

January 5, 2023

## **Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio**

### **On how the season got to where it did:**

“You play the season. You do the best you can to prepare each week, go out and compete and you have to live with the results. That's what it is.”

### **On what he looks for in the final game:**

“Same thing. We always look for really. Obviously they're lofty goals. Win a championship, get yourself in the tournament, have a chance to compete for that championship. But being professional, showing up every day, being strong, doing the right thing for your teammates, for your team, looking to compete no matter what we're doing, no matter who we're playing, looking to compete. So, those are the things that, that I focus on.”

### **On if anyone in particular he is looking to evaluate:**

“Everybody gets evaluated. There may be a few guys that are forced into duty with some of the injuries we've had. So, we'll expect those guys to go in and give us their best, see how they've developed during the year and what they've learned and let them express themselves. Put your best foot forward and show us what you got.”

### **On the big picture of the defense this season:**

“A lot of good things. A lot of good things. I really appreciate, respect, love the guys, the effort, the, the commitment to this organization. Preparing hard every week, going out and giving us what they have each week. Sticking together, through adversity and things. I think it's been outstanding. I think there've been a lot of real positives. So ultimately, as a team, we wanted more out of this year, but I'm proud of the effort that the guys gave.”

### **On keeping DT Jon Allen and Daron Payne together in the future:**

”Yeah, I mean that's gonna be a big one. Obviously, Daron's been outstanding. We got both. Those guys are tremendous football players and a big part of what we do.”

### **On what his NFL future holds:**

“Yeah, I mean as long as I'm enjoying myself and I'm good at what I do which I am doing both right now, I feel like I love what I do. I do it because I love it. I'm not doing it because I'm trying to rise to some position. I have a wealth of experience as a head coach, but if that opportunity comes, that'd be great, but if it doesn't, I'm happy doing what I'm doing. And really, I've enjoyed my entire time in the league. I enjoyed being an assistant strength coach, my entire time in the league has been a blessing and it has been a great honor to do what I do. Competing every week and every day. I love it, and that's why I do it.”

### **On DE Chase Young against Cleveland:**

“Yeah, I think Chase has been solid in the two outings. Look forward to him playing again this week. He's had to, you know, he worked really hard to come back and he brings toughness and awareness that is at a really high level and he's one of those guys that just loves to play. You could see it in his performance. You

see it in his supportive teammates. He has a lot of passion for the game.”

**On if there is one or two players that have exceeded his expectations:**

“I didn't really prepare my thoughts along those lines. I'm really, honestly, it's been one week at a time. Who's the next opponent? What do we need to stop? Who are the playmakers, what do they like to do? Those types of things, where do we have matchup issues? Where are we gonna take care of these guys? So, I'm into that part of it right now. We'll get into the evaluation part, but it's hard to really look back and do that right now.”

**On if there is enough time in the offseason and does it affect the team:**

“I don't feel that way. I think we have plenty of time and I think the guys make a big commitment. It's the off season and how that goes together, I feel like it's an important time but I think we get all the time we need. I don't think time's an issue.”

**On if he worries about this offseason given the uncertainty:**

“I'm not a worrier. I'm a guy that brings the best I can each day, enjoys the moment. I don't look at it that way. This is a time of year that can be the other part. This is not the best part, but I enjoy competing and working and doing the best I can to help the organization I'm with. And that's how I look at it.”

**On S Kam Curl:**

“Yeah, I mean Kam's a real good player. He does multiple things. He can play like a linebacker, he can play like a nickel, he can play like a safety, He plays a lot of different spots for us. He is really intelligent. I think he has a calming effect on the rest of the guys. But, our approach is never to make excuses about not having guys. It's just to prepare our guys and go out and do the best we can to compete and give our football team a chance to win. When he's not able to go, we plug in the next guys and sometimes it's a rotation of guys for a guy like him, because he does multiple things.”

**On LB Jamin Davis:**

“Yeah, I think he had a solid year. I think there's still more there. He's got a lot of natural talent. He matured this year, played at a higher level and there's more there. Look forward to continuing to develop him and get more confident, mature play out of him. But, I think he has made tremendous progress this year.”

**On the turnover margin figuring in wins:**

“I mean, yes, that's an obvious question and the obvious answer is yes. I mean really the biggest difference right now is as a team we're minus whatever it is in the turnover category and that's not a winning recipe. You look at Dallas, the biggest thing they're doing different is they've got a huge turnover margin in their favor. That's a big part of the game and might be the biggest stat. A lot of stats are looked at. Sometimes they come, sometimes they don't. We're gonna continue to stress the things that we're stressing to get the ball out to take our opportunities for interceptions to create fumbles. I know that Defoe [Darrick Forrest] has had some plays that where you're seeing the effort to go and chase to the ball has led to directly to turnovers and that's what you wanna see out of eleven guys.”

**On Bills S Damar Hamlin:**

“I did say something to the defense. I said that I thought it was a beautiful thing to watch, just the NFL experience that I've had, men of different backgrounds, different races, different religions, all that stuff seems to be, recently a lot of emphasis on separating us. And I saw everybody coming together and everybody offering support. Everybody showing love and respect for each other. I saw a huge group of people holding hands and praying together. To me, that's the best to me. Our country and our world can see more of

that cuz that's the best in humanity. And to me, that's what I know about the league. And so when I hear about other things, I'm not saying there aren't some things that can be done better, made better, but that's what I know. I have a lot of good people that I've played with over the years, coached with over the years, different backgrounds, different races, and it doesn't matter. These are brothers. It's a brotherhood. These are people that I love and respect and so that's what I took out of it. Now obviously praying for the young man and I've heard good news and am continuing to hear good news. So that's great. We'll continue to pray and support him and his family.”