

# WASHINGTON

## FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

September 22, 2021

### **Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio**

#### **On what he wants to see from the defense this week against Buffalo:**

“Yeah. We just want to keep working on being a good football team. Understanding we're facing some talented people, I'm looking forward to the competition, really. It's a good group and a proud group and we know we're going to be challenged. We're looking forward to it.”

#### **On what challenges he sees with Buffalo:**

“Yeah, I think it starts with the quarterback – big, strong athletic guy, able to extend plays, tremendous arm talent, arm strength, tough guy to bring down, big, strong guy. They've got really good skill people; the backs are good runners. We just feel like it's a good group that we're going against and we're going to need to play well.”

#### **On DE Chase Young and DE Montez Sweat:**

“No, not really. I mean, I don't think so. It's a no, or they're going to garner a certain amount of attention. That's pretty normal.”

#### **On Sweat and Young getting chipped:**

“Yeah, we try and do some things to make sure that we take advantage of them doing those things. But yeah, that's part of it. It was part of it for [Bears LB] Khalil Mack, [Former DE] Julius Peppers, [Broncos OLB] Von Miller, any of the guys that I've had. That's part of playing a defensive end in this league.”

#### **On starting faster defensively:**

“Yeah, we just want to go out and compete each week, learn from any mistakes that were made and continue grow as we go forward and get better as the year goes on. I think that's the case, regardless of where you start. Do you want to continually work on things? That's what us coaches do. We're constantly striving for more, for better. The effort's been outstanding. The energy that we're playing with has been outstanding. I think last week in key moments, we came up big, had to have stops. At the end of the day, it's about winning games, right? And so we need to continue to do all we can to bring that energy, bring that fight and that competitiveness and clean up some of the things that haven't been quite as good as we expect.”

#### **On what he attributes generating more pressure last week to:**

“I think we were providing pressure the first week as well. I don't know what the analytical data says, but I know the quarterback's not comfortable back there.”

#### **On allowing touchdowns on the opening drives the last two games:**

“No, it's definitely not on my PowerPoint: ‘Don't start fast.’ That's not up there. Obviously, we want to start fast as a group. We want to help our football team build early momentum. We haven't got that done the first two weeks, so yeah, that's clearly a point of emphasis.”

#### **On social media chatter around Chase Young:**

“Yeah, I think to even refer to the social media experts would be a bad idea. I think I liked the way our guys are working at their trade. I think Chase, in particular, is an excellent football player. We're just going to continue

to coach, continue to play, continue to work around being productive for each other.”

**On the Buffalo Bill’s first two games against the Pittsburgh Steelers and Miami Dolphins:**

“Yeah. I’m never one to sit up here and talk about game plan, specific items. Clearly Pittsburgh and Miami had different approaches and the games unfolded differently in both cases, right? So, you know, Miami typically is a man covered team. That’s what they do. That’s what they do every day of the week. Pittsburgh is different. We’re different. We are who we are, and those two teams are who they are. You see the tape; you see some of the things that Buffalo likes to do and you want to do all you can to slow that down.”

**On the linebacker play thus far:**

“I’m really not in the assess the group business. I think our football team is playing hard. I think our guys are doing a solid job. I think there are some areas where we can clean it up – all three levels. I think D-line, linebacker, DBs. There are some things that have been really good, and there are some things that we need to do a little bit better.”

**On how the game has evolved:**

“Yeah. And I mean, it depends on how you look at it, where you see that there might be three defensive linemen and three linebackers. In terms of role and assignment, the DBs that are involved, maybe playing linebacker, maybe involved as nickelbacks or whatever it might be. I think we have different packages we’re going to utilize throughout the year. Um, and, um, some, some include extra lineman, some include less lineman. I think, you know, I think in last week’s game we had, you know, we had a little bit of a mixture where we had some, some five, one, some five, two, uh, and then we got down as low as three, two or three one. So, um, what we’re doing with our front and our people, we’ve worked hard in camp. We’ve got a package of defenses and we want to be able to execute those and play well on game day.

**On CB Benjamin St-Juste:**

“I’m seeing growth with our guys. I think him specifically, I like the young man, I think he’s done a great job coming in here and finding a role in this football team. So I just want him to continue to meet the challenges that he faces each week.

**On the development of DE Montez Sweat:**

Probably maturity and comfort in understanding of what we’re doing. I think we have great competition between Montez and Chase, both excellent football players.

**On the usage of the safeties:**

We’re going to utilize the players that we have. We’re going to put together a plan and utilize the players that we have available. And sometimes you’ll see them together, sometimes they’re separate, but they’re all going to play.

**On DE’s switching sides:**

I don’t get too much involved in that. Sam does a great job with the group. We communicate about our ideas, go into the game, and then we execute. So I like to give them freedom. They both know assignments from either side, and we don’t have to have in one particular guy on one particular side so that can be fluid. The bottom line is as a defense we want to play well enough to help our football team win the game. We were able to do that last week, and we’ve got a big challenge in Buffalo coming up.