

November 10, 2022

Quarterback Taylor Heinicke

On his thoughts about the statement that included a reference to the shooting of RB Brian Robinson Jr.:

"I was just kind of watching TV last night, kind of scrolling through Instagram and I saw something on it, didn't really see like the specifics on it, but Coach [Ron] Rivera kind of nipped it in the butt this morning. Kind of told us a little bit more about it and yeah, it is a little bit frustrating, but at the same time we control what we can control and that's just going out and practicing every day and focusing on Philly. That's all we can do. Obviously, every week it seems like something pops up, but us players, I think we do a good job of kind of just muting that out and, and focusing on ball. That's what's most important for us."

On his relationship with WR Terry McLaurin:

"I think a lot of it just comes with more reps with him. I think we're getting really comfortable with each other and how we both play. I think another big part of it's communication. He's not scared to come up with me and tell me what he thinks and vice versa. So again, the relationship there is really strong and hopefully we can just keep building on it."

On some things that McLaurin does to help him out as a quarterback:

"Yeah, obviously him being super fast and making unbelievable contested catches definitely helps me out. But, I think he understands my strengths and weaknesses and vice versa and we kind of help each other out in that way."

On what he saw after watching the Vikings tape:

"I mean, the first half we had some good drives that just got stalled out whether it was a batted ball or a sack here and there but I felt like we had a clean game up there until I threw that pick. Other than that, I thought we played a very solid game but again, this is kind of a weekly deal where we have good drives and we just stall out and we just got to either convert third downs or stop hurting ourselves. It's one of those two things. So, I think if we just keep working on that, really honing on that and practice and get better at those things, we can put up some more points."

On the tight end position group:

"Obviously Logan [Thomas]'s been banged up throughout the year, trying to get him back and then we got some rookies out there playing. Armani [Rogers] was a quarterback up until five months ago, so he's figuring out, but he's doing a good job. He's progressing well. Cole [Turner]'s been hurt and again, we have a bunch of new weapons, whether it's running backs to receivers so, someone's gonna be left out. Again, those guys are getting better every week. You can see it during practice and them being young guys, that's very promising."

On if his pasts sticks out to him when playing the Philadelphia Eagles:

"The Covid deal, I can't control that but yeah that last game stuck with me throughout the whole off season. Everything that we went through last year and to have a chance to go to the playoffs there, we're driving

down the field, we're moving the ball and that last throw was unfortunate. [John] Bates kind of tripped up on that dude's foot. I think if he didn't, he might've caught that thing and scored but yeah, you kind of just go back and think about that play. What if he caught that and scored might've made him the playoffs and who knows what it would've happened? They beat us what week three pretty good, so yeah, we're excited for the opportunity. It's gonna be Monday night. It's gonna be a hostile environment. It's gonna be a lot of fun, so I think the guys are excited for it."

On if he watched the game tape from Week 3 with QB Carson Wentz playing:

"Yeah, It's the same defense and it's our offense, so you can learn a lot from it. But again, that was week three, what we're in week nine, 10 now, so there's some things that have changed, but that's definitely one game that we've watched for sure."

On what he remembers about playing James Madison University when he played at Old Dominion:

"So freshman year, I think there were number six in the nation at that time, and they came to our place and it was a rainy one. I think there was a hurricane going on during that time. And we pulled out an upset, huge upset against them at home, which is huge for us. And then sophomore year we went up there, I think it was the last game of the season and we needed to win that one to win the conference. And we were up there, we were losing by I think 10 to 14 at half, and we came out in the second half and dominated and won that one. So every time I hear about people around here talking about JMU, I'm like, Hey, ODU is two and O against those guys, you know? So it's a fun little game there, but that's a big one for ODU. I'm sure that the stadium's going to be rocking on Saturday."

On how important it will be to win against JMU:

"Oh yeah. Because at that time we were in the FCS, so we had a lot of rivals playing William and Mary, Richmond, JMU. There's another one in there I'm forgetting. But, you know, all those in state games were huge for us, but JMU was the biggest."

On if he chooses his targets based on the receiver or game planned reads:

"There's some certain plays that we we're looking for that and there's other plays where it's just, Hey, let's read it out, It's pure progression and we'll go from there. But, again when you have a guy like Terry [McLaurin] and he's one on one, you like your match up. Like in the last two preseasons, I've had the pleasure to throw to [WR] Cam Sims a lot and you know, when he's one on one with a smaller corner, yeah, maybe you like that jump ball a little bit more than someone else that's out there. The NFL's, there's a lot more personnel type of looks in the NFL. We have a bunch of guys out there that can play. So you kind of look at your percentages and see what's my best option here. That's not something we really hone in on. It's more just kind of going through the plays and trying to find the right guy."

On if he feels as if he's done enough to keep the starting QB role:

"Honestly, I don't think about it. That's one of those things I've talked about before where it's out of my control. I was sitting here during OTAs, I kind of asked the same question and it's one of those things where it's, hey, I know my role and I want to do the best at it. My role this year was to be back up to Carson [Wentz] and if he went down, be ready to play, and I feel like I've done that and I got one more at least and we'll see what happens. But I'm just going out there and trying to win games for this team, and if they want to put Carson back in, great, I'll be the best backup I can be to him and help him in any way I can. But for me right now, I just go in there and try to do the best I can."

On if he brings up the idea of an up-tempo offense to Offensive Coordinator Scott Turner:

"Yeah, I understand what you're saying. It's just kind of tougher in the NFL. Obviously I feel very comfortable in those situations with two minute situations, but again, you're trying to do a two minute offense with 10

minutes left in the first. I mean, you're not going to get the same type of defense that you would get in two minute defense. So I understand what you're saying, but every week I go in, I'm very excited about the gameplay that Scott puts together and we all have full trust in it and it's just us executing it better. I think if we can just do that, that wouldn't even be a topic I think."

On the importance of sustaining drives against Philadelphia:

"Yeah, obviously it's a really good team that we're going against and the best defense is staying on the field as an offense. So if we can sustain longer drives, keeping that offense off the field, and hey, maybe if it does stall out, let's flip the field position, make them go the whole field. And the last thing you want to do as an offense is give the other team a short field which we did first Minnesota, and you saw how that ended up. So, for us offensively, it's get first downs, convert third downs and ultimately when you get down the red zone score. So again, the longer that we stay on the field, it's better for us."

On the keys to sustaining drives:

"I think the biggest thing is converting third downs. That's the biggest play throughout every drive. If you can do that, you're eating up a lot more time off the clock and giving yourself a better chance to score. So, I think if we could do that, we'll be in better shape."