

December 20, 2022

## **Quarterback Taylor Heinicke**

### **On how he feels:**

"I'm pretty beat up right now but that's the game of football. Lots of treatment this week and be ready by Saturday."

### **On stretching the field a little more:**

"I think it's some things we saw on film from the Giants defense that we felt like we could hit some shots downfield. Jahan [Dotson] made a great play this past Sunday night. We missed on a couple of others. We had that flea flicker and another one that we missed. The more we can do that and connect on those things, it just opens up the offense that much more so we don't have to have those 15-play drives. Again, the story of it is when we get in the redzone, we have to score touchdowns. That's the biggest thing we have to work on."

### **On a number of players that have multiple skillsets and if that is a challenge:**

"When you have a bunch of guys that can do a bunch of things it just helps the quarterback that much more. You can see it in San Fran's offense. You have a bunch of gadget players whether it's Deebo [Samuel] or [Christian] McCaffrey, it just opens up that offense so much more and makes it hard on the defense. The more we can do with more of our guys, it helps us tremendously. I think Curtis [Samuel] is one of those guys for us."

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

"Yeah, obviously the whole deal that happened during training camp put him back a few steps and I think his first couple of games back he was trying to feel out his knee at the time. You can see him very comfortable with the offense and he is running really hard. It's really fun giving him the ball and you kind of turn around and see him carrying five guys down the field. It gets all the players going. We saw Sunday night, the fans were super juiced too. He brings a good little spark to the offense."

### **On if he saw his rushing game as an impact on Sunday:**

"I think the more I can use my legs when I need to and it be a positive, it just helps us out and is another thing that the defense has to worry about. I was really hoping I could get to that pylon there. [Kayvon] Thibodeaux did a good job closing that out. The more I can use my legs when it's needed will help out the offense a lot."

### **On the starting quarterback position:**

"For me, I just try and focus on well if I am starting, ok. I am going to focus on the game and try and go get a win. If they want to go with Carson [Wentz], great, I'll be the best backup I can be. That's the most I can do. As I said before, I just want to control what I can control. That's coming here every day and preparing like I am going to start. If my number is called, go out there and give it my best."

**On his conversation with Ron:**

"As long as there is clear communication there shouldn't be any hiccups there. I think Coach Rivera does a great job of that so we will see what happens."

**On the Capitals Game:**

"So Tress [Way] told me he was going to do something and I guess after they won the Stanley Cup, [T.J.] Oshie, chugged a beer over his jersey and I saw Tress doing that so it was a lot of fun. I think it was a good time, we had this planned for a while. Unfortunately we lost on Sunday but it was good to kind of get out, forget about the game, get the bad taste out of our mouth. We came in today ready for San Fran. A lot of people want to sit at home and kind of keep thinking about the game. I think it was important for us to get out, have a good time together, develop those relationships and get the bad taste out of our mouth."

**On the 49ers defensive front:**

"More of the same I did this past week, just focus on my footwork. Try and put those offensive linemen in the best position they can be in. We have full confidence in those guys. They did a great job against Philly when we played them and they have a good front. It's a challenge for those guys but they're looking forward to it."

**On playing with so many centers:**

"The same thing last year. Late in the year we had Keith Ismael who is actually on the Niners so it will be good to see him. We went through four centers last year as well. Coach Matsko does a great job getting all of those guys prepared just incase their number is called and they have come in and done a great job."

**On if this game is similar to the Philadelphia game:**

"Yeah, it's pretty much the same feeling. Great offense, great defense, we will have to play a really clean game. We are going into a dog fight. This time the playoff implications are a little bit higher. The guys know the task at hand and they're prepared for it."

**On knowing they control their own destiny:**

"Yeah, that's what you want at this point in the year. Obviously that Sunday Night loss was big and we are upset about it but at the same time if someone told us in the beginning of the year, you have three games left and you control your own destiny, you would take it all day. Obviously it would be nice to get that win but we control our own destiny and that's all we can ask for."

**On the team's offensive identity:**

"Yeah, when we were on that winning streak their, we were running the ball well. Lots of play action and third down conversions that we needed to and we were scoring in the redzone. The defense kept playing and doing their thing. If we can keep doing that I feel very comfortable with this offense. I've said this before too, when we have those offensive penalties that put us behind the chains, it is tough for us as an offense to overcome that. If we eliminate those, once we get down in the redzone and score touchdowns, I feel very comfortable with this team."

**On the social media trolling:**

"Yeah, I mean obviously they were watching, and listening and stuff. I'll say that the J's they picked were hideous. I understand what they were doing. Commanders colors, I get it and they're poking a little at us, but it is what it is. That's part of being rivals and hopefully we'll get them back maybe in the playoffs this year or next year."

**On 49ers QB Brock Purdy and if he roots for him:**

“100 percent. Obviously not this game, but when I watch him, I'm rooting for him. The guy was Mr. Irrelevant. He's a shorter quarterback. A lot of guys didn't give him the chance being drafted the last pick of the draft. I kind of feel that similarity towards him. He's doing a great job, man. You watch the film, he knows what he's doing. He throws a nice tight spiral. He's moving that offense well. Our defense got a tough task on their hands. Hopefully he can take a week off and not play as well.”

**On the process of running:**

“I feel comfortable with my legs. I feel like I can make some things happen. Obviously I'm a smaller guy so when it's time to get hit, I'm trying to get down. You're not gonna see the quarterback powers like Cam [Newton] used to run, stuff like that. But there are some plays that we have in our offense that allows me to read somebody and get some stuff from my legs. I feel comfortable with that at all times. It's not like I haven't ran in a year, so I feel comfortable with it.”

**On if he feels he has to keep it at times to keep it honest:**

“No, again,, when you start thinking like that you might pull it when you don't need to and you're taking a two-yard loss and you're taking an unnecessary hit when maybe B-Rob or AG can pop a big one. So again, there's a fine line there. You gotta make a right decision. When you do, try and get down before getting hit.”