



WASHINGTON REDSKINS

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

21300 Redskin Park Drive | Ashburn, VA 20147 | 703-726-7000
www.redskins.com | media.redskins.com

September 18, 2019

Head Coach Jay Gruden

On the injury report:

"No Injury report today, the only thing of note is [CB Dominique Rodgers Cromartie] DRC is going to have surgery pretty soon on his ankle, so we put him on IR."

On LBs Cassanova McKinzy and Montez Sweat's production so far this season:

"I think pass rush in general, we gotta get better overall as a group. Whether it's gains inside or beating guys one-on-one, we haven't done a very good job of that as of now. It's something we're concentrating and getting better at. Montez is a young football player, he's still learning the angles, working on his get-off all that stuff. He's got some length, got some speed, we know that. Now we just got to figure out a way to let him utilize it a little bit better. Hopefully that'll happen here soon."

On if McKinzy and Sweat are playing through injuries:

"[LB Cassanova McKinzy] 'Cas' maybe a little bit. [DE Montez] Sweat's O.K."

On if Cassanova McKinzy practiced today:

"We're not doing injury report today. Nice try."

On the Bears defense:

"They're physical in the middle and they have speed at linebacker. They have good edge play. They have a safety that's a ball hawk. Their corners are pretty good and experienced. They don't really have a weakness in their defense. The inside part of their defense with [Akiem] Hicks, big sucker and [Eddie] Goldman, bug suckers. Obviously the outside with [OLB Leonard] Floyd and [LB] Khalil Mack and Roquan [Smith] is very very fast and aggressive at linebacker. They have all the tools to be a great defense and they've shown it on tape so far."

On if he believes his defensive players understand the fine line between making plays but also staying within the scheme:

"I hope so, yeah. We never try to shy away from allowing these guys to make a play if they see something. But it's within the framework of the defense we don't want them to go crazy and leave a guy wide open. As long as they're guessing right or assuming right based on film study then sure they have the ability to go break on a route if they see fit."

On the deep route that CB Josh Norman got beat on:

"Well, he doesn't know what route is coming. The guy could go back to the corner. He could run an out or a deep out route. There's a lot of things that guy – the guy could set it down. So, he was in the right position at that play."

On QB Case Keenum not seeing some potential big play down the field:

"I think he hit some good plays. They're some plays out there that he missed. Part of it is there's a lot of people around him. I think we got to do a better job firming up our protection. We haven't given up a lot of sacks, but we have given up a lot of hurries and pressures where Case has had to maybe hurry up and get to a receiver quickly before we can let the play develop or he could see the guy that's open. That happened two or three times against Dallas [Cowboys]. We have [WR] Paul Richardson who is wide open by about 50 yards and he couldn't quite get to him because of the interior pressure, he couldn't see him. We got to sure up the pass

protection a little bit and staying out of third-and-longs will help and staying out of those penalties will help out as well."

On if he is being more creative with his offensive plays this season:

"We're trying to – keep the defense off balance a little bit and utilize some of the speed and weapons that we have. We're just getting to know [WR] Steven Sims a little bit, trying to tap into his potential. I think that might be more, depending on the week, a very explosive guy. Obviously [RB] Chris Thompson you want to get him as many touches as you can to him. Then [WR] Terry [McLaurin] is doing a great job. [TE] Vernon [Davis] still has some speed. Obviously the bell cow, we got to do a better job running the ball with [RB] [Adrian Peterson] AP and that will open up some of the play-actions."

On signing LB Noah Spence and on if he expects him to play on Sunday:

"We'll see. We'll get him some reps out here today and tomorrow we'll see where he's at. And if he can be a situational type rusher for us who can give us a little bit of juice; it could be very similar. I think a lot will depend on how [LB Cassanova McKinzy] 'Cas' is doing. We'll go from there."

On what led to the Redskins signing Spence:

With [CB Dominique Rodgers Cromartie] DRC going on injured reserve, we had a spot and he was available. He was one of the best pass rushers on the streets right now. We just want to get a look at him the next couple of days [and] see what happens."

On the plan for the right side of the offensive line when facing Bear OLB Khalil Mack this Sunday:

"The good thing is he lines up on both sides, so we don't know which side he's going to be on, unfortunately. If we did, we'd put somebody over there and bang the heck out of him. We don't know where he's going to be. And then [LB Leonard] Floyd's a good rusher. [DE Akiem] Hicks is a powerful rusher. So [the Bears] have a bunch of good ways to get to the quarterback. We have ways to get the ball down the field, but if we can't protect, we have no chance to get those plays off and that's what they're hanging their hat on. They're not overly complicated in the secondary but they are sound and they rely on their pass rush to get home and it has been getting home. We got to have good sets, change up the launch point of the quarterback like we always do and help when we can help. Eventually, those guys are going to have to bear down and make the blocks, which I think they will."

On if he needs to try and get WR Paul Richardson Jr. more targets or if it is more of his role in the offense right now:

"A little bit of both. I think we should do a better job of scheming, trying to get him down the field. [WR] Terry [McLaurin] has been very exciting as far as that role as well. So if you have one guy running deep, one guy running a little shallow, I think Terry right now is getting some of the deep ones. But, Paul surely can do it. He's had a couple of routes where you see him running by people we just haven't gotten him the ball. It's either [QB] Case [Keenum] couldn't see him, or we have pressure or what have you. It'll come. I know he's probably frustrated and wants some shots because he's a fast guy too. Being able to throw the ball 55, 60 yards down the field means you have to hold the ball for three or four seconds and right now we haven't had that luxury the whole time."

On LB Jon Bostic's communication on defense:

"He's done fine. I think we've had some strong starts. I think the biggest focus we have to do is we're focusing on our consistency. We've been very inconsistent on both sides of the ball. Third, fourth-quarter production on both sides hasn't been good enough, especially on defense. Overall, the communication is getting better and better. It's a working progress. Hopefully, it'll be really really good come Monday Night."

On if he is comfortable going into the Bears game with two tight ends:

"We'd like to obviously have three. We didn't know about [TE] Jordan [Reed] until probably Friday that he was probably going to be out. So we were anticipating him being in. You just never know with this [concussion] he has. We're just very supportive of him. We want him to get well. If we have to go two [tight ends] we will. If we

have to sign another tight end eventually, we might do that. It takes us out of some packages that we really like, some of our three tight end sets and two tight end sets was limited but our one tight end set, three receivers has been pretty good to us. The issue with that is that if the defense plays base defense it's hard to run the ball. That's what kind of happened – Dallas did that to us a couple of time early in the game. Took us out of our running game. We'll have to adjust."

On the challenges that the Bears offensive personnel presents:

"They do a little bit of everything. Especially with [RB Tarik] Cohen and obviously [WR} Cordarrelle Patterson. [Patterson] is a jack of all trades. He can play running back, receiver, he does the jet sweeps. Cohen does the jet sweeps. They fake the jet sweep, run shovel passes, they do double passes, the bubble screen, the zone reads, a little bit of everything. So we've got to be sound. We've got to have our eyes in the right spot. Make sure we're in the right gap. Obviously in coverage, on all the fly sweeps, we got to know when we're traveling, when we're not traveling, when we're kicking the coverage, when we're not kicking the coverage, easier said than done come game day when everything is shifted and running around. Communication is going to be pivotal. Hopefully [CB] Fabian [Moreau] comes back, he'll help out. Having [CB] Montae [Nicholson] and [S] Landon [Collins] back there communicating it'll be helpful and obviously [LB Jon] Bostic will be critical in there as well."

On Montez Sweat's slow start:

"I think we're working on his technique for sure. This is all new to him. These guys are pretty good he's gone against like you said. I think his get off can be a little bit more explosive. Maybe work more edge on some people when you're playing first, second down, and you got to hold the D-gap a little bit, you're a little bit more hesitant to get up the field. Then you transition into a rusher, I think: A, he's got to work on his transition into a pass rusher from run to pass and B, when it is third down really getting into that sprinter stance and use his speed and length which will come eventually once he gets a better feel for it."