

August 29, 2022

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On RB Brian Robinson Jr.:

"I can't get into the specifics of it other than just say he's doing well. We had an opportunity to visit with him last night, which was really a relief and kind of cool because he was in a really good place. The doctors were very positive with him and he was very positive as well. We're very fortunate. He's very fortunate and it's a very unfortunate situation, but he's doing well. It'll be a matter of time before he is back out here. There is no timeline, but as I said, everything's was very positive."

On what it was like to get that call:

"It was hard. I've gotten several phone calls as a head coach, unfortunately, but this one was one of the harder ones. First of all, because he's a heck of a young man. He really is more than just a football player. He is really a heck of a young man. It kind of blindsided me a little bit. We were actually winding the day down when we got the call and then we just followed our team protocol, we know we started connecting with everybody that needed to be connected to. Once we found out where he was, the contingent of us went down to be with him. We had [Team Owners] Mr. and Mrs. [Dan and Tanya] Snyder there. [General Manager] Martin [Mayhew] went down, [Team President] Jason [Wright] was there as well. Dr. Casolaro, Dr. Annunziata, Dr. Roberts, myself and [Running Backs Coach] Randy Jordan. In fact, Randy and I got together and drove down together. A few of the players were able to show up as well. So it was really cool to have a contingency of people there and then his Aunt and Uncle on his mom's side were there. His uncle is a Colonel, stationed here in the Air Force."

On what he said to the team:

"Well, I actually got them together prior to going out on the field. We had a quick meeting and we talked about what had happened and just letting them know Hey, it was a somber day, we expected to be a tough day. So just hang in there and do the best you can as far as practice was concerned. And to be honest with you, I thought they rallied and they practiced pretty dog on good. So I was very pleased with that. They were able to focus and I know their hearts are heavy right now cuz a lot of 'em are still thinking about Brian. But again, I said, we're very fortunate. He's very fortunate and a lot of the news is positive."

On the timeline from when he got the call:

"I got the phone call, I think somewhere around six o'clock. I think it was. I'd actually popped into coach Jordan's office and irony of all ironies, we were actually watching some Brian Robinson tape. When it hit us, I told coach Jordan right away and he took it really hard initially. He just says is he okay? And I said, well, for the most part, it sounds like it. But we weren't sure. I went over to Martin's office and we had a conversation. We got our head of security on Mike Jacob, who was terrific with the whole situation. He was one of the first people that Brian called to let him know what was going on. And then from there, Mike went into action and we connected with everybody on our team that needed to be connected as far as our protocols were concerned and talked with everybody. I mean, you could feel the anger swelling up, but also the concern. The conversations were really about, 'Hey, I hope he's okay.' And you know, there was a lot of worry. I texted

Brian because I know he had talked to Mike, so I just texted him and he called me and he called me to let me know he was gonna be okay. That really took a lot off my mind as far as that was concerned. But the biggest concern obviously was just making sure he was okay.”

On his anger:

“Yeah, this continues to be a nationwide epidemic, gun violence. I think we really gotta start getting to the point where we start talking about gun safety. We can't make this a partisan issue. This has to be something that everybody has to work on together in our communities throughout the United States. It can happen. It just shows you it can happen anywhere and to anybody. It's something that we need to work on and come together to be able to solve. And again, I'm talking about gun safety.”

On what his recovery looks like:

“It's just about the healing process. Once he's well enough to get out on the field, then the doctors will have to clear him obviously, and then we'll go from there. Like I said, everything's been very positive so far. I know he'll be seeing the doctors again today as well. We'll just go from there. As I said, there is no timeline.”

On what kind of change he wants to see on this issue:

“I just think it's about awareness. I think it's about the community being aware and the community really just saying enough, coming together, supporting our elected officials, you know, helping them. I mean, there's too much in fighting as far as that's concerned. And the real truth of the matter is people are dying unnecessarily and it's crazy how we, one of the most advanced societies in the world, continue to have this issue.”

On if RB Brian Robinson will recover from his home or stay in the hospital:

“That I couldn't tell you, I haven't got that much clarity yet. Like I said, I do know he has an examination today and they they're going to fill us in afterwards as to what probably the situation is in terms of his recovery.”

On how he balances the current situation with football:

“The truth, as far as the football team's concerned is we'll go on and when he's ready and he's okay and he's fine, and he gets all clear, we will welcome him back. But until then, we want to make sure he's healthy. He's as back to normal as he can be.”

On how he goes about notifying players when an incident like this occurs:

“It happened so quickly, and it was on social media so quickly that I actually got the phone call, I started getting phone calls from the players. And so I just really started telling them, Hey, you guys start sharing with your teammates. I did talk to him. He sounded pretty optimistic and positive, you know, considering his circumstances. And when I did finally get to see him, one of the first things he asked me to do was, and I tweeted it out just so everybody knew that he was doing okay. He asked me to let as many people know that. And so we decided, talking to [Director of Football Communications] Sean [DeBarbieri] and our team of people that me tweeting something out would probably be the best way and the easiest way to get the message out.”

On if he views this situation as a random happenstance:

“Well, I, know this was a happenstance because he had just gone out to get a meal and then he was in the middle of this very unfortunate situation. So it really is just one of those things that's unfortunate, you know. Probably wrong place, wrong time.”

On if there are any specific gun safety measures that he would support:

“Well, I just think it's really about education if you're going to own a handgun. Then it should be about education knowing how to properly secure it so it doesn't get stolen. How it's properly secured so the wrong people don't use it. And I do think that is because I, I know when you go for a hunting license, you have to take classes. So I just think that gun safety is what it's about. You know, it really truly is about making sure we all know just how important it is.”

On facing adversity since his arrival and helping players through it:

“It's interesting because I've told you guys before, it's about focusing on what's important as opposed to what's interesting and this is important and that's why I'm wearing the shirt that I'm wearing today, because this is important. And to the point earlier that it really doesn't hit home till it hits home. And so you really just try to get these guys to understand it that life is very precious and you've gotta make every moment of every minute and do the best you can with it. And again, there is a delineation as to what is important and what's interesting.”

On the current state of the locker room:

“It was interesting because you know, like I said, I talked to 'em just before we practiced, and I just told 'em. I said, hey, do the best you can. And to be honest with you, I really did think considering the circumstances, it was a good practice. I think that they're in a good spot. I think a lot of them are relieved because I started the meeting by telling them, hey look, just so y'all know Brian's in a really good place. Everybody's very optimistic about his recovery and his return. That I think really put a lot of their minds at ease.”

On the intentions of the robbery:

“Well, the biggest thing as far as the details goes, we got to be really careful because it's still an ongoing investigation. And so we've been asked to limit those because without really knowing it would be wrong to get stuff out there that's not, you know, 100%.”

On dealing with this matter the day before roster cuts:

“It is difficult because some of the meetings that we had planned stuff like that, we've had to delay a little bit. Some of the morning meetings, we weren't able to have yet. And once I finish here, that's probably right where I'm headed to and then we'll start diving into that then, but it does interfere, but again, you know, that's interesting right now what's important is Brian and just making sure he's okay.”

