

December 15, 2022

## **Offensive Coordinator Scott Turner**

### **On how much of an adjustment it is each time there is a change at center:**

“Just for the quarterback and like then the communication, those linemen they spend so much time together. They're pretty good of like communicating amongst that group. Just like the snap's a little bit different, maybe the timing on the gun snaps. Taylor [Heinicke]'s worked with Wes [Schweitzer] before, so it wasn't hard to get back in and Wes, he's done this play guard, he play center, so he'll be fine. But there's just that little bit of adjustment when you kind of start the practice week.”

### **On how the run game can be more explosive:**

“That's a good question. We vary the runs. A lot of times it's whether it's getting that extra block down field. There's always gonna be one more guy. There's always one more guy that because of the quarterback, that we can't block, so whether it's making that guy miss, getting the receiver on him and then the corner kind of sunk in and you break that extra tackle. We've been really close on a lot of runs. I think as the game goes on sometimes you can kind of break through it and I think that we'll get some more long runs. I'd like to see that. I like the fact that our guys are being physical and we're grinding through some things and that's where for me, even though maybe we're not getting some explosive runs staying patient with it because we are churning it out and getting some first downs that way. And like a guy like Brian [Robinson Jr.], again, like as good as he's played, he's still a rookie and I think we've all seen him improve and I think those will come too like as he continues to improve that.”

### **On what the biggest growth for WR Curtis Samuel has been from his time in Carolina to now:**

“I think just his confidence. Just going back into the history, he came into the league and I wasn't there with him his rookie year but he's kind of been like a tweener type guy. He was kind of a half running back half receiver at Ohio State and when you're there it's like not sure exactly which guy you are and he came in more so as a receiver and just working at it. And then obviously last year was really tough on him because he just couldn't get his body right. As much as those guys try to ignore it, there's criticism and I think part of him, and I'm not wanna speak for him, but I think he kind of felt like he was letting people down that like, hey, we, you brought you in to be this. Just him getting over that hump and his body being good and then the success that he's had both as a receiver and then also running the ball. He feels like he can do anything as he should and he's done an outstanding job this year and been a really good player for us. And I think he, again, same deal. He's a young guy too, even though he's been in the league for a while he's young and he's gonna keep getting better and better too.”

### **On if he has any clue why Samuel has been rushing the ball better this year:**

“No, I don't. I don't know. I think obviously he is fast. He plays very fast. He gets the ball out and around the edge. He finishes runs for a guy that's not very big, like he's very physical while getting tackles so that adds and gets those extra yards. I'm not sure. You could probably tell me. I don't know where it is as far as yards per carry. I knew he was something around that. I didn't know what it was before. But yeah, I think he's getting better. Like I said, he is playing with confidence and he gets up field fast.”

**On if WR Jahan Dotson having a good game against the Giants was because of getting more reps with QB Taylor Heinicke or something else:**

“I think it with Jahan, I think a little bit of it is just the situation that we are in. We threw it a little bit more earlier in the season. He got hurt. He came back when he first came back, his snap numbers were lower, you know what I mean? We're kind of playing other guys as well and we didn't wanna overload him, especially coming off a soft tissue injury. And then we were running the ball a lot and then obviously Taylor and Terry [McLaurin] have such a great rapport, so we're throwing the ball to Terry and the past attempts were down. Obviously, Terry's gonna get his. We're getting the ball to Curtis [Samuel] and the ball just didn't seem to go his way. We had some matchups that we liked and obviously he got some more balls this past game and I think it'll continue to go that way. And part of it is, I'm sure it is that like, Taylor didn't throw to Jahan very much all through training camp because Jahan's with the starters and Taylor wasn't. So having an opportunity to throw to him in practice now a few weeks and then in the games, that has something to do with it too. But I think the biggest thing is just the way that we're running the ball. Everybody's attempts or targets are gonna go down a little.”

**On how QB Carson Wentz has been since his finger injury:**

“He's been really good. Credit to both him and Taylor. I mean Taylor spent the year last year as a starter and we brought Carson in to be the starter and Taylor took him in and said, Hey, how can I help you learn this offense? And they golfed together and they became friends and a lot of guys will do that. It's kind of like, it's maybe not genuine, but with Taylor, I've always got the feeling that it was and they formed a genuine friendship. So obviously it's hard on Carson. He wants to play, you're a competitor but to his credit, done the same thing with Taylor and he doesn't miss the meetings. He was sick two weeks ago but he's in there using his experience in this league to help Taylor and ask questions maybe Taylor might not think about. And I think those guys get along really well and it's a credit to the type of people that they are.”

**On T Sam Cosmi playing guard and if we will see T Cornelius Lucas and Cosmi splitting time now that G Trai Turner is back:**

“We're kind of talking through that. Obviously, Sam got hurt in the last game. Had the ankle, so he's practicing. I think he's fine, but he's still kind of working through that. I thought Sam for his first-time playing guard there's some things to improve on, but he did a nice job in there. That might be something that you see a little bit more of going forward. Like I kind of said the last time we talked, whatever we can do to get our best five out there, we're gonna do, and obviously we like Sam as a player. I'm not sure exactly now we're still talking about how much if, if we're gonna rotate those guys based on part of it is injury related as well.”

**On what makes Cosmi a guard versus a tackle:**

“He's got the size to be a tackle, you know what I mean? And the athletics skills. But he also has that physicality that you need at guard and he is a little bit of a bigger guy. Sometimes those guys at tackle, it's hard for him to move inside because now you're blocking those 300-pound nose guards and three techniques and they get overpowered a little bit where Sam although he has the athleticism and body type to be a tackle, he has the strength where he can play inside as well and that's what gives him that versatility.”

**On the challenges WR Curtis Samuel and his explosive ability present to an offensive coordinator:**

“Yeah, for sure. It's more like I got to like contain myself. Like I don't want to kill the guy, but you come up with like a million things and then it's like, all right, narrow it down. What are the best things, you know what I mean? And then again spreading the ball and then let us attack the defense so they don't know exactly where it's not just all Curtis all the time or [WR] Terry [McLaurin] whatever it is. But no that's a good problem to have. And what you try to do is just try to focus in on not only what does he do best, but like what

schemes do we block the best, what routes of the quarterback throw the best? And then, you know, what does the defense not do so well? And then just kind of marrying all that together. But when someone gives you that many options with what they can do, it helps make the puzzle fit together.”

**On WR Terry McLaurin potentially reaching one thousand receiving yards next game:**

“I feel great for Terry. I get we've had some games where he doesn't get the ball a lot and that's like always the one that gets me the most because I know how important it is to him and I know how good of a player he is and it's like, we got to get him the ball. And he's such a good guy, he doesn't show it. He doesn't show frustration, he kind of lets it out on those games where he does get a lot of targets. Because I know how he can impact the game and he knows that also so anytime that he gets that credit, I'm happy for him because he deserves it. He deserves a lot more too. I saw the one stat over the bye week of the sixth player ever to have over whatever it is. That's not a lot of guys. So, Terry's great and I'm always happy for him.”

**On QB Taylor Heinicke not running as much as other QB's:**

“I think he did a lot of it obviously last year. So I think there's been some opportunities to scramble that he had there where he could and we encourage him to do that. I don't want him to take a bunch unnecessary hits. But people have kind of identified that with him too, where he is getting a little bit of extra attention. We've seen a lot of zone coverages where there's a lot of eyes on the quarterback. But there have been some opportunities I think where he can get out and scramble and maybe just steal a first down a game because that helps. That helps a lot and that's stuff that we've talked about.”

**On if QB Taylor Heinicke scrambling less being is part of his evolution as a quarterback:**

“Yeah, and that's something I think we've talked about in the past is like, you want to make it through the season. And you know that Tampa game, he was like this might be the last time I ever played football in my life. So he was laying it all out there and you got to kind of pick and choose your spots, you know, because he's not the biggest guy, you know, those hits, they take a toll and especially over the course of a season. So, he knows how important he is to us and our team and he's got to be able to take those opportunities around when they're there, but also protect himself. And I think he's been a little cautious as far as that goes. He's not wanting to take those big hits.”

**On what gives WR Curtis Samuel the mental and physical ability to be used in different spots:**

“I don't know what gives him that ability. I guess he's smart, but that is the thing. I've said this before, he's one of the smartest guys that I've ever coached. I mean, if he makes a mistake and then you correct it and then he doesn't make the same mistake twice, we could pretty much line him up anywhere you just tell him to play, he memorizes it and he's good to go. He's kind of one of those guys you tell him something once and he's got it. So that's what makes him versatile. There are guys that necessarily have Curtis' skillset, but guys that can kind of do both and move around. But mentally they don't play fast because you're overloading 'em and they can't learn all of it. But Curtis does not have that issue. He studies it, but also, he gets it. I think football just makes sense to him. So you explain it, some toward scheme or something to him and he gets it and understand where he wants to be and plus a lot of times he's getting the ball and guys seem to remember the plays where they get the ball.”

**On RB's Brian Robinson Jr. and Antonio Gibson being on the injury report:**

“It's the nature of the position. I mean you're a running back, you get hit because you got the ball. Everyone's swarming to you. But those guys managed it through the week they're still practicing just a little limited. They'll be good to go.”

**On QB's Taylor Heinicke and Carson Wentz relationship:**

"I mean, just the situations that they've been put in. I mean Taylor could have been upset when we brought Carson in and then Carson could have been upset and neither one of 'em has shown any signs of that. So I'm sure that they had their moments where they felt like that, but they didn't let it show here and they didn't let themselves be bigger than the team."

**On the role change for RB Antonio Gibson:**

"He's been really good, same type of deal. I mean, he's been supportive of Brian [Robinson Jr.] and then also he's just hungry for touches and carries and he's ready to do whatever he needs to do to help the team. Unfortunately [RB] J.D. [McKissic] got hurt, but then Antonio kind of moved into that role and he's got the skillset set to do that. So, he's just been eager and just wants to play and like all these other guys, they want the ball, you know? And they want to do what they can do to help win."

**On what makes G Wes Schweitzer a good Center:**

"He's a smart guy. He's stout, you know what I mean? He's physical, he's a wide body, but he's smart and he can get those guys lined up and then be a good anchor inside to help with a clean pocket."

**On how tough it is to know the Giants had players rushing free off the edge:**

"That's where we got to really focus on getting the ball out of our hand. And then with the depth of the quarterback, that's why we got to be firm inside, because that a lot of times those guys, they're coming off the edge, but the quarterbacks like 11 yards deep and those tackles are trying to push 'em up and through and over the top. So, Taylor can step up in the pocket and when you're retreating, you're just making the job easier on a defensive end. So, pass protection all works together. The ball's got to come out, the receiver's got to get open, the ball's got to come out and then the quarterbacks got to be where he is supposed to."