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Defensive Coordinator Daronte Jones

On how he's feeling about his role heading into the season:

"Game time, game week is always a different feeling every year, regardless of the role. But this role in particular, just trying to stay focused on the players and putting them in the right position to be successful."

On how long it will take to get players to mesh and be successful in a new scheme:

"Well, everything's a progression and you know, Rome wasn't built in a day. So, we wanna just continue to work and try to get better and better each day. We wanna win the day. That's the theme and that's our belief system here and our standards here in the organization. So just guys working on their technique and footwork and their craft each day. Building that chemistry is always huge. And like anything, as time goes on, you wanna always see the natural ascending curve and not a descending curve."

On S Quan Martin and the safety room overall:

"Yes, very pleased with where Quan was. Very happy for him. He's playing with a lot of confidence, especially coming off of the year that he had last year. And I like where he is at, where he is. Just giving him the confidence of just being the athlete that he is. And so, you saw that when he came out of Illinois where he was playing multiple spots. And he's still very new at the safety position overall if you look at the grand scheme of things from when he played more nickel for the most part at Illinois. And so, he's still learning the position. And so, we were pleased with him. And then overall with the safety position when you're looking at [S Jeremy] Reavo [Reaves], you're looking at [S] Nick [Cross], just the continued continuity that they're building there, the communication and things that we're asking of them, we're very pleased with where they are."

On concerns about the players having limited time practicing together due to injury:

"No. I think it's unfor - it's part of the business and we have a next man up mentality. And so, things can happen whether it's Week One or Week Eight. And so, guys have to be ready to step in and own their role. And I think guys have responded that well."

On calling plays in the preseason:

"The preseason was always good experience just from a different perspective. Fortunately, when I was at Minnesota [Vikings] the last three years [Minnesota Vikings Defensive Coordinator Brian] Flo [Flores] let me call the preseason game. So that was very similar in that way. So, I've called all those preseason games there a little different because it's a different position and different responsibility in the big scheme of things and you're thinking about it in terms of long-term plan. But it was good. It was a lot of experience. The game management was huge. The thought process was huge. It's almost like, 'hey, if this was what we have done in this situation, if it played out' and different things like that. So you're kind of staying ahead of the call, which was a good experience."

On LB Sonny Styles' progression:

"Sonny is growing. Where he was when he first walked in the door to now, obviously, like any rookie you would hope that he's at, that the learning curve is shortening a little bit and he's been doing a wonderful job. He stays in the building. He asks a lot of questions, which is good. He has a good understanding of just football in general, you know? And so, he can process things, probably better than what you would expect some guys would be at that, at this time of the year."

On OLB K'Lavon Chaisson referring to Jones' defensive scheme as 'playing offense on defense':

"He may be referring to just in terms of our, we try to talk about having some high IQ and thinking about things from a different perspective. And so, he's probably referring to more than just lining up and playing. Formation recognition, splits difference, backfield sets, different things like that. Whereas offense always recognizes, 'hey, with this safety's coming on down, we may have to can, can, go the opposite direction'. So different things where the offensive perspective looks at things, just trying to show our guys, and he's probably referring to that as his IQ and his formation recognition, being more in tune with that and how you're gonna be attacked."

On Philadelphia Eagles RB Saquon Barkley:

"Saquon is special. [Laugh] I don't think, it's not a one-man job. It's a team effort. And even with that, I mean, his explosiveness, his play making ability, he's very dynamic and they've done a great job of using him in that way and finding different spaces to get him touches. And so, you take your hat off to the organization, how they utilize their personnel over there."

On the advantage disguise coverages:

"Yeah, well, again, showing different com - showing different looks is what we would like to pride ourselves on and try to anyway. But at the end of the day, we never want our disguise to become a liability. And so, you just wanna, we don't wanna be statues in terms of just standing still and try to paint a different picture. So, the more that we as a defense can handle that, then the more we can grow in that way. And so, how much of that or how little of that do we see, that's all pending on our personnel and how the guys feel comfortable. It's gonna be, the first early part of the season is always, especially a new scheme, guys wanna just make sure I'm where I need to be, and that's totally all right, as long as they're playing comfortable and fast."

On what gets players comfortable in executing disguise coverages:

"Time on task. Time on task. Yep."

On how difficult he made things for the team's offense in order to prepare them for the season:

"Not any more difficult than they made it for us [laugh]. No, you know, what [Offensive Coordinator David] Blough has done over there has been a phenomenal job and just the challenge and steel sharpens steel is what we've been talking about and just the competition has been huge for us on both ends, on both sides of the ball. And so just continuing in that theme and that phase of things has been great for us, for our guys just to see some good on good, especially on training camp. And again, our guy's pretty special as well [QB Jayden Daniels]. So, [laugh] to have a guy back there and to see how he processes and see the throws that he can make has been very instrumental for us."

On in game collaboration with Head Coach Dan Quinn:

“Oh, I would be a fool if I didn't lean on the experience of Coach Quinn and his ex - and all the things that he's brought to the game and his defensive mindset. And so, there's constant dialogue that's going on, you know, ‘Hey, coach, what are you thinking here? What, you know, what do you see? What about this?’ things of that nature. So, I like our relationship, love our relationship, to be honest with you, and how he's been, not only resourceful for me during the games, but also just day-to-day basis in the office and just it's been great working with him. There was no previous history, so it's been great getting to know him and working with him, and I just like the support that he's given, and that it's an open-door policy where any thoughts or questions, I can come into him and we can have that dialogue, so it's been great.”

On what about the team's preseason leads him to believe the team can have more turnovers this year than in previous seasons:

“Well, we've been preaching it, but it's just a mindset, I think. I think guys, it's their intentionality with it. When you're seeing a ball carrier breaks through at practice and guys are trying to take shots on the ball rather than just going for a tackle, different things like that, trying to attack the ball at high points, tracking the ball. I think just, you wanna create a conscious level with that. And I think guys are, it's not we have high standards, so it's not there, but you can see guys working towards that. And so, I commend the players for that because that is different, in terms of, it's more than just, I gotta get this guy down. It's, can I get the ball off this guy? And for some guys, you gotta have that confidence level in terms of my taking the extra step, can I still make the tackle with my arm being extension on my shoulder and those things. And so, I do like the guys' intentionality that they have, the intentional effort that they've shown with that.”

On Chaisson and OLB Odafe Oweh complement each other:

“Well, they have two different skill sets and they have a different tool set with that that come to mind and they all have their various phases. And so, as this thing goes on, it'll be interesting to see how their connection with one another within breed, how they play off of one another and their strengths. I think Daf is strong and athletic. KC is savvy in his way. They both have a knack for rushing the passer and they both have some drop ability. And so, I think you wanna use them the best way you can and let their strengths be their strengths and try to keep their weaknesses away, if that makes sense.”

On Philadelphia Eagles QB Jalen Hurts:

“Dynamic, with Jalen, he has a knack for extending the play. He has his superpowers and he can make, he's one of the best at throwing a nine ball [laugh] the deep shot down the sideline and that showed up last year, even against the Vikings. And so, a guy like that who's been around and he's grown, he's matured and you can see how he's gotten better and better each year in his phase. And I think the way they're using him, doesn't matter who the caller, who the play caller over there has been, he still has had successful years. And that's because the type of player and leader that he is for that organization. And so, it's always a challenge going against a guy like that and our guys are, we're excited.”

On using what he learned when he played against Hurts while at Minnesota versus playing Hurts under a new system now:

“Well, there's always gonna be some similarities. If you have a veteran offense like they do have and you're bringing a lot of guys back it's always how much will change, how much is gonna be out of his comfort zone. And so, there's gonna be some similarities. There's gonna be some crossover. I think [Philadelphia Eagles Offensive Coordinator] Sean [Mannion] is gonna do a great job over

there. Sean and I, we have history together. We were at Minnesota on two different stints with two different head coaches. And so, I know Sean will have Jalen playing at a high level.”

On how to prevent sneak packages from Philadelphia:

“Probably the easiest way is to keep him out of that situation [laugh]. I mean, it's like a 75% rate, success rate. I mean, it's tough. It's, the rugby deals have come into our sport, which has been huge in terms of the tackling, but you can see how as some would say the scrum has kinda come into play a little bit, so.”

On how he presented his new defensive scheme to Quinn:

“Well, it's more big picture with both of us. And so, the experiences that he's had in his in various systems and likewise with myself, it's more so, cover two is cover two [laugh]. However you wanna dress it up. And so, it's more so this is how we've been attacked. This is how you can attack this. I've seen, based off my experiences, teams will kinda go to this as an answer. So, it's been more big picture scheme things. And then philosophically, like in terms of whether you wanna flood the zone or bring it this way, keeping someone over the top. It's just big picture ‘football 101’ as we've referred to it, and not so much the details of the schematics, but more so, how do we vision and how do we see the end game when it comes to a certain call or certain executions.”

On how CB Mike Sainristil and CB Amik Robertson can be impactful in the game being undersized corners:

“Well, one thing they, they can't affect that, right? They're not gonna grow between now and Saturday and Sunday. But I will say it comes down to the techniques, you know? I think there was a heck of a player who some would say fit in that same category. Not that I'm comparing them, but in terms of the size and the things that [Former Washington DB] Darrell Green has been able to establish in his career along other undersized corners, and it's really comes down to the technique and their competes, how they see the game, putting themselves in a position, formation recognition, splits, all that kind of stuff. Being patient at the line of scrimmage if they are impressed, being patient if they're off, just knowing where their help is and where their help isn't. And I think that all builds that collective to, I may not be six feet, but I can still compete, I can still take space away and I can still challenge receivers.”

On what success looks like to him:

“Guys playing together. We talk about brotherhood here, we talk about building unique relationships here, so guys playing together, but guys playing with high energy, high effort, being connected out there, communication, that's what you're, that's success because that's a lot and you can build off of those things. And so as long as you have guys playing together, playing team defense. No hero ball, communication across the board, you can build off of those things. And of course tackling, you want guys swam into the ball and putting out great effort, so.”