

Carolina Panthers Media Conference

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Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

Coach Robert Saleh

Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Jets 15, Panthers 12

Q. Sauce and D.J. are pretty consistent players. You don't have to worry about your depth too much, but Quan'tez Stiggers and JBC have had two pretty great weeks. How do you feel about them so far?

ROBERT SALEH: The entire DB room, you can throw he Echols into that group, I thought he had a nice day today. There's good depth in that room. Once Michael Carter gets back, we think it's one of the better DB rooms in football.

Q. What went into the decision to start Beasley and not start Tyrod?

ROBERT SALEH: Wanted to take a good look at him and Martinez. We'll flip it next week depending on how everything shakes out, on who goes out there first. But just wanted to get a good look at those two rookies.

Q. What did they show you tonight?

ROBERT SALEH: One thing for sure is that the game is not too big for either one of them. I thought they showed good play making ability with their foot. Martinez showed that he can throw off schedule and throw with accuracy, which I thought was encouraging. Both were competitive, both were in the huddle very well, and just overall I thought they were decent. I'm sure there's a couple plays they're both going to want back, but overall I thought it was pretty decent.

Q. What did you think of (indiscernible) his returns?

ROBERT SALEH: Yeah, definitely seized his opportunities. I think he was for both teams the most productive. Set up a couple of scoring drives. But that's what he's here for. That's why we brought him in, his punt returning and kick returning ability, and I thought he did a nice job today.

Q. What did you think of Olu tonight and all week as

he tries a new spot?

ROBERT SALEH: Yeah, new spot. It's never easy. I thought he did a nice job. He handled it well. That first practice he was at was pretty rough for him, and I thought he got better as the week went on. He had the holding penalty today, but overall I thought he did a pretty good job.

Q. Good for Will to see some success in a game?

ROBERT SALEH: Yeah, Will can rush the passer. We're not worried about him. But to get it on his inside move was pretty cool.

Q. Corley in the return game had a couple opportunities tonight and then over the course of the week how has he progressed from last week to tonight?

ROBERT SALEH: He's progressing. Like I said, him with the ball in his hands is not our worry. It's not that route running is a worry. That's what our main focus is on. We know he can return kicks. He'll continue to work on his punt returning ability and all that stuff, but he's progressing well.

Q. You talked about eliminating self-inflicted wounds. How frustrating was that first quarter for you?

ROBERT SALEH: Yeah, same thing. Just guys with nerves. I really wanted a clean game.

The pre-snap penalties and post-snap penalties are the ones that we've got to get out of our game. The in-action penalties will always happen, aggressive penalties. But we had the personal foul, we had an offsides. Those were the two big ones.

I thought the second half was clean. I'm not sure, I thought we had one or two in the second half, which I thought was pretty good.

Q. JBC injury a concern?



ROBERT SALEH: He's been nursing it. We'll see the severity once we get back.

Q. And Carter?

ROBERT SALEH: Same thing. He's dealing with a hip. I'm not sure what the severity is, though.

Q. Back to McDonald, the Reddick situation, we talked about it a lot, but do you need to see something from those guys from him, from Clemons just in case you don't have Reddick?

ROBERT SALEH: No, because at the end of the day those are next men up. The only thing I expect out of all of them is just phenomenal effort and strain, and if you do that on our D-line, you're going to have success.

I think Will plays to that standard. He's getting better every single day, and look forward to him getting more opportunities.

Q. What was Aaron Rodgers' role tonight? What was he doing?

ROBERT SALEH: He's fun on the headsets. Just like every single player, we ask anyone who's not dressing to be involved in the position group, make sure they're helping those guys out on the sideline, give them some pointers, give them some tips. No different, his role is no different than what Quinnen's was, and that's being engaged in the game, being involved in the game, and helping out your position room.

Q. Have you made a decision on the last preseason game?

ROBERT SALEH: I haven't, not yet. We'll talk about it later this week.

Q. Are there some long shots that flashed? It looked like maybe McGregor and Bartholomew did some things.

ROBERT SALEH: A lot of guys did a lot of good things. I thought a lot of young guys did. I thought our running back room as a collective whole, they're running the ball really, really hard, downhill, violent. Isy, I thought he ran the ball really well in the third quarter, being decisive, getting his foot in the ground, getting vertical. There are a lot of standouts out of those young guys. Like I say, I'm looking forward to looking at this tape because there's some good stuff to look at.

Q. We didn't get a chance to talk to you after the

practice Thursday. What were your takeaways from the joint practice?

ROBERT SALEH: I thought offensively, I was with the offense, obviously, I thought our O-line, our run game and our protection was outstanding, which was the big thing I was looking forward to seeing. That's a top-5 defense. They're well-coached. They're very good up front. I thought our O-line was really, really good in the practice.

Obviously there's a couple of turnovers, but I thought we moved the ball really well, got into positions to score. Aaron looked good getting in and out of the pocket, moving around, showing his range with his feet.

Then defensively speaking, we were trying a couple of new things, which some things we've got to tighten up in the back end, but I thought our pass rush was still very effective.

Q. How did you feel about how feisty it got during practice?

ROBERT SALEH: There's always going to be pushing and shoving. I know there was a couple incidents, but it didn't deter us from having good productive work.

Q. Going back to the O-line, there was some shuffling going on during that practice, too, and it seemed pretty consistent. What does that tell you about that unit and where they're at at this stage of camp?

ROBERT SALEH: I talked about it last week when we had our second group line up against Washington. I thought looking at them, I was like, God, that group is an improved version because they're all older from a year ago. In that two-minute drive at the end, our three -- two tackles and AVT were on a pitch count, so to put in three new guys and still not skip a beat, I thought they did a really nice job.

I really love where our O-line is at, seeing things off the field that we haven't seen in three years, just talking about the connection they have to one another. It's starting to feel authentic. It's feeling like -- it's something I can't explain to you guys, but it's just a different feeling with that group than it's been over the last three years.

Q. It was a 3rd and 1 with Braelon Allen getting three yards. Is that kind of a picture post card why you picked him?

ROBERT SALEH: Oh, he had a couple -- all of them did really, but Braelon had -- it was a 3rd and 5 or 3rd and 6 and he had a violent four-yard run where he just moved the entire pile. But yeah, we picked him for a lot of reasons,

because he's actually really good out of the backfield and route running. He's really good in protection, too. We think he's an all-around good back, and he's a very powerful runner, too, and he's displaying that down in, down out.

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