

September 21, 2022

Head Coach Ron Rivera

Opening Statement:

"I wanted to first start off by mentioning a partnership that was finalized today with Ortho Virginia. We're thrilled to be able to partner with an entity that is known for excellence in medical, as well as the sporting performance field. This partnership is going to benefit our team across both the business and football side and continue our goal of emphasizing the health and safety of our players as one of our top priorities for this organization. We'll also be renaming our facility, Ortho Virginia Training Center at Commanders Park. I do appreciate the great team over at Ortho Virginia, and just wanted to take a second to express our excitement over this new partnership."

On DT Daniel Wise:

"No. For the most part, he did suffer a high ankle sprain and we'll see how he is day to day. It's not as severe. but he was off to the side, was working with training staff."

On how good QB Carson Wentz was for the Eagles:

"Oh, he was solid. I mean, again, you go back and look at the things that he's done at the beginning of his career, in the middle of his career and you sit there and it's impressive. I mean, at one time, he had that team 11-3 so, he's done some really good things. He's a very capable football player and we're very fortunate to have him with us."

On if anything has surprised him through the first few games in terms of Carson:

"No, to be honest. It's just, we as a team I think are still finding our way with him. Just learning what he's capable of and learning how he helps us as a football player. I think as we continue that, we'll continue to have good things happen for us."

On guys on the defense that have stood out:

"Well, I thought there were several guys that played well. I mean, if you start with the defensive line, really appreciate what [DT] Jonathan [Allen] and Daron [Payne] are doing as a tandem on the inside. I thought both guys played well. Jonathan considering, he had the groin and Daron really stood out and did some really positive things. When you look at [DE] Montez [Sweat], those things, I thought [DE] James Smith-Williams really was solid. I really do. I really thought he had a nice game and [DE] Efe Obada, we moved him. We had to move him down into the three technique a lot more than we typically would've because the injury to Daniel and I thought he handled that fairly well. I thought [LB] Jamin [Davis] did play well. I thought there were some good things that he did, a couple things he's gotta work on and continue to improve and get better as a football player. But I thought he did some nice things. I think Kendall [Fuller] continues to compete on the outside for us in setting the tone and tempo for us. He was solid. I think Bobby [McCain] played pretty well. We got a good group of guys that gotta continue to work together and just become more and more comfortable with one another back there."

On an individual player improving during the season:

“Well, I think the part about the in-season is really refining your craft. Now, it's to take those little detailed things that when you get a game plan and we talk about, ‘Hey, we want you to play with this type of leverage and this coverage. We want you to make sure you understand that we want you to spill the play on this play.’ Now, you work those specific techniques. If I'm gonna play with this kind of leverage in coverage during practice, I'm focusing on that leverage, I'm working on where my hand placement's gonna be working on opening my hip so I can flip him and run. If I'm hammering or spilling the run, I'm working on that technique, then I wanna bring my shoulder down underneath. So, I get that guy and spill it up over the top to make the ball bounce. These are techniques now that we've given you a game plan that you follow up and practice and work on and pay attention to.”

On the first division game and what it is that adds the extra element:

“Well, first the familiarity. That's the truth of the matter is that that you play 'em twice a year. You play nobody else twice and you play 'em every year. The next thing about it is because it's a divisional game, the thing we all have to understand is if you wanna win in your division, you gotta control your division. If you finish with a winning record in your division, there's a good chance you've got to win it. So, they're very important. Then you're playing at home. You wanna defend at home more. So anything else you want to defend your turf. That's what makes these games so important. So much so that there is a little extra emphasis. It just happens that way naturally.”

On QB Jalen Hurts:

“The first challenge he presents is that every time he has the ball in his hands, it's a run-pass option. And so that's the thing you've gotta be able to do with him. It's all about discipline. That's one of the big emphases to say this week. Just discipline, discipline in your assignment, discipline in how we want you to do your assignment. And we'll continue to focus on discipline against this football team. And this football player.”

On WR Jahan Dotson:

“I think that's a great question because of the fact, you know, you answered it for me. I mean, these guys are coming in and they're much better prepared. They really are. I mean, these guys, because they throw the ball so much in college ranks that these guys have learned to, to do specific things because of those. And if you're fortunate to find a young man like a Jahan or any of those other guys that were drafted in the first round, those are the guys that they get moved around. They just don't put him in one spot and just say hey, stay here. No. So they're moving them from playing the Z the Y the X whatever as far as their formations are concerned and now they learn to run all types of routes, they learn that they gotta work on specific types of releases, those types of things. So, they're coming to us better prepared as far as that position's concerned.”

On why his has been a redzone target:

“Because of his route running. I mean, his route running is very precise. It really is. And you know, and I think, of those young guys coming out, I think he's one of the top two or three guys as far as route running is concerned. I think his routes are very sharp. His cuts are very good. He presents a very good target, but one thing I think is a little deceptive is his catch radius. I don't think people realize that he has such a tremendous catch radius in spite of his size.”

On the resources and systems he puts in place at the end of games to make the right choices:

“Well, one of the things that we do is a couple times a week, I talk with our analytics guy and then one time a week specifically, we meet in the morning myself and three of our staff, coaches and we'll talk about situational football. What we'll do is we'll go through the previous week and anything that happened, that's, noteworthy we'll discuss. We'll discuss everything from going for it on fourth down, we'll discuss two-point

conversions when the best opportunity is for them. We'll discuss timeout usage, we'll go through a myriad of things to really kind of dive into potential for us. And every week, it's interesting. Our guy does a really nice job of finding something that's a little different and we'll discuss those things. He's just somebody that gives really good advice as far as those things are concerned as we prepare and get ready for this game."

On how different is it to do at that point than it is during the game:

"Well, see, that's part of the analytics that you don't have. It can't account for injury. It can't account for momentum swings. They're really just tools. As you go through 'em and you think through 'em, the potential for it to happen, you have to be prepared, or at least at some point have talked about this. We had something, I think it was last year trying to remember what it was specifically, but it's something we had talked about, a couple weeks prior, and then it came up in our game and it was one of the first things we talked about after this game was, 'Man, I'm glad we talked about it a couple weeks ago. So, there is a lot that you try to retain and remember that's how important it is. Cuz as you said, when all heck is going loose, you got a couple players missing, momentum swinging, all that kind of stuff. You've gotta do it. It's interesting there is no analytics for the right time to call a fake, whether it be a fake punt or a fake field goal. No, there is there's not. There's no analytics telling you when the best time is for that."

On if there is a coach or staffer in the headset to help:

"Yes. Those coaches that are with me and during that meeting are all available. As well as our analytics guys available as far as that's concerned. So, if there's something coming up, I'll press the intercom button and I'll ask him, 'Hey, let's talk about this scenario. What are our options going forward?' We'll talk about the timeout usage. We'll talk about the opportunity to go for two. The opportunity for when's a good area for a fourth down decision to go for it."

On WR A.J. Brown and the difference he makes:

"It's the same offense. I mean, they do what they do. They do it very well. The only difference is, as you said, they add A.J. Brown and he's a very good football player. He really is. There's a huge discrepancy in targets. I believe he's been targeted 21 times while the closest next receiver is 11. He is a bell cow out there. He's averaging 10 and a half targets a game. So, somebody that we most certainly are, are aware of."

On if there is a part in the season where stats seem to matter more:

"I think so, but I think you also have to take into consideration what or who they've played and how those games have gone. If you look at the two games they've played, there were situations where, those games and you watch certain plays, they matter a little bit more because of the score. And so those are things that you kind of look at as a little something extra because when the game's close, certain plays come into effect and they're ones that, 'oh, every time it get a crunch time, this is what they like to do.' So that's something that you look at. If it's a blowout, then some of those things are just those plays."

On CB William Jackson III:

"I think for the group, it's you see a lot more comfort out there, little more confidence, but the biggest thing, again, the thing we talked about as far as the last game was concerned was the explosives more than anything else. It's one of those things that you have to show up those little details. As I talked about earlier in this press conferences, there's a discipline to playing this game. If you're not disciplined and you're not where you're supposed to, they're gonna find you. And that's the truth of a matter in this game because you gotta give credit to the other team as well."

On what causes the explosive plays:

"I think it's a combination. I mean, you can look at all six of those and there's a reason why and as you go

through those reasons, you wanna make sure those things get corrected and addressed.”

On S Kam Curl being back out there:

“There’s a familiarity with Kam’s play. He’s a guy that can give you a little bit of presence in the box as well. A little bit more than the other safeties. He’s a nice sized body, very physical football player, very smart football player, very heads up guy, communicates very well out there too. It’ll be very nice to have him back on the field for us.”

On if the quarterback market is more competitive now than it was:

“I mean, not only is the need for a quarterback very prevalent throughout the league, the people that are willing to do what they can to get the quarterback is even more so and then the information we get, the analytics we had last year looking at Carson and studying it, I think really spoke to why he’s had the success. I know he’s a guy that if you look at his numbers, he’s playing to those numbers again. Last year, he was rated very high. I did have the fortune of having a conversation with one of you about that and showing the numbers and talking about the numbers. That’s what it is. You just have to look at those numbers and that tells you who he is and why he’s important to us.”

On WR Curtis Samuel:

“It was when he got out and played in the first preseason game and just saw him be explosive again. It’s one of those things that, he’s one of those guys that has that knack. I had the fortune of having coached him earlier and seeing what he’s capable of. Unfortunately, last year, we didn’t get to see that. And so now we’re seeing what his potential is for us as we go forward and hoping we can stay healthy with him and all of our players. We’ve got a good dynamic group. I like who our playmakers are. Our skill position I think is very good. We’ve just, again, if we can just stay healthy and we can continue to develop and grow as a unit, as a team, I think we have some good things ahead of us.”

On the leaders of the defense:

“I think as we go through this, it’s one of those things where, because of some of the younger guys, we have to stop waiting for other people to make plays. Some of us try too hard and put ourselves outta positions. Other ones are kind of a little, we gotta cut loose if it happens. But, there’s a great little saying that says the play doesn’t care who makes it. So, if you’re where you’re supposed to be doing the things you’re supposed to, the play will come to you. And that’s one of the things that we gotta get across to our young men that, ‘Hey, just do your job, do your job as best as you can and a lot of good things will take care of itself.’”