



MIAMI DOLPHINS AT MINNESOTA VIKINGS

U.S. BANK STADIUM

Aug. 31, 2017 | 8 P.M.

POSTGAME QUOTES

Vikings Head Coach Mike Zimmer (transcribed by the Minnesota Vikings)

Okay obviously we made too many mistakes tonight, gave up too many big plays defensively and then weren't able to – well we had drives but we weren't able to finish down there. I think it was a good opportunity for these young guys to get a fourth preseason game in. You've got another chance to get out there and evaluate a lot of the different guys. I'm excited about getting going, to start the season and get going for Monday night vs New Orleans. Questions?

Q: In terms of the preseason as a whole how did things go?

A: Well I think there are some definitely good things offensively that we've done. Areas that we've been working on we've improved at. There's still a lot of areas we have to continue to get better and that's going to be our focus. Defensively, I think when we get the guys that have played a little bit more, then I think we'll be okay.

Q: How strongly did you consider using the starters tonight?

A: I don't know.

Q: When you have a chance to look at these guys fighting for a roster spot, how much does tonight factor into the overall decision?

A: I think there's some guys, probably several guys that were kind of on the bubble that ended up getting a lot of playing time tonight so it's another chance to get us another evaluation out of them. I personally feel like having the fourth preseason game and the cuts after that is better in the fact that if you cut them earlier and they get picked up by another team, they've got one week to try to learn everything. It's just difficult. This way I think you get a truer evaluation of what it is because they've been doing these things really since OTAs, most of them. We're going to continue to look at the waiver wire. We're going to continue to try, you know just because whatever the 53 that we have this weekend doesn't mean it's going to be the same 53 when we're lining up on Monday night.

Q: How tough are these next three days making life changing decision for these guys, both good and bad?

A: It's always hard for the coaches and the guys that have put a lot of time and work and you've got a chance to get to know these guys. Quite honestly, these guys, it's really up to them and they have to go out and be able to prove it and be able to play at the correct level, do things right, not make mistakes during the games and things like that. A lot of them had their opportunities and they either took advantage of them or they didn't.





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Q: What are your thoughts on Mitch Leidner's play?

A: I thought he did good for being here a short time.

Q: What did you think of Mackensie Alexander's penalty?

A: Well I don't think it was very good. We had a little discussion about it.

Q: What did you think about the cornerback play throughout the preseason?

A: Well it wasn't very good tonight, but I think we're going to be okay with it. We'll be okay.

Q: How about Eric Wilson?

A: I'll have to look at the tape of today. Obviously, I hate to judge him on a couple plays tonight he didn't do well.

Q: Going forward with Michael Floyd is it a good thing that he can attend the meetings and be emotionally attached still?

A: Yes, I think that's really important that not only for him and making sure he's staying on the right path, but being a able to come in and stay related to the football part. He can still get into the weight room and do those things and be able to go out on his own and routes. I think all that stuff is much, much better than having a guy go away from the facility for a number of weeks.

Q: Did coaches have problems with that rule before?

A: Well, I mean it was hard to monitor them because they weren't around. They weren't around for football, for meetings, for understanding game plan. You can still sit in on the game plans that we're doing. In the past it was difficult. It was difficult not only for the club but for the player.

Q: Did you see enough in the preseason games with him?

A: I did. I do think so. He does a lot of really good things that do not show up on the stat lines. He's an excellent blocker, he's physical, he makes contested catches, I think he's really good with that. I think Sam [Bradford] has good flow with him as well.

Q: Where is he with the offense in general?

A: I think he'll be fine. He's a smart kid. I don't think that'll be an issue. There will be times when he's probably confused here or there. When we start getting into the game plan and focusing and not running a hundred different plays it makes it a lot easier.

Q: How is Jarius Wright] with the quarterbacks?





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A: Good, Sam likes him. Sam likes him a lot. Jarius has always been a productive player when he gets in the game. We'll just go from there.

Q: Can the quarterbacks throw to Floyd during his suspension?

No.

Q: Will Taylor Heinicke's injury affect him Week One?

A: I don't think it will.

Q: Do you know his status?

A: I think he's in concussion protocol.

