

New York Giants Media Conference

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Jameis Winston

Press Conference



Q. How was your role explained when you signed?

JAMEIS WINSTON: My role was explained to me as an opportunity at the quarterback position that we're looking forward to getting better at. I signed up for that because I'm looking forward to getting better and being my very best self myself.

So that's how it was. I didn't get a clean explanation of my role because I played so many different roles already. I've done every role that the quarterback room has to offer, so I'm ready for anything.

Q. Obviously a couple days later they signed Russell Wilson. Was that laid out as a possibility when you signed?

JAMEIS WINSTON: Yeah, I knew a free agent signing was going to come or maybe even a draft pick was going to come.

But that's their business. My business is today, and today I have the privilege of finally becoming a Giant.

Q. Welcome to the Giants. Glad to see you.

JAMEIS WINSTON: Thank you so much. Happy to be here.

Q. Great. Great. There is a possibility that you might be asked to mentor a young quarterback. Just wondering, when you look back on your own career, what are some of the lessons that you feel you learned that you can share with a young quarterback?

JAMEIS WINSTON: One of the greatest experiences that I had in my NFL career was a chance to spend one year with Drew Brees and just pick his mind, watch his actions, and just be immersed into being an NFL quarterback and seeing what it looks like to the highest degree.

One thing that he always exhibited was consistency. He

was at the same place every single time of the day. Another thing he exemplified was resilience. He didn't let anything get in the way of his preparation, in the way of his approach.

And the other thing was he kept it simple. He didn't think too much about the big things. He focused on doing the small things over and over again that resulted in him having the success he had for his entire career.

So me having that experience, being in rooms with great veteran quarterbacks such as Ryan Fitzpatrick, being in rooms with now quarterbacks with Derek Carr, Deshaun Watson last year, having the chance to mentor Dorian Thompson-Robinson when he had a chance to get back in his starting role with the Cleveland Browns, I've been able to learn so many different things from my time, my career.

So catering to a young quarterback and serving them would be something that I would definitely take home with a great responsibility and cherish it.

Q. Doesn't make you feel old, of course, right?

JAMEIS WINSTON: No. I know I'm still young and I know my capabilities are very good as well. So leading by example would be a good way to lead a young quarterback as well.

Q. So obviously everybody knows you've developed quite a big personality in the NFL. You're the social media star. Was that part of the interest that brought you to New York, the entertainment capital of America here?

JAMEIS WINSTON: Well, I just think -- I don't believe in coincidences, and the interest that brought me to New York was the fact that there was a quarterback room that they were looking to get better and making a difference in. I saw this window of opportunity open.

But just the fact that Big Apple is the biggest city in the world with the greatest fans in the world as well, to create some popularity, that didn't hurt, you know, I'm definitely grateful for what this city brings.



I'm definitely focusing on what I can do to help uplift this team from the quarterback position.

Q. I'm curious, because when the free agency started I was going through and pencilling in free agents who could be starters and different teams that needed starters. I thought you would be looking for a starting job. Did you look for that and not find it? Why were you willing to sign up for a backup job? If they were to pick a quarterback at three you could be third on the depth chart. You're obviously capable of being a starter. How do you look at that one through three on the depth chart?

JAMEIS WINSTON: Yeah, my initial vision approaching this offseason was to find an opportunity that gave me either a starting role or bridge opportunity to be the starting quarterback, and I believe this situation is a situation that it looks similar. Whether it's veteran quarterback that I have to compete with and help serve and help make better for this team or it's a young quarterback who is coming in from college who I have to help get better, who I have to compete with and serve, this is the NFL.

There is no -- in my job requirement at the quarterback position there is only one of us. In that job requirement you have to be able to compete and be able to just be your very best self. Whoever is the best guy gets the job. That's just how it works since I've been in the NFL.

So when the Giants opportunity was there and those opportunities for being sure starters and sure bridge opportunities, when they weren't as plentiful, I looked at this opportunity as a great one for me to be able to come in and have that starter-bridge opportunity in the future.

Q. What do you know about Daboll, the coaching staff, and the roster that you're a part of now?

JAMEIS WINSTON: I've always admired Brian Daboll back when he was with the Patriots. I really got more familiar with him when I saw the league's reigning MVP Josh Allen, have a tremendous jump from year one to year two. I saw a coordinator or playcaller that was very creative that found ways to cater to his quarterback's strengths, to find ways to get his position players involved, and found ways to take off a lot of excess work from our offensive lineman by getting the ball out quickly and finding ways to establish the running game.

When I got to really understand his upbringing, where he comes from and what he was about, coming from Buffalo New York, hard nosed, gritty, raised by his grandparents, that's something I was definitely familiar with because I

was raised by my grandmother as well.

So that similarity brought me closer to him as the man that he was, and I also respected the coach that he was. Obviously he's won a lot of Super Bowls and made a lot of athletes and quarterbacks a lot of money and had a lot of success.

Q. How about the players, receivers in particular?

JAMEIS WINSTON: Well, he's coached a lot of different receivers, tight ends --

Q. No, no, I'm sorry, I meant the Giants receivers, Malik and --

JAMEIS WINSTON: Well, I have a young super star -- three young superstars from the tape that I've seen when I watched Malik, Wan'Dale, and Theo, and emerging superstar in Jalin Hyatt. You have a crafty veteran who has always showed up and done the right thing at the right time and always finds a way to get behind the defense in Darius Slayton.

I think that was a key get-back for this organization and team in getting Darius back.

You got a veteran running back in Devin Singletary, and young running back that can do things in the backfield in Tracy. So I'm excited what this offense has to offer. You got a left tackle that is coming back from injury, but playing in the offensive line when you're in the trenches you're going to get banged up sometimes.

Injuries are very tough. I love getting a chance to spend some time with GVR. Knowing his veteran background and how much impact he has on this offensive line in general.

And I look forward to connecting with the other young guys and just seeing what we can be as an offensive. I promise you we going to find ways to make some things happen and get some wins. I think that's the most important thing to everybody.

Q. What is your relationship like with Russell Wilson? You've been in the league for a while together. Have you talked to him since you agreed?

JAMEIS WINSTON: Hey, Mike. Good to see you with palm trees blowing in the background. Not often do I get to see you on an iPad. I typically see you on TV. Good to see you.

But, no, my relationship with Russ is good, man. Russ,

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man, a lot of people don't know this, he was one of the quarterbacks that allowed me to take a look into how he ran -- Russ ran his enterprise, ran his businesses, how he took care of his body and trained and what did he do to go into his mental approach.

Russ and I had a very close friend who is no longer with us in Trevor Moawad. We were a lot closer when Trevor was still with us. I think Russ will speak on this. Trevor instilled a lot of great traits into both of us, and we continue to use those traits, express those traits in our leadership and our commitment to football.

So that's why we have a similar background in terms of our mental approach can be very similar because one of our mental coaches was definitely life changing for him and very influential with me as well.

Q. We asked Russ this, but I'm curious, when you're looking at teams and you mentioned the bridge, what appealed to you about joining a 3-14 team and why do you think this team is in a place to succeed next season?

JAMEIS WINSTON: Well, the biggest thing when you join a team that went 3-14, you got look at it like this: The NFL is a business of what have you done for me lately. Any team that has their back against the wall, you know the coaches, the executives, the fans, they are looking for immediate change.

I feel like in my time, in terms of my process of joining a team, I'm looking for immediate change because it's required. It's required to start winning for me in the NFL. It's required for this organization to start winning.

So we can have more giggles, more laughter, more fun in this building. We're in the biggest city in the world and we should enjoy that and I think winning does that.

So when to come to looking at their record, I didn't look at this team as a 3-14 team. I looked at what was possible, and what I saw was possible is an offense that can execute efficiently and can be explosive. I saw a defense with an incredible front.

And I saw this offseason them adding Paulson Adebo, Jevon Holland in the back end to created some noise to help that front get home.

I just figured that the Giants, man, they don't look like a 3-14 team from the talks of people talking about -- I know Kayvon, I know Byron (ph) a little bit, and Dex. Like from their talks and conversations, like the locker room doesn't seem like it was a 3-14 team.

So this team is looking for a complete paradigm shift. They're looking to make a splash. And there is no better place to do it with no greater calling to do it than right here in New York City being a New York football Giant.

Q. We all obvious saw you ask Saquon where you should go and he said the Giants, and now that is where you ended up. How much did you look into it after that, and did you talk to any of the guys that you mentioned before? What was the process like for you? What other teams -- was there a bunch of other teams interested? You had to choose them over somebody else?

JAMEIS WINSTON: Yeah, the process was fresh as it was of me asking Saquon where should I go. Like I said, I don't believe in coincidences but when he threw the Giants out there, it really gave me and my team, hmm, what they doing over there? What is your vision?

And to pursue the Giants. I'm not saying that I should sign Saquon as my agent, but what I am saying is he has good decisions. And obviously with him coming off the Super Bowl his connection to the New York, I'm pretty sure the fans aren't happy, but I'm pretty sure what he said about the fans and enjoying me, I think that gave them a little bit more excitement.

This free agency process is different every single year. With Aaron Russ holding up the market for the beginning of the free agency, it was tough. A lot of teams had committed to them. Had their hopes and dreams of getting those two guys or other guys in the future.

This team was one of the few teams that gave me an opportunity, that wanted to have me in and have me see the building and connect coach with Coach Daboll and just see what the Giants were all about.

I took that to heart, and I'm happy that Saquon put that energy in the air for me to come to the big city, Big Apple and be a G-man.

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