



## WASHINGTON REDSKINS

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER AT REDSKINS PARK – LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA.

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August 25, 2019

### QB Case Keenum

#### **On his reaction to being named the starting quarterback in Week 1:**

"I'm excited. I really am. I don't take it lightly, the opportunity, the position that I'm in to be a Week 1 starter. You know, I've been there before and I know that it's a tough job and there's only 32 of them. I'm very honored to wear the Burgundy, to be the Redskins quarterback. I'm excited to continue to earn the right to be the leader for this team, to be the quarterback for this team. That's what I want to come in here every day and earn that right."

#### **On if it takes on a different meaning that he is getting this opportunity at this point in his career:**

"No. I'm going to be who I am no matter what the situation is. I assure this team, I assure the fans of this team, I assure anybody that cares that I'm, going to give everything I got, no matter what. That's who I am, that's the competitor, that's in my DNA, that's my nature, and it's what I'm going to do. I am going to give everything I've got every day. Whether its practice, weight room, film, meetings, studying, practicing, playing – I'm going to give everything I've got. And that's hands down what I'm going to come in and do every day."

#### **On if any of his teammates said anything to him after the announcement was made:**

"Yeah, there were a few. But it's business as usual. We've got a big test coming up and this will be a good week for us to really make sure we're batting down the hatches of the little things we want to correct and get all on the same page before we really start game planning and getting ready to go to Philly."

#### **On if his mindset changes now that he knows he is the starter:**

"No, my mindset doesn't change. It's going to be the same no matter what."

#### **On if he drew on his past experiences during the quarterback competition this preseason:**

"Yeah, I always draw on past experiences. I think that's what's makes us who we are, you learn from those things. So I've learned from what I've done well in the past and I've learned a lot more from what I've not done well. That goes with everything, with being the job of starting quarterback. That goes with how you prepare, how you practice, how you treat people, how you come into the building after a bad day, how you come in here and talk to [the media]. Every little thing I do has been something I've done in the past and learned from whether it was me or somebody else. So yeah, I'm always learning from my past."

#### **On if the fact that his 2017 season ended in Philadelphia adds any more significance to the Week 1 matchup:**

"Yeah, I remember the feeling I had walking off that field."

#### **On what that feeling was like:**

You know I don't know if I can really put it into words, but I've used it and I plan on using it and continue to use it. It's not a good feeling to get that close to what you dream of, what everybody dreams of and to not be able to get to that next step, when it's one step away. It was tough. It was tough. But, I'm definitely motivated

#### **On how not having a defined set of starters in the preseason compared to previous camps he has been a part of:**

"That's a great question. I've been in so many situations. In Minnesota, I barely got any of the reps in OTA's or training camp with the ones. And then Week 2 I was thrust into the starting position and started for the next 17 games to the NFC Championship. We were able to on the fly, kind of mesh and find out our identity and what we were good at, and be able to talk through with those receivers and learn how they did. For us, I've gotten mixes and matches of different personnel groups and guys in and out whether coming back from injury, kind of getting nicked up, whatever it is, rotating with the reps. I know for a fact that when it comes down to November, December, those games down the stretch where it really, really, matters, sometimes you don't know who is going to be in the huddle with you at that point because it's a long NFL season. So, the reps that we get with everybody out there, those are priceless. I've put everything I could into those reps and those guys are working their tail off too. So, I think it's really good that not only have I gotten really good reps with Jordan [Reed] and Josh [Doctson], Paul [Richardson Jr.], Trey [Quinn], all those guys. But, even some of the rookies coming in and some of the other guys that may not be running with the ones every week, I've gotten some really good reps with them too. So, I'm comfortable throwing the ball to anybody."

**On the continuity along the offensive line:**

"Yeah same thing, I think [protection-wise], the communication that happens between us – with Chase [Rouiller] it's obviously been really, really good but I spend a lot of the time with 'Bergy' [Tony Bergstrom] during OTA's and starting camp. So, there between the center and the quarterback has been really good. But all those guys on out to the tackles, you know rotating some of those guys, just the way that they are able to maybe time up my snap count and hear my communication with protection calls and different checks and alerts at the line of scrimmage, I think is going to continue to get better and better."

**On if he still thinks there will be a quarterback competition during the regular season:**

"I mean y'all do what you do and put labels on things. For me, I compete with myself every day. If you're going to come into the locker room and try to play me in ping pong, I'm not letting you have a point. Unless I'm playing Tress Way, or Dustin [Hopkins], or Nick [Sundberg], or those guys, I used to be able to brag about it until I got in this locker room. But, that's who I am. That's the competitor I am. So, I compete every day. That's another thing that's in my core. That's something that's not going to change; you're going to get the best out of me no matter what. That's why I want to continue to earn the right because every day is a new day. You got new chances out there every day to represent yourself, to lead the team and to move forward."

**On if he wants to play him in ping pong after the press conference:**

"Whenever, man. I actually want to go Spikeball."

**On his reaction to Indianapolis Colts QB Andrew Luck announcing his retirement yesterday:**

"Very shocking. I watched his presser last night. You could tell it was very emotional for him. It's a tough thing. It's something I've told guys recently, in the last year or so that when you're a kid growing up, wanting to play in the NFL – I remember my teacher being like, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' I want to play quarterback in the NFL. They don't tell you about a lot of the other things like fans booing you when you're walking off the field for the last time. The injuries, the toll – the mental, the physical, the emotional toll it takes on you and your family. His family may have been up in the stands listening to that too. We get paid a lot of money and people have their opinions about us, but his family was probably at that game too. It's tough and I feel for him. He was in my draft class. Obviously, a talented player. One of those guys that's once in a decade comes along that can play like he does. I have so much respect for him. Totally understand where he's coming from and what he's been through. At the same time, I don't know some of the stuff. I don't think there's anything to fault there. He's played his heart out. You can see it on film. Just the way he runs the ball. As a quarterback, me, I've tried running it a little too. He plays the game how it should be. I respect his decision and wish him all the best."