

September 29, 2022

Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On what he made of the defense last week:

"I liked the first, third and fourth quarters. I thought we played some good football in spurts. We're looking to have more consistency in what we're doing, but there were some real bright spots in the game. A couple things we like to do better but the effort has been really strong, and I feel like we're improving."

On CB Benjamin St-Juste looking comfortable outside:

"Yeah, he stood up. Benjamin did a good job late in the week. Will [Jackson] had some issues and wasn't able to go, and Benjamin stepped up and did a nice job for us. So, yeah, we're looking to play good football, you know, whatever we can do."

On DT Jon Allen and DT Daron Payne:

"I like the way the D-Line group was working as a whole. I think the leadership has been very strong, Jon and Daron. Both two really good football players. I like the way they're approaching things."

On some of the bright spots that stood out on film:

"I'm moving on. I mean, I understand, you know, I'd rather just talk about what we have coming up in Dallas and move on. There's some definitely some bright spots, some good things that occurred and need to keep the good things good and work on some of the things that are not as good being more consistent there."

On S Kam Curl being back in the lineup:

"Great to have Cam back. He's has a kind of a calming influence on the group. I think. He's so reliable and his communication is so strong. His understanding of what we're doing is so strong, so great to have him back."

On preparing for Dallas Cowboys QB Cooper Rush:

"Yeah, there's plenty of film. He's doing a nice job directing the offense. He gets rid of the ball quickly. He's led them late in two close games and been able to help them pull out a win. So, we're going through the studying all the Cooper Rush tape we can and getting ourselves prepared."

On the defense being in better position on explosive plays:

"Yeah, I mean, I feel like we have a good handle on what's going on and why, and working hard to rectify it. That's what we have to do. You know, that's definitely one of our musts. Must get that part going. I think a lot of things improve when we do and we're working hard at that."

On what he has seen from LB Jamin Davis and rushing the passer:

"Well, he's got a lot of speed, you know, so if you have a guy that can run, he can certainly track him and get him down. There were a couple examples of him doing just that in the game. So, want him to continue to grow and work hard and develop the way he is and, you know, make the plays when he has an opportunity."

On DE Montez Sweat:

"Yeah, I mean, sacks and turnovers come in bunches and you just gotta play and compete and really be focused on. Each guy focused on what he can do for us and then we put it all together on game day. But I think he's doing a great job. I think he's affecting a lot of things that don't necessarily show up in a stat column, but he's playing good football."

On DE Shaka Toney:

"Yeah, a lot different scenario. One guy was a seventh-round pick and a special teams contributor and one guy's a first-round talent but we expect all our guys to prepare, play well. They're getting opportunities. We've had a bunch of injuries we've been able to kind of withstand and we should start getting guys healthier and get 'em back into play but I like the way the group's working overall. I think working hard and I think Z [Jeff Zgonina]'s doing a good job with the group."

On young guys playing compared to veterans who know the system:

"Yep. That's the challenge. Adding young talent to a group and developing them and working with them as quick as possible. I like the way [Rachad] Wildgoose approached things. He got a little grabby on a play early that got called, but you know, overall he did some real solid things for us. So, we'll keep developing them and working with them and it's good to have the other guys, you know, like we do."

On the balance between developing young players and trying to win games:

"Yeah, everything's about winning. So, it's all about win first, but in order to win you gotta develop. Sometimes you get a guy that's playing that just got here, but the position was kind of decimated and he needed to play like the week he got here. That was the case with [John] Ridgeway, who actually is going back to where he was drafted this year. So, I mean, those things happen. It's fluid. To me, what we've gotta focus on is do the best we can to zero in to teach, help the guys understand and create a role that they can execute and then let 'em grow and let 'em play. You're constantly going through that. As the year goes on, injuries occur and different things happen and different opportunities to acquire talent. I know the scouting department is always gonna work hard to try and bring us the best players that we are capable of getting, and we're gonna work hard as coaches to develop those guys and get 'em ready to play."

On what he looks for to try to create turnovers:

"I mean, we know about our turnover tape. I think we talked about that a little bit in the past. You know, we weekly emphasize that with instruction and opportunities to learn from how things are happening around the league and things and drills that we've done from the beginning to time. You know, we got turnovers in bunches throughout the off season and really, I'm surprised we haven't got 'em going yet, but they come and we will and we'll get ours. So we keep pushing, keep playing. It's like anything. You have designs how you'd like to see things go. They don't always go exactly like you'd like. The key is as a competitor get yourself prepared, go out there and compete again. Got an opportunity in Dallas coming up."

On what he has seen from Dallas' offensive line and their run game:

"Yeah, they're a good group. They've got a talented line. They've got two backs that are really good at what they do, and they've got really good design. So, yeah, it'd be a challenge for us to get them slowed down."

On what makes Dallas Cowboys LB Micah Parsons so good:

"I mean, you know, he's had a great start to his career. Explosive athlete I think is the main thing. Guy plays hard."