

Pool Report
Cleveland Browns vs. Jacksonville Jaguars
December 16, 2001

Official: Terry McAulay
NFL Supervisor: Dick McKenzie
Reporter: Tony Grossi – Cleveland Plain Dealer

Grossi: Why was the play allowed to be reviewed after the previous play was run?

McAulay: The buzzer on my belt went off just prior to the snap. We are playing football and I realize the buzzer has gone off. I go to the umpire and he says, yes, his buzzer is going off too. My first question is, is it absolutely before the snap? I went to the replay to confirm it. Bill Reynolds (Replay Official), did you press the buzzer prior to the snap? He said, absolutely 100%. At that point we had a legal review. We go in and review the play (Quincy Morgan for a first down). The ball is coming loose, hits the ground, incomplete pass.

Grossi: Irrefutable?

McAulay: Yes. Absolutely. On contact the ball is coming loose, hits the ground, incomplete pass. He's (Quincy Morgan) got it on his hip, it's coming loose and hits the ground.

Grossi: So are you saying the play where Couch spikes the ball...

McAulay: It never happened.

Grossi: You felt the buzzer, why didn't you call time and stop play?

McAulay: We are in the middle of playing football and that is an unnatural thing, but as soon as I realize that we had a buzzer I had to make sure. I thought it was prior to the snap, I had to make sure from the replay assistant to confirm that it was prior to the snap.

Grossi: You reviewed on replay whether the buzzer had gone off?

McAulay: It is his job to let me know absolutely certain that he buzzed prior to the play.

Grossi: So you were consulting with him?

McAulay: Yes.

Grossi: What was Tom Coughlin saying or arguing about?

McAulay: I really never got in to that and have no idea what that was all about.

Grossi: So you have indisputable evidence, you've reversed the play, there is a flurry of bottles coming on the field, then you decided to call the game?

McAulay: We were going to try to finish the game, but as we lined up a bottle zipped past my head and by all the Jacksonville players heads. At that point I decided that it was just too dangerous to finish the game. So I announce that the game was over. The Commissioner (Paul Tagliabue) called Dick McKenzie, our observer, and said we had to back out there and finish the game.

Grossi: Is there no way for a game to be called without the Commissioner okaying it?

Dick McKenzie: That is correct. He is the only one who has the power to determine a game prior to conclusion.

Grossi: Terry, did you talk to the Commissioner and suggest that the game should be called?

Dick McKenzie: No, I did not. (McKenzie) I was called in the press box from our command center in New York and told that we would have to finish the game.

Grossi: What was the delay about to get both teams back on the field?

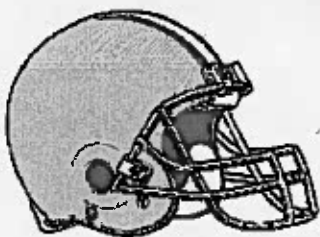
McAulay: I went to Coach Davis to inform him what we had to do. I then went to Coach Coughlin and told him what we had to do. We want to make sure that it was secure and safe for all the participants to go back out. That was the main reason we delayed so long. We wanted it to be safe.

Grossi: So there was a point where you feared for the safety of yourselves and for the teams?

McAulay: Absolutely. There were full bottles of things coming down.

Grossi to Dick McKenzie: Wouldn't you as the onsite observer have the ability to suggest that the game just be cancelled since the Commissioner was not here?

Dick McKenzie: No. I do not have that power.



2001 CLEVELAND BROWNS POST-GAME QUOTES

**Jacksonville Jaguars at Cleveland Browns
Dec. 16, 2001 – Cleveland Browns Stadium**

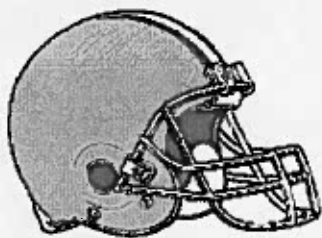
HEAD COACH BUTCH DAVIS

(on the game) – “I’m definitely disappointed. Anytime you lose a game in that fashion, it is going to hurt. Those guys had their hearts ripped out. It is tough to take.

(on the ruling to reverse the 1st down) – “According to the referee, after they had ruled the pass complete, moved the first down chains and let us run a play, they heard the replay buzzer go off. They said it went off simultaneously as the snap went through. We had already run a play. It makes me sick. You don’t like to lose on questionable calls.

(on missed opportunities) – “We had a lot of chances where we were inside their territory where we didn’t take advantage of the opportunities that we had. If we would have done some of those things, then that end of the game never happens.

(on the fans throwing items on the field) – “It’s disappointing. I’m disappointed that all those things got thrown on the field. I know the fans were upset. But, our guys were getting hit along with the Jaguars and the officials. It’s an unfortunate situation.”



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CLEVELAND BROWNS PLAYER QUOTES

Tim Couch QB

(on his reaction about the ending of the game) "We got on a little roll offensively. We put ourselves in a position to win the game."

(on the crowd's reaction) "The crowd was just into it. They wanted to see us get a chance to win the game. They're just showing their frustration. It's definitely a situation I've never had been a part of before."

(on the final call) "It was unfortunate it didn't work out in our favor. Offensively, we put ourselves in a bad situation. We definitely lost the game offensively. Our defense gave us every chance to go ahead and win it. We made it close and left it up to the officials to win or lose it for us. Unfortunately, that's the way the offense played today."

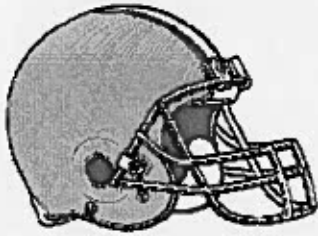
(on whether he heard a whistle) "When I spiked the ball, they came in and blew it dead. The Jacksonville players were complaining about the way I spiked the ball. They said I double-clutched it. The officials were basically saying that it was okay and they weren't really worried about the spike. They started talking about the fourth down play, the previous play."

(on it being a whistle for the spike) "I thought that's what they said originally and I was just pleading my case for the spike. They said the spike was all right. Then they went ahead and reviewed the previous play."

(on getting "shafted") "I don't really want to say that. We obviously would have liked to have the chance to go ahead and try to win the game, run another couple of plays. Like I said earlier, we put ourselves in a bad situation. We should have taken advantage of more opportunities in the offense and we didn't."

(on what happened to the offense) "I don't know, we just didn't play well. We didn't execute. We didn't do anything at all in the red zone. We moved the ball well in between the twenties, but when we got down there, a penalty knocked us out of position. It put us at a first and twenty, something like that. We didn't overcome it."

(on being worried about his safety) "Yeah, I was definitely looking over my shoulder for bottles flying, that kind of stuff. I was just staying out of the way. I didn't want to get hit by anything, so it was definitely a concern."



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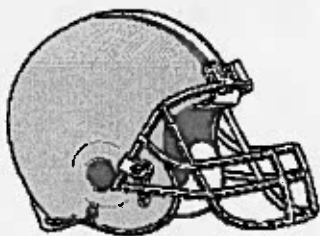
CLEVELAND BROWNS PLAYER QUOTES

Quincy Morgan WR

(on the disputed catch) "I caught the ball. I know I caught the ball. I hit the ground, got up and spit the ball up on the ground."

(on his knowledge of the challenge) "I didn't even know they were doing it. Somebody said something about Tim spiking the ball. The refs came out and said 'Pass Incomplete.' That's how the game goes."

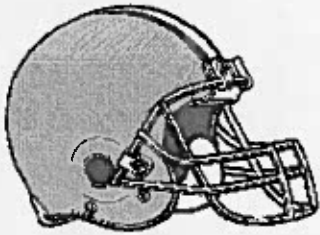
(on the incident itself) "Fans are going to be fans. They were upset. That's going to happen. After a call like that, they have to defend their Browns."



2001 CLEVELAND BROWNS POST-GAME NOTES

**Jacksonville Jaguars at Cleveland Browns
Dec. 16, 2001 - Cleveland Browns Stadium**

1. CB Anthony Henry established a Browns' rookie record by intercepting his eighth and ninth passes of the season. He broke Bobby Franklin's old record of eight, which was established in 1960. The Browns' team record is 10, which was set by Tom Darden in 1978.
2. Henry also tied a club record with his 97-yard interception return for a touchdown. Najee Mustafaa also returned an interception for 97 yards on Oct. 10, 1993 vs. Miami. Henry's play was also the 2nd longest interception return in the NFL this season. Tampa Bay's Shelton Quarles returned an interception 98 yards against Green Bay on Oct. 7.
3. LB Jamir Miller tallied three sacks and established a single-game high with his effort. Miller has 13 sacks this season, which places him fourth on the Browns' single-season list.
4. WR JaJuan Dawson's 44-yard reception in the second quarter was the longest of his career. It was also the third longest play from scrimmage for the Browns this season.
5. RB Jamel White tied a career-high with five receptions in the game. He previously had five catches against Jacksonville on 9/30/01.
6. CB Daylon McCutcheon registered his first two sacks of the season in the second quarter. The two sacks give McCutcheon seven for his career.
7. PK Phil Dawson's 29-yard field goal was his 13th consecutive made field goal. Dawson has converted 17 of his last 18 field goal attempts.
8. Cleveland's eight sacks tie for 4th most in a single game. The club record is 11 (11/18/84 at Atlanta). The Browns also recorded nine sacks in a game twice (12/5/93 vs. New Orleans and 10/16/88 vs. Philadelphia). Cleveland has recorded eight sacks three other times.
9. Jacksonville scored a touchdown on their opening drive for the first time since 11/21/99 vs. New Orleans.



2001 CLEVELAND BROWNS POST-GAME QUOTES

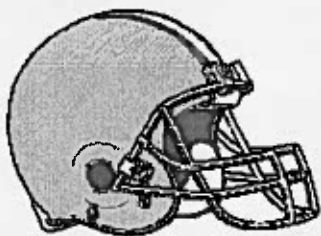
Jacksonville Jaguars at Cleveland Browns
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JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS HEAD COACH TOM COUGHLIN

(opening comments) "That is why we say always keep your helmet on on the road. This was a hard-fought football game. Their defense is very good. We played very well against it. We had penalties and we shot ourselves in the foot on a couple of occasions, but somehow, somehow we found a way to win. We had Mike Hollis miss an extra point and then make three field goals to win the game. We had two teams that were keyed and ready to go. We won the battle of time of possession and we knew that it would be a factor in the game. Our team kept fighting back. We never got down and we never gave up. It was a hard-fought game and we came away with a much-needed win."

(on whether they thought the fourth down play was incomplete at first) "We did. Upstairs they were yelling. First of all, because he did not catch the ball, and second, because we thought that they did not make the first down. There was a lot of interest upstairs, but it was under two minutes to go and we were out of timeouts, so we knew that we could not challenge the call."

(on his first thoughts as debris was being littered on to the field) "That was bad. That is not football. That is not like I know it. They were not throwing water bottles, they were throwing full beer bottles. If they hit one of the kids on the field it could have been serious, very serious. You can look at it in the eye of 'I've never seen anything like that,' but that is really not what the NFL is about."



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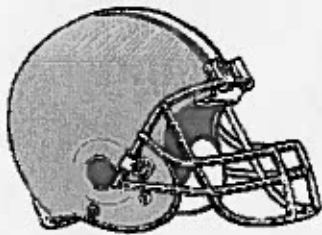
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS PLAYER QUOTES

Mark Brunell QB

(on the 'incident') "It was something you never thought would happen in a million years. Obviously the crowd was upset with the decision the referee made. That is an understatement, obviously. I thought that it would be a temporary thing. I thought that they would get the beer bottles off the field and we would play. That was not the case. It just kept going. I have never seen anything like that ever, and I probably will never see anything like that again. I told these guys, 'you will not forget that one. This is a game you will always remember.'"

(on if Jacksonville wanted to come back out and finish the game) "No. I was getting ready to shower and all of the guys had to get dressed again. Apparently, the commissioner called and said that we had to finish the game, so we did what the boss said. Fortunately, no one got hurt."

(on Jacksonville's offensive performance) "Stacey Mack had a great day and that was the key for us on offense. We had a lot of good drives. We ran a lot of plays. Unfortunately, we did not put up as many points on the board as we wanted to down there. It was a good day and we were glad to get the running game going."



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JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS PLAYER QUOTES

Jimmy Smith WR

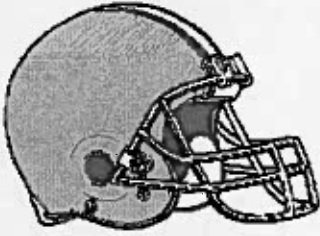
(on Anthony Henry's interception return for a touchdown) "The guy made a great play. You have to give it to him. You have to give him credit."

(on what he was thinking as the 'incident' happened) "I've been in the league for 10 years, and I have never seen anything like this before. We were just trying to dodge as many beer bottles as we could. It felt like I was starring in *Saving Private Ryan* or something. We just wanted to get in here (the locker room) without anyone getting hurt."

James Boyd SS

(on the 'incident') "We are just glad nobody got hurt."

(on playing in Cleveland) "It's fun. It is our last time here, and we got a win out of it."



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JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS PLAYER QUOTES

Keenan McCardell WR

(On the incident at the end of the game) "This is a great football city. But to be honest, it disgusts me. For some great fans, this was just disgusting. I never thought I would see it again, but I saw it again. It just brought back memories of '95."

(On coming out to finish the game) "It had to be finished. The league was going to make a statement. We just had to go out, take the snaps and get it over with."

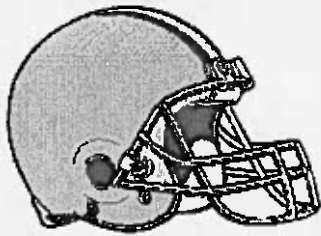
(On whether it changes his opinion of Cleveland fans) "You can't act like that. It won't change my opinion because I know that they want their team to win. They have to be a little more responsible. They are throwing stuff, and they could hit their own players. Then what? They were throwing it on our sidelines, but they were throwing it on their side, too. They have a great coach in Butch Davis, but if he gets hit by a beer bottle in the head, now what?"

(On whether the situation was worse than in 1995) "No, I don't think so. In '95, we had chairs coming out of the stands, not just beer bottles. The Dawg Pound was 'toe up.' I just never thought I would see it again."

(On what changes need to be put in place after the incident) "I'm just lucky that they have plastic beer bottles. That was a great change. It's hard to say, you can't do much about that. You just move on."

Stacey Mack RB

(On today's rushing performance) "I was in a groove today. They kept giving it to me, and every carry I got I was feeling stronger. The offensive line did an excellent job holding their blocks, and the receivers did a good job of letting me get the cutbacks. The holes were huge and they were always there. I will always remember this game, being my first 100-yard game, but I have never seen anything like this at the end of a game. Before this happened, this was probably the best place to play football, but the fans are crazy."



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CLEVELAND BROWNS QUOTES

Carmen Policy – President and Chief Executive Officer

(on the team appealing the game) “There is no rule that permits us to protest the outcome of the game. I was on the phone with the Commissioner during the lull, and we understood the rules from him very clearly, and it was his position that the game couldn’t be terminated with time left on the clock. He was in the process of notifying the officials that that was the rule. He asked for our cooperation to help maintain the rules of the NFL in terms of completion of the game. We, of course, would do whatever the league thought was appropriate. We were also concerned about the fans and their safety, and the safety for the people on the field.”

(on the fans’ actions) “You haven’t heard me criticize the officials in this situation and if I’m not going to criticize the officials, I am certainly not going to criticize the fans of Cleveland.”

(on the actions of the fans being the most embarrassing thing since the franchise has returned to Cleveland) “As I said, I am not criticizing the fans at all, because I don’t think it is appropriate today. I think a lot has happened; the fans’ hearts have been ripped out. I think this is a situation where a lot can be expected from these events that were handled the way they were handled. What we had to do as an organization was to gain control of this situation the best we could. I am not condoning it, nor am I criticizing it. We all saw what happened and can form our own judgement, but the thing that is relevant right now is that things have to be under control and I think they are.”

(on Cleveland’s image after this incident) “I have been in games where snowballs have flown in New England, I have seen snowballs fly in the Meadowlands, and I have been involved in a game where a snowball has disrupted a field goal attempt that could have meant the difference in the game. I don’t think that Cleveland will take a black eye from this. I like the fact that our fans cared. They care about their team and they cared about this game.”