

# WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

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## Offensive Coordinator Scott Turner

### **On what the difference has been for QB Taylor Heinicke in these last two games:**

"I think for Taylor, but also just for our team in general, being able to convert third downs, finishing in the red zone and then I think Taylor's just playing with confidence. I think the more and more he plays, the more confidence he has. He's been making good decisions. There's been a couple of instances where he's held on to the ball a little too long and has taken some sacks. But, he's being decisive. He's making throws in tight windows, but he's putting them where our guys can make plays or they end up as incomplete passes. I think just the efficiency has been good and that's led to points."

### **On why he thinks Heinicke has been better in the red zone:**

"I think it's just some stuff came up well for him. I think the decisiveness and just letting it rip and not trying to be perfect, not trying to place the ball, but just throwing it."

### **On why he thinks the offensive line has performed so well this season:**

"Those guys take a lot of pride in what they do. They're all very prepared. They're pros and we have young guys, we have veterans, but unfortunately we've had guys get banged up and they've had to step in. And as a group as well, they hold themselves accountable. So those guys that come in, they don't want to let their teammates down and they know that there's a high level that they're held to. Our [offensive line] Coach [John] Matsko and [assistant offensive line coach] Travelle [Wharton] do a great job with those guys of keeping them prepared even if they're not starting. We played all eight of our guys that were dressed, played at least one snap or at least two snaps on offense, not just field goal. I think it's just their preparedness and just their attitude of not wanting to let their teammates and the overall team down."

### **On how he develops offensive linemen who don't get a ton of snaps in actual games:**

"Well, the skills that they use to play, they just practice those skills in the scout team. So, they might not be getting the practice reps with our offense, but the technique and the skill they use, they use it going against our starting defense. Coach Matsko is hard on those guys and he coaches those guys with the scout team the same way he would if they were going as our offense and it just allows them to keep developing and getting reps. And then the drill work, whether it's individual or the stuff they do before and after practice."

### **On how valuable it is to have a player like WR Adam Humphries who continues to make huge plays late in games:**

"Yeah, he's huge. I mean, as that slot receiver, he does a lot of the dirty work inside. The routes are not going to be the big time down the field routes all the time. Although he has caught some of those. He just has a great feel of winning versus man coverage, beating leverage, and then also just finding those openings in zone. He's a very smart player and Taylor trusts him. All the quarterbacks do. Taylor trusts him just to be where he's supposed to be and to win. And yeah, the end of the end of the first half, the big third down catch that allowed us to throw the ball into the end zone against Terry, that was huge. And that's kind of his knack and it's always been in his career as that situational, those situational times, whether it's third down or like in a two-minute

drill, that's really where he shows up. That just happens to be a lot of times those show up a lot late in the half or late in the game."

**On what Humphries' presence does for this team:**

"I mean, it is big to have a guy like that, especially a guy that's going to win in those situations to help move the sticks. I trust all our guys and those guys to go on the field and we've played a lot of different guys and they've all stepped up and done good things. When we get in the game, we have a plan for what each of our guys is doing and I trust them to go out there and make plays and do their jobs."

**On what WR Dax Milne can do to improve his game:**

"I think what you said, just the experience and just the feeling of playing against different opponents, understanding who you're playing against, understanding zone coverage is what the defense is trying to do, where to find the soft spot. He has a good feel for that stuff, but it's only going to keep getting better and better the more he plays."

**On possibly getting TE Logan Thomas back:**

"Logan's a really good player. I mean, everything. First and second down, third down, down in the red zone. We talked about Hump [WR Adam Humphries] and how the quarterback has a good feel for him, well they've got a great feel for Logan just because of his size. I mean, it's an easy target to throw to. You can really turn it loose. So, it'd be a huge, huge bonus in every aspect of the game to get Logan back."

**On how WR Curtis Samuel has looked this week:**

"Curtis looked good. He's had a really good week. Really good last few days. I feel like he's got a little bit of confidence and comfort level, and hopefully he'll continue to do that and we'll get him back soon."

**On Heinicke fitting some passes into tight windows against Carolina:**

"Yeah. I think, we've talked about this earlier as the year has gone on in regards to maybe some of the interceptions or negative plays. As long as those balls happen on time, then I'm fine with it. Like if you're throwing those balls when you're supposed to, and you're throwing it away from the defender where only our guy can make a play, then that's just part of playing as an NFL quarterback. We're not going to always get guys totally wide open or we're playing man coverage and guys are going to have bodies near them. And those are types of plays you need to make, but they need to be made when the guys coming out of his break, so that separation window is there and the defender's not making that ground back up. And I think that's the difference in these last couple of weeks is those passes have been made decisively and they've been made on time when the receiver is expecting it and when he's gotten maximum separation, even if it's a half yard. You know what I mean? That's open when you're talking about this league."