

Houston Texans Media Conference

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David Culley

Press Conference



Q. Did you determine your rotation for Saturday night?

DAVID CULLEY: Not yet. But again, we're still in training camp mode. Just about all the guys are going to play. We're going to -- some will play more than others but we basically, again, as we said from the word go, we are in a bunch of competitions right now at a bunch of positions and basically one of the best ways with the three preseason games is to find out -- is to let them play and we are going to do that. There may be some guys that play a lot more than others but for the most part we are going to decide at the end of the week, depending on where guys are with injuries where we put them in and play or not.

Q. Will you share before the game how you will rotate your quarterbacks or will that be game-time?

DAVID CULLEY: We'll wait and see at the end of the week how things are.

Q. A lot of teams don't play their starters, but you guys are obviously in a different situation. Does that factor into that; that it's a competition and you guys are on a different timetable?

DAVID CULLEY: That is a very good question and that's exactly how we are approaching it right now is that we're still in evaluation mode. As we went no training camp, we told all of our guys, competition is wide open and only way we are going to find out, we have almost 50 new players on this football team and the only way to find out is in game-type situations.

We have some young guys that basically they have to feel what it's like to play in the game and basically that's how we are going to approach it. But they will all at some point be able to be playing during this preseason.

Q. A lot of teams don't play their starters; how do you balance that?

DAVID CULLEY: I feel like again the only way they are going to find out the situation we're in is they have got to

play. We are not really concerned about that right now. We are more concerned about evaluating and the only way we can evaluate is see them play.

Q. The one year that you were Tyrod's coach, his throws traveled the least distance downfield on average. Is that more a function of personnel or do you analyze dissecting defenses?

DAVID CULLEY: What we like to do is we are going to what the defense gives us. We are going to what they allow us to do and if that means getting it down the field, we'll get it down the field.

I do remember prior to getting there in Buffalo with him, the year before I got there, they were one of the better teams in the league at getting the ball down the field. So it's obviously -- that can be done and he's done that. Basically it's going to be what the defense allows us to.

Q. Davis Mills, will be his first NFL game, what do you hope to see from him?

DAVID CULLEY: Well, again, we really don't know and that's why we are going to exactly see and that's why it's the importance of having the three preseason games this year to see that happen and we'll see.

Q. What's he shown you so far in practice?

DAVID CULLEY: He's shown us again, as you've seen, that when he has bad days, that he can come back and he's going to do what we need to do as a quarterback and that's what quarterbacks need to do, just like in the scrimmage, we had some bad plays that happened with that first group and they overcome it, although that's a hard thing to do and he's shown that when he's put in that situation, that he's going to come back and he's going to do what we feel like we want to do; play the next play mentality.

Q. With so much wide open, different kind of approach to preseason games, does that mean a less set number of drives if he's on a roll?



DAVID CULLEY: We let him play the game. We let him play the game. I give you a good example of that is what just happened our last practice. You know, Jeff didn't get as many reps and his reps and Davis's reps were a little bit different. That was because we played the game. The drive dictated that they were three and they were out and next group was up.

Basically what we will do is as we see those reps unfold, we'll manufacture it to the point where we'll make sure regardless of what happens that this guy gets enough reps to where we can evaluate him.

Q. Do you think because you've got some roster turnover this year, the preseason games are much more valuable than to some other teams?

DAVID CULLEY: I always feel like in the past in the preseason games was very important, very important from the standpoint of how do you know. We have to get in game situations where you can know exactly what you've got and they have got to play it before that first game and that's why they are important to be able to do that and I'm so happy we've got three of them to do this year.

Q. After the first couple days -- settling in --

DAVID CULLEY: Just like all the other rookies. I can say is that about the rookies on defense and the rookies on offense, time, time is what they need and having these three preseason games is so invaluable for those particular guys like that and even that the new guys that we got here that's been playing in the league because they are basically playing, it's a different feel for them, a different team. In some ways a different system. So we are -- you know, that's just how it unfolds.

Q. Can you talk about Davis, getting the reps --

DAVID CULLEY: Well, the quarterback position, obviously we know how important that position is, and when you are a rookie, you know, we've got to see, and the only way for those guys to grow is by doing and basically we are going to, with, these three preseason games we are going to put him in a situation and Jeff in a situation where we can see exactly where they are at and where they are and how we need to use them at that point.

Q. What were your takeaways reviewing the film?

DAVID CULLEY: Same thing I took away from talking to y'all after the scrimmage, it was the same thing then. But the point being was this, what I did see was I saw a team that was flying around. I saw a team that when we made the mistake, and y'all have mentioned this when we talked,

we overcome a couple of things offensively. But let me tell you something, that's hard to do.

And this week in practice, our focus and our concentration is on making sure we eliminate those things and when we eliminate those things, good things happen.

Q. There's been a trend in the NFL that teams will practice against other teams before they play. You're not doing that this year. Is there a reason behind that?

DAVID CULLEY: The reason is because we felt like we needed to find out what we are all about because we are so new and so it was more important for us to get those reps with us and us finding out exactly what we are, and I've always been -- I've always enjoyed going against other teams but I felt like in the situation we were in, it was best for us to be able to just practice against ourselves and we've gotten out of it what we wanted.

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