

Chicago Bears Media Conference

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Anthony Walker

Press Conference



Colts - 19, Bears - 11

Q. Just wondering, the mentality on defense, does it feel like you're as much in control as you guys have been?

ANTHONY WALKER: Yeah, well --

Q. I don't know if control is the right word or not.

ANTHONY WALKER: I get what you're saying. We feel that we have to control the game. Up front we have to stop the run and we have to be able to run the football. Our job is to stop the run, so you make a team one dimensional, have to beat you throwing the ball, that's tough on them. So we feel that we're able to stop the run and allow the D-line to eat on third down and we feel that we have the cover guys to get the job done and we'll be successful.

Q. How unusual is it to look over and not see Darious on the field in the second half and what does it mean to you and the defense that you finished the way you did without him?

ANTHONY WALKER: Yeah, obviously you miss that loud voice next to you (laughing.) But we know -- again, we understand this is the game that we play, it's a physical game again, we're going to have injuries and stuff like that. So to be able to have all 11 guys step up and play as one unit, we still have to keep doing our job and we were able to do that today. So again hopefully we get him back as soon as possible, that's all I kept saying in his ear, ASAP, so we need him, we understand that, so. But we're able to, we were able to go out there and finish the game and that's what we're able to do.

Q. I'm sure you guys have always felt confident about your defense, but was there a point in training camp or when you guys really felt like okay this could be the best unit that we have had in a long time in this organization?

ANTHONY WALKER: You probably call me crazy but I felt that week one. Obviously we didn't go out there and put it on display, but again we felt like we were a couple plays, a couple communication breakdowns by myself, from myself, that I felt that if that doesn't happen we go out there and we dominate that football game as well. So again it starts up front, it starts with the linebackers, we have to get the defense set and everything like that and then we feel that if we're all playing on, all 11 playing on the same page we'll be fine. So again that's just, it starts with the LB's, we always say that. The defensive line, they're going to get all the push and penetration that we need for us, but it starts with us, we got to set everything, get everything set up the right way and once we do that we feel like we'll play assignment football and be an elite defense.

Q. Can you sense the pass rush affecting opposing quarterbacks as the game goes on?

ANTHONY WALKER: Oh, yeah. We know. We get them down on the scoreboard and it's just a different mentality, man. You got number 50, 99, 97, 96, I mean Grove, everybody, can just tee off and we understand that. And that's our job. Stop the run, make them play behind, play from behind, and then that pass rush is just going to be lethal and we understand that and we were able to get that job done today.

Q. You had the unique perspective of being here since 2017 you seen the defense completely overhauled. From your perspective what's that been like to watch, a lot of young guys playing in the system you had some pieces in Buckner and Houston, compare the defense now with what it was when you got here.

ANTHONY WALKER: I don't really speak on the defense when I first got here because obviously I wasn't really a part of the game plans and stuff like that. Again, I was a rookie coming off of a lot of injuries and stuff like that, trying to find my way on special teams. So, but I can say that Coach Flus, Coach Frank they brought in a culture of we're going to play fundamentally sound defensively. And I really believe in that, I really believe in what they're doing and I think we have all the guys on the team that buys into that, that's special and I think that's what we have brewing over here right now. So I can speak on right now, I think we have something really special brewing on defense.

Q. You mentioned missing Darius's voice on the field, how loud was he on the sideline and could you hear it sometimes when you're out there playing?

ANTHONY WALKER: Yeah, I'm on the other side of the field and he's telling -- I mean obviously I slid over to the wheel position and he's telling me my job. So definitely appreciative of him. But again, he's our biggest fan we understand that, when he's not playing, even when he is playing, his voice is just as loud. So we understand that, we respect that from him. I obviously, I love that he brings that energy when he's on and off the field, very much respect to him.

Q. You guys were talking about some of the younger pieces on this defense. Julian Blackmon running around like a madman today. Why was he able to finally have this break out performance and even his first career take away on top of it?

ANTHONY WALKER: Yeah, we were just talking about the takeaway in the locker room, guys were really trying to run all the way down to get the picture, but I had to make sure that we did that for him. That's a special moment, we understand that. Again, when you're playing a defense that sets you up to make plays and keep everybody on the same page, that's the main thing, you want to have everybody on the same page. So when you're on the same page, guys are able to fly around and execute. Obviously Julian's a special talent to be able to find the ball the way he does and make big hits and everything like that. He's a special player. Again, he's young, but we're excited to have him, we appreciate him and all that he brings to the table.

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