

WASHINGTON

FOOTBALL TEAM, EST. 1932

INOVA SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER - LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA

December 24, 2020

Head Coach Ron Rivera

On WR Terry McLaurin's practice status:

"Ankle. We'll put a declaration on his status when we have to."

On the quarterback situation at practice today:

"Jumbled up."

On if his words have more emphasis this year coaching remotely:

"Probably. It is a little different for me right now. It's been different, that's for sure. Yeah, I think so. That's probably a good way of putting it. I really do think what I'm going to say to guys, say to groups and say to the team.

On where he got the phrase 'be where your feet are':

"A friend of mine who is a sport psychologist, he and I were talking about what I could do to keep the team focused and what I could do. This was back in 2015 during our Super Bowl run. He said to me: 'Just tell them to be where their feet are.' I think about Week 11 or something is when I used it when we were still undefeated."

On when he will have a sense for QB Alex Smith's game status:

"Maybe as soon as tomorrow. Maybe as soon as Saturday. Maybe as late as Sunday morning. He did have a good day today. It was promising. We'll see how he is in the morning. As I told you guys, when a guy does a lot of work, we always try to see how he is in the morning because that's always a good indicator. He had a good day yesterday. This morning he was OK. Today he had a good day. He did a lot of work. We'll see how he feels in the morning. He did some work, he did some work on the side, he took a little bit of a group activity and that's all promising. In the meantime, [QB] Dwayne [Haskins Jr.] took his reps that we had mapped out for him. [QB] Taylor Heinicke took some reps that we had mapped out for him as did [QB] Steven Montez."

On if the results of the Giants-Ravens game would impact his roster decisions for Sunday:

"No. We still have to take care of our business. We still have to go out and play hard and see what happens."

On how RB Antonio Gibson looked at practice:

"Good. He had a good day today. He took a number of reps that we had mapped out for him. As far as what we saw him do and what we wanted him to do, he looked positive. Again, he's one of those guys that we have to see how he looks in the morning."

On what he has been encouraged by in watching Smith in practice:

"His movements. His quick movements and then him stepping in and delivering the ball. Those are things that are all encouraging because the one thing that he had a little issue with was pushing off and throwing the ball. So far, so good."

On if there is one memory from his time in Carolina that stands out this week:

“Not necessarily. You’re right, there are a lot of things, a lot of positive things that came of having been there for as long as I was.”

On what about his former Carolina players has stood out in his game preparation:

“Well, just a reminder of what they can do. When I’m watching their offense—10 [WR Curtis Samuel], 12 [WR D.J. Moore], 80 [TE Ian Thomas], 82 [TE Chris Manhertz]. Those guys pop up. Obviously, [Panthers RB] Christian McCaffrey having been hurt, not to go way, way back to the season. Then on defense, the usual suspects—54 [LB Shaq Thompson], 94 [DE Efe Obada], 33 [S Tre Boston], 56 [LB Jermaine Carter Jr.], 53 [DE Brian Burns]. Those guys are all flying around and are a good, solid group of young guys. Like I said, there are a lot of positive memories.

On LB Cole Holcomb:

“As a full participant, we expect him to be a full participant in the game. He had a good day of practice after yesterday when he did not participate. It was good to see him moving around. He took the full brunt of what he should for now. It was good to see.”

On if LB Mychal Kendricks is ready to play:

“Yes. He had a really good day of practice yesterday. We put a lot on him, and he seemed to pick those things up. Today, he did the same thing. He did a nice job picking those things up as well. We’re going to play him as much as needed. We’ve just got to be smart because he’ll probably get winded really fast. But he showed us that he’s ready.”

On WR Antonio Gandy-Golden:

“AGG looked good. He had another good day of practice. We’ll see how he is tomorrow and then we’ll see how he is Saturday and then we’ll make a decision on that.”

On if Smith has a threshold with injuries:

“In all honesty, that’s up to him. He’s the only one who knows how he feels. I’ve asked him to please be honest, and he has. He was smart last week. I’d imagine he’d be smart about it this week.”

On what he needs to see from Gibson:

“The big thing with him really is being able to plant and cut off of that foot. That’s probably the biggest thing you need to see more so than anything else. Going forward, a straight line, it really doesn’t seem to affect him. His quickness and speed are there, but it’s being able to have a quick foot, plant it and go off of it. That’s the thing you’d have to see to make sure he’s OK. It’s kind of tough to be inside today after watching him yesterday because when you’re inside on the turf you have to be a little more careful about your personal movement, which he was.”

On game planning for Haskins Jr. if he starts:

“Those are the things that pretty much went into formulating this game plan are things that we feel he does well that are his strengths. Again, we’re working him as if he’s going to start. That’s how we have to approach it with him right now. Again, just making sure it’s in his mind in terms of his preparation, which it has been. He had a good day today.”

On how offensive coordinator Scott Turner is handling the uncertainty at quarterback:

“He’s handling it pretty well. He’s got his game plan prepared. He’s working the things that he needs to work. I think the nice thing about it is he’ll adapt to whatever the circumstances and situations are come Sunday.”

On if this game would be a bigger deal to him personally if it were in Carolina:

“Maybe. But the truth of the matter is the importance and significance of this game far outweighs anything personal as far as I’m concerned.”

On altering the schedule due to Christmas:

“The biggest thing we did was we altered tomorrow’s meeting structure. We will come in and get ready to practice. We will practice and then we’ll get them out. We’ll take care of the meetings that we missed Saturday. Typically, what I’ve tried to do in the past is I’ve tried to incorporate Tuesday as a workday, and whatever other day Christmas falls on, I would give the players off. Because of the pandemic, Tuesday is a no-show day for the players. There’s nothing we can do about that.”

On the players overcoming challenges this season:

“That’s exactly what our players have been able to do is keep their focus on football and be where their feet are. I think that’s been one of the pluses for our guys is that they’ve been able to handle those situations, those circumstances and determine what’s important to football. That’s been helpful. I think the big thing about our guys is they want to learn, they want to grow, they want to become a good football team. Having something to play for every week I think has really helped their focus and attention. That’s been a big plus for what we’re trying to do moving forward.”