

New York Giants Media Conference

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Joe Judge

Press Conference



Q. A lot of talk around the league with coaches and players negotiating the condition of the off-season program. Have you done any of that?

JOE JUDGE: No, I think our players understand that any time we put them on the field we are always going to do so first off with their safety in mind, and then also what we think is best for the team to progress each individual's technique and conditioning as well as the team collectively going forward. No, look, I'm always very clear, very transparent with the team in terms of how we're going to practice what we are going to do and what our intents are going on the field and the reason behind that. We haven't had any discussions like that. It if at some point some player wants to talk, very open.

Q. Inaudible?

JOE JUDGE: Eight plus the three gives you 11 total days. That was just a good schedule for us to work on in terms of getting what we want accomplished through the install and the players to get jumping on their summers. A lot of guys will be training else with where with different players and locations and others go to family vacation and build back into training. We thought it was a good time frame for us to wrap up camp. The rookies have time on the back end when the vets leave to stay and get some extra meeting time and with the strength and conditioning staff and to really help their development leaving training camp.

Q. What have you seen from Daniel this off-season, and not just on here in the building but him bringing the team together with the offensive guys, and what do you want him to accomplish this off-season?

JOE JUDGE: Well, first off I'm proud of the way he works every day. This guy comes to work every day and whatever phase he's in, if he's in the weight room, getting treatment on field, throwing with his teammates, organizing things outside this building, the guy always has a plan of how he's going to attack things and proud to watch how he's worked.

I look for them to come in and work their hardest and pay attention to details we are coaching and put the team first. This guy does that every time he walks in the building. Very pleased with the way he's working and looking for improvement from every one of our players on a daily basis and our coaches as well.

Q. Do you think he can hold that leadership role?

JOE JUDGE: I think we have a lot of great leadership throughout the locker room. There's a lot of layers of leadership. Doesn't come from just one person. It has to come from different people and you have to make sure you can reach and touch every player on our roster. I love the way our team interacts and the leadership emerging from different age groups and guys being willing to share across the ball and share wisdom and put their arm around the guy and I like the way they challenge each other on the field and push to get better. I'm proud of the way Daniel is working and leading both polyacrylamide gel and vocally. Proud of the guys stepping up and taking that leadership this year.

Q. On Daniel, we put you in a position often of having to defend him publically and defend your belief in him but internally how are you challenging him to be a dramatically better version of himself?

JOE JUDGE: He just has to be the best he is every day, that's what we ask of all our players. It's not going to be perfect all the time but we need to be the best version you can be of yourself and as coaches we can put you in the best position to play your strengths. That's what we ask of all our players with. Daniel he never shies away from a challenge comes ready to work. Some is of the conversations we have, when we challenge him internally, this guy steps up every day to the plate and comes to work every day with a plan.

Q. I'm not sure we've asked you this but there are some high-profile quarterbacks out there whose futures are undetermined. Is there any possibility of you making a move to upgrade at quarterback or is Daniel your week one starter?



JOE JUDGE: Daniel Jones is our quarterback.

Q. Since we last talked to you, you signed up a couple running backs. What did they show you?

JOE JUDGE: Yeah, at that position we are looking for a lot of depths. Running backs have to have a role offensively and in the kicking game. You're going to play more than one in each game and you need more than one running back to sustain a season. It's a physical position and obviously a lot of wear and tear so you need a lot of depth, and not just the depth but you need different body types, skill sets to really complement your offense.

Corey, I've known him for a long time now and admired the way he's played both in the offense and kicking game. He's got some experience and I was pleased with the way he came to rookie mini-camp being a vet on a trial basis and really attacked it. Liked the way he worked on a daily basis and liked what I saw in terms of him coming in in shape and condition and working on the field. That's what led us to sign him right there. We are going to always look to upgrade this team however we have to and we are always going to do whatever is best for the team.

Q. You obviously went in with a plan -- you mentioned the OTAs are going to have a lot of attention individually. Two weeks from now when this ends up -- two or three weeks, I know you have a plan for everything, but what do you need to accomplish this spring? Are you looking to have any team on team or is it really going to be an individual fundamental, get these guys ready to go by the end of the spring to come back and compete in training camp?

JOE JUDGE: The one thing we've done, this being a little bit of a different spring than we've been used to in the past, last year was the anomaly and want to take that out of the fold. This has been a shorter term for us. The first part is see where our players are at physically. Until I know these guys can go out and operate at 100 percent and stay healthy and protect themselves on the field, soft tissues, and we want to avoid collisions at this part of the camp. Until we know that we are not really going to go ahead and keep this as a competitive drill. You will see team on team, 11-on-11 activities out there but we will control the tempo in practice. But there are other times in individual and group work where we will ramp that up and make sure the guys work on skill development, timing, offense, defense, and place a large emphasis on communication this time of year. You have to take the mental steps forward in terms of the understanding of the scheme and you have to develop chemistry with the communication on offense and defense. This is a great time of year to have it. You're not

preparing for an opponent and you can take it day-by-day and challenge the players in different ways and see the interaction grow with young and old guys.

Q. How crucial is this period for the younger guys and what is the main objective for them and also the second half what is your reaction to seeing that the stadiums will be opening up at full capacity in week one and have all Giants fans there?

JOE JUDGE: Yeah, I'll start with the second part first. One, I couldn't be more excited to know there's going to be 100 percent capacity. I'm not going to speak for the entire team but I know there's a lot of energy, upon hearing that announcement, personally, look, I can't wait to walk in a stadium and hear it at a deafening level. That's something I'm really looking forward to and feeling the energy of the fans. It's something we've missed and I've expressed before how much we value and thrive on as a team, going out playing in front of your home crowd and the animosity playing on the road against a visiting crowd.

In terms of the rookies and their development, every opportunity you get to work with any of these players, I don't care if it's a rookie or ten-year vet is crucial and the goal is the same this year for everyone, to develop their skills, functionalities and schematic and conceptual understanding of what we are doing. Make sure we are all speaking the same language and make sure when everyone comes back in training camp, they are in better physical shape and their bodies are more prepared to go at a faster pace and everyone is ready to compete by playing aggressive and confident in what we are asking to do fundamentally, technique-wise and schematically with the knowledge.

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