

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

December 23, 2020

Offensive Coordinator Scott Turner

On QB Dwayne Haskins Jr.:

“I’m not going to answer any questions about whatever the incident was. I know [Head] Coach [Ron Rivera] has already addressed that. Everything that we’re going to talk about in this press conference is you can ask me about the game whether it was last week or moving forward versus Carolina. Obviously, the game against Seattle, we had some plays early I felt like we could’ve made. I felt Dwayne got more comfortable as the game went on. We had an opportunity at the end. We give them credit; I think they played well. It was a game I feel like we should’ve won. We had an opportunity to. We put ourselves in a hole early, and then we weren’t able to dig out of it. You did see some things. He made some good decisions and some good throws. But there were some stuff that still needs to be improved upon.”

On what Haskins Jr. needs to improve if he starts again:

“I think as he felt more comfortable with playing, he was decisive. Early in the game, he was kind of a little slower. He was decisive as the game went on. The ball got out of his hand, he made some quick decisions and found completions. That’s something that we really harped on him about was getting the ball out, finding completions and making good decisions. Obviously, when you saw the interceptions early, one was kind of more so a poor throw and the other one was a poor decision. As the game went on, that decision making got better.”

On how QB Alex Smith looked in practice today:

“Alex is still kind of working with our guys. I know he’s feeling a lot better. We’ll continue to survey that as it goes. I feel like the arrow is pointing out there.”

On if any of Coach Rivera’s sayings stick out:

“I think they’re good. There’s not one that jumps to mind right now. Coach does a great job of keeping the team focused on the task at hand. I think those phrases are just different ways to word that. We’ve talked about this and I’ve said this to you guys before—we view it as 16 one-week seasons. All that’s important for us is getting our best foot forward and giving us the best chance forward to go beat a good Carolina team.”

On contact tracing at practice around Haskins Jr.:

“We try to be really good as far as contact tracing is involved with all the players. Just keeping an extra whatever—be more critical or pay more attention to him specifically. We try to really keep that six feet, but really, we try to keep it to a 10-foot barrier. Obviously, if you’re in the huddle and you’re practicing, you’re within that. But breaking that up as much as we possibly can. We’ve seen all those teams where one guy goes down and it knocks other guys down like a domino effect. We don’t want that to happen with anybody. But specifically, in this case where there might be an at-risk situation, we’re just paying a little more attention to that.”

On practice squad QB Steven Montez:

“I like Steven. Steven’s been great. He kind of stuck to the quarterbacks and he’s followed those guys around, especially Alex, just trying to soak up as much knowledge as he can. Even going back to the spring as far as the

Zoom meeting, he spent time with us as far as our coaching staff and trying to learn as much as he can. I think he's grown throughout this year. I think if something were to happen, you'd love for him to have a little experience, at least some preseason experience. He's a big guy, a big competitor. I think he'd go out there and play well."

On adjusting to changes across the offense this season:

"I think it's been something that we've all worked at. We've got a great staff here and it's helped. We have conversations all the time about what our players do best and what we can do and help them to do those things. To me, I don't even really give it a second thought. It's part of the game. The injuries are a part of the game. There's always going to be different things that come up. You just always survey the situation that you have then try to make the most of it. I feel like, for the most part, we've done that. Obviously, there are areas that we can do better, and we can continue to work to improve as much as we can. We've got a group of guys that do a great job of attacking each day and trying to get better. Some of our guys haven't had much experience, but they've worked at it and gotten better as the year has gone on. That's really all you can ask. You learn about guys the more that they play."

On if there is anything that stands out for him to evaluate in the offseason:

"Not really right now to be honest with you. My focus is on this week. Every week, it's kind of you reset. You look back at what you've done and kind of do a self-scout and a self-summary of what you've done over the year, and then you dive into the opponent. That's kind of where we're at right now. We're full 100 percent into Carolina and thinking how we can get these guys and put together the best plan that we can to help our team win."

On working in other quarterbacks at this stage of the season:

"Well, fortunately, Dwayne was able to go out there today, so we got some of that. We're trying to see what the deal is with Alex. We kind of prepared that way last week because we weren't sure. We had a good feel for what those guys do. It's kind of a little bit of—I wouldn't say multiple game planning—but just a little bit more expansive where you can get to some things with one guy or other things with the others. It is what it is and something that we have to work through and be ready for both of those guys to play. Then, with the young guys, they have to make sure they're studying. With minimal reps, they've got to be ready just in case one of them have to be the backup when they play. That's just, again, part of this league. You only get a certain amount of practice time. There are only so many reps, and you have to figure out how to divvy them up. That's what we're doing. Those guys are professionals, and they'll be ready if they're called upon."

On if he comes up with multiple game scripts based on the different quarterbacks:

"No, not necessarily. By the time we get to those, we have a pretty good feel for what our situation is going to be. We can always adjust those. A lot of those we just pull from the game plan, so it's not something that we just draw in the sand that day. We can be flexible when it comes to those kinds of things."

On his familiarity with Panthers QB Teddy Bridgewater:

"Teddy's got a lot of film out there. It's been a while since we've worked together. The last time we worked together was obviously when he was playing in 2015. We've had some conversations, but most of it is on tape. It's not like I was with him last year or anything like that. Teddy's a great guy. I love him. I've got a huge amount of respect for him. I'm happy for him that he's in back in a starting role. It'll be good to see him pregame, then we'll go compete. It's not so much of something that—because it's been so long, it's been five years or whatever since he's played for me. But I do have a feel for him as a player. I don't think it's as much as a strategic advantage."

On what he wants Haskins Jr. to improve on:

“Kind of just talking about what I said earlier, just the decisiveness. Go out there and play. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. Trust what you see and pull the trigger. I think that’s what he did as the game went on. I think it’s just the comfort level of getting in and playing. We just have to do some things to help him. That could happen earlier in the game and we don’t get ourselves in the situation we were in. There were some good and there were some bad. He’ll just keep working and there will be more good.”

On how Haskins Jr. can utilize his mobility:

“I think kind of how it happened in the game. We did some things pass game-wise where we spread him out a little bit. They took away the first and second option and he kind of moved to that second side and there was no one in front of him. That is what I mean as far as making quick decisions as far as: ‘Hey, there’s nobody there. I’m going to take off and run.’ He went to go get about five and there was nobody there, so he ended up with a 10, 17-yard game. He ended up with 28-something yards rushing. I think that’s where something happens if he’s stepping up in the pocket for somewhere to throw and there’s green grass in front of him, just take off and go. He worked to the right a little bit and there was no one in front of him, hey take off and go. Take those free yards. They all count whether you throw it or run for it. A lot of times guys are so determined to stay in there and make the right read and throw the ball that they won’t just say: ‘Hey there’s no one there. I’m going to take off and run.’ I think him doing that was good. That’ll add to his game going forward.”