

September 6, 2021

WR Curtis Samuel

On rehabbing from his groin injury:

“It’s definitely been a tough road. I wish I was out there for the start of camp, but a little setback. So my main goal was just to focus on rehabbing. Was off to the side, just trying to get better each and every day. My mindset and my goal is when I’m out there, I’m going to stay out there. I don’t want to come back and have these lingering through the season. It’s a long season. Added an extra game. So I’m just on the side working, trying to get better each and every day and trying to get right and ready for the team.”

On making sure he doesn’t rush it back:

“It was definitely tough because you want to be out there getting those reps with those guys. Especially my first year on the team, I want to be out there with them. But I just got to make sure I’m healthy first, because if I come back and I’m not feeling great, I’m just going to have another setback later on down the road. So I basically just got to focus on getting back right and ... when I’m back out there getting reps with my teammates, everything will come naturally and it’s going to come back quicker than it did before.”

On how he knows his body is 100 percent:

“When I’m cutting in and out of routes feeling good, able to make people miss — things that I do — I’ll know the I’m right.”

On if it’s hard to be honest with himself about the injury:

“No, I’m going to be 100 percent honest, because if I’m not honest to myself, I’m not being honest to my team and I’m putting my team at risk. And it’s not just about me. So I want to come back right, because when I’m back, I’m trying to make this team better. It’s not really about me, it’s about us, and whatever I need to do to make the team better, I’m down for it.”

On where he’s seen the biggest improvement:

“Just being able to go out there and put together a good day. An off day tomorrow, but just feeling good coming back Wednesday and getting ready for practice. That’s my thing, is just being able to come back day after day and being able to be out there at practice.”

On how he’s worked on his chemistry with QB Ryan Fitzpatrick:

“Basically just talking about the plays when we’re watching film, just the things he expects. I’m just really going to listen to him. Wherever he says he expects me to be— he’s going to let me know where the ball is going to be, and I just have to make the right play. We haven’t been able to get too many reps but I’m just leaning on him. He’s the older guy. Whatever he says, I’m going to try to do my best and run routes as clean as possible, without wasted movement and score touchdowns.”

On if his familiarity with the coaching staff has helped this process:

“I mean, yeah, but not really. I still got to get out there and do my thing. Even though they know what I can do ... if I’m new to a team, I come in here like I have something to prove, no matter if they know me or not. I still got a lot to prove.”

On if he could've come back sooner:

"I can't really speak to that because it's not really happening now. I'm just taking it day by day, just trying to get better and hitting rehab hard and try to be back out there with the team."

On if he's more eager to play in Week 1 because of his absence:

"No, I can't rush anything. I just got to get back in the groove of playing. That's my thing — when I'm out there, just get back in the groove. Just get comfortable being out there with different guys and make plays and help the quarterback."

On if there were moments when he tested his leg and realized it wasn't ready yet:

"I've had moments where I probably just wanted to see where I was at and then I'm like, 'Oh, I'm not ready yet.' So I just went back to the drawing board and hit rehab hard."

On if Tuesday morning is a big gauge of his health:

"I'm feeling good right now. After I leave here, I'll go back and take care of my body like I've been doing for the last couple of days. But my main thing is just staying on top of my body. Just before it gets sore, just keep treating it."

On how close he is to being 100 percent:

"I mean, it's game week. I'm not about to give all them tips. But I'm feeling good."

On when the injury happened:

"It happened a while ago. It's just been lingering. Just trying to push it and then not feeling good, so just waiting, waiting, waiting. Which is frustrating. It's hard. I haven't really dealt with anything like this in a while, so it's definitely frustrating and hard. But I got a lot of good people around me — family, friends — that are keeping me right mentally and just telling me to, stay patient, it's going to happen."

On if he's expecting to play Sunday vs. the Chargers:

"Maybe. Who knows? We're going to see."

On how going on the COVID-19 list complicated his rehab:

"It was kind of tough. But we're past that now. Maybe those couple of days might've helped, just giving my body a couple more days of rest. It is what it is."

On if he was hit hard by the virus:

"No, I was good. I was really just focused on football and frustrated that I was out. That was really my main focus."

On how his return will help the offense:

"They brought me here to make plays. They know I'm talented, I'm dynamic, I can do a bunch of different things, and just confuse the defense. Put me in different spots. If the defense is worried about where I'm at on the field, the other guys are open. Me being back definitely helps to open up other guys, and open up stuff for myself."

On his goals this season:

"My goal is just to be healthy, because if I'm healthy, I'm playing good, and if I'm playing good, I'm feeling good. I have a bunch of confidence. As long as I'm out there, everything will be good. So my main thing is to just be healthy."

On how he can be best utilized:

“The great thing is it’s hard for teams to really dictate and figure out what I’m going to do. The best thing about my skill set and my abilities is I can do a lot. I’m able to do more things, just because I played running back in college and growing up and played receiver a little bit in college and the NFL. When I’m running down the field, you can’t say I’m going short, you can’t say I’ll run the ball out of the backfield. You just can’t determine what I’m going to do. You just don’t, so you’re out there guessing. Just got to play your cards right and hope for the best. It definitely opens up a lot for the offense.”

On his versatility opening up opportunities for others:

“I felt like last year I had a pretty good season. Going into this year, teams may be clued into me a little bit more. Right. So, maybe if I run this route, they worried about what I’m going to do, and then open up something for somebody else. I’m a team guy. So even if I’m a decoy on the route, I’m going to run it as hard as I did if I was getting the ball. It’s about the team, it’s about winning. So, that’s my main thing.”

On Coach Rivera saying he’ll get limited reps:

“I’m not really focused on that honestly. However many plays they got me playing, I’m not really focused on that. My main thing is to go in the game feeling good, feeling confident so I can go out there and make plays. If Coach says go, if he says stop, I’ll stop. Whatever coach says, I’m going to go by it ... and do as much as I can while I’m out there.”

On if there was ever a conversation about surgery:

“No, we weren’t really focused on that too much. It was just about getting better.”