

# WASHINGTON

## FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

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### **QB Ryan Fitzpatrick**

#### **On WR Curtis Samuel:**

“Curtis is going to be a big part of what we do and the luxury of some of the stuff that happened in the off season was there was a lot of reps with all kinds of different guys. So he's a guy that's played a ton in this league, that's had a lot of success. And so when we have him out there, it's been good working with him. When he wasn't out there in the off season, we got to work with a lot of the other guys. He'll be a big part of what we do. We just got to see each week how it's going.”

#### **On if it is easier to deal with an injured receiver later in his career than earlier:**

“Yeah. I mean nobody's going to feel sorry for you and who's out there and who's playing and who's not. You know your guys, you know their strengths and weaknesses, but it's one of those things that you just go out there and you play with who you have whether it's a guy up front, whether it's guy in the backfield, receiver and you go from there.”

#### **On WR Terry McLaurin:**

“Well, I had heard a little bit about Terry, had obviously seen some of the big plays that he had made. Being a young guy in the league, there wasn't a whole lot of crossover with guys that I had played with that knew him very well. And I think vice versa. He's been so impressive. His ability to track the deep ball, on the shorter routes, just precision, true professional the way he approaches each day, his demeanor. You sometimes go into a situation and especially with the number two, number one receivers, you just don't know. You know, we walk on eggshells. We got to figure out the personality a little bit. Terry is such a humble, come to work every day with his lunch pail, go get them type of guy. That's really great for a quarterback to know that you have that in the huddle and know what you're going to get on every single play.”

#### **On a moment where he didn't have to walk on eggshells:**

“When he said ‘Hi, I'm Terry.’ And then I was like, okay, I got this one figured out or good to go. I like that Terry guy.”

#### **On if he will share what box Terry checks off as a receiver in his mind:**

“No, but he's in the opposite box and some of the other guys I played with.”

#### **On how he has been successful in the short passing game:**

“I mean, some of it's technique footwork. Just little silly things that helped me get in the right spot, tuck the chin, sit in the chair, things that don't mean anything to anybody else that I can kind of say in my head to remind myself to get in the right position to throw the ball. But a lot of that has just been figuring myself out over time.”

#### **On seeing the Los Angeles Chargers:**

“I mean week one is always tough. And then when it's a new staff, new defense, we're getting familiar with their players, but we're also trying to get familiar with their scheme and the different places that he's been. It's a lot of different things and a lot of different teams and film. It's just these first few weeks are difficult, especially with new schemes and new coaches coming in to try to figure everything out. We're putting in the work, doing the best we can scheme wise, personnel wise to figure it out. I think we'll be ready by Sunday.”

**On QB Justin Herbert:**

“What he did last year was ridiculous. I mean, you're not supposed to come in as a rookie and look that polished and play that well, be that composed. When I met him, I met him at a golf tournament this year and he's enormous. He's a big dude. Shaking hands with him, you notice his size. I think he's kind of got all those tools physically and then all the intangibles as well. He did a great job last year and you know, it just, for me watching some of these young guys come in and you know him last year, I marvel at how mature they are, how NFL ready they are right away. What a great job that he did.”

**On WR Dyami Brown's readiness with WR Curtis Samuel easing back into play:**

“He came in very polished. And we've talked about that just in terms of his approach in terms of how professional he is, the stuff that he learned, and how quickly he did it and then how he's able to carry it over to training camp. So that kind of stuff, I'm not worried about him at all going out there and making plays. He'll be a guy that's, whoever is in or out of the lineup, that's going to be a guy that's going to make a lot of plays for us this year. And I think [The University of] North Carolina [at Chapel Hill] missed him on their last game. I really do.”

**On WR Cam Sims having an increased role over the next few games:**

“Cam is a guy I didn't know a whole lot about when I got here. But he was also a guy I had to reach out to [Former Washington QB] Alex Smith and just said, Alex, I really liked Cam Sims, I'm seeing things right. Like I'm trying to figure this out and I got the same response from him. He's so quarterback friendly. You can put him everywhere. He's a big body, very reliable. He's going to be in the right spot, but he's also a down the field guy that's going to be able to make those big plays and go above the rim and get the ball. Cam did a nice job last year, showing up on film and popping on some of those big plays, but he's had a great off season and he's one of my favorites out there.”

**On how he processes the season:**

“If you followed my career at all, I'm a week-to-week guy. So, yeah I look at things week to week and put everything I can into each week.”

**On what “Fitz-magic” means to him:**

“It's just part of my journey, part of the, I guess, personality that's out there and I've had. I've had a lot of fun with it the last four or five years. But I just go out there and try to play. And my kids all have the option of what they want to put on the back of the jersey, Fitzpatrick, Daddy, and one of them did Fitz-magic this year. So, we've got some dads, some daddies and Fitzpatrick and some Fitz-magic.”

**On having more energy for game one:**

“No, this is a huge deal. It's a huge honor to be one of the 32 guys that is leading a team in the action on Sunday. To be a starting quarterback in the NFL is such a privilege and I'm so honored and humbled to be able to do it. And so, it's definitely not something that I take lightly. It's not a responsibility I take lightly, but it's also

not something I take for granted. This is something I've worked very hard to do and I know that there's a lot of people in and outside of this building that are counting on me to go out there and perform. So, it's a huge honor and it's something that especially week one getting out there, getting the season started the right way. It's a very big deal for me."

**On how an offense can start fast:**

"Just get first downs. Just continue to get first downs and go out there and execute. And it's silly and it's a boring answer that probably everybody will give, but that's it. There's not really a special formula it's going out there and just piecing those first downs. And for us and for young teams, confidence is always a big thing. So going out there confident, having a good week of practice and knowing that you're going to be able to carry that over to the game."

**On figuring out a team with a new head coach:**

"Well, I mean, there's always going to be wrinkles in a game. There's always going to be ways that they're going to try to take advantage of us and our scheme and our personnel just like we're trying to do with them. So throughout the game, there's going to be adjustments and there's going to be things that we're going to have to figure out as we go, as we come to the bench after a series, after a touchdown or after a miss third down conversion or whatever it is. We're constantly going to be talking and tinkering. As the game's going on figuring out, 'okay, this guy is playing here.' That's the kind of stuff that maybe happens a little bit more week one, week two than it will down the line. But it's something you never really feel completely comfortable with and have figured out until the game starts to happen and you start to make some of those adjustments and talk on the sideline."

**On what he's looking forward to this season:**

"I'm excited about winning. I'm excited about going out there and winning games and that's kind of it for me right now. That's my focus and what I'm fired up about."

**On reflecting on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11:**

"So I was a freshman in college. I was on campus at Harvard and my roommate came in and told me what had happened. I was an Arizona kid growing up, so I didn't really have any ties to the east coast. I'd never really been to New York City, so it was very strange for me because I was kind of caught in trying to figure out. I was processing all these things while there were people around me that had family members that were in New York City. They had family members that worked in one of the [World] Trade Centers. There were so many emotions and strong emotions going on campus. I was sitting there just like everybody else, trying to process it and figure out what was going on. It was a very strange day. And then it was, you know, as you kept trying to figure out that day, there were so many rumors at that point going around as to where the planes were coming from and what was going on. I think it was a scary day for everybody but being on the east coast and being around that and unfamiliar with some of it, it was strange for me just trying to process all those emotions, especially with how other people around me were feeling and dealing with not being able to get in touch with family members and, the cell phones, you couldn't get service and calls weren't going through. It was a crazy day. Our game got canceled that week and kind of able to process what had happened a little bit more and talking with my parents and other people. That was a day that I don't know that any of us will ever forget, but especially there are so many young guys on this team that don't have that strong emotion tied to the day. I guess just uncertainty and just trying to process what the heck was going on."

