

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

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Head Coach Ron Rivera

On if what he saw from the defense is correctable:

“It's all correctable, just lack of discipline. A couple times we went diving down inside on the play action where we shouldn't have been. That's frustrating because when we prepared for something that we've seen in the past, he [QB Daniel Jones] has exploited that in the past. Now he did it last week and he did it again this week. So that's disappointing. That will be pointed out and we're gonna work to correct it, cause that's honestly, it's something that's very frustrating for us as coaches. I know for the players, they're trusting their teammates to do their job and we've gotta be disciplined enough to do the things we're supposed to.”

On QB Taylor Heinicke saying he deserves to be the starter:

“I love the confidence, nothing wrong with that.”

On LB Jamin Davis:

“Much better. He's getting a little bit more comfortable, a little bit better feel. You could see him really starting to flow and understanding those things. I mean, he's going to make mistakes and that's what rookies do. It was a nice, vast improvement to last week. You saw some of his quickness and speed in some of the coverage things as well. That was good to see. He is making strides and headed in the right direction and he'll get a good bit of work this week coming up.”

On any injury updates:

“No, I haven't had an opportunity to talk to him about that guys. And again, you know, I'll talk to him after.”

On the endzone drop by WR Darius Slayton:

“There was a lack of communication. We miscommunicated. One of us should have stayed high and we didn't unfortunately.”

On QB Taylor Heinicke's composure:

“I think he's had some of it when he was in Carolina, but it's really grown even more so. I really do like how he has matured and grown into the position he has for us right now. He has done a nice job. He works extremely hard at it. As I said, there is a lot of confidence and you see the swagger and right now his teammates see it. They recognize it and they're feeding off of it as well.”

On going through his progressions in the two-minute offense:

“Well, from everything it says, just the decision making to where he checked the play. He made a call in a very confident way and we ran it and we hit it.”

On a unit he has been impressed with and a unit that can use some work:

I really like what we've gotten from the wide receivers. Not just them, but I think the tight ends have done some really good things. I think our lines are solid, but I think from as far as both our lines are concerned, we could

probably get more from both of them too, because I really do think as we continue to progress and come together, find our footing. I think both those units are going to improve for us. I thought they both made plays and did some things that really helped us as a football team. I was really pleased with the way we ran the ball when we had to. I was also very pleased with the way we protected our quarterback. We threw the ball 46 times and for the most part, I think Taylor stayed up right. He did sack himself, which was disappointing. I really do think though that the way our protection was, it was good and I really appreciated that.”

On DT Jonathan Allen:

“Well, I think a lot of it has to do with the guys around. He benefits from having really solid teammates. Guys that command certain type of protections out there. And at the same time, just his own natural ability to make plays as well. It's a really good unit. I do believe that unit can give us more as well. Like I said, I think both our fronts are solid and I think they're going to get better as we continue this season going forward.”

On if he would stick with Heinicke if he plays well enough:

“As far as I'm concerned, we're going to take it one game at a time and we'll continue to progress as we go through the season.”

On the discipline Heinicke showed staying in the pocket and making throws:

“What I liked for the most part, as far as the discipline was concerned, was how he went through his progressions. If you look at the touchdown, he threw to [TE] Ricky Seals-Jones was a perfect example of him being patient and going through his progression. It's one thing that he's really worked on during training camp and you could see it. And because he did that we didn't see that with combination of visibility to threaten with the run. I know that was in the back of their mind because he does have that ability to move around and can stretch a play out and find guys downfield. So I think that's something that has really helped him and you see it helping him in terms of his development.”

On K Dustin Hopkins and the team rallying behind him:

“Absolutely. Because if he's successful, we're successful. I think that's probably the thing that we we've got to, again, continue to build on more so than anything else. Was it a tough miss originally? Yeah, but again, there was a chance to redeem himself. He got it, and he made it.”

On what jumped out after watching the tape:

“Well, the thing that I appreciate more so than anything else is – and it was asked earlier I believe by Nicki – is those are all things that are correctable. I mean, those are all things that we can correct and be better at. That's the thing that gives us pause for optimism is that those are correctable things. Are there some things that we could do differently as coaches? Yes. Those are the things that we're working on as well. We watched the tape and, yeah, maybe we could have put them in a better position for some other things. But when you see that some of the things that are out there are all correctable to me, we're positive about that. I did like some individual play. I really did. I thought some of the guys on the defensive line were outstanding individually. Collectively, they were good. Then we had the mistakes where we dive down inside and we allow running back to pop one on us. That's disappointing. You watch the offensive line and you watch how physical they were and how stout they were and how, again, we threw the ball 46 times and we only had one sack. As I said, they did a nice job covering us and Taylor tried to make something happen. Unfortunately, he went down but that was it. That's a huge positive to build off of it. And I really appreciate the way that competed. I loved the way Terry

[McLaurin], just 11 catches. I mean, what a day. Those are the things that when you see and you really get a chance to look at and then you look at it, you say, 'you know what, even though Terry had 11 catches, he's going to tell you there's probably two or three more he could have had.' He could have had all 14 completions because he was targeted 14 times. So that's the pluses. Those are the things to be excited about. That's what I'll harp on when we have our team meeting today at two o'clock and tell the guys say, 'guys, we're very fortunate. We won a football game, but we can be better.' And I really do believe that all of our guys will look at it that way. That's what we're going to take from it. That's how we're going to approach it as coaches and I believe and I hope our players will agree to accept that."

On some of the things he'd like to tweak as coaches:

"Well, there's some things that we can do offensively and defensively that we can do to help our players."

On teams being successful with the read option:

"The big thing is you ask these guys to be disciplined and try not to make every play. Our guys want to make plays. That's the one thing we can accept is that these guys are trying hard, but they can't see too much. You know what I'm saying? I mean, we see a lot of things and the things that we focus on, the things that we react to. If we're not putting our eyes where they belong, we're going to get in trouble. Like we asked guys that are coming off the edge, 'Hey, you have a target area that you aim at.' That's the outside leg of the quarterback. Why? Because if he's going to pull it, he's going to step your direction right away. So if you start to see that, you've got to settle and sit and wait. If he doesn't, he turns the other way then crashed down. When we watched their heads and we see where they're looking, they're not looking at the right place. That's the thing that we've got to get across to the guys is that you've gotta be disciplined. You've got to trust that's what's going to happen. And really that's part of the defense. That's the part that we've got to be able to get them to understand."

On both the Chargers and Giants having success getting the ball to their receivers:

"Well, I think the big thing about it more so than anything else is when you look at some of the and talk about [QB] Justin Herbert, you look at some of those back shoulders throws that were made. Those balls were on the money and a couple of them were some pretty good catches, you know? Sometimes you gotta give them credit because they get paid as well. But if you look at our game, you look at how many PBUs there were as well, again, that's going to happen. There's going to be a battle. Things are competitive and those things that we got to continue to work on and get corrected."

On opponents scoring on the first drive and the DE Chase Young penalty:

"The big thing, and you feel again teams go down and score on their first possession, it kills certain things that we've got to do in terms of playing disciplined. Okay. We can't jump our gaps, we can't miscommunicate, and we can't create penalties. So again, it falls back on us. We've gotta be better. As far as the Chase penalty was concerned, yeah, I'm a little concerned as well. I disagreed with it. I think that, again, it's an interpretation and that's the hard part. We have to get, I guess, a little better explanation, so the players understand what they can and can't do. But again, like I said, it's unfortunately something I didn't agree with. But again, it's an interpretation."

On the defensive miscommunications:

"Well, it's a little bit of both, David. I think, again, part of it is your communication is really once we're playing the coverage, now we get a certain specific type of formation, 'Hey, this is the technique we're going to play and understanding where that leverage is going to come from and then how I'm going to react to it.' So now,

some of these things, we have to read on the run, you know, release of routes, combination of routes, high versus low, crossers coming, combinations. What are those combinations? And we all have to be on the same page. So if we get a guy coming in and he's running a dig across the middle and the guy behind him is going to run a post, the last thing we wanted to see somebody jumped the dig. Make sure we stay high on top of it. So again, some of that communication is verbal and some of it is really just understanding what I'm reading and seeing."

On if DEs Chase Young and Montez Sweat are getting chipped more:

"Yes. I actually checked it and went through it. I don't have the tally, but that was one of the things that I was watching today to see how many times we are being presented with the opportunity of them being chipped, whether by the back or just a tight end alignment. That's one of the things that you really do see a little bit more so than when we watched the tape from the Giants game versus Denver. They did do it against Denver because of Denver's defensive ends as well. I have a sneaky suspicion based on what I've counted or what I marked is they chipped a little bit more against us than they did last week. To answer your question, yes. The numbers I don't have specifically right now. That was one of the things that I did intentionally want to double check."

On how he plans to counteract teams chipping Young and Sweat:

"The first one of the basic ones is your defensive tackles have got to play and play like what we got from [DT] Jonathan [Allen]. Jonathan played an exceptionally good game for as many tackles and sacks and quarterback pressures and the effects that he had. That's a big part of what you've got to get when that happens to other guys because now you're probably being singled up and that's something that has to happen."

On if he likes having the mini bye week this early in the season:

"I wish it did come by in about three more weeks, to be honest with you. It is a little bit early, but you play the schedule, so we get it. We're going to let our players get an opportunity to catch up and catch up on their legs and give them an opportunity to take a little bit of a breath."

On if he can elaborate on saying that this group of players reminds him of last year's group of players in a good way:

"I think the big thing is that they're resilient already. I think they realize just that they can be a very resilient bunch. If they continue to stay with it, keep fighting, keep pounding, they have an opportunity to win football games. I think last year we had to kind of discover that we could do that. I think these guys already know they can and last week was a good indicator. This past game was an even better indicator that if we stick to it and be resilient, we give ourselves a chance to win. I love the way that they play hard. They play with passion. That's what those guys did last year down the stretch, and it's carrying over. One of my concerns I talked about at the beginning of camp and at the end of training camp going into the season was are we mature? And again, we're learning, we're getting better, we're maturing. We're still making some mistakes that we really shouldn't and sometimes there is some undisciplined play. I think that goes to David's questions last night about maturity and experience. I think that's one of the things that we're starting to see is that we're starting to grow a little bit, there is a difference in terms of the way we played versus the Chargers to this week. Hopefully we'll continue to take steps because we need to take a big step next week because we're going to play a very good Buffalo team as well."

On if there is a timetable he is looking for in terms of seeing his team mature:

"As soon as possible. With some guys it's just going to take reps. With the [LB] Jamin Davis' of the world, the

[CB] Benjamin St.-Juste's, [T] Sam Cosmi's. To David's point also again with [QB] Taylor [Heinicke], the more opportunities Taylor gets, I think the more things he'll learn. I mean, he's gonna learn by the example of just getting the chance to be on the field of play."