THE WASHINGTON COMMANDERS
21300 COACH GIBBS DR.
ASHBURN, VA 20147

BigBear.ai PERFORMANCE CENTER

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Offensive Coordinator David Blough

Opening Statement:
“Recapping Philly, I'm really pleased with how the team kind of pulled itself out of what I would say is probably the worst first 15 minutes we could play. And we're really looking forward to a great test this week with a great front, great defense. They make it really hard on you. So, looking forward to the challenge and ready to roll.”

On if the team plans to have more of an emphasis on fast starts in this week’s game:
“Yeah and man, we're trying to get to the bottom of all the problems that caused the first 15 minutes last week. So, our unit, we know we have to start fast. The [Los Angeles] Rams have done a great job in the first quarter. We've had some better than others this year and we know it's definitely an area for us to improve on.”

On if the receiver group was still able to perform to his expectations given WR Terry McLaurin’s absence:
“I think it just showcases the, the versatility of the group. You have to tip your hat to what [WR] Treylon [Burks] did. He kind of lit the spark for our offense, making the third down catch on the shallow cross and then it led to the bigger plays late in the game. And you see his dynamic ability and then [WR] Stef [Stefon Diggs] and [WR] Antonio [Williams] and [WR] Rachaad [White], a lot of those guys, [TE] Chig [Okonkwo] made some nice plays. So, the skill guys really stepped up and I think going forward, we love to spread the ball around, whoever, whatever it takes to win in a given week.”

On the pre-snap penalties:
“Yes, they were. I think consistency, right? Consistency for more repetition of our operation, our cadence, our shifts, our motions, all of it together. So, we have to coach it, kind of reflect really hard on it, and then we gotta really demand it of the group because it's been killing us, so we gotta really go out and nip it and can't keep ruining its head.”

On what leads to pre-snap penalties:
“Communication's probably the right word for it. But we, I really do believe that the consistency, the repetition of the basics, that we're gonna do today, yesterday, Friday, kinda carry over into what you see on Sunday.”

On the risks of double-teaming a defensive end like Los Angeles Rams DE Aaron Donald:
“Yeah, I mean, the thing, they've got a lot of really good defensive linemen. Zero's [Los Angeles Rams OLB Byron Young] rushing the quarterback in an elite raid, 95's [Los Angeles Rams OLB Myles Garrett] back on the field, he's a premium player. There's a lot of really good rushers and give credit to their coaching staff too. They don't just allow you to always double team Aaron Donald. So,

we're gonna have to be really intentional with our protection plan, to handle what they do up front and it's a great challenge, man. They do a really good job."

On his confidence in Burks despite slip ups earlier in the game:
"You've seen the work he's put in. He got here last year, and he saw all the physical tools and he's done so much to just kinda progress to where he's at. And we're really proud of his progression and then, we know what he can continue to be. So, we're gonna keep pushing him, asking him to do what he's really good at, and it's cool to see [QB] Jayden's [Daniels] trust going with him as well."

On how he wanted Burks to fit into his offensive scheme when he first got the Offensive Coordinator position:
"He was always, from early on in that competition to be, whether it's a starting Z opposite of what [WR] Terry [McLaurin] was gonna be as the X. And he's got a really unique skillset with his size and speed. And so, his range and hands and red zone presence he's really showed up with how we kinda see it. He's explosive. He makes plays down the field and we're really proud of where he's at."

On seeing Daniels' communication with the team about mistakes early in the game:
"Yeah, you saw what it did. We needed it. The best teams I've ever been on have been player-led, whether it's a lineman or quarterback or whatever it may be. And so, we needed that in that moment, somebody to speak the truth to what was going on and the guys responded really well. So, proud of that step for sure, and so much for us to build on throughout the course of it."

On further steps he wants the offense to take:
"Yeah, I think we certainly have not been to the efficiency level in the screen game. Every week you're looking at your red zone plays and we had a stretch whether kinda in that Seattle group, Indianapolis and through those games, we had either thrown it in from further out or didn't really get to call some of the red zone bullets that you have. And so, every week you're kinda evaluating what still fits from Philadelphia against LA Rams that our guys are comfortable with. And so, we kinda go through that process every week of, can we carry something over that has banked reps or does it need to be a completely new concept? And I've found that kinda in the red zone. You normally use all your third down ones."

On issues creating continuity in the running back room due to the rotations because of injury:
"I think Rachaad's done a great job stepping up and then whoever the third back has been has always played a supplemental role. And [RB] Austin's [Ekeler] done a great job learning the system and we gotta continue to use them to their skill set and whoever that is this week going forward in that third role, we're gonna do the same for him."

On the offensive line creating greater splits to give Daniels more room to draw back:
"No comment."

On helping Daniels get in and out of the huddle faster:
"I think it just goes back to the repetition and operation of our system and I stood up here last week and said it, but week nine should look better than week eight and week 17 should look better than week nine. And so, I feel that every time we take the field together. Like every time we say a familiar word, it gets more comfortable for everybody. And so, these guys are continuing to stack those days and that's what's important right now."

On T Josh Conerly Jr. and T/G Brandon Coleman's game performances:
"Pretty good. They, it's a tough draw. The Philly front has played really well over the last few years. And so, we put them in some tough spots at some points. But two sacks, really just one sack on the offensive line and then some important blocks to kind of put the game on ice for us in the four-minute situation."

On how quickly Daniels has learned the new offensive scheme:
"We talk about this a lot. We talk about quarterbacks in their prime and probably not hitting it mentally until you're into your 30's. So, he is learning a new language, truthfully. And there was a ton of growth in May and June, and there's a ton of growth every week now. So, there's, I wouldn't say mastery's there, but it's not there for anybody, any quarterback in this league who's getting to play in new systems. And so, that's the fun part for us, is kinda chasing the comfort of understanding the system."

On his current relationship with Los Angeles Rams Assistant Head Coach Kliff Kingsbury:
"Means a lot. He gave me so much in just two years of coaching underneath him. I'm incredibly gracious for my time under him. He's one of the most gracious people I've ever met. And even if it's a text of encouragement, call it at different low points of the season, he's reached out, we've stayed in contact, he's over there, I got to back up [Los Angeles Rams QB] Matthew [Stafford] for a couple years and he's getting to watch him every day and so we have something in common there and I really appreciate him and I think he knows that."

On how much attention he pays to the Rams offensive scheme:
"Yeah, I mean, we're all focused on handling the front this week and you see some of the concepts and plays that they're running throughout different tapes of the week, but we're all focused on, today specifically, trying to pick up their third down pressure package."

On considering the information Kingsbury and Los Angeles Rams Senior Offensive Assistant Brian Johnson have about the team given their history with Washington:
"I think so. I think everybody in every role shares information and yeah, they certainly know our guys, we know what they know about our guys and we kind of go from there."

On if he studied coaches like Los Angeles Rams Head Coach Sean McVay when creating his own offensive scheme:
"Sure. I think, man, for the longest time in this league, he's always been on the cutting edge, which you appreciate. Like he's not afraid to move trends of personnel or how to use the quarterback, different people. I've gotten to be a lot around a lot of players that have been around him and talk about his excellence. So, we definitely have a respect for what the Rams have done on offense for afar but looking forward to the challenge of the Rams defense."

On telling the team the importance of having a good run game this week:
"Yeah, you have to, right? You have to, that when you get in those second and longer situations, second and seven plus, eight plus, third and seven, they really wanna pin their ears back and get after the quarterback. So, we gotta stay ahead of the sticks. We gotta be explosive and running the football allows us to play it on our terms a little bit."

On what Young has brought to the Rams defensive line:
"Yeah, I think it goes back to the question about just doubling Aaron, like when you allocate

resources to one elite premium player, he's gonna get a one-on-one matchup and so we gotta be able to win on the perimeter. And he's elite pass rusher, really good bull rush in this league and we gotta be ready for him."

On coaching against Stafford:
"It's great. And I consider him a great friend, but it's like this week we wanna get him. That's all."