

August 10, 2022

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On Defensive Line Coach Jeff Zgonina brining energy to the D-line unit:

“Well, I think what I'm looking for is that constant push pressure and growth. I want to be more demonstrative. I want it to be more in their face, at them stuff like that. And that's pretty much what we've accomplished.”

On what he is looking for:

“Yeah, I'm looking for a different style, different vibe. A little difference in my philosophy on how I think it needs to be coached.”

On how the players have responded now that Zgonina is in charge:

“Well, I just think they've accepted and understood that this is something that I did with what I think is in our best interest. I think they've adapted and handled it very well.”

On if there were any questions about the timing of it:

“No, I mean, that's the thing I appreciate is, these guys pretty much, they do their thing and they're professionals. They understand. I love what Jonathan [Allen] said. Football's a great sport, but it's a tough business.”

On if he was surprised it unfolded this way:

“Well, you know, again, I have to look and make decisions based on what I think is best.”

On G Trai Turner:

“He's dealing with a quad and he's a veteran guy. I mean, if he was a younger guy, he'd probably be doing a lot more than he's done right now. Because he's a veteran guy, he knows our system. He knows the techniques that we need. There's not a need to push him out there a lot sooner. He's doing a lot of work inside. Today was what I think the first day he was really outside doing some work. I don't know if you guys saw him over in the corner, but for the most part, like I said, if he was a younger guy in his third, fourth year, he he'd probably been outside a few days ago, but we're taking our time with a veteran guy.”

On if you even risk putting him in the preseason games:

Well, we'd like to get him in at least one. Get a nice series, get himself ready because conditionings very important. Yeah. Again, we expect him probably out here and probably within the next 10 days. Okay. He's a veteran guy and so we don't have any concern as far as that's concerned.”

On C Chase Roullier:

“Chase progressed very well. In fact, yesterday we got a little carried away and we had him out there a little bit longer. We should have, but he came in and he said, I'm glad we did that. And I'm thinking to myself, we did it on the accident, but we pushed him a little bit and he came out, felt great, felt great this morning.

Because this was a scheduled get him out, get him in early, get him out early day. That's what we did with him."

On if he feels the O-line can be as good if not better than last season:

"Oh, I think so. I mean, again, we do things with intent. We're looking at, how many offensive linemen can we keep on the 53? And how many of those guys will we be able to get back on the practice squad and rotate 'em? I mean, we were very fortunate last year was a very deep group. Again, led by Brandon [Scherff]. But we like who we have in terms of [Andrew] Norwell and Trai and we think that gives us three quality guards."

On how the rookies look at heading into this first game:

"Most certainly and today was a little example. We had three periods where we were strictly off the cards on what we're anticipating from Carolina. Later tonight, I know the coaches will install some of the game plan. Some of the specific runs, throws, defenses that we're gonna plan to play against these guys."

On feelings towards playing against Carolina Panthers:

"No, it's just cool, you know, to see the guys. I mean, we're way past that now and it'd be cool to see [Carolina Panthers Head] Coach [Matt] Rhule and his guys. He's got one of my favorite coaches [Carolina Panthers Defensive Passing game coordinator] Steve Wilks is on his staff. But I look forward to seeing there's several players that I still have a connection to. I look forward to seeing, and if I get an opportunity to say hello to [Carolina Panthers Owner] Mr. Tepper, most certainly will."

On progression of QB Carson Wentz and the offense:

"Well, I think the biggest thing more than anything else is just watching to continue to work and try and get a feel for that timing with that receiver group. That's one of the hardest things you've got to do, because you've got to group of guys terrifically fast, but they all have their own speed and quickness. Some guys come out of breaks a little differently than others with a little bit more drive. Some guys, it takes a little build up and he's got to get used to that as he goes through it. And as you start to see, you know, one minute he's throwing to [WR] Terry [McLaurin] who runs a specific way. Then he throws the ball to [WR] Jahan [Dotson] who's really smooth at what he does. And then you see him throwing it to [WR] Curtis [Samuel] who's got this explosiveness to him and it's all three different ways he's got to throw the ball on the same route."

On QB Carson Wentz leading and learning at the same time:

"I think he's done a nice job with it. And I like his command in the huddle. I like when he gets to the line scrimmage and goes through what he does. And I think he's still getting used to his teammates. You do see some of the good-natured stuff, you know, when they're inside the locker rooms or they're in the, the meeting room, stuff like that."

On what he has seen regarding the receiver competition:

"Very much so. each guy brings something different to the table. Each guy's done some pretty unique things as we've gone through the first two and a half weeks of camp. And again it is one of those tough things that we will still have to see how they play to help make up our minds. These three games will be really important to a lot of guys."

On WR Dax Milne:

"I've seen exactly that, very consistent player, good route runner, very headsy guy that understands, you know, certain things about what we do and how we do it. Now he just continues to go out and make catches."

On if he considered making coaching changes at the end of last season:

"No and I'm not going to get into any specifics at this point."

On WR Marken Michel:

"Well, what I've seen from Marken is a guy that's a professional that understands how to do things, how to practice, how to prepare. It is interesting because he's a very savvy guy and for him It's just about getting the opportunity more than as anything else. And he's a guy I hope we can get an opportunity or two for him during the preseason. I hope he gets a lot of opportunities and hopefully he can show us what he's capable of doing."