



## WASHINGTON REDSKINS

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

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### **Interim Head Coach Bill Callahan**

#### **Opening Statement:**

“Let’s start with the quarterback. So, last night a medical report came out that [QB] Case Keenum is still in the concussion protocol. [QB] Dwayne Haskins [Jr.] will be the starter, [QB] Colt McCoy will be the backup. We’re really excited about Dwayne’s opportunity, a young quarterback going up against one of the top three defenses in the league. It will be a great challenge for him, a learning experience and a great challenge for all of us to pull together, rally around Dwayne and go up there and compete against a top team in the AFC East.”

#### **On what he’s seen from QB Dwayne Haskins Jr. in practice to make him confident he can start:**

“We’ve seen him progress throughout the week and I think that’s the big thing. His improvement from day to day, from situation to situation, from drill to drill. You see nothing but locked-in focus. Like I mentioned the other day, he had a pretty good early start of the week and finalized today with a lot of red zone work and a lot of moving the ball stuff, so we’re very encouraged.”

#### **On how to define success for Haskins on Sunday against the Bills:**

“Win. That’s all I’m looking for is a win. We all are as a team. That success is a win, so it doesn’t matter how it comes, what form, what fashion – win, that’s the name of the game. However we do it, whether we throw deep, throw short, throw long, throw screens, throw quick game, whatever it may take. We’ll do whatever we can to win.”

#### **On what he wants to see from Haskins on tape:**

“I would say again it would be win. That’s all we want him to do is go out and execute the offense, lead the offense and come out with a win. That’s all we’re focused on.”

#### **On how the coaches are tailoring the playbook to Haskins:**

“I think it’s all about us and I think [Offensive Coordinator] [Kevin] O’Connell and Coach [Tim] Rattay have done a great job getting him prepared, getting him ready, they’ve put in concepts that he knows, that he can function and execute. So, I think we streamlined things that he can execute well and go out and perform. I think anybody across this league would really formulate the system around your players and what your player does well. That was the focus going into the week and again that’s something we always work on regardless of what quarterback’s at play.”

#### **On how a week of preparation as the starter will help Haskins:**

“I think it’s huge for a quarterback to know. In the circumstances that we’re currently in with [QB] Case [Keenum] being in protocol, I think it’s important that he knows that he’s the starter, that he goes up there with a mindset that he is a leader of this offense and he’s got everybody on his shoulders. I know he’s going to accept that responsibility and do as well as he can.”

#### **On whether he’s prepared to leave Haskins in for the duration of the game if things go south:**

“Everything is by situation and circumstances, so we’ll take a really hard look at that as the game goes along and we’ll just evaluate how everybody performs just like any other player.”

**On what he's seen from Haskins' preparation this week:**

"I thought his preparation was excellent. When you're preparing in a starting role – as he was beginning to work this week just in the eventuality that he was the starter – I think you see the magnitude of that responsibility take place. When you're taking every rep throughout the week I really believe everything intensifies. Then, of course, the execution under pressure is really important to evaluate and I thought he did really well in that regard, so we'll see how he does. We're encouraged, we're excited about his opportunity and looking forward to competing against the Bills, against a really highly-touted not only defense, but as a team they're doing really well."

**On if he thinks Haskins was prepared for the whole playbook:**

"We always go into it game plan specific, so every game is different for us. We just take the plays and concepts that we feel fit not only the player, but accordingly of course the defense that we're facing."

**On whether Haskins' performance will influence the starting quarterback decision:**

"We're just looking at one game. We're just going to look at one game, one day. We'll take it one game at a time. Appreciate the question."

**On whether young players need to learn how to be starters:**

"I think for any player who's a rookie and getting their first start, it's always a new experience, it's a great experience. No different for Dwayne. We're treating it just like any other rookie getting their first start in the league. We're excited for him and the opportunities that are out there for him."

**On how Haskins has gone about correcting his mistakes:**

"I think he's a competitor at heart. These guys, their mindset is a lot different than a lot of other positions because of all the mental things you have to obviously juggle. I thought he did a great job just in terms of preparation and if he can translate that to the game and have success, that's what we're looking for. We know there will be some growing pains in there, we know there will be some mistakes, but I'm sure he'll learn from them just like we all do. But I thought during the week his preparation was really solid. He poured a lot of time into it and you could see it come through in the classroom and also on the field, so we'll see."

**On how the coaches can help with the operational side of the offense:**

"Good question. The pre-snap process and the post-snap process are always huge. No different for Dwayne than it is for any other quarterback. I thought the way we prepared with crowd noise, 40-second, 30-second, 25-second clock operation really forced the tempo, forced the communication at an accelerated rate. Everything we did we just tried to time where he was at the snap, when the ball was snapped, how many seconds were left and we took a total of those numbers throughout the week and obviously we got an average that I won't disclose, but it's an average that he understands and our coaches know. We're trying to build on that just like we would anybody."

**On whether Haskins was using a wristband at practice:**

"No, he wasn't at practice at all. Not to say that we couldn't use one though for other purposes."

**On what he thought of T Trent Williams' comments yesterday:**

"We've issued a statement as an organization and I've got nothing but respect for [T] Trent [Williams]. There's really nothing to say about that right now at this juncture and I'll just let that process play out."