

October 28, 2022

## **Head Coach Ron Rivera**

### **On if there was any improvement with LB Cole Holcomb this week:**

"There was improvement and it's one of those things that even though, the swelling's gone down, you still have to be smart and careful with it. He did a little bit of work and stuff like that inside but again, we're just in a tough spot."

### **On if they have looked at Colts QB Sam Ehlinger's tape and if that can translate over:**

"Well, we looked at the college reports that we had on it. What we really looked at the stuff that they did with him in the preseason and some stuff they've done with him in games. So, we've looked at that stuff over and over and trying to predict. One of the things that we did talk about was, we noted that there was some specific plays that he was really good at in college and those are some of the things that we looked at."

### **On T Saadiq Charles and what the plan would be at right tackle:**

"Well, the plan right now is we're leaning towards going with Trai [Turner] right now. Trai's been working really well. He's gotten healthier and healthier and really looks a lot more like the old Trai, so we're pretty excited about that. Saadiq still, that whatever he had bronchitis or whatever, I mean, it whacked him for a few days, so a little concerned about that. Lost a little bit of weight too, so we'll watch him. He did a little bit of work today. We'll watch how he is tomorrow and it might impact whether he's, you know, active or not as well too. So, we'll have to see how he is through tomorrow."

### **On what he wants to see from G Trai Turner:**

"Just being stout and athletic. That was his trait when we had him. When he played last year at Pittsburgh, he was still stout, he still athletic and that's really the things that he does well."

### **On what he has seen from G Andrew Norwell:**

"I think the biggest thing that really plays to Andrew's game is when we run the ball and we run it early and effective, it helps the rest of his game. That's we did intentionally the last two games. Running the ball knowing that's where he excels. The one thing that he does really well too is as the left guard, he protects that inside of the left tackle very nicely, and he helps the center out when he needs to."

### **On if he will talk with RB Antonio Gibson about the trade rumors:**

"Yes, I will. I will from here, I will go down and talk to him directly. I was coming up and Sean [DeBarbieri] alerted me to it. Martin [Mayhew] was aware of it too and Martin communicated that to me, so yes, I will. I don't know why people throw stuff up against the wall."

### **On impressions on Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell:**

"Well, I got impressions that he's a very smart, ambitious young coach but I also kind of got the sense that he had something already lined up."

**On the process of keeping coaches around:**

"Well, one of the things that you get from when you start trying to determine old staffs is how some of the current players feel about the guys more so than anything else. That's something that's always important because sometimes you take it with a grain of salt and sometimes you follow up on some of the questions that you've heard."

**On if he got the sense that Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell was well liked during his time in Washington:**

"I think for the most part. I think the guys like communicating with him. One of the things that plays in his favor, and I think he's really using it as some of the things that helps him as a coach is that he played the game and so that you could see him relating to a lot of those guys."

**On if there is anything he is hoping to see QB Taylor Heinicke improve on this week:**

"I just think his timing early on getting through his progressions. Early on in the game, in fact, the interception he's threw, he was late on and again, it's just through repetition, repetition. He was a little bit rusty. He might have hung on one portion of his reads before he got to that flat, and you wanna see him go through it a little bit quicker. That's really the one thing. I mean, his decision making was good. He went to the right spot. Just again, you've gotta get to that a little bit quicker."

**On if targeting Green Bay's cornerbacks for a third of the passes was a part of the game plan:**

"Well, I think it's really more about who he [Taylor Heinicke] was throwing the ball to and some of those throws that were made, those were his primary reads. When Terry [McLaurin]'s on and running the routes, and just going through it, I mean, he's a very inviting target. Whether it's Curtis [Samuel] or any other receivers, he'll go through the progression, they'll go through the reads and they'll dictate where he starts and based on that, that's what he's gonna do."

**On QB Carson Wentz's recovery and his interaction with players at practice:**

"I think it's been great. You know, he's back there. He's communicating. He's talking. He's interacting. He's staying on top of it. He's getting each play call and he's watching the progression as the play goes through. He's talking to the coaches."

**On how important stopping the run is for the defense:**

"Well, I think if you can get an offense to be one dimensional, if you can take the run out, it lessens the impact of play action. It gives you an anticipation of getting off the ball and getting into your past rush mode. I think that's some of the times when you can do that and then play the pass, getting off and then reacting to the run, you put yourself in a good position. The other thing that helps it more so than anything else is being physical at the onset and winning is a big thing. I think that helps sets tone for the rest of the game as well."

**On if LB David Mayo would fill in for Holcomb or if it's a mixture:**

"Be a mixture. Mayo will play his role. JB [Jon Bostic] will play his role, as will Jamin [Davis]. We've got some things that we're gonna ask Jamin to do a little bit as the Mike backer."

**On the line of being patient when the quarterback position isn't working:**

"Well, I think again, and to the question I was asked a long time ago, the difference being when a guy's been in the system or been around for a while, there's that relationship that's been developed. I mean, we are seeing it right now with Taylor [Heinicke]. I mean, this is Taylor's third year here, he's got some rapport, he's got a good feel, he's been in this offensive style of football for over five years, so he's got a good grasp and it takes time to develop it. One of the guys, again, I point to this is back in 2020, it took Tampa Bay a little bit

before they got their footing with, with Tom Brady and once they got it, they got going. So, I think there is a little bit of that where is that line? I mean, is it half a season? Is it a certain point in the season you expect or anticipate? And that's what you hope for, is that as you get to a certain point, it starts to come, it starts to gel, the guys start to see it, they start to feel it, and then you roll and that's what you hope for."

**On how tough the Colts defense is to run against:**

"I think just because of who they are as football players. I mean, to me at this point, when you've got that kind of quality inside, it's really more about those guys. They're good football players. They're athletic. They're physical at the point. They play downhill. They play with their hands and eyes very well and when you've got three guys that anchor a defense like that and you have that kind of middle. It's pretty impressive. It really is."

**On T Sam Cosmi:**

"Yeah, I mean he's coming along. Honestly, we're gonna stick with [Cornelius] Lucas. Mostly because the hand's clubbed completely and right now he's still kind of feeling his way through it. Hopefully next week, he'll have a little bit better. The club won't be a full club and he'll have a little more use of the hand. So, we're kind of hoping for that and we'll go through it. If something crazy were to happen, we can play him as an emergency guy."

**On the upcoming trade deadline:**

"Yeah, we're not necessarily looking to move anybody. I mean, if it's a something outlandish, you gotta listen, but we have no intention of moving anyone."

**On LB Jamin Davis' progress this season:**

"I think it's worked very well with that young man. He takes challenge and I think it has a little bit about that's the right approach with him, his upbringing. Both parents were in the military, so being kind of strict, being kind of forceful I think has worked with him. It really has and I think he's accepted the challenge. I love the fact, and again, when you walk into the linebacker room after meetings and there's a group of them still in there, and Jamin's one of the guys. That's growth to me. That's the guy understanding that, Hey, this is my job. This is what I do, these are the extra things I need to do to help me on the field and he's been doing those things. He's done a very consistent. He started it last season. It's carried over to this year and it's been fun to watch just because you're seeing the progress, what we're hoping to see. I liken him to a young Thomas Davis. When Thomas first came in, Thomas had to get used to a whole new position, a whole new style of playing. I was fortunate enough to get there, I think it was his fourth year in the league, and you started to see the growth. I think with Jamin with time you've seen the growth already, that's a big positive sign for us."

**On QB Carson Wentz will gel with the offense in the middle of the year:**

"Well, it's one of those things that you finish the evaluation when he gets the opportunity to get back on the field."

**On if its harder to evaluate QB Carson Wentz because of missed time due to injury:**

"Oh yeah It does. Just because the continuity's not there, but you know, you still have to judge off of what you see."

**On his process of informing players about the trade deadline:**

"It crushes you. It really does. I mean, there used to be an opportunity to sit down and talk to guys, explain what's happening. Even during, we do the cuts at the end, at the end of training camp, you know, some of those get out a little bit early. You want to be able to talk to the guys and let them know, Hey, look, this is not

a personal thing, you know, and that's the one thing you want to get across. Its very rarely is it personal and this is always about football first and foremost.”

**On what he has learned about DE Chase Young:**

“Oh yeah. It's that he wants to get back out there. I mean, he was getting very frustrated because he wants to be there and he wants to do more. And sometimes you just, you gotta get across to him, young man, more is not better sometimes, especially when you're coming off the knee. Now we're at the point where it's okay to do more and it's like, well, why couldn't I? Because you weren't at this point yet. I mean, he really does. It's kind of interesting because, and I told you guys the other day, when he had met on Sunday and everything was fine, we wanted to start him right away and Doc said, No, let me have one more. And the real reason was to slow us down. We just wanted to, so we abided by what Doc wants to do. Doc was very pleased. And so hopefully going into next week we'll be clear to go. Chase is, he seems a little bit more calm now.”

**On how he balances a quarterback decision in the offseason:**

“Well, I mean, you go through the process of watching tape, looking at the numbers, looking at the analytics, analyzing it, breaking down, doing the comparisons, and then go from there. The big thing in some circumstances, situations is now getting it to where, okay, they're comfortable, they understand it, they get it, everything starts to roll off. It's easier in terms of communicating, understanding, going through certain things. That takes a little bit of time.”