

Head Coach Kevin Sumlin

Were you guys just looking at different situations today?

“It’s situational. We started on the twenty-yard line, just like a touchback. Then we put the ball on midfield and had some coming out situations. That also puts our coaches in some situations where their backs are against the wall. It’s given us some chances as coaches to call our game plan and it gives our players a chance to feel what we expect from them on different parts of the field.

Do you like what you’re getting out of your wide receivers?

“Yeah, we moved Tim Monroe back to receiver earlier this week, so he really only had a couple of days and all the receivers have been getting a lot of reps. We have some big shoes to fill out there and a lot of these guys haven’t played. We looked at Mark Hafner the other day and he is our leading returning receiver with 57 catches. The rest of those guys have only caught six or seven in their whole career. We don’t have a lot of experience there, but we’re getting a bunch of reps for those guys and they need to continue to improve.”

What are you looking for at the running back position?

“We’re looking for someone we can count on. And someone that will not give the other team the ball. It’s just like any other position. All of our running backs are different, but they all bring something different to the table. We want to develop a guy that is going to be our guy. If we have to play all three, then we’re going to do that too.”

On the offensive line’s progression through the spring.

“Sir Vincent Rogers and Sebastian Vollmer and the other guys are coming on. We have put a lot on them. Those guys are old and they have played a lot of football. They have to be the steady part of our team. Really - on both sides of the ball - the front line should be that way. Those guys have been in the trenches. It’s our skill guys on offense that really haven’t played. Those are the kind of guys that we need to count on. They led this team through spring and we’ll need their leadership throughout the year.”

On the play of the team’s defense and specifically the play of safety Stephen James.

“Stephen James is coming on and our safety play in general has been pretty good. Kenneth Fontenette and Ernest Miller are both steady and will hit you. We just need to develop our linebackers. I think we’re starting to get more physical. We missed a few tackles in the open field, but I was pleased with our ball pursuit and doing something nasty when we get there.”

On the quarterback competition.

“Blake Joseph and Case Keenum both bring something to the table. They help each other out and at the same time make each other better. I was pleased because their play was better today then compared to last Saturday, just from the sheer point of not giving the other team the ball. All in all, I thought the tempo early was really good, but those guys need to be a little more responsible in the second half just by pushing the tempo. We

have a ways to go, just like everyone else, but we're better than we were a couple of weeks ago."

Quarterback Blake Joseph

What are the differences this year offensively compared to last season?

We are running a similar system to last season. We're throwing the ball down the field and being a little bit more lateral than we did in the past, but we're throwing more mesh routes, crossing routes and deep routes. That's what is different this year."

What is it like having larger targets in the receiving corps this season?

"It's nice having those big targets out there. We have Wesley Scourten at 6-6, Mark Hafner, who is a big target with good ball security and LJ Castile, who is coming on very well. I'm very happy with having those three guys."

What's it like to have SirVincent Rogers back on the offensive line?

"We have a good offensive line coming back next season. They have a lot of experience and that will help us out a lot in future games."

On his play in Saturday's scrimmage.

"I feel pretty good. I just need to keep working on learning the offense. I've been doing a lot of film work, I just need to keep learning the offense and what reads to make. If I see this type of defense, what do I need to check out?"

Wide Receiver LJ Castile

On robbing an interception from the defense and making the grab

"It's all about who wants the ball the most and who wants to make the big play. I guess I just wanted to make the biggest play the most."

On his play this spring

"I just need to work on my route running and my speed. That's what I need to work on right now."

How much did you accomplish today?

"I accomplished a lot, but I'm still not even close to where I need to be yet. I have a long way to go."

Safety Stephen James

On the defense's play in the scrimmage

"It's all about making plays and our defense needs to come with it better. We need to play better throughout the whole scrimmage. We picked it up towards the end, but we need to come better than that."

On the defensive unit's improved play in the second half of the scrimmage

“Coach got on us a little bit and we needed to turn it around and make a few plays in the red zone. We definitely looked better in the second half.”

On the secondary's improvement from last season.

“We’re all a little bit older. We have three, fifth-year seniors and Quinte Williams. We have a lot of experience back there.”

What is it like to be back on the field after sitting out last year?

“I’m just happy to be out there. I’m just trying to get my rhythm and my speed back. I’m just getting used to making plays again.

What do you want to accomplish at UH?

“I just want to win a Conference championship and make the defense better. I want to play with more energy, play a lot faster, make more tackles and get back in coverage to not get beat down the field. That’s what I’m focusing on. After sitting out these past two years, I’m just happy to be out here practicing. This is like a game for me. I’m just definitely excited to be back out there.”

On the battle between different positions.

“There is definitely a battle. We’re all playing pretty well right now. We really don’t have a weakness as of yet. We all don’t play well all the time, but we pick each other up. We need to complement each other.”

Did you learn anything from watching while you were hurt?

“Basically, watching just makes you hungrier. I ran this defense at Oklahoma State. It’s pretty much the same system with the same calls. I’m used to it, but it’s a lot different from a 3-4 scheme. I’m feeling comfortable in this defense and its given me a lot of chances to make plays.”