

June 8, 2022

## **QB Carson Wentz**

### **On defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio's comments:**

"Yeah. I literally just heard about that about five minutes before walking in here, so I've not had time to study it or figure out what the heck he's talking about. I'm not gonna really comment on it right now. I'll go kind of learn about it a little bit more. Obviously, I work with him, so I can get a chance to talk with him and see where his heart's at on all of that. I'm not gonna go in depth on it cause I just learned about it."

### **On what it has been like out here with the guys:**

"It's been a lot of fun, honestly for me, especially this time of year. I kind of reflect on the last two years and with COVID and everything, haven't had a true offseason, haven't had an OTA. It seems like it's been a while. And so for me, that's been a lot of fun first and foremost, to be able to be around the guys, in the locker room, outside the locker room, you know, go to dinners, go golfing, do all those things, get to know these guys, but also on the field, to get the work in. It's been a lot of fun getting to know 'em. I have a lot of expectations for this offense and just seeing little flashes of what I think we can be. Obviously it's not perfect. That's why it's OTA's. That's why we're out here. Kind of throwing stuff at the wall, seeing what sticks and who we're gonna be as an offense. It's been a lot of fun and I have a lot of high hopes for this team."

### **On his favorite targets thus far:**

"You know, it's hard to say all those things. I think we have a, a unique group the way we use our running backs out of the back field, those guys bring a different dynamic, tight ends as well. Receivers, we got a lot of speed, a lot of weapons. It's been fun. Getting even the young guys involved, the, the guys we drafted Jahan [Dotson], Cole [Turner], Brian Robinson [Jr.], getting all those guys in the mix, kind of halfway through this offseason. It's been a lot of fun to just see different personalities and really, we'll start to see that in training camp, once the pads go on and they can get press man to man coverage, all those fun things. Everybody looks really good right now and the pads will come on and that'll really kind of start to separate guys. I think we got a good bunch of the skillset guys."

### **On what it will be like playing with Terry McLaurin:**

"For sure. I've spoken with Terry quite a bit. We've been around him a couple times already. Excited for when we do get back out on that field together. Everybody knows what he brings to the table, and I've now been watching film and seeing different things and seeing him just continue to make play after play. The dynamic he brings will just elevate us. There's no doubt about it. He's extremely talented guy and a great, great person I've already learned and a hardworking guy. So I know he'll be ready to go when that time is."

### **On his impression of Jahan Dotson:**

"Yeah, he's awesome. He's a quiet kid, young kid, but he's a hard worker. He's a hard worker. He's smart, he's instinctual. He catches the football as natural as anybody I've been around, just how natural he plucks it outta the air. I got a lot of high expectations for him just as a rookie to just continue to keep growing,

learning and understanding the bigger picture of this game. I think he's doing a really good job of where he is at right now. And like you said, definitely the last couple weeks kind of started to develop a little chemistry. Hopefully we can keep building on that come next week. And then in training camp.”

**On Ron Rivera saying he has Command of the playbook:**

“It's always a challenge. Don't get me wrong, learning a new system, it's a new language. All those things. At the same time, it's still football. You're not reinventing the wheel. There's nothing crazy. There are different intricacies within an offense and different schemes and different ways you want to attack the defense. It's been exciting to see Coach [Scott] Turner's philosophy and get to work with him. At the same time, it's always a challenge learning all those things, but that's why we have this time and I'm thankful for it. Get the time to study, but also have the walkthroughs, have the practices kind of make those mistakes and learn from 'em right now.”

**On how he feels different than the last couple years:**

“Yeah, what's contributed to that. I mean, I'm older. My family life is different. I got two kids, everything's changed. You mature a little bit, you see the world a little bit differently. I've been on, this is my third team, all those things. So, you kind of see different perspective. It's been fun. At the same time, an older guy in the locker room, coming in and getting to know guys. There's guys that were born in the 2000's all of a sudden making me feel old. So all those things, just getting to know guys in a different way, guys that are from different backgrounds, different seasons of life, all of those things. And hopefully, as a leader and a veteran in that locker room, I can help kind of lead them and bring them along. I'm excited for it and it's been a lot of fun.”

**On what he has emphasized from his time in Philadelphia and Indianapolis and what he wants to improve on:**

“Yeah. I mean, you're always trying to learn, always trying to be a better teammate, a better friend. Trying to be a better husband every day, a better father every day. I'm always trying to learn and grow and be reflective and say, ‘okay, I missed that opportunity.’ I missed that opportunity to kind of make an impact on a younger guy or be involved with that teammate or whatever that looks like. So, I'm always trying to learn and just build and grow as good of relationships as I can with everybody, both sides of the ball, coaches, equipment staff, training staff. I'm gonna make mistakes. You know, I'll be the first to admit it. And so always trying to grow and be self-reflective and be a better person in every way, shape and form.

**On Troy Aikman saying this is his last chance:**

“I didn't know that was said quite frankly. That I'm fine with it. You know, everyone's got their own opinion. I'm just excited to be playing this game, have this opportunity. I think we have the ability to do something special here and then we have a really good skill set offensively to be dynamic. It takes one day at a time, obviously, but for me, I don't try to put too much pressure on myself. I always have high expectations for myself and for the offense, but I don't try and play those types of games. I don't have enough mental space to kind of process all that and it can wear on you. So for me, I just show up to try and be the best I can be, go home and be the best I can be as a father and as a husband, come back and do it again.”

**On how this offense differs from the past offenses he's been a part of:**

“It's probably not a ton different. I'd say just the terminology is different. There's probably a fair amount of terminology that carried over from Philly to Indy that here it's completely new. As far as that, definitely the running backs are big involved in the passing game, probably more than I've seen in my past. That speaks towards who we have in the backfield and what they bring to the table. I think the way, especially this time of year, you're trying new stuff, new play actions, new protections, new different things, new schemes, new

ways to stretch the ball down the field. It'll be interesting to see how we take this offseason and what we were able to kind of just throw out there and see kind of what we focus in on come season time. It's been fun. I do love the learning and the intricacies of how you can take the same play and all three teams I've been on. Maybe you're reading it a little bit differently, or there's a little nuance to the play. I love that part of the game and just trying to bring a bunch of minds together and be as good as you can be."

**On if there is anything different about his progression with this team:**

"Nothing crazy. Just, you know, some new schemes, like I was saying some new schemes, some new nuances to it. Some of them, yes, maybe you're reading it a little bit differently and all of those things, but nothing crazy. But you know, hats off to [Offensive Coordinator] Coach Turner and just getting us quarterbacks ready and helping us understand the why behind what we're doing and how we're trying to attack the defense."

**On if he is shocked that his coaches and teammates refer to him as a high IQ player:**

"I think I got 'em all fooled is what I think. I must be putting off this persona of something. I think it just comes down to me going into my seventh year accumulating a lot of football and knowledge of this game. I by no means think I'm brilliant or anything. I'm just trying to learn as quick as I can and put that into action out on the field. So, I do think maybe I have them fooled a little bit, trying to learn it just like they are but it's been fun getting around them and trying to lead the guys in a way. Make sure everybody's lined up and everybody's doing the right thing, but we have a really smart offense and guys are doing a really good job picking up everything."

**On how much fun it's been being a part of this team:**

"It is a lot of fun honestly, and kind of like I said earlier, just even this time of year has always been one of my favorites just because you don't have all this stress and pressure of the season and everything, but you still get to be around the guys as much as you can so you're building that chemistry, you can start to see us building something special in little moments at a time and getting around the guys. And that's something I think I've missed about the last two years with COVID and everything being around the guys, building that chemistry both on and off the field. And so, I'm having a lot of fun doing it right now."

**On QB Sam Howell not eating red meat:**

"That's actually news to me. He probably didn't want to admit that in the quarterback room, so I will be having a word with him tonight on that. That's an issue, we'll have to get that corrected."

**On how he approaches the need for the offense to have more big plays:**

"Yeah, I mean, for one, it starts with the play call, you know, every play call has a different emphasis in what we're trying to accomplish on that play. Even when we call a shot play, if it's not there don't force it, you know, be smart. And that's something, I'm always trying to learn and kind of find that fine line of okay, when to be aggressive, when to check it down. So that's always something you're trying to learn but again, it starts with the play call and understanding from taking it from the film room to the meeting room, to the walkthroughs, to practice, to the game, just what we're trying to accomplish within each play. We're gonna run the ball, we're gonna throw quick passes. We're gonna throw screens. You're not always trying to hit the home run. Hopefully those small ones go for home runs, but you're trying to just ultimately win the game and there's a, there's a little chess match in there over and over and over throughout the game. And that's part of playing this position and understanding, when's the right time to strike. And again, that starts with the play calls. And I think Coach Turner's got a really good grasp on that."

**On how he describes himself as a passer:**

"I mean, I'd say all those things can be true at times. There's plenty of times you get locked in on somebody and you're like, shoot, I missed that one or I forced that one. And that's why I think, you know, throughout your career, you're always trying to learn. I'm always trying to learn and even kind of laughing earlier about just the younger me, I was trying to run for more first downs than I probably would like to now, and you just learn, you grow up, you see the game a little bit differently. You understand, okay, in your third step of your drop, those routes are going to be covered. Just find the checkdown move on and all those things. And so, I'd say I definitely love throwing it down the field. I love being aggressive. I'm going to always be aggressive, but there's always a fine line that I'm always trying to learn and navigate and just ultimately help get our team in the end zone."

**On if he noticed the matchup against the Philadelphia Eagles in week 10:**

"Naturally, I kind of expected that, so I think that'll be a fun one, but that's what week 10, I think. Yeah. So we'll get there."

**On if he feels more of a desire to be the solidified long-term quarterback for the franchise:**

"I wouldn't say I feel that in the building by any means or in practice or anything. You'll hear things from fans when you're out in public and those sorts of things. Listen, I'd like nothing more than to play here for a long time and have a lot of success, but I'm going to take one day at a time, you know, and not put that extra added pressure on myself like we were talking about earlier and just enjoy it and make the most of it."

**On if it felt like he had one of the best years of his career in terms of deep balls last year:**

"I guess it did feel like that maybe to some extent. Last year was last year, completely different offense, not everything. Obviously, we had [Colts RB] Jonathan Taylor who was as dynamic of a running back as there is. And so anytime you have a guy like that, the ability to stretch it down the field, definitely opens up some things. So, I'd say that's probably a big part of it."