussions, so it just made it difficult for us."

RAVENS CORNERBACK JIMMY SMITH**On Baltimore's confidence on defense**

"I think we came into this game with a lot of confidence, but going out there and performing well against [QB] Peyton Manning keeps it there."

On his interception

"It was a simple outbreak, outbreak and route. He kind of floated it up, so I thought I could probably jump over and see if I could get it. That's kind of what I did and tipped it to myself."

On communication on defense

"Yeah, Coach has been overemphasizing communication all year long and talking to each other when we're on the field, and it worked perfectly. We could hear each other, and thank God we're away this time, but we heard everything we needed to hear, we got in the right checks every time."

On his individual performance after missing last season

"It was a long off-season for me, obviously. I'm just happy to be back. The team is happy. We're all happy, I think. As a unit, we went out and performed very well today."

On getting turnovers this season

"As long as we can see the ball, play fast, run simple coverages, I think we'll get a lot of turnovers. We create it with our front

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seven getting back to rush the pass. I don't know how many sacks we had today, but I know we had Peyton Manning backing around when he was throwing the ball."

On making it tough for Denver to reach the end zone in the third quarter

"I really didn't think too much about it, just played until the last whistle blown. So the momentum was a little bit shifting at the time, but they came back and had a drive. I don't know how many plays it was – it was long – and got three points out of it, so really got to keep working on that."

RAVENS CB KYLE ARRINGTON

On the game as a whole

"I thought we had a great game plan coming into the game; Coach Pees put us in great positions to be successful so we just tried to show them different looks the whole game and we tried to show pressure when we weren't pressuring and tried to show pressure when we actually were pressuring so we made a few plays on that; credit goes all to Jimmy he made a heck of a play and capped it off in the end zone."

On Terrell Suggs' injury

"It's huge. It's hard to replace 55, he's like the heart and soul of this defense and almost this football team. That's when guys have to step and up and we have to step up and rally around and behind them at this point."

RAVENS LINEBACKER ELVIS DUMERVIL

On his return to Denver

"It's always special to play in the NFL. I came out and the atmosphere was great. We made one play less than they made. So, give them credit. I had a great seven years in Denver. I have no problem with Denver at all. It's always a great place to play. Obviously, being in the National Football League is always special. So, I always take each game the same way."

On linebacker Terrell Suggs' ACL injury

"It's huge. You can never replace a Terrell Suggs. He's a big emotional leader for our team. It hurts everybody whenever you hear news like that. We just hope he has a speedy recovery and that he gets through it. I can't imagine how tough that is."

On whether he knew right away that Suggs had torn his ACL

"No, I didn't know. I thought he was cramping up. I didn't realize it until after the game. It's definitely tough."

On whether Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning looked any different compared to when the two were teammates in Denver

"Peyton's always been a great player. We made some plays, he made some plays. I mean, this is the National Football League and guys are going to make plays. They made one more play than we did. Give them credit, they got the win."

On going against their former offensive coordinator in Broncos head coach Gary Kubiak

"Gary Kubiak is a great coach. He knows how to call plays. We feel like we did some good things on defense as well. The game came down to the end and they made one more play than we did."

On whether the defense takes any pride in holding Peyton Manning without a touchdown pass

"We don't take moral victories. He came out and his presence alone is always important. So, give them credit. Those guys came out and got the win. We've got to move on to next week versus Oakland. We're excited for that."

RAVENS RUNNING BACK JUSTIN FORSETT

On the team's lack of success running the ball

"It's tough we've got to go back and watch tape and figure it out. We knew that defense was going to be tough. At the end of the day, they just made more plays than we did."

On what they saw from the Broncos defensively

"Like I said, we've got to go back to the tape and figure it out. They did a good job getting up field on us. Like I said, they just made more plays than we did. We just have to find out what we need to do better."

On whether the excitement that surrounded the offense following the preseason is curbed a little bit after a disappointing performance

"We've got to be professionals and just go out and play. It's going to be a long season and we've got to go out and try to win next week in Oakland. It's going to be another tough battle. They have an athletic defense. We just have to go back to the drawing board."

On whether the defense may have felt demoralized by playing so well and not getting much help from the offense

"They did a great job today. We just have to go back to the table and figure out what (the offense) needs to do to get better and help out the defense a little more."

On losing Terrell Suggs for the rest of the season

"Yeah, you lose a guy like that and it's going to take everybody to step up and fill those shoes because he was a great player for us. We've just got to work that much harder."

On whether he felt like former Ravens offensive coordinator turned Broncos head coach Gary Kubiak knew what was coming from his former team's offense beforehand

"Maybe. It's hard to tell. I think we've got to watch the tape. There were definitely things we could have done better as an offense to help the situation but, they're a good defense. We knew it was going to be tough but, we've just got to make more plays."

RAVENS TIGHT END CROCKETT GILLMORE**On the last play of the Ravens drive**

"Made a move, got past the linebacker and they made a nice play on the ball. I have to come down with that, I was given the opportunity and I just have to come up with the play."

On if it felt like he was being face-guarded or if he was being double teamed

"Not really. I have to win the one-on-one part of it and then the ball's in the air and it's got to be mine there is no other option. They made a play."

On what made it difficult for the offense to get things going

"I don't think we were clicking early. Definitely us problems, it was nothing they were doing was really affecting us, we just have to get together and clean it up and I think we started to do that toward the end of the game."

On if Peyton Manning and the Broncos' offense played the way they did if they would win the game

"That's not really a valid question, that's what happened and you can see the outcome, it's not really relevant. We have done this throughout camp, you. We've done this throughout camp, you have your days and you have your moments and we've done a great job of coming together so it's very uncharacteristic of us to not go out and play that way. We're going to go back to work tomorrow and get ready for Oakland."

RAVENS LINEBACKER C.J. MOSLEY**On the Broncos' success during their final offensive drive**

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“They ran the ball successfully. They were getting a good four or five yards a run, and when you get four or five yards a run you can control the clock. They put us in a tough position on second and third down. That’s what they did. We did our job by holding them to three points on that drive. Besides that (drive), we were stopping the run for the most part, but we’ve got to stop them the whole game.”

On if the defense wore down in the fourth quarter

“I don’t think so. They might have called the right plays and guys might have been in the right position, but at the end of the day, we’ve just got to stop the run. They got to line up on us and get positive plays on early downs. In that position, we’ve got our backs against the wall and they can do whatever they want. That’s what they did on that drive.”

On if they felt Denver was trying to run down the clock and wear them down on its final offensive drive

“We definitely saw it. As the clock started to go down, we knew we couldn’t give up a touchdown. That was the biggest thing. We did our job when we had to and we got off the field.”

On losing linebacker Terrell Suggs for the remainder of the season due to an ACL injury

“It’s a big loss but there’s another day. That’s no excuse for our defense to slump down at all. The young guys have to step up and we’ve got to get more guys to make more plays where he would have been. We wish him the best and a speedy recovery. It’s just a freak thing. Things happen and young guys have to step up.”

On how he would grade Baltimore’s pass rush

“Well, [Broncos QB Peyton] Manning, he loves to get the ball off fast and stay in the pocket. I think for the most part we did a good job of rushing him and keeping our plays disguised. He got a few plays when he did his cadence, but that’s Peyton Manning right there. He loves to draw guys offside. I think for the most part we did our job. We tried to tighten our defense and make tackles when he completed the ball.”

RAVENS WIDE RECEIVER STEVE SMITH SR.

On the last drive when they came up short

“Ultimately I just have to make that play so hats off to ‘Kubs’ he had those guys ready to play. Coach ‘Harbs’ had us ready to play but we have to execute, particularly me on that last play in the corner; I just have to make that play and that really falls on me. Number one receiver you have to make number one plays and I didn’t.”

On if it was tough sledding

“Those guys are pretty stout up front it gives their secondary a lot of opportunities to take chances, those guys know what they have, they know what they’re doing and it was a tough hard-fought game.”

RAVENS LINEBACKER COURTNEY UPSHAW

On Terrell Suggs’ injury

“With Terrell going down, me and the other outside linebackers have to step up and try to replace that.”

On if his role in the defense might change with the loss of Suggs

“[Defensive Coordinator Dean] Coach Pees and the coaching staff have been trying to look at things that will put me on the field. Now with Terrell going down, I’ve just got to step up my game all around. It’s not going to be easy to try and replace what Terrell brings to the team, but we’ve got to step up.”

On how losing Suggs might affect the defense going forward

“We really were just like, ‘Ok, this is serious.’ He’s a smart player and he can call out plays before they actually run it like he did in the preseason. You’re losing a big part of the defense.”

On if he knew immediately that Suggs had torn his Achilles

"I didn't even know that it was an Achilles. I thought it was maybe a tweaked knee or something, but towards the end of the game, I was told that he was going to be out for the season."

RAVENS CORNERBACK LARDARIUS WEBB**On Terrell Suggs' Injury**

"This is my first time hearing it. That's big. Next man has to step up. Sizzle was a very, very important piece to this team. His leadership, his character, the way he acts, in the locker room -- he's a big part of this team. To lose him first game, that's big. Like the Ravens do, we always got somebody that can come in and step up. Not saying it can be Terrell Suggs, but we got somebody that can come in and play and play good."

On the Broncos' 10-minute drive late that put them up six points

"I don't even know at the moment. Just have to go back and watch film and see exactly what happened. I know we have to get off the field on that third down where he ran that double move. I didn't think it was a pass interference, but they gave it to him. I can't even let it be that close. We just have to keep on fighting. I thought the defensive back crew did a nice job holding [Broncos QB] Peyton [Manning] to 150 [yards]. We just have to get that W under our belt and we're just going to keep working."