

September 4, 2025

Defensive Coordinator Joe Whitt Jr.

Opening Statement:

“Okay, new season. So it's always good to start off in the division, in my opinion, start off the right way playing New York [Giants]. It starts with the play caller [Giants Offensive Coordinator] Mike [Kafka] is going to call it and he has flavor from Kansas City, but what they've been doing there, I know he has been a trusted guy for [Giants Head Coach Brian] Daboll for a while so I don't anticipate too much being different, but we're going to do our due diligence there. The [NY Giants] quarterback Russ [Russell Wilson] has the experience of being one of the best deep ball throwers in the league since he has been in the league. And with the weapons that he has outside that makes it a challenge. I think [NY Giants RB Tyrone] Tracy [Jr.] is a really good runner. He has patience. He can, he has really good contact balance. He can find the cutback, really good patience and the lines working together from this preseason to create those holes for the runners. So, it's going to be a good fun challenge for us. And we're excited, we're excited to finally get into football and games that matter. Not saying the preseason doesn't because it does in its own right, but these games start counting for what we're trying to do. So, with that, I'll have any questions.”

On what makes Giants WR Malik Nabers dangerous as a receiver and defending against him:

“What makes him dangerous is, he's a really good athlete, okay. But right after the catch is what he probably does best once he gets the ball in his hands, he is very dangerous. He can lead people. He has the power to run through arm tackles so that makes him dynamic. He can catch the ball in different planes as well. He's one of the better young receivers in the league. Are we better equipped to cover him this year? We'll see on Sunday.”

On what he likes about the secondary:

“If you've been out there at practice and we have to bring our practice to the game field; we've been really sticky. Alright. We've challenged the press, been more of what I envision of our secondary being that what we were necessarily last year from a standpoint of just being very aggressive and getting up. And so, I've been pleased with the way that those guys have challenged routes and turned the ball over and communicated in doing those things.”

On what he's seen from LB Von Miller:

“Well, you know Von, he first, he's a professional. He's come in and really helped all the guys with all the knowledge that he's had over the years. You know, I was with [Former Carolina Panthers defensive end] Julius Peppers later on in his career when he came to Green Bay, and they're very similar to very good pass rushers. They're different guys, but very good pass rushers. And Von still has a very, very fast first step. He can bend, he's quick. And so, all those athletic ability things he still has. And then with his knowledge I'm excited to watch him play on Sunday.”

On DE Dorance Armstrong's progress this year:

“A complete football player, you know, he's not, just a rusher. He is not a guy that just can play the

run. He can do it all. He can play on first and second down outside on third down, you can kick him inside. You can play, you know, a six technique, nine technique with him, three technique. He's just a complete football player. He's a really smart man. I know he doesn't say a lot, but he can communicate and when we're running games and when we're changing things up front, he can communicate that with the other d-linemen. So, he's one of the leaders on this defense. And, um, he's had, like you said, he's had a hell of a camp it's going to show up."

On what he's happiest with in regard to the defense:

"From practice and practice is practice. It's just the play style, right? We've been very aggressive, very intentional with what we've been doing. The communication is just better than what it was at any point last year. I've been just pleased with how the guys are connected and playing as one and playing with the aggression and the downhill mentality that we want to play with."

On what he's seen from the run defense:

"Like I said, during the off season, we were changing some of the techniques up front and then we had added some players and I think the d-line coaches have done an excellent job of getting the guys to understand how we want to play it, how we want to hit blocks. We have some larger, longer men up front that have the ability to do some of the techniques that we're going to ask them to do. So, I envision that we're going to be much improved in the run area."

On expectations for the linebackers this season:

"You know, when you have [LB] Bobby [Wagner] and [LB] Frankie [Luvu], leading the linebacker core, I mean they're two of the best linebackers in the NFL. And that's basically what you've seen is those two guys bonding together working together. And then you know, [LB] Jordan [Magee] missed a lot of training camp, but he has, when he comes back, he's just picked up where he left off, which was in a good place. And then we have the young guys, and the young guys are in a learning phase right now and hopefully they won't have to get out there because we have the lead dogs playing."

On navigating talent versus scheme when it comes to the secondary:

"You know, back when I was in Green Bay, I think it was in 2014, we had a very, very talented secondary room. I think out of that room, maybe through, through their career, seven guys made Pro Bowls. You know what I'm saying? It was a very talented room. You had [FS] Micah Hyde, [CB] Casey Hayward were [CB] Sam Shields, [CB] Tramon Williams, [FS] Ha Ha [Clinton-Dix], [SS] Morgan [Burnett], so you had a ton of guys. And what I would go in there and tell those guys is the best guys playing, other guys watch. And that's just what it is. So, the guys that deserve to play, they'll go out there and play and we'll put packages for people to get guys on the field. But what I'm not going to try to do is to appease a guy, hurt the defense with trying to just get a guy on the field. No or get yourself into the package and you'll play, and we'll go from that standpoint there. So it's a good problem to have. I'm not going to try to make something, somebody happy just to play them and hurt the defense. That's not going to be a part of what we do."

On what a successful game would look like for CB Trey Amos:

"That is a scheme question there [laugh]. Trey had a good camp okay and [Defensive Pass Game Coordinator] Jason Simmons done an excellent job with him and we're going to put him in positions that are beneficial to him. But I'm not going to tell you if we're going to help him or not. He, you'll, we will see that on, on Sunday."

On having the pieces he needs for a fast and free type of defense:

“Yeah, I think the speed's right there with the length and the size of the men. Especially on the back end, you have an older guy in [CB] Jonathan Jones, but he still can run like a deer and Amos can run and [CB] Marshon's [Lattimore] healthy. So, you'll be able to see his ability to hit the top end speed. I'm, to answer your question, yes, I, I think we have what we need to go out here and play really good defense.”

On being able to finish games being a point of emphasis over training camp:

“You know, practice is practice but, we have to bring it to the field, but when we've had competition periods and done things such as that we've done a really nice job. And so, if we can do what we've done on the practice field on Sunday and on every game day we'll be in the pocket that we need to be in. I've seen it in practice now, we just have to do it in games in practice last year we weren't turning the ball over, we weren't beating in the offense in those situations. It has been different this year.”

On Wilson's deep ball throwing ability and defending that:

“He hit one against us last year, won the game. It was a bad call by me. And because I understand, I know I've been against him enough to know that that's what he does best and making that call in that situation wasn't very smart. No, he can do it. That's what he does best. He throws the ball really good outside in numbers deep. He gives his guys a chance to go make a play and that just gives him a chance to make a play. He places it very well on those deep balls. He's one of the best that's done it, and he's done it for a very, very long time.”

On how having experienced guys in the room changes his coordination style:

“That's a good question. I don't think it's a very simplistic question, but what changes for me, I think is the way that the guys study. I can put a little bit more on their plate because when you have veteran guys, not only Von, but a [DE] Deatrich Wise [Jr.], [DE] Jacob Martin, they know how to study. They're not just rookies that are just watching film. They understand how to study film. And so, you can give them more nuggets and more nuances to the defense than you could give a younger type of defense.”

On if the team has more playmakers to take the ball away this year:

“I would definitely like to see us take the ball way more [laugh] but we'll see. I think we've turned the ball over a lot in, in camp. We've had a number of interceptions we've punched the ball out, but that's practice. Okay. Alright. It has to translate to the game. Am I confident that it will translate to the game? I am alright, but until we do it and do it on a consistent basis it's still up in the air, but we, but we have to do it.”