



WASHINGTON REDSKINS

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

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Offensive Coordinator Scott Turner – Conference Call

On how he thinks his offense can fit QB Dwayne Haskins Jr.:

“I’m in the process of doing that now, really looking through the film. Obviously I looked at Dwayne coming out a year ago. I was a really big fan of his coming out of Ohio State, had him rated pretty high. Looking at him, I felt like he got better as the year went on. He was a little bit more comfortable playing in the NFL, it is a big step. The big thing for Dwayne is he hasn’t played a lot of football. He was a one-year starter at Ohio State and then just kind of played sparingly this past season, so all of the physical tools that you want are there and I think he needs to keep getting experience and will be a really good player.”

On the style of offense he is going to run and how he sees Haskins Jr. fitting into that system:

“If you look at the offense and the system that we have been a part of, talking about my dad and going back to him – the different places that we’ve been our offense has looked a little different. It is still the same system, but we have versatility within our system where we’re going to really fit and play to our players strengths. So right now, as a coaching staff we’re really trying to get to know these guys. We have a little experience with some of them as far as like I was saying, evaluating Dwayne coming out of the draft. But, just really trying to figure out the pieces that we have on offense and then fit our scheme to our personnel and what they do well and not ask them to do stuff they don’t do well. Now obviously we’re going to push them and develop them to improve the things that they don’t do quite as well, but we really want to develop our scheme around the strength of our players. So like Dwayne, you obviously see the big, strong guy who can stand in the pocket and really push the ball down the field. We’re going to want to use a lot of play-action pass and then something also he’s done a good job of in his past and in college too is just being able to get the ball out quickly and kind of distribute the football to the playmakers and let them make the plays for him.”

On the process of becoming the offensive coordinator for the Redskins:

“I had an indication that I had a chance. Obviously I have a great relationship with Coach Rivera, I worked for him for four season – two in 2011-12 and then these past two years in Carolina. He brought me up and said he was just going to talk to me potentially about the offensive coordinator position, so I was just prepared with a plan of what I would like our offense to look like, how we would develop Dwayne, our young quarterback or all of our players. I met with Coach Rivera and then after a little bit of time he offered me the job and then obviously I accepted.”

On how the tight end fits into his offense:

“Right now, the tight end is very important to our offense. We’re evaluating everything. We’re going to try and get as much talent as we can on offense. You look at that in different ways, obviously what is on the roster currently, but then we will look in free agency and we’ll look in the draft. Those are the different avenues to acquiring talent and we’re open to all of that.”

On his personal feelings on being back with the Redskins and if he has any ill feelings toward the franchise for firing his father:

“No. It's a business and you can't really take this stuff personally. I was in high school when my dad was the head coach. He had a seven-year stretch here and stuff happens and it moves on and my dad has had an unbelievable career. It is really a dream come true to be back here. It is pretty surreal to be honest with you. This is where I kind of consider home just because when my dad took this job in 1994, I was 11 and then his last year was my senior year of high school. So, I still have a lot of really close friends in the area. To be able to come here and be the offensive coordinator for this franchise is really awesome and something that I'm really excited about. So, on a personal level it is pretty cool.”

On what his ideal quarterback room looks like:

“Honestly, I just want the best players because you don't know who is going to be available or who you're going to potentially get so it doesn't have to be a veteran, it doesn't have to be a young player. Obviously if you're talking about a practice squad guy or maybe a third [string player] you'd like that guy to be someone that has quite a bit of upside, maybe a younger guy. But, as far as your No. 1 and your No. 2 you want the best guys that are going to be available on game day to go win games for you. This league is obviously really hard, so I think there are different ways to find guys. I don't think you necessarily need a veteran. It is nice to have that experience in the room, but if there is a young player that is better, you have to go with that option.”

On how he envisions his collaboration with Head Coach Ron Rivera will be on the offensive side of the ball:

“I have a great relationship with Coach Rivera. There is going to be transparency. I'll be in charge of putting together the game plan with our offensive staff. He is going to be focused on being a head coach as well as probably a little bit more focused on defense. But, we'll talk to him every step. You kind of install different things during the week. He'll have all of our installs, he'll have our offseason installs and we'll clearly show him what we're going to be offensively as we kind of develop this, as we develop this offense. If there is something that he is not comfortable with, he's the head coach and we're not going to do it. He'll have input from me as far as things that give him some issues – defensively stuff that he sees and we'll work some of those things in. Ultimately when it comes to game day, I'll be calling the plays and I'm sure Coach Rivera will have input for me in between series and stuff like that. But, he has done a great job and has really been good. In the past, I know I wasn't calling it last season when he was there, but just in letting the offense run and letting those guys take care of their side of the ball. I'm sure he's going to have some input and he is the head coach – plus it is going to be good input. I know if he has information for me it is going to be something that is going to help.”

On what he learned about himself during his stretch as interim offensive coordinator for the Carolina Panthers:

“It was tough. Towards the end of the season we had dealt with a lot of injuries. We had some moving parts on offense. We were trying to do as well as we could offensively. You really have got to and it is not something that I didn't know, you just actually did it and I actually lived it was the preparation that you need. There are so many variables in football and it is hard to predict exactly what is going to happen next, so you have to be ready for every possible situation. That is the one thing, just the feeling that, 'Hey those calls have to come and come before that play clock goes off.' And everyone is depending on you. That is obviously something that I knew, but it is different when you're the guy calling it. But, it was a really good learning experience for me and it is going to really help me obviously in this job, but just going forward in my life as a coach.”

On what he thinks the keys are for developing young quarterbacks:

“I think the No. 1 thing is the commitment level. Taking away obviously the physical skills needed to play the game, but as far as just the approach you've got to be the most committed guy in the building, your teammates have to see that, the coaches have to see that because that is how you develop trust and that is how you develop leadership. If you're the last guy in, the first guy to leave, you don't have a mastery of the offense as a quarterback and you try to tell somebody else what to do or try to step into a leadership-type role it is not going to work and no one is going to listen to you. It starts No. 1 that the quarterback has to spend their time so he knows the offense better than anybody. He has to know it like a coach and he has to be able to present that on the field and present that confidence when he is running the show and that takes work, that takes work to get to that and guys see it. Guys see when it is there and guys see when it is not. I think that some of the guys that I've been able to be around, they have all done that. We had Cam [Newton] obviously as a rookie, I wasn't the quarterback coach but I was part of that process. Then Teddy Bridgewater when we drafted him in Minnesota, he came in and owned the system and that is what anybody is going to do and obviously Dwayne and we will challenge him to do that.”