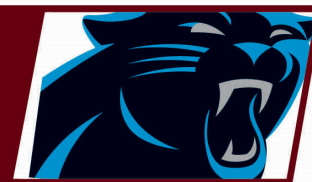


REGULAR SEASON - WEEK 6
WASHINGTON REDSKINS vs. CAROLINA PANTHERS

Sunday, Oct. 14 | 1 p.m. ET
FedExField (82,000) | Landover, Md.



PANTHERS HEAD COACH RON RIVERA

On the fourth quarter:

"Well, actually a tough beginning of the game. Turn the ball over that way and it's going to be tough to win a football game. They took advantage of a couple mistakes we made, and it cost us at the end. I thought our guys played good down the stretch but it's a four-quarter game. When you don't play well in the first quarter and the half, you make it harder on yourself, and we did. We as coaches go back and evaluate this, make sure we're putting these guys in position to have success."

On if he can break down what he saw with the last three offensive plays:

"Well, not necessarily. Again, we had some opportunities. You make your breaks. We didn't get any breaks on those, so that's part of it."

On if QB Cam Newton was hit on the interception:

"Yes, his right arm. It is unfortunate. We had a double move on that and we had a step on the corner. If he could have put that ball out there, who knows what happens at that point."

On if he thought about going for it on fourth-and-one on the opening drive:

"Fourth-and-one on our side of the 50? No. We punted the ball. We got the ball back. We had an opportunity. Unfortunately, we turned it over. So, no, there was no thought on that there."

On the run game in the first half and if it contributed to the outcome:

"Well I think it does. It does contribute a little bit. You got to run the ball successfully to make your entire offensive arsenal palatable. They had success running the ball, so their play action was very palatable. They did a nice job mixing up their play calling – got to give them credit. They came to play hard and like I said, they capitalized on the mistakes we made and down the stretch they were able to hold us off."

On rookie WR DJ Moore:

"Well, I think this is all about building confidence. DJ is going to be a part of what we do for a long time, as is Curtis Samuel, as is pretty much anybody on this football team. If we believe in them, we're going to keep putting them out there. That's the only way these guys are going to learn and develop into the players we believe they can be. We will stick with them. We have done it in the past where the quarterback has come back and threw the ball to the guy and we will continue to do it. We're trying to develop a football team. I'm not too concerned about punishing players for making mistakes as much as we are about developing and making sure they are learning and growing and being able to go forward. That's the idea behind that."

On the two fumbles:

"Just too much effort on the punt. Truth of the matter is once he got locked up, he should have protected the ball and gone down. The other one you got give them [Redskins] credit. They punched the ball out. That's a little something Josh Norman learned from Charles "peanut" Tillman and that was the punch. So you got to give them credit for a play well made."

On Redskins CB Josh Norman's interception:

"Well yeah, I think again, anytime you turn the ball over three times in the first fifteen, eighteen minutes of the game, it should energize you as a football team. Like I said, they capitalized and put some points up on

the board early and again, that falls on us. We have to protect the ball and we can't put them in those position to have success against us."

On staying even keel after fumbles:

"That's it, just trying to make sure we stay even keel. The biggest thing, more so than anything else, is you got to force something on the other side of the ball. When you're put in a tough situation as a defense, you have to force a field goal or you have to force a take away or something. You can't let them capitalize. Unfortunately, the first time we had one, we gave up on the very next play, we gave up a seams right up the middle for a touchdown."

On LB Thomas Davis and TE Greg Olsen:

"I thought those guys brought some energy. I thought those guys played well. Both guys did exactly what we believed they can and that was to make plays that contributed to this. Unfortunately, we didn't pull it out at the end."

On the first quarter struggles:

"Other than turnovers, no. Again, like I said, you have to give them [Redskins] credit. They came out and played well. Their backs were a little bit up against a wall. They had a tough one on Monday night. They responded very nicely for Coach Gruden."

On disappointment of the game:

"More so than anything else was when we turned the ball over. You know, the sudden change of defense. Would have liked to have seen a force of field goals and we didn't unfortunately. We gave up a big play. They ran a seams route against a cover three and it's easy to split. The quarterback did a nice job. He pumped out to his right. The safety had to drift over that way with and opened up the tight end at the left side."

On S Eric Reid getting out of position on shoulder fade:

"Yeah, I mean again, whoever the post safety was, yes. That's tough because if you give the quarterback a little bit of time to pump it, drew him off his mark. Again, that's very tough. That's tough of me ask a safety flushing a quarterback to punt, return back and come back the other way."

On importance of special teams:

"It was unfortunate. You know it's all a part of the game. You're going to make mistakes and you can't allow the opponent to capitalize. That's what happened. We allowed them to capitalize and it cost us. In the end, like I said, we have to make sure, as coaches, to put them in the position to be successful."

On rallying after fumbles:

"Very much so. That's all part of the game. You have bad things happen but it is how you respond. For us, we are learning and we are growing from it. Again, that's something I think our young players will take and our veteran guys will be a little salty about it tomorrow. Deservedly so because we are going to get a chance to look at the tape and we'll see that we missed some opportunities."

On how the team responded to a close game:

"Well I think again we responded well enough down the stretch to give us a chance to win and we just didn't pull it off. That's what you would like to be able to do. Confidence was high when we forced the last field goal because the margin was seven to win—six to tie seven to win. We felt pretty comfortable that we could get the ball down there and it was just a matter of finishing. Unfortunately, we didn't. Again, like I said, you got to credit them for what happened."

On the run defense:

"Well we mixed it up. We had a couple of other things he had to install and some of them worked. We were successful with some of them. Unfortunately, we gave them a little too much rushing yards. Credit to them. They blocked well up front. Adrian Peterson ran hard. I think he created the opportunity for them down the stretch to control the clock a little bit."

On what he saw from WR Devin Funchess and WR Torrey Smith during today's game:

"I think it was exactly what we hoped for. If they're shutting the run down, we got to be able to open it up downfield. We got to mix it up with being able to get the ball from the quarterback, make sure we get it to the tight end and then throw it to the receivers. I really thought those guys came through for us. It's just unfortunate we really didn't start rolling until we got into the second half. And I really do mean it, I want to credit them for how they played."

On QB Cam Newton's imagination as a quarterback:

"I think that he's showing that he is developing and continuing that process. Bringing Coach [Scott] Turner in was with that in mind, with him growing and taking the next step. We're starting to see even more so that. He is trying to be patient. He is trying to let things unfold. I think he made a couple of good decisions to throw the ball away, which is important as well."

On S Eric Reid:

"I think Eric has done a great job. He made some really nice open field tackles too to keep Adrian [Peterson] from popping some good long runs. That's what we are looking for is a big, physical, athletic safety and that's what we've got. He's done a great job for us. I think the more and more he gets comfortable, the more and more you will see him make plays. It's just a matter of time I think before he really blows one out of the stadium for us and has a big day."

On what he saw from the Redskins that was surprising:

"I thought they just played a steady game. I don't think there was anything surprising. They are a good football team. They run the ball extremely well with Adrian [Peterson]. They did a good job of mixing their play calling in. You really couldn't get a beat on them. You have to give them credit. The things they did. They took advantage of our own mistakes and that's why they won the football game."

PANTHERS QUARTERBACK CAM NEWTON

On first half turnovers:

"I think that is the difference in the game. In this league, it is all about creating turnovers and capitalizing on turnovers. And those guys did. We kind of dug ourselves into a hole early, but we still found a way to put ourselves in a winning position. But we didn't and we will get better from it."

On if this is the slowest start they've had this season:

"One of our keys to the game, at least every game is to start fast and we didn't do that today. That is just a lack of focus on our part. That is not necessarily one particular person. I had a turnover, a couple turnovers. At the end of the day, you just got to be better and that is what it comes down to."

On how they stay even from an adrenaline high last week to a tough loss this week:

"At the end of the day, you have a job and responsibility to do. You know that you have won football games and that's what we try to do moving forward. Obviously this is a tough pill to swallow. When you put so much energy, time, effort into something and you don't get the turnout that you want, but at the end of the day, no one is going to feel sorry for you. We don't expect anyone to feel sorry for us. We just got to get right for next time."

On the interception where he got hit:

"I did, I did. I just tried to give Fun [WR Devin Funchess] a chance. But like I said, you just got to protect the football better and it starts with me. It felt like we got everything that we wanted I just got pushed in the pocket and still tried to force it. Like I said it can't happen."

On overall thoughts of the game:

"We have all been there. We have all had games where we would like to have certain things go back. I think this is one of the games where I wish I could even have some things back. You just got to roll with the punches, roll with the punches and mature as a team. Certain things we know we just got to be better with and that is protecting the football. We came into a hostile environment. We got a lot of fan support. But at the end of the day, it comes down to how we execute. When we put the body of work in. In the drives, it was evident that we were trying to create some type of fluidity in ourselves. We got to work faster and that's it."

On the three attempts at the end of the game:

"They all felt good."

On his confidence level on the final drive:

"Extremely confident."

On targeting Panthers WR Torrey Smith:

"You just have to be a professional. Nobody cares. Nobody cares if you haven't gotten targets all game. Torrey is a professional and he knows how the game goes. Sometimes you may have 11 catches, sometimes you may have one catch and that one catch may be for the game. At the end of the day, you have to be ready for your job."

On how frustrating today was:

"You have games and days like that. I don't know what to say. We'll get better from it. No need to keep sobbing from it. My days of sobbing are over with. I'm excited for what the future holds. I hope we get to see this team again."

On WR Devin Funchess and CB Josh Norman:

"Coach Fun is good at a lot of things and that's just him being him. Trust me, I'm good."

On TE Greg Olsen:

"He played good. We just have to keep feeding our playmakers. We have a lot of playmakers on the team and the field that are capable of changing the game. Some throws got away from me today. Some passes got away from receivers. At the end of the day, we just have to find ways to win football games. I can't stress that enough."

On the final drive not running the ball:

"It's hard to run the football when you only get ... We just call the plays and execute the plays that coaches call. I feel extremely confident in [Offensive Coordinator] Norv [Turner] and the play selection that he has had up until this point. I don't plan on that changing."

On talk from Redskins CB Josh Norman and if he reacted in any way:

"No, I just told him to keep that same energy. They got the juice. They won, no need in me talking. I don't want to have a Twitter beef with anybody."

On if he gave WR DJ Moore words of encouragement:

"It's alright. He'll learn from it. He's young. At the end of the day, we all have to be better. Not just him. Everyone has to be better. I had some throws, like I said, that I wish I had back. Last drive. That's the game of football. It's a cliché saying that you live to fight another day, and we have another day come next week."

PANTHERS CORNERBACK JOSH HAWKINS

On fighting back at the end of the game:

"Yeah, that's all that matters. We made a run for it at the end of the game."

On getting behind early:

"We just made a few mistakes. Towards the end, we put up a fight to win the game."

On the number of Panthers fans in the stands:

"Yeah there were a ton of Carolina fans. We appreciate them, truly. On to the next."

PANTHERS LINEBACKER LUKE KUECHLY

On the overall performance of the defense:

"It was a tough loss. We put ourselves in a position to win. We just have to make some more plays on defense."

On the mood of the team:

"You want to go out and win every game you play, and obviously, that didn't happen today."

On what needs to improve on defense:

"We have to play better in the red zone. That's something that we'll get addressed and improve on moving forward."

On how the defense performed against the run:

"I wouldn't say it was great. They had a couple big runs on us. We had some minus yardage plays. There is some good, there is also some bad. But in order to be successful in this league, you have to be able to stop the run throughout the game."

PANTHERS DEFENSIVE END WES HORTON

On urgency to win in the second half:

"You obviously have to have the urgency being down at halftime."

On the defensive line pressure:

"Yeah, we were able to collapse the pocket real nice. Alex Smith was just sitting right there in the pocket, so we were able to get some good movement inside."

On having LB Thomas Davis back on the field:

"He definitely adds some fire and some emotion to that defense. He got us fired up before the game, so having him out on the field with us gives us an extra boost of confidence."

PANTHERS LINEBACKER THOMAS DAVIS

On how he felt returning to the field:

"It was good, just have to be better. That's what it really boils down too. You have to get back into the feel of going out and playing football and that's something that I have learned today. I just have to get back into the groove of really being out there."

On the missed opportunities:

"That's all it was. You can't shoot yourself in the foot early as a football team and try to crawl back and win the game late. We had a chance in the end. But at the end of the day, it really boils down to us minimizing the mistakes that we made that ultimately led to us losing the game."

On his conditioning:

"I was fine. Conditioning wasn't really an issue for me today. It's really just getting back into the feel of understanding what's going on around you and understanding what teams are trying to do to you. That's one of the things you just really have to get back into, the groove of playing football."

PANTHERS RUNNING BACK CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY**On where the Panthers showed poise:**

"Well, I think it's when you make mistakes early. Our effort is there. It's not an effort thing. It never has been in this league. If you don't give effort in this league, there are not a lot of guys out there that don't. It just comes down to executing. It starts in the film room. It starts with our focus during the game. We'll be alright."

On WR Devin Funchess' acrobatic plays:

"He showed a lot of athleticism. Obviously, we know what he can do. Just to see a lot of guys like Devin [Funchess] go out there and make plays, it's good. We got to make more of those. We got to take turns making plays and continue to move the ball down the field and trust each other."

On responding after plays:

"You can't get too high and you can't get too low. I think that's the biggest thing. When things don't go your way, especially in the first quarter, you got a lot of ball left to play. It's the same way in the season. There's a lot of games left this season, so it's up to us to get back to the drawing board and get back there and execute the way we know we can."

PANTHERS WIDE RECEIVER TORREY SMITH**On if a loss stings more after having chances to win:**

"Yes, it always hurts more when you know you beat yourself, but that's part of the game. Sometimes you overcome it, sometimes you don't. There's no one particular person at fault. We know it's us as a team. Great teams play well all four quarters. Good teams do it sporadically. If we want to be great, we have to be consistent. We had our chances, but we got to be able to do it every Sunday."

On being on the other side of a victory last week as opposed to the loss this week:

"That's the NFL. No win is an easy win regardless of who you're playing. When you get a win, you better appreciate and cherish them. You work for those, whether it's one that you steal or you have to make a 63-

yard field goal to win the game. It's something that we're capable of in terms of winning different ways, but it's always tough to overcome things when you shoot yourself in the foot. We'll be fine."

On being more consistent:

"That's the aim for an entire season. There are teams out here that can win one game and play very well for one game. But can you do it for the rest of the season? That's always the daily battle for any team is just being consistent because no game is ever the same."