

November 4, 2022

Wide Receivers Coach Drew Terrell

On if WR Terry McLaurin ever surprises him:

"To answer your question, no, he does not. He's had a tremendous few weeks. I'm always happy to, to see guys have success, especially people that have put in the work that Terry's put in on a day to day basis. He's been extremely deliberate about his process. It's good. Anytime he has success, especially going back home for the first time in the NFL, playing against the Colts, I know that was a big deal for him. So to see him make some of those plays in that game was awesome."

On how he has been able to stay aggressive and go get the ball:

"I think since I've been around him, he does a great job finishing on the ball. I wouldn't say there's a change. I think he's just been extremely consistent with that. Going back to kind of your first question, there's no surprise when the ball is in there, the expectation is that he's gonna make the play, down the field, intermediate routes, all of it. He's just done a great job of being consistent and those plays have just happened to come up in some critical times in the game. So I think it, it's brought more light to him but whether it was the first quarter, fourth quarter, we're confident in him making those plays and I think he is too. We've seen that in these previous two weeks."

On WR Curtis Samuel and his health this season:

"I think he just came into this season, he was 100% healthy. We try to manage the guys every week depending on the workload that they take on during the game. Those guys downstairs do a great job with the GPS numbers, the high intensity yards, all those things. For each guy, it's kind of tailored to what their output is on Sunday, how much you kind of guard them during the week, how much work they get in during the week. Of course he's gonna be a guy that plays a lot of snaps on Sunday. So, his management is very similar to a guy like Terry throughout the week. For us during the course of this season it hasn't been different for him. Given what happened last year, I wouldn't say it's been different because of this or it's been different because of that."

On how the quarterback effects the gameplan for the receivers:

"It hasn't changed. Our preparation and our approach in our room, like in terms of like Taylor [Heinicke] extending plays and talking about scramble drills and those things, those are things we do regardless of who's playing quarterback. So it's something that's always in guys mind keeping the plays alive. We've just been able to hit some more scramble plays, particularly in the fourth quarter of that game last week. In terms of our preparation and the thought we put into it, that's part of our process all the time. There's nothing, there's no added emphasis or any difference for us."

On how much the receiver position in the NFL is specific to a certain defensive look or skillset:

"I think it's actually more, there's more. You're dictating more to the defense than it is reacting to what they do. I think that's kind of something that is a little different of an approach I guess you could say than other rooms. I try to get across to the guys that the defense has to defend us, so we're gonna dictate to them with

routes, with releases, with concepts, we're gonna set things up so that we can continue to dictate throughout the course of the game.”

On how much the skillset dictates the route:

“I mean, you wanna put all of our guys with the skillsets they have in a position to where they can be successful. The things that guys do well, you wanna allow 'em to do well. There'll be things throughout the week, throughout the game where you try to help 'em and give them tips and clues that are part of what we do and how we want to attack a defense. There is an element to a guy doing things that he does well and allowing him to do those things if that makes sense.”

On how much the game dictates receiver grades versus what they do in that particular game:

It's all based on in terms of grading, the expectation for them. We're gonna put 'em in positions to where they're doing things that they're good at. I would say it's all gameplan based. Those guys have a great understanding of what we train, why we train it most importantly. They have a really good understanding of like, ‘Alright, I gotta do it this way and this is the reason why. They're aware a lot of times before I am if they mess something up in a game. I'll see something and they'll come back and just say, you know, I should have done this, or, you know, I was supposed to do this. They're very aware of our process and what we do.”

On WR Dyami Brown and if he is capable of having another game like he had vs. Tennessee:

“He can absolutely do it again. I was ecstatic for him in that instance, cuz I know your rookie year for anybody is gonna be a challenge cuz you've gotta adapt to a number of factors. There were times in his rookie season where you could tell that it was a lot for Dyami and he was kind of getting down on himself. It can be overwhelming at times for everybody, but especially rookies. So, you know, for him to go in that game, Jahan [Dotson] was down and he knew that we were gonna have to rely on him to make those plays. I think everybody saw he rose to the occasion and that's the player that he can be. That's my expectation for him. I'm sure that's his expectation for himself. I was just super elated during that game when the ball went up on that post route on the first touchdown. I knew it was gonna happen. I saw, based on the coverage, I knew where the ball was going. I saw him get a step and I knew that he would make that play. When he came down with it and ran in the end zone, it was kind of, I think a reminder for himself of this is who I am, this is what I do. And then you saw the onehanded catch a couple series later to where it's like, all right, he knows this is for him. He knows what we know. We've been trying to tell him that he is. So super excited. He definitely, that's what he's capable of every week. That's the expectation for me and for him.”

On where he is at physically:

“We wanted to make sure that he was 100% healthy and could be the threat that he is on offense and on special teams, the asset that he is. So we wanted to give him patience with him and allow him to get back and put in a full week of practice taking all the reps, so he's ready to roll, ready to go. He's been solid.”

On WR Curtis Samuel and getting him involved down the field:

“I'm sure you guys notice watching the game, there's a lot of things that Curtis does well and a lot of different elements he brings to the game. I think every week you try to find out how you can attack the defense with the guys you have. So maybe some weeks, that'll make it so we want to push him down the field more, kind of just depending on what we're getting. His skillset has kind of always been around the line of scrimmage. He's been a running back in his past, been kind of a gadget type receiver in his past. He's fully capable of making plays down the field and, and going down the field if that's what is prescribed that week. There's no limit to his ability as a receiver and as a pass catcher. I think who we're playing against and what

matchups and opportunities we feel like we can take advantage of, that kind of dictates where he's gonna be on the field, if that makes sense. But it's not limited to the line of scrimmage.”

On the overall performance of the receiving group:

“I'm pleased with where we are. Those guys go out, they fight every week. They do what we ask of them. Whatever expectations are put on us are external factors. I know the expectation in that room is every time we get an opportunity to make a play, we make the play. And I talk to those guys every week about the defense we play against has to feel this group. They've got to feel us. And I think our guys take it, have done a great job taking advantage of their opportunities whenever they come, make the plays and, and be a group that this offense and the team can rely on. So I'm pleased with where they are and the way they work. I know that in our room we're extremely process driven, so those guys have been not worried about what happens on Sunday, but taking care of what I do throughout the week to put myself in position to when plays or opportunities come, I'm going to make them. So they've been right on pace.”

On how he approaches WR Terry McLaurin being frustrated earlier in the year:

“I talk to him constantly making sure that his head is in the right space to go out and perform. And he does a great job of not getting frustrated and just being locked in and controlling what he can control. He's done a tremendous job of that. For everybody, including Terry, you try to find ways every week to get them involved in the game plan. How do we get somebody like Terry, our number one matched up on so and so on the defense, or how do we take advantage of this defense with Terry's skill set? That's something we look at every week. And you know, being a receiver is not easy because there's a number of factors that go into you having perceived success. Everybody thinks you played a terrible game if you have two catches for 30 yards, if you don't go over a hundred, they think you played terrible. But that's, not always the case. A play has to get called, they got to hold up front, the quarterback has to see a read. There's all these factors that go into you having perceived success. And that's what I've talked to Terry at great length about and he's been outstanding, he's in an extremely good head space. He knows that we're going to try to get him to football, and he knows when he does get those opportunities, you got to take advantage of them and he has. So those conversations I have with him about just staying locked in and I have 'em over the course of the game, stay locked in, keep your mind right. Maybe you didn't get the rock in the first quarter, but there's going to be a play in this game where we need you to change the game, so make sure you're in the right spot. And it's a collaborative process with the coaching staff when we go into those game planning meetings about how we take advantage of matchups and how we get our guys the ball. So those conversations are ongoing as well. They're something that happens every day, every week, every time you're game planning for an opponent.”

On if there is any crossover between him and RB's Coach Randy Jordan:

“No, I think that's something that's extremely fun for us as an offense. Fun for all of us, [Offensive Coordinator] Scott [Turner], myself, Coach Jordan. It's how interchangeable our guys are and how we can move them around and take advantage of different things. I think that's one of the positives of our personnel and the scheme that we have is that all those guys can do a lot of things. It brings me excitement thinking about it and it brings excitement to the rest of the coaches every week about how we can get guys involved in different spots. And there's definitely like things like crossover between, hey Coach Jordan, like if we have Curtis in the backfield and he's running a run scheme. I talk to Coach Jordan about, hey, what are you guys telling the backs on his track or what his read is or where his aiming point and all that stuff, Where's his

alignment in the backfield? And then same thing, like if we split a back out to run a route, they'll be crossover and he'll have those guys talk to me or he'll ask me. And so there's definitely crossover, but it makes it fun when you have guys that that can do all those things."

On what he remembers going against Defensive Coordinator Vic Fangio's defense at Stanford in 2010:

"Yeah back then when you're planning, you're young, you don't pay attention to things like scheme as much, but you know the intensity with which they play and our defense, you guys would have to look it up, but that Stanford defense was lights out. I think they were top five in the country in yards allowed or something. But they were awesome and those guys played hard. They were always very well prepared. They knew the problems that they would get over the course of a game and they attacked him they were super aggressive and they had a lot of trust in Coach Fangio, we used to call him Lord Fangio because he walked around like an old European lord who didn't talk to anybody, but you could tell he was the alpha, you know what I mean? Those defenses, they used to wear us out in practice and on that offense, we had some players as well. So once we got into games and we were able to score points on that offense, we're like, man, our defense is just really that good. Like, we're actually okay too. But those guys were always locked in. They were always prepared, they were always aggressive, played fast, had answers for everything. And that's what I remember most about that group."