

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

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Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On facing Kansas City, QB Patrick Mahomes and WR Tyreek Hill:

“Yeah, I gotta stay on top. These guys are very explosive. Quarterback extends plays, has a tremendous ability to elude the rush and throw the ball a long way. So the guys he has at his disposal, they're all very, very fast. They're able to get vertical on you. It's a challenge.”

On TE Travis Kelce:

“He's gifted athletically, but I think the biggest thing is the way he has an idea of how to get open. A nuance route runner. Body positions well, has elite hands and then he's dangerous after the catch. A good football player.”

On some around the NFL saying the defense is too predictable:

“No, I think we've just not done the details. Anybody can take shots and have opinions. Obviously, we're not playing as well as we'd like to but we're working on it. Guys are doing a great job of sticking together and working hard.”

On not seeing predictability as a main problem:

“Oh, if I saw it as a problem, then it wouldn't be a problem.”

On Jon Gruden emails:

“It was, I guess, shocking. Embarrassingly bad for a person in that position to have those kinds of thoughts and to express them like that. I don't have much respect for it.”

On if he thinks the emails are reflective of a broader problem in the NFL:

“I don't know. It's not been my experience. Obviously, that's an example of there being a problem. That's not been my experience. I grew up in a melting pot area. It's kind of how I've lived my life: respecting and love each other. We're football players and coaches. We're working together with all types of different people from different walks of life, and it's about the man within. Has nothing to do with anything else. That's always kind of been my approach. That's always the way I've worked at it, and that's been my experience for the most part in this league.”

On Sean Taylor:

“Just an absolute force on the field. Great, great player. That's my memory of him. That's great that they're doing that. It's awesome. I drive into the game every day on Sean Taylor Road. So I think it's very appropriate.”

On the pass rush taking a step forward last week:

“A step in the right direction. I mean, we were better. The guys, I liked the way we're working at it. I know I'm saying the same things, but the reality is our guys are working hard. We're sticking together, we've got good guys. Rush and covers have to go together for it to click, you know? When they do, I think it'll look really, really good.”

On how he evaluates certain struggles:

“Well, I mean, to me, you can look at it a lot of different ways and I can sit up here and try and explain it a way, a lot of different ways. The bottom line is we have plenty of looks that we present, apply plenty of personnel packages that we have presented. Plenty of calls that we have presented. To me, it's about execution and we haven't executed at a high

enough level. So again, I'm pretty much done explaining a way, you know, you're not going to try to explain it. It's not going to be an answer that's gonna, have everybody go, 'oh, okay.' And sit down and stop questioning. So you're going to question until we play at a higher level. So have at it, have fun with it. But bottom line is we're working hard on the things that we need to work on."

On getting the one-on-one matchups last week:

Yeah, that was what we liked. As we put our plan together for the Saints each week, we put a plan together with the people we have available to get that opponent slowed down and stopped. Last week it was a lot of five down."

On LB Jamin Davis:

"Just continuing to gain confidence and play fast, you know, that's what we're looking for. He's a great young man. He cares a great deal. Probably cares a little too much. I'd like him just to say the heck with it. I'm going to make a play, you know? Very conscientious. He's working hard. I look forward to him turning the corner as well. I think we will. I think he'll make an impact as we go through the season. And I think our defense will become impactful as we finished the season."

On his confidence:

"A little, trying to be careful. A little trying to be careful and trying to be exact and I want him to let it rip a little bit."

On lineup change timetables:

"We're working through that. We'll get our best people, best combinations of people versus the different combinations of people that you face. Many years ago they would line up in two backs and one tight end and a flanker and sometimes they'd really get exotic and put it in slot instead of pro. The game has evolved. There's a lot of personnel packages and how you're going to match them, how you're going to deploy, what roles guys are going to have, what things are you going to do. That's all part of today's NFL. We'll continue to work at that as we put our plan together and do those things."

On players rising to the occasion against a good offense:

"That is the case when you play a really gifted offense, and this is a gifted offense. Andy [Reid] does a great job with design. Mahomes is ultra-talented and they've got some weapons. So yeah, it's a challenge. We've got our challenges and we have to rise up. That's the bottom line. There's no greater challenge and we're not ducking from it."