

October 20, 2022

Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On the defensive line improvement:

“Got a good group. They're working hard. I feel like they're doing a better job of working with each other. We're gonna need it this weekend because [Packers QB Aaron] Rodgers's and the Packers are coming in.”

On CB's Benjamin St-Juste, Rachad Wildgoose and William Jackson III:

“I think Benjamin's done a great job for us, please with him. Wildgoose taking advantage of his opportunity to play, doing a good job for us. I'll let Coach handle the William discussion. I'll let him handle that.”

On QB Aaron Rodgers:

Yeah, one of the all-time greats at the position. He's extremely accurate, good decision maker. He can throw the ball from a lot of different slots, a lot of different angles, gets it out, makes decisions, and gets it out really, really quick. He is one of the elite players at the quarterback position, has been for a long time doing it. So a lot of respect for him and we're geared up, ready to go.”

On LB Jamin Davis and how his play has helped the defense:

“I think as a group we're, figuring things out a little bit. Still a lot of work to do. I think we're making strides and we're just gonna keep pushing. I think Jamin is included in that. I think our group has come out, has continued to grind and work. That's what we need to do in order to improve. That's what we're looking for. As coaches, that's what we're after. We're getting really good effort, energy, commitment and those are the things that are gonna help us play well and help the team win.”

On Green Bay being aggressive in the passing game:

“Well, they've done a good job. They've got good staff. They've got good players. They're putting their players in position to be effective. They've got one of the all-time great trigger men. That's just part of what they do. Part of the challenge. I think it starts for us as, as we look at it with the two running backs. I think they're both very good. Offensive line does a good job of creating holes and space and opportunities for those guys. And that's where it starts. Then when you try and sink your teeth into them and getting them slowed down, they've got the wide receivers that are going pretty good. [Allen] Lazard and [Romeo] Doubs. I know that a couple of their guys are banged up. They may get one back. We'll see how that goes through the week. But Aaron tends to make guys look pretty good.”

On what sacks do for the defense:

“Converting good. Not converting maybe not as good. Sure. Yeah. I mean the idea is we want to hit and affect the quarterback as much as we can. Clearly closing the deal with the sack is the ultimate, well, sack, fumble is the ultimate, but you gotta be able to pressure the quarterback in this league and that'll be a test this week.”

On if the defensive improvement is because of sacks:

“ There's nothing so simple about it. I mean, it's work. It's an understanding. It's getting a group of men to

work as a team, together. It's not about an individual in order to rush a quarterback, it's gotta be coordinated, it's gotta be understood. You've gotta play off each other and communicate with each other and execute together. I think we're doing that at a higher level. We need to continue to work at it and get better at as we go, but that's been where some of the improvement has shown up."

On DE's James Smith-Williams, Casey Toohill and Efe Obada:

"I mean, that's exactly right. They're trying to take advantage of their opportunities as Chase [Young] heals. We know we'll get him back, they'll add to the group, but until we get him back, those guys are getting probably more opportunities than they'll get when he is back. And I think they're doing everything they can to take advantage of those opportunities."

On how much he has to update his scouting report on Aaron Rodgers:

"Yeah. you're adding to it. It's not so much what I know what I have in my mind. It's more what can we convey to our guys, What can they learn? How well can we understand together what he's about and what they're about? Scheme has changed a little bit over the years, but he remains one of the top players at that position."

On why he thinks the defense has gelled:

"Just working at it, just trying to get a little bit better. I think we're continuing to grind it. I believe in this group of men and we're working hard together. I think good things will happen for us. Got a lot of work to do, lot of work in front of us. Huge challenge this week."

On if anything has changed to spark improvement:

"No, nothing."

On the abundance of roughing the passer calls:

"No, I think the most important thing is just to understand where some of the emphasis points are. Clearly player safety is one of those things. Don't take liberties, you know, understand what is being asked and it doesn't matter if you like it or not, it's just understand it and do everything you can to play within the rules and not draw penalties. And so, yeah, we talk about strike zones and you know, where you need to be and what you cannot do and what you can do and just play within the rules. And I think the league's done what the league has to do. I mean you have to; the league invests a lot of money in these quarterbacks. You can't drive 'em to the ground like you once could and other things. So I think you have to be smart and play within the rules and we'll just continue to understand the best we can teach them to our players the best we can and hope we can eliminate as many as possible."

On the officials present during practices in the preseason emphasized these calling:

"It wasn't this years point of emphasis. I think it remains one, but I think it's understood that that's where the league's going and I keep looking for, since I have this opportunity, I keep looking for these slice blocks on our defensive ends to be eliminated. I mean, there are a lot of lot of injuries that are occurring on that play. And we're not allowing corners to cut offensive linemen that are coming around looking to take advantage of their 150-pound weight advantage. So, you know, you're asking corners to stand up on those guys, we should have the same thing for slicing defensive ends with tight ends and backs and things."

On if the officiating is becoming too skewed towards protecting quarterbacks:

"No, I understand it. The league wants offense, there are certain things that are obvious, but don't fight it, understand it, teach it and let's go. So it's not about things being popular or do I like it. No, but I have a clear understanding of what the rules are and we're going to make sure we do what we can to teach our guys, help

them understand it and control the things you can control.”

On what makes DT’s Daron Payne and Jon Allen work well together:

“I mean they are two big strong guys that have great work ethic and they're able to impact the game in a positive way for us and we need that to continue to happen.”

On the roughing the passer call on Kansas City Chiefs DT Chris Jones:

“I think you do what you can to understand the rules, teach it. There are bang bang things that are going to happen. Not every call's going to be exactly right. You got to live with it and move on, you know, I mean, the game is too fast. And you need to gain an understanding. You need to play within the rules and play hard and play fast. And when things happen, there may be one we all sit back and go, Eh, that's pretty hard. That's just one. It's like, yeah, it's kind of tough, but that's just what it is.”

On if he worries about some of his guys being susceptible to a similar call:

“I'm not a big worrier. Just teach and go man, teach and go. Appreciate you guys.”