

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

July 29, 2021

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On what he thinks of DE Chase Young as a person:

“I think the thing that I really appreciate about who Chase is, he's a very driven young man. He wants to succeed. He wants to do things the right way. He's got some really good core values. He's very family oriented. He's a guy that really appreciates people doing things the right way. He cheers for his team and it doesn't matter who's out there, he's cheering for him. And I don't know if you noticed, but when he's not in, he doesn't necessarily always stand by the defense. He goes over to the offensive guys and interacts. There's a leadership quality to him that I really appreciate.”

On S Jeremy Reaves:

“The thing that I appreciate about Jeremy is he just does his job. He works hard and has a true appreciation. Last year he was one of the guys that truly impressed me during training camp. When we had to cut down, he was one of the guys that was on the bubble and initially he didn't make it, we had him on practice squad, but I told him if he keeps working the way he is, he'll get a chance and he did. I appreciate that and I appreciate the effort he's given us.”

On if RB Antonio Gibson is full go in practice:

“He looks good. He really does. He came in solid, his conditioning test looked really good. He really did. It looks like he's passed those effects right now. Now again, you never know because turf toe is one of those things, but he looked good. I'm really pleased with where he is right now. He's solid and I just expect him to continue to grow and take another step.”

On how rare it is for a young player like Young to help out both sides of the ball with his leadership:

“I think that's an exception and what it does is it shows the other guys too that, 'Hey, man, we're here, we're behind you.' Because sometimes it does get fractionalized out there. There's a little bit of separation. It's offense against defense and at the end of the day, we want to make sure everybody understands that we're not on our schedule, so we're all pulling in the same direction. I think that's what the message really is about, 'Hey, we're all team, we're all together.' I think that's really one of the cool things about what he does.”

On what S Landon Collins adds to the team:

“Well, I do know from having watched him last year, that there's a physicality he brings, there's that physical presence. He is a playmaker of sorts because he plays downhill. He's got the right type of temperament that you want from your defensive players.”

On what stands out to him about QB Ryan Fitzpatrick embracing competition:

“Nothing seems to phase him. We roll in [QB] Taylor [Heinicke] today and nothing seems to phase [Fitzpatrick]. He just goes out and does his job. He doesn't look over his shoulder. And I think that's a confident player. I think guys can learn from that. Don't worry about what's going on over here, worry about yourself. We're about doing your job. We're about things that are going to help you. Again, in his mind what's important versus what's interesting and I love that about him. He's a guy also that's communicating, he's helping, he's working with everybody. That is cool and that's the type of stuff that helps your football team.”

On what he thinks are keys for Young to take the next step this year:

“I think continuing to understand and develop his sense for what his job is, but what everybody else is doing. It's important to understand what's going on with coverage. Why? Because the coverage is going to impact them. If it's man coverage, you're going to get a little bit more time. If it's zone coverage, you might not get as much time in your pass rush. What's it mean when they overload a side, when they overload to you with two tight ends. What are they trying to accomplish? Are they trying to widen you and create that extra step in the pass rush? So, I think that's the thing that's going to help them by looking at how people are trying to attack him and look at the whole scope of what we're trying to do on defense. What's the three-technique doing next to you? Okay. What happens when you've got the one on your side? Those types of things. It'll help advance the way he plays because he's more aware of what's going on around him too.”

On what he can see on the field that shows him that Young is making improvements in those areas:

“By the way he does things. Again, if it's third-and-long and he knows we're in man, he knows the quarterback's going to have to hold the ball a little bit. So, he's got an opportunity to set something up. If it's third-and-long and we're in zone, and third-and-short and we're in zone – a quarterback is probably going to try and throw the ball a little bit quicker. So, he's got to understand, 'I don't have time to set it up. I've got to, I've got to penetrate. I got to get vertical. I got to get into the guy's throwing lane. I got to get to his vision.' That type of stuff. That's when you'll know, when you don't see these, third-and-shorts and he's running these up and under and he's selling it all the way outside and a quarterback is taking a three step that's when you know he's getting it. He sees what's happening in the game.”

On why QB Kyle Allen has not taken part in the quarterback competition yet:

“Well, I think as he recovers and starts to do more and more things, you'll see them be part of it. But right now those are the two that I've identified as the guys that we've got to keep an extra eye on. I'm not selling Kyle down the river. I think he still has an opportunity to help us, whether it's immediately or in the future. But we'll see. I mean, again, it's about being healthy. It's about getting back out there, doing the things that you're capable of and to getting opportunities to practice with our groups. He'll get an opportunity to play with our groups. We're gonna try and get as many reps for people as we get into playing the games in the preseason. We only have three, we gotta be judicious and we've got to make decisions quickly.”

On what he has seen from QB Taylor Heinicke:

“He came in and he's throwing the ball well. He threw the ball well during OTAs and mini-camp, he picked up right where he left off. He has a good understanding of our offense because he's been in it before, too as well. So, he's a guy that's going to create the competition that we're looking at and he's going to push Ryan and we'll see how everything goes and unfolds as we get further down into camp.”

On what he has seen from the matchup between WR Terry McLaurin and CB William Jackson III at practice and if they are making each other better:

“Yes, just by the competition itself. Terry goes against a lot of times some of the best and when you're competing as one of the best in the league and practice every day, it's going to make you just inherently better because that's who you're competing against. So, Terry knows to win, I've got to be at my best. I've got to run my routes very precise; I've got to be able to set up my mood. On the inverse what you're seeing from William on the other side is, again, I've got to focus in, I've got to anticipate, I've got to understand my leverage, to know where my help is. I got to know when I have help, I gotta anticipate down-and-distance. So, those are things that are honing each other's skills as we go through this.”

On McLaurin speaking highly of Fitzpatrick as a leader:

“I think there's a real good professionalism about [Fitzpatrick] and almost an anticipation. He is not a rah rah

guy, he'll get fired up and he'll show it. But what he will do is he will talk to the guys very direct, very forward. He makes eye contact when he's helping young guys out, when he wants to make a point. And that I think is a different type of leadership that's out there. Some guys will get on guys. Sometimes guys will go the next step in terms of, 'Hey, you got to get after it, you got to do this right. You got to do it.' And I haven't seen that yet. We may see it, we may not. But right now, his leadership style more is about, 'Hey, follow me and just listen to me.' And that's been good for some of our young guys, because I've been around when guys have gotten on younger players and it creates a little bit of animosity. He's there to help and he's been really good about that.”

On if he anticipates Allen joining the quarterback competition at some point:

“At some point. We'll see how things play out. We've got a good group of guys and I like the guys, I truly do. We'll see what happens. We've got a young guy in [QB] Steven Montez that we like as a developmental guy right now. We've got him working on some special teams stuff too, just in case, so we'll see. But it's a good group. We've got two clear-cut guys right now that have an opportunity. We have a third guy that's shown us he can do it in this league.”