



## **WASHINGTON HEAD COACH RON RIVERA**

### **On how he felt physically today:**

“It’s interesting because I had my moments where I felt pretty strong and felt good enough to walk up and down the sidelines. There were other times where I waned a little bit, so I had to take a quick break and get some Gatorade in me. I was able to get back up and keep going.”

### **On Washington honoring him today:**

“It’s a struggle. It’s a battle. I don’t just represent me, I represent all those folks, all those people that are sick and all those people that fight and all those people that have fought. I just feel honored. It was really cool to come out early and see the tribute. It was very poignant at one point because my brother that had passed away, they had his picture in the collage. That was really cool. It really was. It meant a lot to me. It was very poignant. Thank you. Thank you, guys.”

### **On QB Dwayne Haskins Jr.:**

“I thought Dwayne had his moments. There are still some things that, again, we’re still working through and we’re still developing and learning. There are some things that, obviously, I know he’s going to wish he had back once we get a chance to really break the tape down and look at it. He made some plays and he missed some plays. We’ll talk about situational awareness. We’ll talk about certain things that he’s got to continue to grow on and that he has to do. This is all a growing and learning process for him.”

### **On how Haskins Jr. handled the week:**

“I thought he handled it very well. I thought there were an awful amount of assumptions being made out there, which is fine. Again, it’s something he’s going to have to learn to do is focus on what’s important and not the noise. I thought he handled that very well. I thought he came out and tried to play his own game. That’s part of his growth. He’ll learn that as we continue to go forward. He’s going to have to learn to grow. He’s going to have some growing pains, we know that. But also, he has to know that he has to perform.”

### **On RB Antonio Gibson:**

“Well, again we have some quality backs. We really do. I think [offensive coordinator] Scott [Turner] is learning them, understanding them and figuring out where to put them in best positions. I thought [RB] J.D. McKissic – with the exception of the fumble – did some good things, too. We know what [RB] Peyton Barber’s role is—he’s a hammer. He’s a good, shifty inside runner. He’s going to get you the tough yards. Antonio’s a little bit of a slasher. He’s got great hands out of the backfield. He’s a tough tackle. I like the combination of that trio of backs.”

### **On Gibson playing well with how he is being used:**

“I think it’s a combination. I thought we were using part of the way we’re going to need to use him to be successful. I think part of it is just his tremendous athletic ability as a football player.”

### **On areas of growth from Haskins Jr.:**

“Well, again this development is something you’re going to really have to dissect and look. I thought he threw some really good balls. I loved the deep balls he threw to [WR] Terry [McLaurin]. I liked some of the darts he threw inside. He made some really good decisions. But, we’ll go back and look at it. We’ll look at some of the things he missed and how and why. [I’m] a little disappointed in the situational awareness. It

was fourth down and we were supposed to be in goal-to-go and I decided to go for it. I wanted to see what would happen, I really did. That's why I told them: 'Let's go for it.' Unfortunately, that's a situational awareness that he'll have to understand that ball has to be in a position to put it in the end zone. Again, he's still learning, he's still growing and he's still developing."

**On if he thought he would be able to finish the game:**

"I thought I was OK enough to do so. We hydrated prior to the game. I took two bags of IV fluid prior to the game. Our Director of Football Operations [Paul Kelly] was constantly handing me water and Gatorade. I would sit down at TV timeouts—I normally don't but I would. I sat down a couple of times just trying to pace myself through it. I most certainly look forward to going home and going to bed early."

**On if it was a test going for it on fourth down:**

"Yes, yes it was. To be blunt about it—yes. It was fourth down, the ball's got to go into the end zone or it's got to be put into a situation where it can get into the end zone. Again, it's just something that he's got to learn if he's going to be a starter in this league and contribute to winning football games. He has to understand and develop. This is part of it. This is part of the growth. We didn't have opportunities this offseason to work through situations and scenarios. It's just kind of learn as you grow."

**On if Haskins Jr.'s mistakes overshadow his growth:**

"No. It doesn't erase anything he does. What it does is—it's just part of it. Like I said, he made some good throws and some good decisions. He put us in scoring positions sometimes. He did the things that you're looking for. Unfortunately, he missed a couple things. There's a lot of good tape to look at. He will learn from this tape, I promise you that."

**On the challenge of evaluating the offense with Haskins Jr.'s struggles:**

"Well, you evaluate when he struggles and you evaluate it when he doesn't struggle. Again, it's really about what you're seeing in front of you on tape. There's 10 other guys that have to play. Those 10 guys still have to do their job no matter what the other guy does."

**On going for a field goal right before half:**

"We wanted to run a play, but I just knew at that point there was no way if that ball was completed, we'd get a timeout in time. That was my judgement, so I called the timeout. They were trying to run the play, but I felt differently so I called the timeout."

**On setting an example for the team by pushing through the game:**

"Well, again part of it is just being the example but also I was trying to be smart as I did it, too. I wanted to be there for the guys. I just wanted to be around the guys and let them know I was behind them."

**On if there are people that tell him to take a break:**

"Oh yeah, certainly there are. I will listen, too."

## **QB Dwayne Haskins Jr.**

**On his performance today:**

"Yeah, I thought I did a good job today just taking what the defense gives me. So, some things to improve on and work on for next week versus the [Los Angeles] Rams. I'm definitely not satisfied but it's something and build upon and work on. I want to play football, fundamental football, have fun, most importantly out there. And, you know, I don't want to force anything. Last week wasn't fun. This week, when there was time to take some shots I took them, and there wasn't, I found a way to get it down or get it out."

**On the deep shots today:**

“No, they were playing soft zone, there wasn't too much man coverage. They gave us some spots here and there, but I mean, you can throw it up if you want to, if it's there, but I didn't see anything that was really worth taking the opportunity on that wasn't in our favor. Like on the play to [WR] Terry [McLaurin] on that fade box and going into the end zone, something that we were looking forward to that man matchup. I'm really just trying to find ways to get some players in space and make some shit happen.”

**On his personal growth:**

“I felt like I was in great control. I felt calm. I felt collected. I felt like I had a plan in what I was trying to do before it happened, and I was able to have a plan of how to react if it wasn't there. So just keep on taking that and enhancing it and getting better each week.”

**On the fourth and 13 and if Coach Rivera was challenging him:**

“They got up out of there again. It was zone coverage, they left the pivot out wide open. I wish we would have had somebody play a little more match so I can get a shot up in the end zone, but they were all there waiting for it. I was just trying to give Isaiah [Wright] the opportunity to make somebody miss and get in the end zone. I have no idea, I hope I passed it.”

**On Baltimore's defense:**

“They do a great job of disguising stuff. I feel like on the first drive they got us on a certain look with the brand-new back route with running back and running out regardless, but we had a miscommunication with the offensive line and myself. I gotta do better with that. But outside of that, that's probably the only play where we had a miscommunication up front. Really it's just trying to do a good job of showing zero and then playing zone behind it. So the quick throws in the hot though that should be able to take a man coverage with the zero look isn't there, so the quick throws and the hot throws you should be able to take in zero man coverage isn't there. So with zone, you have to be able to get that and drift, kind of what [Patrick] Mahomes did last week and find some second or third options that are getting open that are, quick, hot throws.

**On RB Antonio Gibson:**

“Yeah, I told him today, he had his preseason schedule out of the way. It's time to go ball now show everybody who you are and he's getting ready to take off and I'm excited for him. I mean, watching him in college, the dude was lining up in the slot running fades so he's definitely somebody who's versatile. Whether we can show him the backfield, motion him out, have him a router, bring him out from the receiver spot and bring him in and have him running the ball, so he's very versatile guy who can make some stuff happen for us and I will try to get him to own up his roll and take advantage of it.”

**On the potential of the offense:**

“Generally, I think it just started with me. I gotta have confidence in myself every week. In this week, I wanted to forget whatever happened previously, block out the noise and most importantly, have fun and trust what we're doing schematically. I trust my teammates, and I did that today and then it translates on a lot of plays where we had some conversions, some big gains and some tone plays. We want to keep improving on that.”

**On Head Coach Ron Rivera:**

“I didn't really notice per se because Coach Rivera since he got here is a guy who has been more of an observant guy. He definitely takes control when he needs to, but he always comes and talks to me whether it's in between series or before the game or you know in warm ups. So, with me, I didn't see anything differently. I'll also lock in on what we're doing and how we're attaching the next drive. I didn't get that opportunity to watch how he was moving around on the sidelines.”

**On the sequence right before halftime:**

“Yeah, in that situation, we just wanted to end with the ball. If we would have had like three or four seconds, I am sure Coach Rivera or Coach Turner would have let us run that play. We had different personnel than what we were calling for that play. There was a bit of miscommunication with what we were trying to do with different players in different spots. I was trying to get it going before the timeout happened. It is something to keep working on. Keep working on two-minute, we do two-minute every Wednesday, so we’re just going to keep improving on that. Keep communicating and do a good job and understand what we are trying to do.”

**On what it means to him and the team to see Coach Ron Rivera going through treatment and still be coaching:**

“It means the world to me. Health is the most important thing. I had kind of a similar situation, not the same situation, but similar at Ohio State with Coach Meyer and having a condition. It is really having ownership with your teammates and the rest of the guys in the building to pick up for whatever there is a lack of. As far as Coach taking care of himself, we all support him and have 'Rivera Strong' T-shirts today. He is somebody we see as his main leader and he is our head coach and we trust in him. It is hard to watch him struggle and hard to watch him go through chemo and then come in and bring a whole bunch of energy to practice and still coach. But he loves it, and we are going to stay behind him and try to make his job as easy as possible.”

## **CB Kendall Fuller**

**On the level of comfort after Cleveland game:**

“It was a little bit more settling. Just little things like having your pregame routine down. Just certain little things that you do before the game. So just having that comfort level with just getting one game in your system and things like that. It definitely felt a little better this week.”

**On wearing ‘Rivera Strong’ shirts during pregame:**

“It means a lot man just to see him come fighting. Not even just today but seeing him on Wednesday’s, Thursday’s and Friday’s and seeing him fight. It motivates all of us to go out there and keep on fighting and never quit.”

**On what it felt like to be back at FedExField today:**

“It felt weird with no fans. It felt good walking into the stadium this time knowing I am going to suit up and go out there on the field and play. We just got to work on protecting our home turf and getting these wins especially at home.”

**On what he saw on [QB] Lamar Jackson’s 50-yard touchdown:**

“I honestly do not remember. I would have to check the film and let you know. I think we were on some man coverage. I wasn’t able to see the play yet.”

**On where he feels this defense is at this point in the season and where they can progress:**

“We are doing good. We are playing good football at certain times. There are other situations where we have got to improve that. We are putting some good things out there, we just got to be more consistent and come together as a defense and put that same product out on the field. Each snap in and snap out.”

**On what he is seeing from [S] Kamren Curl:**

“He is going good man. Early on in training camp when me and Fabian [Moreau] went out for a day or two. Fabian went out for a day or two, I was out for a little bit. Kamren was able to just storm in there. He was able to handle it mentally. He has done everything the coaches have asked him to do. The things they ask him to correct he goes out there and corrects them pretty good.”

## **RB Antonio Gibson**

### **On what it was like to get going today and have a big game:**

“I just felt comfortable today, I feel like each week I'm learning. I feel like every play, I always come back and critique myself. As the season goes on, I am going to continue to learn and put it out there on the field.”

### **On if he thought he would be lining up outside of the backfield a little when he looked at this week's game plan and what allowed him to advantage of those opportunities:**

“Not really. We had a few plays that put me there but other than that, it was same game plan, to rotate us get going and trust the offensive line.”

### **On when he got loose on the left sideline:**

“I think it was two people to my left and I knew I had beat them to the endzone. I had no clue the guy to the right was coming and he got a kind of got a hit on me. I was definitely sad about that.”

### **On where he continues to make progress:**

“Just in the run game. There are times where I try to make a play and I shouldn't. That's me not playing running back a lot, that's me playing receiver and I was trying to make a play because when I catch a ball, I am already downfield. At running back you're always in the backfield so you have to get North quick. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. I just need to learn when to pick and choose when I should just stick my foot in the ground and get north and get those two yards. Trying to get positive yards, instead of trying to make something happen because sometimes it's for a loss.”

### **On if he is getting better at:**

“Definitely, once I catch myself doing it, like today I caught myself doing it. I came to the sidelines said I need to correct it, that's what I did.”

### **On if he felt like this is the most consistent the offense has been:**

“I feel like we've been moving a lot, sometimes it's a little bit too late. And I feel like once we get it going, we're going to be perfectly fine.”

### **On his reaction of Head Coach Ron Rivera being on the sidelines while going through chemotherapy:**

“It shows who he is as a person. For him to be going through what he's going through. For him to come out and still coach us through it, give us speeches, to be here to support and coach us through these games. It means a lot and it shows what kind of man he is.”

### **On how QB Dwayne Haskins Jr. has reacted to last week and bounce back from Cleveland:**

“I've never seen him react to any of it. At the end of the day is just us, the team. What people say on the outside, shouldn't affect us at all. I haven't seen any reactions to what the people are saying at all.”

### **On where he sees the offense overall as a whole right now:**

“Right now, we still got a lot of work to do. I feel like once we put it all together. We're going to be something to deal with for sure. And we're all young, we got time to grow. Right now, we have won one, but we still have the rest of the season. We got to play better but once we get it there will definitely be something to deal with.”

## **WR Isaiah Wright**

### **On what teammates and coaches have done that have led to his success on the field:**

“For the most part and the first thing and the most important was giving me the opportunity and that allowed me to learn for my mistakes. But at the same time, I was able to see that my coaching staff and players around me have faith in me. That allowed for me to have faith in myself.”

**On comfortability on the field:**

“The ability to be able to contribute in all aspects. I want be able to be on the field so whatever I have to do to continue to be on the field, I try to continue to do.”

**On route comfortability:**

“I feel comfortable just being on the field, it doesn’t matter what I am doing, as long as I get to play the game that I love. That’s comfort itself.”

**On playing returner in today’s game:**

“I think I am a good returner, I still have some things to work on. I learned from this team and next week I’ll make sure I don’t do the things that I did this week.”

**On the biggest challenges today:**

“The biggest challenge was beating that man coverage, being open, face enough. We knew that pressure was going to come so that was the biggest challenge. Also, making sure Dwayne was comfortable and gave him the opportunity to make big opportunities.”

**On Wide Receivers Coach Jim Hostler:**

“Coach Hostler has definitely been a big impact on what I am doing, and he’s just been doing what he’s done since camp. Just allowing me to go out there and play. Though whenever I need assistance and coaching, he is there for that. Hostler is hard and I appreciate that because that’s what I asked for in college. To be in a system where I am getting coached hard, I see progress and I am very thankful for a coach like Hostler.”

**On supporting Coach Ron Rivera:**

“It means a lot. Coach Rivera is very strong, and he is a very genuine person. To be able to go out there, he gave us a purpose. You know, we all come from different places and we all have different things going on and to see coach going through what he is going through and still perceive and continue to do his job is only motivating for us and keeps us going.”

**On the next steps:**

“The next thing is to allow the game to come and not try to force anything. Also, yes, you can always progress in anything that you’re doing. I watch film, but I can always watch more film and be more detailed. Once I do those things the sky is the limit.”