

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

October 9, 2020

Wide Receivers Coach Jim Hostler

On WR Terry McLaurin's yards after catch:

"It's probably part of the combination. He's doing a really good job of taking the ball and getting vertical, protecting the ball when he does get vertical, knowing when to cut back. Those all come with experience and those types of things. I'm sure that's all part of his maturity and growth. There are other things we do in the schemes to get him to run away and give him looks where he can catch the ball on the move. I'm sure it's a combination."

On if he's seeing a year-two jump from McLaurin:

"Yeah, there is a little bit of a jump. It just needs to be more consistent. Like all young players, the consistency needs to grow. He does a lot of good things and then he does some things that aren't so good. We've got to even all those out."

On WR Cam Sims:

"First, he's doing a great job on special teams. That's what his niche is right now. With us having the ability to have a guy from the practice squad be moved up and be part of your team—that's a bonus for him. If that's not a part of the equation, then he's sitting on the practice squad developing and growing like you need to do when you're a young player. That's really what he needs to do. Even though he's playing special teams, it's really the same process for him. He needs to develop and grow and develop consistency in his game. That will lead to opportunities to play more."

On the similarities between this offense and the offense in San Francisco with QB Alex Smith:

"The foundation of the offense is the same. It's Norv [Turner]'s offense. When we were in San Francisco, that offense—two out of three of the years I was with Alex that was what we did. He knows the core and the foundation of the offense. Obviously, it's evolved and grown. [Offensive Coordinator] Scott [Turner] is doing his own thing. But, the foundation of how things are done is very similar."

On the terminology similarities of the offenses:

"It's very similar. That's the foundation of it. That's the kind of thing that is very similar."

On how the quarterback change impacts the wide receivers:

"We're not worried about who's back there other than the chemistry and doing what we're supposed to do, where we're supposed to be. That's really our focus. We're going to maintain that, keep that our focus. Whoever the quarterback is under center, we're going to do what we can to help him be successful. So, from that standpoint, that's really the way we operate. Obviously, we're going through a change, so we've had less reps with him the last few weeks. But we've gotten reps on the side. We've thrown routes in the air where he's thrown things to my guys. It's just going to be a process of us being in the right spot and him throwing the ball. They've played football a long time, these guys. That's part of the equation."

On what he tells the receivers about QB Kyle Allen:

“I don’t really get into telling my guys about what the quarterback’s doing and how he plays. We really focus on what we do, where we’re supposed to be. They worry about what they’re supposed to do and how they do it. What the chemistry and those kinds of things—those come from those guys on the field playing together, practicing together, learning each other. We really keep the conversations about what other groups are doing to a minimum. It’s really just all about us.”

On WR Isaiah Wright:

“He’s a bigger body guy. He has some versatility. He has some special teams qualities. When you’re talking about a guy that makes the back half of your receiver group, those are the kinds of things you’re looking for with the ability to develop and play as a receiver. We’re in a unique situation where we’ve got some young guys playing probably a little bit before their time. That’s the NFL. That’s what this league is about. Guys have got to step up. They’ve got to develop fast. He’s done a great job of learning the system. We’ve moved him around in positions, so he has some position flexibility. He gives us a bigger guy as an inside player. He’s got good ball skills and he’s got good route ability. Those are the things that adds up to his opportunity, now he just has to take advantage of it.”

On Wright’s next step:

“Again, it’s just the consistency of it, the growth every week. It’s easy to play one or two games in this league as a young player or a developmental player. But when you start stringing games together, stringing game plans together, what you do with them, how things change, how defenses play, those things start to add up. His consistency has to stay through that process. The next few weeks we’ll see how much he grows, where his consistency grows and where he develops from there.”

On how McLaurin can improve his consistency:

“It’s the practice part of it. It’s the repetition part of it. It’s doing a lot more than you’ve done in the past, being in different spots, moving inside. Those are the kinds of things that expand when you’re the number one guy and teams watch you play and they start defending you. Those are the things that have to develop, and that’s where he is right now. He’s developing in those areas. Mostly outside last year, this year he has to be inside and we’ve put more stress on him as an inside route runner, how you run routes in there and those kinds of things. That’s where he’s got to grow. Again, same thing—he’s got to string games along in that realm. So, the ability to do that every week for 16 weeks, that’s when you know he can do that.”

On WR Steven Sims Jr.:

“You lose a little bit of a quicker inside guy, somebody that’s done a good job with the ball in his hands. He does have a little bit of experience. You lose a little bit of the special teams value, but that’s the NFL. Guys are going to get hurt. There are going to be spans where guys can’t play. That happens all over this league. I think this year, it’s more magnified because there’s not a lot of practice time. Those are the kinds of things that happen. He was doing an excellent job for us and growing as an inside player and as an every-down inside player. Again, it’s the same thing for the other guys. 16 weeks—that’s the proving point of being able to do it as a player.”

On WR Antonio Gandy-Golden:

“He’s, again, another young guy that’s got to develop consistency. He’s actually played a little bit more in the last couple weeks. He’s playing in our regular personnel as one of our outside guys. He’s done a pretty good job. He hasn’t had a lot of opportunities when we’re not in that personnel group a lot. The more that comes up in game planning, the more opportunities he gets. The more opportunities are going to be based on the way teams take away Terry and his opportunities will go up. He’s in the same boat as the other guys. It’s the consistency over time. It’s easier to play a couple weeks as a young guy. No one knows you; you go out there,

you're focused, you're locked in. It's the week-to-week in however many weeks that we have left that's going to tell you a player and how he develops."

On refining receivers' routes:

"Well, it's the process of how you teach them systematically, how you teach routes and then it's just the repetition of doing it over and over and over so they understand that what they do, how it affects the defense and how it affects the quarterback is extremely important. That's a broad sense of how to develop guys when they're route running. We are a system that has an extensive route tree, so there's a lot more stress on guys on routes – what types of routes, inside, outside routes. So, that's the kind of system that we have so it might take a little bit longer for guys to develop all of their route tree."

On how McLaurin adjusts to different quarterbacks:

"He adjusts really well, obviously, because he's going through it. That's part of doing your job, staying locked into what you're responsible for. In this business, if people are spending time worrying about what other people are doing, then you're going to end up being the problem in the end. That's a big focus of coaches and players in this league, no matter what's going on at any position. You've got to lock into what you do, how you do it, and maintain your consistency and you doing your job. That's really where Terry's at. It doesn't really matter who's behind the center. It doesn't really matter who the receiver is. He's just got to stay the same at what he does."

On the receivers blocking:

"That's one area we've got to improve. We've got to improve on run blocking, perimeter run blocking. We've got to improve in the transition when the ball doesn't go to us and we get on somebody a little quicker. Those are things. Younger players—when they're really locked into what they do and how they do it, in just making themselves perfect they kind of lose some of that. Over time, that usually is something they grow to being a little bit better. Then you have guys that are playing 60, like Terry, where he's not involved in the run game as much and he's playing 60-something plays. He's not going to be as effective in every run, just because of the sheer fact of the repetition of it. Overall, consistency we've got to get better in those two areas for sure."