

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell



Obviously, just kind of kicking it off. You know, hope to kind of, obviously, have a chance to score a few more points in the second half and really piggyback what I thought was a strong defensive performance in the first half.

A lot of guys flashed as far as helping us stay in that game. We were just trying to find a rhythm offensively that we really never found outside of that one drive towards the end of the second quarter.

Just across the board, just waiting on that one play, you know, who's going to make that one play to get us going.

Obviously, it starts with me and we got to be able to -- every guy on the roster needs to feel like they're in the position to go out there and compete. And we felt like we had a good plan going into it. But, ultimately, execution not enough offensively.

And then I think our defense just wore down. Three turnovers, short fields. Different things that right when we could kind of stand up and get some momentum going, it just did not happen tonight for us.

So we'll continue to -- you know, a lot of battles going on in our roster right now to make our team. Want to continue to allow those guys to compete but also still making sure our starters coming off a great week of practice against a really good team. I really thought a lot of good things done this week. Ultimately, wanted win the game. We did not.

Q: Is there an update on Andrew Booth Jr.?

A: Yeah, it was kind of that same ankle he's kind of dealt with. It sounds like it's a positive thing from a standpoint of, you know, just an aggravation of an injury that we kind of know about already. He's worked his way through that throughout camp. And then ultimately what it will be is just how that thing looks the rest of the week. Hopefully we still get him some work, obviously, throughout this week as we continue to prep. We'll see where he's at. I'll get with Tyler (Williams) and Uriah (Myrie) I'll keep you guys posted as the week goes on.

Q: What's your assessment of the two backup quarterbacks tonight?

A: Yeah, first thing's first, it can be difficult sometimes when you're in a quarterback competition and you're kind of rotating in and out.

Getting into a rhythm and really getting into the flow sometimes, you feel like you're one play, really, away from getting going. And I felt like both guys at times tonight had good rhythm and good command. We just couldn't make that one play, that one third down conversion, you know, make that one throw, make that one, you know, play to kind of trigger and ignite the offense that we really needed.

And, you know, probably could have run the ball a little bit more to establish a little bit more of a flow. But we're trying to figure out who our backup quarterback's going to be. So I want to give those guys opportunities. As well as the backend who's going to make our team at the receiver position.

So we feel great about the running backs. I know Kene (Nwangwu) and Ty (Chandler) are day in and day out showing a lot of great things for us to go along with Alex (Mattison) and, obviously, Dalvin Cook being the special player he is.

And I think (Bryant) Koback is a solid depth player in that room that a lot of people will probably have their eyes on if he's unable to be on our team. I sure hope we can keep everybody.

But ultimately we got to be better going back to the quarterbacks. I think in the end, we're trying to see who can come off the bench and help us win a football game. We'll go back and watch it and coach those guys up hard.

I know I can, obviously, be better for them in some timely play calls to maybe get them going. But for the most part, we just got to try to continue to improve and limit the turnovers and see who can win this thing.

Q: Kevin, on Kellen Mond, how would you evaluate his play? Just didn't seem to have the same confidence or zest that he had last week?

A: Yeah, he was always -- when I think back on Kellen's night, obviously, he's moving the team on that first drive and we get into a third down there, kind of in their half of the 50, chance it, maybe getting some points.

The pocket kind of collapses on him. That's, you know, playing in the NFL. You know, can you be compact, can you find a way to get that ball thrown to the open receiver without your arm getting tipped. I'll go back and see what happened protection-wise.

But ultimately I think that's playing in this league. We're kind of in that fringe field goal range. Can we secure points, can we be safe with that ball? And then the last interception, I think he just lost track of where that post safety was and just trying to press to make that play we were trying to make all night.

Q: What did you learn about the receivers that you were hoping to learn more about?

A: Yeah, I thought on that drive, you know, to kind of go score here, Ihmir (Smith-Marsette) had some kind of nice timely catches on that drive. Really, coming off his punt return where he got us some yards back after fumbling the previous one. I did like seeing him respond that way.

I think Jalen Nailor getting into the game and, obviously, flashed. Didn't always get it, you know, when he maybe had a chance to.

But ultimately I think right now when I look at that room, I see Bisi (Johnson) doing consistent things, doing so many things to help our offense. Ihmir's got a pure ability that everybody can see.

And you just continue to look at the Myron Mitchells and the Trishton Jacksons and then Jalen Nailor and these guys. I just see everyone fighting and competing.

And I felt that group pressing a little bit tonight. But across the board, we feel very good about our depth there. They're going to get more op against a really well-coached team in Denver. I know a lot of those guys. And coverage-wise will be similar what they practice against. So hopefully we can turn those guys loose and let them go win some jobs.

Q: You mentioned trying to get the quarterbacks to get some opportunities to move the ball down the field. Does that change the play calling for you if you're calling more passes than you might otherwise?

A: There's some times when you're having some dialogue with the staff, plays that you might get to for certain guys. And then, simply, it just ends up being, Hey, you don't really feel like -- I don't want this guy's next throw to be a third and six.

So I'm trying to give him an op today to throw some quick game, throw some screens, put some things in place to get in that rhythm knowing that we're probably going to be rotating those guys.

So a lot of times you selfishly kind of just for their sake want to try to help them get into that rhythm. So, you know, maybe play calling tends to sway that way.

But ultimately I know I got a lot of confidence in our running backs, a lot of confidence coming off of last week in our depth there at the O-line. Especially that second group to go run the football.

I'm trying to still figure out some things in other areas of our team that weigh heavily sometimes in some of the decisions we make.

Q: What's it like -- how cool is it to see a journeyman veteran like T.Y. McGill to see what he does?

A: He's one of those guys that flashed to me. He wrecked the -- obviously, wrecked multiple plays tonight. Had the sack and a half.

It's the plays that don't register on the stat sheet when you see him exploding through the line, forcing the back to bounce. And you see BA (Brian Asamoah II) and Troy (Dye) and those guys running down plays.

That's all because of the impact that those guys are having upfront. He's had a good camp and flashed. In both games, really, when I go back and think about it, among other guys, as well. But it's really cool to see a guy like that, you know, understand the outcome he may have and ultimately capitalize on it with performances like tonight.

Q: Kevin, with the joint practices, will that play a role in the 27 players not playing tonight? And also moving forward, you think we'll see any of the marquee starters against Denver?

A: Yeah, 80-plus plays, a little over 48 hours ago for our ones against another team's ones. I knew playing long ago we would kind of handle this week like this.

Our game reps took place at our facility this week. And then that competitive environment that we were able to bring in, it was phenomenal to bring a team like the '9ers in for those reps.

I feel like our team improved. Those starters got a lot of work and a lot of great competitive work. I thought Kirk had a really good week of practice against a really good defense, a really good front that can consistently get pressure.

We will continue to evaluate and assess what next week looks like. We've got kind of a pretty structured plan in place for this week to ultimately, you know, make sure we're getting the amount of reps for those guys that we kind of planned coming into camp to have them ready to go with our eye ultimately circled on September 11th.

Q: With a guy like McGill who has played so well, a lot of the snaps in preseason that have come against backups, how do you evaluate the potential and what you see there versus when you might need him in a role against starting level competition in the season?

A: Yeah, we do quite a bit of ones versus two work in practice. So he's had, you know, multiple days working against our first team offense.

And I ask those offensive linemen, you know, who's sticking out to you guys as far as somebody's that's tough to block? Who feels heavy in those combinations that you guys can -- they're going back and talking amongst themselves. T.Y.'s a problem.

So you start hearing some of that, showing the team some of these clips of guys making plays in those periods where the ones are going against the twos. And that's not a shock when he comes out here and does it. You know, maybe against guys listed similar on the depth chart, but he's still making plays and showing up in my eyes.

Q: What did you see in Akayleb Evans tonight in coverage, run support? And, you know, he knocked the ball out of play.

A: Yeah, I thought that punch would have been big for us to -- kind of like the hit against the Raiders last week.

If we had got that one, maybe we're able to put together a drive there and go try to tie or maybe go for two and win that thing.

But, yeah, I think across the board he's such a talented, you know, player for us to continue to just wrap our arms around, try to develop on a daily basis. We want to get him a lot of reps. There was a reason why he was out there a lot.

I'm sure there will be a lot for us to correct fundamentally with his eyes or just situationally understanding how we can tighten up in some spots. But I thought he was a willing tackler. They were running the ball hard there in the second half and guys were showing up trying to throw their hat in there a little bit.

So I think -- you know, our defense for me tonight, I just feel like we kind of left them on the field too much. Even when you're subbing, tonight was about our offense not sustaining enough to give ourselves a chance to win the football game.

Q: With Mannion starting the fourth quarter, what went into the decision for Mond come in with about four minutes left?

A: Yeah, we're just working off our snaps and kind of seeing -- the one thing the '9ers did, although our defense had a really strong first half, in my eyes, they possessed the ball a ton in the second half.

At one point, we were even in time of possession and they ended up almost 14 minutes ahead on that. And that all took place in the third quarter. Into the fourth quarter, just massive drives of eating clock.

And when you go three or four plays and out, at one point we were in the fourth quarter having to run seven plays. So it's just not enough plays -- we were right at 50 again tonight. We would love to see the number around 60 plus.

It comes with more execution on third down and it obviously comes with eliminating the turnovers, to be able to finish drives with points when you do get in there.

Q: What did you like about what Mannion did on the touchdown drive?

A: I just thought with Sean, the consistency of, you know, when you call something, you feel strongly about the execution level being high. Because you know he's going to communicate, articulate that play and go out and do his job.

I think Sean's at his best when he doesn't do too much. He throws completions, puts the ball in play to the guys around him, you know, helps lead the charge from a communication standpoint.

He's a very smart player and you feel that veteran presence when he's in there with those guys. But ultimately we would have loved to have seen a couple more drives like that for him and Kellen.

But it was nice to see, you know, they were playing some nickel defense and some 12. And we kind of finished that drive and kind of ran it in with some physicality. It was good to see.

Q: Without Irv Smith, what depth do you think you've created at the tight end position and what has Ben Ellefson provided at that position?

A: I'm excited to get Irv (Smith Jr.) back. Hopefully we'll see him back on the grass with our guys in the next few days. And I think Johnny Mundt's been rock solid for us.

And Ben's (Ellefson) had a great camp. I really look at Ben right now as a Jack of all trades the way he's, really, able to impact the game and the run game, play pass.

You know, everybody wants to run play pass. And I said it this week. But that requires those guys to have to block pass pro against some good outside players/rushers. And he's held up. He had some great, great reps against these 49ers in practice where I don't know if many guys in this league can hold up against some of their guys.

And he's sticking his face in there and, you know, competing through the down, giving us a chance to push the ball down the field.

Obviously, Zach Davidson tonight, I would have loved to see him finish a couple more plays. And kind of like he's done throughout training camp for us, I'm sure Zach will be ripping and ready to go at Denver next week to try and make some of those plays back. I'm sure he will. He's had a good, solid camp for us and we expect him to be right there along with (Nick) Muse and Shaun Beyer.

Q: Kevin, do you feel at this point you're comfortable with your backup quarterback situation or could it be a possibility where you look beyond these guys to look at options there?

A: Yeah, ultimately you would have loved to come out of the night feeling like, Shoot, they both moved the team and scored a lot of points, and we got a heck of a hard discussion and conversation ahead as a staff and as an organization.

Although we didn't do that, I still think there's real teachable moments and then some real moments where we'll be able to evaluate and kind of really look at where we're at that position, as we kind of restack everything to go into this week to see how we need to allow those guys to compete.

Because as we've talked about, in my mind, you know, the clock is going. And although our -- I feel like our starters are in a great spot for September 11th, and that's where our emphasis is really on, there's a lot of jobs we got to still allow to play themselves out so we feel good about the overall depth of our team and we'll certainly allow that to happen this week.

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Vikings QB Kellen Mond



Q: How do you feel about your performance and the team's overall performance tonight?

A: We want to be as efficient as possible. We want to convert on third down and put the ball in the end zone. I had some really good throws. I felt like I was efficient in some really big ways, but in some other ways, missing some throws and some reads so we just have to go back and watch the film tomorrow and then make corrections and get better.

Q: For the second interception, were you trying to force that one?

A: I mean, we had a play called, a quick fade to one of our young receivers and he ended up inside releasing, and I ended up putting it up and gave the safety an easy pick, so obviously that was a really bad mistake on my part.

Q: It was nice that Kevin O'Connell put you back in. That's invaluable.

A: Yeah, it is. I just want to get as many reps as I possibly can in and sustain the drives and that's just even more great work for me so we were able to hit a couple of third downs, I think, on that last drive and if I hadn't thrown the interception, we would probably have gone for it on 4th down and maybe have made the game a little bit closer at the end.

Saturday, August 20, 2022
Vikings Running Back Ty Chandler



Q. After Ihmir Smith-Marsette got you down to the three what were you thinking?

A. I just wanted to be able to execute when they call my number and I was grateful I was able to do that.

Q. What are these opportunities like during these preseason games?

A. Like you said it's a wonderful opportunity. It all comes down to if you are prepared for it and ready to go out and execute. That's what I try to do day-in and day-out. I've got some wonderful guys in my room that help me out and I'm grateful for that.

Q. Do you think you have done enough through two preseason games?

A. Nah, I haven't done enough. There is more work to be done and there is always more work to be done. That's what I'm looking forward to, I'm looking forward to just getting better every day and continuing to be able to produce.

Q. Some guys say touchdowns are fast and others say it can be in slow motion, how did you feel?

A. It was kind of slow motion and a surreal moment but I was just happy to see the work pay off. Props to the offensive line for giving me the push and getting me in there. It was a great feeling.

Q. How weird is it to practice a team twice and then face them again here tonight?

A. It feels good just to be able to see an opponent three times. It was my first joint practice, so it was a new experience but a great experience. Then to be able to come out here and put it all together in the game is really unique.

Q. Who has helped you the most on this team?

A. I got to give credit to all those guys. Dalvin (Cook), C.J. (Ham), my boy Deuce (Alexander Mattison), everyone is willing to lend out a helping hand, and it's pushing us all to get better. That's what it's all about.

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Vikings LB Brian Asamoah II



Q: What have these two preseason games done for your confidence in the playbook and in your role on the defense?

A: I feel like the whole start of camp, getting an opportunity to continue to learn the defense, and now I'm just playing free. Going out there and just playing football, trusting my instincts and trying to go make plays off of just doing my job.

Q: You had one run stop there where you just kind of shot up the middle. What did you see on that play?

A: I opened the gap, and I shot it. Just again following my keys, my rules and just doing what Coach (Ed) Donatell, Coach (Greg) Manuskay, and Coach Sam (Siefkes) are asking me.

Q: When you have a lot of the starters that aren't playing, what kinds of things are you able to get from them on the sideline? Are they able to give you any advice on what they see?

A: Yeah, Jordan (Hicks) and Eric (Kendricks). They've kind of been helping me in my development. They always help me with new tools and things I can try to play a certain way and in meetings I sit right in front of them, so I'm just constantly learning from those two. They have so much experience and that's been helping me out. Their experience, learning from them, and kind of implementing my own way of doing things, as well.

Q: Brian, you fly around out there. What is your mentality? Would you rather play fast and make mistakes to correct later? How do you approach a game?

A: Our special teams coach, Matt Daniels, always says a slow move is a wrong move so I go out there and try to play fast, and you know if you're going to mess something up, mess up 100%. So that's kind of my mentality, but my goal is to just go out there and play my game. Just playing fast football and doing my responsibilities on defense.

Q: They always preach the speed of the game. You had two joint practices with these guys, but to get out there, the speed of the game, what was the difference out there for you tonight?

A: I feel like in the first half, we were playing together. I mean, that's what we need to continue to do and just kind of get more into the groove of things. Just playing our game, playing defense, trying to get three and out, so that's what our job is. Try to get that ball. We did it in the fourth quarter, but we have to get that ball out more, so it was good.

Q: These first two games T.Y. McGill has gotten to the quarterback couple of times. How fun is it just to see someone get his opportunity out there?

A: I think it's pretty cool. I'm more in love with his celebration, the little T.Y. He works extremely hard at everything he's doing. It's just a credit to what he does in practice. He gets it in practice and it's not a surprise when he does it in a game as well.

Saturday, August 20, 2022
Vikings Defensive Lineman T.Y. McGill



Q. What has kept you going throughout your career?

A. Just the fight, right older guys coming into the league to name a couple of guys like Michael Bennett, Brandon Neban, Melvin Ingram. To get the okay from those guys that you deserve to be here just things like that to keep you going and the support system that I have from my wife to my parents, to all the coaches that are around me, just that type of stuff that keeps me going.

Q. What kind of feedback did you get back?

A. Not a ton of feedback, just work, I don't know where I am on the depth chart, just grinding, I don't even need the feedback, because at this point I know what I need to correct and I know where I need to get better and just keep challenging myself.

Q. What has it been like switching to this defense after you came in mid-season last year.

A. Well honestly it was a different defense last year, so now this something new in terms of the scheme and the run game that I'm trying to get used to but I am definitely getting the hang of it. Early on in camp there was a little change to where I am used to like getting up the field and things to that nature.

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Vikings Wide Receiver Ihmir Smith-Marsette



Q. Have you fumbled much before in your college career?

A. I never did, I was never allowed to do it (return punts) in college. You know they give me a shot out here I got to get it done I got to be better.

Q. What was the coaching point where they were waving you guys off when the ball bounced out of bounds?

A. It was just short, it was just a short punt but that's one that I got to get to though. I was lined up on the right I thought he was going to kick it to the right, you know he kicked it to the left. That's just me I got to read it and go get it, and you know put our team in a better position starting on offense not from the five or six, but from the 15 or 20 where it initially hits, I just got to be better back there.

Saturday, August 20, 2022

49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan

All right, guys, injuries from today. We had WR Austin Mack who went out with a hamstring and OL Sam Schlueter went out with a right knee.

Q. Regarding DT Javon Kinlaw.

A: Yeah, we were real happy for him. We kept most of our -- we kept I think all of our starters out. Javon we wanted to play tonight just because we know traveling on Wednesday it's going to be short, so we thought it would be safer to get his playing time tonight for next week. He did an awesome job and took advantage of it.

Q. Can you talk about CB Sam Womack, that fumble, the recovery, just kind of the takeaway?

A: The ball bounced right to him there on the fumble. But, no, he did a good job. We didn't keep him out there as much this week as we did last week. Seemed like he did a good job in his reps.

Q. On DL Drake Jackson

A: Yeah, I was glad to see Drake. He's doing some good things. I was glad to see him play out there, played a lot more than he did the last week, and from what I hear he's getting healthy.

Q. Back to Kinlaw, you played him pretty extensively through the first half. Where is his health? How encouraging is this?

A: I think it's good. I would rather him had to wait until next week like most of the other starters, but with the weird travel schedule for us, we're getting back at 3:00 in the morning tomorrow night and got to head out to Houston on Wednesday, play a game on Thursday. So can't really count on it being the smartest thing for him to play on Thursday, so we made sure to get him in tonight.

Q. Will he play in Houston?

A: I doubt it. That's why he went tonight.

Q. Kinlaw was pretty routinely double teamed. The sack was like his only stat on the stat sheet. Did you see his body has changed? (Indiscernible.)

A: He's just healthy. He hasn't been healthy since the Dallas game in 2020, so we have seen that. I mean, being healthy, he was in great shape last year but his knee bothered him. So this year he's even better and he's feeling good, and we're trying to keep that up.

Q. * Inaudible

A: He tried to go. He worked out before the game, did everything he could to go, so appreciate him for that, but wasn't able to. Hopefully be able to go against Houston.

Q. (No microphone.) What is he like? He's so quiet seems like.

A: He just seems more himself I think. I mean, when something is bothering you like it was, it's hard for anybody, but really hard for athletes. This is what they do, it's what they wait their whole life to do, and when you go out there and the pressure is on you and you don't feel like you can do what you're capable because of something, it's frustrating. He had to deal with that for a long time, so I know he's not dealing with that right now, and that's why I think things are a lot easier for him.

Q. What did you see from RB Trey Sermon throughout the game?

We didn't want to play him long so we just got him in. I don't know how many reps he got and stuff. He had a little bit of ankle throughout the week, so it was good to see him battle through that and get in there and help us out with the rotation. Hopefully heal up and be ready for Thursday?

Q. How do you like how RB Tyrion Davis-Price and RB Jordan [Mason] ran the ball the second half? Each had a kind of big run there.

A: Yeah, I thought they did a good job. You know, struggled to get a lot going in the run game real consistently, but it was nice to be able to run out the clock there in the second half, and especially in that fourth quarter.

Q. What was the quarterback rotation? What was your thought process there?

A: Just not playing Trey and not playing a ton of starters. You know, our tackles, our two starting receivers, our running back, our tight end. We wanted to make sure if those guys got in there they got a fair chance with who was in. Once we got to the second half see more threes and stuff, and it wouldn't have been fair for one of them. We tried to give them two series each, so we stuck with it to I think the third quarter, and then we let Brock [Purdy] finish it out.

Q. On the quarterback competition

A: No, there is nothing done yet. We haven't been giving them equal reps or anything, but Brock has done a good job every time he gets an opportunity. Nate [Sudfeld] did some real good things tonight and last week, too, but I like both those guys, and see how it finishes up.

Q. On OL Alfredo Gutierrez

A: Yeah, we didn't get him in last year, so I was pumped to get that ball back, because I thought we were just going to have to kneel it when we got it back, and we were able to run a couple plays.

Alfredo went in there, we ran power to him, we ran a bounce play there where we tossed it and got outside of him and led on it and had a first down and gave him the game ball. Guys were pumped up.

Q. Did you give Alfredo the game ball?

A: Yeah. It was his first time playing, so we wanted to give him one. It's been great having him around here. He's everyone's best friend on the team and helps us out throughout out week, too.

Q. What is his attitude throughout the last few years?

A: Always the same. Laid back. Comes and works his butt off in the practice squad days or when we practice, and then he takes care of us over the weekend. He's always just being a good practice player in doing that. It's really tough when they come and got to practice every week and never get in games. He loves the opportunity and you can tell he feels very grateful for it, just being around the guys, and it was cool that he was able to get actually some playing time this week.

Q. * Inaudible

A: I mean, we were high on him coming out. Kub and Griese put in a lot of time into him. They really liked him coming out. We liked his tape. But he's been really consistent in practice. You guys see him in games, it's been consistent. That's why he's got a chance to make our team.

Q. (Pre-snap penalty issues.)

A: Yeah, it was frustrating. I think we had four false starts. I'm not sure what the other ones were. Yeah, it was real frustrating. Stuff we obviously got to clean up and there is no excuses today, especially it wasn't too loud today or anything like that.

Q. What are your thoughts on WR Malik Turner?

A: No, I mean, that's what Malik has been for other teams in his career so far. We had Coach Schneider had some experience with him. Some guys know him from other teams and have gone against him, and we've always known he's a good football player and he's been exactly what we hoped for since he got here. He has done a hell of a job in special teams and done a great job at wide out when he's gone in.

Saturday, August 20, 2022

49ers Offensive Lineman Alfredo Gutiérrez

Q. Alfredo, how much of a better player are you a year later?

A. A lot better. Thanks for everybody, my teammates to be honest, especially Coach Foster. He's been on my butt, I don't want to say different... and I think I'm a different player. I still have a lot to learn and to improve on, but I think I'm a different player.

Q. Were you nervous playing in your first game?

A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, it was a lot. There was like a inside (feeling). I know the cadence, but it was still also my first like, this is it right? This is the cadence right? And they were like, "yeah, basically like come down." But like yeah, first time in an NFL stadium. That was awesome. That was a really good feeling.