



DETROIT LIONS VS. WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

FORD FIELD

Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026; 12:00 PM ET

POST-GAME QUOTES

LIONS HEAD COACH DAN CAMPBELL POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

Opening Statement: “We got off to a shaky start, but then we overcame. I thought defense played good football – really good football. It was disruptive, and we got us some stops, and got us back in. We capitalized on offense. We had some really, for the most part third down, fourth down were obviously good for us. You know the takeaway — I thought the special team was the factor in this game. I know it is preseason too, but I thought our coverage unit(s) were good. We forced penalties. (Lions P) Jack Fox pinned them. I thought the kicks by (Lions K Jake) Bates on the kickoffs were important – he's getting better at them. I just thought the guys played fast, and so defensively we were able to play in their territory a ton and keep them backed up. So that was good. A number of these guys I thought showed up and played at a high level. I can't wait to watch the tape. And then there were some that we'll see, they weren't as good. But ultimately, I'm still feeling good.”

On the performance of Lions QB Luke Altmyer and Lions QB Josh Dobbs: “I thought there were highs and lows. Certainly, you don't want to start the game the way we did. But that's not all on him. We didn't pick up the protection the way we should, so he gets hit there. But he got out of it. I thought that run was big. That's something that he is capable of. That was a big third-down run for a touchdown. And then I thought when he came back out in the second half because we put Altmyer in, I thought Dobbs did some really good things. And Altmyer, I still think he sees the field really well. There's just a couple of things he's got on him, and it's always going to be, from him, about just playing a little bit faster. Can you play faster? Which he just needs reps, and the more reps against the better he is. So, it wasn't perfect, but I thought both of those guys did some good things and there's some things to clean up.”

On the impact of having young players on the roster: “We like these guys. There's a lot of promise in that defensive line that we have. There's a lot of guys. We played (Lions EDGE D.J.) Wonnum for just a tick there, and what I thought he represented was good to see. And with those other guys, once we got him out of there. We got (Lions EDGE Derrick Moore) D-Moore, who hadn't had time. Really just last week with that groin injury – it was good to see. I got to watch the tape, and I just know with him, he's another guy who is a young guy, so the more reps he gets, the better he's going to get. So that was good to see him make plays and he just continues to do so. He doesn't practice, but you can feel him out there. He just is relentless and he plays snap to whistle. And he's all out and he's got to be right – he

does because he's not a huge guy, but he knows who he is and he knows how he has to play and he plays with pride in everything, and he's crafty, he's explosive and he's violent.”

On the current Lions defense compared to last year: “Well, here's what I'd say with that because we had all this up last year and we used quite a bit of it. The difference now is that these guys are in the system and a lot of these things we want to do now that we've been doing. And so, we're much more evolved. And I know they weren't playing, like (Lions LB) Jack (Campbell) wasn't playing, but Jack's got even a better understanding. And then the guys that did, (Lions LB Malcolm) Rodriguez is another year in this, (Lions LB Derrick) Barnes is another year in this, (Lions LB Trevor Nowaske) Now is, and (Lions DL) Tyleik (Williams) is. (Lions EDGE D.J.) Wonnum is understanding the system. Our DB's got this thing. (Lions DB Avonte) Maddox is in there. (Lions CB D.J.) Reed's in there. We're smarter, man. We're more involved. We have a better understanding of time on tasks, with these and why we're calling, what we're trying to take away, where the offense wants to go with the ball when you're calling this stuff. And so, I think that's where we've really grown. And I know it's a preseason game, but that's the biggest evolution. (Lions Defensive Coordinator Kelvin Sheppard) Shepp's done a really good job.

On the performance of the running backs room today, and its effect on finalizing roster decisions: “Pretty good, huh? I mean those guys ran harder. And it's good. I mean, any one of those guys was good to see. (Lions RB Trayveon Williams) 47 made plays, (Lions RB Jacob Saylor) 25 made plays, (Lions RB Jabari Small) and 26 before. But he kind of got dinged there, so there's a concussion protocol. Obviously (Lions DB Aamaris Brown) 42. I thought all these guys ran hard, and I thought they saw it and just kept pushing the pile. So, it was already interesting – it feels very interesting right now, especially after that performance by some of these guys. So, that was good to see. I thought we moved them up front with the offensive line. There were obviously a few times we whiffed, or we didn't target right, but when we were locked in, I thought they moved the line of scrimmage, so that was good. We have a lot of things to clean up. There was still some slop in there that we got to clean up, but it's a good job of winning the game. They played and ultimately finished that game being able to take a knee, and that's – there's nowhere better to play.”

On the transition of Lions TE Jackson Meeks to the tight end position: “You know, he continues to grow. He continues to grow, and this tight end thing is still kind of new, so the good news for Meeks is he's strong – you know, the athleticism. I mean, he was in the receiving room, and he was really a big X – so I think we all kind of know what that is. But he's strong and he's willing. And he's smart. So, it's just time on task. He's another one, but you see how he attacks special teams. He gives our guys fits and special teams, too. Some of these looks, whether he's on that team, or he's giving – say I'm on the opposite of the ball and we're on punt and I'm on punt rush, he will just give our guys fits. So that was good to see. I thought he did some really good things today. He made some critical plays.”

On the status of Lions RB Sione Vaki after missing today's game: “Vaki woke up yesterday and he had something kind of a knot, you know, in his back here that wasn't major, but it's one of those bad spasms where we were hoping we could get it out of there and get him some stuff to hopefully loosen it out, but we ran out of time with it. Now, the good news I told him is that – I mean, he wanted to play – but, he got some really good work coming off of a broken nose and a punched-out eye. So, I'm like, I think we're good, Vaki, for a little bit here. And so, we'll get this to calm down. He'll be ready to practice this week, I would anticipate, so I think we'll be OK then.”

On the competition in the wide receiver room, particularly after a strong performance from Lions WR Lucky Jackson: “It's hard. That room is very difficult right now because guys are making plays. And, you're right, Lucky, there again, he does something every day to catch your eye. I feel like he's really grown in that room as a receiver, what you just said there. He makes plays on special teams, so that's

always going to give you a chance here. I hate to say he's just quietly just gotten better and better, but there are things about that that feel that way. He continues to kind of make plays. There's nothing flashy about him, but he's a handful in a good way. Between he and (Lions WR Tay Martin) 17 – I thought (Lions WR Greg) Dortch made some good plays, I thought (Lions WR Tom Kennedy) TK made some plays, (Lions WR Dominic) Lovett made a couple of plays. It's a strong room."

On an injury update for Lions WR Cedrick Wilson Jr.: "I don't know for sure, a word on that one. I love Wilson, man. He's a smart, crafty football player. He gets it. He can play all the spots at receiver, on special teams. I don't know. We're getting that knee looked at. I'll leave it at that."

On whether the performance of Lions WR Tay Martin on the "little stuff" overrides his limited impact on the box score: "Yes, I would say the opportunities he's been given, I don't feel like this is something where, 'Man, he's had these glowing opportunities that he didn't capitalize on.' I don't feel that way at receiver. I feel like he's made a couple of plays that were there, really hadn't got – now listen, I will tell you, there were two plays today where his number was called for an explosive, and he's open, and we didn't get it there. We either missed some protection, you know, we didn't block the guy we were responsible for, so that takes some away a little bit. But he does all the dirty work, he's pretty smart. Special teams, he created another penalty. He just continues to do good things, man, as a receiver and special teams, so yeah, I think it's hard to ignore him."

LIONS QB LUKE ALTMYER POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On how he felt playing today and his comfort level in the offense: “Yeah, it felt great. Thought we played great today as a unit. Sure, there were some mistakes, definitely not perfect, but man, I thought the backs ran hard. Upfront we were great and out wide. I thought we did a good job and I thought (Lions QB) Josh (Dobbs) did great as well. So, I felt very comfortable. I knew the plan, I was prepared. As long as I know I'm prepared and I'm ready for the moment, I'm good. So, thought we did that. Definitely could have wanted some plays back for sure, but good to win. Great to win.”

On what he learned from last week's game to this week: “Yeah, a lot. I mean, you're playing football again, you hadn't been really playing live tackle football for a while. The practices, you're kind of back there in a red jersey and things like that. So, getting the field back again, game speed is a real thing. So, there were some sacks I could have avoided today that I probably should have to kind of keep us in field goal range. So yeah, constantly learning snap by snap, the play clocks in play. A new defense is in play. So, just learning. Reps, reps, reps is kind of my thing, man. The more reps I get, the more comfortable I get. So, felt great.”

On the atmosphere in Detroit: “Oh, it was so cool. Me and (Lions QB) Jared (Goff) were just raving about how loud it got. Even the fourth quarter. It was late in the game and people were there in a preseason game. So, it was super loud, really fun. People were into it. Wasn't many empty seats either. So, it was just super cool. I mean, this stadium and the city has a lot of personality and I'm glad to be a part of it.”

On finding success in the run game in today: “For sure. I mean, if you want to win a lot of games in any level of football, high school, college, NFL, you have got to be able to run the football, have got to be able to throw the football and have got to be able to do all those things. So, we had some moments where we were really good up front and really had some good runs and some moments to learn from obviously. So yeah, I mean, it's great to have getting second-and-4 and second-and-3. So just, it was really cool to watch our backs run today. They ran hard and love those guys and encourage them always. So yeah, had a good showing for them.”

On if the play in the fourth quarter was improvised between him and Lions TE Jackson Meeks: “For sure. Yeah. We were running kind of a mesh rail type of play. It was a different variation, but a pretty common concept on third-and-short. So yeah, I was expecting man and it was going to be really, really good for man coverage. They end up dropping to a three-deep zone it looked like. And you don't really draw it up for three deep zone, but they played it well underneath. And luckily my O-line gave me a good amount of time to rush for. I was able to escape a little bit and Meeks kind of just found an open space and I just tried to draw the play out as long as I could to do that. I was like, got to have it fourth down. So, it was great to see them keep playing, stretch out the play. Like that's what you don't really get in practice a whole lot. So, it was a good moment.”

On what he hopes the coaches will see when watching this game film: “So, it was great to see them keep playing, stretch out the play. Like that's what you don't really get in practice a whole lot. So, it was a good moment. When the coaches go through your film, what do you want them to say about today? Get better. Get better, man. I'm so young, man. I'm so young in this League. I'm young as a player and I like to be coached, man. I need to be coached. I need to be. And so yeah, each play there's something to

learn on. So, with kind of mechanics and operation, my feet, my drop, seeing the field and playing together as a unit. So yeah, get better. That's the goal. The goal is not to achieve some result. The goal is to get better every single day. So, hope to hear that for sure."

LIONS QB JOSH DOBBS POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On his first game as a Lion and coming back from a rough start: “Yeah, for sure. It was good to be out there, though. I think it was good to compete, be able to bounce back from the first two plays. The first one, we had to do a better job getting the ball out and then feeling like a little bit too much on the interception, but it was good to respond, and the guys supported me and were able to make plays, which I really enjoyed, and good to be able to rally and make plays down the stretch and finish strong, for sure.”

On the mechanics of his RPO touchdown: “Yeah, I think third-and-short, pressure team – clearly, after the second play of the game. So, I was eyeing the nickel, seeing if he was going to come, because we had an option to throw it off of him, but he stayed in coverage. And then from there, the read was just on the end. And I think on the plays like that it’s – obviously the pull, go run for myself, but I think the onus is a lot on the running back to still carry out the fake and really influencing the entire defense. And he did a great job of that and was able to get in the space and make a play and score. So, it was good to get some momentum back on our side. And then we were able to really harness that momentum and – play a downhill game.”

On the importance of the team’s strong response after making mistakes on the first drive: “Yeah, I think that’s really just how this team is built, right? Just from afar in the past years playing the Lions, it’s been an extremely gritty team that fights to the end of the game. And so for me, especially coming in, first impression, first game, you want it to go perfectly. And as you said, it just doesn’t happen in this league. They’re really good too. But to be able to respond and make plays, I thought it was good for myself, but also good for the team. Coming to the sideline, everyone just giving me a slap on the back, supportive and excited to go out there. I think that’s really what resonated well with me. And it was good to be able to harness some momentum, still make plays down the stretch, and pick myself up and go out there and keep competing.”

On getting back to basics despite the current unknowns within the offense: “Definitely, definitely. It always feels good just to be in a stadium game day environment. Practice, I know we simulate as much as we can for it to feel like a game, but when you step in the stadium and you’re in that environment, it’s first-and-10, and then you get a chance to see the success of a play and then a second-and-three and react to the situation, it definitely feels good. So yeah, I think obviously getting here and getting the offense under – starting to understand the offense as much as I’ve had, it’ll continue to grow with the reps and getting out there. But to be able to go out, score points, execute, and improve, I thought was really good today.”

On his thinking process behind his long touchdown run: “Yeah, so as I told them, we’re reading the nickel. If he blitzes, we’re going to throw it. He stayed. So, then my read’s just on the end, and he gave me a full key. I was able to get in the space. I thought the entire offense did a great job of executing the play really to keep the defense on one side of the field, and I was able to score and get some momentum on our side. And from there, we were able to take that and run with it.”

On noticing outside blocks by Lions WR Tay Martin and Lions TE Tyler Conklin in real time during his long run: “Oh yeah, for sure. For sure. I think just because, obviously you’re reading it, and sometimes they can be on the backside of the play, right? They’re thinking the ball’s coming to the running back. So, it can be – per se a play off with those guys. I think it’s a testament to them and how locked in they are to the playbook to go out and still be blocking on the backside to allow me to be able to get in the space

and make a play. So – it's a team game, man. All the big plays, they revolve around all 11 of us on offense and we got to be on the same page. And that's a perfect example of it right there."

On who he goes over mistakes with, like his sack fumble and his interception, on the sidelines: "I go over it with (Lions Offensive Coordinator) Drew (Petzing). My personality, I'm pretty even-keeled. And so no matter what happens – it could be a great play like the run, or the second play of the game where it's a fumble turnover – my mentality, my personality is to be the same no matter what. You know, you're the quarterback. And I think a lot of guys look to us in our position because the ball runs through us on offense. And so, when you make a play, there's still another play to be made. You throw one touchdown in the game, you still have to come back and make plays and compete. And of course, the other team is good too. So, they make a play on you, right? Everyone's looking to you to see how you respond. So, I always want to be even-keeled. And so yeah, coaches will come up to you, they'll talk to you and everything, but my mindset is already on the next play. How can I improve? What do I need to do to execute moving forward? No matter if it was a successful play or a negative play that just happened."

On quickly recovering from and responding to mistakes together as a unit: "No, I mean, it's football, right? It's football. We all want to make plays, and the guys up front, they want to protect me. They're not trying to get me hit. And so no, I think I looked over there. I was like, wow, the flat's wide open. Where's the corner? And he's in my chest. So yeah, it's part of football, and I think that's how you respond. So, as I said, for us to go out, boom, we get the ball on the 10-yard line, we go 90 yards for a touchdown. Then we come out third quarter, put together some really good drives, score, make some plays on special teams, get a big fumble, finish out the game well. Defense had our back all day, no matter who was out there. I think that's a testament to playing good football, complementing football, and really going out there and laying it on the line each play."

On his early impressions of how the offensive line is taking shape: "Yeah, I think they're becoming a cohesive unit. We had a lot of guys getting in there, and I thought the communication (went) really well. In the third quarter, we had a center go down (Lions OL Michael) Niese on the screen, and (Lions C) Seth (McLaughlin) came in there, picked up right where he left off, and was able to finish off the drive. So those guys, they have to be ready. And obviously we talked about the quarterback position, but I think the O-line's also the other hardest position to always be ready because it's the five guys out there, but on any given day, anyone could be up and have to get thrust out there and they're playing against the best athletes in the world and they're going backwards, right? So, I thought they did a really good job today communicating, stepping in there, making plays. I know they'll say we have things to clean up and it's preseason week two, so we got time to get it under wraps, but I really enjoyed being able to be behind that unit today."

On fellow Lions QB Luke Altmyer's performance and ability to quickly process on the field: "Definitely. I thought he operated well. I know he definitely, probably wanted to get in the end zone, but the operation was smooth, especially in the second quarter. Sometimes you stand there, you get the rush of the game beginning and then you got to wait a quarter to get out there. It can be hard. So, he stepped in there, right down the field, was moving the ball. And I thought, again, he does a good job showing a lot of poise, getting an understanding of the offense. And as any quarterback will say, if you're not the guy getting all the reps right now, it's just get more reps under your belt, get more comfortable, so that you're ready to evolve to any situation you're put in."

COMMANDERS HEAD COACH DAN QUINN POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

Opening Statement: “Well, I thought defensively, I thought they came out with a lot of energy and that was good to see, to have two takeaways on the first two drives, I was pleased to see that. I thought there were a couple of pass rush looks that I saw, I saw (Commanders OLB Javontae Jean-) Baptiste on the edge to get to that space. Offensively, a few of the explosive passes. Negative-wise, there's a lot to be desired run game-wise offensively. Didn't like the pass pro obviously on the first series. And then the penalties, especially in the return game that kept pushing us back. And that is one of the things that we have hit the mark on a lot and so to have some penalties felt like the drive, now we're back to the 10, we're back further. And then the last piece, the third- and fourth-down execution, I thought we lost both sides of that and wasn't up to the level that I would like.”

On the plan for the offensive starters and if Commanders QB Jayden Daniels would have stayed in longer: “No, going into it, I knew this was – if it was going to be 10 plays or three plays, that's how we were going to do it, same thing defensively. So I just kind of stuck to the gameplan of what we had. Fortunately, he's throwing an excellent camp and so, I've been pleased with what I've seen from him. It's important to get these looks, but if I set a plan up, I was going to stick to it.”

On starting the game with turnovers on defense: “Yeah, to see – that was a great play by (Commanders CB) Amik (Robertson), and I know there was a big fight for the ball as it got towards the end, so I think that (Commanders OLB Joshua) Josephs was the one that ended up getting it. But even in there to go dig for it and battle, that was a big deal. And obviously with (Commanders S) Quan (Martin) having another one, that has to be just part of what we're doing and how we're thinking and the way we practice, so I like seeing those. And I thought having some chances to get some fourth-down stops today, those are the ones I look back, I'm looking forward to watching the tape tonight.”

On what he saw from the two quarterbacks in the last two weeks and particularly in this game: “Yeah, the thing that I liked, I did see some explosive plays, that were shots down the field. I think one was to (Commanders WR Nick) Nash, another one to (Commanders WR Jaden) Bradley, I liked the catch that went to (Commanders WR Antonio) Williams. So, I thought I'm seeing that in some man-to-man to see the accuracy of where to go, so that part I was pleased with. And when you play a lot of man-to-man, those are the opps that you want to get, so they're battling for it. There'd be a bunch of things we're going to want to look at to keep digging in. And another game coming up, it's so important for them, honestly, in the game, for those guys. Managing the clock, working it all, being in tough scenarios, feeling the rush that they don't do that in practice. So, the next practice, the next game will also be super valuable for both of them.”

On what he saw from the offensive line: “Yeah, there are a lot of groups that went in and out. And so the first crew of (Commanders T Josh) Conerly (Jr.) and (Commanders G Sam) Cosmi, I thought I like how they're playing together, their communication and Sam's really throwing a good camp. He's maybe playing the best that I've seen him play in the couple, three years. Technique, he's on it. I like what I'm seeing on the outside at left tackle. So we've got work to do to figure out where we want to get to in center. But with a lot of people in, it wasn't like a one-line, two-line. So (Commanders G/T Andrew) Wiley played some and then we moved – you probably saw different guys at left tackle, right tackle, rotated guys at guard. So today was about opportunities, giving guys their opps and I'll look forward to taking a look.”

On the balance of giving Commanders QB Jayden Daniels reps in the preseason while understanding that Week 1 is the priority: “Yeah, you want to thread the needle as close as you can. And there are times in practice where he may take as many of the reps as he can. I think we had a tough practice like Wednesday and Thursday and he might've took 40, 45 of the plays, just runs, passes, just so he's getting into the game shape and the rhythm. So, it helps with the joint practices, he can take a lot of those. But all along, the plan was to get him some work in this one too.”

On having the starters only play one series: “I think it's important going through the whole process, getting ready to go, new looks, tackling, all just the space to go. You'd love to break it up, 'OK, you'd play 8.5 plays, this guy plays some,' but it's not really how it goes. So I set the course of this is how we'd go, and then when we hit that, I said, 'OK, this is how we're going to go.’”

On Commanders CB Amik Robertson: “Yeah, I just think it speaks to the competitor of who he is. I love what he's added to our team. I love seeing him and (Commanders CB) Mike (Sainristil) battle for it, but he is a legit dog-(expletive) competitor. I love that he brings that.”

On the catch made by Commanders WR Jaden Bradley: “Yeah, it was fun, there was a lot of energy. If you guys - I don't know if you could see it on the sideline, there was a lot of people yelling 'And one.' So there was a foul, so it was nice to see a deep play like that. And as a receiver, you want your chances for the shot play. So yeah, the guys were excited for him on that one. And (Commanders WR Nick) Nash as well.”

On if Commanders WR Jaden Bradley had caught his eye prior to today: “Yeah, he has in terms of like a competitive nature. And that was from the beginning, he wanted to return kicks, he wanted to be back for punt, knowing that there was going to be a spot for special teams. So I like the way he's competing, and that's what it's called upon. And so then to be rewarded with a big play like that, just competing, he stands for that. And so he's developing. (Commanders Wide Receivers Coach) Bobby (Engram)’s doing a good job with him of more and getting to the action. So we like where he's headed.”

On what he has seen from Commanders LB Sonny Styles: “So I thought we had - like one, he's in excellent shape. We've had two really tough practices back-to-back that was kind of the peak of camp for us into that space. Seeing him get vocal with the down guys, the communication has just ramped up, I felt defensively over the last couple of the days. (Commanders Defensive Coordinator) Daronte (Jones) has some checks that may get in and out of calls and so being in charge and doing that, I felt like that was at a higher level over the week. And I'm certainly glad to see that.”

On the pressure from the front seven on defense: “Yeah, it's important because when you're trying to look at it to say, 'Alright, who beat somebody in pressure? Or was it singled up? Was it a pass stunt that got them there?' But the execution of that improved pass-rush wise, I thought in the (Preseason) Week 1 in the second half, it felt slower to go. And so knowing (Commanders Defensive Line/Run Game Coordinator) Eric Henderson, their guys and (Commanders Outside Linebackers Coach John Pagano) Pags really dug in on that. I thought they took a step forward and so I expect that to go again.”

On what five takeaways he needs to see to know they are ready for the regular season: “Yeah, I think number one, what I'd like to see more of is some forced fumbles, into the contact, the second, the third guy in, more shots at it because that's all part of it and we've been training hard in that way. And what sometimes happens in the practice, you're thinking about it and then you get into the game and you're

just, 'OK, I'm onto the next play and thinking about the call,' and I want to make sure finish through the runner going all the way down and having that mindset to take your shot. So I'm looking forward to seeing how many shots on the ball, batted passes, PBUs, punches at it that are there because the end result of two is nice, but I want to make sure we're going through the process to create them because that's to me as important as just the end result of, 'Can you get two or three, how are you creating them, how are you practicing it?' So I'm looking forward to watching that."

On what went wrong upfront in the first drive: "I guess on the first play pass, I saw pressure inside. And then on the second one, it felt like outside with the tight ends, I think it was (Commanders TE) John (Bates) and (Commanders TE) Chig (Okonkwo) that were there. So that was the look I had, but I didn't get a great view of it, but that's what it looked like to me. And so, I'll look forward to go watch it."

On if there is something different about the team that allows Commanders S Quan Martin to play freely: "I don't think there's a difference with that. He's always somebody that has good ball skills and he's got the speed to get to the locations for that, so I'm not surprised. He's had experience playing nickel. He is usually the best when he has a high safety to come and make some plays, so we've seen him do that, so I was not surprised. In fact, to see those happen, I was glad he's been working hard on the deep catches, the different spaces. So if we can add more shots in our tackling to create some fumbles, then I think everything gets elevated, but he's off to a great start."

COMMANDERS QB JAYDEN DANIELS POST-GAME QUOTE SHEET

On his thoughts about his playing time at the start of the game: “Honestly, it was just good to get back out there and play football again. It's been a little over eight months since I played live football, so it was good. It was good to go back out there.”

On what he saw from the other Commanders quarterbacks after his first possession: “They were doing what the coaches told them, flip-flopping series, and they just stayed in it. They kept battling, made some throws. (Commanders QB) Sam (Hartman) made some throws. (Commanders QB) Athan (Kaliakmanis) made some throws. So super proud of them and how they battled out. Just trying to make plays that give us a chance to win.”

On if there was any thought or conversation of returning to the field for the second offensive drive: “I just listen to what coaches tell you. No, I mean, it's just good to go out there and just operationally go out there and live bullets. I mean, joint practice is great practice. It's a different type of urgency when you're going up against somebody else that is live. It was good to get back out there and like I said, play football once again.”

On the difficulty of ramping up to game level and then ramping down quickly: “I mean, it's tough, but it comes with the business now. I'm going to year three now, so I understand you can't play all however many plays, 60-plus plays in a preseason game. The main goal is Week 1 and then games after that. You try to just build up, ramp up, and try to knock off the rust here and there. But from there, you kind of just go out there and trust your coach and trust everything they've got to say.”

On the value of preseason play versus not playing in the preseason: “At the end of the day, I get paid to play football. I'm a football player. My job is to go out there and play football. So if I'm asked to go play football, I'm going to go out there and play football. I think it's valuable reps, whether it's preseason, practice, you're always just learning from each and everything so it's very valuable to me.”

On how he can gel with the offensive line despite various injuries: “I think it's still a work in progress. Like I said, it's only preseason. We've still got practices and everything. By the time we get to game one, we'll have it set in stone. But for me, it's really just trusting those guys upfront, trusting the play-calling, trusting my reason, everything, getting the ball out, what I have to do and playing on time.”

On if there was any further fallout with LSU after his statement posted to Instagram last week: “Like you said, I posted that. The statement is out, but for me now, I'm really just focused on Commander football. I said everything I had to say within the statement and now it's really just getting ready for Week 1.”

On where he feels the offense is in preparation for Week 1: “I think we're still there. You don't really gameplan now. You're still trying to work your fundamentals and everything, your foundation. I think week by week, as Week 1 is getting closer and closer, you start to get into that game planning mode and everything. I think overall we have the foundation of our offense and now you just kind of put different wrinkles on stuff and things like that.”

On if he finds value in joint practices ahead of joint practice and the final preseason game against the Ravens: “I do. I do. I mean, you're going against somebody else other than, for us, our defense. You're going against other people, you get to make other plays, see different defenses that you might not see in the actual preseason game. You kind of just go out there and compete and you want to compete against other people other than yourselves.”

On what he has seen so far from the wide receiver room particularly from the guys that don't get talked about often: "Yeah, I think it starts from the top down. The vets that they have in that room with (Commanders WR) Terry (McLaurin), (Commanders WR Stefon Diggs) Stef, (Commanders WR) Van (Jefferson), (Commanders WR) Dyami (Brown), those guys, (Commanders WR Treyton Lane) Trey. Guys that made plays and they breathe life into the young guys in the room to go out there and make plays. When (Commanders WR Jaden Bradley) JB made that one-handed catch, we were all pumped up on the sideline. I think some of us made it onto the field, but you just see people work so hard and to go out there and have those type of moments, not only for themselves, but their family. They're living our dreams of playing in the NFL, catching passes. To go out there and just having fun, that's what we come to try to preach to them."

On his thoughts about Commanders QB Athan Kaliakmanis so far: "He's funny. He's got a lot of personality. He's going to go out there and he makes throws, man. And that throw to (Commanders WR) Nick Nash, the one to (Commanders WR Jaden Bradley) JB. He made plays, so I'm super happy for him."