

GREGG WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT HEAD COACH – DEFENSE
OCTOBER 27, 2005

On whether he is worried about any of the defense's injuries:

“At this point in time, we think we’ll have the bulk of them practicing tomorrow. A lot of them did a lot of things on the side today and looked pretty sharp. We’re very fortunate. A lot of teams in the league right now are losing guys for the season. We’re losing [guys] for a day or two of practice. At his time in the year, a day or two off helps their bodies heal a little bit. We feel pretty good about it right now.”

On QB, #10 Eli Manning's improvement since his rookie season last year:

“They’ve done a very good job of getting him comfortable in their system. He’s a very hard worker. That’s a part of their family traits. He’s much more comfortable [now] when he plays the game. The game has slowed some for him. He’s executing very well in their offensive scheme.”

On former Giants and current Redskins DT, #96 Cornelius Griffin:

“He’s a strong leader in that [defensive line] group. We like the fact that his [leadership] comes from the example he sets on the field. Then, when he does talk, he means it when he talks. He’s had tremendous energy since he has gotten here. There are not many defensive tackles in the league that I would rather have playing for us in our style of defense than Cornelius Griffin. I think [defensive coordinator – defensive line] Greg Blache feels the same way.”

On Redskins LB, #56 LaVar Arrington's practices this week:

“[He’s had] very good preparation [on the field this week]. More importantly, [he has prepared well] in the meetings and in the classroom. He’s put together back-to-back good weeks – not only from a mental standpoint, but from a physical standpoint, too. There’s pep to his step. There are several [defensive players] who have gotten their legs backs underneath them again. We’re practicing very well right now. It’s coming at a good time because we have a tough part of our schedule coming up.”

On the frequency with which he has used the 3-4 defense in his coaching past:

“This is the first time I’ve ever used it. I’ve never used it before. We put a tremendous emphasis on it this past off-season. We have used it in parts of all games [this season]. We used it quite a bit this past week because we had some nicks. I couldn’t say that [we were planning on using it] early [last] week when [the media] were desperate with all of our defensive line injuries. [The team] weren’t [desperate] because of our packages. It worked out very well because we were able to rest some of our defensive linemen in the second half of this last game [against San Francisco] to take some of the hits off of them.”

On the extent to which other NFL teams utilize the 3-4 defense:

“There have been some very successful defensive teams who have done it in the last several years. One of the things [the 3-4 defense] does is affect the decision-making and protections of the offense. Our guys [on defense] are sharpen enough – we’ve had a year together now, going on our second year – and comfortable [enough] to understand how we flip from package to package and between the thought process[es] that go on [in trying] to affect the offense. It’s been a good fit for us.”

On whether he plans to use LB, #56 LaVar Arrington as extensively against the Giants as he used him against the 49ers:

“We sure hope so. He’s practicing very well. It was nice to see him contribute last weekend [against the 49ers]. He did a very good job. He did a good enough job that we got some very significant plays out of him. He made some mistakes, but so did all of [the defense players]. I did. We all did. Very seldom do we ever have an error-free ballgame. It was fun to see the energy and, more importantly, the burst [in his play]. Those are the things that I didn’t see earlier in the year, especially during training camp. He started training camp late once he was finally cleared to come. He had that burst [on Sunday]. He’ll be in as many packages as we can get him on the field [against the Giants]. We’ll see.”

On whether the Giants use TE, #80 Jeremy Shockey differently than the Kansas City Chiefs use Tony Gonzalez:

“[The Giants] use [Shockey] differently. Our division has tremendous quality tight ends. Jeremy is playing very well right now. He’s been a threat for [the Giants] in all of the years he has been there, but right now, you can tell that he and [QB, #10] Eli [Manning] have a good thing going. Eli looks for him a lot in certain situations.”

On how the Giants have changed since last season:

“[Giants head coach] Tom Coughlin is a very good football coach. Just like our second year here, [another year in the same system] is affecting them the same way. The players know what to expect, what they’re going to call, and how they’re going to do things. The maturation process of a young quarterback [also has helped]. [QB, #10] Eli [Manning] is playing very comfortably. He is executing at a better pace than he was last year. It was probably smart for them to give him as many reps as he got towards the end of last year. Those gave him a comfortable feeling coming into this year. It has showed in their progress.”