

September 8, 2022

Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence:

“Big, talented quarterback. Big arm to make all the throws. Athletic guy that can move around. One of the many talented quarterbacks we'll face.”

On how much better he feels going into the season this week than he did last year:

“I think we had a good camp. We're excited to get started.”

On S Kam Curl:

“Yeah, Kam's been a very good player for us from the time he arrived on the scene. If he's not available to go, we'll be ready to carry on and do it without him. We like him. He's a good football player.”

On the safety depth if Curl can't go:

“Yeah. That that'll be, we'll get to see how it's gone. Those are the guys that are there preparing and we'll make sure we're ready to roll and come Sunday.”

On if there has ever been a player he has had that is comparable to Curl:

“I've had a lot of good players, a lot of versatile players over the years. I don't know if I'd try and compare him to anybody. I think we appreciate the way he came in here as a young rookie and kind of soaked things up and was really very sharp from the first time that we engaged him in meetings. You could tell he really understood football. He's a good, solid player. He's a guy that has gone a little bit of everything in his career, including corner in the SEC. You've done things like that. And you obviously playing safety and being in the box, he does some things you like to see your linebackers do. So, he's very versatile.”

On if he saw all of this when they were scouting him:

“He wouldn't have lasted as long as he did if we saw at all. When you select young men, when you add guys to the team, you're hoping you can develop them. You're hoping that they blossom. He certainly is an example of a guy taking full advantage of his opportunities.”

On LB Jon Bostic:

“Well, I think coach could answer it most directly. For us, it's a veteran linebacker that has a lot of experience. He had a good preseason for New Orleans. The tape was good and we elected to add him.”

On DE James Smith-Williams developing outside:

“I think that's what has happened. We're counting on that, obviously. When we drafted him, it was mostly to do that, but, we needed him to go inside due to depth and other issues. So, he ended up swinging and doing a little bit of both. So, I think this year he has been able to focus on just playing defensive end. I think he's been able to sharpen his skill, in terms of things we ask him to do at the end position.”

On specific things that stand out in his skillset out there:

“Yeah. It’s just little, boring stuff. It's fundamentals. It makes a difference and the confidence that he'll play with and his effectiveness in our unit.”

On what to look for out of DE Montez Sweat:

“Yeah. Just coming in and bringing it like he's been doing it, every day. Not trying to put any extra pressure on his shoulders. Obviously, they're gonna try and give him some attention. We'll have to make sure that we don't allow that to the best of our abilities and take advantage of that in some cases. Really good football player having a good camp.”

On DL Coach Jeff Zgonina and how it has been going:

“I think that has gone really smooth. I think the guys are responding well. Sunday will start being able to see how well we're doing.”

On if any of the younger players standout to him like Curl did:

“I wouldn't try to go down that road. I think everybody's different. I do like our rookie class. The young guys that we added are good players. I think they're gonna be able to help us throughout the course of the season.”

On CB's Tariq Castro-Fields and Rachad Wildgoose:

“Good, young, talented players. We’re looking forward to developing them, working with them, bringing them along.”

On preparing for Week 1 when the opponent has had a complete overhaul the previous offseason:

“Well, there are a lot to go back and look at. Obviously as coaches, that's what we do. It'll be nice to get past this first week and kind of see what it is they're doing and what we're doing, how it matches up and adjust where we need to. To me, I don't think you look back on last year and draw a lot of conclusions, whether it be from them or from us. It's a new year, new opportunities. We've had a good camp. We're looking forward to getting started. I'm sure they feel the same way. That's what's great about these opening day matchups. It's a lot of unknowns, a lot of unscouted things happen. You stick to your principles and trust what you know. Play fast and go to the next play. That's how we're gonna approach it.”

On if he still gets excited for Week 1:

“Well, I'm a lifer because I love it. You can guarantee I'll be watching tonight. I'm excited about the opportunity to start our season on Sunday. It's every year, you don't know. People think they know, they talk about it like they know, nobody knows. We'll see. Each year there's surprise teams that come along and exceed expectations. And then there are others that are being talked about and are held up on a pedestal right now and they come crashing down. It starts tonight. And then for us, on Sunday. I'm looking forward to it.”

On if he likes watching his former players and if he is rooting for Bills DE Von Miller:

“I watch as a fan. I mean, there's certain guys that, yeah. I mean, they're special players. I was talking today. I was talking on the field. We were talking about turning the corner and I was talking about how, I don't know, other than Derrick Thomas, if anybody that I I've ever seen could turn the corner as fast and low as Von Miller. I mean, he could basically, rubbing his elbow on the ground as he's running full speed around the corner. So, it's something that's rare and that he has. Obviously, it'll be fun to see what he does tonight.”

On what allows him to be like that:

“I think he's remained a really good player. Anyway, it'd be fun to watch tonight.”