



## WASHINGTON REDSKINS

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

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### INTERIM HEAD COACH BILL CALLAHAN

#### **On why he's comfortable having S Montae Nicholson in team activities:**

"I would tell you first and foremost that our deepest sympathies go out to the woman's family and friends. Right now, I'm unable to comment on anything that's going on from the legal matter. My understanding is that [S] Montae [Nicholson] is cooperating with the local authorities at this point in time and as things develop and things continue, I'll be more than happy to inform everybody as to any updates that I can provide when the times are appropriate."

#### **On whether the organization has been in contact with the league regarding exemption for Nicholson:**

"I would imagine so. I don't know that to be the honest point. I'd have to talk to the front office. I'm sure they're in contact – I would assume there's communication and dialogue. Personally, I'm not aware of that at this point, but I'll let you know as soon as I can if they have that or not."

#### **On whether Nicholson is expected to play this week:**

"As of right now, he is active and he did play Sunday. Right now, he is on the active roster and is scheduled to play."

#### **On whether RB Adrian Peterson had a rest day:**

"Yes, we backed him down today."

#### **On whether C Chase Roullier and the offensive line can minimize the burden of protection calls from QB Dwayne Haskins Jr.:**

"I think [C] Chase [Roullier] is one of the better centers in the league at identifying, recognizing, communicating all the variables and variations of front problems and pressure problems that are created. He has great experience for a young center and we're trying to communicate that to [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.] in the most simplistic terms so that he's aware of what those issues are at the time of the snap. As you all know, picking up pressures from coordinators around the league is always at the forefront of our protection plan and of course it comes down to that. Our ability to communicate across the board, whether it happens to be the center to the [quarterback] or that communication gets echoed out to the edges or to the running backs – everybody's involved in the protection plan. So, to your question – it's a great question – the center does have, usually and normally, the initial responsibility in point and directing the point system. At times they're true points, at times they're dummy points because you have to change that up, but we try to get that communicated and echoed throughout the entirety of the offensive line."

#### **On whether he is more lenient regarding mistakes that Haskins' makes against defenses he's never seen before:**

"I think there are pressures and issues that come up every week for veteran quarterbacks, as well. It needs to be repped and then there are always those unscheduled looks, alignments and pressures that you deal with and have to adjust to during the course of a game and they're problematic for any player across the board, whether you're a first-year player, 10-year player, 15-year player. You are presented with an agenda of problems that you have to figure out and you have to have answers for and each of them are different. Let's just say, for instance, you have maybe two or three protections. Well, those issues at times get compounded with the communication, if

that makes sense, because it's a complex game. We do really simplify and we try to make it as simple as possible going into each gameplan, but issues come up and you've got to handle them. That's what we do on the sideline, we adjust to those issues to the best of our ability."

**On RB Chris Thompson's injury status and why DTs Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne were not at practice today:**

"[DT Daron] Payne and [DT Jonathan] Allen were backed down today and [RB] Chris [Thompson] was on the practice field on a limited basis."

**On QB Alex Smith and his role with the team:**

"He's currently on IR, so he's taking a role in the quarterback room and on the field with [Offensive Coordinator] Kevin [O'Connell] and with [Quarterback Coach] Tim Rattay. I think Tim Rattay has done a really nice job of bringing along [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.] in the time that he's spent with him and the development that he's given him is starting to pay off. [QB] Alex [Smith] has been a really good resource. Let's face it, when you have a quarterback that has played the number of years that he's had and has gone through the various experiences from the time he was a rookie to where he's at now, that is so invaluable. So, his insight for Dwayne and for all the quarterbacks and everyone on the staff is invaluable. He's fun to talk to. It's great to see him out there. His rehab is coming along well and, like I said earlier in the year, I've never seen anybody that has such a determination and will to get back on the field than Alex Smith."

**On what excites him about the core of young offensive talent:**

"Ike Hilliard, our receiver coach, has done a great job of developing [WR] Terry [McLaurin] and bringing him along as a young rookie, as well as [WR] Trey Quinn. Let's face it, we've got some young receivers – as well as [WR] Kelvin Harmon – out there. That's a young group of wide receivers that we're developing and Ike deserves a lot of credit. He's done a tremendous job of bringing them along and he's worked diligently and hard in the classroom with them. He's got excellent rapport and communication with that young group and giving them all the techniques they need to go out and play with on Sunday. With such a young group and young quarterback, it just speaks volumes to the coaches on our staff like [Quarterback] Coach [Tim] Rattay and Coach Hillard."

**On why it's so hard for young wide receivers to get depth on routes:**

"I think it's what we would call 'sticks awareness,' where the [yard] markers are at, what you need to know, situational awareness of being in-tune with situational awareness. That to me is experience. Knowing what you need to get, knowing how to stretch your route, whatever it takes to get your depth being at the maximum depth, being at the precise, accurate depth that you need to be at to make the play, that's the discipline and consistency we're after."

**On what WR Kelvin Harmon adds to the offense:**

"He's a young receiver that has size, physicality, has good hands, catch radius, can run the short and intermediate [routes] and can separate against man coverage, so he has all the traits and skills you look for in a wide receiver. Now it's a matter of grooming him and his techniques against the week-to-week competition that he's schemed against, the type of corners he's going to be faced up against."

**On the penalties that the team was called for during the Jets game and how to correct them:**

"It was the split across the board, offense [and] defense. They were costly. Just addressing the precision of hands and technique and we just go back to the drawing board and reemphasize everything that we've discussed from the beginning of training camp on. At times, you get those types of games or weeks or situations where you're kind of dry, you're clean and you're doing well. Then, you hit a game like we did on Sunday where we didn't do as well. We'll go back again and readdress those types of issues that we had on Sunday."

**On whether the officials at practice communicate those penalties to the players:**

“I think it’s been great to have officials at practice so they can communicate to players and they have communicated to them. I think that dialogue has been good just to make them constantly aware [of the] positioning, the technique and how a call could be made. Maybe the player doesn’t recognize it, but the officials here that come in, they do a great job. They’ve been a great assistance for our team.”

**On how many starts a quarterback needs before he should feel comfortable:**

“I think it’s an ongoing process for any quarterback. I don’t know that you can, *per se*, put a specific, exact number and say this guy has arrived at game number six, you know what I mean? They’re different, every game is different, every defense that you encounter and coverage and team, they’re so different. I think it’s just a body of work and it’s a ton of work that a quarterback has to get comfortable with. Really, it’s years – look how many years these guys have taken to really develop and to become the types of quarterbacks that they’ve been in the league. I don’t have the real, exact answer and I can’t pinpoint it for you. It’s a good question, but I believe that it’s one that takes time, it takes maturation, experience and being involved in more situations so they see the game. When they do see it, it slows down for them so they can execute in a better manner.”