

# Pittsburgh Steelers

## Media Conference

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

## Eddie Faulkner

### Weekday Press Conference



EDDIE FAULKNER: How we doing?

#### **Q. What makes his deep ball so good?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: It's just like one of his, you know, traits, skills that he's got. I know he's had that since he came here from Oklahoma State. Something that he's always been good at. We've known that. He threw some good balls on Sunday, Saturday, I guess it was.

#### **Q. How do you evaluate when you look at the tape?**

A. Got the ball, threw the ball to open people and what the coverage dictated and that's all we can ask for him. We skinned the plan down so he could play fast and he did that.

#### **Q. How different was it to plan for a guy like Mason -- the structure a little bit, try to create a little bit more, is it a little bit different?**

A. Yeah, for one, he had a big third down conversion there that resulted in points. He showed that he was capable in that standpoint. It's not really that hard because Coach has such a good post on what those guys like and what they do well. Depending on who is in there, that's how we make those decisions.

#### **Q. We know Kenny obviously wants to play. What's that line as a coach to protect him from himself, make sure he's a hundred percent. How do you walk that line?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: Ultimately Mike T is going to make those decisions and decide that but you know we handling it just like we did last week in the sense of seeing how he's coming along and letting Mason get the reps and play from there.

#### **Q. What led to what we saw from George on Saturday?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: He's just a gifted, gifted guy, you know what I mean, and often that's the answer to that question. Like the ball ended up finding him. They left him sometimes there in single coverage, a couple times like on that second play where he scored on. The safety didn't catch the angle on a slant and guys like George make those kind of plays. What happened was we got the ball to him and he found -- he did George things.

#### **Q. When you have move -- go off the run game working well, are those working well to force teams out of two high and out of those shells that can take Georgia way with the doubles?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: For sure. Like you know, game one against Cincinnati, move killed them in the middle of the field. So they left things open on the outside because they were going to take that away in this game. That's ended up the result is what DP did and there was some couple other missed throws in there that would have been some big plays. The best part about that statement is, his attitude about it and how it's been has been awesome. He knows their success was a byproduct of how he was playing and there's some good blocking, particularly the touchdown to Calvin where everybody is talking about Jalen's block and justifiably so.

But if you watch that play, Pat is strange and taking Mike out of bounds on that play and we really praise that. He had a great attitude about had a what resulted in the game.

#### **Q. What about that Jalen block you mentioned right there, as a running back coach, you have to be smiling?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: Absolutely but at this point it don't surprise me with him. He's a very explosive player and that's Jalen doing Jalen things.

#### **Q. You don't see a ton of running backs doing something he does. Does that make him --**

EDDIE FAULKNER: Most definitely. He just has the ability to time up his strike with his hips and his feet and based on what the defender, what move they are making and that is hard to find. But you know, he's special in that regard, no

doubt.

**Q. What did you maybe learn from that first Cincinnati game of carrying over a good performance from one week to the next?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: You know, I really don't know how much that first Cincinnati game and this one really correlated. I just think the guys come ready to play. We had a great week of prep. The guys came ready to play. We started fast. That was big and that kind of set the trajectory for the season. If there's any lesson to be learned, if we can start fast, I think we are better.

**Q. What about Seattle -- you've seen the run, put tweaks into it, they are a long group but outside corner, how do you attack a very different group than you had last week in Cincinnati?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: They play a lot of guys up front for one and so they are fresh, running fresh bodies at you. You know, they are kind of built for the rush, you know what I mean, their edges, 52, 53, 55, those guys are really good pass rushers. And so we just have to -- the good news about them is like you said, they run the same scheme. You know where they are going to be for the most part so it's going to come down to a fundamental game for us against a fundamental kind of group. We know where they are at and we have to block them and outstrain them and outcompete them and we should be fine.

**Q. With Adams out, they have done different things, taking pressure off-ball their linebackers and rotating more down the hole. How does that change what they have done at the safety position? Seemed like it worked.**

EDDIE FAULKNER: They have been a one a high zone team in Pete Carroll's deal, and they just have a really good secondary and they are utilizing those guys because they are versatile and they can play, they can drop different guys down in the box and they can play different coverages with different people and different spots because they have that versatility.

You know, 21 from Illinois is a really good player. He has some versatility, as well, when he's in that nickel spot. So it's going to be a challenge all across the board because they are a fundamentalist group, they are a small menu but they play fast and they are really good at the fuzz because of that, ball searching, things of that or the.

**Q. How is it unique facing a guy like Adams, a big safety, played a big nickel for them, obviously he's like**

**a linebacker. How does that change what you do in the run game and different things they can do?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: Obviously you have to be able to account for him. You know, whether he's playing like what we call like a big nickel spot where he's getting bumped into the box as a linebacker, that's what he is. I have in-stadium experience with him both when he was with the Jets and when we played Seattle before. He's a physical player. He's downhill, you know what I mean, he's going to strike you, good blitz. Our guys know that and so we are talking to him and getting him prepared for that this week.

**Q. What stood out to you about the play of the offensive line last week and how do you think specifically Broderick has progressed over his time starting?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: Answer to that first question is the biggest difference in that game I felt like for us was the strain to compete. You saw guys straining all over the field, whether it be at the receiver position or O-line or the tight end, the backs. The guys were straining to finish blocks. That was awesome to see. Broderick has progressed the way we thought he would, you know what I mean. He's a smart guy. Loves ball. Continues to clean up things technically with his coaches week-in and week-out and we just expect that to continue.

**Q. The strain, was that set by guys or what led to that better effort?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: It's something we put emphasis on coming out of those previous games, so this is like, we need to strain and put it on tape and they did it.

**Q. What more do you need to see out of Kenny in order for him to get back on the field in a game capacity?**

EDDIE FAULKNER: Like I was saying earlier, we are going to go through the process of basically like we did last week, and then when it comes time to make that call it's going to fall on Mike T's desk.

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