

Carolina Panthers Media Conference

Thursday, August 21, 2025
Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

Mike Tomlin

Visitors Postgame Press Conference



Steelers - 19, Panthers - 10

MIKE TOMLIN: There was some good. There's a lot of things you don't like, to be quite honest with you. I thought we were highly penalized. We turned the ball over there early. The tackling was shaky at best at times. I think they had a hundred yards rushing at the half, and that's just kind of indicative of how poor the tackling was at times.

So we've got some things to work on, but it's good to do that with a victory. That's why you step into stadiums to win. Really happy for Ben Sauls. The work he was able to show us tonight, good for him.

A couple injuries of note. Derrick Harmon has a knee sprain of some description. He's being evaluated. Brandon Johnson has got a foot injury of some description. He's also being evaluated. Those are the two significant injuries. Some other bumps and bruises associated with play, but nothing of note at this point other than those two.

Q. Concern over Harmon having an ACL? Any concern over Harmon being potentially a serious injury?

MIKE TOMLIN: Like I said, it was a knee sprain.

Q. You like where you are after three preseason games?

MIKE TOMLIN: Does it matter? (Laughter).

Hey, we're not a finished product, but no one is. I'm looking for this group to take advantage of this block of time between now and the opener. We've just got to have urgency every day in the work that we prescribe for ourselves.

That's a challenge, but it's a challenge for us. It's a challenge for everyone to continue to be a group on the rise day in and day out although the preseason games are over.

Q. What is it about Skylar Thompson? He's not afraid to attack? He comes in boom, boom, boom. What do you keep seeing from him?

MIKE TOMLIN: He's got playing experience. This guy started games in Miami, and I think that experience shows. We're talking regular season games.

Q. I know there's a lot of different variables when it comes to the run game. What's missing right now? Pole's not there? They're not being hit? Slipping?

MIKE TOMLIN: We're what, 18 for 99? Where do you want us?

Q. I meant earlier in the game when you had more of your receivers out there.

MIKE TOMLIN: The game is 60 minutes.

Q. Got a look at some of your starters that you liked?

MIKE TOMLIN: A little bit. They wanted some more, but really it was about the process, taking them through the pregame warmups, getting them in the huddle a little bit and getting them exposed to how we communicate. Letting them feel that from an in-helmet experience. Less about the plays, particularly for some of the more experienced ones.

Q. Say anything to Jalen after that tackling penalty, or is that Jalen?

MIKE TOMLIN: I'd much rather say whoa than sick 'em. I'll leave it at that.

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