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General Managers Adam Peters

Opening Statement:

“Welcome to Indy. Thanks for being here and before I take any questions, I have one little small piece of news, which, bittersweet but very happy for [Former Washington Director of College Scouting] Tim Gribble, and I don't know if you guys know this yet, but Tim Gribble, who's been our director of college scouting for almost, really worked for us for almost a quarter of a century, been an outstanding employee for long before I got here. He had a great opportunity about a month ago and he's going to Pittsburgh to work with the Steelers and [Pittsburgh Steelers General Manager] Omar Khan. It's a really cool deal for him. It's his hometown and his wife's hometown and so really excited for him and his new opportunities. But I just wanted to take this moment to thank him for all he's done for our organization. When I got there, he was just outstanding helping me out however he could. Salt of the earth guy, like you can't find one person that doesn't love him. And so, he'll be sorely missed, but I just wanted to wish him well and thank him for all he's done for our organization and you know, hopefully we don't get into too many head-to-head battles, but, really happy for him and his family. So, that's really all I got for the news, and I'll just take your guys' questions now.”

On the plan to replace Gribble:

“Yeah, that's a good question and right now we're just going to absorb that with a bunch of different people until we get after the draft. And then we'll do, we'll look at some, we have some really good candidates internally and then we'll look at some external candidates to fill that role in. But big shoes to fill, but we'll be excited to do that.”

On how he plans to approach the draft this year compared to the last time the team had a top-10 pick:

“Well, hopefully the same [laugh], but yeah, I mean every time you, I mean you approach everything the same and you want to really uncover every stone and do all the work on all the different possibilities, whether that's, you know, you stay and pick, you trade back, you trade up and you want to be sure you have all your bases covered because you don't know what's going to happen on draft day. If a team, you know, wants to trade up from 27, you have to be ready for that. Like, who's going to be there at 27? Is that worth it? You know, or do you want to trade back, you know, not as far or all those things. So, every process is very similar. We want to make sure you cover all your bases, know everybody in the draft, not just the guys that are in the top seven or whatever because you never know what's going to happen. But we're working really hard. Our college staff's been grinding since really August in the summer. So, we have a great, kind of setup up right now. And we're just getting into that after we get into the free agency really digging into the draft. But those guys have been doing work all year, so we'll be ready to go.”

On traits he's looking for when evaluating players for the edge position and evaluating players

arm length:

“Yeah, I think, I mean, to answer the first question. You know, evaluating the edge, just guys that, you know, fit your scheme and your profile. And we have new scheme this year with [Defensive Coordinator] Daronte [Jones] and so, but I think a lot of that stuff carries over. If you're a really good pass rusher, you're always going to, you're going to, you know, you like pass rush is going to weigh more than run defense, especially the way this league is. But I mean, ideally you want [Cleveland Browns defensive end] Myles Garrett, you know, that's who you want, but there's only one of those guys walking on the face of the earth. But a lot of those same traits, right? And you know, long, fast, explosive, can turn the corner, can finish all those things. In terms of guys with shorter arms, and there's a few in this draft that are really, really good players. Arm length is a, I mean, I can go into days on this arm length thing because every time you measure somebody's arm, it could be 30, 31, 32, 33, just depending on who measures it. So, you get a pretty good idea of how long their arms are with that. But you really how well they play with whatever length they have. Some guys have shorter arms that play with great length and extension all the time. Some guys have really long arms that don't use that, their length as well. So, you know, it's great to have that length, but it's also how they use it and how it comes out on the tape. And so, some guys can excel with shorter arms by doing things differently, but you know, ideally you always want to have the air on the side of a longer person yeah.”

On teams building continuity and longevity at the offensive coordinator position:

“Yeah, I mean, I think it's hard, but I think you, that's just this league, you know, and we had what, 10 head coaching changes. So, there's just always going to be turnover and volatility just based on the way this league is built and run. And a lot of teams have done really well. Like, you look at the [New England] Patriots, they got the Super Bowl this year with a new coordinator, albeit a really experienced and good one. So, it just matters, you know, how quickly you can implement that. And so, you know, when you do that, what's your plan? Like, how are you building that for success with the players that you have? You know, starting as soon as you hire them, how are they building the installs? How are they teaching it and how quickly can the players learn and adapt and excel in it? So, yeah, sure. It's hard. It really is. But, you know, that's our jobs.”

On how having a young quarterback affects decisions around coaching changes:

“Yeah, I think, you know, with [QB] Jayden [Daniels], you know, all of our decisions are really in consideration of him and this one especially with keeping [Offensive Coordinator] David Blough and their history for the last two years of working together. So that helped a lot, you know, and that, that gives us a lot of confidence. They have an incredible working relationship and David's an incredible coach, so that will help speed up the process for sure, where you don't have the getting to know kind of trust building factor that trust is already built. So that'll really help us moving forward. But, you know, I think that's everything you know, we're going to be doing is going to be with Jayden in mind.”

On if a final decision has been made surrounding CB Marshon Lattimore:

“No, we haven't made it a final decision there. There's a lot of things that go into that and, you know, we'll still have a few more conversations but, you know, until then, you know, he's still on our team.”

On plans for the pass game coordinator position:

“Yeah, coaching staff question, like, I don't want to get too deep into that, but you know, that's the plan is to absorb that, you know, somehow, some way. Whether it's internally or externally. But, you

know, we've had some conversations about that, but, you know, really what we want to do is make sure we surround David Blough with as many people that can help him as possible to ensure he has every chance of success. So yeah, we'll do that.”

On the plan to continue forward with Gribble finding new opportunities:

“Yeah, it, that is a good question and I think, you know, I think it, obviously it's not orthodox for a college director to leave at this time. So, we will have our work to do, but I think in terms of Tim, you know, I really, you know, that was a personal thing for me too. When I was a college director at Denver, I got asked to go to the 49ers, which was in my hometown team and a great man by the name of [Former Denver Broncos VP and General Manager] John Elway allowed me to do that. And so, I wanted to pay that forward, and I think Tim has earned that, more than earned that really with his 24 years of service to us. And so, you know, that certainly is not going to be easy, but I really have a lot of confidence in our staff to make up, for the next few months at least to pick up the slack.”

On the challenges of building a defense under a new defensive coordinator:

“Yeah, so that's a really good question and I think, you know, it's going to be a little bit different in terms of the players we're looking at and looking for and what we're looking for in those players. A couple weeks ago, when after we hired Daronte, and both him and David did an incredible job for us. They presented to the whole football staff, you know, their vision for offense and defense. So, David went first and talked about offense, our vision, our scheme, and then got into the particular players and what we're looking for in those particular players. And they painted a great picture for us, and Daronte did the same. And, you know, it was really super impressive. First of all, those guys are both really, really smart and really, you know, I'm really excited about them, but Daronte did a great job of painting the picture of what we're looking at in this and how the front's multiple, so it doesn't have to be, you know, it's not just super specific, but if a guy can do multiple things then, you know, that the versatility is probably more of a premium now. But, in terms of that, they've done an incredible job painting a picture for us and giving [us] an idea of what we need to go do to help them find those players. So, and then now that's our job to go find them.”

On the importance of getting a deal done for T Laremy Tunsil:

“Yeah, I don't want to put a timeline on it but it is really important for us. We've been having talks and we've been having good and productive talks with Laremy and his team and you know, we're as motivated as ever to get that done. But I don't want to put a timeline on it, obviously, I don't think either side wants to drag it on, but I don't think the league year is anything that's going to be a deadline of sorts.”

On if he would give San Francisco 49ers WR Brandon Aiyuk a second chance and his relationship with DT Javon Kinlaw:

“Well, Aiyuk is a player on another team under contract, so I can't comment on that. Second chances yeah, I think everybody on earth deserves a second chance. And so, with Kinlaw, I mean that was an interesting one. Kinlaw earned his second chance and really, you know, he earned every single bit of it. And so, I wouldn't kind of call his a second chance, so to speak, I think because I had the familiarity with him and understanding the type of person and player and competitor he is, that that helped factor into that decision. But I think he earned every single bit of that by the way he came back from his injuries and everything to be a really, really good player. So, in terms of Brandon, love the person, but can't really comment on the player they players.”

On if Daniels needs to change his style of play due to injuries:

“Yeah, I think there's, you know, some of these injuries, right, for anybody are freak injuries and things that would happen to anybody. But Jayden's well aware of you know, just being able to protect himself and understanding the importance of that and being available and, you know, we've talked about this a lot, but he certainly understands that. But it's not just on Jayden, it's on all of us. It's on, you know, our scouting staff, to find the receivers and the linemen and the running backs to support him. So, he doesn't have to do it all himself. It's on the coaches, you know, with the way they coach him and what the call, the plays we call on the scheme and everything like that. So it's a team effort, but certainly it is a premium to keep him healthy for sure.”

On how the communication has been with Daniels:

“You know, I couldn't put a, I mean, we talk about it a lot, but like, I don't know if there's a number on it.”

On trying to keep Tunsil out of free agency:

“Yeah. Laremy's under contract for this next year, so, yeah. So, he's got one more year on his contract. Yeah.”

On the decision to bring back G/T Andrew Wylie:

“Yeah, Andrew. One, I can't say enough good things about him, the person and the player. He's what we would call a ‘true commander’ in terms of his work ethic, his competitiveness. He's an elite teammate and he is super versatile and he can line up at four spots. So, he is super valuable. I think he's, you know, he is still got enough talent to start and you know, so he was super, he was a priority for us to bring back, you know, and there's a number of those guys, but Andrew was at or near the top of that and we're thrilled to have him back and you know, I just can't say enough good things about him and the more the guys like that you have, the better your team's going to be.”

On if he learned anything new about Wylie's versatility during the season:

“Yeah, I think, you know, I learned a lot about him this year and just, you know, the type of human being he is, like we had a contract that we had to restructure last year, and the way he responded to that is better than I could ever imagine myself responding to. Like he is an outstanding person, you know, a team first person, and so, that was the first part, but just being around him for another year as a human being and understanding what he means to that room and to the offense in general, just really impactful in a lot of different ways. And then obviously like then you get onto the field and a lot of it's, you know, I mean, first it's the selflessness of going wherever we need him to go to help the team. And then two, his talent and versatility to go, it's really hard to move from the left to the right, from inside to outside. So, you have to have a lot of talent and just really a great work ethic to be able to do that stuff. So, couldn't be more impressed with him as a person or a player and really honored to be working with him.”