

Carolina Panthers Media Conference

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Head Coach Kevin Stefanski

Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Browns 30, Panthers 10

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Usually equates to a victory, so that's just reinforcing how important that is for this football team, for every football team and every game, so there's a ton that we need to learn from in this game and we will. We'll coach off of it. We'll teach off of it, and we will learn from it, so it's a -- I think, I was pleased with how the guys came down here, got that work done in the practice, got that work done in this game, but we got a long way to go. We're just going to get there by keeping our head down and keep working. With that, I'll take any questions.

Q. Can you talk about Shedeur's performance? What did you see...

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, pleased with Shedeur, pleased with the offense, again, not perfect, plenty that we can work on, but I thought the guys did a really nice job of Shedeur and operating, the guys making plays, so, again, a ton to teach off of.

Q. (Inaudible)... what was it like sees those guys step up in that role?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, that's the exciting part for us as coaches and their teammates to see those guys perform under the lights and make plays. We see them making plays in practice, see if they can do it in these games. That will continue to be part of this preseason.

Q. What does this game do to your quarterback competition?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, we're really just focused on developing our players. We're in evaluation mode. I'm pleased with where the guys are, but I'm not diving into a quarterback competition.

Q. To that point, though, when you think about Shedeur specifically and the evaluation process, there

are a lot of different types of situations that he was in by playing so long. How will that help in terms of really assessing where he's at?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, the situations were invaluable for Shedeur, for all of our offense. We got a third and one where we had a quarterback sneak. There's just a lot of football, and that's by design with him getting a ton of reps in this game and he'll get a ton of reps next week as well. That's all part of our development of our young players.

Q. Kevin the turnover play, you got the turnover and you got the quarter break. Did you tell him, like...

KEVIN STEFANSKI: I don't remember (chuckling). Probably. I can't remember.

Q. When you call that, do you think it's going (inaudible).

KEVIN STEFANSKI: You know, when you call those type of plays, I think there's a lot of options on them, including the quarterback running, so not necessarily.

Q. Will he start the next game?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, I'm not there yet. I got to see who's healthy, all those types of things.

Q. Was there a particular play that you looked at and said that's a pretty nice play that Shedeur made?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, I thought the scramble, the throw to Luke where Luke grabbed it with one hand was pretty special by both those guys. And, again, that's the fun part of this sport. That's the fun part of coaching. We get to pour everything we got into these young players and you get to go see them perform.

Q. It seemed like early on there's been so much talk about under center, transition to that, this offense, it seemed like early on you did a lot of shotgun. Is that maybe the kind of Shedeur --

KEVIN STEFANSKI: It wasn't. Yeah, we can do either.



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We don't -- we like a lot of things we can do from under center like a lot of things we can do from the gun. It wasn't intentional.

Q. How do you think he handled the under center work?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Good. For all our guys, there's things that we believe in in terms of technique and how you do that. I think the young guys in particular when they're coming from college, they don't have as much work so I think they're continuing to get better and better.

Q. Schwesinger got six tackles in one quarter. How would you assess...

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Hard to say. Obviously I saw the stats and I saw Carson making those tackles but need to look at it to see exactly -- I know this: It wasn't perfect for any player out there, but I appreciate how those guys compete and those young players, that's the first time putting the uniform on, first time getting out there and some game action. They both got a lot of reps in that Wednesday practice as well.

Q. You wanted to see someone surprise you in this quarterback competition and that's why you're kind of keeping it open. Would you say that Shedeur surprised you in any way? And if so, what surprised you?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: No, I think we have an expectation for our quarterbacks and we have an expectation for our players when they're playing this game in that position to go operate and make good decisions with the football. Our quarterbacks took care of the football which is no small thing. The guys who touched it had great ball security. Again, zero giveaways is a really big deal and the two takeaways I thought was excellent.

Q. The first drive, did you consider going for it on fourth and short?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, you're always -- yes. You need to get your special teams work in as well, so there's times when you want to get a kick in when maybe normally you wouldn't. There's times when you go for it, maybe normally you wouldn't really based on the play and what you immediate to see from your players and the preseason.

Q. I know it's only one game, but considering what happened last year, is the missed P.A.T. a concern?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: I think we're always going to be

looking at our technique and those types of things but I thought Dustin has been really kicking the ball well.

Q. Getting it into tight windows, putting nice touch on the ball, things we have seen in training camp, those seemed to be on display tonight. Were those some of the strengths?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, I thought there were a bunch of play where is the guys were working together. Sometimes it was in rhythm and we got to a read because we're in rhythm and the protection was good. There were other times we had to make plays off schedule and those are the things, again, when you're if practice you preach them and you work those off-schedule plays so it was God that those came up tonight.

Q. Did Shedeur earn more reps with the twos or the ones just as you move up.

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Honestly, I'm pleased with the way Shedeur played. I'm pleased with the way the offense operated tonight. All things moving forward as we continue to practice. We'll be focused on all of our guys' development and getting these guys ready to play for the season.

Q. His first throw was high. How do you think he handled everything just from adrenaline and nerves and all that?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: You're not going to make every throw, and, you know, that's part of this game. Any of our young players, we talked to them last night about this first game and the jitters that come with the first game so I thought all the guys handled that well.

Q. You thought he, over the last 24 hours or so, was fine with everything?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Oh yeah, absolutely.

Q. (Inaudible) along with the others for this competition...

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Yeah, I'm honestly not focused there. I think the guys need to continue to earn their roles. That's what these guys are doing.

THE MODERATOR: Good?

KEVIN STEFANSKI: Thank you, guys. Appreciate it.

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