

December 16, 2022

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On his feeling about DE Chase Young:

"No, it's not any different to be honest. He's had a couple of really good days, just where his progress is in terms of where he feels about it. We'll see how he is tomorrow, and then we'll get him out there early Sunday and go from there.

On if his confidence has increased:

"I've seen it. It's one of those things where we're looking for that cut-loose, just 'go.' We'll have to see how he is tomorrow and we'll see how he is Sunday."

On if Young is able to go 100 percent given their lighter practices:

"There's certain movements that you look for that tell you that you either want to see or you don't want to see. And that's the thing that tells you that he's ready, he understands it. He just plants [his leg] and goes."

On if there are other movements he's looking for:

"Well, just pretty much football movements. The only way you're really going to know is when you play, because that's when everything is ramped up."

On getting time on the field:

"It's to see that, to know where you are in terms of that. Last year, remember we talked about Saquon not being the guy. Well, crap, you look at him now and you're like, 'Man, that dude is back and he's an impressive player.'"

On if there's a way to simulate the weight-bearing of facing a double-team:

"No. You can't. [It's] just trusting it and going. So we'll see how feels tomorrow, and we'll see how he feels Sunday, pre-game."

On QB Taylor Heinicke:

"It's crazy because I've thought about that. There are several moments in every game that we've played that you sit there and you see it. You see when he takes what's given there. There are some things in the Green Bay game that you really saw that you said, 'Okay.' The deep ball he throws to Terry [McLaurin] for the touchdown. I mean taking the step, hitting it at the right time, putting it out there. Some of the quick throws that he makes, getting the ball out of his hands and getting it out there quickly. Every now and then, he sees something and he tries to force it in there and something bad happens. I mean, those are the things that you wanna see eliminated and you wanna see the consistency going and going and going. You see it in the two minute drills, especially the one you saw against the Giants. I mean, some of the things he made were exactly the way it's drawn up and that's what you wanna see him do. But because of his ability to escape, his ability to improvise, that's the thing that you get excited about. Because again, you want a guy to be able to manage the game, control the tempo, make plays, and then when you need something, make something. And

that's what he's done. And that's what you go with right now.”

On if there has been any thought of using both quarterbacks:

“There has been, but when? That's the thing that we have to look at.”

On the rookie class:

“I like the class to be honest with you, just because you see where they can be. You know, you look at the two young DB's and the way they've played Percy [Butler] and Christian [Holmes] have been exceptional. They don't get enough credit because apparently whoever does all the ratings, all those numbers out there, they don't rate the play on special teams. I mean, when you look at what those guys have done for gunners, for us, being gunner for us, the two fumbles that we got recovered on punts were both those two guys that were directly involved. You see the ball getting down inside the five, several times. Both those guys are directly involved. And so it tells you and we talk about this myself and Martin [Mayhew] and Marty [Hurney] and Eric Stokes and our guys, if you watch young guys on special teams, some of 'em will show you just who they're gonna be. A guy that hasn't had a lot of opportunities yet, but Chris Paul is somebody that's gonna make a mark. I say that because when you talk to some of our veteran defensive linemen, they talk about him as being a guy that can lock you up. And they've told me unsolicited, they've come to me and said, wow, coach, we gotta keep an eye on this kid. And it's that saying, players know players. He's a guy to keep an eye on going into this future. I mean, we've really paid a lot of attention to him. Unfortunately, Phil [Phidarian Mathis] gets hurt. Fortunately, we pick up JR [John Ridgeway] and I watched some tape yesterday on him. The tight ends were doing some drills. And so JR went over and helped out and he's got some quickness about him that you really don't see because he's typically doubled on the inside. Now he's working against these tight ends, rushing the passer because they're working on their past protection and he's got some pretty quick hands and he's got a nice quick jab step too. So, there's something about that kid, I think that's gonna be a guy that's gonna help us going forward as well. I think Sam's [Howell] got a bright future. He's a guy that has an opportunity to really be competitive for us at some point.”

On the glue guys in the locker room:

“Absolutely. I mean when you get past Terry and Jon who both have really grown into this leadership stuff, they've done a tremendous job. But a guy like Jeremy Reaves is somebody that gets the message and shares the message. You want to talk about a perfect example, his first year he doesn't make the 53 and then the next two, he's been on the 53 because of the way he's done things, how he's handled things. That's what you look for. That type of guy that, you know, that's not, like you said, a first or second round or a top notch player, but a guy that can help bring things together. That's the perfect kind of guy. A Logan Thomas, a veteran guy like him who understands the stuff like that. He helps pull these guys together too. He's kind of got that sage about him where he'll draw on his experience, have been in the league as long as he has. But he's a guy that came to us a few years ago and has really assumed that role too. I mean, losing him last year was huge. I don't think people realize that. Even though he's, he's hurt right now. JD McKissic is a type guy that can do that for you as well. So those are the kind of guys that you want to have in the locker room to help you solidify that and trying to find the young guys to do that too. Now that's also a big part of it. Some guys that are starting to show their personality is what you're looking for. Eventually, the veteran guys are gonna move on at some point. You just gotta have the next group of guys ready to, to ascend.

On which young guys he sees having that type of skill:

“Christian Holmes has flashed a little bit. I know he has been on special teams a lot doing some of that stuff in a quiet way. And we know he is quiet. Jahan [Dotson] he's got a lot of traits like Terry does in terms of the way he plays, the way he handles himself. He is a guy that at some point you'll want to step up and say something. A guy that's gonna be a little bit edgy as we go on is gonna be Sam Cosmi. I think Sam's putting

himself into a position that eventually he'll grow into a leadership role in that offensive line. He's just, as he matures and grows and understands and he's out there, you know, staying healthy, he'll have a voice."

On what he looks for in leadership traits:

"It's example. The way you do things, the way you practice, you prepare. Another guy we've all talked about has been Brian Robinson. Even before his incident in training camp, you could see it, guys gravitate to him, they follow him. That's, what you look for. That's something that's been a big plus for us that we have several of these young guys that have gotten people's attention. Now it's them learning and understanding their role."

On if they feel better about last year's draft class:

"Oh yeah, very much so. We liked it. We did like it last year as well. But the guy that's really kind of I think getting everybody's attention, obviously his D-Foe. He's the guy last year, unfortunately we had to put him on IR early on and we activated him, got him going. You could see some of those traits because of what he did on special teams. He played fast, he played physical, he made plays. So we kind of felt that if he got a chance, and then during OTAs and mini camps, he's a guy that's running into everybody and hitting everybody on accident. But you just tell, I mean, he's a high active guy and so that's a guy that you gotta keep an eye on this year. The two guys is obviously a Percy [Butler] and Christian that you gotta watch cuz you just see all the movement and you guys know that one of the things that we look to do and want to do a few more is we're playing safeties mostly because that's kind of what's going on in this league is you see the way teams are going, the impact of tight ends, the bigger wide receivers. If you don't have enough corners like Benjamin [St-Juste], you're gonna need the next best thing, which is safety's that can run well. Percy can run, that's what him exciting, Kam can run. So we've got guys that can do that. Even Bobby McCain. He understands run fits. So bringing him down in the box is a natural thing for him. So you want that kind of guys at that position."

On the value of special teams:

I think there, yeah, there still is. I mean some guys, they do everything they can to avoid it. And you could see it. They're the guys that when during training camp, when you do those rows and rows of reps, they're the ones that always seem to be at the back of the line. And as it gets close to the line, they end up back at the back of the line again. And you gotta stand over there and you gotta kind of talk them into doing the drills. And you just know that's not a mindset right now."

On if he is ever miffed by that:

"Without a doubt they don't get it. But that's how a lot of guys make their opportunities. You try to stress it. One of the things I always say to them, say you want to impress me as a young guy, you wanna impress me, impress me on special teams. I know I mentioned it, I go back to Jeremy Reaves. He had a great camp. He really did it my first year. And he barely missed it. But that's when I told him, I said, look, you're gonna get your chance. I promise you that first chance we get to get you off the practice squad, we're gonna activate you. I stay true to it just because he deserved it. Look at him now. And that's what I'm trying to get these guys to understand. We don't, if a guy gets hurt and we put 'em on IR, we're not really out there looking like a lot of teams look for guys, we want these guys to be homegrown. We want these guys to be ready to get an opportunity. We can plan."

On if it is important that they are homegrown and know the system:

"That's part of it is that they know the system, but also it's the right message that if you work hard, you're one of the guys and we give you an opportunity. When your chance comes, we're gonna stick to that. And when you can do that, it just shows the guys that, 'Hey, when we're talking about this, we mean this.'"

On how excited he thinks the team is to finally play a game after the bye week:

"I think they are pretty excited about playing the Giants again. I know we've had a whole week to think about a tie. It was funny because I'm still not quite sure how to describe it. And we talked about that when we got together Tuesday at one o'clock, so it's still kind of that feeling. We've had a lot of good energy. We've been focusing on what we do and what we want to do against these guys. [S] Jeremy [Reaves] stepped up during the meeting and just told the guys, 'Hey, great energy, great practicing, we're fired up, but let's stay focused.' And that's really kind of where they are. I mean, it's one of those things that if you're not careful, you could say this is a trap game just because everybody's telling you that you'll get 'em this time, you're at home and all that stuff. But that doesn't mean anything. 'Oh, they didn't play well last week.' That doesn't mean anything. They played against a very good football team and they've got a number of injuries. What we gotta do is stay focused and get ready to play."

On his take on the layout of the locker room at the facility:

"Well, it is pretty much always kind of been like that where there's groups that do kind of hang out. There are some that are integrated with the different positions. But for the most part, having an open locker room where you can see each other is probably the biggest thing. There's been all these psychological studies about what makes a good locker room and the one thing everybody says is if it's open, you can look and see each other and see who's across from you. And that's supposed to be a really big deal. We let them play cornhole in there."

On if he has ever played cornhole:

"I've played it, but I don't go down and play. What I've got to do is practice before I play."

On why he took the ping pong table out but will allow cornhole:

"Not necessary because it's not the ping pong table. It's just that when you come in, let's get focused. Let's take whatever little thing out and let's just focus on us, and then we'll worry about all the other stuff later."

On how difficult it will be to contain Giants QB Daniel Jones on the ground:

"Well, just the biggest thing more so than anything else is just the discipline of what you're supposed to do and how you're supposed to do it. That's the biggest thing. When we watch tape of other teams and we sit there and say, 'Oh, this guy should be using this technique.' And then all of a sudden, 'Well he should have, but he didn't.' So, you see that the undisciplined play is really where he exploits it. A lot of times people when they play teams that run the zone read, they have a guy assigned to the dive and they have a guy assigned just to the quarterback. It could change. When you watch, there was a play from last week against Philadelphia. Philadelphia's running a blitz. They're bringing a safety off the corner and linebackers diving inside. The safety goes and he hits the dive player who doesn't have the ball. Daniel Jones pulls at the corner, who should obviously be outside contain, he folds inside and Daniel Jones goes rights around the corner. That's the thing that if you don't do your assignment, he's gonna make a play."

On how often they can use a spy without divulging anything:

"Well, it depends. If you're rushing five, you shouldn't need to have a spy. So that's one thing. If you're rushing three or four, that spy guy is very important. But he's also a guy that based on what coverage you're in, he's got another assignment that he's also gonna be part of. Typically he's a guy that's down in the hole or he's a guy that's down on one side or the other in terms of having the seam. The reason you do that is because it's opposite of where the rush is going. That way if he does roll, he's rolling in or dash or break the pocket. He's breaking the pocket the direction you want him to, so your spy guy is ready for that play. See what I'm saying? So, a lot of that just depends on how you want to play the guy and what you're expecting

from the guy. One thing we used to do is we always used to go and say, if a guy likes to roll a certain direction, then what we want to do is we want to take the guy away from that direction and say, 'Hey look, you have to now fold inside and be ready for him to break it.' Because if a guy's rolling this side, that's a long way to throw the ball back. And if he throws it back that way, then I'll take it. But you're the guy that's gotta be the guy that's gotta keep an eye on it."

On if there are any players he is excited about specifically that will get some more recognition on the national stage in this game:

"Wow. Well, a guy like [RB] Antonio Gibson who's just a very steady player. I know he didn't have the kind of camp initially that a lot of people thought. People were down on him, but he has been about as steady and true to form as anybody. So this is good exposure for a guy like that. We got a young group of tight ends I think that will be kind of neat. Guys like DFO [S Darrick Forrest] and [S] Kam Curl, those are the kind of guys that as people begin to know who they are, it'll be good for them."