



WASHINGTON HEAD COACH RON RIVERA

On QB Kyle Allen:

“The only thing that I can tell you from my understanding is that he dislocated his ankle, and that’s all I know. I haven’t had an opportunity to talk to [Head Athletic Trainer] Ryan Vermillion. Once I get done with you guys, I’ll meet with the trainers and find out exactly where we are.”

On S Jabrill Peppers on the play when Allen got injured:

“That’s what I saw is he got cut, and as he goes down he saw Kyle trying to get outside. Again, this is a guy trying to make a play. I don’t think it’s a dirty play. This is a guy trying to make a play. I get it. I’ve been there in that situation. Peppers is a heck of a football player. He plays 100 miles an hour.”

On if he is optimistic about this game:

“The first half I was pessimistic and disappointed. The second half, I was very pleased. We only gave up three points. We held them. We scored, we gave ourselves a chance. As I told the players, we’ll learn from this. First, we’ll learn you can’t spot teams 20 points in a half and expect to give yourself a fair chance to win. But the way that they came back and played in the second half was indicative of who this football team can be, in my opinion.”

On QB Alex Smith:

“I was very pleased with the things he did when he got out there. He controlled the tempo of the game. It was unfortunate with the interceptions. He tried to make things happen and force things, and unfortunately bad things happened each time. There will be times where he’s going to force something and something will happen. We’ll all be happy about that.”

On who will be the starting quarterback moving forward:

“We’re going to go forward with the setup the way it is. Alex will start and [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.] will be the backup going forward.”

On the receivers:

“I’m pretty optimistic about it. I hope we can continue to watch these guys grow. I’m very pleased with what we got from [WR] Cam Sims today. Obviously, [WR] Terry [McLaurin] has been Terry and has continued to be a good player for us. Then, you sit there and watch [WR] Isaiah Wright step to the forefront and make some plays. Getting [WR] Steven Sims back and that quickness, that was exciting. Again, [WR Antonio Gandy-Golden] AGG hasn’t gotten his opportunity to get back on the field yet. But I think things have gone well for a young group. I thought the guys that were out there stepped up and gave us an opportunity to win the football game. I was very pleased with the way they played in terms of getting chances to make plays.”

On the fans today:

“I noticed the fans. It was nice. I get it, sometimes when things aren’t going well people are going to say some things, but that’s why they pay for it, the opportunity to state their opinion. It was good. It was good to have people in the stands. It’s nice to know that they’re there, win or lose. Like I said, it’s just good to have them out there.”

On the Giants run game:

“Well, the biggest thing was gap control. We had a couple guys that got knocked out of the gap. We had a couple guys that were late to their gap. As we get a chance to watch the tape and really see who, why and how, those things will be worked on and corrected.”

On the fumbles:

“Really it was the way—his punter, we knew it. He has the bottom drop out the way he punts the ball. He punts it with a certain impact. As it comes out in the back end, it flutters and turns away. It was a tough one on Isaiah because it drifted away from him. You wanted him to catch that or you want the ball to bounce to the goal line, but they had guys in position to stop it. It was unfortunate because he almost had the catch. Isaiah’s a young guy we’re playing. He’s going to make young-guy mistakes and we’re going to learn to live with those as these guys grow and develop as football players for our football team.”

On the defense starting slow:

“It’s one of those things that, if you look at what happened, we turned the ball over and they were in positive field position. Unfortunately, that led to the points. You can’t turn the ball over in positive field position for the opponent a couple times in a row, which we did. One time, they were held to a field goal and the other time they scored the touchdown, so that was 10 points right off the bat. Then we turned it over another time, which led to a field goal. You have to, as a team, understand that turnovers in positive field position—that’s going to get you. That’s going to happen, and unfortunately it did get us.”

On if Allen is done for the year:

“I have no idea. The only thing that I heard was that he had dislocated the ankle. That’s all I heard. I haven’t heard anything else since then. I will, as I said, go see Ryan Vermillion, our head trainer, after this.”

On losing a divisional game:

“Exactly that. Again, we’ve got a couple more games going forward—we’ve got a few more games, actually, going forward that we’ve got to play in and see exactly who we are as this thing unfolds. The nice thing about it is, again, as you said the division is still up for grabs. We’ll see what happens.”

On T Morgan Moses’s sideline speech to the team:

“I think it’s awesome. I think it’s awesome to have a guy step up and challenge his teammates, especially in a certain situation with a guy like Morgan who practices hard and plays hard and does things the right way. That’s why he’s the captain right now. I’ve got no issue with a guy that challenges his teammates.”

On Smith’s interceptions:

“The second one, really, he had a little bit of pressure and tried to force it to [RB] J.D. [McKissic] and came in a little bit high. The second one, he saw a guy across the middle and tried to throw it and threw it off balance. Unfortunately, it drifted right to the defender’s arms. In both of those situations, he was able to set his feet without the pressure and he has a chance to complete the pass.”

On the run defense:

“Well, the biggest thing I saw, what we talked about earlier, was that our gap control wasn’t where we need to be. The nice thing about the style of defense we play is, when we play gap control, you know where the ball’s going. You can basically see who’s not doing their job. It’s a thing that we’ve got to try to get corrected and make sure we’re doing our job.”

On the difference in Smith’s play today than against the Rams:

“The biggest thing over anything else is that we were able to protect him and give him a little bit more time. We had some guys that made some big plays as far as our receivers. Cam came up big, as did Terry, as did Isaiah and obviously J.D. and [RB Antonio Gibson] AG underneath. [TE] Logan [Thomas] did play pretty doggone well, so we had a group of guys that stepped up and make some plays. That really helps the quarterback.”

On who will backup Smith moving forward:

“Dwayne will be backing up next week.”

On S Kamren Curl:

“I thought Kam played pretty well, I did. I know he got beat on the touchdown by [Giants TE Evan] Engram, but he was in pretty close proximity to the play. Again, it’s just a young guy that’s going to learn and grow and get better each time he’s on the field.”

On WR Cam Sims:

“You know what, the way Cam Sims practices and the things he’s capable of doing as an athlete, they’re pretty impressive. He’s a heck of a football player and I just think he’s going to get better and better as he continues to work on his game.”

QB Alex Smith

On seeing QB Kyle Allen go down:

“Yeah, obviously a ton of emotions going on for me right then in the sense I knew Kyle was down and it was pretty serious once he stayed down. You snap in to grab your helmet and get ready to roll and then all of a sudden you see them bring out the air cast and the cart. I know that routine well. A ton of emotions. I am trying to lock in but obviously feeling for Kyle. As quarterbacks, we spend a bunch of time together and obviously feeling for him at that point not knowing what is going on.”

On how much different he felt going into this game over the Rams game:

“Yeah, a lot different, a lot different. I really think that was step for me a few weeks ago and could kind of move on to the next one. Kind of put that behind me. I wasn’t thinking about my foot out there, my leg, just playing. I feel more comfortable. I have obviously got a lot more work in these last few weeks and feeling better and better. So you know, there were some things out there no question I really felt good moving around. Making things happen and playing faster”

On both interceptions in second half:

“We had a chance without those two. The second one is the one that really hurts you know. I felt like we were rolling, moving the ball and really had them on their heels. Down three and then we got into the third-down situation and they all dropped out. They did a great job all day, disguising, they are really active. Their safeties are really good. They present a lot to you as a quarterback. So, you know for me I saw JD [McKissic] and I kind of escaped there. I tried to get it to him as fast as possible. The ball just came out high and inaccurate. Better football there and had a chance for a first down or certainly points if it doesn’t come out high. For me just a better football, more accurate. The last one, two-minute, you are trying to make a play. I just felt like I was late. We had a little high-low going over on the weak side. I had a chance to throw that on time. And you know, if you double clutch it any good defense is going to make you pay. So certainly I either needed to keep moving through my progression or throw that football on time. So yeah, that’s one that I obviously feel better than that and certainly capable of making that play. So you can’t throw it late over the middle. That is quarterbacking 101.”

On what it will be like to have a full week on practice upcoming:

“It is a different scenario. It is always different coming off the bench as a back-up just because your work is obviously limited to just mental reps. You get as much work in as you can, you try to study from the side, you try to take the reps back there from behind and prepare yourself. But it is different. I look forward to that. I look forward to getting those reps in with these guys. Everything is just a little different. Obviously, every quarterback has a different style. So, it will be nice for all of us I think to kind of take advantage of those a little bit.”

On how he feels today compared to the Rams game:

“I think the big thing is certainly the contact was a big part of it, just getting beyond that and moving beyond that. For me just playing football. Not thinking about anything else other than playing quarterback and obviously where you should be. I mean, beyond all of this it has been two years almost entirely since I got reps. So, that is a long time as far as overcoming that. So, all these reps that I’ve had even doing scout team stuff, these last few weeks have just been invaluable for me. Just playing and getting your eyes back seeing things fast and playing fast. So, I try to take advantage of all those and I do think they’ve helped me a lot.”

On if this team is different compared to years past:

“Yeah, these teams are all so different. This year is so unique, obviously, for a ton of reasons that don’t even need to be said, but we are so young. And I mean that in a positive way. These guys have such good energy. They bring so much juice every single day. And that is what make it so fun. Certainly, for me, trying to be around these guys. But yeah, I think that’s really what is important for us is to kind of continue to grow and get better. No offseason, we are still making up ground. I think important to keep improving. No one likes to lose. Certainly, like that when we had a chance to get it. But I think for us as young as we are to continue to develop and grow.”

On his first touchdown in almost two years:

“It always feels good to throw a touchdown. It had been a really long time. I didn’t do much on that one. Terry [McLaurin] obviously helped me out and made an amazing play. But yeah, I feel great. I think more importantly, certainly knowing quick it was a quick strike for us. And obviously, put us within three and made that game, viable and really winnable.”

On if he has the touchdown ball:

“I have no idea where that ball is. No idea.”

On how his process is on coming back to start:

“I mean, to be honest, I guess not even thinking about that. I am enjoying so much every single day. I feel like I have continued to progress and continue to get better and I am thankful for that. For now, this is another step. I am incredibly bummed for Kyle [Allen] you never want to see that. He has a bright future ahead of him. For me, kind of going full steam ahead. You know, I’m not thinking about any of that other stuff going on with this opportunity. I am so thankful for it. I am going to make the most of it.”

On his second-half play.

“All of us in the huddle, certainly in that second half we got to go and I think we are really confident about our ability with what we are doing. Executing certainly our match up and it is fun to have that edge. We really wish we could capitalize and finish it off you know? That is what hurts the worst with that second to last one. We were in a position there to get that game. I really do think you can grow from situations like this. I thought for a lot of guys we spread the ball around. Obviously, for Terry [McLaurin] is always a big part of what we do. But certainly, there were a lot of guys that got involved today, a lot of young guys that made plays for us. It was fun to see.”

On WR Terry McLaurin:

“Terry, I think, even as a rookie when he came in, was such a pro. The way he went about his business, his work ethic—he’s such a good teammate. I think the thing I realized pretty quickly just watching—especially on game day—was the competitiveness that just kicks in with Terry. He really takes it up a whole other level. There aren’t many guys that I have seen that can do that like he does. His willingness and, like I said, competitiveness, certainly combined with his talent really makes him tough on Sunday. He’s fun to watch. When he flips that switch on game day, you can see it. You can see it in his eyes. You can certainly see it in his play.”

On the key to WR Cam Sims's success today:

“Just the opportunity. Cam's done an amazing job of just staying ready. He does it every day in practice. The guy just works incredibly hard. He's really talented. I think he's been getting more and more opportunities, and rightfully so. The guy just needs to continue to make plays. I'm pumped for him. He's an awesome teammate, and like I said, a guy that I think is incredibly talented and has been biding his time. He's getting better and making the most of it when his number is being called.”

On the receivers carrying momentum into Detroit:

“I think anytime you have a good passing game and you're throwing the ball well, you've got to be multi-dimensional. You've got to have a lot of guys that can do it. Really, the defense a lot of times dictates where the ball goes. That's your job as a quarterback, obviously dropping back and reading the defense. You never know who's going to get it on a certain play or certain game, and I think everybody's got to be ready and rolling. Certainly, it takes the other 10 guys a lot of times for the other guy that is making the catch to have success sometimes. It takes a lot of people, most of all the guys up front battling. There's a lot going into that. It was nice to see a lot of guys get involved today. So, that was it if there was a bright spot.”

WR Terry McLaurin

On QB Alex Smith:

“Yeah, Alex is a pro. He's been in this league for a long time. He gave us a chance to win. He got us back in the game. For a guy who wasn't taking a lot of starter's reps this week, I thought he played well. We converted the ball. We made some third downs. I just told him after the game that I'm looking forward to a full week of practice with him and see where we go from there.”

On his frustrations with today's loss:

“Just kind of what happened the last time we played these guys—turnovers. Hats off to them, they forced a lot of turnovers. They make you drive the ball down the field, take short completions and try to make something out of it. They did a great job of creating turnovers, but on our end, we've just got to not turn over the ball and continue to sustain drives and also score when we get down into the redzone.”

On his touchdown:

“It was a play that we've been practicing. It's been in our playbook since day one. I saw the look where the corner went to grab the flat route on the opposite side, and Alex gave me a good chance. He threw it flat and I just wanted to meet the ball. When I caught the ball, honestly, I didn't expect to be free but I broke the tackle. Shoutout to [WR] Isaiah [Wright] and the other receivers, they kept fighting to give me an open lane to run for a touchdown. That was a big play for us. Alex gave me a chance, and that's all I can ask for.”

On not getting discouraged:

“You can't feel sorry for yourself. Nobody else is. We can't feel sorry for ourselves. We're going on the road next week. Everyone counts and everyone matters. We've just got to get to the fundamentals of football and not turn the ball over. Penalties, I felt like that hurt us a little bit today. We've just got to minimize the mistakes. We're not at the level where we can overcome too many mistakes. That's the biggest thing going into this week, we've just got to play cleaner.”

On having a healthier receiver group:

“It did, man. I was happy to see [WR] Steven [Sims Jr.] out there. [WR] Cam [Sims] had a big game. Isaiah made some plays. We've got some guys on the practice squad stepping up. I'm just trying to encourage them as the leader of the group that it's going to be a group effort. I'm going to do what I can to try to take away some of the attention from the other guys. They've got to make plays, and I feel like they did that today. We're only going to grow. Steven's going to get back into the flow of the offense, and I know his opportunities are coming. Isaiah's ready. We're going to get [WR] Dontrelle [Inman] back, hopefully, next

week. We've got a lot of guys ready. That's what it's about, having enough guys that you can rotate and having enough guys that you can put stress on the defense. You can't key on one thing or another. I'm happy with the way we played this week as a unit. We've just got to build on that."

On where Cam Sims has improved:

"It's hard to say where he has not been better. The way he came into camp—I've only known Cam for two years—but the way he came into camp this year, I knew he had potential to have a great year if he had the opportunity. What I respect most about Cam is he doesn't say much. Whether he gets the ball or is blocking or playing special teams, he'll do whatever. He's willing to do the dirty work. He'll do whatever for this team. That hits me right in my heart because that's the kind of guy I am, so I resonate with that. The way he's making the most of his opportunities, he's only going to grow as he progresses. We're going to need him to continue to play better. I'm really happy for him."

WR Cam Sims

On where he has improved:

"The confidence level I had to build up from throughout training camp. I just had to build trust with the QBs. Obviously, it's coming along."

On QB Alex Smith:

"Man, ever since he went down, I just knew when he came back, I had to do everything in my power to do everything I can for him. He came back, so that means I've got to do what I can. I've got to do everything right for him."

On what went well for him today:

"Just being prepared. My dad always said: 'Just be prepared for any situation.' My opportunity came and I was prepared."

On where he has improved as a receiver:

"Just my confidence level. My confidence level is way higher this year. The QB trusts me. All the QBs trust me now, so that's it. The confidence level and the trust from the QBs."

On the offensive rhythm in the second half:

"We had to settle in. We came off of the bye week, that kind of threw us off a little bit. Once we got settled in, QBs had it on their mind, the receivers had it on their mind. That's all it was. We just had to settle in and execute on every play."

On learning in the receiver room:

"It's fun. Every day, we come to work. That's all it is. We compete. We're young. We're going to have fun, but at the same time we know when to handle business. That's all it is. Every day we just come to compete and have fun."

On WR Terry McLaurin being named a captain:

"That's great. Ever since he got here, I can tell his work ethic. He came in every day and just worked. He put his head down and worked. He deserves it."

LB Jon Bostic

On defense's performance today:

“We just have to get off the field. We have to make our plays when we are there. We have to take our shots when we can because a lot of the plays that we look back at we are going to want back as a defense. We have to get in tomorrow and be critical of ourselves and get ready to go for next week.”

On the Giants run defense:

“You have to tip your hats to them, they were doing some good things offensively that we haven't seen before. But at the end of the day, we still have to go make those plays. We've got to make those corrections on the sideline. When we make those corrections on the sideline, we have to make sure we go out and execute what we are being coached on.”

On what the Giants were doing that they hadn't seen:

“Just some different things inside the run game. To be honest, we've seen these types of runs before. Some of it was just guys were trying to do a little bit too much. You have to get in your gap and do your job. That's what it really comes down to.”

On what changed in the second half:

“The difference is we can start fast, and we've been preaching that all year. We've got to play a full 60-minute ballgame on offense, defense and special teams. Everybody's got to be able to play together. If we're only putting 30 minutes together or a good 45 minutes here and there, we're not going to get too many ballgames. For us, we've got to put a full 60 minutes together.”

On the overall message in the locker room going forward:

“It's not good enough and we know that. Coach Rivera didn't even have to say that, but we understand it's not good enough. And for us, as a team, we know we're right there. We can't keep talking about it, we got to make sure when we're putting this preparation in during the week. We are practicing hard. We love the way we're practicing. We just have to make those plays in the game when the time comes.”

On not being successful in creating turnovers in the two games against the Giants:

“For us, we love to win the turnover battle. We lost that today. We didn't give our offense any type of momentum. They did a good job on defense. They were turning the ball over setting their offense up in good field position sometimes and that creates momentum. And for us, we didn't do that for our offense. So that is definitely a reason why we lost this ball game today.”

CB Jimmy Moreland

On what went well in the second half:

“We just came out and tried to be more physical. We knew what they were trying to run. The first half wasn't us. We tried to come out stronger in the second half, and we did better than the first half. We just can't allow that many points and we weren't able to come back from that.”

On starting faster on defense:

“Just being more disciplined. Everyone doing their jobs and just being accountable. A lot of people weren't disciplined in the first half and we came out in the second half more disciplined with a will to fight. We gained more urgency from the first half.”

On if he is seeing any reoccurring problems:

“No, it's changing. Just getting better. We have to get better every week in practice. We jumped offsides a couple of times. We missed some hits and we can't allow that in practice, which is why it carried over into the game even though we played a better second half. If we want to be called one of the top five defenses, we have to come out every play and every snap and do it.”

On if the team is different from last year:

“Yes, this is a totally different team. We are bonded and we are trying our hardest. We had some mistakes this time without OTA’s and without mini camps. We were unable to get into our playbooks to get to learn the ins and outs. It has carried over, but we are getting better every week and we are just trying to be one of those top five defenses.”