

November 26, 2021

Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On improvements on third down:

“It's an emphasis point. I think rush and coverages come together more consistently in the past several weeks, and we need that to continue. No different this week. It's important for us to be able to get off the field on third down once we get them there and get them to more third and longs if we can will certainly help the cause. Guys have been good, rush and coverage working together.”

On if third downs became a point of emphasis with DE Chase Young and DE Montez Sweat out:

“Yeah, I think really just continuing to work. Our guys really didn't blink. We lost a couple of really good players and our guys just kinda next man up mentality. That's the way Coach [Rivera] presents it. That's the way I follow it up. And that's the way we work at it. It's a credit to the group. We're not looking for excuses of why we can't do things. We're looking for ways to get it done. It's a team effort.”

On DT Jonathan Allen:

“Jon's pretty consistent, you know, how he approaches things. I think he has a greater understanding of what we're looking for from the position. Even he said the other day, sometimes they just come. Sometimes you win and for whatever reason, you don't get a sack and sometimes you do. We just want him to keep it going. He's got good momentum. He's playing well. He's collapsing the pocket. He's creating problems for the offense. He's having a nice year.”

On S Kam Curl:

“Kam is very steady. He's been rock solid from day one of coming on the scene here. I just love the way he competes. He's drawn some tough match-ups. Last week, he's on their best – I think their best player – in a key moment of the game, and he comes up with a stop. Kam just continues to do good things. We're happy with Kam.”

On how much tape he watched on Curl coming out of college:

“We studied them like we do with everybody else. Sometimes draft picks come in and outperform where they were taken. And I think he's clearly that kind of guy. He's come in with his opportunities. He's been a very serious. He's intelligent, super intelligent. He's just been a solid player for us. That's one you hit, you love to have those guys that you hit – late round, free agent. It doesn't matter how you get here, it's what you do with your opportunity and he's taken full advantage of it.”

On where he sees Curl's intelligence come through:

“It's a little things. It started with the first zoom session we had where he's answering questions about our defensive install. And it's like, this guy really gets it, he understands. Then we've been able to move him around. He plays a lot of different positions for us. He's called a safety, but he plays all over the place. His ability to adjust and play multiple positions throughout the course of the game, that's a big value to us. So he does a great job with that.”

On S Landon Collins:

“Yeah, I feel good about the way the guys are working. Landon has been very positive. He works, brings great energy every day. He's a good communicator in the room, he's a leader in the room. We're pleased with the way things are going, the way we're growing together and playing better football down the stretch. We need that to continue.”

On Curl and Collins' ability to play all over the field:

“Yeah, it helps obviously. I think all three safeties, they've been very good about understanding where they belong in different schemes and different calls and executing those. It's a good thing to have.”

On the fourth down stop on Panthers RB Christian McCaffrey:

“We got to stop. You know what I mean (laughs). Casey [Toohill], we had our ends aggressively looking to butch McCaffrey throughout the day. That takes unselfishness on their part, and they executed beautifully. And then Kam just played his technique, kind of hugged it up, took the air out of the route best he could against a very talented player.”

On if it is difficult for defensive backs to be that patient:

“Yeah, I mean the guy runs multiple routes, dynamic player. We put Kam on him, and he got the job done for us. Obviously, we had a little help at the end, but Kam did a great job on that.”

On watching the tape on the Seattle Seahawks thus far this season:

“We watch a lot of film. We look at last year, we look at this year. Our ability with EXOS to look at a lot of different views, a lot of different games, a lot of different situations. You can spend as much time as you want in there doing that. So yeah, it's pretty exhaustive, especially this time of year because you've got 10, 11 games you can go through. And then obviously going back in years past as well. There's no shortage of a film to watch.”

On Seattle Seahawks WR DK Metcalf and WR Tyler Lockett:

“Yeah, really good players. It'll be a challenge for us. Metcalf's huge, physical, can really run. Lockett is really Russell's [QB Russell Wilson] favorite target. His eyes go to him as he extends plays. Both those guys know how to go get open. So it's a challenge. They've got a good group. They run it well. They throw it well. They've got a veteran quarterback that is really, really good. And they've got some real skill out there. So there'll be a challenge for us.”

On DE Casey Toohill:

“Yeah, Casey has been great filling whatever role we asked him to do. He's very thoughtful, works at it. We feel comfortable utilizing him in different ways. He's done a nice job with it. To me, it's like we're trying to take advantage of the guys we have and look for things we can do. That's a great point in terms of Casey filling in different roles and doing different things for us. That's been a plus for us.”

On Toohill's versatility:

“Yeah, he's an edge player. He's an end for us. If we're playing a four-man front, he plays defensive end. If we play a five-man front, he plays the edge. Yeah, I mean I think he fits in terms of size and speed and things we're looking for and toughness and intelligence. He fits all those things.”

