

Head Coach Ron Rivera
Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Carolina Panthers
Heinz Field • Thursday, August 30, 2018



What did you see out of your backup quarterbacks and how close are you to a decision?

Again, I think there are some good things. It's tough when you are not playing with everybody, but we knew that going in, it was going to be tough. And we'll take a look at that and we will evaluate. We'll come to a conclusion in the next couple of days.

Re: Do you wish Kyle Allen got more time to show what he can do?

Yeah you do wish that, all of the time. We are trying to evaluate so we can go forward and make decisions, but we knew what it was going to be like, and again you just want to see guys, see how they operate, and handle situations. So again, it is all a part of the process.

Did Taylor Heinicke seem to settle in to you?

He did some good things. They both did some good things, and again, it's about the situation, understanding what their situations are. We get a chance to evaluate based off of what we see on tape.

How hard is it to evaluate with the lineup shifting around?

It is, but it's all a part of the evaluation process. We will sit there as coaches and talk about who's in the game with them, that's all we can do. It's a tough situation but we got to make our decision based on how we feel about things and situations.

Can you give an update on Elijah Hood?

Knee injury and we'll take him back and evaluate, that type of stuff. It's very unfortunate, he's a solid young man. He's done a lot of good things for us and hopefully it's not as bad as it is, and we'll see what happens.

Re: You wanted to see as much as possible of Elijah Hood:

Yes, we did. We really did and it's unfortunate. We'll get him back and evaluate.

You walked in at halftime with one of the officials - were you trying to get an explanation on one of the plays?

Yeah, there's so many new rule changes, I wanted to get clarification on them just so that I'm sure of them so when I get in here, I can explain to the guys what happened. Going through the quarterback rule, the kickoff rule, there're a lot of things that came up in this game involved with the new rules and I just wanted to make sure that the explanation I was getting was one that I could come back and talk to the players about.

Did you want clarification on the [Demetrious] Cox hit, the [Jared] Norris hit, or both?

Everything, I do, because again they are tough rules, they're new rules, that's why you have the preseason, to get these things worked out, and I wanted to be able to give our players explanations as to what the referees saw.

Re: The difficulty of cutting down rosters:

We take everything into consideration. We take what went on at training camp practices, what went on during meetings, what went on during the games that you played, and we'll talk about all of these things, because, again, as I said earlier, in week two, there's about five or six spots that are still up in the air, and we want to make sure that we make good decisions.

Re: Andre Smith's performance:

I thought he had some good things, a couple of things happened that he's got to get better at, but unfortunately, he only had this one real game to show us what he can do, so we'll go back again, we'll evaluate, watch the tape and we'll talk about that.

Will Mose Frazier be one of your tougher decisions?

Yeah, Mose played well. He did some good things, and we'll see how it all goes. I mean we have a lot of tough decisions to make.

You're familiar with Cameron Artis-Payne, he's been here for the past three years, he seems like he always excels in these late preseason games?

Well the biggest thing for Cam is he took advantages of the opportunities he's got. He's done some really good things and that's all a part of the evaluation process for us.

He got a little bit more time on special teams last year, is that something that you see him adding to this game?

Well yeah, he did some good things at special teams this year as well, so again, we're going to go into this process and have to evaluate everything.

Are you getting a little closer to shaping this offensive line, particularly the depth?

We'll see. I mean again, we don't have anything until we get through this process with the roster. And then we'll have a better idea probably Sunday, Monday or Tuesday.

I didn't see Marquis Haynes at practice this week. Is he still dealing with something?

Yes, he's still dealing with something and hopefully we'll see him on tomorrow and he'll be better.

In a general sense now that preseason has been completed, how do you feel about everything going into Week One?

I feel good about some of things that we've done. I thought for the first three games, when our first groups got some opportunities, they did some really good things, but you never really know. So, once we start playing next week, we'll have a better feel for who we are and who we can be. I like the fact that we open up at home. I like the fact that we open up against Dallas. They're a good football team and it's a good challenge for us to see exactly where we are as a team.

On that defensive line, it seemed like Zach Moore is playing on the outside and on the inside as well. Do you like that flexibility?

Yes, and again that's one of the things that Wes Horton does for us and does very well. Again, if you have position flexibility, as I've talked about before, it increases your value.

Is Kevon Seymour still dealing with the root canal?

Yes. Yes. Yes, and we'll see how things go and we'll go from there.