### THE WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

21300 COACH GIBBS DR. ASHBURN, VA 20147



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### Offensive Coordinator Kliff Kingsbury

### On key players on the offense not being available:

"Yeah, I mean, everybody goes through it in this league, but I think just we haven't consistently been able to practice as a unit since training camp started. And I think that's where maybe some of the inconsistency is showing up, particularly on third downs just seems like we're a little bit off. But as a play caller you just adapt to the personnel and our staff has done a great job getting those guys ready to play and the guys are making plays when they have been caught upon. And so, it's been cool to see those guys step up and make plays."

### On Chicago playing them differently based on the offense's personnel:

"Yeah, I think teams are going to challenge you with a little more man coverage if they want to see where you're at with wide out and what those guys can do. And I thought the guys responded and made a bunch of plays."

### On the strain it puts on a quarterback having limited reps with wide receivers:

"Yeah, it's big. I think that's a great point you bring up. That more than anything is if guys aren't practicing during the week or you haven't been able to consistently work with a guy throughout training camp, throughout the season, it's not easy when the pressure's on and the lights are on to get on the same page. But like I said, I think they've done a great job and Jayden's [QB Jayden Daniels] done a tremendous job of kind of lifting the group up and has the guys playing at a high level."

### On an update for G Sam Cosmi:

"Still working through it. He's big, physical, looks big, strong, fast. We'll see how that kind of progresses throughout the week, but I think he's made strides, so I'm not sure if it'll be this week, but I like what I've seen."

#### On the receiver group:

"Yeah, I think they're answering the call. I think you look at [WR] Chris Moore had a big touchdown catch, Luke [WR Luke McCaffrey] continues to make plays. [WR] Jaylin Lane gets better and better each week. So, I've been really impressed with the guys that have been asked to step up. They're doing it and it's not easy to do when you haven't had as many reps as other guys and then all of a sudden you're kind of thrown in there to be able to understand the offense, execute a high level, make plays when the lights are on. It says a lot about kind of their character and their mentality."

#### On G Chris Paul:

"He's a guy who, from day one, us getting here till now, I mean it looks like a completely different human, just the way he plays, he's changed his body really got in shape and he's just a physical presence for us in the run game and in the pass game. When he gets his hands on you he is really hard to get around. And then just, he's one of the best communicators I've ever been around on the O-line really talking through things, talking through protections and run game and points and things of that nature. So, the O-line really appreciates that about him. And so, he is just been a real pleasant surprise actually this season to see him step up and that left side with him and LT [T Laremy Tunsil] has really helped us run the football well at times."

# On RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt's fumbles and on the balance of needing to learn as a young player versus using other running backs:

"Yeah, there's a fine line to walk. I think we're bottom part of the league right now in turnover margin and that's really holding us back from kind of taking that next step, I think as a team and Bill [Croskey-Merritt] knows he has to protect the football. I mean, that's first and foremost when you talk about running back responsibilities and I think he'll continue to get better, continue to learn. And I've said it from the beginning, each game is a new experience for him and he is going to learn from a takeaway and it's two weeks in a row that he's put on the ground and he knows the expectation moving forward is that that can't happen."

### On what McCaffrey needs to do to get more playing time:

"Yeah, I think we have a good rotation with him and we like what he's doing, the role he's been in. But as the thing goes, he'll continue to earn more reps, and we'll see how these other guys come back. I don't know timetables on everybody and when they'll be back exactly. But yeah, I think I like the progression he's at and when he's in there, he's playing at a high level."

### On the tight end room and on the group progressing as pass catchers:

"Yeah, I mean [TE] Zach [Ertz] is one of the premier route running, pass catching tight ends in league history and so we call upon him and a lot of those situations, throw downs, two-minute, things like that, but [TE] John Bates, [TE] Ben [Sinnott], [TE] Colson [Yankoff] are all very equipped to do it as well. They just haven't had as many opportunities because of Zach's kind of presence in that room. But I really like how that room's developed in the run game in the pass game and it's definitely a entire room that's ascending."

## On McCaffrey's impact on special teams and on how much that effects his playing time on offense:

"Yeah, there's some of that. Like I said, I think we've brought him along at the pace that we wanted to and I wanted to, and it'll continue to expand but it's definitely part of it. When he is returning kicks like that, you want to make sure you don't wear the guy out."

### On if it was a point of emphasis to get Ertz the ball against Chicago:

"Yeah, it's just how the game goes. We have a lot of talented players. So, it's going to be week in, week out. When we have that full repertoire of skill guys out there of who gets the ball and which way the game goes. But he's a guy who's always going to be quarterback friendly. He's going to present himself and be open and he made some real critical plays the other night."

### On if he's found a reason for the team's struggles on third down:

"I have not. I wish I knew. We're working through that. We haven't played very well in third down. I mean we're, I know near the bottom of the league and I think that combined with the turnover margin, very fortunate to be .500 at this point. Because those are two critical areas but it starts with me game planning and play calling and then we just have to, the sense of focus and urgency on that down the distance has to get better. Because we have to continue to stay on the field and

we can't rely on fourth down every time to keep it rolling."

### On what he saw on Daniels' first quarter interception against Chicago:

"Yeah, I think there were a number of things that went into that play, but I liked that he cut it loose. We just needed to be more detailed overall, I'd say, as an offense on that play."