

## Mark Andrews ‘gutted’ by gaffes, heartened by Bills fans’ charity donations

*Bills Mafia struck again, this time in support of a diabetes-focused organization connected to the Ravens tight end.*

By Des Bieler

In his first public comments since his late-game gaffes contributed to the Baltimore Ravens’ playoff loss to the Buffalo Bills, Mark Andrews said he was “absolutely gutted by what happened ... [and] devastated for my teammates, my coaches and Ravens fans.”

The 29-year-old tight end, who shared his thoughts in an Instagram post Thursday, also saluted “those who have generously donated” to a charity of his choice that supports research into treatments and cures for Type 1 diabetes. Andrews did not specify Bills fans in his post, but thousands of them have banded together to raise over \$110,000 as of Thursday for the organization, Breakthrough T1D.

“Despite the negativity,” Andrews wrote on Instagram, “I’ve seen heartfelt love and encouragement. Even when the moment seems darkest, perspective can reveal that there’s still a lot of light in this world.

“I’m now going to do my part to bounce back and contribute to it.”

Andrews declined to speak with reporters after Sunday’s game, and he was not available Monday, when Ravens players gathered at the team facility to clear out their lockers. Midway through the fourth quarter of Baltimore’s 27-25 loss at Buffalo, he [lost a fumble](#) to end a promising drive while the Ravens were down by five points.

Andrews’s costliest mistake came with less than two minutes left. After the Ravens scored a touchdown, they went for a two-point conversion that would have tied the game, but a pass to an open Andrews [bounced off his hands](#) and fell incomplete. The Bills recovered the subsequent onside kick, ran out the clock and celebrated a berth in the AFC championship game.

The Ravens were left to lament a defeat that had them “tired,” as quarterback Lamar Jackson put it, of repeated postseason disappointment. Jackson also told reporters he was “not going to put that on Mark.”

“All of us played a factor in that game,” said the seventh-year quarterback, a two-time NFL MVP who threw an interception and lost a fumble during the loss.

For Andrews, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, the lost fumble was just the second of his career and his first since the 2019 season. He is the Ravens’ career leaders in touchdown catches, with 51, and was [graded](#) by Pro Football Focus this season as having dropped three passes on 79 targets.

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“I pour every ounce of my being into playing at the highest level possible, because I love my team and the game of football like nothing else,” Andrews wrote. “That is why it’s taken me until now to collect my thoughts and address this publicly. Even though the shock and disappointment are unlike anything I’ve felt before, I refuse to let the situation define me. I promise that this adversity will only make me stronger and fuel us as we move forward.”

In the wake of the Ravens’ loss and the ensuing criticism of Andrews, a Buffalo fan began a [GoFundMe](#) campaign to benefit Breakthrough T1D and called on “Bills Mafia” to respond with the kind of generosity they have displayed in the past.

“To see an opposing fan base raising money and supporting a cause that’s near and dear to [Andrews], and that he’s been such a supporter of, it’s incredibly touching to me,” Breakthrough T1D CEO Aaron J. Kowalski said in a Zoom interview Thursday afternoon.

Kowalski described himself with a chuckle as “a die-hard Steelers fan” who frequently finds himself “pulling for the Ravens” because of his organization’s connection to Andrews.

“I see this as kind of a silver lining, this kindness,” he said. “You just don’t give money out of spite. I think it’s a testament to seeing that Mark Andrews is a good human being. He’s an amazing athlete.”

Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 9, Andrews wears a blood sugar monitor during games that he checks when he’s on the sideline. Since being drafted by the Ravens in 2018, he has served as a youth ambassador for Breakthrough T1D and raised funds for it in campaigns connected to charity walks, his [fantasy points scored](#) and the NFL’s “[My Cause, My Cleats](#)” initiative.

“People like Mark Andrews are so special because ... [of] what he does by just being a high-profile person living with a chronic disease that’s super-hard, and performing at the highest level,” Kowalski said.

The CEO noted that he watched the Baltimore-Buffalo game and was “heartbroken that [Andrews] had a couple of tough plays.” Kowalski also said the Ravens “wouldn’t be there, if not for Mark Andrews,” which echoed comments made the day before by Baltimore Coach John Harbaugh.

“We are not where we’re at, throughout the course of the season or in the game, without the contributions of Mark,” Harbaugh [told](#) reporters Wednesday.

“Mark is a huge part of our future,” the coach added, “and we love him and we’re there for him, but if anybody can take a tough circumstance like that and handle it with class and grace and dignity — and mental toughness — it’s most definitely Mark Andrews.”

The Bills fan who initiated the GoFundMe campaign, Nicholas Howard, [told](#) the Associated Press on Wednesday that he did so because he felt “so bad because it’s a bunch of couch potatoes out there that are saying these hate comments” toward Andrews.

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“He busted his butt to get where he is and he didn’t mean to drop that pass, obviously,” Howard said. “He made a mistake and everyone makes mistakes. He does so much for the community, and it’s ridiculous that they would do that to him.”

In 2017, Bills fans reacted to another Ravens loss — a Bengals victory that helped the Bills clinch their first playoff berth since the 1999 season — by showering donations on a charity supported by then-Cincinnati quarterback Andy Dalton. Tyler Boyd, then a Bengals wide receiver who contributed to that win, saw his preferred charity [get a similar boost](#).

Other beneficiaries of the Bills Mafia’s generosity have included organizations linked to Buffalo quarterback Josh Allen, [after his grandmother died](#) in 2020, Ravens quarterback [Lamar Jackson in 2021](#) after the Bills advanced to the AFC championship with a victory over Baltimore, and Buffalo kicker [Tyler Bass](#), after he missed a crucial kick in a playoff loss last season.

“It sounds kind of cliché,” Kowalski said, “but when you take lemons and make lemonade, this is an example. They’re going to make a difference in a positive way.”