



## 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

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### Interim Head Coach Bill Callahan

#### **On how they will prep QB Dwayne Haskins this coming week:**

“First off, we are still monitoring Case’s situation. That is really day-to-day. We will know more tomorrow and on Sunday and Monday. We will gather more information before we have to make decisions on practice and how we are going to rep out the practice. Monday is a bonus day so there really aren’t that many reps heading in. It is an intro into Buffalo. It is more of a conditioning; get back up to pace type practice. The beat of the practice will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.”

#### **On how he thought Haskins did being thrust into the game:**

“Well he really was expecting it. He was the backup quarterback going into the game. There is always the moment where you have to step in because he is a play away. That could occur first quarter, second, third or fourth. It just happened to happen at half. He was ready and prepared diligently just like any of the quarterbacks are. We train him and rep him like a starting quarterback. Everything we do from a rep standpoint, game simulation aspect, those were all centered and geared to get both him and [Quarterback] Case [Keenum] ready. There is no difference I think it is just a matter of experience and I think I addressed that last night.”

#### **On how he wants to see Haskins respond following the Minnesota game:**

“I think the big thing is situational awareness and knowing where we are at on the field. Trajectory of throws, fundamental techniques, those rotations and follow through. We don’t really want the ball to be sprayed into a coverage like that. I think he can learn some really invaluable things coming off the tape in terms of management. Clock management, formational management. When I’m talking about the clock I am talking about the 40-second clock. Getting in and getting out of the huddle. Really working the offense at an upbeat tempo where he can have time at the line of scrimmage. Sometimes just not letting the clock run down on him. It is our responsibility as coaches to do a better job of getting the plays into him quicker and faster. Of course, his responsibility is to echo those calls into the huddle, get to the line and execute them as fast and as quickly as possible.”

#### **On if he feels there is a time where Haskins should start so he can progress:**

“I think everything is based on circumstances. You really don’t want to address the hypothetical. All I can go back to is the experiences of the Green Bay quarterback, when [QB Aaron] Rodgers was behind [QB Brett Favre]. Or the San Francisco situation when [QB Steve] Young was behind [QB Joe] Montana. It is about learning and growing so that when their time came, they had tempo and execution. They understood the reads and were ready to step in and make the execution seamless. In all fairness, if we say hey, we are going to put Dwayne in there and see how he does, in some respects, I think he needs a little bit more work. I think time is invaluable where he can sit back and learn from quarterbacks like Case [Keenum] and Colt [McCoy] as well as players like [QB] Alex [Smith] who is around the building. It is a fine line. We are trying to win games still. Our dynamic is tough and it is challenging. We are doing the best we can in a tough scenario and we are trying to find a way to win a game. When you look at the overall picture, we have gotten close in two games against two opponents that are real, really good in the Niners and the Vikings and where they rank currently in the NFC. We went toe-to-toe but we did not close. That is the National Football League. You win, you lose. There

are no excuses. We are playing hard but we have to make more plays. We have the hard play but now we have to make the plays that count.”

**On how they can simplify the presnap verbiage for Haskins:**

I think that that's always the case with any quarterback when you have a little bit of verbiage. I think [Offensive Coordinator] Kevin [O'Connell] does a really good job sitting down and visiting with [QB] Dwayne [Haskins] and getting his thoughts on what he likes and what he can execute and handle. So there's a dialogue and a communication there that both Kevin, [Quarterbacks Coach] Tim Rattay and Dwayne have. So at the end of the week, we put all those thoughts together we devise his plan in the event that he would play because there's always that contingency [plan] that you have the second quarterback coming in. So that's handled professionally. I think our coaches do a really good job of getting him ready and prepared. Now it's just a matter of going back to the chalkboard and refining those thoughts and those plays and things of that nature to allow him to execute at a higher level.

**On Haskins' body language after the game:**

“I think there's some really great examples out there [on] how to handle yourself after a game, a tough loss. A lot of people wear their emotions on their sleeves and [QB] Dwayne [Haskins] is one of those guys because he takes it to heart, he cares, he's been stern about his teammates and he doesn't want to let anybody down. When you're a young player, how that comes across expressively may be different than an eight-year, nine-year vet like [RB] Adrian Peterson how he handled last week. He fumbled the ball [against the 49ers] and he stood tall, square-jawed and locked his eyes up to the media and said, 'Hey, it was my responsibility.' I think that's a learned thing and I think we have great vets here to learn from. As an athlete and competitor, yeah you take it hard and of course there's always that aspect of just rising above and trying to be better day-in and day-out. Whether that's on the field, in the classroom, with the media, those are all valuable lessons that all rookies go through and learn from.”

**On if he has talked to T Trent Williams:**

“I've got a really great rapport and relationship with [T] Trent [Williams] and I would just say, I really don't know much about what's going on with that situation other than that he's not here. So, I'm really focused on the players that are in the building that are playing and that's really completely out of my control at this point. We'll just see as time goes on how it all plays out.”

**On if there is an update on CB Quinton Dunbar:**

“We're just rehabilitating it right now, we'll have a little bit more information next week when the report comes out. Really just more of a maintenance thing right now.”

**On how the team responded to Haskins being put in:**

“We've got a great group of veteran players and they've really extended themselves and reached out and want nothing but the best for [QB] Dwayne [Haskins] and they are mentoring and guiding him, giving him advice to make him a better pro. What better advice can you get from guys like [RB] Adrian Peterson, [T] Morgan Moses and just a room full of great guys that are just really trying to help a teammate. It's a tough dynamic when you're thrust into the limelight in a tough situation like Dwayne was last night. A lot of those guys have gone through that as rookies themselves, so they've got a lot of empathy of what you go through. It is the NFL, it is a business and you've gotta step in and step up, you gotta perform and you gotta execute and make plays. That's the nature of our business. Having those vets guide through that process [is] really invaluable and it's great to see. Hopefully that makes a translation that can pay off down the line for him.”

**On an injury update on RB Chris Thompson, TE Vernon Davis and RB Derrius Guice:**

“We’re hopeful that we can get Chris Thompson back this week. Still a little unknown out there about Vernon. And Derrius might be practicing this week. I’ll have to check as we go forward here. We should get some guys back this week and hopefully get our team back. That’s a real positive.”

**On how he felt the defense played:**

“Yeah, they really did. I mentioned that last night in the press conference. I thought a lot of our guys played pretty well. We got a lot of production out of our inside linebackers. I thought [LB] [Jon] Bostic and [LB] [Cole] Holcomb really played well. They combined for over 16 tackle points and that was impressive. [S] Landon [Collins], I thought really had a great game effort throughout the game. There were some impressive plays on film, like the fumble that [DT] Daron Payne runs down early in the first quarter there. Wow, what an impressive play on a pursuit by a defensive lineman 30 yards downfield. Overall, the front end three are really consistent. We’re still looking to get a little more production out on the edge. We had a lot of different sub-packages in last night. We rotated a lot of different defensive backs in roles and positions. I think overall for what we were facing in a really good offense like Minnesota, we were toe-to-toe with them going into the fourth quarter. We just didn’t close out. We didn’t close the deal. That’s the big challenge for us as we get ready for Buffalo is finding ways to close out a first half, find a way to close out a 4-minute drill where we can get the ball back, and also be in a position offensively to take advantage of field position and turnover ability so we can score. We haven’t done well in that category of converting scores after turnovers and that’s an area along with the redzone that we intend to work on this week as we get ready for Buffalo.”

**On what the common themes have been in the losses the past two weeks:**

“I think right now, it’s a split. I look at our football team as we’ve raised the level of competitiveness effort. I think as a coach, that’s the first thing you look for. I think secondly is situationally, we have to do a better job of second half football. We’ve played very well coming out of the tunnel. First half, I think we’ve been toe-to-toe with everybody. But into the second half, we haven’t closed out, we haven’t finished off, we haven’t found ways to make plays when it counts. Whether it’s the redzone, short yardage, 4-minute, those situations are areas that need to be improved that we will be focused on and worked on as we get ready for Buffalo. Again, we’re always trying to find ways to overcome those areas where if we can just make those plays and turn the tide, there’s a good chance this could be a different outcome in the second half.”

**On if there comes a point where he feels like Haskins should be the starter for the season:**

“Well like I said earlier, it’s very similar to quarterbacks like [Aaron] Rodgers, Steve Young, you know really good quarterbacks in our league that have sat back not only for one season but several and learned and grew and got the experience and the knowledge to go out and execute at a high level. When your thrust into a situation as a young rookie, boy it’s challenging. I mentioned this last night, you could look at Troy Aikman when he was first drafted by Dallas, you can look at Peyton Manning when he came out in Indianapolis, they struggled. They really struggled. You’re going to have some growing pains with young quarterbacks and we get that. We’re doing everything in our power to generate a positive result for Dwayne whether it’s in the classroom or on the field. We’ve done extra work with him and he’s done extra work. We’re doing everything possible to generate some better execution out of his game that will translate into a win. That’s always at the top of the list – how to improve our players. Definitely at the quarterback, that’s a focus that’s unparalleled. You always are really centered around that one position because he’s your franchise and everything that we do is so quarterback driven. Everything begins and ends with the quarterback here, and I think that’s what [Offensive Coordinator] Kevin [O’Connell] has done a really good job of trying to get him in a good position to have success. We just haven’t crossed that bridge and had the success that we wanted to have.”

**On if there becomes a time where they will start developing for next season:**

“I think the priority is developing our entire team. Not just one player but our entire team. A focal point, JP, is to improve the team and make the team better. If Dwayne’s a part of that formula, great. And if he’s not, we

have a plan. We definitely want everybody on this team to improve, just not one position but everybody. Everybody's got to get better. Everybody's rate of improvement has got to show a different metric than what it's been and get more production out of a lot of different areas. I know I'm being vague, but that's really the essence of where we're at. If we can manifest that into a more positive outcome, I think everything takes care of itself."