



## **REDSKINS HEAD COACH JAY GRUDEN**

### **On injuries:**

"No injuries of note."

### **On what hasn't worked on defense:**

"I don't know yet. I'll have to go back and watch this film. There are no excuses to be had. We have to look at ourselves, and we have to play better. We're minus a couple pieces in the secondary, that has an issue. But really, we should be better than this. That's on us, obviously, as coaches and we have to get more out. We have a very talented group on defense, and we're not reaching them. We have to play better, and we will play better. We have 14 games left and still a lot of football to play."

### **On if there will be any coaching changes:**

"No, I think after two games – you're talking about playing two very good offensive football teams and two of the best offensive lines in pro football we just played back-to-back. That's no excuse whatsoever, but I don't think we need to hit the panic button yet. We just have to continue to focus on what we can do better to win. Get Jonathan [Allen] in here, get a couple of our corners back in here and let's go back and strap it up against Chicago [Bears] next week and see what happens."

### **On the penalties on the right side of the offensive line:**

"Today I can't explain it. I don't know what happened. I didn't see the holding calls that they called on those two guys [Brandon Scherff and Morgan Moses]. They are costly penalties again. We talk about their movement all the time. Until you have to go block their movement, their stunts, and you have to react and stick your foot in the ground and react, and then bounce off the stunt and try to get the other guy, it's easier said than done sometimes. We're very effective and have been for a long time. A couple holding calls here and there may be understandable, but we've had way too many the first two weeks."

### **On the experience of his defensive unit:**

"We have some moving parts now. Landon Collins is a veteran guy but this is his first year, [Montez] Sweat's in his first year, [Cole] Holcomb, it's his first year, [Jon] Bostic is in his first year. We're playing Dominique [Rodgers-Cromartie] at corner and this is Jimmy Moreland's first year, so it's not like we are the most experienced group. We feel like we were very talented, but we're still fighting through somethings. There are a lot of things to look forward to, without a doubt, but we do have to play better and strap it up and get back to work."

### **On CB Josh Norman's performance:**

"I have to look at the film, sometimes they may be in a zone and he may be expecting middle help. But I don't know, I'll have to wait and see the film. If he's playing a cover two and they run a basic ground draw, then that's not his guy. We just have to look at it and get more out of all of our guys. But I'm not going to blame Josh Norman for this one."

### **On the issues with starting fast but not finishing in the second half:**

"Offensively, it's the penalties again killed us on those couple drives. Defensively, we gave up another big play on the post route. Then the drive to start the second half, they ate the clock up and knocked it down our throat, good game plan by them. [Cowboys Offensive Coordinator] Kellen Moore did a great job offensively, and credit to [Cowboys Head Coach Jason] coach Garrett, their staff and players."

**On cleaning up the penalties:**

“I have to check them out, I have to look at them. The play at the end of the half, we were going to hold them to a field goal, and they called defensive holding and we thought their left tackle held our guy. Instead it was on us and they got an extra down and they scored a touchdown. That’s a four point swing right there, we’ll have to wait and see what that looked like. Every coach in the NFL teaches fundamental football – hand usage, knowing the snap count. Eventually, we are going to have to execute a little bit better and make sure we understand that we’re being watched very closely. We got to eliminate penalties offensively and defensively.”

**On WR Terry McLaurin and why he didn’t play as much in the preseason:**

“Well he was hurt a little bit. I didn’t want him to go out there and he hurt his back or butt muscle or something, so we laid off of him. But we see Steve [Sims Jr.] as a guy that’s very smart, very young. That whole receiving core actually did pretty good today with all the moving parts. We had some no-huddle and some different formations like he and Trey Quinn. Robert Davis came in a little bit, and obviously Steve Sims had a couple of carries there. It’s pretty impressive so far. I think there’s a lot to look forward to. The youth on this team is getting better and better as the season goes on.”

**On keeping the players in a positive mindset:**

“We played two games and that’s the big thing. It’s got to keep in-house and stay together. That’s without a doubt. I know there’s going to be a lot of people that are going to try and tear us apart without a doubt and deservedly so, probably. But we played two games. We played two very good football teams. Unfortunately, we’re zero-and-two in our division. We lost to Dallas and Philadelphia, two of our rivals and we don’t like that at all. But there’s a lot of football left. We have a young football team that’s going to develop and grow. We need veterans to step up and take this team by the throat and I think it will happen. I still feel very optimistic about the future of this football team.”

**On where the team stands in the division:**

“I think when you see us in the first half of the first two games, we can go toe-to-toe with anybody. I think we wore down a little bit, then we let some things happen where we did not come out of the funk. We did not get the momentum back in our favor. We held the field goal, got it down to 10, and we had a fourth down-and-three and we missed Chris Thompson out of bounds. That could’ve been a big play and a chance for us to go down and try and get some momentum back. But these first two games, it’s all about when you lose momentum. You’ve got to seize it back somehow. Somebody’s got to step up, make a big play on offense, defense and special teams, and that just hasn’t happened for us yet. But I expect we stick with the plan. Guys continue to play hard, buy in and stay together. We’re going to change.”

**On getting penalty plays back from the NFL:**

“We do it all the time. You send them 10 plays and you get the feedback and the explanations and if they’re wrong on that one, it doesn’t help the game. You get the explanation and they say, ‘this is why we call it.’ That’s what we’re really looking for, and now we get to have phone calls as well when they have questions, so we can see what they’re asking about. If it’s our guys holding and all that stuff, we can really hone in and see why they’re calling holding calls when they’re calling them.”

**On the defense:**

“For sure. We’re in it together. I’ve spent a lot of time with [Defensive Coordinator] Coach Manusky already this week and we’re going to work through this thing. This week was a little bit hard when you’re talking about your fourth defensive back we just signed yesterday and your third safety doesn’t want to play corner in case [Dominique] Rodgers-Cromartie goes down, he’s playing the whole half limping. We’re a little short-handed there. Once we get our guys back, I’ll feel a little better about the secondary. The defensive linebackers we have can’t give up 200 yards rushing against anybody, anytime, any play, anywhere. That’s

something we really have to hone in on. I'm sure [Defensive Line] Coach Tomsula will have a few words to say about that and [Outside Linebackers] Coach Grimm. We'll get it shored up."

**On the offensive rhythm:**

"I think it's a combination of things. Both games in the second half, we got down by a couple scores and we had to hurry up a little but to try and get the ball back and do a little bit of a no-huddle offense. Kind of got out of our rhythm. We had some really good flashes, we thought some shot plays and we got hit some in our more down the field throws as well. I've got to call some more. We've got to protect a little bit better and we've got to take some shots, try and get some chunk yards. It seems like when we do efficient football, something happens where it's a holding call or a loss of five or something like that that kills the drive. We've got to take more shots and obviously get our running game going in some way, shape or form."

**On QB Case Keenum:**

"I think he's doing good, really. I think it's not an easy position to play for your first time learning new terminology against the Cowboys. It's an entirely different defensive scheme than we faced last week, so we have a whole new set of plays. I think he handled it really well. He might've miss a few throws here or there, probably the most glaring one was a fourth-and-five. He was rushing a little bit to Chris [Thompson], but for the most part, he's competing. He's not taking many sacks, he's getting out of the pocket, he's making plays, and I love his competitiveness. I think that will rub off on the entire football team if it hasn't already. Guys like to play for him and play with him."

**On being down multiple scores:**

"We've got to play better defense on third downs. We had a big third down-and-five early in the third quarter. We played cover two and they hit a little route in zone for a gain of 15. They ran a zone read for 45 yards, which we've seen many times on tape where somebody's got to have the gap or somebody didn't take the quarterback. I think we've got to hone in, play better, play smart, play more efficiently, play tougher, and play more physical. That's what we're all about."

## **REDSKINS QUARTERBACK CASE KEENUM**

### **On the offensive performance:**

“I think those guys played well. Obviously, there’s some plays that I want back. It’s a lot of things you know. I think offensive-wise, we did a great job pass blocking. There was only one sack again against another great front. I thought they did a great job. Guys made plays downfield. But there are definitely some balls that I want back. We fought hard, man. We left it all out there. Do we make mistakes? Yeah. Are there plays that we could have made that would have changed the course of the game? Yeah, for sure. And that's football. We are going to go learn from it and keep going.”

### **On WR Steven Sims Jr. and the versatility of the offense:**

“Yeah, we have so much offense. It’s unbelievable what those guys can do upstairs. And some of the looks that they're able to produce and getting guys open. Different formations and just getting guys out in different spaces. These guys, man, they are some of the best I've been around doing that. We just got to keep attacking and hitting our shots when they come.”

### **On what needs to change going forward:**

“A lot of things. We need to win. I think some of our goals are taking care of the football. We have to be able to convert on third downs. We’ve got to be better on third downs. There are some crucial third downs that we get off the field and they will score points over seven to 14-point swings. Just crucial situations like that. Me having a better plan for what they are doing or their adjustments and seem to feel better and take what they give me.”

### **On if he is one of the veterans needed to pull the team forward:**

“No doubt, no doubt. I think a quarterback's always going to be a leader. Getting elected captain was special for me and it means a lot to me. Yeah, I think it's on us. I don't think anybody has to be anybody that they’re not. We just have to come in and be ourselves and work hard. And that’s what we do. I've been around this team for a short while compared to other guys, but they work man. There's a lot of guys putting in a lot of hours every day that care a lot. I think we got a great opportunity here coming up on Monday night. I think it'll be another really good defense coming in a playoff caliber team. It will be a really fun atmosphere. The stadium here at home on a Monday night, I think it'll be rocking. It'll be fun.

### **On going for it on fourth and seven:**

“Yeah, it was big time. That kept us in the game. It was a great catch, a great route. I was able to hang in there and get great protection. And I was able to get on the ball and Trey [Quinn] made a great play. Honestly though, for me, I'm looking here and I think we were two of nine on third downs. If that's final, that’s not really where we need to be on third down. We need to convert on third down because I don't think that let's get it done.”

### **On them being challenged on longer second and third downs:**

“Yeah, I think we had a couple of longs due to the holding penalties. Whatever it was – negative plays that did put us in first and second long – well, I thought we had a lot of third and medium to short. Which is where we want to be maybe like one or two third and really long. But we just have to execute a good plan. And we weren't able to execute. I think the times we did execute early on in the first half; Trey [Quinn] made a great catch and got the sideline and we converted that third down and scored a touchdown. The other drives and off the top of my head, we had to convert fourth downs to go and score a touchdown. That's what it's about. It's about converting on third down and try not to get the fourth down. We're converting on fourth down and those all led to points when we did actually convert.”

### **On if it felt like the offense struggled today:**

“There were times when we struggled, but Dallas has some really great players and they did a great job adjusting to some of the success we had. It feels like a lot of it is us stopping ourselves. We had some great

opportunities to get the ball down the field and we didn't. It's the NFL, everybody is good. We got another good team coming in this week [Chicago Bears]. We have to reload our shells and come back firing."

**On cleaning up the penalties:**

"It's on all of us. I need to get the play quicker, the offense needs to communicate better. It's all of us having better technique, it's me not rushing out of the pocket that way if I have a good pocket. The linemen aren't having their man run away resulting in a holding call. So, it's on all of us. It's stuff we can work on, watch film on and come back and get better."

**On the inconsistency in the first two games:**

"I have to go back and watch this film. There's a couple opportunities right before the half but we got a few penalties that forced us to have to punt the ball. Then they [Cowboys] come back down and score, which was a big swing in momentum. Just a few players make the difference in the game and that's how the NFL works. That's why everybody is so good in this league and that's why we grind out every play in practice because you never know which one is going to make a difference in the game."

**On rookie WR Terry McLaurin:**

"We're still learning what Terry can do as of now."

**On the WR Paul Richardson Jr. miss on third down:**

"I totally missed Paul. He was wide open for a touchdown and I just totally missed him."

**On the difference between game 1 and game 2:**

"We'd all like to throw touchdowns every play and throw deep passes successfully. It would be great to throw it to Vernon [Davis] and he jump over people. Those are great plays, but sometimes you must grind it out. It's not always going to look pretty either, but I trust all those guys in that locker room and know that they're going to fight no matter what. None of us expect to be average. We all want to score 100 points a game."

**On the timing with offensive players:**

"We'll keep getting better at the long ball, but everybody is different. I overthrew Terry [McLaurin] on the deep ball but found some other guys. That's what the NFL season is about. It's about progressing and finding what you do well to be better at it."

**REDSKINS RUNNING BACK ADRIAN PETERSON**

**On his reaction to the game:**

"Yeah, I thought we came out and it was pretty balanced offensively – running the ball, throwing the ball and creating a drive. Then I think coming out in that second half, they really kind of hurt us and put points on the board and we kind of got down about two scores, so that kind of switched the momentum and how we called the second half. It was a rough second half for us."

**On preparing for the Bears while also keeping in mind that the stakes are raised because of the 0-2 start:**

"Yeah, this one is in the books. We've got to get ready and get prepared for Chicago who is another great team on both sides of the ball. But I feel like we have so much potential and we have what it takes to be a great team. I feel like once we watch this film, guys will be able to see the things that we were able to do better, eliminate those things and come back and get a W against Chicago."

**On how it made him feel to hear the fans chant his name today:**

"Yeah, I heard it. It makes me feel good to have the support of the fans. That is always what you want as a team and as a player."

**On passing Jim Brown for No. 5 on the NFL's all-time rushing touchdowns list:**

"Man it's a blessing. It just continues to show me how blessed I am to continue to play this game in year 13, to have the opportunity and ability to pass the greats who paved the way. He was the first one that paved the way for us. This one means a lot more than the other ones will when I pass them because Jim Brown is a guy I looked up to. I had the opportunity to talk to him on several occasions and just the look in his eyes when I'm talking to him it's just like... it's motivating to me. It feels good to have passed him today but it's bittersweet because we didn't get this divisional win."

**REDSKINS WIDE RECEIVER TERRY McLAURIN**

**On the loss:**

"It's the division between two main rivals, so me personally, I have to assess what I can do better. Make Case's [Keenum] job even easier. The penalties kind of set us back, and I know against a team like the Cowboys, you can do that."

**On losing momentum in the game:**

"We were moving the ball. We were running, passing. I thought we had them really on their toes. We had some penalties here that set us back and that allows the defense to bring pressure."

**On starting 0-2 and needing a win:**

"You don't want to lose any, but we got to put this one behind us somehow. Get healthy. We got a lot of guys banged up. Get ready for another [Chicago] Bears team that's coming in with another solid defense. It doesn't stop in the NFL. You can't lay your head down. You just got to get back to work."

**REDSKINS WIDE RECEIVER PAUL RICHARDSON JR.**

**On his first touchdown of the season:**

"It felt good. That's what I signed up for to help the team win."

**On the offensive struggles:**

"It was frustrating. We want to run the ball hard. We want to put the ball in the air so we can make plays. We know that it's possible. We've been able to do it. The more balance we stay and more on schedule we stay, the more successful we are. We got to stay on schedule and stop staying behind the chains the way we are."

**On RB Adrian Peterson:**

"I appreciate him bouncing back from last week. Anybody could have been frustrated. He stepped up as a leader. He stepped up as a man, he stepped up as a ballplayer, as a teammate. He came out and put all that stuff behind him and left it on the field. When he came out, he performed for us and I appreciate that."

**On 0-2 start and turning it around:**

"We got to bounce back. We got a Monday Night Football game that's real important. We know how important these division games are, but we can't go backwards. We got to push forward. We beat Dallas here last year, and Dallas won the division. So we got to finish off the season strong. It's only week two."

**DEFENSIVE TACKLE TIM SETTLE**

**On the frustration of not having the defensive line at full health:**

"It's a part of overcoming adversity. When your name is called, you gotta be able to step up. That's apart of being in the league, you gotta be able to play, you gotta be able to step up, you gotta be able to make something happen when you step on the field. Nothing else to say about that, it's just the NFL."

**On how the defense can improve heading into Week 3 and beyond:**

“Just keep pushing. Keep having confidence in each other. Just stay by each other’s side, move together. That also comes whether it’s the offense or special teams moving, the more we come together as a team, the better we’re going to become as a team overall. We have to talk.”

**On the play of the defense through two games:**

“It’s hard. Guys go down, you gotta be able to fill in. It’s hard. We got a lot of young guys, I’m young myself. We gotta be able to move on. You got a long drive, you gotta stay strong and stay consistent. It’s a part of the NFL, it’s apart of the game. That’s all I can say about that.”

**On if they learned anything about themselves:**

“Just keep working, just gotta keep working.”

**CORNERBACK JIMMY MORELAND**

**On battling through injuries:**

“Those guys are going to be able to get back to where they’re supposed to be so they can help us out. Next man up, that’s one thing you always know at [defensive back].”

**On if he’s surprised about the early struggles in the secondary:**

“Not really a surprise. It’s the NFL. Everyone is special. We can say we have a great defense, but we have to go out there and play like that. Other than that, we just have to go out and compete.”

**On bottling up the emotions of the 0-2 start:**

“We gotta stay together. A lot of people are going to try to pull us apart. Media out there is going to try to pull us apart, but it’s an 0-2 start. We got 14 more games to get better. Hopefully we can come out with the right mindset Monday night.”

**On if he’s surprised about the defensive performance in the first two weeks:**

“Not really surprised. Like I said about injuries that occur that stopped us and getting us winded on long drives. That comes on our part of getting off the field. Just gotta communicate better and become a better defense.”

**LINEBACKER JON BOSTIC**

**On the short comings defensively:**

“We gotta for a full 60 minutes. Not 55 out of 60 plays. It’s just really down to that. It’s how you’re supposed to play. Games are left at that. At the end of the day, we’re not going to dwell on that. We gotta get on to Chicago and we’ll watch the film. We gotta be critical of ourselves. We gotta do more.”

**On if the injuries and youth lead to issues:**

“Yeah, but we’ll never use that as an excuse. We’re not going to say, ‘We have a guy out here, we have a guy out here.’ Everybody in this game, they’re here for a reason. No matter who it is, whenever your number is called upon, you have to be ready to play. Whatever you have to do.”

**On how the defense can improve:**

“We go back and take away those explosive plays, it’s a different ballgame. We gotta get back to watching film. Gotta be critical of ourselves. Gotta be continue to work.”

## **COWBOYS HEAD COACH JASON GARRETT**

### **On the offense's rhythm on several possessions:**

"Obviously, we didn't start the game the way we wanted to start it, on neither phases of our team, and I thought we did a good job fighting through that though. Once we got it going offensively, the big play of [WR] Devin [Smith] was certainly a momentum builder for us, and we were able to get the balance the way we wanted to really throw out the ball game. Again the guys upfront I thought were outstanding to be able to run the ball as effectively as we did. I thought the protection was really clean, obviously [QB] Dak [Prescott] made a lot of good decisions a lot of really good throws, and those guys are able to catch it on the other side of it. On defensive, I think we do settle down after those first couple drives, really important for us to stop the run. We're able to do that as the game wore on and didn't really let them get anything going. It was a field position game. Early on we seem to be trapped in our own end, and once we got out of that and started being able to play, I thought the game started shifting."

### **On the importance of DE Tyrone Crawford's sack:**

"Big. Those guys do such a good job on our defensive line, caused a couple holes around the quarterback alot. Again stop and run starts with the guys upfront, physically controlling the line of scrimmage, seemed like we were able to do that and getting around the quarterback and making those kind of plays. There are huge plays in the game."

### **On Prescott's 42-yard run:**

"He makes a lot of really good decisions. A number of those plays are really up to him after the ball snapped. He makes good decisions, when to give it, when to throw it, when to run it. He is very comfortable doing that stuff. I thought he made a number of good decisions today. Made some big plays for us."

### **On Prescott being locked in:**

"He is a pretty locked in guy there is no question, he is playing at a very high level right now. I think he's got a really good command of what we're trying to do. I think he is comfortable. I think the guys are playing well around him. The offensive line has been outstanding the first couple weeks and been very comfortable in the pocket. The guys around him are making plays and I think he and Kellen (Moore) are absolutely on the same page as of what we want to get to and how we are going to get there. I think his execution has been really good."

### **On Prescott's throwing ability improving:**

"Instantly has. There aren't many missed throws he has in the game. When you go back and you look at them you say "boy maybe that one maybe that one," but there haven't been many over the first couple games. I do think it starts with his decision making, he has a really good feel for where he wants to go. Protection has been good, guys have been getting open. He's certainly been delivering the ball."

### **On WR Devin Smith's touchdown and impact:**

"He's done a really good job, I tell you what we really liked him coming out of school, for whatever reason sometimes guys can't get their careers going. We took a shot on him in the offseason, based on the kind of accountability we thought he had and the kind of guy he was. He's come in and done everything we asked him to do, really showed up in the preseason and when he's opportunities in the game, he's ready to go and he takes advantage of them. That play, the big long touchdown, was a huge play in the game. Kind of shifted the momentum and got us going on both sides of the ball. Then he makes a big play at the end of the game, and he really came up big with his opportunities. That's what you want from your backup players."

### **On defense's improvement throughout the game:**

"We kept the score down for the most part, our defense did a good job for most part of this game. Whenever you control a running attack like that and a running back like that, as well as we did over the course of the game, that's good defensive football. Again, we're always going against a very high standard and we want to

play our optimum. There were some plays early on in the game that we'd like to have back, but hopefully you learn from them and keep moving on. I liked how team was tough mentally, when your on the road against a division opponent and things aren't going great early, just keep playing. I thought our guys did that and eventually the momentum swung and we played the game we really wanted to play."

**On the game plan to give RB Tony Pollard carries:**

"We mix him into the ballgame, [RB Ezekiel Elliott] was going to play more, but he played a lot of snaps in this game and gave him the ball a lot. That was by design, we also wanted to make sure [Tony] Pollard played. He's done a good job for us, he's worthy of that opportunity, we thought on a day like this Zeke needed a little break here and there. Putting a guy like that in there that we have confidence in is big for our team."

**On running the ball in the fourth quarter:**

"We want to be a balanced attack offensively. We want to be able to attack by running the football and by throwing it, attacking different ways in each. Whenever you can control the line of scrimmage like we have and hopefully scoring some points early on, now's the time to end the game with the running game. It was interesting that the first play of the game was actually the same as the last play of the game. We ran it from a different look, it's an old school football play, it's lead weak. When your able to control the line of scrimmage and hand it to your running back on a play like that, that's important. That's how we built this team and I thought that showed up today."

**On Cowboy fan presence in away rivalry games:**

"We have a great fan base and we're so appreciative of our fans that we have in Dallas, all throughout Texas, and really all across the country. We take great pride in playing as well as we can play. Preparing the right way and playing the right way because we have such great support every day we go."

**On utilizing everyone on offense:**

"Attack different ways. Everybody's alive. It starts with the guys protecting up front, and then the quarterback makes great decisions. You want to be able to feature certain guys in your offense, but we also want to be able to say, 'Hey, I'll throw it to this guy. He's open, let's give him a chance.' Let's give him a chance, and I thought that showed up this week. That showed up last week. When you're doing that, you become a really difficult offense to stop."

**On C Travis Frederick's impact:**

"He's a really good football player. Obviously, solidifies the interior of our offensive line, not only in the running game, but the passing game. Guys have been healthy up front. They're playing at a very high level. The other part of it is guys are getting open on the other side of it. The ball's coming out. It's not like the quarterback doesn't have places to go with the football. We have a number of guys at receiver who can win, tight ends who can win, and we have backs who can win. Again, [QB] Dak [Prescott] is making really good decisions to get the ball out of his hand"

**On DL Antwan Woods' injury:**

"He hurt his knee, so we'll see what it is. He was not able to come back in the game."

**On DL Tyrone Crawford's injury:**

"Still working through that."

**On CB Byron Jones starting:**

"He was going to play more this week. We wanted him to start and then just really watch him. I think for the most part he played throughout the ballgame. We feel really good about all those guys we got on the back end, but he's certainly one of our better players. We want to get him back in action."

**On targeting a TE Jason Witten touchdown streak:**

“I’d love that. Wit’s doing a great job, and again, Dak [Prescott] made a really good decision. That’s where the ball’s gonna go against that look, and those guys executed it really well. It’s fun to see him get in the end zone.”

## **COWBOYS QUARTERBACK DAK PRESCOTT**

**On the early interception:**

“That’s credited to the offense of just putting the play behind us, everybody just coming together and not worrying about what we had done, and we hadn’t done anything yet, at the point of throwing an interception. But, being able to come back and stick together. The offensive line blocked well, wide receivers went out and made plays. We made some contested catches, when you look up and as you said the stats are what they are.”

**On being aware of stats in game:**

“You’re not really aware of it but then again, I mean you have to take a second and say, ‘When was the last incompletion maybe?’ It’s not something you think about as I said. You have to put the last throw behind you, especially with this position or mistakes will come often. So, it’s just about being in the groove. The offense is working together the run game is happening, wherever the ball is thrown, the receivers are making great catches. You just look up and it’s like that.

**On WR Devin Smith’s speed:**

“That’s something on film, we know their safeties and defense wanted. Devin [Smith] got the opportunity and it was great to see him get out there and put the boosters on. I just threw the ball out there and he just went under it. I’m happy for a guy like that, who’s had a great camp and obviously done a really great job up to this point. Now he’s just going to help us out, like you said he’s got some speed, he can do a lot of things.”

**On D. Smith’s versatility as a receiver:**

“I never said he was one type of receiver. I feel like he’s a greater receiver, he can do it all. Those are the reasons he made this team and he’ll be able to continue to help us out across the middle slants, yards after catch, stretch the defense. So, that play wasn’t necessarily, ‘Hey let’s put Dev in and throw this play.’ It was just him coming in for [WR Michael] Gallup at the time, who was taking a breather.

**On D. Smith’s injuries:**

“Him being a college teammate of [RB Ezekiel Elliott], Zeke informed me a little and then as you get to know a teammate and begin talking to him. It’s an inspiration. I mean, obviously, injuries happen and injuries can hurt careers and sometimes people can never bounce back. But in this case, you found a guy that does great in offseason, training camp and preseason. He really got his confidence back and forgot about those injuries and forgot about all those things and reasons that said maybe he couldn’t do it. He’s an inspiration to any athlete that may deal with any injury.

**On execution this year versus last year:**

“I give credit again going into last year. I think it happened last year and started last year. I was just being able to take that and progress through the offseason and learn more. Obviously, it’s great coaching from [Offensive Coordinator] Kellen [Moore], [Head] Coach [Jason] Garrett. As I said before, when you have great players around you it just makes everything fun and a little bit easier.”

**On the impact of DL Tyrone Crawford’s sack:**

“Yeah, sure, of course. I mean, momentum huge. Momentum is one of the biggest things in this game and at that point we needed it. As I said, the interception, just going off and on, not getting anything... not getting

anything going. [The Redskins] are on the fringe, a couple more yards and they are kicking a field goal and they are still on top of us. But defense comes up, as you said Crawford makes a big time sack and yeah they punt it away. We talk about it on offense, in the huddle when you're backed up in those situations it's being discussed. 'Hey, we've done this before.' I think it was [C Travis Frederick] or [G] Zack [Martin], one of those guys said it 'We're used to going 90 yards, let's go do it.' It's about focusing on one play at a time, we're going to go out there and do exactly that and get it going."

**On his decision making on the 43-yard run zone read:**

"Yeah I mean the defensive end crashed hard. That's my read, just to pull the ball and great block from [WR Randall] Cobb there, and just allowed me to get going. And at that point, yeah it was just to get as much as I could."

**On WR Michael Galup's block:**

"Uh yeah, I mean that's caught up a little between indecisiveness right there. I wanted to let [Michael] Galup obviously get in front of me and block [CB Josh] Norman. But then again, I feel like I was going to slow down too much. I'm not the fastest so I didn't know what was behind me, or what was coming up behind me. At that point I was just going for the stiff arm."

**On Elliott's comment about his scoring potential during that play:**

"Yeah, I love my teammates. You know they have all the belief in me. I don't know if my speed does, I don't know if I do or not. So, at that point I was going for the stiff arm. Hoping that I could stiff arm him at the same time [Michael] Galup pushed him and you know it looked that much better, but it didn't work out. It was a big play and a great play for the offense."

**On five-minute scoring drive without Elliott:**

"I mean that's a credit to the whole training camp and all the time I've talked about not having [Elliott] and how that was going to help this offense honestly. Nobody blinks, nobody worries about anything. We've got a lot of guys that can come in and make plays. You just said it, [TE Blake] Jarwin, [RB Tony] Pollard, Devin [Smith], [WR] Cedrick [Wilson Jr.], guys that are coming in and taking advantage of this opportunity and wanting their opportunity and making the most of it. When you have that spirit and you have that attitude from those guys coming in, nothing slows down. You don't blink because, 'Hey this guy's not in,' you continue to run the offense and do your individual job and allow the offense to come together."

**On having seven touchdowns so far this year:**

"I mean last year's last year, that was a long time ago. There was things there, I mean we had problems - communication on the road, different things, different aspects that may have hindered that. But we are focused on now, we are focused on the things that we can do better and were going to continue to grow in that standpoint. You take whatever touchdowns, I bet if you asked all those guys on this team, on this offense they say, 'It's not enough.' So, just a hungry bunch of guys, great athletes that all care for one another that are coming in and enjoying this time each and every day that we are putting into this offense, putting into this team. It's going to pay off."

**On correcting the sack issue from last season and the protection today:**

"That was a 100 percent my fault tonight, I just said that to the offensive line. They just keep doing a good job and continue to do that all year long. It is everyone playing together, it's guys getting open so the offensive line doesn't have to block all year long. It's me making good decisions, anticipating things getting the ball out of my hands. That one sack tonight the defensive line blinded where I wanted to throw it. I know the coverage and I have to trust it and throw it. It wasn't a great play by me trying to make something happen. It should be zero sacks. The offensive line is doing a great job."

**On Josh Norman not being impressed on his performance last week:**

“Yeah, I heard it, but I am not going to allow him be a motivation to me. I have enough things that motivate me and keep me going. What someone says good or bad about me isn’t the case, especially when he is not on this team.”

**On stopping Elliott and putting the ball in his hands:**

“There is a chip on my shoulder and has been there since I started playing this game. I have always been doubted and accepted, that is who I am, but I am not going to give credit to one individual.”

**On Owner Jerry Jones saying this is his best two-game stretch with the Cowboys and if he had better stretch with Mississippi State:**

“I am focused on the now, we made a good run at Mississippi State, I am sure I had some good games. At this point we have to turn the page. I am not going to sit on what we have done, now it is what can we do to get better and to have a better performance going into Week 3.”

**On pass protection with Fredrick:**

“It’s huge. He is one of the smartest guys in football. As I have said before and I will continue to say when you have a guy like that orchestrating the offense, getting the ID’s making the points in the run game, it just allows everyone to play a whole lot faster. Allows us to be downhill on that tempo. A lot of credit to him on that, I am thankful to have him back, glad he is healthy and playing well.”

**On what WR Randall Cobb bring to the team since being signed:**

“Great leadership, veteran receiver, basically a quarterback playing receiver. He knows the defense, a guy that takes a lot of pride in his job. If its run blocking or if it’s clearing out a defender so a guy can come in right behind him in the zone to make the catch. He is a selfless player that everyone on the team is thankful to have. He is a great teammate and a great football player.”

## **COWBOYS RUNNING BACK EZEKIEL ELLIOTT**

**On today’s win:**

“We came out, started a little bit slow but we picked it up. We got everyone involved. Everyone touched the ball, we spread the ball around and we ran the ball well. We got the W.”

**On feeling back in his rhythm:**

“I think I did. I think slowly and surely, I’m getting back in my rhythm and knocking the rust off. I felt good about the game. I feel good about where I’m at right now. I feel good about everything going forward.”

**On touching the ball 23 times:**

“It felt good, it’s normal. That’s my normal workload but I’m used to that. So, it definitely does feels good to be back out there and getting that normal workload.”

**On getting a drive off in the third quarter:**

“Coach [Gary] Brown came to me and was like ‘look, we’re going to need you for the fourth quarter, so I mean we’re just going to give TP [Tony Pollard] this series.’ Honestly, it really doesn’t matter, TP went out there and had a great drive. He had some really good runs and good catch and pickups. It didn’t fall off when he got in there.”

## **COWBOYS WIDE RECEIVER AMARI COOPER**

**On the offense compared to last season:**

“I think we definitely made a step, we are spreading the ball around more and that is a tremendous thing because teams can’t really game plan for it.”

**On the demeanor in the huddle after the slow start:**

“The demeanor is the same with Dak [Prescott]. First play of every drive he comes in and daps everybody up, a handshake or something like that. I think it instills confidence in us that he thinks we are going to go down and score every drive.”

**On the 97-yard drive:**

“I think that is part of our identity. Every time we are backed up and we’re on the 10 and we have to go 90 or whatever it is. We have to go a long way, we get in the huddle and we say this is who we are. Travis [Frederick] came in the huddle, we were on the 10 one time and he was like ‘this is who we are.’ Every time we’re down there, we feel like we’re going to go the distance.”

**COWBOYS WIDE RECEIVER DEVIN SMITH**

**On QB Dak Prescott and the 51-yard touchdown:**

“He’s done that throughout his career and when you see him do something like that, it’s like, that’s what Dak does. We ran that play and I looked back and I seen the ball is coming and I knew he was going to put it in the right position.”

**On Prescott’s demeanor in the huddle:**

“He is calm. He just wants to make sure that everybody’s on the same page. I think that’s the biggest thing. Communication we talk about all the time. He communicates very well with everybody in the room. When he’s in the huddle, he’s very calm and calling the plays and getting it in.”

**On the 97-yard drive:**

“It gives us the confidence because we know we can score at any time.”

**COWBOYS LINEBACKER JAYLON SMITH**

**On the team’s confidence being 2-0:**

“Man it’s a wonderful feeling, anytime you can get a victory in the NFL, it’s so hard to win. So you have to embrace it, with two division wins. We’re going to enjoy this and get ready for next week.”

**On the offense and defense playing together:**

“It’s a group effort. We have talented guys all across the board but talent is never enough, as long as we continue to come together we’ll be fine!”

**On how he has thought about the defense’s performance:**

“To be an elite defense you have to turn the ball over. You have to sack your quarterback, and we have to get better at doing that.”