

8/12/11
Football Camp Day 4
Quoting Coach Graham

On Today's Practice:

“Day five and it is the first day of full pads. Practice went really well and we had great energy and competitiveness. I am very pleased with how they competed. I think Tino Sunseri had another good day. I was impressed when he pulled the offense together and was leading them today. Overall, I love how they really competed back and forth. We are getting better every single day and that's what excites me.”

On Spring Practice vs. Summer Practice:

“ We believe at throwing it all at them and then refining it. We have around 11 or 12 different coverages on defense and 15 different blitzes. That's a lot and the kids have picked it up well, but we are still refining it. The installation is also very difficult for our offense because we're throwing a lot at them and then refining it. I actually charted how many seconds it took us to snap each play. For a couple series we have been around 15, 18 20, 13 15, 16, 15 and 22 seconds. We want to be snapping the ball every 15 seconds, so if you look at the 40-second clock we wanted the ball snapped at 25. You will also see that we huddle, we do motions and shifts and sometimes we deliberately slow down with certain procedures. I think our tempo is starting to get to where we don't notice we're going fast. We are fast right now, but we still need to be faster. I believe we have another mode that we can go into. A lot of our plays we should be snapping the ball at 30 seconds because of the type of play that it is. Tempo is one of the things along with penalties that I emphasize every day.”

On Shane Gordon:

“ Shane Gordon is fine and we were just being really precautious today.”

On the Intensity of Practice:

“ We don't worry too much and we get after it. You can see that we went full-tilt goal line today. This is football, and you got to be smart, but if you're going to be a physical team you need to practice physical. I think a lot of this has to do with how you train. Our guys are doing a tremendous job. Often players get injured because they are fatigued.”

On Pitt's players from Woodland Hills High:

“ Khaynin Mosley-Smith has come a million miles. He is about half way into shape and is down to around 300 pounds. He is down about 30 or 40 pounds from where he was. He is young and is progressing well and I really like his spirit and attitude.

“Lafayette Pitts is going to be a big time player for us with his savvy and leadership. He has a presence about him and as a freshman he exudes a sense of leadership. Shawn Griswold has told me that in all of his years coaching that as a freshman Lafayette Pitts is the best freshman training-wise that he has ever had. “

“Coming in I knew Juan Price was a good player, but he is really going to be special. Most of the guys who have come in as freshmen still have a long way to go in terms of getting in shape though. The running non-stop for two hours is really hard on them. I do see Khaynin Mosley-Smith, Lafayette Pitts and Juan Price all playing and contributing this year.”

On the Center Position:

“Ryan Turnley and Chris Jacobson are competing. Our whole issue is the center position and I think now we have settled it down where we know its going to be either Ryan Turnley or Chris Jacobson. We had a couple bad snaps to start the practice, but that was us just kind of being lazy.”

“Greg Gaskins has moved to tackle and we are going to leave him there and he is really set and looking good. If we need a third center as an emergency deal we will move him back, but for now he is set at tackle. We need to develop him at tackle because Lucas Nix can always move to guard. “

“Right now we are pleased with both of our tackles and Chris Jacobson is looking good at guard. Cory King has been progressing along with Matt Rotheram and Juantez Hollins. We have seven or eight guys who are really working hard and getting better.”

On Starting Line:

“We are very cohesive as a unit because we have Jordan Gibbs at left tackle and Lucas Nix at right tackle. Cory King has been a very steady right guard and then Ryan Turnley and Chris Jacobson have looked very good at center. Arthur Doakes is going to be a player, but has a way to go to develop. The backups who are the closest to seeing playing time are Juantez Hollins and Greg Gaskins at the tackle position and Matt Rotheram at the guard position. It depends on who we play at center and who develops there.

On Todd Thomas and Linebackers:

“Greg Williams had cramps today, so we kind of held him out. Todd Thomas ran with the first string today and really did a good job and is getting better every day. The three players at the spur position, Todd Thomas, Carl Fleming and Greg Williams, are really doing a good job. I also feel good about our outside linebacker position, with Brandon Lindsey, Juan Price and Joe Trebitz who has been having a really good camp. We have some pretty athletic guys and we think we can really impact the quarterback.”

On Kick Returners:

“ If Ray Graham is the best returner then he will return them. We also plan on having Buddy Jackson back there as well.”

Returning Players on New Philosophy:

“ The thing that makes me feel good about this team is that I think that they have really bought in to how we are doing things. I try and listen to the players to see what they say about the philosophy. We try and spend a lot of time explaining our philosophy of why we run on and off the field and why we don't have earrings and foul language in the locker room. These are old school values and I think that the kids really respond to this. Our philosophy is also about really building a relationship with the players. I think these are really good kids and that they were really good kids when I got here. You will not hear me after one season blame one single thing on anything that has happened here before me. Naturally there are things that are philosophically different from before and the kids have really bought in. This really gives me great confidence that we can win right away. Installing a new offense, defense and kicking game that is drastically different, that is the challenge.”