

October 29, 2026

Defensive Coordinator Daronte Jones

On what made him want to bring Defensive Advisor Steve Wilks in:

“That was something that we had talked about back in training camp, but just for the value of experience that he has and we felt like we could use his resources and his expertise in some categories and experience.”

On if Wilks being a part of the team gives him time to focus on other things:

“Yeah, still working through how. It definitely does free me up in certain ways and just still manufacturing, working through how exactly we wanna disperse that, the workspace. So, we're still working through those a little bit.”

On what he gained from his self-scout during the Bye Week:

“Well, one, the consistency and just terms of trying to help our guys with some of the layers and just understanding that, you know, pulling back some of those things where our guys can just play fast and just line up, have their feet set in the ground and just go.”

On how he would evaluate the team's pass rushing so far this season:

“Inconsistent. Inconsistent. I thought there's times where they're looking very explosive and were affecting the quarterback, get him off his spot and then other times not. And so just kind of building that consistency, much like every other aspect of the defensive performance.”

On if his prep for the Philadelphia Eagles is any different knowing Philadelphia's backup quarterback starting:

“No. No, it doesn't. It doesn't. We're focusing on us and our consistency and our execution and playing as a one unit in terms of no individual rushes or individual efforts, more team collective type of deals where we're all working as one.”

On why there hasn't been as much success in the pass rush given how much the team is blitzing:

“I think there's a combination of a few things. There's the execution of it in terms of the assignments, the paths, there's some winning, we have to win one-on-ones when we get those one-on-one matchups. And so, very seldom are you gonna have free runners all the time and so, you're gonna have to win some one-on-ones, but we can be more useful with that if we're executing properly and attacking the right path, right edges on certain guys.”

On if he's noticed issues with the team rushing as one leading to breakdowns in the pocket:

“Well, we've been doing a lot. We've been doing more meetings with the entire front working together, seeing it so they can get on the same page. Seeing the, want the protection the same way, having the pre-snap communication. It all comes down to the communication, especially up front.”

So, I know we've talked about communication overall in terms of like the back end or anything like that, but it's the same on the front end. And so, we're working the game together, we gotta be on the same page, we have to see it the same way. And so the more those guys are meeting together, the better."

On making sure CB Trey Amos doesn't feel like he has to be the sole fix for the team's pass defense now that he's back:

"Well, we wouldn't put that responsibility on him. For Trey, it was very good for him to just be out there. He's worked through a lot of adversity just to get back out there with his brothers. And so, it's not gonna be a [snap] back to rare form as what he was before he got injured. So just working through that, letting him know that his expectations can be tempered that way a little bit. But I think just him being out there was huge for us. Him moving around was huge for his confidence and showing that he's kinda getting back to his old groove. And so, the more reps he get, the more time on task he has out there, he can get back to his old way."

On if he looks to anyone outside of the building for feedback during his self-scout period:

"No. I feel great about the resources that we have in the building in terms of our coaching staff, our R&D, our analytics, personnel department. And so, we've kinda kept that in-house and your fresh set of eyes sometimes just walking away from it for a couple of days and getting back into it and letting the emotions kinda get out of the way and just kinda resetting that way. And sometimes, looking at it from a different perspective as well, also helps. And so sometimes you have a guy who, let's say if he's responsible for breaking down the run game, 'hey, take a look at the past game,' and vice versa, because that's a new set of eyes within the same building."

On how he would describe the defensive unit's personality:

"Energetic. I think guys are, I mean, I'm going based off of what I see day to day in practice and things of that nature and guys are still having fun. They're still energetic. They still showing up day to day. They're very business and professional approach. I think the inconsistency will come a little bit in just terms of play by play, one play at a time. Not trying to do too much, trusting each other as a team, trusting the man next to you. And we've talked about the trust and accountability throughout the defense, yes."

On if the changes that need to be implemented will come from changing his coaching approach or the team changing how each play is being executed:

"I think all of the above. I think in terms of the messaging the way it's verbalized, sometimes you can say the same thing, but say it differently in a way that they can, it can hit them differently. And so, looking at what type of words are we using, how specific are we in what we're asking? And maybe if we dial that back and then you can dial into be more specific in certain things, then that [snap] that's a nugget that they have and that's a nugget that they can remember and then they can go out and execute. And so, I think all, it, it includes all of those things coaching-wise, how we present and how the players receive."

On how close OLB Doran Armstrong is to being 100% back from his injury last season:

"I think with that, with D.A., still working his groove back. I mean coming off of the injury that he had and not being around for training camp and all that kind of stuff and working with the guys, it's just, I think you're gonna start to see him get his feet and legs under him as he gets, because he's still working through some conditioning as well, you know? And so, we know how valuable he is to

the team, to the defense, to the pass rush, as well. And so, getting him going more would be helpful.”

On how he adjusted to working with the defensive staff the team already had instead of bringing in his own staff:

“Well, I mean, it's part of the business you adapt and I think the guys that the staff that we have that's here have done a phenomenal job in terms of, one, buying in and taking the coaching and learning the scheme themselves and then relaying that to the players. And so, sometimes we'll meet together just so they can hear it. We'll present it to each other before we go to present it to the players, just to make sure we're all on the same page. But with that, to your point, there's gonna come some things or situations may come up that we haven't worked through because they haven't seen that before, you know? And so, when that situation come up, ‘Hey, coach, how have you worked with this in the past? Oh, we've done this, this is a response to that. This is an adjustment to that’. Because obviously you can't cover everything within one install or one implementation of the defense. So those are just things, more time on task, much like individuals, players, they're working together, coaching-wise, we're working together and just continue to rely on one another and trust one another.”

On changes he's noticed in Philadelphia while preparing for this game versus the first time the teams met in Week 1:

“Well, they still have a very experienced coaching staff that's gonna prepare those players. They're gonna still be competitive, as you saw in the Dallas [Cowboys] game. Monday, I think they came out on fire. Their system, their scheme allows their players to have some success. I think the way they're managing the quarterback [Philadelphia Eagles QB Tanner McKee] and how they're, how he's playing is giving them a chance, the ball's out quick he has his a clear read of where he wants the ball to go and what he's been asked to do. And I think as they continue to work through their injuries as well it's hard to prepare in terms of, is it gonna be [Philadelphia Eagles WR] DeVonta [Smith]? Is it not gonna be DeVonta? Is it gonna be [Philadelphia Eagles RB] Saquon [Barkley]? We can't worry about that in terms of who we're gonna face. The message for us is, how do we execute what we're being asked to do? And as long as we can execute that, it really doesn't matter so much who's on the other side. It's just about, we can't kick our own butt.”

On his message to the players about playing their best for all four quarters:

“You know, it's funny you mentioned that, going into the 49ers game, the message was second half, second half, second half, second half, finishing. And can't lose sight of the starting fast and finishing strong. And so, still the storyline is the tale of two halves. It, unfortunately, it flipped from the first half to the second half, but the one thing that we kinda got out of that is that our guys do have the ability to kinda reset, refocus, and come out second half. And one thing you're seeing amongst our guys is they're battling. They're playing every play to the finish and then they're not quitting. That allowed the second half performance against a very good football team. And so, there's a lot to build on with that. And I think the players see that. They've seen the glimpses of what it should look like with our play style and our ability and our physicality and what it looks like when we don't have the consistency and the play style and the physicality or the pass rush. And so, we've talked about demanding that more in terms of being accountable for that. And the message has been very clear. I think the guys are all on board with that and we're just gonna continue to move forward and try to get better each day until we can play four quarters of football.”