

August 23, 2011
Quoting Coach Graham

On today's practice:

"Today was a Wednesday practice for us. Yesterday was our base downs (first and second down) and short yardage/goal line. We have our basic game plan installed. Today was our third down red zone and we got that installed. The guys are really working better. It was our second day with the scouts and we did a lot better job with executing our look. We're making a lot of progress and the guys have a good mindset right now. We're prepared to play."

On Todd Thomas:

"Todd Thomas still has a ways to go and a lot to learn. I think the big thing is his athleticism. He runs with the ball well and is a very instinctive football player. He has a long way to go to get where he needs to be. Greg Williams has limited time with being injured, which has helped Todd get further ahead. We also have worked Andrew Taglianetti a little bit there in that position. Taglianetti showed some signs that he could do some things to help us in maybe a nickel package."

On the spur position:

"The spur position is very important to us. There is not one position that is not important to us. I think the key to do what we do is our corners. The most significant position is if you can get a guy to match up one-on-one at the corner position the better off we're going to be. The outside backers, the spur position and the panther position are going to impact the quarterback and force the edges. All 11 positions are important but the spur position is pretty important that it is active, explosive and productive."

On Anthony Gonzalez:

"Anthony Gonzalez was wearing a blue jersey because he was going down and running scout team quarterback for our defense. He cannot play in the first couple of games. He is being a team guy and helping us there at the three back. We talked to Gonzalez and he is still considered a quarterback. If he can help our football team win games being a three back then that's what were going to do. The door has definitely not been closed for him to compete as a quarterback."

On Ronald Jones:

"The reason I am so excited about Ronald Jones is because I just coached a kid that is one of the most phenomenal players I have ever been around. Ronald Jones has a lot of similar characteristics to that player. He has to get better as a route runner but he is going to have a significant impact on this team. He has a tremendous punt return and once he gets the ball in his hands, he will do some special things. I'm really excited about Ronald. He's going to be a guy who is impactful and that's going to be an important factor in our offense. That's important for our offense to have a guy that we can hand a reverse to, throw a bubble to, that can catch the ball then make

people miss and go for 40 or 50 yards for a touchdown. He is a guy at camp who has stuck out to me the most as far as being an instant contributor from a big play standpoint. We still have to wait and see whether Ronald will be our number one punt returner. I think it will either be him or Cameron Saddler”

On Mike Shanahan:

“I think Mike Shanahan will play a major role for this team. I think he has great ability and runs a really great route. Mike is a big physical receiver who is going to catch a lot of balls. He is a great blocker and a guy who really sets the edge for us. He is a big key to what we’re doing and will have a lot of plays in our offense. I think Mike has gotten faster and I think he’s fast enough. He’s a 6-5 guy and he is one of our best deep threats. He’s a long strider so he’s eating up a lot of grass. He is deceptive in how quick he can get deep. Mike is exactly what we want to have in that five man position. It’s almost like a flex tight end and he has to be able to block on the perimeter and set the edge. He will probably get the ball thrown to him much more than anyone else on offense.”

On Jason Hendricks:

“I like Jason Hendricks and I think he has started to become a complete player. He is a very athletic and gifted player. Jason is a good tackler and a physical kid. I have challenged him to study more and verbalize more. I want him to become a commander back there like Jarred Holley. What makes Holley so good is he plays so much faster because he has such a knowledge of what he’s doing. Jason has really improved and I would say those guys are really steady back there. I have a lot of confidence in our safeties.”