

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

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Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On what he has liked about the defensive line this season and what they can improve on:

“Well, we're doing the best we can with the guys that we have available that has changed week to week and we're teaching and working and hoping to go out and play really well against a very good Eagles offensive front.”

On the sideline exchange between DT's Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne:

“I didn't really see it. I think they've handled their business well in the time since.”

On if the defense has been able to play up to his standards with the many roster changes:

“Obviously not. All we can do is work each week, do the best we can and prepare, go out and compete. And I think that part of it has been really good.”

On if he has concerns about the chemistry of the defensive line:

“No.”

On how LB Cole Holcomb has developed over this year:

“He's been our primary signal caller since [LB Jon Bostic] went down early in the year and we missed that. That was a lot to take out. Then we lost [LB] Jamin [Davis] just before the game, so it was a tough set of circumstances obviously. But Cole's done a nice job throughout the year of leading, of communicating, of being productive. So yeah, taking him out was a big loss.”

On adjusting to losing two starting linebackers hours before kickoff:

“We just did the best we could. We got together as staff and kind of talked through who was going to have to play where, and we just adjusted and moved on. I mean, that's all you can do. I mean, it's coming, you have an hour to get there, and you know, obviously you're not going to be able to practice it. You're going to have to kind of communicate it, talk it and do the best you can competing with it.”

On how he can make sure things are okay after the sideline exchange:

“Yeah, I think again, it starts with the guys themselves. I think they've worked their stuff out privately and personally, and I always encourage us as teammates to take care of one another and to look out for each other. Really what we're about is when you're playing, you're playing for not just for yourself, but you're playing for your teammates and so we just emphasize those things.”

On if there are players that he wants to see get more playing time or more experience:

“We've gone through our roster pretty well. I think we've had a lot of playing time for a lot of different guys, so

I don't feel the need to like necessarily make sure that anybody is getting work that hasn't been getting work. I think we've exhausted the roster we've gone through. We've played at each of our three levels of the defense in the back, at linebacker, and in the D-line. I think we've played multiple people in multiple roles. So, we've been able to do that."

On if having to use guys at all three levels has given him a better evaluation of players:

"I suppose that's the case. I don't know if that's necessarily, like I'm trying to paint it as a positive or negative. I think it's just a right, it is what it is. But again, I go back to what we're going to do; we're going to be consistent, we're going to work, we're going to come in with a good attitude every day and go about our business. And I think that's very important. The one positive is that I think for out some difficult times, some adversity, I think we have managed to do just that."

On how this year stacks up against past years in terms of the challenges:

"It certainly has. Yeah, it's been very challenging."

On what has been most challenging about it:

"I don't know that I would look at it that way. I haven't taken that kind of a view where you stand back and look and assess. It's really kind of week-to-week game planning getting ready for the next opponent. Who do we have available? Who's out on the COVID list? Who's injured? Just working through it, I think that's where the focus has been. That's where my attention has been. I think to start asking those kind of questions, those are really more offseason kind of questions. I know we'll get to it at some point. I'm really kind of prepared right now to talk about the Eagles and getting ready to go play them and compete against them on Sunday."

On if he feels like they will be more ready for the Eagles running game this week:

"Yeah, we're certainly going to find out. They've been doing an excellent job of staying ahead of the chains, getting into third-and-very short or not into third down at all. They've run the ball exceptionally well and the quarterback is making plays, so I think they have good design. I think they've got a big, strong offensive line and they've done a real nice job with their approach, so we're getting prepared for it. We did not play up to our standard last time out. They got the better of us and two weeks later we're looking forward to competing."

On if he feels like the amount of stretch runs the Eagles ran caused the players to over pursue:

"Yeah, I think they were able to get the stretch running game going pretty well last time. We're going to have to be able to defend blocks, not over pursue, take good angles and tackle. Anytime you're playing a good run team, the best thing to do is to get them into third down and get off the field. We didn't do that very well and that's certainly a key."

On if any bad blood from the game has spilled over into practice between DTs Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne:

"I think I pretty much talked about that. It's been addressed. The head coach talked to both of them and they've made their statement. We're moving forward."

