

June 8, 2022

## **DC Jack Del Rio**

### **On his tweets:**

"Anything that I ever say or write, I'd be comfortable saying or writing in front of everybody that I work with, players and coaches. I express myself as an American. We have that ability. I love this country. I believe what I believe and I've said what I want to say. Every now and then, there are some people that get offended by it. It's a slow news cycle, so I guess Mike Florio picked something up yesterday and talked about it. It's not the first time Mike and I disagreed about things. It's okay. But that's pretty much it. Not a whole lot to it. But what I am excited about is what's going on right now with us and the way we're working, so football questions are where I'd like to focus. If anybody else wants to talk about other things, we can set something up at another time, but that's kind of how I see it."

### **On if he likes to express himself specifically in the offseason:**

"No particular time or thing about offseason or in-season."

### **On his stance being counter to some players and if he's worried about it with players:**

"Nope. Not at all."

### **On if he thinks your stances reflect a lot of people that aren't putting those out there, out of fear or anything else:**

"Some people may be swayed by that. But, again, I'm going to be the man I am and I operate here as a coach with nothing but love and respect for everybody I work with."

### **On if he thinks his tweets have any effect on his Black players knowing their beliefs and where some of them come from and their police brutality and that he compared the George Floyd protests with Jan. 6:**

"Uh no. No, I don't think race had anything to do with that incident. So, no."

### **Follow up: On if he's concerned some of those players may take issue with his personal beliefs:**

"No. No, I'm not."

### **On which incident he is talking about:**

"I think we know what we're talking about here. I mean, I, I don't, there's really nothing else to add right now, guys. Anything else?"

### **On starting faster as a defense:**

"Well, we hope to be better, right. It's clearly, it starts with a commitment to being here and working and being able to get on the same page, make sure the communication is good. I think that kind of gives you a great start, a great foundation. So right now we're getting a lot of great work in. There are guys that are developing, I would single out [CB] Benjamin St-Juste. He is really having a terrific offseason and I'm excited about what he's doing in there. He's getting a lot of reps at nickel, and he's played well there. I think that's a real positive. So it's development. This time of year, you can develop and gain a great understanding of how we all fit together and defensively, that's what it's all about. Kind of knowing where you need to go and

everybody being accountable and getting there, playing with some attitude.”

**On DE Chase Young and what he wants to see from him:**

“Well, mainly get healthy, work hard. He's doing that. He's putting in the work and getting himself back. And then right now for him, it's important to kind of, some of the things we're talking about, understand exactly the things we're asking him to do, have a great feel for where he can make his plays and where he can be a difference maker for us. Obviously, he's a great leader, so you have to be here to lead. Love seeing him here. It's voluntary. Doesn't have to be here right now. I love seeing him here and I think it's good for us as a team.”

**On if Chase has been around the whole time:**

“Yeah. For the most part. It was a couple times where he was often doing the rehab that he needed to do, but he's been with us recently and it's good having his impact around.”

**On the progression CB Benjamin St-Juste has made:**

“Just the work he's putting in, the attention to detail, the understanding, picking up a new position. We played him outside primarily last year. He's been able to move inside and we're just looking to get our best people on the field, give 'em all a chance to compete. I think when you look at the work, the body of work that he's had this off season has been very productive for us and very productive for him.”

**On if his size gives a different look:**

“Yeah, for sure. His length he's got incredible quickness. You worry about longer guys that typically don't have short area quickness. He's got an amazing short area of quickness and body control. So, with a bigger, longer guy inside it definitely allows us, allows him to be disruptive, allows us to play at a high level. He's been really impressive inside.”

**On the defensive moves made in the offseason:**

“Well, we feel like if we get healthy and then we've added a couple pieces, Big Phill [Phidarian Mathis] has been really good. Then guys developing, guys like [LB] Jamin Davis, guys like [CB] Benjamin St-Juste, they need to develop and play better, and they will. We're seeing that. Then, you add in a couple draft picks. I said, Big Phil, you got Percy [Butler], and Christian [Holmes] late. We've got a couple guys there that come in and add some to our depth and then we'll see what they earn. We like the core that we have. We think we have a good core when we're healthy. So, staying healthy obviously is key for everybody. You know, the Rams are a different team if Aaron Donald gets hurt, right? You need your good players healthy and at the gate. But having them here and us working together, developing like we are right now, I think is very encouraging.”

**On if turnovers have been an emphasis this offseason:**

“No, no, no. It's, to me, there are certain things that are always important. Playing well on third down, playing well in the red zone and turnovers, those are probably the biggest keys to playing good defense.”

**On if he's happy so far:**

“Yeah. We're working on it. We're working on it. Going against your own offense. I think one thing that we can all see, our offense is gonna be better. We've greatly improved the quarterback room. Carson [Wentz] has been tremendous and adding a draft pick there as well. And Taylor [Heinicke] coming back, we've got a really strong quarterback room. I think it starts there. Jahan's [Dotson] been outstanding. I'm talking about the other side of the ball, but we're excited about what we're seeing as a team from each other. That's all positive for us. It's gonna make us work harder and this time of year, that should pay dividends for our football team when we open up in the fall.

**On different defensive looks:**

"We'll have our packages ready. We're gonna utilize our personnel the best we can. Obviously, we've got a young safety that we drafted in Percy. We've got a young safety that we had last year in Darrick Forrest. Those guys are gonna get time there. Getting Bobby [McCain] back and having Kam [Curl] there, obviously we we've got some safeties we like, and we'll deploy them as we feel we can and want to, but having Benjamin playing well at the nickel is big."

**On if Percy Butler and Darrick Forrest are Buffalo Nickle Options:**

"I don't know. The Buffalo Nickel maybe takes on life of its own. I don't know that it needs to. I think that was more Landon [Collins] really didn't want to ever be considered anything but a true safety. And he played the nickel. It's kinda like a linebacker, but it's okay. I get it. We're gonna do the best we can with the guys we have and make sure that we have the ability to match what offenses want to do and help take that away."

**On any concern about players' taking issue with his tweets:**

"Oh, if they are and they want to talk about it, I'll talk about it with anybody. Yeah, no problem. At any time. But they're not. I'm just expressing myself and I think we all, as Americans, have the right to express ourselves. Especially if you're being respectful. I'm being respectful. I just asked a simple question. Really, let's get right down to it. What did I ask? A simple question. Why are we not looking into those things if we're going to talk about it? Why are we not looking into those things? Because it's kind of hard for me to say— I can realistically look at it, I see the images on TV, people's livelihoods are being destroyed, businesses are being burned down. No problem. And then we have a dust-up at the Capitol. Nothing burned down, and we're not going to talk about— we're going to make that a major deal. I just think there are kind of two standards, and if we apply the same standard and we're going to be reasonable with each other, let's have a discussion. That's all it was. Let's have a discussion. We're Americans. Let's talk it through. I'm for us having a great opportunity to have a fulfilled life. Like I said, every which way I can when I'm here, it's about love and respect. I love my guys. I respect my guys. But I also love the fact that I'm an American and that means I'm free to express myself and I'm not afraid to do that."