

8/18/11  
Football Camp Day 9  
Quoting Coach Graham

**On Darius Patton:**

“Darius Patton had to go to the ER today with a medical condition, he is awake and alert and his vital signs are very good. At this time we are waiting for further information. His injury was not contact related. We actually took off this morning and let the guys sleep in and he was really only out there for twenty five minutes.”

**On Today's Practice:**

“Today I thought that we had another hard, physical day of guys getting after it. There was a lot of situational stuff and a lot of two-minute stuff. Juantez Hollins has really impressed me and over the last three days and he is coming on strong. We have a lot of competition. We really thought we were settling in and then Juantez Hollins started coming on strong. He has a lot of ability, so we are really excited about him. Additionally, Greg Gaskins has had his best three or four days and Cory King is motivated and is really working hard. Naturally, with this (offensive line) we have a couple of scenarios we are working there. Again, we need to continue to work on being disciplined in our fundamentals. We have two practices left and another big scrimmage. Looking at where we are at, guys are very spirited and were very animated in our game winning field goal scenario at the end. Matt Yoklic and Kevin Barthelemy have really been doing a great job of getting our operation time down. Matt Yoklic has been really booming the ball from a punt standpoint. Kevin Harper hit every one of his field goals today and hit two game-winners. There were a lot of positive things from a lot of different positions. Guys are working hard and I like the spirit. Practice is really fun.”

**On Depth Chart:**

“There is still a lot of work to be done. Football is such a physical sport that it is important that you develop your depth and you are developing guys who are ready to play. I feel good about their training, and feel that we have stayed relatively healthy so far and we have worked hard to do that. We will go through and evaluate this Saturday and then we will go from there. I feel a lot better about things, because my biggest concern was the fifth spot on the offensive line and now we've got some guys coming on so you are looking at seven or eight guys that are getting better and competing, and that excites me.”

**On Lucas Nix and offensive leaders:**

“I think that he is very gifted, talented and physical. He can be as good as he wants to be is what I can tell you. I told Lucas Nix and Jordan Gibbs that I would be very disappointed if they weren't the two best tackles in the league. If Lucas Nix moves down to guard I would expect him to be one of the best guards in the league. I believe Chris Jacobson is in the same mode. I believe that Lucas Nix, Chris Jacobson, Jordan Gibbs and Mike Shanahan are the leaders of our offense.”

**On the running backs:**

“The thing that I am encouraged about is the development of Ray Graham. I think that Zach Brown has really helped to develop him and push him. The young running backs have been impressive, breaking eighty-yard runs and stuff. Ray Graham has worked unbelievably hard this summer. He has bought in as a complete player. He has always worked hard when it comes to football, but as a complete player he has improved on and off the field. I am really proud of him and I think that we are really coming together and I am excited about what we can do.

**On Ex-Players being at Practice:**

“Well, it is exciting to see those guys go on and be successful. Naturally, those guys have such an incredible spirit when they come in the building and I like the energy that they put off. It was neat for our guys to have them come back and we appreciate those guys taking the time to comeback. This is their home and they really are interested.

**On Juantez Hollins**

“I think he is competing to start, that’s how positive I want to be about that. He had his knee drained; he has had a lot of problems with his knee, specifically bending it. He is a big, physical and athletic guy. With the new system, being unsure and then you’re trying to think and then you’re playing football, you play kind of slow. His progression up until four days ago was one where we were going, ‘come on.’ Finally, when we were going ‘oh he is just going to be a backup,’ then all of the sudden he got his knee drained and put a smile on his face and he was looking impressive. If we can get him to be consistent then I believe he has a really good chance. I’m looking for the five best I can put up there, he is competing for a starting spot and he has got a chance.”

**On Ryan Turnley and shotgun snaps:**

“Every year that I have done this, starting at Rice -- where they ran a wishbone -- it was the worst thing. Then I go to Tulsa, same thing, bad snaps. The other thing that contributes to that is what we do on defense, when you have a guy standing over him every down, attacking him. So the way we play that zero nose I think that makes it kind of hard to snap the ball. When we play those 4-3 front teams I think that will take a little stress off of him. It is like casting a real or throwing a horseshoe, it is just getting reps and doing it. I have confidence in him and he has done well with the fundamental part of it. I think it is Ryan Turnley or Chris Jacobson there. We have really pushed Ryan Turnley to develop because we feel Chris Jacobson’s best position is left guard. The thing I worry most about is getting good snaps and taking care of the ball.”

**On Lucas Nix’s best position and the offensive line:**

“When we’re running the power, I like him at guard, but when we’re passing, I like him at tackle. He played guard last year and Jordan Gibbs played right tackle last year. So if Juantez Hollins comes on, we move Juantez Hollins to left tackle, Jordan Gibbs to right tackle and move Lucas Nix down inside. Right now if you’re watching the lineup, Greg Gaskins is at right tackle and has come on and is doing well. He deserves the opportunity and is a great person, and also is a guy I really trust. Consistency is really important and also that play together as a unit. Jordan Gibbs and Lucas Nix could probably coach it they

know it so well. Offensive line varies coach to coach, but a lot of it overlaps. Pass protecting, vertical set and coming off the ball in run blocking are all about fundamentals. If Cory King comes on at right guard then we will kick Lucas Nix back out to right tackle, which will give us the least amount of change. You want the least amount of change as possible, but it would be dishonest of me not to tell you that we are very open to those three scenarios. I think Saturday will determine which of the three scenarios we use.

**On the practice schedule:**

“Once Saturday gets here we will go to game week. We will take off Sunday and then we will practice Monday, which will be a Tuesday practice. We will go Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday then Friday, and play on Saturday. Its game week from there. So we have to settle in and you need to get used to the guy playing next to you and get some rhythm about you. I would think that when were out there on Monday it is what we will look like week one.”

**On Chris Jacobson playing second string center:**

“I will tell you Chris Jacobson probably does not like that because it’s hard to be in this offense and go with the ones and twos, but he does a good job.”

**On the depth on defense:**

“We have a lot of depth on the defensive line. Ejuan Price is really coming on and he is going to be impactful. We are trying to get him consistent and he is going to be exciting to watch. I think Brandon Lindsey likes what he is doing, and Todd Thomas is a guy who is going to be a special player for us there. Andrew Taglianetti is coming on as a nickel guy who will work in on our third down stuff.”

**On surprise standouts:**

“Trey Anderson continues to impress us. He is really an operator and a really impressive kid, and he does some phenomenal things. We are excited about his development and I think he has probably been the surprise. His maturity level as a freshman – for him to come in and do what he is doing is impressive to me. I have been impressed with that and things are going well.”

**On practicing situations and discipline:**

“Today we were going two-minute, game-winning drive. We’ve got the ball and we’re out of field goal range. We’re up by two points, other team has the ball and we’re on defense. Our one offense was in the opposite scenario. We’re sitting there in a third down situation and we jump off-sides on defense and put it in field goal range. We’re passionate, but you’ve still got to be disciplined. We’re still working hard on that and I think that is the key. The key is to balance being very disciplined and I want to be very aggressive. I believe there are two types of players, those out there trying not to mess up and those out there performing. I want my guys to be in the left lane, hammer down, but you’ve got to be disciplined.”

**On Trey Anderson and competition:**

“The reason we are talking so much about Trey Anderson is because he is new and he has been a pleasant surprise. He is no doubt competing to be the number two quarterback. Trey Anderson really has a lot of advantages because he ran an offense very similar to what we do in high school. I’ve been amazed watching him line up the receivers saying ‘hey, you need to be plus two off the hash mark.’ He is very impressive in that regard. There is not a position on this field where there is not competition. Mark Myers had his best day yesterday and I think it has to do with the competition. Going in to the scrimmage I think that that will be a very big deal there. As much as we throw it our quarterback also has to be able to run the ball. I feel a lot better about that position now than I did in the spring. “

**On Devin Street’s recovery:**

“It is just a process. Again, we have the best care in the country and we have a great team of doctors. We just want to be very careful with something like that and it will probably next week.”