



DETROIT LIONS VS. WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

FORD FIELD

Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022; 1:00 PM ET

POST-GAME QUOTES

LIONS HEAD COACH DAN CAMPBELL POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

Opening Statement: “Listen, that was a good win for us. We needed that, that was number one. I thought the defense set the tone for that game, which we felt was going to be critical this week. We needed special teams to make a play. I thought we did with (Lions WR Kalif Raymond) Lif and I thought our coverages were good. Man, our offense, I thought was steady and reliable, and when we needed it, man, we answered back when those guys made some plays. We did exactly what we needed to do. We were much more detailed and disciplined. They showed up. They showed up. There’s some guys I want to highlight. I thought Dan Skipper did it. He did a hell of a job. He stepped in and he’s never played guard, and he’s been dying for this opportunity and I thought he made the most of it. Evan Brown, I thought Logan (Sternberg) did some good things and I thought Will Harris battled back there. So, that’s what we talk about. Man, you’re not always going to have your guys, and so when you don’t, we have to have the next man up step up and help us out, and I thought they did that.”

On how it feels to get a win early in the season: “Listen, it feels good to win. That’s what it does, it feels good to win. Because there’s a lot of hard work that’s put in it across the board. I think the best thing about it is our guys, they trust in the system, they believe in what we’re doing as coaches and the schemes, and they believe in how we’re setting them up for success and they believe in the plan and they execute the plan. That’s a credit to those guys. They never gave up. They never lost hope and they won’t ever. That’s how we assembled this team, so they know what we’re capable of. It’s a step in the right direction, but that’s one. That’s one.”

On what skills Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown can bring to the game of football: “Yeah, he’s as steady as they come. I mean, he is as steady as a rock, now. You can always depend on what he is going to bring every day, not just on Sunday, but on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. He’s been that way since he walked in the door as a rookie, and nothing has changed. He expects a lot of himself, and us as a team, and that offense, and he’s just, he’s reliable. And he’s a good athlete, and he’s explosive, and he’s strong. There’s so many things that everybody sees, but then there’s these things that maybe you don’t always see, and his blocks downfield, him blocking the run game. I mean, he’s one of the offensive linemen’s best friends. They love this guy because they know what he’ll give to the run game. But he’s a pit bull that plays receiver. “

On DL Aidan Hutchinson and the pass rush: “Yeah listen, I thought all those guys up front, they did a good job. They were much better than last week because they were much more disciplined and they stayed true to what we were trying to do with the stunts. (Todd) Wash did a hell of a job with them. But they were thorough and detailed with it. And when you do that, that helps a guy like Hutch, it helps a guy Charles (Harris), it helps a guys like (Alim McNeill) Lim, it helps a guy like (Julian Okwara) J.O. So it helps everybody upfront. And we were disciplined with that and it showed up.”

On the offensive line stepping up today with three starters out: “Listen, they battled. They battled and they’re all smart guys, and they hung in there and they trusted where their help was at, they used it. Certainly, our tackles help now too, you know, (Taylor) Decker and (Penei) Sewell were some of that, some of those three techniques we drag out on. But those guys, they played as one unit, and that’s what you have to be able to do when you’re down a few guys. But man, they stepped up and they did exactly what we asked them to do. And I’d say this, I thought Ben (Johnson) called a hell of a game. I thought he called a hell of a game and gave us the best opportunity, offensively, to move the football, be efficient, and find a way to score points.”

On the importance of their star players making timely plays: “Yeah, I mean, it’s kind of what we talked about. When you get in those moments those guys have to make the play for you. And they did that. And all we can do is, it’s our job to put them in the best position to make those plays when we need them and their job is to make it, and they do that. They did that. Now, let me say this, that one long run, (Quintez) Cephus made a hell of a block now, and that was one of those you circle and say – “Hey, Q this is your play.” And he went in there and I mean it was outstanding and get a traveler, he blocks a traveler, now we’re off to the races and (Amon-Ra) St. Brown does the rest. So, everybody’s got a hand in it. Those guys, they did their job. They did what was asked of them.”

On Lions CB Will Harris stunting the momentum of the Washington Commanders with his interception: “Huge. Huge. Listen, one of the big things we talked about and put another emphasis on, you know, you emphasize it, you emphasize it, and it’s like alright we got to emphasize it a different way. It was about turnovers, and we got that. I mean look, the sack fumble, essentially in the End Zone, that’s a turnover. I mean, you know we get two out of it, and then Will Harris. Yeah, they were getting a little momentum and to get that I felt like kind of reset us a little bit. Gave us a chance to breathe and it proved to be a big play, it really did. And look, I said going into this game, man, I wanted to do something. I wanted us to be the team that forced somebody to make the critical error, and we did that. We did that on the extra point. So, however you want to cut it, man, we made the plays that we had to, to win this.”

On being able to stop Washington’s momentum with big plays on both sides of the ball: “Well, I think that it’s, if anything, it’s, I would say you’ve got these set plays that you feel like are good drive starters. When you have a play like that you’re thinking, ‘Hey man, this has got a good chance to be an explosive run.’ Now, you don’t necessarily say, ‘Well hey this is going to go for what it did.’ But you do feel pretty good about the run. There again, I thought Ben (Johnson) did a good job of just getting us reset and getting us back on track. But really, that point, it wasn’t about, we’re not in some four-minute mode, I mean we are still playing football now. So, we knew we needed to move the football, we need to get first downs, and we get down there we need to score and try to put this game away, so we did that.”

On Lions QB Jared Goff’s performance in today’s game: “I thought he did – Man, when we needed it he made some big throws, some real big throws. Now, he missed some, but that’s what comes with playing

the position. He also made some big throws in this game. So, I thought he got us in the right play and when you put up the points that we put up that means you are doing something right. So, he did a good job.”

On how important Lions Offensive Coordinator Ben Johnson’s role was in preparation for the game this week: “The coordinator’s role is everything – offense and defense. And it all ties together with the way I see us needing to play the game as well. And he did an outstanding job of kind of knowing where we were at. Let’s make sure we make this O-Line comfortable. We knew (Dan Skipper) Skip was going to be new in there. It would be his first time, but we also knew he was going to battle. We can trust him. So let’s make sure we get them steady and let’s not let Jared (Goff) hit early or anything. Let’s just be smart and efficient with how we work and we’ll be selective on how we take our shots or when we take them. And I thought he just called a great game, I really did.”

On Lions DL Aidan Hutchinson setting the Lions’ rookie record with three sacks in a game: “Yeah, look he played better than he did last week. You know he was much more detailed with how he rushed and much more disciplined – kind of with really everybody. And so, he did, he was better but so was everybody around him which helps him be better. That’s really the best way to answer it. I’m fired up. I am, I love it. Three sacks, I hope we get three more and he gives us three more next week. And I haven’t seen the tape, but just from what I saw out there and how everything was run and the stunts and I thought he did a great job, I did. I’m not down on him or something. I thought he did a great job, but I thought all those guys did too. They all funneled into each other, you know.”

On Lions RB D’Andre Swift’s ankle injury and his performance playing through it: “Yeah, he just had the ankle – he’s a little bit sore. But man on a sore ankle that was outstanding. He did a great job, he really did. To fight through that, because I know it didn’t feel great and he knew he wasn’t a hundred, but yet he was saying all week, ‘I’m playing, I’m playing. I’m gonna play. I can do it.’ And he did it.”

On the level of concern with Lions C Frank Ragnow’s injury and if it is the same area as last year: “Yeah, no, it is but we’re not concerned. We’re not concerned. We feel like the thing will heal up. We just need to give it a little time.”

On the decision to start Lions T Dan Skipper at left guard today: “Well, because Dan’s been here for two years now – since we been here. I know he’s been here longer than that. But he knows our offense in-and-out, he knows all the positions, and look this isn’t the easiest offense to just walk right in and learn. We got two new guards, (Drew) Forbes has been here longer than Kayode (Awosika). We just felt like Skip, man, has a real good understanding of it. And we felt like even though he’s never played guard in a game, we just feel like he was going to hold up, you know. We trust him, I trust him. He’s a battler. He’s not going to go in the tank if something happens. He’d fight, he knows how to work with those guys. (Taylor) Decker knows him well, Evan’s (Brown) been with him. So it just felt like it was the right thing to do and he battled in there.”

LIONS QB JARED GOFF POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On the rotational offensive linemen stepping up to the plate against the Commanders in wake of injuries: “Yeah, it’s a special one when you get the guys that haven’t had that much experience come in and against two interior D-linemen that are some of the tops in the League and played pretty darn well. And I think with both of those guys, (Lions G) Logan (Stenberg) obviously played last week so I had a little bit of experience with him, but (Lions G Dan) Skipper, it’s his first time playing, so you don’t really know what to expect, although I kind of knew what to expect, the way he is. He has so much experience and plays just so dang hard, and that’s all you can ask for. And I thought he played hard, but he also played really well and did a good job for the times where we needed him.”

On how good the offense can be after two weeks of scoring 35-plus points: “As good as anybody. It’s – like you said, we scored 35 last week, scored 36 this week, and you still feel like, ‘Ah, but that – but that one.’ And I can’t think of a few ones off the top of my head, but that one would have really blown the game wide open, and that’s our next step, right? That’s our next step of going – becoming that maybe more mature, understanding-the-moment team, being able to take those – take advantage of those opportunities and it starts with me. I’ve got to hit some of those throws and really get on the same page with those guys. We are, just it’s more reps and making sure we know the landmarks and everything, it’s mostly me. But like you’re saying, it’s – we feel good about what we did today, but there’s so much more out there for us.”

On Lions Offensive Coordinator Ben Johnson’s play calling to build a cushion late in the game: “Yeah, that was a great job by Ben, man. That was a great job by Ben. We got a good lead there early, and then they started to claw back. We made some good plays to keep them at arms’ length, and then those last couple drives to close it out, just some of the plays that we’ve been holding on to, (Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown) Saint coming around the sideline. Just some of those stuff that he’d been waiting to call for the right moment, I thought he did a great job.”

On what makes Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown stand out as a receiver skill-wise: “Yeah, he’s a very friendly target is the best way to describe it, if that makes sense. Like, for a quarterback, friendly is like, always comes back to the ball, always catches the ball away from his body, is always where he needs to be, understands coverage, understands what I’m looking at, what I’m looking for. Always asking questions. Comes downhill when he’s breaking out on that touchdown just to make sure that guy can’t make a play on it. Little things like that that typically you can’t teach, and he has it, so it’s a guy I’m lucky to play with, and sky’s the limit for him.”

On Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown only being in his second year and the expectations for him despite his youth: “Yeah, but kind of what we expected. Like I think (Lions Head Coach) Dan (Campbell) has mentioned it, like when he makes a mistake, it’s like ‘Huh?’ Like he’s mistake-free pretty much and does such a great job both in the pass game and in the blocking game and is such an anchor for us in both areas of the game, and a guy that we always just want to get the ball to. We have a few of those guys on our offense, but he’s one of them where it’s like, ‘How do we find a way to get him in space.’ And I think mentioning kind of what I was saying earlier, like he played great, and he was the first one to say like, ‘Man, I had that one and that one, that could have been that one.’ And that’s the best thing about him.”

On how comfortable he feels with the offense: “I think you always – it’s hard to reflect on it now when you’re in the middle of it, but I think I’m very appreciative for our coaches and our players and everyone on our offense and our team, and our defense for the plays they made today. And it’s just this feeling of gratefulness and being lucky to be here and lucky to be a part of it, and hopefully continue to do my part

and really make our offense excel like we can. I think we're a good offense right now, but we can really be a great offense and one of the best in the League if we keep doing the right things and keep applying ourselves."

On the aggressiveness the offense has shown and if that is a part of the team's identity: "Yeah, I think that is part of who we are just because of who we have. We've got guys who can make those plays. Like I said there's those – couple that we hit and we feel really good about, but we missed them. We need to make those plays and we will. But we've got guys who can stretch it and at the same time we run the ball so well that it's hard to defend both. When – if you're going to run it and then you can throw it over their heads. It's really hard, so I know (Lions Offensive Coordinator) Ben (Johnson) is cognizant of that, I know he wants to take those shots when they're there."

On how important it was to validate the feeling that they have had to win games: "Always important. Always feels good and absolutely makes us feel good to be 1-1 rather than 0-2, of course. But I think the way it happened is awesome as well. We took a good lead, defense was playing well and they counter-punched us and cut it to one score. And then, we punched right back, and made the plays we need to make on offense. And it's complementary football, that's what the best teams do is play well when the other side isn't and vice versa, and that's what the defense was doing for us today."

On how nice it is when the defense is forcing three-and-outs and what that does for the offense: "It's great. It allows us to really get into a rhythm and they were playing with all the confidence today. I think (Lions DL Aidan) Hutchinson really showed up, (Lions S) Tracy (Walker) and (Lions LB) Malcolm (Rodriguez) and all the usual guys who you'd expect over there. But it was really fun to see their energy and the plan that they had to get after those guys. And they were really, really doing it in that first half."

On how he describes the touchdown catch by Lions RB D'Andre Swift: "He was – what's called 'Hot,' a hot route, right? So, they blitzed and he's uncovered, so he's who the ball has to go to and I kind of left it behind him there, but he caught it and fell down. I'm like, 'Alright, first-down, yeah great, good job.' And then, just – and that's what he can do, man, it's really crazy and I think again, it's not necessarily my job, but I know (Lions Offensive Coordinator) Ben (Johnson) wants to get the ball in his hands as many times as possible. And that's something that we were always focused on and I'm always aware of too, is if he's in the game and down the field isn't open, how fast can I get him the ball in space? And let him work and he's a special player."

On if it has been a point of emphasis to increase the level of blocking on offensive plays: "Yeah, and it's been a point of emphasis for us for sure. Through training camp, from (Lions Offensive Coordinator) Ben (Johnson) is blocking down field after the catch, blocking down field, continuing the play, making you keep going. And that right there, like you said with (Lions TE) T.J. (Hockenson) on (Lions RB D'Andre) Swift's – that caused the touchdown. And like (Lions WR Quintez) Cephus caused 50 – whatever yard gain for (Lions WR Amon-Ra) St. Brown there. So, I think when you see it work and you see, 'OK, the coaches are telling me something that actually makes sense,' and it's working. It really multiplies itself and you gain that momentum of trusting it and believing it, and really becomes who you are."

On if there is pressure to improve his blocking game down the field: "Oh, I would love to."

LIONS DL AIDAN HUTCHINSON POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On what it means to have three sacks in one game and for that game to be a win: “I was just telling (Lions Head Coach) Dan (Campbell) this game is dedicated to Hudson, who is a kid who just got diagnosed with Leukemia. He’s a big Lions fan, he’s from my area. I sent him a video before the game. He was cheering me on. I’m just happy to have good games to spread causes to kids like that. Just raise a lot of awareness for things like that.”

On what was done differently against the Washington Commanders from the Philadelphia Eagles: “You learn from stuff and you move on. I don’t think that I played bad in the first game. But definitely, I had a lot more opportunity I felt in this game and I made the most of it. Yeah, I think I played good in both games but definitely, I made the most of my opportunities in this game.”

On facing a quarterback today who is more of a pocket passer: “That’s just how it is in football. You get a more mobile quarterback (Philadelphia Eagles QB Jalen Hurts) who’s going to get out of the pocket more. It’s just going to happen. Obviously having a less mobile quarterback (Washington Commanders QB Carson Wentz) is definitely what you want as a defensive line.”

LIONS CB JEFF OKUDAH POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On how it feels to get a win: “It feels good. It feels good. I know we’ve put a lot of work in as a team. To kind of reap the fruits of our labor is something that I’m really excited about.”

On what went into the dominant performance in the first half: “I think we just came in the game prepared. Came in with the mentality, ‘Last week wasn’t good enough.’ So this was an opportunity to correct some of those mistakes and hone in on the details.”

On how Lions CB Mike Hughes takes the secondary to the next level: “Mike brings a lot of leadership, he’s a silent assassin. So, he goes out there he performs at a high level and then we just kind of feed off of that.”

LIONS T DAN SKIPPER POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On when he found out he was starting and his reaction: “Thursday morning walkthrough, we found out (Lions G) Jonah (Jackson) probably wasn’t going to go. Talked about it on the field and started there so.”

On if he had any experience playing guard: “So, my freshman year of college, I played guard, and then preseason here before I got my ass fired, so.”

On him getting the spotlight for playing a big part in the win: “It’s very different. I’ve got to thank (Lions DL) Bruce (Hector) and (Lions DL Demetrius Taylor) Meech a lot. I mean they gave me the best look I could ask for. Spending as much time giving the look, being that guy, just waiting for the chance like, those guys wouldn’t – I wouldn’t have played nearly as I had if I hadn’t seen the hump, the hand swipe all week long. Those guys I’ve got to give all the credit to, just having the opportunity to go out there and see what happens.”

On getting cut in “Hard Knocks,” and the emotional moment: “Hey man, I mean my sixth year in the League. I’ve never made a team. It’s tough, you go in, and you’re never quite good enough. You’re not quite enough. You show up every day, and you think you’re doing the right things, and just for whatever

reason, it just doesn't quite work out. I think I've had 20 NFL contracts? They're not worth the paper they're written on, right? So, it's like, 'Here we go again.' Six years, I think things look good, and it sucks, but went home, got things – got to spend a week with the family which was big, got back up here, moved and all that. Just trying to get back to push your best foot ahead every day. It's not easy. Whether you've been fired once or 100 times, it still sucks. It's tough. You get fired, but just keep on plugging away."

LIONS WR AMON-RA ST. BROWN POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On if the game feels any different with the records he has broken and streak he is on: "I don't really think about. I just go out and play ball, prepare all week. Coaches put us in great positions to make plays and I just go out there and play ball. I don't think too much about records, this, that, or the other, how I'm playing. Every week's a new week—it's a new opponent, they might give you a different look. So just go out there and play and see what happens."

On if he is on a hot streak or if this is what he expects of himself every week: "That's a good question. We'll see, we'll see."

On if he reflects on the records he broke last year during his rookie season and records set during the game today: "I would say, I appreciate it right now in the moment. As next week comes I don't even think about it no more. I'll maybe think about it today, but like I said next week it's a new opponent. It's 0-0 that week, we've got to win that week. But I would say the end of my career is when I really look at everything. But for now enjoy today, when next week comes we've got the Vikings, so it's all Minnesota."

On Lions Offensive Coordinator Ben Johnson and his play-calling: "I think Coach Johnson – I tell everyone he's one of the best coaches I've been around. He has that young mind, he's open to new ideas, he puts all of us in the right position to make plays, he knows our strengths, he knows our weaknesses, he knows what the quarterback likes, he knows everything. He's one of the best coaches I've been around. I love Coach Johnson. Like you said, once he kind of took over halfway through the season that's kind of when I started getting more targets and things started taking off for me. I love coach, I love what he's doing for us as an offense. He's putting us in the right position to make plays and we're going out there and executing. Like I said, we're going to enjoy this week, this win, but next week is a new team."

On Lions QB Jared Goff commenting that he is 'quarterback friendly' because of his lack of mistakes: "I say that's just my personality. I like to be perfect in everything that I do. So, if I do make a mistake I'm tough on myself. Like that fourth down, I'm still kind of irritated. I should have had it. By the way, it wasn't a drop. He did knock it out. Still kind of mad about that one because that would have been game over easily for us, just take a knee. But I tend to think of myself as not making too many mistakes, but when I do make one, it kind of irritates me. But I promise you one thing, I won't make the same one twice."

LIONS RB D'ANDRE SWIFT POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On what he saw on his touchdown reception: "First of all, I have to keep my feet to get the ball down, but (Lions QB) Jared (Goff) did a good job of getting me the ball, I got up, saw an opportunity."

On his mentality playing through injury: “My mentality, if I can be out there and contribute in any way, I’m going to do that.”

On how he was feeling entering the game against the Commanders: “I felt good. Yeah, I felt that. Wish I could’ve – wish I was 100 percent. Wouldn’t get caught on the first one. But I felt a little bit, but I came out good. I’m good.”

COMMANDERS HEAD COACH RON RIVERA POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On the offense's performance the first half: "Absolutely. We didn't play very well, that's probably the biggest thing. And again, I'll tell you guys right now, we've just got to make sure we're giving them every opportunity to perform and then we've got to go out and perform. If you look at this in every phase of the game, we got beat in the first half. That's the truth of the matter."

On the offensive line against the Lions' defensive line in the first half: "Well, I think again, they did a couple things as far as line stunts that they actually executed pretty good, and we were a little late picking up."

On allowing the Lions to have multiple big gains: "That's how we gave them big plays, explosive plays. You can't give those plays up. You allow an explosive play, and it throws you off. You look at, really, most of their scoring drives I believe there's at least one play over 25 yards, I think."

On if there are any concerns with the kicking game after the missed extra point: "No. No. That's one missed kick."

On Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown's motion touchdown: "Again, we've got to make sure that when he motions, we're motioning with him and we're getting over the top and we've got ourselves in position to make the play."

On the offensive and defensive performance despite the starters staying consistent: "Big plays. The other team gets paid too, let's be honest about that. We gave them some big plays because we didn't do our job first and foremost. Secondly, we've got to give them some credit too."

On what changed on offense in the second half: "Well, initially we had some energy to begin with. We made an explosive play. You see how important it is because if you get chunk plays, you get yourself into scoring position, it changes everything. Believe me, we battled through that. We tried to not give up and we tried to create. If you can make chunk plays, you're going to make it easier for yourself to score."

On the decision to go for the two-point conversion: "Listen to math. You guys should appreciate the analytics of it."

On if he is concerned about the run defense: "I'm not concerned. We didn't—we weren't at full strength, but having said that, they still ran against us. You've got to give them credit, that's a very gritty football team that came out, they had a lot of energy early on. They fed off the energy around the crowd, and they made a couple things happen and we didn't respond. We came out the second half, we responded, we battled, we did some good things. I think you've got to look at more than just what you see on the surface. There's a lot more to what happens."

On what happened on Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown's touchdown reception: "We blew a coverage."

On if there is concern about the depth of the defensive line: "A lot of concern. We had two guys that went down in the first quarter. That crippled us a little bit. We were playing with six guys out there, and we were trying to put (Commanders DT) Jonathan (Allen) on a pitch count, and we had to be careful with that. That's hard, but at the same time, that's a part of the game."

On if he has an update on the defensive linemen injured in today's game: "No. Nope. We've got— (Commanders DE) Casey (Toohill)'s in the protocol for concussion. (Commanders DE Daniel) Wise has a lower leg and (Commanders DE) Chase (Young) has a lower leg."

On Commanders QB Carson Wentz having more time in the pocket in the second half: "Honestly, I think we played better. I think the guys on the offensive line really buckled in and hunkered down. To their credit, too, they knew that we had to throw the ball and we were still able to move it the way we did. We were still able to protect the way they did, for the most part. The receivers came up big in the second half and made some big plays, some outstanding football plays that gave us a chance. But we've got to match that in all three phases. We can't get ourselves trapped down there. We can't give up a big kickoff or a big punt return. We can't miss kicks. There's a lot of things. Again, as I said, it starts with us. We've got to make sure we're putting them in position to have success. The thing I was proud of, they didn't quit. Nobody quit. They came out and they played their asses off in the second half."

On if the coaches put the team in position to win: "I think in certain situations we did. Not all the time, OK? Don't twist it. Don't twist it. Hear what I'm saying. We've got to make sure we're putting them in position to play. They have to play as well. This is a whole team effort. You want to blame everybody? Blame us all. But let's be careful with it."

On if he needs to remind the team there are a lot of games left to play: "Absolutely. You're absolutely right. That's one thing we talked about, there's a lot of football left still to play. What we have to do is we've got to make sure we're doing those things and we're doing things to give us an opportunity to succeed and get the momentum, keep the momentum and go out and play hard."

On what he saw from Commanders QB Carson Wentz in the second half: "I saw some gumption. He's been very gritty. He was very gritty last week, very gritty this week. There's that want-to, that try-to. He gives it everything he's got every play. I'm just glad we have a guy like that leading, helping to lead our football team."

On what he saw from Commanders LB Jamin Davis: "Well, a little inconsistency. Again, as a young guy, he's going to learn and grow but, hey, we're running out of time as far as that's concerned. We've got to go out and be consistent. That's a big part of it. He's got to continue to work it and get better at it. He had some good things, did some good things in the run, and then there were some things he was inconsistent in."

On his takeaways from the Lions' run defense: "Well, I think the thing you've got to give them credit for is they were getting off the ball and getting up vertical, getting into the crease. That's their aggressive nature. That's how they do things. But you can get them with some misdirection stuff, which we did. You can get them on some play-action stuff, which we did. But, if they guess right and put themselves in position, they're going to make a play or two as well. Again, like I said, that's a very gritty football team over there. I think what (Lions Head) Coach (Dan) Campbell is doing over there is really solid."

On Lions RB D'Andre Swift's touchdown where he was not touched after falling down: "I have to defer to the tape until I get a chance to see that."

On why this team tends to have a rollercoaster of ups and downs throughout a game: "I think it's a little bit of game circumstances. But again, there are two teams out there competing. Somebody's going to make plays, and if they make a few more plays or two than we do early, then we've got to make some

plays later on. That's the truth of the game. If it wasn't like that, then you'd have blowouts. It was one of those things that we needed to get some things going, something happened and we did, but we didn't do it until the second half. If we could've done it in the second quarter, who knows? It could have been a completely different ballgame. But again like I said, that's on us. Like I said, we've just got to make sure we can settle down a little sooner than that."

On if it is easier to bet on the offense than the defense in situations like going for it on fourth-and-1: "I believe so. I do. I think the thing that you have to appreciate is that when you do do that, the guys feel determined. I really appreciated the look in (Commanders T) Charles Leno's eye. There were some things about those guys where, when we started rolling in the third quarter, that you really appreciate. You can see that they knew it was on them, they knew they had to go out and play better. I thought for the most part they were doing that. We made a couple mistakes that hurt us. We allowed a couple of explosives. You can't do that. It takes the momentum back, and that's on us."

On how close Commanders S Kam Curl was to being able to play: "Well, he didn't clear. That's the nature of healing up. When the doctor tells me he can play, he'll play."

On if they were concerned Commanders DT Jonathan Allen would not play today: "We were very concerned, but the biggest thing was we were able to go out and see him today. He felt it pretty good. Like I said, the whole plan was to put him on a pitch count. Unfortunately, with the loss of those two guys, it was tough on him. It was tough on that whole group. They had to play a lot more than you'd like them to play."

On getting Commanders WR Terry McLaurin more involved in the second half: "Well, it was one of those things where—I said that about last week. If you can get a guy that can start out hot, it shifts a lot of focus onto that guy and then opens up things for other people. When I was looking at this as I was walking over here and you saw how many different guys got an opportunity to touch the ball, to play with the ball, that's pretty impressive. For the most part, we had nine again. The ball was spread out to nine different guys. That's what you want to see. But we've got to do that from the beginning because that really opens up things for other players. If somebody like Terry or (Commanders WR) Curtis (Samuel) or (Commanders RB) J.D. (McKissic) or any of those guys starts hot, it changes the way people approach you. Because now, you've got to have an answer here, now they're going to have a question somewhere else."

On if he believes they should have incorporated Commanders TE Logan Thomas into the offense more: "No, well, we went into this consciously just knowing that last week, we put too much on Logan. We talked about it as coaches and said, 'Hey guys, we've got to make sure we're spreading it out.' Logan is still working his way back into it because remember, he didn't have any live time during training camp. We've got to be smart about that."

COMMANDERS QB CARSON WENTZ POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On what the difference was in the second half of the game: “Hard to say. Got to go back and watch the tape. First half was very ugly. I’ve got to be better, we’ve got to stay on the field, we’ve got to execute better. Again, got to look at the tape, but it just seemed like one little thing here and there. And next thing you know it was the end of the first half. It was very ugly, very ugly. So, proud of the way the guys responded coming out of the second half. We know what we’re capable of, I think we showed it again. But we’ve just got to be consistent, we’ve got to be consistent, we can’t do that early in the game. The League is too hard to win and we can’t do that to ourselves and dig ourselves a hole like that.”

On what the discussion was at halftime and how they started to gain momentum: “Yeah, I mean it was a horrible feeling. You come in, but it’s like, ‘Hey, what are we going to do?’ Leave it in the past and go make the next play, and try to keep the mindset of, ‘Hey, just the next play.’ We don’t need to go – we’re not going to score 20 – 22- point play in our back pocket. So, go just execute one play at a time and I thought the guys did a pretty good job of responding and doing that. Just came up short.”

On what the Lions were doing defensively that gave the Commanders’ offense a hard time: “Hard to say, hard to say. I know they brought probably a little more pressure on first and second-down than maybe we were thinking, but again they kind of had a different – kind of plan of attack every single week. So, I think – I thought we adjusted to it OK. Again, it was just one little thing here and there. And next thing you know it’s halftime and bad feeling.”

On how much it settled him down when they got that big play to open the second half: “Yeah, I thought that drive was big for us because that’s what we talked about at halftime. We’ve got to respond, we’ve got to come out – don’t press but we’ve got to make some plays. And I thought guys did that, that first drive was huge for us.”

On why he thought the Commanders struggled in all three phases of the game: “I wish I had that answer. It’s hard. This League’s hard and I wish I had the magic answer because last week we came out rolling. We came out first few drives hot and this week we’re horrible. We were horrible in the first half and yeah, I’ve got to own that one and find a way to stay on the field and convert some things just to get a little momentum and we couldn’t find it at all. But I’m confident we’ll be better especially that second half, I think we can use some of that to build and show that we are resilient. But we’ve just got to do it for four quarters.”

On the reception by Commanders WR Jahan Dotson in the second half and how big it was to the momentum shift: “I thought it was huge. It was kind of a no huddle play, up tempo, to kind of catch them off guard a little bit. Again, the kid keeps showing up. I can’t say enough good things about Jahan and the way he keeps showing up like that. And I think that was a bit of a spark that we needed, and I think again, we followed it up with a couple of good drives there. But yeah, that was big.”

On the interception he threw in the third quarter and what he could have done differently: “Bringing the ball down. That’s – big target like that I still got to give him a chance though. That’s too high, too high and throwing it over the middle and anytime you leave it up – your – it can be in harm’s way, especially the way we were rolling that one. I’m definitely kicking myself over because I thought we had some momentum there, especially right after another big play. But I think the play before. So yeah, I know (TE) Logan (Thomas) might own that one. But that is not on him one bit. I’ve got to get that ball down and give him a chance. And that one I’m definitely kicking myself over.”

On his two-point conversion pass attempt that was intercepted: “I thought they covered it well. They had a good play. They covered it pretty well, tried to play to make a play, and yeah, bad throw.”

On whether he puts more weight on the offensive success in the second half or the offensive struggles of the first half: “It’s both. Honestly, it’s both. You can’t – I’ve said it, and I can’t say it enough, but this League’s hard. You cannot start like that. You have to find a way to just force the issue and find a way to get a first down, find the way to get a spark, and we didn’t do that at all. But like you said, the second half was big for us, I think, to kind of remind ourselves of what we’re capable of us. So, it is both. It’s definitely both. And we’ve got a tough one next week that we’ve got to get ready for and hopefully clean those things up.”

On the mentality to go for it on fourth-and-1: “Aggressive mindset. I’m not in those decisions. I’m not on the headsets making those calls. I just call what’s ran. I like the aggressive mindset. I think it instills confidence in us as players, and so I trust (Commanders Head) Coach (Ron) Rivera, (Commanders Offensive Coordinator) Coach (Scott) Turner, everybody that’s on those headsets, making those decisions that they know what they want to do, and they’re going to be aggressive at times, and I think guys appreciate that. We’ve got to be better at the fourth down. Obviously, that was a huge play. The two-point play we’ve got to execute a little better. I’ve got to make a better throw, but yeah, I appreciate they’re willingness to trust in us to make those plays.”

On watching the film and preparing for the Eagles: “I mean the League’s fast. It’s fast and furious. I mean, we’ll watch it first thing in the morning and learn from it as a team. And we’ll be right away getting ready for the Eagles, because this is how the business works, and there’s no time to rest or feel sorry yourself or pat yourself on the back or any of those things. We’ve got to go. We’ve got to go, and we’ll be out there before we know it. Wednesday practice, guys might be banged up, that’s part of the deal. But yeah, it’s fast, fast turnover, and we’ve got to ready for it.”

On what playing the Eagles will mean to him: “Another game. Another game. I mean I know there’s a lot going into it. There’s a lot of emotion. There’ll be a lot of things but trying not to let it be more than another game. There’s some familiar faces for me over there, that quite frankly, I’m excited to see, excited to go compete against. It’ll be fun. But it’s a lot of difference too. A lot of difference too over there. I know the rivalry in this division. Obviously been a part of it for a while, so look forward to it, but can’t make it bigger than it needs to be.”

On the status of Commanders C Chase Roullier’s injury: “Yeah, I don’t know exactly what’s going on, you just hate seeing that. That honestly is my least favorite part of the game is those injuries, and I know what he did last year, and how he battled. And I saw him in there working every day since I’ve got here in the spring, and my heart just dropped when he went down. I don’t know what it means, I don’t know – I know he doesn’t know yet either, but it was just – it stinks. It really stinks, especially a competitor like he is, such a great guy, such a leader on this team upfront, especially with those O-linemen. So, I’ll be praying for him, and he knows that, and hopefully we get good news.”

On if he was trying to make a play throwing downfield into coverage: “Yeah, they covered it well. We were trying to be aggressive, take a shot. I’ve got to go see the film. I don’t – it wasn’t a very throw. Definitely put that one in harm’s way again, but trying to be aggressive, trying to make a play. They covered it well.”