



CIN Postgame (at Giants) Transcript: Head Coach Zac Taylor

August 21, 2022

Q: What did you think of (Safety) Dax's (Hill) first interception tonight?

A: It was a great play. That's a tough play. He just finds a way to get at the ball and get his hands on the ball and had a couple of opportunities last week. So, it was good to see him make the most of that one today.

Q: You had a number of your first- and second-year players playing big roles. How important is it for guys like Dax, (Defensive End Joseph) Ossai, and (Defensive End Jeff) Gunter to be developing?

A: These games are so critical because the way we practice is segmented and certain periods that are usually featuring certain situations. So, for them to get out there and play the length of time that they do is invaluable for those guys. We hope that they're learning from it and they're making the most of the opportunities that they're getting.

Q: Thoughts on (Guard) Cordell (Volson)? Initially on the field, your first takeaways?

A: It seemed positive initially, but I know those guys are a little tough to

Q: Was keeping him in as long as you guys did today more about just kind of the lack of depth you have at the position with (Guard) Jackson (Carmen) not being there or that you wanted to see him in as many situations as possible.

A: A combination of both. We want to see him play football. We knew they were going to play their ones initially, so we knew that we were going to get some good work against those guys. Some good evaluation there and then also we went from seven to six there (inaudible).

Q: After the first half you stuck with (Quarterback Brandon) Allen and everybody.

A: He just got robbed of some opportunities last week, so we thought, give the ball to him in the second half. Get him one more opportunity.

Q: Yeah, but like, the first drive of the second half?

A: That was good. That was a good way to start the half and get seven points on the board and that got us kickstarted on what we thought was going to be really solid half.

Q: What was your initial reaction to (Half Back) Chris Evans big return? Did you think he was going to take it all the way to the house?

A: I didn't have great vision. Once he got by me, I was watching (Safety) Mike Thomas' block. You know, that really helps you spring that thing. So, I was more into hyping up Mike Thomas, than seeing how the run finished up.

Q: Didn't get a good view of that last offensive snap. What happened with the false start?

A: I don't know. There was a miscommunication somewhere obviously. That can't happen. You got a shot at, what was it? probably going to be a 60-yard field goal it looked like. So, did it take us out of the range? Maybe not. Maybe we could've taken a shot there. We wanted to work some situational football

and they got the better of us there on the last play. But we can't have that. Obviously, it's back five yards and now you've got to kick a 65-yarder.

Q: Were you trying to set up the real long field goal? Kind of on that note, how important is (Kicker) Evan (McPherson) even in the preseason? Obviously, he can let you do different things.

A: Yeah, we were going to give him a chance to tie it. You could go for the Hail Mary and try and win the game. I think it'd be good to work that pressure kick there. Too bad we just didn't have the opportunity.

Q: In that first preseason game you let (Punter) Kevin (Huber) and (Punter) Drue (Chrisman) both get some punting reps and then today you just stuck with Drue. What'd you think of his performance today?

A: That's something we'll discuss after we've watched the game, but I think it was just good to get him an entire game. To be able to get into a rhythm and see what he can do there, being able to see Kevin do that for a long time. That doesn't mean that next week is going to be the same. We'll evaluate this week (inaudible).

Q: You're coaching the game, but did you have any idea that (Linebacker) Clay Johnston had about "48" tackles?

A: No, I did not.

Q: Seriously, I think he had like 19.

A: Yeah, you see him in there on a lot of plays. He had a lot of snaps, he was running around, communicating like crazy. Was in on a lot of plays I could see that.

Q: Can you describe (Wide Receiver) Trent Taylor's importance in what you guys are doing in the big picture, during the regular season?

A: He knows the offense well. He's got his skillset, he's a great separator. He's got a history in this system, so this stuff all makes sense to him and he certainly provides opportunities there as a punt returner. So he's just a guy who's played a lot of ball in this league, been in a lot of big games, and made plays as he did for us last year, especially against Kansas City. It's good to have guys like that around.

Q: Teaching moments in the first half? The "0 for 6" on third down and you get the ball deep in their territory twice and each time you only get a field goal.

A: The penalties killed us. Put us in really deep situations there. Early on I think we had three holding calls. There's one more, we had four penalties against us early on that really killed us. Had some NA's that really hurt us in the passing game, and that really set us back. That should've provided great opportunities there to score down in the red-zone. Instead, we're not on the same page and you get nothing out of it. You know, you score some field goals. So, that was disappointing not to take advantage of the field position and like you mentioned, the "0 for" on third downs is where we are third and long again. We've found ourselves in it these two preseason games.

Q: The fact that the Giant's played a lot of their offensive starters and the way your defense and special teams control the game. I mean you've got to walk out of there feeling good about that.

A: You know, we challenge those guys to win the turnover battle, especially in the first half and we did that. It should've allowed us to play with a more comfortable lead and before that seven points at the start of the third quarter would've really blown the thing open for us. That being said, I think there are still situations in the fourth quarter where we could have control of the game. We shouldn't have been

kicking the 58-yard field goal, we should've been in a better position to go score a touchdown. Those are just missed opportunities that we had.

Q: Looks like you came out of it fairly healthy.

A: (Center) Lamont Gaillard had a calf and (Defensive End) Khalid Kareem had a hamstring.

Q: Did that take him out of the game?

A: He came out, came back in, came out again.



CIN Postgame (at Giants) Transcripts: QB Brandon Allen

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Q: On the inability to sustain drives.

A: I think we just killed ourselves going backwards the whole time. Penalty after penalty we had four drives in a row with a holding or some kind that set us back. It's tough to sustain drives when you're in a second and 15 or third and 15 situation. Early on we just really hurt ourselves and then coming out of the second half was good to see us play cleaner and go down the field and score.

Q: You had it in the low red zone there, a couple of misfires in the red zone, was that just a lack of work? You didn't play at all, you haven't played much...

A: At the 15, we threw a check down and then we threw a go ball that I thought was a good route, but we got hemmed up a little bit there in the red zone. I thought we had a chance at it, but the defender made a good play on that one. I don't think it was too glaring on that one you're talking about, but we definitely could have capitalized a lot better.

Q: How important are these games for (Offensive Lineman) Cordell Volson and what did you see from him?

A: It's great. Obviously, he's young and he's going to learn. He can only get better from where he's at. For a rookie in his position, he's a really good player and I think the good group of guys around him in the o-line room are only going to help him and turn him into a great player.

Q: What is it about Trent you like throwing to him so much?

A: He gets himself open – so anytime you have a guy that can get himself open you look to throwing him the ball. He's a savvy guy there in the slot and he knows how to overwork zones and work himself open in man coverage as well. He's been around, he's been doing it for years and he's definitely a guy I look to in the slot when we need a play. He's had a really good camp and preseason so far.

Q: What was the biggest difference between the opening drive in the second half and the other two opportunities you had?

A: I think our biggest thing was, if we had a penalty...I don't think we had a penalty on that drive. All of our earlier drives, it felt like four drives in a row there were holding calls and we're moving backwards,

and moving backwards. It's tough to keep things going when you're constantly going backwards. I think on that drive we played a lot cleaner. We were able to move the ball, played clean football. We were moving the ball decently well early, but the penalties were bringing us right back. So, we played a lot cleaner and played a lot better.

Q: Was the plan for you to come back in the second half?

A: Yes, it was talked about beforehand. I think a lot of us were a little bit frustrated at half with the field position we had and the lack of points we put up. It was right decision for us to come back and hoped for that drive to go the way it did. You come out, get one drive and go down to score a touchdown so it worked out perfectly for us and that was a good plan.



CIN Postgame (at Giants) Select Quotes: P Drue Chrisman

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Q: How do you feel it went for you out there tonight? Obviously, it was the most punts you've had in a game and it was just you. How do you feel it went?

A: It was good being the only punter. You can get into a little bit of a flow instead of alternating every other one. Getting the whole pregame and everything for myself. It felt good. It felt like I was back in college and back to being a starting punter. It was good to get into a little bit of a rhythm.

Q: (Special Teams Coordinator/Assistant Head Coach) Darrin (Simmons) told us the real evaluation for you guys comes under the bright lights. Tonight was a night game. You said it felt like the way it felt at Ohio State. Did you enjoy yourself out there?

A: Oh, 100%. This is what I love to do and you have to perform under the bright lights. That's what it really comes down to. You can do whatever you want at practice, but like you said, the bright lights are really what matters. That's what dictates actually being able to perform at this level and you have to be able to handle it all.

Q: I think your longest was 56 (yards) tonight. What was your vantage point on that one? What did you like about that one?

A: Long isn't what we're looking for. We're looking for hangtime and the distance. It was 56, but it was too low. That's why they were able to return it and that's why I had to make a tackle. I don't want to be making tackles all day (laughs). That is not my job responsibility. Any time I have to make a tackle, usually it means either I kicked it too far or there wasn't enough hangtime. I think that was the case on that one.

Q: Which one did you feel like was your best punt of the night?

A: I'm so picky...I'm sure Darrin himself would say there's always something more to improve. I think I had three tonight and I think on all three, I could have definitely did something better. There were no fair catches. That's the name of the game. It's getting those guys to raise that hand because the ball is up there so high and that's something I've got to keep striving for.



CIN Postgame (at Giants) Select Quotes: S Dax Hill

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Q: On the interception...

A: It (the football) kind of went through his hands. I just picked it at the last second. Just ran to the ball, saw it in the air and made a play.

Q: I saw after practice last week the guys were giving you a hard time that you didn't get the picks last week. Just overall, it was big to get the pick this week.

A: Yes, I have been working every practice making sure my hands are getting better. I just made a good play and the ball just found me. Just made a play.

Q: Is the whole thing breaking on the ball?

A: Yes, breaking on the ball. I mean the ball wasn't coming toward me. It was coming to somebody else and I just made a play.

Q: Do you feel more comfortable?

A: I feel about the same. I stayed levelheaded throughout the entire game and I was focused the entire time I was out there. It feels good.



CIN Postgame (at Giants) Transcripts: OL Cordell Volson

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Q: It looked like you got a good rhythm in the second half. That touchdown drive, you guys seemed to impose your will there...

A: Yes, I would agree with what you're saying. It was a 14-play drive, we just have to be more consistent and put more of those drives together.

Q: Did you know you were going to play the whole game? How do you think you came out of it?

A: Yeah. We'll see what the film says. It would have felt a lot better if we came home with a win, but we will see what the film says and get the things corrected that need to be corrected.

Q: How do you think you came out in the second half? Did you make any adjustments or anything?

A: There are always adjustments that are made. I think we knew we were going to come out and run the football and we took pride in that up front. We executed and we got into the endzone.

Q: The last play, you got called for the false start but it looked like it might have been lack of communication?

A: It was just a little miscommunication. Another thing we've just got to get cleaned up.

Q: That comes with reps?

A: Yeah, like I said, just a little miscommunication – those things happen, just need more reps.

Q: The fact you were able to do what you did in the second half, did that leave you with a better taste in your mouth?

A: Yeah, it definitely left you feeling a little bit better about it, but it would have felt a lot better if we came out with the win.