

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

December 17, 2020

Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On what the secondary will miss with S Deshazor Everett being placed on IR:

“We’ll miss him. He did a nice job for us this year. I feel bad for him. He went down with the shoulder. The guys that get the opportunity to go in, we expect them to play well. Right now, we’re busy preparing for the Seahawks and the challenges they bring.”

On DE Montez Sweat’s level of play this year:

“Outstanding. Montez has had a really fine year. The two of those guys as bookends are very disruptive. I think Montez has been fantastic. I think he’s one of the better edge guys in the business, and we’re certainly glad we have them.”

On Sweat and DE Chase Young’s ceiling as a tandem:

“Well, they’ll determine that through their effort and energy and preparation and how they perform. Obviously, they’re two really talented guys. They work hard. They have really strong work ethic, and I think that gives them the chance to accomplish some amazing things. It’s just you have to grind it one day at a time. They have to put in the work and they’ve got to stay healthy. Obviously, the future is bright, but the bottom line is to take it one day at a time and put the work in. That’s what they are doing. That’s why I’m positive on them and upbeat about them because of the way that they go after it and they work hard and prepare, and they understand what they need to get done. They’re getting better and better every day.”

On facing the Seahawks offense:

“They’re top-2 in red zone. They’re one of the elite offenses with one of the elite quarterbacks in the NFL. I think [Seahawks offensive coordinator Brian] Schottenheimer does a great job with this design. They run it, they run it well and they throw it, and they throw it really well. This is a big challenge for us. This is a really good offense. Obviously, their defense has improved greatly over the last month or so. It’s a good football team coming in. We’re gearing up for a big battle.”

On what he saw from DT Jonathan Allen coming out of college:

“Big, strong, active defensive lineman. One of many that Alabama has produced. Obviously, we thought highly of him. I’m glad to have an opportunity to coach him now.”

On S Kamren Curl:

“I think he’s kind of unflappable. He’s kind of come in, made the most of his opportunities, worked hard. I think I referred to it—way before we started Zooming, the guy just got it. He understood. We had never even seen him on the field yet and hadn’t even met him hardly. We were just going through Zoom and thinking: ‘This guy is impressive. This guy is sharp. This guy gets it. He’s a quick thinker.’ [Defensive backs coach] Chris Harris, he did some kind of fun games where there were response times. He was always at the top. Yet, this is a guy learning a brand-new system and he was at the top in terms of response times. It was very telling that this guy’s brain works. I mean, obviously everybody’s brain works, but he gets it. Football makes sense to

him. He's able to take information, process it and spit out answers quickly. He's bright. He's gone in and he's done a great job preparing. Every time he's been given something, he's taken advantage of it and performed. We just want him to continue to work and continue to do what he's doing. He's getting better every day."

On Seahawks WR DK Metcalf:

"He's big. He's strong, he's fast, he's got good hands. They throw it to him, and he's hard to tackle. This guy is a monster in the league. He's one of the premier guys out there. [Seahawks QB] Russell [Wilson] knows how to get him the ball. It's one of the tough matchups that we have this week."

On what he saw in CBs Kendall Fuller and Ronald Darby in the offseason:

"I would just say I think in both cases we acquired guys that fit what we were wanting to do. In Kendall's situation, he's a versatile guy that's done a lot. He's played corner, he's played nickel, he's been a safety, well-regarded here in the building. Obviously, he's been a good player for us and we're happy we have him. Darby—Darby's biggest thing—he was always a good player. His biggest thing was just staying healthy. I think he's been able to stay healthy. He's taking care of himself and taking care of business and he's had a good year for us."

On having turnover at cornerback in the offseason:

"I don't think there's anything easy about it. I think, typically, successful performances defensively come down to good coaching, coaching of good players and making sure you're organized and guys are on the same page and understand and communicate well and understand where they need to be for each other. You start to build trust and confidence and you start to play at a higher level. I think as the year's gone on, we've gotten a little better at doing those things. We have a lot to do yet. We've got, like I said, a great challenge coming up this week. We're looking forward to it. We're going to do what we've always done, which is prepare hard during the week and then go compete our tails off on Sunday."

On playing aggressive against a mobile quarterback like Wilson:

"That's the challenge. Guys that are mobile like the quarterbacks you're talking about, they create a different dimension. They extend plays. Your ability to plaster down the field on plays that get extended is imperative. It's going to happen. It happens several times a game, no matter what your rush plan is. These guys that have the ability to move around and make some people miss are going to move around and make people miss. That's part of it. How well we do at getting him trapped and down and rushed will help us in the back end. We've got to be good at it. In the back end, we've got to be able to take away throws and have some tight coverage so that the quarterback doesn't have what he wants and he has to hold it. All those things work hand in hand. Rush and coverage work hand in hand. We're playing a quarterback that has great mobility. It's a challenge."

On the production of the later draft round picks:

"I've been very pleased to bring those guys along and develop them. When they haven't been major starring roles, we've developed some type of role for them. [LB] Khaleke [Hudson] was involved in that goal-line stop in Pittsburgh. It might have been his first snap of the year defensively. We're constantly looking to get our guys involved, keep them involved in game planning and continuing to develop them throughout the year. I think that's important. Obviously, injuries come up throughout the year and then they need to play. Part of that is just making sure that we're doing our due diligence that way. The other is making sure to keep them encouraged and make sure they're working hard."

On replacing Everett:

“We’ll just talk it over as a staff and take our recommendation to the head coach. He’ll say OK or not. Bottom line is we talked it over. We were at first keeping our fingers crossed and hoping we’d get positive news the day after the game. Then the news came back that it was not likely he’d be ready to go this week. Then the news came back that he’s going to go on IR. That’s a shame. You have to respond. That’s part of what you do. That was at the end of the game, and you’re ready to move into the next week and make your adjustments. Sometimes it happens right there on the fly and you’ve got to go. We’ve got to be prepared for each.”

On who will replace Everett:

“I don’t know if [Head] Coach [Ron Rivera] wants to talk about that. I typically don’t.”

On signs of a great defense:

“The thing I would say is we establish high standards everywhere I’ve been as a D-coordinator. I’ve kind of laid out a road map in terms of where we’re going. Then we’re just working toward going there. It takes a combination of players and coaches and working hard together. It’s all of us. We’re all in it together. I want to establish right away high expectations wherever we are and then fight like crazy to live up to them. We’re working at it. Like I said, this week is a great challenge because this is a really good football team with a great offense. We’ve got our challenges set out in front of us, and we’re looking forward to competing.”