

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

December 19, 2021

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On the concern in the tight end room:

“Not necessarily. We're down to three anyways. With Alex Armah who's played the position for us in Carolina. He's very familiar with all that stuff. So, no, not necessarily. I mean, we'll see how Ricky is later when the doc gets a chance to see him.”

On how the team has dealt with this adversity of moving the game back:

“Well, I don't think it's been much of a distraction for our guys. I know the one thing is with it, we've gotten some guys back off the list, so that's been a plus. I think the guys have handled it pretty well. And the extra days I think our guys have taken advantage of that.”

On how he has to get the team going:

“I've gotta set the tone. How I respond is how they're gonna respond very much. One thing I reiterated to our guys was last year, we went through the same situation except for we were on the other side where we didn't have any situations as opposed to Pittsburgh. Our guys are in tune to it and they're fine.”

On when he signed Alex Armah if he was considered a flex role:

“The position flex was a huge part of that consideration. Because we knew that if we had a situation come up, he could play running back. He could play fullback and he could play tight end. We are fortunate to have the young man with us.”

On QB Garrett Gilbert:

“Coming along. It's going well. You know, I thought the quarterbacks had a good day today and I thought Garrett did a nice job. I thought he handled the wind pretty well. It was pretty windy out there for the most part and the quarterbacks had to throw into it. I thought they did a good job with it.”

On QB Kyle Shurmur:

“No, I think he's doing a nice job in terms of preparation and getting himself ready just in case.”

On how he plans to adjust the schedule for the next week:

“For the most part we've kind of gone through it. The big benefit for us is that we've played them already. So we have a pretty good sense. You know, the most important thing will be what do we get from this game they're about to play.”

On how much getting two more practices even helps Gilbert him:

“Oh, I think it's been very good for him. His recall's been very good. The game planning specific things it's really helped not just him, but I think it's helping the coaches get a good handle and feel for what he does really well and what he can adapt to and adjust with. It's also given him an opportunity to watch a little bit more film and see a little bit more as to, to what to expect from them on the defensive side.”

On the training staff:

“I don't think it's had that much of an impact. We brought in some extra help and it's been good. I think bringing in the extra help has really been something that's been good for us.”

On where the training staff gets help from:

“It's people that our doctors know that are in the profession. We brought [Former Washington Capitals Head Athletic Trainer] Greg Smith who at one point was the trainer for the capitals. And so we have a guy, a professional that's in here working with our guys, helping them and that's been a really good thing for us. He is a very veteran guy who has a calming effect and has really helped our young staff.”

On if someone is currently holds the head trainer position:

“Not necessarily. It it's really been by committee. One guy steps up and handles the duties for the most part in terms of decision making and direction pointing. Dr. Casolaro and those guys have been great, they really have. They've come in, spent extra time with our guys, you know, anything that pops up, they're there to help direct and really make the final decisions on everything that we've had to do. And go through the last couple months.”

On how is going to get guys to gel from the roster changes:

“Well, I think the big thing is more so anything else is these guys have been in all the meetings, and the guys that are coming back are guys that were part of our 53 to begin with. Those guys for them, it's just, you know, it's just making sure that they can handle the load physically and so far everybody that has come back has been in good shape. It's like they were doing a little something extra on their own. And as I said, part of it too is as has been reported that the majority of our guys that are out have been asymptomatic. So, you know, other than being diagnosed with it, they really just have been waiting. And as I said, I believe several of them told me that they did extra work while they were out so good for them and that's going to help us clarify.”

On if he brought Former Washington Capitals Head Athletic Trainer Greg Smith earlier in the year:

“That was recently.”

On the status of RB J.D. McKissic and WR Curtis Samuel not practicing:

“Other than that, that's pretty much it right now.”

On if WR Curtis Samuel's injuries are connected:

“I don't think they're connected, but at the end of the day, guys, we just got to keep working him and see how he feels.”

On the status of QB Taylor Heinicke and QB Kyle Allen:

“I do know having seen the numbers that they're all trending up, so that's a good thing. This is a tricky thing. It's a health matter. Depending on how things go in the next 24 to 36 hours, we'll know even more.”

On what he has learned about his team from dealing with these circumstances:

“It doesn't seem to be a lot of things phase them. We've gone through a lot in the almost two full seasons that we've been here together. We've had to deal with a lot. I think for some of these guys, a lot of these guys, we try to keep it as business as usual. It's kind of like well, here we go again. But let's just focus in on what's important.”

On RB Jaret Patterson:

“I think he's come a long way. I think he's understanding his niche, his role. I think it's going to grow eventually too because one thing that I can say is I've been fortunate enough to be around backs like him and really watch these guys develop and take a big jump their second season. Right now, because he's got opportunities to play a little bit more, you see his confidence start to build and you see him his comfort level in terms of what we do and understanding exactly how to do it. It kind of shows. So that's a good thing for him and us.”