

November 15, 2022

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On the quarterback position:

Well, we're gonna see what happens this week. We have not had an opportunity to, I have not an opportunity to sit down with [Head Athletic Trainer] Al [Bellamy], go through what the doctors have decided, what they've decided. But the first thing I'm gonna tell everybody is just don't get ahead of ourselves. Because remember, we gotta return on the practice first and see where he is if he is cleared and ready to go. So we'll go from there. I'll be honest with you guys. When I do decide this and this is done, you guys are gonna be the last ones to know. I gotta inform people. I've gotta talk, sit down and talk to [Offensive Coordinator] Scott [Turner] and Kenny [Quarterbacks Coach Ken Zampese]. I gotta talk to the quarterbacks and then I've got to talk to my football team. For the most part, you guys will be the last ones to get notified."

On DE Chase Young:

I think we still have a little over a week to make that decision, but he is trending in the right direction. We'll have to see how things unfold this week as well. But it is coming."

On what he saw looking back at the tape:

"I thought there were a lot of good things. I really do. There were some real positive things that we did. Some things we can be better at. I really liked the way the coordinators in all three phases handled the game. We got rolling a little bit after we gave up the fumble recovery, which turned into seven points for them eventually. I really thought the offense answering the way they did, driving down, scoring right after it. And then, I thought the defense settled in and had a stretch where they were really dynamic. Got after the quarterback a couple times, made some plays, downfield. I do think there are some things that we can do better. There was little detail things that we gotta be better at. I think it was amazing to me we ran the ball, I think it was 49 times. And we only had one negative run, one tackle for loss, and that was one for one yard. I thought that was very impressive as far as our offense was concerned. Defensively, we fit the run well at times, and at other times we didn't. Their formations gave a little bit of trouble. I think we over adjusted for them individually. I think the coaches got 'em on the sidelines, got those things corrected. We were trying to limit their explosives. We did give up a big long pass, but because of the effort that we got from [CB Benjamin] St-Juste and from [S Darrick] Forrest, I thought causing the fumble and recovering it really led to some good things for us. So, there were a lot of positives that came out of this."

On what he wants to see them maintain:

"Well, I think it's about acknowledging the fact that we ran the ball pretty well. I know we ran the ball 49 times. I think we only averaged a little over three yards a carry. But, there was some really good mixing it up in there. The reason a couple, several of those carries were less than a yard, a little over a yard was because we were in third and short a couple of times and we converted. We converted a fourth and one. So when you're gonna have those, we scored a couple of touchdowns on a goal to go that were from the one and two-yard line. So your average is gonna be off a little bit, which is fine. We made a commitment to the run. I liked the play calling. I thought we mixed it up very well offensively and defensively for that matter. I really do think running being the focus, we showed to ourselves how it can help, how it helps slow down a pass rush,

a very dynamic pass rush a little bit and how it helps with our play action as well.”

On what factors go into the quarterback selection:

“Yeah, I mean, you have to look at the momentum. You have to look at what the mood of the team is. Obviously there's a lot of factors that go into it. A lot of things that I'll have to discuss with Scott and Kenny for that matter, which we'll be doing a little bit later. And then, like I said, I still haven't sat down with Al and gotten the full report and what to anticipate as far as Wednesday, Thursday, Friday going forward if everything's clear.”

On what he wants to see from Young this week:

"It's exactly that [full speed]. The things that he's gonna have to do in a game, he's gonna have to do full speed. He's gonna have to have a little more confidence and really be able to stick that foot in the ground and work off of it and play off of it and that was one of the things that we saw that we were a little concerned with. Jack [Del Rio] hit the nail in the head, we're not gonna expose him until it's time to and I know the 21 days coming up pretty soon but our anticipation is we will be activating him at some point though.”

On if he sees the quarterback decision different than any other ones he's had to make:

"I don't and the reason being Matt is you look at what is best for the team and at the end of the day, that's how it has to be. There's a great saying that you treat everybody the same, you treat everybody fair, but you treat everybody according to the team and that's what this is about so, decision being made would be about the team first and foremost. One thing that I've always done is whoever the starter is, I'm gonna commit to 'em fully because I don't want them looking over the shoulder. I want them to understand this is the opportunity and this is where we're going with it so whatever the decision is made after my conversations today and tomorrow morning, that's what we're sticking to.”

On if the quarterback decision is a long term one or in regard to Sunday's game:

"That's regard with playing the games as the game as they come. Remember, everything's one game at a time. I'm not getting ahead of ourselves. We're gonna focus in on winning one game at a time. I've already seen stuff, people talking about what happens the next two weeks and then going into the Giants. No, we can't get ahead of ourselves. We have to focus on Houston and I said this yesterday, we'll come up against a very well-coached team, very disciplined team. Coach [Lovie] Smith has a plan. He does things very regimented and he is, he is very steadfast in the way he does it, which I really believe is one of the right ways to do it. I was fortunate enough to be on his staff when we went to the Super Bowl, so I know he's a very capable head coach, so we're coming into this game with the right attitude. We gotta make sure that we are.”

On the challenge of hitting the reset button after an emotional win against Philadelphia:

"That's exactly what it is, it is a reset button. We've not arrived by any means and I'm gonna get on my young guys tomorrow because with the way they were celebrating in the locker room, the best thing it shows that this is the first time they've been there. People tell you act like you've been there, well, I'm gonna give them a little grief for that. I get it. I appreciate the energy and the excitement now we have to understand, act like you've been there, because now they've been there. So, let's get refocused, let's get ready to face Houston because again, it's a home game for them. As I said, I've always, you know, appreciated and respected the way Coach Smith does things and I think our players have to understand that.”

On what he has to see to know that this team has arrived:

"It's all about consistency. It's all about consistency. We had a chance the week before last against Minnesota. We didn't close it out, you know what I'm saying? Those are the things that teams that have

arrived can do. They can close it out. We had a chance, we had a lead and we didn't do it. This week, we had a chance, we had a lead and we didn't do it, so again, that's up down, it's up. We just gotta make sure we understand to be a really good team is league you gotta be consistent.”

On what he makes of the team being back in the playoff race:

“It's the parody. I mean, that's the thing everybody understands is that with the way things are today with the way there's a salary cap with the way the league is scheduling things. I think they found a pretty good formula in terms of scheduling how they mix your divisional games in with your conference games, with your non-conference games. Somehow, it's creating a lot of parody. I mean, sure there's a couple of elite teams right now that have very good records, but I think the parody within this league is starting to show itself. I think a lot of people are beginning to understand that this is a quarterback driven league and everybody's trying to find. And think about if you have 32 teams with 32 quarterbacks they like, you're not going to have a whole bunch of runaway records. You're going to probably have a little bit more parody like we're starting to see. And I think that's kind of what everybody wants. They want to see that everybody's still in the competition. Everybody's still in, everybody's still fighting. Because it keeps the excitement, if you can keep this going into late December, early January, you have a chance and that's what happened to us a couple years ago and that's what I like to see us continue. So we'll take it one at a time and this coming weekend will be another opportunity for us and we've got to be ready to hopefully put ourselves in a good position.”

On the plan for the right tackle position:

“I like what we did this this week. We're reintroducing [T] Sam Cosmi into playing and getting him some reps to see exactly where he is and we'll evaluate that as the week goes.”

On what his mother would be proud about from the win in Philadelphia:

“Was just how resilient they were. How they played. I always tell everybody she was my biggest supporter and my biggest critic other than my wife. Dad said in his eulogy on my mom was mom's the one who taught him football. He was a baseball guy. So my mom knew the game. And so she understands what it takes to be successful and it would've been one of those things that she'd have told me what she thought and I really do believe she would say she'd been really proud with the way we played.”

On if he is keeping the game ball:

“No, I'm sending it to dad. In fact, I literally just put it in the box and sealed it up and sent it to him. It's something that'll be very special for him to have.”

On RB Brian Robinson Jr.'s performance:

“Well, I think the big thing about the statement thing was once he was told about it was okay, that was interesting. And I think that's where he left to categorize it as interesting. I think the important thing and the focus was about running. We talked about it with [Running Backs Coach] Randy [Jordan]. We talked about it with [Assistant Running Backs Coach] Jennifer [King], with the coaches. And then we talked about it with [Offensive Coordinator] Scott [Turner] and we made sure that the running backs understood we were going to commit to the run. This was one of those games and we were going to run the ball and he loaded up for it and he came with the right mindset and got after it.”