



POSTGAME QUOTES

Carolina Panthers vs. Miami Dolphins

Friday, August 17, 2018

Carolina Panthers

Head Coach Ron Rivera
Carolina Panthers

RE: On Run blocking and the interior line

Well I told you guys it was going to be a good test... it's a good pass rushing defense we faced and it was a really good test and continually your timing is not going to be. We had some opportunities to make plays early on and we missed those opportunities and you got to be better and certain things happened that we have to be better at, i.e., running the ball exceptionally which we did and that's part of what we talked about in training camp is being able to run the ball effectively.

RE: On McCaffrey running between the tackles

Mostly because of what he did in college, I mean in college you go back to his two years and nobody ran between the tackles more than he did. So again, we always thought he has that kind of ability and he's got the quickness which we did see, so we're very confident and comfortable in what we think he can do and we'll continue to use him how we best feel he'll suit us.

RE: On The two helmet-to-helmet calls

You know I mean, when one of them comes unfortunately on the sideline, you know, Da'Norris came in a little high, you know, the other one is debatable as to who it should have been on. I felt my guy came in low and ready to go and I thought the opponent lowered his helmet and again that's what we're trying to find out. So it will be a good month for us as coaches and for us as officials to go back and look at it and determine exactly what happened on that, and again, the rule is in place for player safety, that's important ... you know, I'm not going to deny that there was helmet-to-helmet contact on that instance ... my question is who initiated it. And again at full speed it's hard, you know, and I am biased.

RE: If Da'Norris Searcy is in the concussion protocol

No, the only thing I know, Joe, is as much as you know right now is that he is in the protocol.

RE: On the helmet-to-helmet calls:

Well certainly, that's exactly why we've got to be able to be careful with him, we've got to make sure as coaches to teach them technique and obviously player safety and continue to harp on them and

when the referee throws the flag we have to be willing to understand and accept and try to work on that exact type of contact.

RE: On the safety depth

I like the safety depth. I think we've got a lot of good football players back there in the secondary and I am very comfortable with what we've got. I thought Rashaan (Gaulden) played well. For a rookie, coming in and playing as much as he did, he flashed well and I can't wait to see the tape and really break down to see how he really did and I can marry his actions with what the calls were to really study.

RE: On The growth of Donte Jackson

It's one of those things, the more and more he gets the feeling and comfort and confidence in his ability first is what teams are going to try and do against us as a defense, I think we will see him continue to grow. He's done some really good things and he's an exciting player. He has a long way to go but I think he's got a chance to help us.

Cont... Well, I think again, a lot of it is we go through this when we start to game-plan, then we can give him tools, give all of them tools to use and as we get into game-planning situations, more-so than anything else and these first two games there wasn't a lot in terms of game-planning, this next game there will be a lot of game-planning done in terms of preparation, so again I think what we have to do is look at the tools that we want to go, the players this week into this game and see how we do use them.

RE: On the offensive line stepping up and showing consistency:

In certain elements, yes. Now as you talked about earlier, I don't think we passed proed as well as we're capable of. But at the same time, I thought we ran and blocked very well. I thought we opened up some holes. I thought our running backs ran with great vision. And again, as I said, we didn't game plan as much as we typically do in the regular season. I was excited about the production we had as a football team.

RE: On how he would handicap the other running backs behind Christian McCaffrey:

Oh, I'm not going to get into that, Joe. I was just very happy about what I saw. I like what I saw from CJ (Anderson). He did some really good things. Cameron Artis-Payne does what he does very well. He ran hard. He ran with a purpose. That was exciting. Kenjon showed quickness and his agility. Even when we gave Elijah Hood an opportunity, he showed his power. So, we got a good blend right now. We got good football players back there. As I said, I'm very pleased about what we're doing right now. We just gotta be more consistent. That's probably the word I've been using a lot. I just think we as a football team can be better.

RE: On Dorian Johnson playing tackle:

Dorian's a guard. We're trying some guys out at left tackle back up right now. With the injury to Daryl, it kind of put us in one of those situations where you've gotta find some more depth. So we've been working some of the younger guys a little bit out of position. Just trying to see it. Dorian blocked very well. Very, very pleased with his run blocking. Again, as you pointed out, he's got some work to do as

far as a pass pro guy. It's one of those things where the more opportunities he gets, the better he can become. He's very athletic. He's got good feet. He's a little bit out of position right now. Hopefully it's one of those things where you continue reps, he might improve.

RE: On the Red Zone defense stepping up after the first half turnover:

It did. I thought our execution was very well. Communications between the linebackers and DB's, linebackers and D-line was very good. I thought Eric made some real good decisions there. Again, we had a limited amount of tools. But the tools they used, they were very effective with. I did like the movement in the secondary. The conversation going on in terms of the checks and communications. That was one of the things that really stood out to me as I was watching the Red Zone. What, did we have three of them? Three situations where I thought they did a really nice job. It was good credit to them.

RE: On backup left tackles and cuts:

I don't know. This could be a possibility. We've got a group of guys right now that have been getting a lot of reps. A lot of work at it. We'll continue to work with these guys. Next week is going to be a big week because it's really our real, kind of, dress rehearsal. Which everybody knows that what the third game is. We'll get together a game plan. We'll give them, again as I said, some tools. We'll see what happens.

RE: On Alex Armah in the pre-season games:

He's been solid. He really has. To watch him play and compete, it's kind of cool. There's a guy that's played linebacker and played tight end/fullback in college. We're giving him a shot at the fullback position. He's grasping it. He's done a terrific job. He works very hard. He takes a lot of pride in it. He's a young man that's got an opportunity to help us as a football player, as well. Which is a huge plus.

RE: On Alex Armah doing the dirty work on Norv's offense:

Oh, he loves it. He's a solid football player. He really is. To watch him do, as you said, the dirty work, which I do agree. It's tough. He handles it very well. He's one of those guys that plays with an edge. It's a lot of fun to watch. It really is.

RE: On Ian Thomas and his touchdown:

You see the potential. You see the growth. He's kind of a little bit of an unknown because he only played one year of major college football. We are fortunate that our scouts, our college scouts, pointed him out as somebody that we really thought could help us. Marty was patient. When the opportunity came, he was there available. He's taking that role very nicely. Part of what I think is helping his development is that Chris Manhertz is out right now. Hopefully, we'll get Chris back soon. Because of that, Ian has gotten a lot of work. And you see his progress has been accelerated because of that. I think as a young man, he could come in and be a very good second or third behind Greg. When Chris gets back, we'll have a good combination of tight ends with a fullback, as well. And Alex. So, we're headed in a good direction with that group right now.

QB Cam Newton
Quarterback

RE: Tonight's offensive performance

One of the main focuses was to start fast, for us to score on the first drive, and for C-Mac [Christian McCaffrey] to have an exceptional run. You've just got to find a way. One of our emphasis was going for two, being more effective and efficient on that. Just catching a rhythm. Playing in a game in front of a crowd, you can't simulate that at practice. But having great practices kind of prepares you for it to a degree. All in all, I think we did play good. We could have played better. Knowing what this team is capable of, we showed a lot of flashes. Seeing those young receivers go up and make plays. Seeing C-Mac [Christian McCaffrey] go 71 yards. Just the efficiency of the offense. We had a quiet 400 yards. That's all pluses in the category, but we know we are extremely unsatisfied about today's production. At the end of the day we are still trying to create good habits and win football games.

RE: Importance of ending on a high note

I still am somewhat dissatisfied, but at the end of the day bouncing back and finishing on a good note is important. I think it affects sleep. Not only that, just knowing the mistakes that were made, we are not far off. That's the optimism of it, but at the end of the day we have a long way to go. Little things. Coach is always saying to perfect the small stuff and the big or spectacular plays will happen.

RE: Comfort level with Norv Turner's offense

I am extremely comfortable. Him [Norv Turner], Scott [Turner], and the whole offensive staff does a great job with playing through your stress. The fact that, getting the ball out early on, early downs, trusting your receivers and talent, and getting the ball out of your hands and taking the pressure off of the offensive line. I did a terrible job on one play knowing that it was a quick pass route and I still tried to come off on the other side. Those are just bad habits that I have to eliminate from my repertoire and knowing that I have to move forward and be better.

RE: Completion percentage

That's acceptable, but I know I still left plays out there. As the old southern cliché, there's still left meat on the bone. Being greedy with perfection and understanding that from dropped passes to not accurate passes, C-Mac [Christian McCaffrey] bailed me out. I have to be better and I have to take full responsibility and accountability for that.

RE: Assessment of last week's pre-game conversation with Kelvin Benjamin [Buffalo Bills]

There's no need for me to talk about it. I'm at a lose-lose with that, but I wish him the best.

RE: Ian Thomas' potential

He doesn't even know how good he's capable of being. I think just walking in to a situation, he could not have been in a better situation. I kind of just glance over in practice from time to time and see Greg taking him up under his wing, showing him how to practice, how to finish, how to run certain routes. He couldn't have been in a better situation, learning from him [Greg Olsen] every day. When you see plays like this happen, his natural skill set takes over. When you run after catch, not be as affective in the passing, but running game as well. He's going to be a key asset for us.

RE: Christian McCaffrey's rookie season performance versus now

We all see improvement day to day, but he's used to that. He's a dynamic player. People say, "where would he play?". We always laugh and tease about it, but he's a primetime player that you just have to find ways to get him the football. He's still not satisfied and that's what I love about him the most. He can have certain plays play out in the game and he's just better than the defender. Also, he's extremely physical and I don't think he gets that much credit for that. He's comfortable with the football in his hands. I have to find ways to make sure that, not only do I get him the football, but that I get him an accurate ball so he can do something with it.

RE: Are these the most offensive weapons you have had?

I wouldn't say the most that I've ever had. I don't think that's the proper way of saying it. I blush sometimes when I see Kirko [Curtis Samuel] make the plays that he made tonight, when you see DJ [Moore] show flashes of what he's capable of doing. Obviously with a professional approach that Default Swag [Torrey Smith] came in and made a big splash in that whole room. Fun Fun just picking up where he left off and taking on more of a leadership role and understanding that this is his year. Janky [Jarius Wright] just coming in and really showing, not only the young guys, but proving to himself that he's capable of doing it. That's J. Wright. It's good to see. How could you ever forget about, well I can't say that, but I have a very significant name for #22 [Christian McCaffrey] and #88 [Greg Olsen]. Those guys are extremely special, but it's great to see that. Like I said, I blushed at times knowing that these guys are special with the ball outside of their hands when getting open, but it's even more exciting when they get the ball in their hands.

RE: CJ Anderson starting behind Christian McCaffrey

He's still the guy, make no mistake about it. He's still the guy. He knows his role. We know his role. As the year goes on or as the season takes places/shapes out, different roles take place. Not only that, I think every single room that we have including the quarterback position room has competition in it. You see games like CJ's having, C-Mac's having, Cap [Cameron Artis-Payne], Hood [Elijah Hood] and those guys. Everybody is in the position to make each other better. I can't forget about Keon [Kenjon Barner]. Everybody is playing at a high level right now. We can be extremely better and it starts with practice. It starts even with myself, knowing that there were a lot of things that were unacceptable on my part this week. I know I just have to be better with practice habits. It just carries over. Knowing that we have a great team with New England [Patriots] coming in and we are ready to accept the challenge.

***RB Christian McCaffrey
Carolina Panthers***

RE: How much fun was the 71-yard run?

It was a lot of fun. The o-line, fullback, tight end did an unbelievable job blocking and made my job easy, so I hit the crease and just, you know, put the ball in the end zone.

RE: But you broke a tackle, which is what you said you wanted to do more of this season

Yeah, absolutely, I had a great run and I definitely want to try to make as many people miss as possible. And once again I think it all stems from the o-line, they get their guys it makes our job easier and gets

us in a rhythm and flow ... and it was fun out there to spread the ball around and everybody got a piece. It was a lot of fun.

RE: On The offensive growth from the first game

I think we still have a lot of work to do. I think, you know, we know how good we can be and I wouldn't say that was our standard. I think that's the beauty of it, we have a lot of work to do and we take that to heart and we really want to play to our level.

WR Curtis Samuel
Carolina Panthers

RE: His success against Miami this season and last season

Last week after we finished the game, I was like, "We play against Miami." When I first went on the field, I looked at the spot where I got hurt and was like, "Man this is crazy. Last year I got hurt in this exact spot." My goal was to go out there and have fun and enjoy the moment.

RE: Playing for his family

I'm real close with my mom. I love my mom to death and my goal is to make sure that she doesn't have anything to worry about for the rest of her life. So in order for that to happen, I have to go out there and perform.

DT Kyle Love
Carolina Panthers

RE: Carolina's defense as a whole

We knew, the week before, we didn't play well and we knew we had to do better. As a defensive line, we knew we had to push ourselves, had to get to the quarterback. We couldn't let what Buffalo did to us get us down and get us out of our game. We came in today with a great mindset, ready to work and get better and that's what we did.

RE: How they can improve next week

We want to get better every game. You can't go backwards. The only thing you can do is go forward and progress as the games go and the season goes. When we get New England, we have to do the same thing, we have to get to the quarterback. That's what our job is at the end of the day

RE: Playing at home this week and next week

It feels great to be back in front of the home crowd and getting ready for the season. I'm happy to be back. We're happy to be back.

S Mike Adams
Carolina Panthers

RE: Defense's performance as a whole

We could have done better, we let a couple runs get out. I thought we could've tackled a little better. Not where we wanted to be. We stopped the ball in the red zone. We stopped them from getting touchdowns for the most part. They had field goal attempts. That was our goal just to minimize that and minimize the touchdowns and get off on third downs. We try to take baby steps to minimize things, but we showed great improvement.

RE: How will third game help prepare for regular season

That's the longest the starters play. It'll definitely get us ready and different situations come up, backed up, that we worked on today...short yardage, those are things coaches love to see us work on before the season starts. When you're in there that long you get to see those types of things, that's what makes the third preseason game a preparation game for the start of the season.

RB Elijah Hood
Carolina Panthers

RE: UNC touchdown celebrations

Yeah, it was. We played Clemson, and we ran an outside run play and hit the corner for a touchdown. That felt good for sure. I definitely remember it, scoring touchdowns here, the way it feels. It felt good. That was a real big game and I feel like these preseason games are the same thing for me. So being out there and scoring, especially running through a linebacker on the way, kind of sends a message. I'm back and still doing my thing. I can still run over some guys, so that felt good.

RE: thoughts on his TDs improving his chances to make the team or practice squad

It's not really my place to say. All I can do is go out there and give them my shot. They make plays, and whenever they trust me with the football, whenever I get my rep, give it 100 percent effort. The chips fall where they lay. This is an extremely talented football team. I've been on another NFL offense. I've seen it, and this team is really talented, really... The best are the best for a reason.