

WASHINGTON

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INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

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Defensive Coordinator Jack Del Rio

On creating turnovers from Giants QB Daniel Jones:

“Obviously, we always are stressing turnovers. Today is ‘Turnover Thursday,’ so a big point of emphasis piece on Thursday. Look, what we recognize is he’s got the ability to make all the throws. He’s got the ability to run the football as well, which we saw in the first game. To me, we’ve got to look at playing him at his best. We’re preparing accordingly. We recognize the talent level and the skill level. They’ve got a lot of weapons we’ve got to worry about besides the quarterback, but certainly he’s got a lot of tools.”

On the next step for the defensive line:

“For us, it’s just to build on the start that we had to the season. We’re looking to continually improve. We established high standards. Our expectations are very high. We’re going to keep pushing for that. The biggest thing that I’m excited about is the way I’ve seen the guys working at it, the energy they bring every day. Positive things come about with that type of approach. I’m pleased with the way that we’re attacking it. We’re seeking to be better, and we should be better as the year goes on.”

On S Kamren Curl:

“We like Kam as a player. We’ve got a group that’s been working together, that understands the way we do things. We feel like it’s the best way for us to go forward.”

On political involvement:

“Right now, I’m just trying to focus on the Giants. I have a personal life. Sometimes I share a little glimpse of it. Beyond that, I casted my vote and now I’m focused on the Giants. I’m not worried about anything other than helping us beat the Giants.”

On conversations with players about political involvement:

“I wasn’t part of any discussions other than preparing for the Giants.”

On what he learned from coaching previous defenses:

“I think you certainly learn everywhere. Everywhere you are, you’re learning. I’ve had a chance—if you go all the way back to the history of where I started, you have to start with me as a player and the systems I was exposed to as a player. People like Tony Dungy that were a huge impact on my life and the way I do things. I think if you go all the way back that way, obviously I’ve been coaching a long time. You grow as you go. Certainly, you have to change, you have to stay current with the times. Challenges that the defenses face in today’s world are much different than they were 20 years ago. I seek to stay current. To me, it’s not about only one person. I’m a person that puts together and helps coordinate it. But the reality is we have a lot of good coaches and players that are working really hard to help this thing get turned in the right direction. That’s kind of how I approach it. I come in with great energy every day excited to do what I do. I love to communicate. I love to teach. I love to motivate. We come in and attack it every day and have a little fun on the way. We’re hoping to be better as we go through the season.”

On if the defensive line has performed as he envisioned:

“We’ve done some really good things and we have some areas where we’re going to continue to improve. We’re going to work at it collectively. To me, there’s too much of an attempt to separate the D-line from the linebackers and DBs. It all works together. I’ll throw a cliché at you: ‘It’s the ultimate team sport.’ It just is. A good rush is going to have a hard time if you don’t have coverage. Good coverage is going to potentially break down if you don’t have a good rush. It really does tie together. As a former linebacker, I understand the linebackers are tied to the front and the back end. All three levels of your defense are important. When they’re all working together, that’s when you can do some really special things.”

On playing on the 1989 Cowboys team that went 1-15:

“It was tough to hear the banter. But really, we had a run defensively in the second half of that season. I think we were the top, if not at the top, of what we did the second half of the year. We were building something kind of with an eye toward the future and just attacking football. I really fell back in love that year with football. I was a little frustrated over the last two years in Kansas City. The bottom line is that was a rejuvenation for me, personally. That was a team that took the core of that team that went on to win three of the next four Super Bowls a couple years later, but three out of four in a period there. They were very successful. The core of that team was what was playing in those Super Bowls. To me, you have professional football—even when there’s a bad record—it’s professional football. People prepare hard, they play hard. There is talent. I think the one victory we had that year was against Washington, actually. The bottom line is we built a good team while we were there. Sometimes you have slow years, but the professionalism and the work ethic and the toughness and the grit and the willingness to go—none of that was missing. We just weren’t very good yet, but we became good.”

On DE Chase Young dropping on zone blitzes:

“I think, first of all, he’s not going to drop a lot. But the last game, he actually—we added it up—he ended up being the guy who ended up being called on the drop seven times, which was never part of the plan to have him drop that much. It just worked out that way. It was totally freakish. It could’ve gone the other way. It just had to do with where they aligned. He wasn’t the designated drop-guy, it just happened. Without talking too much about scheme, the bottom line is he’s doing a great job. He plays hard, he works hard, he’s a great teammate. He comes out with great energy every day. His numbers are going to come. We really just want to encourage him to stay the course and continue to be the fine young man that he is and continue to play with an edge.”

On if a young player’s numbers even out by the end of the year:

“They come. They come. To me, you just go out and you go to work and help the football team win games. The numbers will come.”

On the secondary:

“We’ve worked hard at becoming sound in what we’re doing in the back end and limiting the number of explosive plays that we allow. When you talk about explosive plays, you’re typically talking about the back end, leverage issues, missed tackles or missed assignments. We’re working hard as a defense to minimize those, make offenses have to work and not allow explosive plays the best we can. Obviously, communication is key. Leverage and tackling is key, having an understanding of where you belong and being in there and being accountable for your teammates is a part of it. I like the way our group has worked at it. I think we’re an improving group, but we have a lot of work to do yet as we get into the second half of the year.”

On what he looks at from the first Giants game to improve:

“We identified a few of the things that we felt we could do better. I think overall for us is we want to play complementary football and we want to do our part as the defense. We need to get the ball back for our offense as often as possible. We need to start fast. We’ve got to take care of the quarterback run. We can’t have him getting an explosive run like he did in the game. There are a few areas we need to address. I think third down, I

don't think we were particularly strong on third down in that game. I think it was probably our worst game of the year. So, there are many things that we need to do better. Holding the point total down is important, but finding a way to get the offense the ball back as much as possible is huge."