



## WASHINGTON REDSKINS

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

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### Head Coach Jay Gruden

#### **Opening statement:**

“Did not participate: [DL] Jonathan Allen, knee, [DL Caleb] Brantley, foot, [RB Derrius] Guice, knee, [QB Colt] McCoy, fibula, [CB Quinton] Dunbar, knee. Limited were [S Montae] Nicholson foot, [CB Fabian] Moreau ankle, [TE Jordan] Reed, concussion.”

#### **On the report of Guice’s surgery:**

“He went to Dr. [James] Andrews, had a visit and they did a small procedure on him and that’s the extent of the procedure that I know of right now. Hasn’t [been] put on IR, we haven’t made that determination yet.”

#### **On Dunbar’s injury:**

“He didn’t practice today, had a sore knee, that’s it. Nothing major.”

#### **On if Dunbar will return tomorrow:**

“Hope so. He’s getting checked out today.”

#### **On if there is a concern that Guice won’t return 100 percent:**

“I don’t have a concern with him getting back to full strength. He came back extremely strong with the much more damaged knee last time. This is a minor procedure from what I’ve been told and he will be back. Great kid, works extremely hard and eventually he’s going to show Redskin nation what he’s all about.”

#### **On if they doctors trimmed Guice’s meniscus:**

“I don’t know exactly what happened. I don’t know. Dr. Andrews did it, today I believe.”

#### **On the challenges of not rushing guys back from injuries:**

“There’s no balancing act at all. If they’re cleared by the doctors then they’re good to go and that’s the only determination I can make. I don’t make the judgement of, ‘I need you for the 14 games’ if they can go, I know they want to go, so we’ll let them go [play]. If they aren’t cleared then obviously we won’t make them or ask them to.”

#### **On how the Cowboys defense has evolved over the years:**

“One thing that stays constant is the way they play. They play extremely hard, they’re fast and physical and that’s what they hang their hat on. [Defensive Coordinator Ron] Marinelli does an excellent job of tenacity, teaching tenacity. They play with their hair on fire every snap. They’re moving around, they’re getting up field, they’re getting off blocks. [LB] Jaylon Smith is fast to the football. [LB Leighton] Vander Esch is fast to the football. Safety [Xavier] Woods is an excellent middle safety when he’s in the middle, but he also comes down to cover the backs and the tight ends. They’ve got corners that are very disruptive that really knock you off your routes and force the quarterback to hold it and that enables the pass rush to get home. Very solid defense.”

#### **On what he tells WR Terry McLaurin about defenses taking notice of him:**

“Nothing. I think he’s fine. He’s got a level head on his shoulders. The beauty is when Jordan Reed comes back they have other things to worry about as well. [WR] Trey Quinn is going to make a splash also. [RB] Chris

Thompson in the back field. [WR Kelvin] Harmon, [WR] Paul Richardson [Jr.], all those guys I think when you distribute the ball correctly and you add [RB] Adrian Peterson in the running game, it's hard to just concentrate on one guy and that's the intent of our offense."

**On shifting players around on the defensive line to shore up depth:**

"We'll still have – if both [Allen and Brantley] can't go then we'll still have five defensive linemen able to rotate. I wouldn't put [LB Montez] Sweat in there against some of these big guards and tackles that they have and get double-teamed, wouldn't be pretty. Sweat is flying on the outside. We need him to get up the field and force [QB] Dak Prescott to step up into [DL Daron] Payne and [DL Matt] Ioannidis and the rest of the guys. Sweat is in a good spot where he is. I think we'll have five healthy, good defensive linemen no matter who they are."

**On what he has seen from Prescott over the years:**

"Dak [Prescott] has always been a very poised quarterback. He does a great job with his eyes down the field, creating plays with his legs, his strength in the pocket. We've had many of times we've had him corralled and he gets out of the grasp of our defenders and makes a play. He had one last, he had two last year at their place that really cost us. He's an excellent quarterback. He can do it all, he can get outside the pocket, he can stand in the pocket and then he hurts you with his legs within the pocket."

**On what he has seen from DL Tim Settle:**

"It's big for him. I think it's going to come down to him, how he handles more reps. When you have [Daron] Payne, [Jonathan] Allen and [Matt] Ioannidis in there, he's getting limited 15-20 snaps a game, that goes up to 30, 35, 40, we'll see how he does. We'll see how his stamina is. But, I think he's in great shape. That entire defensive line group worked extremely hard in the offseason to get themselves ready. They weren't quite ready for three defensive linemen the whole second half against Philly, but they're in good shape and ready to go. I think Settle, hopefully will show up big."

**On if he was surprised by how much action Moreland saw and on his overall performance:**

"Not really. We anticipate him playing full-time nickel, for the most part. He might have to move outside a little bit, we'll see how our guys are tomorrow. It's going to be big for [Quinton] Dunbar and [Fabian] Moreau, tomorrow will be a big day for them. We have [CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie] also who can play outside. Obviously, Jimmy can play outside as well so. Might have to address something tomorrow, but we'll see how those two guys are, so it'll be critical tomorrow. Big day tomorrow for as far as the secondary is concerned."

**On if they anticipated McLaurin to be a day one starter:**

"We drafted him because he's fast and a heck of a wide out. We had hopes that he would be a full-time starter eventually. We also knew he was great on special teams. Quality person, leader, two-time captain at Ohio State. Really a no brainer at that spot. If we were smart, we would have taken him in the first round. He's been awesome. You know a guy from that program, as smart as he is, a captain, those guys can handle day one starter because nothing is too big for them."

**On how Moreau has looked in practice:**

"He did more today out there, which is good. It's close, it's just a matter of how he feels pushing off and exploding and being able to go full speed. Tomorrow will be a good day to find out more. Might lean into Saturday, but they're getting a lot of mental reps out there, they're in all the meetings, they're ready to play. Just a matter of if they feel like they can push off and be effective."

**On if they can use the film from 2018 on the Cowboys for this season:**

“Oh yeah we watch film for sure. Last year’s game, both games, what they’ve done every game for the last couple of years. We understand what they’re all about. Knowing what they’re all about and being able to handle that front is another thing and the speed of their linebackers. We just gotta make sure we’re on top of what we’re doing. Taking good pass, hanging on double teams maybe a little longer, getting off the double teams to get to the linebackers if they’re fast following. It’s easier said than done. There’s a lot of movement involved with that defense and they’re very effective at it. But there’s still some lanes to be had. We just gotta do a good job and be a little bit more patient in calling them.”

**On what Cowboys DE DeMarcus Lawrence can do:**

“He’s a big problem. You try to double team as much you can, but that’s not always the case. You want to get receivers out in that pattern, but you want to make sure you have him taken care of. He can wreck a game. I think he had an interception against us last year at their place and had a couple sacks. Great player, great player. Whether he’s on [T Donald] Penn or whether he’s on [T Morgan] Moses, he’s been a problem for us in the past. The guys are ready for him, it’ll be a great challenge as it always is.”

**On if he expects anyone to go on IR:**

“Yeah that could happen, could very well happen if we need a spot depending on what’s going on with the secondary for sure. We gotta make sure we get the proper diagnosis with a couple guys that are injured right now. Some of them if they’re three or four weeks or six or seven weeks, it’ll be a big determination. We’ll talk to the doctors, talk to the trainers and figure out who that might be later on today or tomorrow.”