

November 17, 2022

## **Offensive Coordinator Scott Turner**

### **On the running effort on Monday Night:**

"Not just the run game, but just in general. Are we having successful scoring drives? Are we moving the ball down the field? Obviously, yards per carry weren't great, but we had 49 attempts. A lot of those were short yardage attempts where certain ones, we get a yard, that's good enough in that situation. Some of those runs down on the goal line, so your average is going to be a little bit lower. We knew it was gonna be that type of game. We wanted to grind it out. We wanted to get in third and short and convert. We were able to do that. Obviously, the first half set the tempo with going nine for 12 on third down. We didn't have a great start to start the game and then we scored on five straight drives. That was good and we wanted to get a lead going into halftime, we did that. The yards per carry wasn't great, but as far as the run game, it was effective cuz we had a lot of 'em and we were able to stay on the field."

### **On if the running group is starting to ascend:**

"I mean, I don't know. I think you said sustain and that's tough. I mean, it's a week to week league. I mean, that's a pretty good defense that we did that against. So if we can do it against them, I mean, we might as well. The biggest thing is just like I've told the guys, I love to run the ball. We gotta convert third downs in order to get those calls. So as long as we can continue to do that when we're in those third and shorts, we have a better opportunity to convert. Every game's different. 49, I think that's the most runs that I've ever had calling a game. Probably not gonna get that many, but we've got 42 before, we've gotten up to those numbers. If you're doing that, you're probably doing some good things. So, like I said, every game could play out differently. I am happy we're getting some of those guys back. I just think a lot of our guys are getting better too. We got some young players that are getting more experience and they're getting more comfortable and confident and they're getting better as the season goes on, which is what you wanna see."

### **On RB Brian Robinson Jr.:**

"Yeah, that was really cool. I didn't realize it was 26 carries until after the game. You're kind of in the middle of it. Like I said earlier, there wasn't anything flashy about it. Obviously got in the end zone, was a hell of a run and effort. Talked to those guys about being physical and setting the tone. He really led the charge with that, so that was good to see. I think as he keeps running the ball the way he does, I think his vision will keep getting better and better and you're gonna see some bigger runs come out of that."

### **On only one rush being for minus yards and if Robinson's ability to keep moving forward played into it:**

"Yeah, I think so. I think he'd had some lost yards in previous games and we didn't want to get behind the sticks on those guys. They have a really good pass rush. Obviously, they had the sack fumble early, which is what we were trying to avoid. We got that out of the way. Those are the types of situations we didn't want them to be able to tee off on us and that was our plan and our players did an outstanding job of executing it. Everybody. Obviously, B-Rob was a big part of it."

### **On how QB Taylor Heinicke is able to flip the switch:**

"I think he just, he has a short memory. I mean, he's a confident guy. He understands like a lot of good players that, you make a mistake, you move on, don't let it affect you. And he does the same when he has a big play positively. You move on to the next play. You never get too high, never get too low. The sack fumble is not on him. I mean, he's getting the ball out and he gets hit in the back. I mean, it's unfortunate. Then the interception, he is probably a little greedy, but I mean, they got it on the seven. It was a third down, whatever, it's like a punt. You move on to the next play. Like I've said about him after the Vikings game, when obviously it was negative or anything that happens, he's gonna walk that line and I don't want him to lose his stinger and you want him to be aggressive and that's why everyone loves him. We coach around the other stuff and you want him to be a good decision maker, but I want him to play confident and loose and that's what you're gonna get from him sometimes."

**On if he gives him any advice about the starting quarterback position being undecided:**

"I don't worry about that. I mean, Taylor's been through a lot in his career so he doesn't really take much for granted. He's an ultimate team player, so he's ready to go whatever his role is. Obviously he's a competitor and he wants to play. He's gonna be starting this week and coach will obviously make those decisions as we go down the road. I don't worry about him with that stuff. He's good to go."

**On QB Davis Mills and if he is evaluated based on his last six weeks last season:**

"Yeah, I don't know. I mean it, yeah, maybe. I mean, it depends who they're playing against. I mean you're still playing an NFL game. I mean, you still gotta go execute those plays. I think, yeah, I think you gotta kind of take everything into account. Some games are a little different than others. What you want to see really though is just, it's hard with a small sample size, but you wanna see sustained success and consistency when you're making any type of evaluation on any type of player. I think you guys gotta give credit to guys for what they do and just understand that it's probably not the full picture."

**On what he likes about WR Terry McLaurin running a slant:**

"He's fast, he's physical, and somehow some way he's going to catch it. And it might get on his body, but he's going to find a way to get it done. He might get hit as soon as the ball gets on him. But, there's a high level of confidence that I have that he's going to end up with the ball at the end of it. That's a physical route where guys, a lot of times they try to sit inside or they play it and with his speed, toughness, and competitiveness, he finds a way."

**On temptation to run that same route repeatedly because of its success:**

"Yes and no. I mean obviously Terry does a nice job on it, but you want to mix up stuff with the route tree. Obviously, the slant we ran, the go routes complement those. If you're going to just sit inside, you're going to get run by, you know what I mean? So, Terry's obviously done a nice job with those over the course of the year. He had caught a great one in the third quarter of this past game. So, Terry can do it all. Obviously, he does a great job on the slants, that's a route we're going to continue to work to him with. It gets harder for some coverages when other people get involved, you know what I mean? That's an easy route to double. But if you play him one on one, you're going to get a lot of different routes from Terry."

**On why they've been able to convert more third down situations in the first half:**

"They were short. I mean we had six third and ones, you know, we converted five of them. I think we had a couple third and twos, we had a fourth and one that we got, third and threes and it goes to the run game. Like I said, it wasn't flashy, but getting that three, four, I felt like I was pretty stubborn with it. We wanted to get after those guys. I talked to the offensive line about challenging them and the backs saying, Hey, set the

tone and be physical in this game. And I wanted to try to give them the opportunity to do that and they did that. And then I said, when we get in those third downs, we got to convert whether it's running or throwing, and we did a nice job running. I mean we ran one on third and four when we were able to pick up a first down on our first scoring drive. So just being balanced, making the defense defend everything. And then we had a couple plays where guys got open.”

**On how he balances being patient with the run and wanting to have explosive plays:**

“All the time. We got good talented players on the perimeter, you want to get them involved. The defensive lines that we play against week in week out, everybody's got guys up there that can ruin the game. So you got to get them to do things they don't want to do, which is set their pads and, and play the run and that takes in effect. I mean I just saw some stat that [DT Javon] Hargrave played 70 plays or something in the game because we had 81 of them. I don't think they want their snap counts to be that high. So to keep those guys on the field and make 'em defend everything, that allows you to get a little more time. Now you can throw the ball and get some of those plays down the field.”

**On defenses playing them differently because of their depth at wide receiver:**

“People pay attention to [WR] Terry [McLaurin], they had some coverage stuff where they were rolling to Terry a little bit more than they had shown, rolling to individual receivers on tape. Other than that, no, we've had guys in and out of the lineup. Maybe we're getting a little bit more too high than other people because they don't want to give up the big plays, but that enables us to run the ball kind of like we did as well. I wouldn't say other than just maybe paying a little bit of special attention to Terry at times. There isn't anything that's glaring.”

**On how much of the offense is focused on the wide receiver group:**

“I think you feel good that everyone can make plays and we designed stuff for certain guys, but if it gets a second and third read, you still feel good that the play's going to be made. [WR] Dyami [Brown] had that unbelievable catch that set up [K] Joey [Slye]'s career long kick before the half. [WR] Jahan [Dotson] had the big catch that got us down inside the five and I think that was their only catches of the game. And you know, you like to get those guys the ball more. Terry had eight catches, I don't want to get him any less and we ran the ball a lot. But just having guys that are going to make the plays when the ball comes their way and earlier in the year Jahan had a two touchdown game. It goes back and forth based on the different looks that you have and that's where you feel good about it. And our group, so unselfish, those guys are great. Terry's talked about just cheering for each other and how happy they are when another guy makes a play and it's genuine. As long as we're being successful and we're scoring and we're finding ways to win games which we have other than that Vikings game. Recently, I think everyone is enjoying themselves.”

**On game planning while molding an identity for the team:**

“I think those things go a little bit hand in hand. Every week is going to create a different set of challenges based on personnel or scheme. So what you see from a defense may affect how you plan on attacking them. With all that being said, we know our strengths and what we try to do as best as we can is match our strengths against the other teams' weaknesses. And sometimes you just feel so good about your strength that you say, hey, let's see if they can stop it, even if they're good at stopping it. But we try not to be that stubborn hardhead all the time, most of the time. But you know we're going to give our guys chances to

make plays. And maybe it is something that defense does good, but sometimes you got to find out if they can stop it.”