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Don Brown

Michigan Wolverines

DON BROWN: I think there's a lot you can take. I'll tell you what now; playing against Jameis Winston was always a challenge, and we knew we had our hands full, and you had to go about your business in different ways. I just was talking about it, I think Coach Fisher does an unbelievable job getting those guys to throw the ball to the right guy based on what coverage you're in and based on what the quarterback is getting.

You're not going to fool him. Then it comes down to your techniques and your fundamentals and your philosophy of how you go about doing your business. Obviously Dalvin Cook has just made it a very difficult challenge in trying to have that balancing act between how you're going to go about stopping the run game and then being solid in the throw game, as well, and then I'm one of those guys, I'm not afraid to pressure anybody. I mean, that's just the way I am.

But you've got to be smart about how you go about doing it, and so all those things go into making up a game plan. But let me tell you something: Every time 4 has his hands on the ball, I can't breathe. I'm 61 years old, and I just (inhales), and then we get him on the ground and you move on to the next play and start breathing again. But he's a very, very good player. I would say if he's not the best, he's one of the top three players that we've played against, will have played against all year, and I have great respect for his toughness, as well.

I think Francois is a really good quarterback, can make all the throws. I mentioned Coach does a great job of getting him to throw the ball to the right guys. Obviously he's got tremendous skill around him. I like the tight end, 81. I'm not great with names. I know he's from Jersey.

I think he does a nice job of fitting in the run game and fitting into pass protections and getting out. He doesn't have an overabundance of catches, but the ones he seems to put his hands on are important, but that's not an issue because they have enough guys they can throw the ball to that are interchangeable.

But I like our guys. We have a style that we play. You know, and the whole key for us, been on the film for 12 weeks now, there's going to be no easy throws. Every



throw you make, you're going to have to earn it, because we're going to play the game right here with those guys. Don't think we're some slow Midwest team that's coming in here to play now. Our guys can play. We'll play with tremendous technique and fundamentals. Our front four is playing at a high level, and our linebackers, led by Jabrill Peppers and Ben Gedeon and Mike McCray, we've been able to piece that together so that those guys complement the front and back end.

Our guys have been in the soup a little bit and know how to play.

Q. It sounds like you guys (inaudible)?

DON BROWN: You know, we deal with that in preseason. The way Coach runs things, I mean, it's all about the football. Our guys get a lot of football from the preseason period, the spring period. I mean, the amount of repetition that we give our guys and the amount of concept that we present to our guys, and Coach will say it all the time, more is more. So when you have more, you have answers. So you're just trying to give your guys the opportunity that somewhere along in the game we've got to make an adjustment, we've got answers, and it's not like, well, I guess we're done. We have enough answers. So that's kind of what we're looking for.

But our guys adjust really well to that. I'm not even sure that it's an issue, but we do take that approach, there's no question about it.

Q. I know you said you're not afraid of pressure. (Inaudible.)

DON BROWN: It's critical. That position, played by, in my opinion, the best player in college football, we can have that discussion all day. But it's huge because I can put him in the rush, I can put him on -- substitute him to be on any guy that I want him on, or he can be part of the coverage equation that we employ when we have four or five concepts where he's aligned on different guys. It's huge. And the nice part about it is you don't have to substitute to get it done, you just kind of make the call, and then all of a sudden he's over there or he's over there. So that's the flexibility that he gives you is the ability to kind of play multiple positions, but he's not leaving the field, so it's not like the offense can say, oh, they just subbed Peppers and they subbed



this guy, so this means he'll be here. We do a lot of different stuff with him. As I alluded to, sometimes it's criminal because there's a lot of concept this guy has to learn, and he just handles it with ease.

Q. I want to ask you also about (Inaudible.)

DON BROWN: Really happy. Devin Bush has been a solid number two guy from the day he virtually got on campus. I kind of threw him in there. Unfortunately for him, he's playing behind Mike McCray, and Mike has played all year, with the exception of maybe 20, 25 snaps, of which Devin has played. But he's in a position where this spring he'll be in a starting role, and he's off and running.

Devin Gil, you know, I think we've kind of found out who he is, and he'll have a chance to be in that two deep, as well, moving forward this spring, and this Josh Metellus now, we're really excited about him because he can play safety and he can kind of do -- he can kind of be the poor man's Jabrill Peppers, too. We've got to get him a little bigger maybe, but he can do a lot of the things that we ask Jabrill to do. Like I said, I'm not saying he's Jabrill Peppers, I'm just saying he's the poor man's Jabrill Peppers.

But we're excited about him. I think he can play either safety position, really an intelligent, understands concept guy, and really we just threw three guys arbitrarily from Flanagan, right. The nice thing is the guys that are older than him have kind of helped those guys. That's just kind of the way it goes at Michigan. You don't know how that's going to go. I'm just a new guy coming in and I'm fighting for my life trying to install something. But our older guys do a great job of being role models for our guys both on and off the field.

Q. When Jabrill leaves, who will fill that spot next year?

DON BROWN: That's a good question. I'm not there yet.

Q. (Inaudible.)

DON BROWN: Well, here's what would happen. If the game is played today, Jabrill is playing. If we get into those big personnel groups, I can insert Noah. If we were to go and Jabrill got hurt, then Josh Metellus would eat up some of those plays. Now, we're also fooling around with this guy -- do you know the Glasgow family? This Jordan Glasgow, I think we've found this guy a home. I think we have. You know, we've kind of fooled with him in it. So what kind of -- we're going to be different at the safety position, so I don't know if I want to take Josh and pull him out of there full time and turn him into the viper, but boy, wouldn't it be wonderful if this guy just continues to mature, because he's a different guy, but he kind of has those qualities. But the beauty is we still have Noah,

who can really -- and really has practiced extremely well over the last six, seven weeks, and will have that viper guy that can help him out. That's just how it's going to be based on the spread offenses and so forth and what people are going to try to do to us. We've got to be able to counteract that.

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Taco Charlton

Michigan Wolverines

Q. Has your approach this year, this bowl game, been exactly the same as last year, the whole business, or has it been even more so this year? TACO CHARLTON: It might even be more so this year than last year. It's been more businesslike. Last year we went to Disney World, this year has been more so just staying strict to the schedule, practicing, and making sure we win this bowl game.

Q. Is that fine with you guys? Is that enough fun to have for a bowl season?

TACO CHARLTON: Hey, like I said, if that's what our coach wants us, that's what we're going to bring. We know it's a business type of -- it's not really a vacation. We take it more as a business-type deal. We take that in stride and continue to practice hard.

Q. Did you think that was a benefit in last year's win?

TACO CHARLTON: Yeah, I believe so. That's why I think we did what we did and won by such a big margin was we took it more as a business trip more than a vacation. We were serious throughout the whole week and really didn't have any distractions, so we limited the distractions and made it more serious about practicing and making it more businesslike.

Q. Part of that business trip I bet is also getting a look at some of the younger guys that are going to be replacing you guys. People think there's no way this defense can be as good because of all seniors leaving. What have you seen from the young guys?

TACO CHARLTON: Like I said, they're young, but they're a great group of guys. There's a lot of young talent on this team. They haven't really got a chance to really show it because of all of our veteran guys that's been out there so much, but through practice I've been seeing that this team has a bright future because there's a lot of young guys with a lot of talent on this team that's ready to step up and show what they can do next year.

Q. Anybody jump out at you?

TACO CHARLTON: Like I said, on the defensive line you've got Rashan Gary. I tell him every day how much of a bright future he has if he continues to work hard and do what he needs to do. He's a guy even



after I leave I'll probably stay on and continue to push because I want him to be as great as he can be, and I believe he can be great.

Q. I was asking Chris and Ryan about bowl practices and what Greg and Don do to kind of keep it fresh, and Chris mentioned a game, a D-line game where you guys get candy. Can you explain it a little bit and maybe talk about some of the other things you guys do to keep fresh?

TACO CHARLTON: Yeah, so me and worm, we pick teams, pick D-linemen who we want to be on our team. My first pick was of course Ryan Glasgow, holding down the weak side, me and him together. Like I say, my team took down Worm's team, so I like to put that out there. But it's just something to do to make us have fun, be excited about watching film, things like that, looking at our keys. It's a long week, and it's a lot of film we've watched since day one, so to kind of keep our enthusiasm there and our attention to detail, we kind of add games to make sure it stays sharp and make sure we stay laser focused.

Q. What have the last few weeks have been like for you on a personal level to be healthy?

TACO CHARLTON: Yeah, so it's been good to finally get back to close to 100 percent. I've been banged up here and there, especially at the beginning of the year, playing out for the first three games really and the first three games back I was still kind of rusty, still wasn't 100 percent, to get back close there, and trying to get back to 100 percent is still hard and still a challenge, but it's been good to get close to back to that.

Q. Your NFL stock has just skyrocketed. Can you sense that?

TACO CHARLTON: Probably. I hope so. I hope he's right. Like I said, I go out there every day to try to prove my point that I believe I'm one of the best pass rushers in this country. That's something I was able to prove the last couple weeks and especially the last game. It's something I'm going to try to prove this week, too.

Q. When you did that, you were going against Ohio State

TACO CHARLTON: Yeah, like I say, I'm from Columbus, so that game meant a lot to me. Like I said, that even adds extra motivation, being from that city, and I



wanted to win that game bad. It's something that I added -- bringing something that Coach Brown talked to me about from day one was bringing the pass rush to this defense, and he said he wanted me to be the best pass rusher, so every since I've been back, that's been my mindset and something I've been able to bring to this team.

Q. Do you guys feel like you still have something to prove with this defense even though you're so high up there statistically?

TACO CHARLTON: Yeah, of course. From day one we wanted to prove we were the best defense in the country. We can't go out there and let them run all over us or let them dominate us. Like I said, for a lot of us, a lot of the seniors, this might be the last time playing football, so we definitely want to go out there and put on our best performance.

Q. When did it start to click for you in that last game where you put on a showcase? Was there a moment where you were like, okay, this is starting to all come together?

TACO CHARLTON: Yeah, I mean, like I said, the more time I get out there, the more rhythm I get and the better I get. Like I said, just getting here and then just learning more and more, like I said, the more reps I get out there on the field, the better I'll become. I'm still new to the position, only been playing there since really college, knowing the techniques and stuff like that. The more I'm out there, the better I'll get. The last game, I wanted that game bad, so the closer I got, the harder I played. I wasn't 100 percent health-wise, but I pushed past that because of how bad I did want to win that game.

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Ryan Glasgow

Michigan Wolverines

Q. Did you just get out of bed?

RYAN GLASGOW: Yeah, I rolled out about an hour ago.

Q. Do you want some coffee?

RYAN GLASGOW: I'm trying to save it for before practice. I don't want to waste it now.

Q. A lot of the offensive players talk about being familiar with Don Brown's defense; has he talked to you about what he saw from when he coached at Boston College or is it just based on what you've watched on film this year?

RYAN GLASGOW: Yeah, we've watched a lot of Boston College tape, just similar fronts, similar schemes. Yeah, he talks about it. He talks about defending Florida State in the past. He realizes that it's kind of a different offense than last year, different dynamic, different quarterback, some new offensive linemen, so we're preparing for it as if it's like a new game, but just taking what he knows from the past and trying to apply it.

Q. They've been complimentary, both sides have been complimentary, they know the Michigan defensive line is going to be a tough task. What have you seen out of the Florida State offensive line, guys like Rodrick up there?

RYAN GLASGOW: They're big guys. You know, I mean, the two guards and the tackles are huge. I think everyone is over like 310. The center is pretty big guy, as well, and they move pretty well. They secure their blocks, and they do a good enough job, help Dalvin Cook rush for 1,600 yards in a season, so yeah, I think they're pretty good. I know that they've given up a lot of sacks, but that's a symptom of one holding the ball at the quarterback position, too.

Q. On that note, a guy like Deondre who can do it on his feet and do it with his arm, too, how much have you kind of talked about the importance of containing him and not allowing him to kind of run wild?

RYAN GLASGOW: Oh, we've talked about it a lot. Whether it's on the quarterback-designed runs or the scrambles, he does get out, and he's a tough kid. He takes a lot of shots, doesn't go down, and he's trying to pick up the tough extra yards that a lot of quarterbacks



wouldn't really want to pick up, so that's been my impression on film. So yeah, we have talked about containing him and trying to keep him in the pocket.

Q. What sets Dalvin Cook apart that really makes him special?

RYAN GLASGOW: I'd venture to say he's probably the best running back I've watched on film in college. Just kind of everything about his game, the way he sets up his blocks, the way he can make a man miss in space, his breakaway speed. It's pretty amazing to see.

Q. Would you go as far as to say that he might be if not the best running back that you've played against, is he up there?

RYAN GLASGOW: Yeah, I'd say so for sure.

Q. Would you put him up top?

RYAN GLASGOW: Yeah. I mean, there might be someone I'm forgetting, Ezekiel Elliott, Barkley, those two guys are up there, but he's definitely top three.

Q. When you look at the amount of talent on both sides, this could shape up to be one of the better bowl games of the bowl season; have you thought about that?

RYAN GLASGOW: Yeah, I mean, we always think about the national implications, what this does for Michigan and our program as a team, and getting a win like this against a great ACC school and Florida State, a team that won a National Championship a few years ago, it's a big win for the program and gives us a step in the right direction.

Q. How has this experience been similar to last vear and different?

RYAN GLASGOW: I wasn't really too involved last year. We watched film, but it's pretty much the same from what I can see. I wasn't at practice, but just like a normal game week. We had two weeks of practice the last two weeks. They were pretty tough, and it was kind of scouting but just trying to get better as football players, and now we're really honing in on the game plan. So yeah, it's been pretty intense. Everyone has really showed up to play. So yeah.

Q. How much different is it when you have a month to prepare for one opponent as opposed to a week?



RYAN GLASGOW: You end up watching a lot of the games, a lot of the film. You get to study a lot of tendencies, stuff like that. You get to see what they're good at, not good at. I mean, when you only have six days to prepare for a team, it's a little bit different, so I think you get to know the opponent better and I think you get to prepare better overall, but they do, too.

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Jourdan Lewis

Michigan Wolverines

Q. Is that a unique experience?

JOURDAN LEWIS: If you say so. Yeah, I guess. Yeah.

Q. In terms of this week and what your role has been in terms of a senior, trying to get guys to maintain that focus and stuff, is that something that you've had to negotiate here? Have you tried to --

JOURDAN LEWIS: Uh-uh, no, Coach Harbaugh does a pretty good job containing everybody -- well, keeping everybody focused, but everybody seems locked in. If you look at the practices, we've had a few good practices down here, and just trying to go and expand on those. But as far as focusing, everybody is pretty much on the same note, on the same key, and getting the job done in practice.

- Q. Why do you think that is? Do you think it's because a lot of guys know this is their last game? JOURDAN LEWIS: I think that's just what we're used to. We've been working so hard for so long, even in bowl preparation in Ann Arbor. We just came down here and thought about it the same way, just come down here and prepare.
- Q. Last year having so much success in that game, all work, no play, how much does that -JOURDAN LEWIS: Obviously Coach thinks it works well. It worked last year, so we can't think anything will be different this year. If we prepare our hardest the way we prepared last year, I'm sure we'll be excited about the outcome.
- Q. After the bowl are you going to the Senior Bowl? JOURDAN LEWIS: Yeah, but I haven't accepted the invite yet, but I'll be --
- Q. You plan on doing it for sure?

 JOURDAN LEWIS: No, I'm going, I just haven't got the chance to actually get the paper --
- Q. What's this month been like for you?

 JOURDAN LEWIS: I mean, it's the same thing, especially before the game. You've just got to go out there and prepare for the game, and that's your last one, that's your last opportunity as a college player. But yeah, just before the game, just got to prepare, can't think about the future, just go out there and



execute with your teammates.

Q. Are there things about their offense that we don't --

JOURDAN LEWIS: They have explosive athletes. On the outside, too, it's not just Dalvin Cook. They have great athletes on the outside, receivers, slots, and they have other running backs that can run the ball. But they're definitely an athletic team. I'm excited to see them.

Q. Their quarterback has had moments when he's thrown for a lot of yards and then he's had games where not as much. Is there something different you've seen from him throughout the year?

JOURDAN LEWIS: When we seen him he was consistent. He'd get knocked down sometimes, but as a freshman quarterback he does pretty good. He has some ploys back there. He can throw the ball definitely. He has an arm, he has the talent to be a great quarterback. I guess that's just -- I guess it's just maturing and going along with the season, but we broke down game film from like a four-game streak, but those four games we seen, he's done pretty good.

Q. He runs a little bit, too?

JOURDAN LEWIS: Yeah, they've got a few leads for him, a few plays for him to run, but he's definitely a thrower type.

Q. Colorado, is that kind of the comparison?

JOURDAN LEWIS: I don't think he does that much running because they have Dalvin back there, but he definitely can get out there and use his legs if he has to

Q. Who are their young guys that you've really seen so far?

JOURDAN LEWIS: You know, all of those guys, Josh Metellus, Lavert Hill, David Long, Keith Washington, Brandon Watson, all those guys, especially on the defensive end, they've come along a great deal. It's really exciting to see those guys mature and go out there and practice the way they are at a high level. I'm just excited to see those guys play. Probably a little bit this game and next year.

Q. How have you seen Lavert particularly progress, and does that remind you a lot of yourself?



JOURDAN LEWIS: I mean, yeah, he's just thinking in the game more, not just relying on his talents athletically, but just the mental aspect of the game, what he has to do, his assignments, and just knowing the feel of the game and knowing where to be when he needs to be there. I'm just excited, especially for that back end, to see what those guys can do, and Khaleke Hudson, he's coming along a great deal, just to see what that back end can do in that secondary, it's really exciting.

Q. Are you concerned about the turnover next year?

JOURDAN LEWIS: Not really. If you look at Ohio State, they didn't have too many returning starters, but if you think about it, they had just as much talent back there in that secondary, and we have some receivers. If you talk about the offensive side of the ball, those guys can get it done.

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Chris Wormley

Michigan Wolverines

CHRIS WORMLEY: I think it's different this year with us that there's so many guys -- someone that's really surprised me, I guess, is Wilton. Last year he was kind of just trying to find his way with learning the new offense and whatnot and then really blossomed in spring ball and in camp and has been a really solid vocal leader for us and someone I think we need, especially for this game, but we've needed all season, so he's stepped up and done a great job with that.

Q. Who's the funniest player on the team?

CHRIS WORMLEY: There's different funnies. There's guys that are funny because just the way that they look, but there's guys that make you laugh because they're pretty humorous. Kyle Kalis is pretty funny, him and Magnuson together, I guess not separately but together they're probably the funniest duo.

Q. Gone pigging?

CHRIS WORMLEY: Yeah, gone pigging and all the funny stuff they do together, so they're probably the funniest duo.

Q. Who is one comic book super hero you'd want to be?

CHRIS WORMLEY: My favorite was always Batman and then the Dark Knight came out and that just solidified it, so Batman would be my best choice.

Q. Best Christmas present?

CHRIS WORMLEY: This year I got my yearly supply of boxers from my mom. The Fruit of the Looms come once a year. But I guess my favorite was I got PlayStation 2 maybe 10, 12 years ago, and that was probably my favorite of all time.

Q. Who does the best Jim Harbaugh impersonation on your team?

CHRIS WORMLEY: We try not to impersonate him too much because you never know if he's looking at us or if he has cameras on us or not, but Ben Gedeon is pretty good at it. You can go ask him. He's somewhere around here. He's pretty good at the Jim Harbaugh impersonation.

Q. Talking football now, the two key names on Florida State's team are Dalvin Cook and LAWRENCE DAWSEY. How do you prepare for



them?

CHRIS WORMLEY: Francois is a dual-threat quarterback that can run the ball and throw the ball so that poses issues for us. Dalvin Cook is probably the best running back in the country, so he's big and fast and shifty, so all those things are causing problems for us, and if we don't tackle him, it could be a long day for us

Q. Have you done any reflecting?

CHRIS WORMLEY: Not really. I'm not too into that type of stuff. I know maybe in a couple weeks or a month or so when I'm off training somewhere it'll hit me that this team will never be the same, I'll never put on that winged helmet again, but right now I'm just enjoying Miami, enjoying being with the guys for three more days, so it really hasn't sunk in yet, I guess.

Q. Where will your mind be when you walk out on the field?

CHRIS WORMLEY: I think there's two different things. I think if the confetti is falling on us and we're standing on that stage after the game with the trophy, it'll be one thought, and if we're walking away with a loss it'll be another thought. But at the end of the day, this has been an amazing experience for myself, something that 10 years ago or even six or seven years ago I never would have imagined being in this position. It's pretty cool.

Q. What have you seen from Taco over the last few weeks?

CHRIS WORMLEY: Yeah, I think at least the D-line, we knew what Taco could do two, three years ago, he just had never really gotten the opportunity to show what he could do, and coming into the season he was going to be expected to play a lot more and what was expected of him more. He had a little ankle injury in the Hawai'i game which put him out for a couple games, and then he came back still not 100 percent, and these last four or five game he's blossomed and shown everybody that he's the real deal and that he's a player that people need to watch out for and to look out for because if not their offensive line is in for a long game.

Q. So you guys knew this was always there? CHRIS WORMLEY: Yeah, even last year Taco was our best pass rusher. I think he had a half a sack less than



me with half the reps. We knew he was very productive in that sense of getting to the quarterback, hurrying him, and then when the sacks come that's just icing on the cake. He's worked his butt off in the offseason to perfect his pass rush, and also in the run game, too. A lot of people want him as a pass rusher, and Taco is really good at the run game, too, so he's the total package when it comes to outside defensive ends, so he can do it all.

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Ben Gedeon

Michigan Wolverines

Q. What is the best Christmas present that you got, either this year or ever?

BEN GEDEON: When I was little I got this sweet bike, probably in middle school. It was the best Christmas present I've ever got because I rode that thing everywhere. It was awesome.

Q. Mountain bike or 10-speed?

BEN GEDEON: Hybrid. Mountain bike and 10-speed.

Q. Who does the best Jim Harbaugh impression on the team?

BEN GEDEON: Henry Poggi.

Q. Really?

BEN GEDEON: He does great impressions of multiple coaches. Ryan Glasgow does the best Coach Brown.

Q. Can you talk about Dalvin Cook? Obviously being a linebacker you're going to be one of the guys meeting him a lot in the game. What impresses you about him?

BEN GEDEON: He's got all the attributes, the vision, the guickness, the cuts he makes are elite, and he's impressive to watch on film, so we're going to have to tackle really well.

Q. Do you feel like he's sort of the pulse of this team, or as far as he goes, they go?

BEN GEDEON: Yeah, for sure.

Q. Is it going to be a task just to stop him?

BEN GEDEON: Yeah, for sure. It's going to take being really sound in our run fits, detail wise being exactly where we need to be, and they do a good job with their run plays and how they block their run plays, so it's going to take a whole defensive effort.

Q. Y'all have faced a number of established running backs this year, Barkley at Penn State, a couple guys at Ohio State. Where does Dalvin stack up?

BEN GEDEON: I mean, one of the best for sure. I mean, definitely up there. Barkley is an unbelievable player. But yeah, we've played great running backs and we've been sound in our run fits for the most part all year. It's nothing new to us to be stout in our run fits.



Q. Who's playing the role of Cook on scout team? BEN GEDEON: Drake Johnson has been doing a lot of it for us, and Joe Hewlett also plays. Two pretty fast guys, yeah.

Q. You talked about those running backs you guys have faced. Is it fun going against those guys? Is it fun embracing the challenge?

BEN GEDEON: Yeah, for sure. We love facing challenges. This defense, we love hearing all about the offensive players we're going to play and all the hype that they have, and then just kind of facing the challenge and embracing it is fun for us.

Q. With Jabrill, how would you describe everything that he does for you guys defensively?

BEN GEDEON: Just so valuable to us. To see a guy that's undersized playing linebacker, going out and covering wide receivers, you don't see that around the country at all, and he does that for us. So he gives us so much versatility.

Q. What's something a lot of people don't know about him? Obviously you're with him every day. BEN GEDEON: Just the way he practices. You take a guy who was a Heisman candidate, all this hype, that he wouldn't go out and practice the way he does, but every single day he practices like he's a walk-on freshman, so it's pretty impressive.

Q. How difficult is it for those offensive scouts to simulate these great players that you guys face each week?

BEN GEDEON: Yeah, it's definitely. With a guy like Drake Johnson that's played, I mean, he played in big games. He's played for a few years now, so we get a little bit of the speed from him, which helps, but they do such a good job. They've got an offensive line that's taking all the reps, and they do a good job of trying to emulate what we're going to get on Friday night.

Q. Jabrill's practice habits, is that just in effort, is that in preparation? What about it is different from other people?

BEN GEDEON: Yeah, I think it is effort. Just everything he does looks so effortless, though, so you can't really tell because he's just such a smooth athlete. But the way he goes about his business and



the enthusiasm he has towards it is special.