



Sunday, December 16, 2018

Vikings Tight End Kyle Rudolph

Q: On the offensive success during the game...

A: We realized early in the week that it was time to stop talking and time to start doing. Kevin [Stefanski] did an unbelievable job creating a plan that allowed us to go out there and let our ability take over. He got everyone involved; every playmaker on offense was out there making plays for us. When you run the ball for over 200 yards and have over 400 yards of offense, it makes things fun.

Q: On using high tempo throughout the game on offense...

A: I thought that was something we did really well last year. There is a difference between going high tempo an entire drive and using tempo intermittently. I thought that was something that Kevin [Stefanski] did really well. It seemed as though every time we got the ball and used tempo, we had success.

Q: 21-0 is a nice lead to have right?

A: Absolutely, we always talk about wanting to start fast. Starting fast allows us to then lean on the run game more. When we are playing with a lead, we get more cracks at it. When we are playing from behind and we are not converting third downs, everyone wonders where our run game is. Today we were great on third down and great getting off to a fast start to let those guys run for four quarters.

Q: Pressure after tough road games over the last few weeks...

A: It was definitely exciting to come back and play a game at noon at home. I can't wait to be on my couch here in about a half hour and watch everyone else play and not get back at 4:30 a.m. on a road trip. This was a big one for us; to come home and reestablish what our identity is as a football team, but more so as an offense. We want to be a physical, run-first team that takes advantage of play-action, and I thought we did that well today.

Q: On controlling their own destiny in the playoff race...

A: We have known all along. It seems like every week we come back and it's the same song and dance. We are still in the playoffs; we still control our own destiny. We just have to go out and win games. We finally stopped talking about it and went out and did it today.

Q: On the defensive performance...

A: Those guys really got after it today. I think I looked up at one point and they had about 36 yards of passing. That's incredible in today's game, with the rules now that favor the offense, to only allow 36 yards of passing. They got after it and obviously Marcus [Sherels] had a huge punt return on special teams and complementary football is what we believe in.

Q: Was this the most complete game so far this season?

A: Yeah, I think back to the Packers game on Sunday night. We have done it a couple times this season. When we do have a complete performance, we are really tough to beat. Now it's about doing it over again next week. We have to play consistent; last year we did it for 10 weeks in a row and now it's time for us to get hot.

Q: On Interim Offensive Coordinator Kevin Stefanski...

A: I think Kevin [Stefanski] was as prepared as anyone for this opportunity. He has been here the longest out of anyone on the offense. He's a guy that has worked under many different offensive coordinators; he saw what they did well, maybe what they did not do as well, and

what he would do once it was his turn. I think you saw that throughout the week with little changes. He didn't come in and overhaul everything. There were things we did a little bit differently this week that you could tell Kevin [Stefanski] was waiting for his opportunity to do this. I think he learned a lot of things last year from our offense and what Pat [Shurmur] did with this offense that we got back to today.