

TRANSCRIPTIONS



**Head Coach Kyle Shanahan
Conference Call – August 11, 2019
San Francisco 49ers
[Listen to Audio](#) | [Media Center](#)**

Were there any other updates on injuries from yesterday's game?

"Yeah, one new one we didn't have last night was [LB] Elijah Lee, something with his thumb. So, he had surgery on his thumb and he'll be out about two weeks."

Is T Shon Coleman going to go on IR?

"He should go on IR. He's going to go on IR tomorrow. He had surgery this morning, and he's going to go on IR tomorrow."

Are you guys working out guys today or tomorrow?

"I believe we're working out some guys tomorrow, and we'll end up handling that roster spot, but we have not yet."

Any other injury updates?

"I'll run them off quick so I don't make you guys ask them. Elijah had his thumb surgery, he'll be out two weeks. [DL] D.J. Jones, knee sprain. He's week-to-week. [RB] Raheem [Mostert] is in the concussion protocol. Told you guys about [WR] Trent Taylor last night with the Jones fracture. Shon had his surgery. [S] Marcell [Harris] came out with a stinger, but he's fine. [OL] Najee [Toran] had some x-rays on his hand, but he's fine. [DB] Jimmie Ward will end up getting some x-rays this week to see if he has a chance to return (to practice)."

When you were evaluating the game film, can you kind of break it down? What you saw out of QB Nick Mullens and QB C.J. Beathard that you liked and didn't like.

"I thought both of them played a pretty good game. I told you guys last night, I didn't like the turnovers at all. Nick's, I thought, was a little bit worse just after watching the tape. A backside linebacker was out of position, really busted his coverage and Nick didn't account for him and didn't see him. C.J. saw his and let an aggressive throw go on third and 7. When you watch the tape, that's something we expect our receiver to step in front of and cross face, and [WR] Jalen [Hurd] hesitated a little bit on that and he could've helped him out. Definitely wasn't good, but not quite as bad as I thought the pick was originally. Besides that, I thought they both did a decent job when they were under duress and did a pretty good job handling the entire offense under some tough circumstances."

Was that first snap that C.J. took when he got sacked, was that on- I know the offensive line seemed to get overpowered right from the get-go, but does he have to kind of look out quicker for it? That's been an issue for him.

"Yeah, not on that one. That's a very hard play action pass that we do where you have your entire back to the defense. It's kind of a one man show, and when you come around to throw it, the receiver on the play could've run a little bit of a better route. It wasn't a great play call, though. No one was going to be real open and it split our backside B gap, and I thought he actually did a hell of a job. I think only losing two yards on it when most people would've lost about six."

You've spoken in the last week about the receiving core and wanting guys to step forward and seize those starting opportunities. What exactly are you looking for from some of those guys? Is it consistency, more aggressive play? What are you after?

"A little bit of everything. Each guy is a little bit different, but we've got a bunch of guys who can play and I want someone to make the decision easy for us. I want someone to take the job and make it to where it's extremely obvious. We haven't had that yet. We have a bunch of young guys who are extremely hungry, and they are going for it. We've got some other guys who have been here who have also been that way, but I think guys are very even matched right now and I want someone to step it up. The rookies, they made some good plays last night, but they also weren't very consistent either. There's lots of parts about their game that they have to clean up, and I thought it was very similar in the veterans, too. You expect the veterans to be out there making some plays like they did a few times, but they also made mistakes. I thought the whole group played decent, but we need to be a lot sharper all around."

I know you still have to look at the tape a little bit more but the offensive line had quite a few penalties. Can you detail what exactly happened? Was it just lack of concentration? Was it anything in particular?

"No, you've got to play better. Sometimes guys hold when they get beat and when you get beat you can't hold, you got to let it go so you don't lose 10 yards. Sometimes you have to get in better position to where you aren't beat so you don't have to hold. I thought there were a few times that they were a little picky with the calls but that's part of it and we got way too many of it. There were a bunch of reoccurring guys who had it and they got to make sure they do better because it wasn't good enough. When you don't move your feet well they're going to beat you and holding the guy is not an option."

DL Damontre Moore had a pretty big game last night and it seemed like he played a lot as well. Can you talk about how you thought he performed as well as how important it is to kind of find that third or fourth pass rusher on the edge?

"It's very important. We rested a number of guys yesterday, some just to rest and some because they were hurt. That D-Line, they all got to play a lot and Damontre had a good camp and he had a good game last night. Being able to come up with that fumble recovery, put some pressure on the quarterback and he took advantage of the opportunity and he should get more as it goes too."

Your back up swing tackle for the last two years was OT Gary Gilliam, he's still a free agent, is that a guy on your radar as a possibility to bring in?

"I was happy with Gary and how he was here. He didn't get to play much for us but there's a number of guys out there. I know John and his crew upstairs are putting together a list and that stuff we've been discussing today. We'll look at it throughout the night and I think we'll make a decision on that tomorrow."

Do you plan to give WR Deebo Samuel and WR Jalen Hurd more playing time with Jimmy and the starters this week in Denver?

"I don't know yet. I haven't thought about it. I'll think about that probably a couple of days after we (practice) in Denver. Depending on how Denver's practice goes I don't know much I'll play the starters. That's something that you take day by day but we get those guys a lot of playing time with Jimmy at practice. So, I don't plan on the game being any different."

RB Austin Walter and RB Brandon Wilds had obviously a lot of play yesterday. Can you talk about what those two, I mean a guy coming off the street and jumping into play is pretty different?

"Going through the whole week and watching how the running backs were playing out, it was really important to us to rest [RB Matt] Breida in that game. In order to do that we had to get another guy to go into that game. For Wilds to be available for us just the day before the game and to come in. We didn't get to practice with him but him and [running backs coach] Bobby [Turner] have been meeting a ton, especially when [RB] Raheem [Mostert] went out pretty early. Walter wasn't going to be able to just go the entire go so Wilds stepped in and had some really good runs for us, had a good screen and did good on his blitz pick-ups. Really, he did a hell of a job and a credit to him just coming in and being able to go in any situation. It wasn't like they told me hey you can only call these two plays. When Walter was out and Wilds went in, we were able not to miss a beat and it really helped us at least get through the game and save some other players too."

TRANSCRIPTIONS



San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys Transcripts - August 10, 2019

49ers

Head Coach Kyle Shanahan
QB C.J. Beathard
QB Nick Mullens
DB Adrian Colbert
WR Jalen Hurd
WR Deebo Samuel

Cowboys

Head Coach Jason Garrett
QB Dak Prescott
QB Cooper Rush
CB Chidobe Awuzie
C Travis Frederick
LB Jaylon Smith

49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan Press Conference – August 10, 2019 San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys

Opening Statement: “Injuries I got from the game: [T Shon] Coleman left with an ankle, [DL] D.J. Jones with a knee, [RB Raheem] Mostert with a concussion, [OL Najee] Toran had his hand checked after the game and [S Marcell] Harris left with a stinger.”

Did QB C.J. Beathard come out because of his--?

“He came out because of his thumb. (Actually), he didn’t come out because of his thumb, but he hurt it on his last play.”

Were you going to play QB Wilton Speight anyway?

“Yeah. We were going to the next guy anyway.”

Coleman’s injury looked serious. Did he have any information on it?

“No, I saw what you guys saw though. Looked serious, but I don’t know yet.”

How long are you expecting WR Trent Taylor to be out?

“We’re hoping for Week One, not counting on it, but hoping for Week One.”

Did that catch you guys off guard?

“Yeah, definitely, and him also. He was having a hell of a camp, and it was disappointing to hear, but fortunately, it won’t be the year. I think that’s about four weeks from Week One. It’s usually a four to six-week injury, so we’ll see how it goes.”

Is that a Jones Fracture?

“Yes.”

Isn’t that kind of a serious thing?

“Yeah, it is. We’re lucky we caught it when it was just a stress fracture. Usually when you go with that for a little bit, it ends up breaking and being a lot worse. He was complaining about a little pain, so we got the X-Rays, saw a little fracture in there. Then you have to make the decision, whether you want to go with it and risk it until it breaks? We decided to do it now, so it could be more of a four to six-week injury instead of an eight to 10-week injury.”

How much had WR Jalen Hurd worked in the slot so far and is it natural to think it might be a lot more now?

“He’s worked a lot in the slot and he’s also worked a lot outside at Z, so he’s been doing both. I know he played mainly in the slot in college, but we move most of our guys all over and he’s capable of doing both.”

What have you seen from him just over the last couple weeks in terms of the progress he’s made?

“He wasn’t out there in OTAs, so we were eager to get him out there and he made it out for practice one (of training camp) and he’s been in everyone since. He plays very physical. He’s in good shape, runs hard, has strong hands. Just trying to pick up the offense. Had a few mistakes today, but played pretty well and it was a good first night for him.”

Was one of those mistakes on the interception with QB C.J. Beathard?

“No. Everyone had a few mistakes tonight.”

Can you talk a little about WR Deebo Samuel and how he played and what you’ve seen over the past two weeks?

“Similar to college and how he’s been since he’s gotten to practice, the game, it’s just not too big for Deebo. He’s very competitive. He’s a good wide receiver, but he’s one of the more physical guys out there. We got him a run on an around where you could see a little bit of his physicality. Very similar to Jalen, their bodies are a little bit different but same type of mentality.”

Why did you start QB Nick Mullens tonight?

“We plan on starting C.J. next time. We had to pick and we went with Nick first. He was the last one to finish the season.”

What did you take away from the quarterbacks’ performances?

“I thought both of them made some good plays. But I thought both of them, each one of them had one really bad play. I thought they threw a pick that was pretty easy to see. I think (with)_Nick, the backside linebacker got it in zone and I think it was C.J., a robber safety came down and got them. After that I thought both of them played pretty well, while under a lot of duress too.”

Was there a separation between the two of them after one game?

“No.”

You said C.J. is going to get the next start, but is QB Jimmy Garoppolo going to--?

“Yeah, Jimmy should be ready to go next week, but we’ll let C.J. go ahead of Nick for the second game.”

DB Tarvarius Moore ended up playing a big chunk of the game because of safety issues. How do you think he did?

“From what I saw, it looked good. I saw him flying around. I saw him make a few plays. We’ll see the tape, that penalty at the end, I thought, was very unnecessary to give them that cheap 15. I’ll see it on the tape, from what I saw, he didn’t have to do that. We played a lot of guys tonight. We were able to sit a lot of starters. The backups came in fairly early and got to play a lot more, especially with losing Colbert in that game. We had to keep

those guys out there a little bit longer. That's always good to do as long as you can get through it healthy, we'll have a lot of tape to watch and excited to see it with them tomorrow."

Would you have, if it hadn't been the end of a preseason game, would you have challenged that CB Dontae Johnson--?

"I definitely would have if it wasn't under two minutes. So, I couldn't. That's the only one today I would have. All the others, it's got to be an obvious one and that's the one I definitely would have challenged. I was hoping the NFL would, or whoever is supposed to under two minutes but they didn't.

Do the penalties bother you in a preseason game or no because it's mostly--?

"No, of course it bothers you. We'll look at them very hard tomorrow. Any time you have a game where you have 18 penalties and the other team has five, we should look at it hard. It's very hard to win that way. It's very frustrating, but we'll look at them hard and see if all of them were stuff we can control."

Dre Greenlaw seemed to have a nose for the ball tonight, can you talk about that?

"Yeah, it's showing up that way in camp too. He always seems to be around the ball in the run game and the pass game. From what I saw, he made a few plays out there and I'm sure I'll see a little more when I watch the tape, but seemed pretty encouraging how he played tonight."

You haven't rested that many guys in the previous preseason openers, why did you do that tonight?

"Just have a better feel for our team and the guys who have established themselves. There are some guys that, you have to prove yourself all the time, but we want to take care of a lot of guys too and with having four of these and we have a few more established starters in certain areas. The most important thing is to get our team the best they can be by Tampa, but we also hope our team can be ready for Tampa. Anytime we have a chance to rest guys and keep them healthy, we're going to try to do it."

Did you have an understanding with Dallas Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett in a situation like that you guys weren't going to go for two?

"No, Jason and I are friends, but we never talked until after the game. I just pray to God they don't and I pray to God I'm never in that situation. I saw Bruce Arians was in it yesterday. That's a tough one to be in. You've got to go for two. You can't try and not to win, but you don't want to go to overtime at all."

Why did you go to play WR Dante Pettis tonight and what did you see from him?

"I wanted him to compete. We're trying to see who our starting receivers are and I wanted to get him a chance to get out there. We'd decided before the game that we were going to sit [WR] Marquise [Goodwin] and we were going to sit [WR] Trent Taylor. Trent ended up getting hurt, so we had to do that anyway, but everyone else, we wanted to find out more about. Dante has a lot of room to grow. He can still get a lot better. So, can a lot of the other guys."

What was your view of DB Adrian Colbert's hit and what's the message going to be?

"We've just got to learn from it. I saw it live and it did seem like his helmet hit his chest and

he led with his helmet which is a penalty. It's unfortunate he got ejected. I know his intent, it's a bang, bang play and he's playing fast and trying to stop them on third down. By no means, is he trying to do that. It's tough to run that fast and tackle people and keep your head back, so we've got to learn from it, we've got to coach it. It was tough for him to get ejected there."

From your understanding, it came from New York?

"Yeah, it came from New York. Yep."

What did you think of WR Jalen Hurd tonight?

"I was excited about him. He got a few opportunities and when he did, he capitalized on them. On the keeper, when he got in, and on the touchdown on the fade in the end zone. He did a good job, so has a lot of room to improve, but it was a good first night."

It's the first time you're seeing Mitch Wishnowsky in a game.

"From what I saw out there, I thought we punted very well. I know that one kick, he hooked it left a little bit too far and got out of bounds. You don't want to see that. Hopefully we can get him to hem up his sleeves a little bit. He looked awkward in a jersey. I'll talk to [49ers equipment manager] Jay Bird [Brunetti] about that. But, obviously, room to improve but I like having him out there."

**49ers QB C.J. Beathard
Press Conference – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

How different is it having someone who's 6-4 and can go up and get a ball like that?

"It's a quarterback's dream to have a guy like that, that'll go up and make plays for you. He's tough over the middle. I mean, you see what he does after. He gets the ball in his hands, he's tough to tackle. He played some running back in college and he knows how to run the ball, too."

What do you think has been the difference for him maybe over the last week or so? We've seen him on the practice field, he's been more involved in the passing game after not doing a whole lot early on. What's been the difference there?

"He was out all OTAs with injuries, so I think he was just starting to get back into the swing of things. I mean, it's not an easy offense to grasp for a rookie, so I think he just started getting progressively better with his knowledge of the game and the offense. That kind of helped him get more reps."

How does your thumb feel?

"Feels alright. Yeah, I just hit it on my helmet, but it'll be alright."

How do you think you played?

"I thought I did well, I mean, other than the interception. Dumb decision there. Other than that, I thought it went really well."

You had a lot of moving parts in front of you tonight, a little different offensive line.

"Yeah, I mean, anytime you've got a bunch of young kids in there, you kind of expect their heads are going a thousand miles an hour, trying to get receivers lined up and things like that. That's expected, but I thought overall, they did a good job."

What are you looking forward to this week in Denver, practicing against the Broncos?

“It’ll be awesome. It’ll be cool. That’s our quarterbacks coach, [Denver Broncos offensive coordinator] Rich Scangarello, is their OC now. It’ll be cool to see him and say hey to him, but it’s always fun to go up against guys other than your own teammates, because you’re so used to doing that all camp.”

Do you feel like both WR Jalen Hurd and WR Deebo Samuel are doing a really good job?

“Yeah, they’re doing great. They’re definitely progressing well as rookies, I think. The rest of the offense is really coming along and they’re doing a really good job.”

Is there a difference with the different coaching of the wide receivers group?

“Yeah, I mean [wide receivers coach] Wes [Welker] and [offensive quality control coach] Miles [Austin], there are no better teachers of the game. They played for such a long time in the NFL, the experience they have, it’s great, especially in that wide receiver room with all the guys in there. They’ve got first hand guys that played in the league for both 10-plus years and have a lot of experience in there to really help them.”

**49ers QB Nick Mullens
Press Conference – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

How did it feel going against somebody else rather than your own team?

“Finally, you know, that’s why you play the game. We talked about it before, you don’t train for all the practices. You train to play the game. So, we’re so excited to get out there, just put the uniform back on and play against somebody else.”

How did you feel today, your performance?

“I felt good, I felt solid. Obviously, you don’t want to turn the ball over, but overall, just making very good decisions, smart, accurate, putting the ball in the right places. So, it’s a step. Camp is a long process, so that’s one step down.”

Can you talk about [how] penalties were a killer today?

“Yeah, I mean, it’s really important to play disciplined football and that’s something that we have to improve on.”

Head coach Kyle Shanahan gave you the start today, he said you finished off the season- does that feel rewarding that he thought of you to start today?

“I’ll just take any opportunity I can get. It’s coach’s decision and me and [QB] C.J. [Beathard] rotate every day, so it was nice to be able to get out there and just start fast, play strong and make good decisions.”

The fact that you’ve been in the system for a little bit of time, too, it makes it a little bit easier, a little more comfortable and effective in decision making.

“One hundred percent, people say from year one to year two, even now to year three, just love the offense. Coach does a good job of putting us in positions to be successful. So, I love the offense and feel comfortable.”

Do you feel like you’re in the same rhythm as you were towards the end of last season?

“Yeah, I mean, I haven’t thought about last season in a long time to be honest with you. We’re what, two weeks into camp now? I think the main thing about being quarterback is just being a consistent player and a consistent leader, and that’s what I try to do each and every day.”

What have you seen from your rookie receivers WR Deebo Samuel and WR Jalen Hurd?

“Yeah, definitely. I mean a strong showing today, obviously. We know what they bring to the table and it’s cool to see that, but at the same time, it’s a first step. It’s only the first preseason game and so we’re excited to see how they can go going forward.”

How do you and C.J. avoid things maybe getting awkward given that coach Shanahan says that you guys are neck and neck and he’s going to be first up next week it seems like?

“Yeah, I mean, who knows. Me and C.J. are great friends, we have a great relationship and we both understand the business. We’re just doing what we’re told. Nick, it’s your turn to play, C.J., it’s your turn to play. That’s what we do. We battle, we support each other, and it’s been great so far.”

What part of the offseason did you see Tom House?

“I went out there in the spring time, around March, and then in the summer a little bit, so a couple times. It was solid, productive.”

What was the biggest takeaway? Did you feel like you were maybe improving?

“Yeah, just mechanics: your footwork and your mechanics, the way you release the ball and different things like that. He’s got a very high reputation, obviously, and so it was cool to learn a lot from him and those guys down there. They do a great job.”

Do you feel your arm got stronger by going to him, stronger than last year?

“Yeah, I mean, I feel great. I’m throwing the ball well, putting it in the right spot and I feel good.”

So, you did what, like two sessions with him?

“Yeah, a couple, yeah.”

Before Jalen got here, you were used to having smaller, shifty guys in the slot. How much different is it having a big guy there and how much does it benefit you?

“I think it’s definitely beneficial. Jalen’s pretty solid physically and I think mentally is what makes him even better, the way he’s just not scared of anything. That’s been really cool to see in camp, and it’s nice. It’s nice to have a big body and obviously you saw it. It makes it easier on us.”

**49ers DB Adrian Colbert
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

How do you feel about your game and where you are right now after being in the league a couple of years?

“I feel like I’m getting back to my old self. I’m healthy. That’s it. I’m trying to get back to my old self, to the one that everyone saw my rookie year. I feel like I’m finally back in a good place mentally and physically to go out and perform like I used to do.”

Why do you feel like you weren't your old self last year?

"There are just a lot of reasons. A lot of outside things that I was dealing with and the way that I handled the offseason. Lessons, not losses."

How do you get yourself back to where you want to be?

"I've prepared tremendously this offseason in ways that I wish I would have going into my second year. I wish I would have prepared the way I did this year, but I didn't so I just have to live with it and work my way back up to what I used to be and where I used to be."

**49ers WR Jalen Hurd
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

You are known for having the best hands on the team. Is that because you made the transition from the running back position?

"Honestly, I would say just working at it. When I first switched to receiver, I was on the JUGS machine for a very long, long time. I would catch five to six hundred balls in the offseason when I switched over to receiver. I am really just playing it out and consistently staying on it. Being strong as well helps and then having good balls skills, which kind of goes hand-in-hand."

Is this a good indication tonight of what you can do in the red zone?

"Yes, I can do different things. We will see what they do with me. I love the opportunity, so I am just trying to seize the opportunity and make a play."

How did you like the fact that you had a defender waiting for you at the goal line?

"It was nice. It made it look better. If I walked in, it wouldn't have been as cool."

**49ers WR Deebo Samuel
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

In a nutshell, is this game's performance a good indication of the things you can do on the football field?

"Really I am just taking advantage of every opportunity I get out there."

Did this debut give more confidence, not that you needed any?

"I played pretty well, but I am just blessed to be out there and play the game I love to play."

How do you think San Francisco 49ers WR Jalen Hurd played?

"He played pretty well. Like [49ers Head] coach [Kyle] Shanahan said, we bring the physicality in the group. That over route for a touchdown that he caught, you can see with his big frame and with his body it is going to take more than one person to bring him down."

Was it fun to watch?

"It made me excited."

**Cowboys Head Coach Jason Garrett
Press Conference – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

How do you feel that your starters on offense and defense did in the time that you had them in the game?

“I thought we did a good job at the offset of the game. Offense got it first, drove it well a little bit down in the red zone, had to settle for a field goal but it was a good rhythm, a good mix. I thought the tempo was good, the urgency was good. It was good to see those guys get out there. It was a nine-play drive to start the game, so it was nice to see those guys get those reps and we wanted to get them out after that. Defensively, I think we had two, three and out to start the game and maybe a four or five out in the third series, so I thought those were good things. We wanted to play those guys, eight to twelve plays so I think we accomplished that part of it. I think there were some positive things that we can take from that early part of this ball game.”

What did you think of Dallas Cowboys QB Cooper Rush’s play?

“Yeah, we’ll have to go back and watch the tape but I thought just from the naked eye on the sidelines, Coop handled himself well. We moved the ball. I thought he made some good throws in the game. We had a good two-minute drive before the half. I thought he handled well and led the group, made good decisions and gave us a chance to kick that field goal. I think all those were positives. We’ll go back and look at plenty of things that we’ve got to clean up, but I liked his presence out there. I liked how he led the team. I liked how he operated and overall his decision making was pretty good.”

Dallas Cowboys C Travis Frederick being able to get back on the field after what he went through last year.

“Yeah, it’s great to have him back. He worked very hard to come back not only from the condition, but from also from a couple surgeries that he had. So, a great leader for our team and he’s had a really good training camp. It was fun to see him out there playing, from the naked eye he looked like himself.”

Has he looked rusty at all out there after missing so much time last year? Does he look about where you’d expect him to be at this point?

“Yeah, it’s hard to gauge with all the players. Hopefully, as you continue with training camp, you get better and better. He looks comfortable, he looks confident, looks like he’s playing well. Again, he’s had a good training camp and it was good to see him out there. We’ll go back and watch the tape and see specifically how he played, but it was fun to see 72 out there anchoring our line.”

Your thoughts on the red zone, 0-4?

“Yeah, obviously, you want to score touchdowns there and you go back and look at each of those drives and you can point to a particular play or this happened or that happened and that’s what we’ll do. We’ll evaluate it drive by drive, play by play, within those drives but for the most part, I was pleased with that first drive by the offense and unfortunately we weren’t able to score the touchdowns we wanted to when we got down there.”

How do you reconcile that because I get that it’s the preseason and starters only play one series but you’d like to see your team get into the end zone - that was an issue last season as well, 26 in that category in terms of scoring touchdowns? What do you make of it and why do you think this team struggles to get in the end

zone?

“Yeah, I don’t think you can carry anything over from last year to this year’s team. The makeup of the team is very different and so obviously tonight you want to cash in on those drives, but you go back and look at them and see what happened on particular plays and what we did and what we didn’t do and then hopefully grow from the experience.”

How much do you feel for Dallas Cowboys LB Luke Gifford?

“Well Luke did some good things in the game. Obviously, he made that big play with the interception and then he hurt his ankle. We’ll see what the severity of that ankle injury is here over the next few days, but he’s done a good job in training camp and you deal with the situations as they come and he’s done a good job with the opportunities. Whatever the situation is with his ankle he’ll get back to work and try to get that thing healthy.”

You said the makeup of the offense is different than it was last year, in what way?

“In regards to our players?”

You said you can’t really carry over anything from last year in terms of the red zone scoring because the make-up of this team is different than last year’s. So how is the makeup different?

“Yeah, again I just think it’s a different unit. Obviously, a few of our starting players aren’t here, we have a new coordinator, so I don’t know if it’s instructive to go back and make those comparisons. I think we have to evaluate this team right now and what we need to do to get better and trust me there are plenty of things we need to do to get better.”

Dallas Cowboys RB Tony Pollard, a young guy but you elected only to use him in that first series, why did you decide to do use him that way and did you want to look at him anymore?

“Yeah we just wanted to put him in that situation with the one’s and give him a chance to go and it looked like he handled himself well both running the ball and from what you could tell with the passing game and the protection stuff and in order to give those other backs a chance to rotate through the rest of the game so all those guys are doing well. We just wanted to give them some opportunities.”

That says a lot about him. I assume that you like what he’s done so far in this camp and you kind of have a feel for him?

“Well, we want to see him play. We just wanted to see him play that much with that group tonight. He’ll have more opportunities next week and the week after that and even Week 4 for a lot of the young guys. That’s really where we are. We’re really just getting started in the preseason and this is the game you want to make sure you’re giving everyone an opportunity to play right at the outset.”

Dallas Cowboys K Brett Maher looked good on the first two and not good on the third. Just overall, what’d you think of him?

“Obviously, you want to make that kick that he missed but we’ll keep giving him opportunities and, again, he did some good things for us last year. He had a lot of big kicks for us at critical moments so you want to build on those experiences and again with all our players, you’re just trying to grow as you go and take advantage of the opportunities as you get them and he’ll continue to get them and hopefully he gets better and better throughout the preseason.”

As you evaluate talent, what does it take to make your team and what does it take to

make the league?

"I think there are so many things. You go back and look at how we draft players, how we pick players in free agency. We have a model for each position that we believe in. We talk very specifically about what the measurables are for each position, so I think it would probably start there. But I think there are some overarching things that we want on our team. We want guys who love football, who are passionate about it and are willing to work at it. Team-oriented guys who are unselfish. I think all those things are important so that's a big part of the guys that we bring to our team and a big part of the evaluation as we get down to 53."

And for the leaders on your team what do you look for in the leadership?

"I think what you look for in any kind of leadership is a big topic and we're really trying to empower the leaders on our team, the guys who have been here and give them an opportunity to have a really positive impact on the rest of the team. We want great character guys, again who love football. We set a great example and ultimate leadership is about affecting other people and bringing them with you and that's by example. You do that by inspiration, motivation, sometimes a kick in the pants, sometimes just connecting with other people. We've got a really good group of guys. It's 16 guys in the leadership group and many other leaders beyond that who set the tone for our team every day."

You talked about Cooper Rush earlier, why he didn't seem to have not as much time to throw a lot of times, how do you asses initially what you would like?

"We have to go back and watch the tape. There were some things going out with that third group that we certainly have to clean up as we go. Whether that's an assignment thing or a technical thing where it might have impacted protection, not only with guys up front but with other people who were involved in protection, it's a good experience for him to get out there and take snaps and play and hang with some of the adversity that he did. I thought he did a really good job on that last drive. You think about getting that ball back with not a lot of time on the clock and having to go down and score a touchdown. I thought he made some big throws and gave us a chance inside the ten-yard line, four-times to score the game tying touchdown. So, I think that's something that he can build on and I'll go back and look at the specific plays throughout the game with him and all the other guys try to grow from the experience."

Did WR Cedrick Wilson suffer a concussion on that play?

"That was the initial diagnosis, yes."

Anything else as well or is too early to say?

"Too early to say, but he looked good in the locker room afterwards."

You had a big smile when you were running onto the field, was that because there were some boos from 49ers fans or was that just an excitement for the first preseason game?

"It's a race I have with [T] Tyron Smith every week. I get a head start and he beats me. So, he's only 6' 5", 315 pounds but that was probably it. Again, we're awfully excited to be back playing football and it was a great opportunity for our team tonight."

You didn't play TE Jason Witten tonight, is that because he's been there before, you have a feel for him and you'll work him in later in the preseason?

"Yeah, we chose not to play Witten, [RB] Alfred Morris and [DT] Maliek Collins. Each of those guys have done a really good job in training camp and we wanted to give some of

the other guys the game opportunity here in Week 1.”

**Cowboys QB Dak Prescott
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

How did it feel to be back playing football, even if it is preseason?

“It’s the first time we get to play somebody else. Obviously, we have had a lot of time under our belts going up against each other. There’s a lot to learn from. With the first preseason game, it’s hard to say from the first view at it or the sideline view of it what needs to be done. There’s a lot of things that we’re going to clean up and lot of things to learn from, so it’ll be good for us.”

Talk about that first drive into the red zone and your catch during the drive?

“It was a good first drive. We came out pretty clean in and out of the huddle. Set the tempo like we wanted to. Obviously, we want to get into the end zone, but it was a great play there by the linemen to get the ball into the air. At that point, you just want to avoid a disaster, but it was a good first drive. Like I said, it was good to go out there against someone that isn’t our own defense.”

**Cowboys QB Cooper Rush
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

When you have the opportunity like this, what is going through your mind when you get that call? You played quite a bit tonight.

“It’s awesome. It’s always fun to get back out there and play football. It feels like it’s been awhile but you get out there and get into your groove again, you take a couple of hits and it all comes back. We’ll watch the film and we’ll learn a lot from it.”

How tough is it when it’s been so long since you had game action?

“It’s a lot of fun. It’s always exciting coming back to the preseason because it’s kind of your season. You get to go out there in a game environment and it’s so much different than practice. Luckily, we practice really hard. Our coaches put us in a lot of game situations like two minutes, red zone and things like that.”

**Cowboys CB Chidobe Awuzie
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys**

It seems like you guys have a lot of depth on this team. It seems that there are a lot of guys capable of playing on the second or third team. How big is that, that you can take a break and someone can come right in?

“It’s a beautiful thing. All of us, especially in the defensive backfield, we all have to listen to each other. We all give each other tips after each play. It’s every guy on the roster. We all understand. We’re all humble and hungry. We’re all receptive, we all listen to each other. Credit goes to great competition, but also to a great family bond, especially in the secondary. It’s something that we really cherish.”

How much does that secondary take pride in tackling?

“Oh, that’s number one. Actually, that’s number two. Staying on top is number one and then it’s tackling for sure. You see [Dallas Cowboys S] Kavon Frazier coming down the

middle making a lot of tackles. [Dallas Cowboys S] Darian Thompson was everywhere on the field. That type of play, that's definitely what we emphasize, and it's something we did today."

Cowboys C Travis Frederick
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys

You struggled a bit in the red zone, you were 0-4. Where do you see the room for improvement in that area?

"Well I think that it is pretty obvious that we have a chance to improve in our red zone scoring. We were 0-4 tonight but it is preseason and preseason isn't necessarily a time where you show all of your new things. It isn't necessarily a time where you pull out all of the stops to get those score. I am excited about what coach [Dallas Cowboys offensive coordinator Kellen] Moore is doing and where he is leading this offense."

After your first practice, you talked a few times about muscle memory. With 6 or 7 practices and a game under your belt, what does that process feel like after regaining that sense of where you are not really thinking about it?

"I would say the muscle memory is what comes back naturally. It's remembering exactly what positions that you need to be in and where you have to be geographically between the two guards on a particular pass protection. It is remembering the speed of the game, learning how quickly you have to access the game. It is a little more difficult on the line of scrimmage versus from on the sidelines. They always say armchair quarterbacks are the best and it is true because you get to see it from that angle, it is way easier than when you are in there. Those things are coming back. The speed of the game is coming back. Everything is pointing upwards."

Do you feel a difference between that first day and now, in terms of that speed?

"Absolutely. That is true of anybody, not just me not playing for a year. Everybody struggles from the speed of the game early and picks that stuff back up. I'll say that is fairly normal."

Cowboys LB Jaylon Smith
Postgame Quotes – August 10, 2019
San Francisco 49ers vs. Dallas Cowboys

How do you assess a pre-season game now that you've been in the league a little while? Is it different today than it was, say, two or three years ago?

"Yeah. It's my fourth year being a pro. There's so much you learn visually and also being out there on the field. Just get into a great rhythm. That's really what it's about. That's what this preseason is about, getting your feet under you and establishing what you want to be during the year."

How do feel going into the first preseason game? Do you feel like you have the confidence and the preparation necessary to compete?

"Yes, absolutely. It's about being physical and communicating. With me being quarterback of the defense, I have to make sure everyone is locked and loaded and also making sure that they understand exactly what they have to do. And it's about speed. It's about running to the ball."