



## WASHINGTON REDSKINS

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

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### Interim Head Coach Bill Callahan

#### **On the status of TE Vernon Davis and RB Chris Thompson:**

“[TE] Vernon [Davis] still remains in the concussion protocol and [RB] Chris Thompson is still out with injury.”

#### **On how much longer it might be until Thompson returns:**

“His is week-to-week and we’ll get a little bit more information by the end of this week about where he’s at. It’s been a little bit prolonged in his regard, so we’re taking our time and hopefully we can get him back sooner than later. He’s instrumental in the passing game, he’s been a productive third-down back not only from a protection standpoint, but from a route matchup. Putting him not only in the backfield, but having the ability to transition him out into the empty formations that we’ve been in and isolating him in particular matchups, that’s been beneficial for our offense. We’ve lost quite a bit of that in the last few weeks – we lost [TE] Jordan [Reed], we lost [TE] Vernon [Davis] and we lost [RB] Chris [Thompson]. Those are three instrumental matchups that can really take the pressure off of the outside lane receivers and really create the type of matchups inside, or mismatches in terms of linebackers versus backs, tight ends versus safeties and so forth.”

#### **On what he saw from the team’s red zone offense after self-scouting:**

“When you jump into the self-scout, you can get into a myriad of things. You can delve into just about every aspect of offense, so we did that as a basic overview, but we really looked at the red zone in particular and also third down. Without giving too much away, we looked at the run-pass distribution down in that area, where we can do better from a protection standpoint, what we could do better from a route concept, formationally how we can create a little bit more matchups and really adding all dimensions of run-action, drop-back movement, so we looked at the totality of that and find a way to blend that in and balance it up.”

#### **On how RB Derrius Guice can help in Thompson’s absence:**

“Prior to his injury, he was doing really well in the passing game in the types of roles that I just got done talking about, being able to flex him out, move him, motion him, shift him into those various alignments where we can create a matchup with it. He’s been productive as a screen back, a checkdown back. I like the way he performs in his protection pickups, so his completeness was starting to show prior to injury and he’s making his way back. Slowly, but surely – we’re in pads today, we’ll be in pads tomorrow – we’ll get a little bit more work just to upgrade his physicality and get him ready against a defense that’s probably one of the more physical fronts that we’ll see this year.”

#### **On what workload to expect for Guice against the Jets:**

“We’ll see because of the variety of runs that are in the game plan and how it’s dictated by down and distance, by concept and also by personnel grouping, so we’ve got a good plan for that. We’ve got a pretty good rotational system for that. Without giving a lot of it away, we feel pretty confident that he’ll see quite a bit of action this weekend.”

#### **On facing a strong Jets run defense:**

“They are good up front. Defensively, just looking at what they did against NFC East opponents, Dallas – [Cowboys Running Back Ezekiel Elliott] had a little over 100 – and last week [Giants RB Saquon] Barkley only

had one yard. It was amazing how they shut down the Giants running attack and they've been doing it all year long. I think that when you look at [Jets Defensive Coordinator] Gregg Williams and the trademark of his defense, it's in his DNA to send more than you have to block, whether it's a seven-man box, eight-man box – I think he'd rather prefer playing a nine-man box actually, everybody up there. That presents quite a challenge for us, and there will be opportunities in the passing game and when those opportunities come we've really got to take advantage of diagnosing coverage. I think the big thing that you can see when you look at film of the Jets is the array of coverages that they play, the disguises that they come from, the locations that they're coming out of can be quite confusing. I thought they did a really good job against the Giants last week. It's pretty well-documented on film that they'll change up week-to-week, so preparing for not only what you see on film from the past week, but also trying to anticipate what you'll see the following week gives you a full agenda to work on."

**On how QB Dwayne Haskins Jr. can gain respect from his teammates as the starter:**

"I think we have a great group of players, especially up front. I think whoever is at the helm gets that respect and gets that encouragement and support. Those guys rally around anybody who's at the controls and I think when you look at [G Brandon] Scherff, [C Chase] Roullier, [T Donald] Penn, [T Morgan] Moses and now [G Ereck] Flowers [Sr.], you're finding guys that know the system, know the protection calls, know the ins and outs of what calls are feasible and can be on or need to be changed, so I think that communication is really good. I know that [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.] is all ears and he's starting to get to that comfort level where he can communicate and understand where they're at and what he needs to do, and he's getting more confident in making the changes that he needs to change, whether it's from a protection standpoint or from a run aspect – changing the run from one side to the other or from a run to a pass or a pass to a run – I see that type of improvement that I get encouraged by."

**On Haskins gaining confidence and becoming a leader of the team:**

"I think confidence comes from preparation and the more he prepares and understands and has knowledge of the plan and can execute it confidently, I think it really manifests itself in a lot of ways not only in the meetings, but on the practice field and taking that into the games. That's where I see [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.]'s progression growing and maturing and hopefully it can translate into a win for us."

**On Jets S Jamal Adams and how to gameplan for him on offense:**

"Incredibly talented player, by all means, in every realm. I had a chance to meet with the team this morning and showed a number of clips of his performance over this season and what he's done. Not only from a coverage aspect, but when he pressures, when he pulls the trigger out of nowhere, he can make the adlib play that you don't see normal safeties make. He's quite impressive. He's a player that you have to have full knowledge of where he is, you've got to be aware of every alignment that he gets in, you've got to know what he's doing, the possibilities of where he can come from, the plays he can make. He can get mismatched against the backs. The two plays he made against [Giants QB Daniel] Jones last week were just absolutely incredible to his credit. He's a premier player on so many levels. His ability to ballhawk and not only make a sack, but strip the ball, take the ball and then score on top of it, you don't see plays like that in this league. He's a handful to say the least."

**On the effort he's seen from his team in practice recently:**

"I see that our team has a high standard and they live by that standard and they hold each other to that standard. As a team collectively, they have great respect for one another, they play for one another. As long as they can trust one another and trust the guy next to them to do his job and they can trust the other guys to do their jobs. I think that's where you see the cohesiveness and I think you see the tightness of the team and the togetherness of the team staying together and that's really the fabric and the glue of any team. That's why I really believe that's motivating these guys, challenging our team to improve and get better and maintain their focus through tough times."

**On whether the team is sending anybody to QB Colin Kaepernick's open workout:**

"I don't believe so. I heard that he was working out. Our situation is full at this juncture right now because of the two veteran quarterbacks we have along with [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.]. We have three on our roster where generally a lot of teams just carry two, so we're really carrying one extra quarterback than most teams normally carry. I wish the best for him."

**On whether they will expand the passing opportunities for Haskins in the playbook:**

"That's kind of a two-fold answer for me. If you can convert more third downs, you're going to have more opportunities of throwing. We haven't had that success, so the more success we can have in the third-down area to extend drives, I think you can see more variety, see more balls, see more opportunities. As [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.] grows, we'll need to open up the playbook and expand it and take advantage of his skill set and also the skill set of our players."

**On the injury status of S Montae Nicholson:**

"He's day-to-day right now. He was out there on the field today. I'll have to check with the trainer and see how much he got done and where he's at. Each day, we meet a little bit later in the day as a staff to get the rundown of the players, so I always have better knowledge afterwards than I do when I walk into the presser. I'll get that updated about 5:30, 6 this evening."

**On what he's seen from S Troy Apke in his time as a starter:**

"I think [S Troy] Apke has received some incredible experience and invaluable experience when you get that opportunity to step in and step up and play in situations he normally visions as a backup. Now as a starting role there's nothing better than having experience and stepping in between the lines and getting that. He's matured – he's not there yet, but he's made a lot of strides."

**On what he hopes to see from the young offensive weapons over the next seven games:**

"I think the main thing you can ask for as a coach is continual improvement. Their focus, minimizing their error in their game, showing improvement, eliminating the repetitive error, showing strides where they can expand their game and kind of branch off and grow a little bit more from where they are at right now. That was one of the goals for us as a team coming out of a bye, really trying to expand our improvement and have a more intense focus, more intense concentration in terms of what we're doing as a unit and also as a position group. So that's what we're looking at and I mentioned it early about the rate of improvement of each player – we did a pretty extensive evaluation of each player during the bye. They're graded, they're evaluated and they also have what we would call an improvement area, a number of improvements that they can make over the course of the next few weeks, so we'd like to see that come to fruition for each of our players."