

August 3, 2022

## **Head Coach Ron Rivera**

### **On what he's seen from TE Cole Turner on the field and while watching film during the scouting process:**

"Well, I think the biggest thing, as far as when you look at the offense tape more so than anything else is just his ability to be a good route runner, present a good target and make some tough catches. The biggest thing that we really didn't see a lot of was in block. You know, they were in that quote unquote air raid offense. They spread the field and they're running all over the place. This is a little bit different. He's done a nice job in terms of learning to be physical and he's, he is really excelling at what he does for us."

### **On if he sees a connection forming between QB Carson Wentz and TE Cole Turner:**

"Oh, very much so and I can't wait till we get John Bates back out there. Can't wait till we get Logan [Thomas] back out there as well. I mean, the relationship he can have with that unit as a group could be very good just because I like that group. It's a very versatile guy group of guys. Each guy has his own personality in terms of what they can do and I think that's big for us."

### **On if he felt the offense had a good day:**

"I think across the board it was a good day for both sides of the ball. There were a lot of good things that happened in terms of development out there on the field. Offensively, probably the biggest thing that's changed and, you know it's funny, people don't realize it but when you're in pads, it's a whole different mentality for the front, for the offensive line. They don't have to catch because they can now strike because again when you don't have pads on, you've gotta be smart about how you make contact and how little contact you should make. So, it doesn't look good as far as the offense concerned, but now things are balanced out, things are even, and now you can see really some of the good things that we're looking for as coaches."

### **On what he saw from WR Curtis Samuel today:**

"Okay, the biggest thing again, just so everybody understands. I talked about this last time I was asked about Curtis we're ramping Curtis up; we're ramping Curtis down. It's all about conditioning him to play football more so than anything else and I think that's the biggest thing everybody has to understand is that Curtis, you know, didn't play a lot last year and what we've started to do is we're just trying to ramp him up, get him into football, shaped football conditioning, and then slow it back down, bring him back up. Our ideal plan for him is just to continue with that, get him ready to play the regular season this has nothing to do with last year's injury. This is all about how we're gonna maintain him to get him prep prepared and ready to go. It's the way we mapped it out the way we planned it and we'll continue to do that with him. It was good to see him. You saw some of his versatility out there as far as that was concerned, lining up in the slot, lining up as the X or the Z, and then motioning him across, putting him into the backfield, all those different things, things we can do with Curtis. That's his versatility and that's what we really expect from him."

### **On if they have to put WR Curtis Samuel on a pitch count:**

"Not a pitch count, but it's about, you know, getting as much of the peak performance at him as we can. Okay and then bring it back down and then condition him up again. So again, it's something that, you know, in talking with Al [Bellamy] and talking with the doctor about the best way to handle his ramp up. We're just trying to do that. We're trying to be very mindful of it. Again, we know he's a valuable piece and once we can get him into that shape, you know, now it's in, you can cut him loose and let him go."

**On what he's seen from WR Jahan Dotson:**

"Well, you know, probably the biggest thing is he has a lot of versatility as far as position flex for us playing all three of the wide receiver spots. The biggest thing that you do see is his situational football. He's very aware, you know, especially when you watched some of the third down stuff, just that he understands. He understands the importance of depth of your route understanding of where to put yourself to present that target, finding those windows of opportunity. I mean he's been a really good, and he's been a really good target for our quarterbacks."

**On how rare for WR Jahan Dotson to play bigger than his size:**

"It is rare. I mean, you have to have special ability, probably one of the really, really good guys at it. I was fortunate enough to watch Steve Smith. You know, I mean, that guy has got, you know, he played bigger than his size and he played above the rim. And when you watch Jahan, he does play bigger than his size, which is great. I mean, you want people underestimating his ability because he has potential to make place."

**On how he measures progress day to day in training camp:**

"Watching the mistakes get limited. You could see guys starting to understand how the concepts work on both sides of the ball. When we get together, we talk about how guys are progressing, you know, you don't want to hear how he's making the same mistakes. You know, you want to hear, 'Hey, that's a great decision by the quarterback, love where he threw the ball, threw it away from the leverage. I mean, those are things in terms of helping us to judge what's going on out."

**On where he has seen the most progression:**

"No, I think right now because it's still so early and we're still developing it's just been constant right now, which has been a good plus. We really haven't had a day where I'll get into the team meeting and tell the guys I was truly disappointed. So to me that's important. I mean if when that happens, you guys will hear me out there, but it's so far things are progressing."

**On an update of LB Drew White:**

"Unfortunately it is an ACL tear. You could almost term it as a non-contact. He had his leg planted, he went to make a turn and pivot off of it and his cleats stayed in the ground, unfortunately. It's very unfortunate. He'll go through the process with the doctors and the team will take care of all of his medical needs. He'll be on IR."

**On the plan of filling in depth at linebacker:**

"We're looking at a couple of options right now and, we're actually very pleased with what we've seen from the young guys. We'll continue to go through these things with the scouts right now. I've been talking to [Senior Director of Player Personnel] Eric [Stokes], about what our plan is and what we're going to look at."

**On if the players are responding well to rising tensions:**

"No, they're doing a great job. Just a couple things happen out there. The reason I did was because we were working a certain phase of our game. When we're going through that it's basically no huddle, hurry up football, not two minute, but just no huddle. And we're sitting there arguing about little things and the whistle gets blown and we're still screwing around, we can't do that. We got to get our asses in position and we got to play football. That's what I was off about. When the game gets hard, when there's pressure on you, you can't do that. You got to maintain your focus and line up and play football. You got to get past those things. That's why I was a little agitated about what went on out there because you can't get those real reps until you play a game, but this is as close as it's going to get. So if that's what the practice calls for, let's stay focused, let's take care of our business, and let's go out there and do it. That's what happened."

**On what he thinks of the defensive lineman:**

"I was very happy with what we've got going out there right now. I do like the challenge of finding that fourth guy. Our

first three are very sound. Even though Phil [DT Phidarian Mathis] is still a young guy he's shown some flashes that show he belongs and that's really a huge plus for us. But after that, [DE] Daniel Wise has done a really nice job. He's a guy that's played for us. He's played some snaps for us. We have a couple of other guys that we're looking at, and these are all guys that as we go through it, we've got to watch them and see how they play. When we get into the preseason games."

**On his thoughts on the passing of Los Angeles Dodgers Radio Broadcaster Vince Scully:**

"We lost the great [former Boston Celtics player] Bill Russell as well. [Defensive Coordinator] Coach [Jack] Del Rio was talking about it to the defense, about this iconic man who passed, who represented what the best of team was. Scully was an iconic announcer that painted a tremendous picture. When you listen to his calls and the way he described things, that's what sports are about. It is to have somebody that comes here and paints that picture so that you can envision it, especially on radio or especially in print when you're reading it you're not seeing it actually happen, but you're listening to it or you're reading it. And if you can envision it, then they've done their job and Vince Scully did that tremendously."

**On having the Washington Spirit soccer team at practice today:**

"That was really cool. That's one of the things that I told you guys that we want to do, we wanted to be able to support the local teams, the local organizations and to have them come by, that's really cool. Talking to our guys tell them, 'Hey, this is the group of young ladies that went out last year and won a championship.' I think it's pretty cool to have them come out and check us out. We got a lot of guys, a lot of girl dads and several of them were very interested in taking their daughters to this game."