

October 11, 2022

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On what he made of the reaction to his comments:

"I do, but you know, at the end of the day, I spoke to my team this morning. I basically told them that I said some things that were misconstrued. I didn't present it properly, and that's on me. So I took accountability, told the guys that I should know better. Shit, I had a bad day. I figured, you know, I'm feeling better today, let's move forward. So, to me, as far as I'm concerned, it's really now about the most important thing that's getting ready for football."

On if he worried about an unnecessary distraction:

"Very much so. And that's why I apologize to the guys. It's been good. The players have been really positive about it and Carson [Wentz] and I had a nice conversation. So I think we're ready to roll."

On QB Carson Wentz being on the injury report:

"Yes. Something from the game. He came in yesterday morning and because he said it was a little sore, we had to put it on the list. He took all his reps today and he was fine. So I don't expect it to be a problem."

On heading back to Chicago:

"The biggest part is, I'm past it now. I've done it for a long time, but honestly, it still brings back a nice big smile. I just wanna say, I have one of my teammates, Steve McMichael, dealing with ALS and this is an opportunity for me to send a message out to him. I was very happy to be able to do that for Steve."

On rousing the passer controversy:

I think it's a little bit of a reaction to the whole concussion thing as well. Obviously, the most important position really, truly is the quarterback. I think we may get a little carried away trying to be careful with those guys because the last thing you wanna see is a great player get knocked out of a game. I think that might have been a little bit of a reaction to it. It's something we've gotta find the balance in between and we gotta be really, really careful with it. I know, and being on the committee, the competition committee, one thing that will probably be a big discussion this off season for us, and just something for us to take a look at, but we have to be careful with it because that's not a really good look. It really isn't. But again, we also remember, we do wanna protect the quarterbacks."

On if this is a cross-roads game:

"Oh, very much so. I don't expect it go downhill though. And we're gonna focus in on them one at a time. No matter what happens, we'll come out, we're gonna play and we gotta get better. It starts with me from the top. I mean, we've gotta get better and understand what our responsibility is."

On the long weekend:

"Most certainly. We can reflect and take a look at some things and talk about some things. Also at the same time, get away. I'm gonna give those guys a little bit of time. The players will come in on Friday, we'll get past the game and then we'll give them the weekend off and we'll get them back out on the practice field come

Tuesday.”

On OC Scott Turner calling plays from the box and if it will continue:

“Yes. It was interesting. We had a nice conversation about exactly what he saw and what he was able to do, make decisions on. That was a really good thing. And the fact that it's a little bit calmer up there. So gave him some clarity. We'll continue with that.”

On T Charles Leno and him also going back to Chicago:

“I know Charles wants to play well, he really does. Not just that, but I know his wife's family is from that area, so this is a little bit of a homecoming for him in more ways than one. I think really for professionals, they do get excited about it because it is a little bit of a home crowd for him. But at the same time, you always do remember the reason why. I expect him to go out and play well, and I expect us to go out and play well.”

On CB Benjamin St-Juste and Rachad Wildgoose:

“I thought they looked good. I really did. I think Benjamin, every time he has gotten his opportunity to go out and play on the outside, he's played well. He's a very physical guy. He's got tremendous length. He's got good speed and quickness for a guy with his length, but he's got length and that I think adds to his abilities. I think Wildgoose is a guy that's real interesting. He's got great quickness, he really does. He's got a lot to learn. He's learning a little bit on the run, but he's done a very nice job. There is some physicality to his game and this game with this team that runs the ball inside, it's gonna be a little bit of a test for him as well.”

On why CB William Jackson wasn't able to sustain comfortability after playing the Buccaneers last year:

“I think the biggest thing as far as William is concerned, you know, first of all is just making sure he's healthy. But I think the biggest thing is again, just understanding your connections you're working with and how you work with your teammates. It is a little bit different from what he had done previously.”

On what he would like to from CB William Jackson going forward:

“I think the biggest thing more than anything else is just communication aspect. You know, be a little more animated, just so everybody knows that you've gotten the check or you didn't hear the check or you've made the check.”

On how he's handled the coach-centric approach:

“Well, I think it's an interesting situation when you have to make those decisions. They're based off of all the information you've gathered. I mean, for the most part, all it really just says at the end of the day, from all the information I've gotten from everybody that's doing the work, you know, we just make the decision based off of that.”

On if the situation with Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa changed his thoughts about Thursday Night Football:

“My thoughts have always really been the same, and my reflection goes back to [Former Carolina Panthers LB] Luke Kuechly. And talking to the doctors, one thing that they were concerned with really was we played in LA it was a very warm day, very hot day. We traveled all the way back and we had a short week. And so there could have been a cumulative effect. One of the things that we've tried to do since then is just knowing is that when we get to this day, today's practice, I don't know if you guys know, so we didn't have the helmets out and we didn't want any collisions or anything like that. So we didn't have helmets for this practice. But I've done that since then. And just really trying to be mindful of that, and get these guys to just

kind of relax, calm down, and hopefully come Thursday they're ready to roll.”

On protocol for head injuries and toeing the line between player safety and physical play:

“I think at the end of the day, you know, we have protocols, we've got renewed protocols, we have to follow them, and we have to be very diligent about that. And I think if you wanna do anything, you can put it on the league, you can put it on the team, you can put it on the NFLPA. But the player also has to be honest and upfront. You know, you can't hide anything. You can't try to figure out how I can cheat through my way through it. This is about health and safety and we have to put it on our individual selves to make sure that those things are followed and done properly. And if not, and something happens, there's got to be accountability.”

On the line between player safety and physical play:

“That's going to be very difficult because at the end of the day, the hard part is it is the most important position on the field. And most teams, most of us are willing to go into a game with two active quarterbacks, and you have an emergency guy, and we're lucky because [TE] Logan Thomas gives us an emergency quarterback, but, you know, you don't want to have to rely on that. So, we're going to have to come up with a solution. And I think the hard part is to find that balance, as you said, Is that roughing the pass or isn't that? That's going to be a very important question.”

On if any players had a reaction to his comments yesterday:

“There was no reaction to it. I think, you know, for the most part we just had to make sure it was clarified yesterday, last night. And then today I had an opportunity to speak to the players and I was very upfront and just told 'em, Hey, that's on me. I should know better. Me of all people should know better, to be honest. I mean, I've been doing this quite some time and for me not to finish my thought completely, I messed up. And so I just told the guys that it was me and it won't happen again.

On if he feels like he has the pieces to win consistently:

“I think going forward, I feel good about what we have. It's just now a matter of putting it together and we've got to do it one game at a time. And we got to focus in on Chicago and going out and playing better. And again, as I said, it starts with me. We got to make sure that we are doing the things that we give these guys the best opportunity to show up on game day and play well.”