November 26, 2026

Defensive Coordinator Daronte Jones

On things that the team's defense did in Monday night's game that they might not have been capable of earlier this season:
"Well, I thought the execution level was better. And that's, I thought the fundamentals were, have been improving. Obviously, the techniques, but the communication as a whole and just understanding how to execute and what we're asking. And I thought those guys were playing on the same level, and I thought that level of communication assisted us in the win this past week."

On what he remembers about planning against former San Francisco 49ers WR Brandon Aiyuk from his time coaching on the Minnesota Vikings:
"Big, physical, could take the top off, explosive, great catch radius. His hands were nice and soft. He can come in and out of breaks. And so, we're excited that he's here."

On how he felt CB Rasul Douglas played stepping up for CB Amik Robertson:
"Yeah, I thought Rasul amongst with [CB] Fabian Moreau stepping in. I just thought a lot of the guys, hats off to [Defensive Backs/Cornerbacks Coach] Will Gay and making sure the corners are all prepared and ready to go for the week. And he does a great job of getting those guys reps throughout the week because you never know what may happen. And so, Sul was able to step right in and contribute in a way. He has some good plays on the ball. He has, he plays with great vision, he's very instinctive, as you know. So, we were pleased with what he was able to do and provide for the team."

On how the defense has dealt with limiting explosive moments in the pass game this season:
"Well, I think it's once guys are continuing to understand their assignments and what's been asked and starting to communicate amongst each other, then you can kinda start to focus a little bit more on the opponent and how you're gonna be attacked. It's early on, it's always tough to, 'Hey, you want me to understand how I'm being attacked and what the offense is giving us? I'm still trying to figure out my communication and things like that'. So as that continues to improve and guys are really dialed in and I take my hat off to the progress that they're having, it allows the focus to transition to transfer to the opponent. And I think the premium awareness, especially coming off of some of the other guys that have, you know, the [Los Angeles Rams WR] Puka [Nacua] and his targets and things like that. So, guys just trying to be more focused and intentional about knowing where premiums are."

On what made him confident that the defense could succeed through blitzing against Cincinnati Bengals QB Joe Burrow despite Burrow's history of success against the blitz:
"Well, we have a certain play style that we try to implement, and we've been focusing on our, with our players all week. Yes, you have to focus on your opponent and know what they're capable of, but it's also about us. And I think that's what [Head] Coach [Dan] Quinn has also been preaching in

the culture that he has established here. It's about us at the end of the day and, and our play style and what we wanna do. And so, it was never a thought not to do and try to execute what we've tried to execute on a weekly basis. And that's just, we try to dictate the terms and try to be aggressive. And again, Joe Burrow and that staff with [Cincinnati Bengals Head Coach] Zac Taylor gotta take your hat off to him. They've done a lot of great things in this league and they're very talented. And so they also apply stress and some fatigue mentally to the defenses. It was just a, a battle of execution and they executed. They made some plays as they were going to. But we just wanted to, we wanted to apply a certain level of, 'hey this is what we're gonna bring to the table,' and just see how they react."

On how the defense was able to limit Burrows rushing yards:
"I think a couple of those attempts early on just to kind of try to soften us up a little bit and fortunately our guys were able to play great technique and have some pushback at the front. And that allowed us to continue to know where the premiums are and address more attention to the coverage in the back end because you didn't really have to load the box, so to speak, to stop the run. And I thought our guys up front did a great job of giving us the flexibility to do that."

On how questions about who will play quarterback for the Arizona Cardinals affect his preparation:
"It doesn't. To be honest with you, regardless of which quarterback is playing, [Arizona Cardinals TE Trey] McBride is still the second leading receiver in terms of targets and receptions in the NFL. So, no matter who's at the helm, they're all looking for him. And so, he's a premium. Again, every week there's a premium that you have to know where they are because they're very damaging and can be damaging to the game. And so, we have not really thought about which quarterback may play."

On how preparing to play against a premium a tight end versus a wide receiver affects his preparation:
"It does change and shift because McBride is a tight end and he's gonna be in different positions than those receivers were. And so, he's gonna be more close to the core, so now that involves more linebackers knowing where they are and how that affects your run pass reason and your responsibilities that way. So, it definitely provides a different challenge than last week in his right. I mean yes, there's one premium, but he's in a different spot, you know what I mean? And he's more interior. And so, our ability to be dialed in and have our guys recognize, yes, I have my run pass keys, but also where is McBride in that way? And so, we all have to be dialed in really from the interior of the defense, talking about inside linebackers, outside linebackers' safety as well."

On what he's seen from QB Josh Johnson and what it says about his talent still playing at his age:
"The experience. For him to just get there last week and I believe he may have had maybe one day of practice because I think they were expecting [Arizona Cardinals QB Carson] Beck to play. And so, for a guy to come in and step in and to execute the way he was executing hats off to him. I mean, that's a pros pro. His preparation obviously allows him to do those things and his experience in various systems, and he has some experience within that system, allows him to come in and be a valuable asset to his ball club."

On LB Sonny Styles' play recognition talent against the Bengals and when he realized Styles was confident in the play style of the team's defense:

“Yeah, they had shown that concept several times throughout the game. And so, the first couple of times it was kind of slow to go and [Linebackers] Coach [Ken] Norton did a great job of just telling him to just pull your trigger. You see it, you recognize it, just cut it loose. And his ability to, one, trust the coaching and letting it loose a little bit allowed him to recognize it later in the game, and he was able to be there faster. And he'll continue to trust and grow those things. He'll take that lesson and move that forward for the weeks to come.”