

June 8, 2022

## **Head Coach Ron Rivera**

### **On his reaction to the collision with S Jeremy Reaves and WR Dyami Brown:**

“Well, it's one of the things that's been a topic of conversation. We just got to be careful and work with each other. You know, the last thing we want is somebody to be hurt. And we're fortunate that, you know, Dyami got a little sore shoulder and that's about it. Thank goodness. But still, you know, there's a certain discipline that I try to get across to the guys that they understand that when we talk about doing things a specific way, there's a reason why. The reason why is we don't want to see guys get hurt, but that's part of the discipline. And that's part of the things that we still have to learn. You know, last year I talked to you guys about my concern, being the maturity and I felt I was concerned about it. I don't feel that way about that. I really don't because I feel something different. I see something different from our guys and part of it now is being able to control that. I mean, there's a lot of enthusiasm. I really appreciate the way they practice, the way they practice hard and they get competitive every now and then, but we've got to have the discipline to understand. And I asked him, I gave him an example. I said, what if somebody came and poked you in the eye, you know, and we're driving to kick the game winning field goal. Are you going to slug somebody? We can't do things like that. So that was just a little bit of lesson. It was a good opportunity to make sure the players understand.

### **On if there was something extra that made him upset about the play:**

“No, just the fact that we've got to be smarter than that. I mean that's the discipline that I'm talking about. Understanding if he'd come up and pulled up at the last second, we'd have known, he'd been there. You know what I'm saying? We don't need to see the collision. I mean, and part of it too is [S] Jeremy [Reaves] knows better. And I told Jeremy, I'm disappointed in him because I know who he is. And he's the right kind of guy. He's the kind of guy you want on your football team, the kind of guy you want on the football field. Because for the most part, he does smart things.”

### **On if S Jeremy Reaves has the luxury to pull back knowing he's trying to make the roster:**

“I think he does. I think because of who he is as a young man and who he been a football player for us, that he has that luxury. And we'd understand that we would see that for sure.”

### **On his impressions of QB Carson Wentz thus far:**

I really like his command of our offense. When you listen to him in the huddle, you listen to him talk to his teammates about certain aspects of the play. He gets it and seeing him getting his teammates lined up and communicating is I think a real positive for us. I know it gives me confidence, but when he is in the huddle calling the plays the way he does, I know his teammates can feel the confidence.

**On DC Jack Del Rio's tweets on political issues:**

"I'm not going to talk about, you know, stuff that I talk with my coaches about, especially stuff that's off the field, not pertaining to football, it's just, you know, everybody's entitled to their opinion though."

**On if he worries about that affecting the locker room:**

"Not necessarily. And again, you know, does ever becomes an issue situation, then we'll have that discussion, but right now it it's something that, you know, I will deal with when it comes up."

**On how he would deal with the situation if it arises:**

"Well how I deal it, I'm not going to share with you guys, because it's going to be a private matter."

**On WR Curtis Samuel and RB Antonio Gibson not practicing fully today:**

"No. Curtis was a rest day out of abundance of caution. He had a real good day on Monday. Worked really hard, uh, came in the next day. He was a little bit tight and in talking with him and, and, and talking with [Head Athletic Trainer] Al Bellamy, you know, we decided, hey, let's just be smart. We've had a really good off season. He's participated, he's been in the middle of everything. So, we backed off and we thought we'd back off these two days and we're really looking forward to seeing him back up on the field on minicamp on Tuesday. Antonio got a little twinge in the hamstring, so we shut him down. He came up on Monday in practice, right in the middle of practice. He came over to sideline and he kind of grabbed the back of his leg and they went over, checked him and they came to me and said, so we shut him down too. So we're just trying to be smart and not let little things become big things. As far as both those guys are concerned."

**On if he senses any frustration from DT Daron Payne and his contract situation:**

"No, I don't. And in talking with Daron and stuff like that, Daron's doing what, you know, he feels is better for him right now, as far as that situation. So we respect that. For the most part he's communicated with us about what's going on with him and he's been great about that. For the most part, he comes in, he does the first half of practice. Then when we do the team drills, you know, he hops out, goes up, does his lift and we know we send strength coach up there with him, so he can go through the entire process. And then he's in meetings afterwards."

**On if he expects DT Daron Payne and WR Terry McLaurin to attend Mini-camp:**

"I expect all our players to be here, because it is mandatory."

**On if discipline is a theme of this offseason or just today:**

I think today, but today was just a point of emphasis, just so guys understand it's those little detailed things and being smart about it, that really helps us, you know, going forward. And that's the thing we got to be aware of. You know, you don't want to take away the aggressive nature. The last thing you want is you don't want [S] Jeremy Reaves, out on the game thinking about things. And so I tried to balance that and as was asked, you know, there is a fine line and you don't want to take that aggressive nature, but at the same time just want to be smart and be careful and not get anybody hurt.

**On if he sees a theme emerging for the season:**

No. I said what I said last year, mostly because I really just feel it. Well, I feel as is I feel a little something different. I know some of you guys have seen practice. I think some of you guys, you know, do agree that there is something positive out here right now. And I think our football team is developing, growing. You know, we've played a lot of young guys the last two years, which is a good thing that means they're experienced. They understand they get it. You know, they've had a year of success. They had a year of getting their butts kicked. But I think we understand that and I sense that there's, I told the guys this too at the last huddle up that, that there's a maturity about the core group of guys we have that I like I'll say that and we'll see what happens.

**On what he's seen from QB Carson Wentz connection with WR Jahan Dotson:**

"Well, first foremost, I think Jahan has done a really nice job coming in and focusing in on his development and growth as a football player for us. Learning his assignments, understanding what we're doing on the offensive schemes. I do think he's developed a very good rapport with our quarterbacks in general. You guys don't get to see it all the time, but you mean you watch him. It doesn't matter who's throwing the ball. The guy has an ability to put himself in position to make plays. So it's been good to watch. It's been a lot of fun. And, and you do think that there is something that he does have in terms of connections with Carson, with Taylor [Heinicke], with Sam [Howell], it's just, you see it. And to me, I think that's a good thing that bodes very well, but I could say the same thing with [WR] Dyami [Brown]. You watch Dyami catch the deep balls, it's kind of cool to see him throw 'em and him use that speed and go out and get it."

**On growth from Darrick Forrest:**

"I've seen a tremendous amount of growth. I really have. And he has done a lot of nice things that tip pass was kind of emblematic of the way he has come on throughout OTAs and mini-camp. And he is also one of the other guys that I've had to speak to about being a little overly anxious. But you don't wanna take that away from him because that's why he's making those plays because he's doing those things. And you see it, you see it, especially on special teams, he's stepping up as one of the leaders for that group of guys as well. So there there's a lot of positives that are coming out of this."

**On QB Carson Wentz maturing at this stage of his career:**

"You know, one of the things that's interesting is how hard he is on himself and you do kind of see it, because he does mumble a little bit talk to himself. And one time I heard him say something, I thought he was saying something to me, but he was just talking out loud to himself. So sometimes when something really good happens, I kind of watch him and see his, his facial expression. And sometimes when something bad happens, you know, I turn and watch and just kind of see how he reacts to all of that."

**On QB Carson Wentz showing signs of taking ownership of situations:**

"Well, I think part of it is, and again, you watch some of the confidence in which he steps into the huddle and calls the plays. And I think is really good because his teammates will feed off of that confidence in the way he handles the huddle situations."

**On if WR Curtis Samuel's soreness is in his groin:**

"No, the soreness is from the work. Okay. He came in, he had, like I said, he had a really big day on Monday

and when he came out, he just said, I feel tight, feel sore overall generally. And so that was just one of the things we just said, look, we've had a real good, real good run with him. Let's just be smart. And let's see if we can get him back ready to go on Tuesday. And so he's been doing everything he's supposed to."

**On what he has seen from the Tight End group so far:**

It's been kind of cool to see those guys really kind of come together. I mean, they're all young, that's probably the biggest thing. And watching them get opportunities, get a lot of reps is going really well for us. It's a very diverse group, I think [TE] John Bates right now has done a heck of a job and all those young guys seem to be following his lead. And it's kind of interesting because you know, I see [TE] Logan [Thomas] wants to go over there, but he's got to come over here and work with the trainers and the strength conditioning guys. But you know, it is all a matter of time before we get him back out on the field too.

**On improvements seen from TE Antonio Gandy-Golden:**

Oh yeah. I mean, and again, we're not in pads, but get a chance to watch him work with his coach, his position coaches and you see it, you see the willingness to try to learn and that's been really good. Um, But the really cool thing though is you see him jumping in and really giving it a real go. And that I think has really been pleasing.

**On status of TE Sammis Reyes:**

I'm not sure what to call it, but he had a little something that he's got to take care of physically. He has an old screw from something that he had done, way back when that's been irritating. So they were going to take care of it.

**On if TE Sammis Reyes will need surgery:**

No, no, I didn't say surgery. because he had something that happened a long time going into one of those, whatever. And it's so, but it's, it's it should be something that should be very easily taken care of and he should be fine.