



## **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. ATLANTA FALCONS**

***Sports Authority Field at Mile High • Sunday, October 9, 2016***

#### **BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK**

##### **On QB Paxton Lynch's performance**

"We have to help him better, us as coaches. We got down early in the game. We were committed to running the ball today and tried to do that early. We did not run the ball well. We get down by 13, something like that, and were struggling to protect him. We put him in a really tough situation. That's not the type of game you want to put him in. We battled, we just didn't play very well. You have to give Atlanta a lot of credit. They came into our place, played with a lot of poise and made a lot of big plays against us. They did a great job once they got us down. Give them credit. They're a really good football team. We have to have a short memory here and get back to work."

##### **On his decision to start Lynch this week**

"The bottom line was we just didn't think that [QB] Trevor [Siemian] was ready. We watched him work Friday and talked to him on Saturday morning a little bit. We had a decision to make. We thought Paxton had a really good week in practice. It was a game-time decision. A lot of guys getting together and watching him practice and what he's doing. We didn't want to expose him today. We didn't think he was ready for that to happen. That's why we did what we did."

##### **On how close Siemian is to being ready to play**

"He's very close. He did everything he could for us all week long, but we had to make a decision that at the end of the week, when it's time to go, he tried to get there. He worked extremely hard to get there. We just didn't think he was ready."

##### **On the difference for Lynch entering in the middle of a game compared to starting a game**

"He had a really good week of practice. I felt really good about him going into the game. He practiced well. They are a team that play a lot of three-deep zone. You have to be very patience with what you are doing. When you get down 13 to them, if you can't just chip away at them and get yourself back in the game, you start holding the ball and trying to get it down the field too much. It's tough. It was a very good plan on their part. They did a great job. [Falcons Defensive Coordinator] Richard Smith and those guys did a great job. [Falcons Offensive Coordinator] Kyle [Shanahan] did a great job. Give those guys credit. They played really well."

##### **On the team's depth at right tackle**

"We have more depth than we did last year, I can tell you that. With [OL] Ty [Sambrailo], Ty is playing a lot of football for a guy who didn't do anything for eight or nine weeks. We need to help him out a little bit. Obviously that's tough. When you get down like that, and they're pinning their ears back, it's as hard as it gets for a tackle. That's very difficult. We believe in all of our guys. As a team, we didn't play well enough today. We need to stay focused on the team."

### **On why Sambrailo was taken out of the game**

“We just wanted to play [OL Darrion] Weems some. We moved [OL] Michael [Schofield] outside. Like I said, Ty has played a ton of football for a guy who hasn’t done much for eight weeks. He was forced into that situation because of the injury to [T] Donald [Stephenson]. He’s held up well in my opinion. Today is tough on a lot of guys.”

### **On the linebackers performance in pass coverage**

“They spread us out. We get that. The key problem was that they had time to get those guys down the field. I have to go back and look at the film, but for their backs to get down the field the way they did is going to take some time. You can’t ask ‘B-Marsh’ [ILB Brandon Marshall] and those guys, [ILB] Todd [Davis], to hold up that long. It was a very good job on their part. They ran the ball extremely well. Their backs accounted for a lot of offense today. They did a helluva job.”

### **On how close TE Virgil Green was to playing today**

“All I can tell you guys is they were all close. Donald and Virgil, they were all close. We had to make a decision. There’s a lot of football left to play. Obviously we want to get those guys back, but they all made progress last week.”

## **BRONCOS QUARTERBACK PAXTON LYNCH**

### **On what the Falcons did to contain the offense**

“We kind of knew coming in what they were going to do. Scheme wise, I don't think they did a lot of different stuff. They kind of let you take what was underneath and take it that way and run the ball on them. I think overall as a team we didn't play as well as we should have to win the game, and we didn't.”

### **On his nerves before the game**

“Obviously you have some butterflies in your first NFL start. It's not a preseason game and your team is 4-0. You are excited about that, but you have to focus on the team and winning the ballgame. After that first drive, I was ready to go and ready to play with those guys.”

### **On what he learned after the game that he didn't know before**

“I think I was well-prepared by [Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks] Coach [Greg] Knapp, [Head Coach] [Gary] Kubiak and [Offensive Coordinator Rick Dennison] 'Rico' too. I was really confident coming into the game and they didn't really do a lot of crazy stuff that we hadn't seen before. Obviously you want to win especially it being your first start. Now you have to move on from it and we have a short week and we are going to bounce back from it.”

### **On if he saw anything from Falcons defense that he didn't see on film**

“Not that I know of now. From what I saw on the sidelines and from the surface tablet that we had, that's not film it's just photos. Whenever we watch the game film I am sure we will be able to tell. Standing up here now, I don't think they did too much different from what we saw on film.”

### **On the difference between entering a game in the middle compared to starting a game**

“This week I felt a lot better about going into the game and playing just because the game plan that we had I had repped all those plays in practice. I've gotten good reps in the red zone and all that live, full speed reps. Last week when I got put in at Tampa Bay, I didn't have a chance to rep a lot of those plays during the week because [QB] Trevor [Siemian] was taking them. It is different in that aspect, but like I said from day one, I think you have to find a way to get those reps mentally when you are not practicing and in case you do have to go in and play.”

### **On his decision making when the pocket breaks down**

“The coaches have told me if you feel like you need to get out of there then get out of there and run with it. I feel if I should takeoff and there is a hole then I try and takeoff. Sometimes you try and takeoff and that hole closes up quicker than you thought.”

**On if he held on to the ball too long**

"It is hard to tell now just because I haven't watched the film. I am sure we will watch the film, and after I watch the film then I will hear it from my coaches on what I need to do better and what I need to correct this week."

**On what his emotions were like after the game**

"I am upset, obviously because we lost. I am kind of happy that I got the first one under my belt. My first start with these guys and having a chance to play with them. If I get put in that situation again I will know how to handle it a little bit better than I did the first time. I am glad I got the experience, but I am also upset that we didn't come out with the win."

**On playing again on Thursday**

"I'm just going to keep approaching it like I have been approaching it. I am going to take it day-by-day and if my number gets called again, then I am going to make sure I am ready to go out there and play. If my number isn't called, I am going to make sure to be ready to play if I have to go back in the game again."

**BRONCOS CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.****On the mood of the team following a loss**

"We're not pancaking at all. We know what we need to do. We're in a great situation right now. We just now that we have to bounce back this week, come back 5-1 and we still have the division. The division is still in our hands. We still control our own destiny."

**On the play of Atlanta RB Tevin Coleman**

"They just made plays. '26', he had a hell of a game. You have to tip your hat to him and next time we play a receiving running back like that, we'll have something for him."

**On if opposing teams will try to utilize their running backs as receivers**

"It's the same thing we've been getting last year. The Patriots ran it; a lot of teams that have receiving running backs always try to test our linebackers. They'll be ready. Of course they know that they didn't play their best game, but I trust those guys. I love 'B-Marsh' [ILB Brandon Marshall] and [ILB] Todd [Davis]. I love how they've been playing this year so we all expect those guys to bounce back.

**On travelling to San Diego on a short week**

"It's always a big game anytime you play your division. We treat division games like championships, so we have a championship game Thursday night primetime and we'll be ready."

**On S.T.J. Wards strip-fumble**

"We put big onus on us in the secondary. I feel like if I would have had my pick, that would have changed the game. 'Qib' [CB Aqib Talib] dropped a pick so we always put onus on ourselves."

**BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VON MILLER****On Atlanta's success with their running backs**

"Coming into the game, I said that [Atlanta RB] Devonta Freeman was pretty good. You would just look at the film and tell that he is one of the premiere backs in the league. They were blocking pretty good. They were pulling their tackles and tight ends. We couldn't really get our feet up under us. When we finally did get our feet under us, it was too late."

**On the adjustments needed to prevent big games from running backs**

"We've done it before. We've been great at that, we've been great at adjusting. Today for whatever reason we weren't able to get it done."

**On if he is frustrated with the loss**

"I'm ready to go. We have the 'No Fly Zone.' We have [CB] Chris [Harris Jr.] and 'Lib' [CB Aqib Talib]. We're getting our injured guys next week for San Diego. I'm pretty good. Would I like to win the game, yes. Would I like to go undefeated every season, yes, but the odds of doing that are pretty tough. We lost a game like this last year to Indy around the same time. This team, we have a resilient team. We have character in the locker room; we'll be able to bounce back. I feel comfortable with our chances."

**On if the loss motivates the team to win on Thursday**

"You really shouldn't have to motivate grown men to come out here and play the game that we love. We're already motivated. Me personally, I'm already motivated. I was just telling 'Shaq' [OLB Shaqil Barrett] and [OLB] Shane [Ray], we have to get back in the line. We have to get back in practice, we have to practice harder. The harder we work, the luckier we get. We have to practice harder. We have to come with it, about to get back to the books; we have to do five percent more. That's where I'm going to start."

**On the quick turnaround against a divisional rival**

"Pretty familiar with the San Diego Chargers. The NFL, they do a good job with that, always a Thursday Night game will be against a team that you're pretty familiar with. San Diego, they've been having a pretty good season, despite all of the injuries that they have. It's always a tough game whenever we go to San Diego and I'm expecting a tough game as well."

**BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER SHANE RAY****On what the Falcons did effectively**

"They had a good scheme. They did some things to get one-on-ones with our linebackers, and they were able to come out on top today. It's nothing that concerns us. We're going to go back to the drawing board and get better."

**On the adjustments the defense tried to make**

"Cover your guy. When you're playing man like that, we've got to do a better job. Simple as that."

**On if holding Atlanta wide receiver Julio Jones to no catches in the first half felt good**

"Julio didn't do much today. We kind of felt that that was going to happen anyway, but we had to stop the run. The gameplan was stop the run and stop Julio. We only did half of that, and the score shows that."

**BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER EMMANUEL SANDERS****On QB Paxton Lynch's performance**

"I think he played well. I think overall as a team, we didn't play so well. It's not on Paxton. It has absolutely nothing to do with Paxton. It's about the team. Offensively, defensively, special teams, we just didn't bring our A-game today."

**On what was wrong with the offense**

"They were playing good defense. Sometimes you guys [the media] point the finger at us offensively, but they had a great scheme. They were playing straight Cover-3, and we just couldn't find the windows."

**On Lynch's command of the huddle**

"He's a rookie quarterback. Obviously, his nerves are there. But at the end of the day, he made some great throws and he made some bad throws. I ran some great routes and I ran some bad routes. We've just got to continuously uplift him and that's what we're going to do."

**On if Atlanta was able to throw off the offense's timing with the pressure they got on Paxton Lynch**

"I don't know. I was too busy trying to run my routes. Obviously, Paxton was going down, but I was busy running my routes. I still haven't seen the film. We're going to go back and review the film and see how we can get better and keep moving on. We have a game on Thursday."

**On whether the offense struggling to run the ball concerns him**

“No concerns with me. Every day I’m trying to get better and better. As a team, we’re trying to get better and better. This is our first loss in, what, seven weeks? Eight weeks? It is what it is. At the same time, as much as we win, we’ve got to be able to adjust when we lose. We got our butts kicked today. We’ve got to take the butt-kicking and move on.”

**On if a short week is a good thing**

“It’s football. I’m ready for whatever. Even if I had to play tomorrow, I’d be ready. That’s what it’s about. We’ve got to play on Thursday. We’ve got a division opponent and we’ve got to go out and handle business.

**On if he is hoping QB Trevor Siemian is back for Thursday’s game**

“We’ll see. That’s the front office’s call. Regardless, I’ll go with Paxton, I’ll go with Austin [Davis], I’ll go with [Trevor] Siemian. It doesn’t matter. We’ve got to play better football, offensively, defensively and [on] special teams.”

**BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN****On his impressions of the game**

“I thought [QB Paxton Lynch] did well, and obviously there’s things we’ve got to do better on offense. Hopefully we can clean that up.”

**On how close he was to playing**

“Pretty close. Took it all the way up to yesterday, but didn’t happen for me.”

**On how much he was frustrated not being able to play**

“I think you want to be. As a competitor, you want to be out there every time with your guys. That part of it stinks.”

**On what he needs to do to play on Thursday**

“I’m going to take it one day at a time, see what ‘Greek’ [Head Athletic Trainer Steve Antonopoulos] tells me tomorrow and we’ll see.”

**On how he thought Lynch played**

“I thought he did well. I thought he did a lot of good things, some things to build on. Any time you’re out there, it’s a learning experience. I went through the same thing, so I know exactly how it goes. I thought he did some good things.”

**On how difficult it is for a rookie to face the kind of pressure Lynch did**

“It’s tough on anyone—a rookie, anybody in this league. I thought he handled it well and did some good things.”

**On the short week before playing on Thursday**

“We’ve got a quick turnaround. I think that’s a good thing. We’ve got a chance to get this taste out of our mouth pretty quickly, get back to work tomorrow and hopefully get ready to go.”

**On whether it was pain or discomfort that prevented him from playing**

“Just a combination of a bunch of things. Just back to work tomorrow and ‘Greek’ will get me right.”

**On whether he’ll be ready to play on Thursday**

“We’ll see. Again, I’ll take it one day at a time and get right tomorrow and ‘Greek’ will have me doing some stuff, I’m sure. Take it one day at a time.”

## **BRONCOS CORNERBACK AQIB TALIB**

### **On the Falcons utilizing their running backs in the passing game**

“Yeah, it gave us issues. Sometimes they were good, sometimes they weren’t. Matt Ryan did a good job throwing it to the running backs the times that they won.”

### **On why the defense’s plan didn’t work**

“There’s no science to it. You line up two NFL professionals, somebody’s going to win. They just won more times than we did.”

### **On if he thinks other offensive quarterbacks will begin throwing to running backs**

“The other offensive coordinators better have a number 26 [Atlanta running back Tevin Coleman], who ran a 4.3 [40-yard dash] coming out of college, which they don’t.”

### **On how tough a short week is on the team**

“We’ve done it before. You have to do it one time every year. I mean every team in the league does it, and it’s our turn to do it.”

### **If a short week is a good thing after the loss**

“It could be good, it could be bad. It has its positives, it has its negatives. It’s a Thursday game. It is what it is.”

## **BRONCOS SAFETY T.J. WARD**

### **On what the Falcons did well offensively**

“Their backs had a good day, running and catching. We can’t have that if we want to be an elite defense.”

### **On why the Falcons played**

“Credit to them. They had a good plan, and once they found a little bit of daylight they pressed it and it worked for them all game.”

### **On whether other teams will try to attack the defense the way the Falcons did**

“Not every team has their personnel. You’ve got two good backs in Atlanta. Detroit has two good quick backs, but every team doesn’t have those type of backs. They’ve got good personnel that match up against us well, we didn’t play our best and they won the game. We’ll be back next week. We’ve got San Diego down there Thursday night. America will see us on national TV again and hopefully, no, not hopefully, we will bounce back stronger.”

### **On if he expected the running backs to play as well as they did**

“They didn’t really catch anything out of the backfield. They were lined up outside like receivers. It was empty, they’d slot them, there were a lot of delays and one go [route]. They were lined up at the receiver position. They had a good plan for us.”

### **On if it was tough to make adjustments against their diversified attack**

“We’re a tough defense. We don’t go in and change our whole game plan at halftime. We stick to our guns and do what we do. Today, it didn’t work as well as it has in the past. We’re not going to change that approach; we’re just going to get better at what we do. We’ve got a chance next week on Thursday. We start tomorrow, it’s a short week. We’re looking forward to the Chargers.”

### **On if they were surprised at their ability to shut down Julio Jones**

“No. We knew we would do that. The way we play coverage on him, it was going to be hard for him to be successful. But when you do things like that, you leave other areas of the field open and they took advantage of them.”

### **On if it’s good to have a quick turnaround to get this game out of their system**

“Yeah, it is actually. I’m already on to next week. As soon as I leave here I’ll forget about this game.”

## **FALCONS HEAD COACH DAN QUINN**

### **Opening Statement**

“Very good team win for us today. We knew this was going to be an old day fight and it certainly was. We got a lot of respect for the guys in the other locker room and the toughness they have. We came in expecting this one to be a hard fought game and it certainly was. I think our toughness and resiliency was certainly on hand and the guys totally battled. Special teams wise, to have four drive starts inside the twenty was a real factor. Defensively, we loved the versatility the guys had today. Having the ability to apply some pressure on the quarterback was a factor. I thought offensively the running backs really stole the show today, being a factor in both the run game and the passing, that’s when we’re at our best. Team win against a good team today and like I said, we knew it was going to be tough.”

### **On Falcons RB Tevin Coleman’s performance**

“He did great in the game. The matchups were there if we could find some, and I think the guys did an excellent job of that both in the running game and passing game. Tevin came in well prepared, he was ready and he did good.”

### **On starting Falcons S Ishmael Kemal at linebacker**

“We just love the versatility that we have and he’s one of our very best tacklers. We love to play zone and we can put him in at different spots. We came in today, someone who moves around a lot in the box, he plays a lot of that as a strong safety, so we just moved him in a little bit closer. The versatility of him, of [LB] LaRoy Reynolds and [LB Philip] Wheeler, [I’m] really pleased with that group and the toughness that they showed today.”

### **On his assessment of the pass rush today**

“Number one, just finding the ability to finish some and we’re very pleased. We had the sudden change there at the end there and the two minutes at the half. We know that part of our game is a work in progress but I was pleased with what I saw out in the front today.”

### **On OLB Vic Beasley Jr.’s play today**

“The get-off jumped out at me today. He really looked quick off the ball and playing here. We knew it was going to be a good environment and the speed off the ball was what set him off today.”

### **On converting twice on fourth down**

“There was no hesitancy to go for it. We wanted to stay aggressive and that’s our mind set. We love to attack offensively; we have all the faith in Matt [Ryan]. We just wanted to go and keep attacking, and keep continuing to go so it is a part of what we do and we missed on the last one where they ended up coming back down and kicking the field goal but we’ll stay aggressive.”

### **On scoring more points throughout the four-win streak**

“I just thought the team effort and when you have those kinds of performances where each hand has a real part of the win that’s when we’re certainly at our best. So sometimes if the offense has to outscore sometimes the defense today I thought they stepped up and a good challenge when we knew it was there. So really just a team effort which makes it stand out over these last four weeks.”

### **On keeping the team level-headed**

“We reset. That’s what we do. We go through a process when we get ready to play ball and we love that process that we go through. It starts tomorrow. The actions that we do with the team and then we come back up right through the week and specifically regarding that our team works harder and harder. That’s our iron structure and that was certainly evident at practice this week how hard we go against each other to get ready. So that’s what makes a team, the ability to get ready. We’ll go right back to the process and get ready again.”

### **On how to avoid not repeating what happened after starting the season 5-0 last year**

“The answer is it’s a different outfit. It’s a different group. We are mentally tougher than what we were. And we have a real ability to reset right after we get back to that process so that’s what’s different from last year to this year.”

**On the physicality that Falcons SS Keanu Keanu played with today**

“He’s a real factor in how we want to play defense. I thought the combination between him and [Philip] Wheeler inside. We knew we were going to have to play some zone and he knew he really had to come through on some tackling. And that part of his game is continuing to get better – he missed a little bit there but now he’s starting to hit his stride.”

**On the success of the team on fourth down**

“I definitely didn’t think that at the time but I did recognize that however close and if it’s worth going for it here – we like the package we thought we had down there as far as the fourth down ball where it was on the field. So we thought it was worth the time right there and worth the risk. We weren’t thinking too far out in terms of the end of the game but we knew this game was going to be hard fought and points were going to be close – that we did know.”

**On G Ben Garland playing defense today**

“The versatility he has, he was defensive lineman in college. I tried it in practice and we were ready for it last week as well. He played a little bit on goal line about two weeks ago. Now anytime we need all hands on deck, the versatility for all players across the ball, it takes a lot of work. And Ben put the time in this week to get ready and help us with the base package.”

**On the offense’s performance past four games**

“I think it’s the balance. We have different guys that can get involved in the pass game and different guys that can get involved in the run game. We know the different matchups each week and sometimes you get an open way. But I think it’s the balance – the tight ends, the receivers that get involved as well.”

**FALCONS QUATERBACK MATT RYAN****On what this win means for the team**

“It was a good win. Obviously this is a tough place to play and a very good football team. I thought we competed in all three phases today really well. Our defense stepped up and played great. The running backs did an awesome job as well. I was proud of the entire team effort.”

**On fourth down conversions**

“It’s huge, it really is. The quarterback sneak was a short one but for us to be able to get that and keep that going was really important and changed the game. When you’re talking about plays that affect the game, they are really important. So, I thought those conversions big.”

**On using the running backs in the passing game**

“They have a really good defense and their secondary is outstanding. We have great wide receivers and I have great respect for what they do, but we felt like our best match ups was getting our backs out of the back field. We have two really talented guys. There aren’t many guys in this league that can run the football, pass protect and then motion out and run routes like wide receivers and we have two of them. We are really fortunate and very lucky to have them and branch out today.”

**On his decision making compared to what he saw from Broncos QB Paxton Lynch**

“It’s very difficult, I know that first hand. Today, we had a good plan and got the ball out for the most part and that’s what you have to do. As a young player for sure, it’s tough. I have had many of those days where it doesn’t go as planned. But for a young guy he will continue to bounce back and get better.”

**On players stepping up all across the roster**

“That’s Week 5 of the NFL. People are going too banged up and we have a resilient group of guys that whatever job we are asked to do everyone is willing to step up. There is no detail unimportant or job too small for any of us to do. I thought that was really cool for some of our guys to step into different roles today and compete.”

**On having a strong start first half of the season**

"I think we are mentally tougher. We are a more resilient group for sure, and you learn from that. Obviously we started fast last year and it didn't go our way in the second half of the season. But the difference, I think what you learn, especially for young guys is that the difference between wins and losses are a hand and both legs and we have to be on the right end. I think we have done a really good job being opportunistic early in the season."

**FALCONS LINEBACKER VIC BEASLEY JR.****On if OL Ty Sambrailo missing time this season influenced their matchup today**

"He was probably a little rusty today, but it's the league. You've got to come out to play on Sunday."

**On what pass rush move was his most effective**

"I had a couple good bull rushes today. I think I just got his feet moving around the edge."

**FALCONS DEFENSIVE END ADRIAN CLAYBORN****On what led to his success today**

"I was able to get to the quarterback. He was holding it a little longer. It all came together today."

**On building off the momentum of today's game**

"I hope so. It sucks not getting sacks, so hopefully we can get some more. We'll see."

**On the message following the game**

"We're close. We're a brotherhood, and it shows out on the field the way we play. We're together no matter what. They score, we're back on the field, it doesn't matter."

**On the success of the run defense**

"We shut it down early. We made them pass. Our offense always gets ahead and makes them pass, so kudos to the offense, I guess."

**FALCONS RUNNING BACK TEVIN COLEMAN****On being versatile**

"I am definitely comfortable. I know I haven't been doing it [running through zones] a lot, but I have been working so hard to be able to run routes and catch the ball. "

**On his 31-yard catch in the third quarter**

"When the linebacker came up on me that's when I knew I was getting the ball. I just turned on the jets."

**On what they saw out of the Broncos' defense**

"It's a great defense, but they just had the linebackers on us and we are faster than them. It was a great call by [Offensive Coordinator] Kyle [Shanahan] to have us run with the linebackers on us."

**On the offensive chemistry this season**

"This offense is definitely clicking better than it ever has. This year we have such a close bond and that's what makes us great."

## **FALCONS RUNNING BACK DEVONTA FREEMAN**

### **On how they were able to find success against the Broncos' defense**

"They're so sound and fundamental that you have to create stuff on those guys. They were where they needed to be every single play. I just had to make something happen and that's what I did. The the offensive linemen started it by creating the holes for us."

### **On how to build on a team win**

"I think the confidence we take from a win like this is one of the main things. We beat the Super Bowl defending champs, but I also think we left a lot out there. We can still get better. We're going to go and look at film and continue to get better."

### **On whether he thinks they have the most versatile offense in the league**

"I've thought that since last year. We're just now putting all those pieces together and putting everybody in position. Everybody is learning their role. I definitely feel like everybody is learning their role. The coaches really understand us and what we can do. I definitely think we're the best in the league right now."

### **On the Falcons explosive run game**

"I feel like the good thing about us is that we can do anything. We can run routes like a receiver, we can block like a big back, we can make people miss, we can run people over, and we can catch out of the backfield. I think that's why we're so good and we give the offense a spark. It's hard to game plan when we have running backs that can run routes, catch and block. Then, we've got good receivers outside. It's hard for the defense. They've got to stay honest."

## **FALCONS DEFENSIVE END DWIGHT FREENEY**

### **On how well his defensive teammates played**

"I was so happy to see the young guys go ahead and make some plays. That's what it's about, man. At the end of the day, as long as somebodies making plays, that's all that matters."

### **On if their defensive success last week carried over in to today's game**

"Yeah, that's what you want to do. You want to have the total team defense work. We've put a couple good things together in the last couple weeks and we've got to keep it going. People don't realize how hard it is to win on the road, especially this type of team. They're 4-0, defending champs, I don't care who they quarterback, it doesn't matter, they still have a great team. We came in here and we played great."

### **On if they'll be able to carry this momentum into next week**

"You hope so. These are the types of games that you definitely want to, but we just have to take it one game at a time. You never want to get too high, and you never want to get too low. We'll celebrate here, and then we're going to get back to film study on Monday."

### **On how much fun today's game was**

"That's one of the reasons I compete and play. You can't find these types of moments anywhere else in life. Coming out here with 53 other guys, playing, having fun. We're all doing it together. It's a total team win."

### **On if they made Paxton Lynch uncomfortable with their constant pressure**

"Yeah. That's what you want to do, get it mixed up together. It's like a machine, you have to get all the parts of the engine working together. Inside, outside, coverage, linebackers, and when you have that, you're going to have success."

### **On if both the offense and defense are finally starting to come together**

"I think it's coming together, but we don't want to celebrate too soon. It's just this week and we played great this game, this week. Hopefully we can build momentum from this. That's what we're going to do. We're going to celebrate here for the next few hours, then get back to prepare for a tough matchup next week."

## **FALCONS WIDE RECEIVER JULIO JONES**

### **On the difference between this season's 4-1 start and last season's 5-0 start**

"When we get penalties, it doesn't set us back. It's a minor setback, but we're able to overcome those. We stay together. At times last year, we would get a penalty and kind of fall apart. I think mentally we're tougher than we were last year."

### **On how the team stays grounded mentally after the fast start to the season**

"It's one game at a time. It doesn't matter about how you start or this and that, it's one game at a time. You just have to go out there and put your best ball out there every time week in and week out. We'll just see where we are at the end of the year."

### **On the team's offensive improvements this season**

"We're making improvements everywhere. Guys are stepping up and making plays. Who knows every week who is going to go out there and be that guy who might make a big play. Our defense did a great job for us today. We got a ton of sacks. The pass rush was amazing today. Hats off to the defense, but we just have to keep working and try to get better as a whole."

### **On whether he was ok not being the focal point of the passing game today**

"The way we practice and the love we have for each other, it doesn't matter who gets the spotlight or who's getting the sacks or who's getting the touches, as long as we win the game. We're going to do whatever it takes to support our brothers no matter who gets the ball. Whoever has the best matchup, we're going to try to exploit that and get the ball to that person."

### **On why this offense has been so hard for defenses to stop so far this year**

"It's week-to-week. Today, they came out and doubled me. They basically took me away and said, 'You're not going to beat us today.' That's fine because if I'm taking two guys, then everybody else is going to step up. We have a lot of weapons, [WR] Eric Weems, [WR] Justin Hardy, [WR] Mohammed Sanu, [RB] Tevin Coleman and [WR] Aldrick Robinson. Everybody can ball. It's really just about what you're going to try to take away that weekend and how we can exploit."

## **FALCONS SAFETY KEANU NEAL**

### **On how much fun today was**

"It was awesome. I was telling the coaches earlier, it's amazing being a part of something special like this. Being a part of a brotherhood. I'm just so happy and glad to be here."

### **On how much the pass rush helped the secondary**

"It helped a lot. I thank them so much. They got the quarterback off of his spot and created opportunities for us. 'Rico' [S Ricardo Allen] getting that pick and me breaking on a few balls. The d-line really, really ignited us."

### **On how they were able to shut down the Broncos' run game**

"Playing physical ball. Getting our hands in the dirt with the d-line, playing hard there and linebackers, getting back to the basics."

### **On S Kemal Ishmael's ability to step up and play linebacker**

"That was huge for us. He's a major player, a versatile player, being able to move positions and go out and play well. That's awesome."