



POSTGAME QUOTES VS. DENVER BRONCOS 12/14/17
BRONCOS HEAD COACH VANCE JOSEPH & PLAYERS

Head Coach Vance Joseph

Opening Statement:

"We had a couple injuries tonight, one being Trevor Siemian with a left sprained shoulder. He did not return. Emmanuel Sanders with a right ankle did not return."

Did it look like the doctors were either setting Trevor's shoulder, or do you know?

"I can't speak to that, it's a left sprain."

Is it pretty safe to say that Brock will be starting next week you think?

"I can't say that right now."

How about the way Brock came in and played?

"He played well. Three touchdowns, two passing and one rushing. He played with great poise. He played clean, smart, football for us and it was a win."

I know you guys have stressed responding to adversity a lot this season. How do you feel the team responded in the second half?

"Very well, very well. We were down 10-0 and we outscored them 25-3 after that. You know no one blinked, so that is a good sign. We were playing well in all three phases, so why panic, just keep playing."

Is that the C.J. Anderson you think you can get on a more consistent basis?

"Absolutely. If we are in the right kind of game and we can get him his touches, he can help us pound people. He had 30 I think for 153, 5.2 average. It was fun to see him get going. He is a volume back. He needs multiple carries to get going and you can see what he can do. He can run through tackles if he gets volume."

What did you think about how the defense handled Jacoby Brissett?

"Very well. You know he had a scramble touchdown, and he's a tough guy because he can take off and run on you. So he kind of limits what coverages you can play with this guy. We were playing a bracket coverage so no one has accounted for him, he takes off and scores. A couple third downs we had him contained, and he took off and ran. But overall we played good defense so I was pleased with our guys."

Five of your wins are the only five games this year where you've run the ball more than you've passed. Has Bill Musgrave been more true to what you want the offense to be?

"Well I'll say this about that, when you're in even games, you can stay with the running game. When you're down by two or three scores, it's tough to stay in the running game. Even when you're down by a field goal, even a touchdown, you can stay with it because you won't score out. You're down by three scores, you can't. It's simply being in one-score games."

Wasn't tonight a two-score game?

"Well yeah, favoring us. Favoring us, wasn't it?"

I mean, 10-0.

"Yeah 10-0, but it's first quarter. It's the first quarter. You stay with the running game. I mean, you're down by two scores in the third or fourth quarter it's different."

Based on what you saw from Cody Latimer tonight what did you like from him?

"Cody has made plays all year down the field. In Philly he made two plays and had a few squeaks but it's been fun to see Cody make plays on the ball down the field."

How nice is it to finally get this win on the road?

"Just fun to win. It started Monday with our guys embracing this Thursday night game. It's tough to play two games in five days, but our guys embraced it. They rested, recovered, and we studied and came here and played. You have to embrace these games but it's tough to tackle it physically to play these games."

How do you think the two rookie safeties did? You used them both tonight on defense.

"They did fine, they did fine. I didn't see anything that was glaring with those guys."

Did you have to make any significant adjustments for not having Justin Simmons?

"No, no, we pushed Parks down to dime and played Thomas and Carter at safety. They split time at safety."

Did you give out any game balls?

"We did. C.J. (Anderson) and the O-line and Brock (Osweiler)."

Tight End Jeff Heurman

What kind of lift did Brock Osweiler provide you guys? It must have been a jolt to go from Trevor Siemian to Osweiler unexpectedly.

"Yeah, he made some big plays. That one ball to DT (Demaryius Thomas) was just a phenomenal throw. DT made a phenomenal catch. He did a great job of getting us in good positions, checking plays and stuff to get us positive plays and keep the game going."

For you personally how great was it for your confidence to get into the end zone after what's been a tough season for everybody?

"Yeah, Coach (Vance) Joseph talked about it last night - as professional athletes you're never not playing for anything. So, it was a big team win. Getting the weekend off and stuff, it will feel a lot better getting that win and go from there."

How does it set you up for those last two games? I imagine it builds a lot of momentum.

"Yeah, we obviously talked about that immediately after the game last week, and yeah, we just have to keep building on it and getting better as a football team and individually and just go from there."

Wide Receiver Cody Latimer

Three catches for 60 yards, how did it feel to be such a big part of the offense tonight?

"It always feels good to be involved. I just put in hard work, week in and week out, finally pays off. It felt good that they were back in Indiana where it all started so it felt great."

It seems like every time Brock Osweiler is in there you have a special chemistry. What's so special about it?

"I just think it's special with all of our quarterbacks. Like I said, you get reps from them all throughout the week, all throughout the season, so it's just natural."

What went through your mind when Trevor Siemian goes out and you see Brock come into the game?

"I mean it's a quarterback we trust. Like I said, he's started before for us. He practices with us every week, so when he came in I knew there wasn't going to be a change. We were still going to make plays

when we were called upon. He's a great leader. He came out, did a good job leading the offense and getting us good drives too."

Quarterback Brock Osweiler

Jumping into the game, how did you feel, to have that first drive and then the second half in particular, as you got things going?

"You know, I was very comfortable from the get-go, just because I'm very familiar with these guys. I've played three games this year, obviously played a lot of games with these guys back in 2015 - so there was a lot of comfort there. But as far as the system, with Coach [Bill] Musgrave calling the plays, a lot of things tonight were the first time I'd ever ran them or even called them, you know. Because since he took over, obviously Paxton (Lynch) has played and Trevor (Siemian) has played, so really it's just a credit to Coach Musgrave and how he called the game in my ear all night and then my teammates—offense, defense, special teams—really rallying around me and just keeping the football team in great situations all night."

What worked so well on that first drive of the second half?

"You know, I think the biggest thing is we had a great rhythm tonight. We were really running the football. That's a huge credit to the backs, O-line, tight ends, Andy (Janovich) at fullback, making big holes all night. And any time you're able to run the football with that kind of success, you're going to get man-to-man coverage outside. So now, DT (Demaryius Thomas), Emmanuel (Sanders), Cody (Latimer), Bennie (Fowler III) – all those guys can go take advantage of one-on-one matchups. We just had a really good rhythm going offensively and we were able to mix the run and the pass."

What did you see on that pass to Jeff Heurman down the seam?

"You know, it was one of those deals. He was actually No. 3 in progression, but the middle of the field safety cheated to DT (Demaryius Thomas) and Emmanuel (Sanders) pre-snap—those guys were on the same side of the field. The biggest thing was just getting a great fake with the back, holding that safety and then Jeff (Heurman) just did a tremendous job at the top of his route, and I was really just hitting a wide open guy."

Do you feel like you've earned the right to start next week and for the rest of the season?

"You know, unfortunately that's not up to me to decide, but certainly I would love to be the starter of this football team. I take great pride in coming to work every day and trying to be a great teammate for these guys. I love being a Denver Bronco, so if it was up to me I would love to play. Unfortunately, I don't make those decisions."

How much did C.J. Anderson help you tonight? He had 30 carries and 158 yards.

"Yeah, you know, C.J., the rest of the backs, the O-line, tight ends, like I said—when they're able to run the football like that it's going to open up the rest of the offense. Hats off to those guys; they all got a game ball. They deserve it. The O-line, backs, they did a tremendous job."

When your number gets called, how long does it take to settle down and just play football?

"You know, I was calm from the get-go, but I think it takes about a series. Usually, just get back out there, calling plays in the huddle, making reads, making checks, Mike points, things like that. There was no nerves or anything like that but yeah, it takes about a series to settle in."

There's been a lot of change this year at quarterback. How have you guys gone about your weeks?

"I think the biggest thing that all of the quarterbacks have done, including Chad Kelly, he is very impressive with how he studies and things like that. We've all just studied very hard. You know, you don't know who is going to be playing week-to-week. So we all just stay in the game plan. We're all big supporters of each other. I'm there to help Trevor, I'm there to help Paxton and vice-versa. I think because our group is so close and because we all root for each other and help each other out, we really have been able to just flow with all of these changes this year."

How was it with Bill in your ear?

"It was great; it really was. I love Coach Musgrave. I have told him that many times this year. I love his approach that he brings to the building every day, the way he leads the offensive unit, how he calls plays and the things he says in our earpiece during games. He is just a tremendous coach and I can't say enough great things about him."

What do you mean by 'things he says?'

"You know, it's just little reminders. You know, he is always talking to us. Coach is able to talk to us, as you guys know, until the clock gets down to 15 seconds. He uses that for little reminders to remind other positions as well. 'Hey, pass this message on.' He is just a phenomenal football coach. He works very hard to put us in great positions to have success. I love playing football for him and he is just a great football coach."

You've always said that whether you are back up or the starter, you always prepare the same way. Is this an example of that logic?

"Yeah, correct. This is my third offense this year. Started with Hugh Jackson in Cleveland, Mike McCoy in Denver and now Coach Musgrave. It's a personal pride thing for me. My parents are the hardest workers I know. Growing up and watching them and how they went about their business - there is nothing that beats hard work. I think that is part of being a pro quarterback. Whether you are the first string, second string, third string or fourth string, you are getting paid to be a professional quarterback and be prepared. That's really it. I was just simply doing my job."

You seemed pretty excited when you got that rushing touchdown. What was going through your mind after that?

"I was just a little kid having fun tonight. That's really what it was. You guys all know, I've been on a little bit of a roller coaster ride for the past two years. Just to go out there, Thursday Night Football, with my teammates that I love. I was just having fun, and that was simply it. I was going to lay it all out there. You know we always talk about around our building how you never know when it is going to be your last game in this business. So just enjoy every moment and that was really what I was doing tonight."

Center Matt Paradis**When you guys have big gains like you had tonight through the air, what does it do for this offense when you're picking up 20 yards a play?**

"Oh, it's huge. It changes the whole dynamic of how the defense plays when we do that, and opens up the run game - made that very successful for us."

What made the run game so successful?

"Yeah, credit to the coaches, the game plan, C.J. (Anderson), Book (Devontae Booker), Jamaal (Charles) - those guys all ran hard. The O-line worked their tails off. Short week, you know, everyone's legs are tired, but guys came out and worked their tails off. It was a cool game to rush for that much."

What about Brock Osweiler - he comes in trailing, it's a tough spot to come in relief, short week - what kind of energy was he bringing into the huddle?

"Oh, you know, Brock is a gamer. Brock loves football. I mean, the amount of love and enjoyment he gets out of playing the game pours over into the whole huddle. So, I mean, he came right in, and just, you know, he never had a doubt and we rallied with him, and started scoring some points."

What's C.J.'s mindset, his attitude, his vibe in the huddle, especially when he gets going like that?

"C.J., along with a lot of our skill players, want the ball every play. We have a lot of playmakers so we have to spread it around, but C.J. ran his (butt) off, and he played very well tonight."

Outside Linebacker Shane Ray**How important is it to have fun like that?**

"It's really important. Right now, we feel like we are back at building blocks, reconstructing the team. There's nothing we can do about this season at this point. We know that, but what we can do is start to build on next year with each team that we play. We just see, collectively, just guys rallying today, working hard during the week. You see us come out here, and we get another win, a hard-earned win. It was a close game at first. It just feels good to have all of these guys and their excitement and their work ethic pay off."

Can wins like this and maybe stacking some together help the team's belief in Vance Joseph? Maybe make his message come through a little more?

"Yeah, all year we have been trying to find a formula to be great with the guys that we have. We've always said, you look on paper and you look at the guys that we have on our team, we should beat the majority of the teams in the league, if not all of them. So, it's about finding that formula again, and we're slowly finding ways to get better as a team and we just want this to continue to carry on to next year."

How did you guys avoid letting things go south when you were down early?

"You've just got to not pay attention to the situation. You get that feeling in your stomach like, 'Oh man, here we go again.' Mentally, you kind of already lost. So, we just keep the mentality that we're going to keep fighting, and we're not going to worry about what happens when we're in a tough position or stuff like that. Get the ball back, keep playing hard, play our style of defense and things will work out. It just showed today. That's what we did."