

Quarterback Trent Green

September 24, 2008

(On how he feels about being the starter)

"I am very excited. When I first talked to (Head Coach) Scott (Linehan) and I had a chance to come in and speak with him face-to-face and speak with (Offensive Coordinator) Al (Saunders) and (Quarterback Coach) Terri (Shea). I am excited about the opportunity. Obviously, from a team standpoint, I wish I was standing here and we were 3-0 and the offense was playing great and the defense was playing great and none of these changes would be necessary. This is the position we are in and I am appreciative that Scott has turned to me and letting me start the game and see what I can go out there and do. I have a pretty extensive background in the offense; I have been in it for a long time. I feel comfortable in it, the terminology and understanding where everybody is, and hopefully I can bring some kind of spark and make us more productive on offense."

(On if he planned on being the starter)

"I was very upfront right when I came in, I was brought here to be (QB) Marc's (Bulger) backup and there was never any incantation or hint that hey, if something happened, you would be in. I have a great deal of respect for Marc, he and I are friends, his talent as a quarterback; I think he is one of the best quarterbacks in the league. It is apart of the position and I know that all to well. It is a fragile position, sometimes you get too much credit and sometimes you get too much blame but that is what goes on with the position. I was brought in to be his backup and when I was trying to decide on where I was going to go or what team I was going to end up with, they did not present to me that this was potentially an option. There were just a lot of positives in St. Louis and we talked about those things earlier so we don't need to go back through that. I am excited about the opportunity; I think we have a lot of talent on this team and for whatever reason it has not come together. I know that may bring laughs or smiles or whatever around the country or even around the city but we do have talent on this team and for whatever reason it has not come together and at some point in time, it has to surface. I think, because of the change obviously at the quarterback position and some of the other positions that have taken place this week, I think that is evident."

(On if being the starting quarterback is a week-to-week deal)

"There was no agenda. They said you were starting this week against the (Buffalo) Bills and away we go. I did not even ask I just said I am starting this week and let's focus on the Bills and everything else will play out. There is no reason to speculate on what is going to happen the next 13 games and those things. So, honestly I did not even ask and they did not present it. You are starting this against Buffalo and that is really where it ended."

(On how (QB) Marc Bulger is taking it)

“We talked when it initially happened, we sent text messages back and forth, because it is an off day and we were out doing our different things. I know we had a chance to talk about it pretty extensively today and like I said Marc and I our friends. We have known each other for a long time and he expressed that he was going to be supportive and any way he can help out. It is an extra set of eyes, just like I tried to help him out when I was on the sideline, either by looking at the pictures or looking at the coverages, or seeing if it was another kind of blitz scheme or if they were rolling their safeties, just stuff like that. When you have experience that can only help the guy on the field. He said that to me, he is going to help me anyway he can. Obviously, he is very disappointed; I think everybody is disappointed on offense that we are not playing well. We are still friends and we still talk, it is just one of those situations and I have been on both sides of it. That is what I tried to present to him, I have been on both sides of the thing and I understand how it feels to be in your position and I understand how it feels to be in my position. Because of the friendship and that relationship, it is not like a Rob Johnson, Doug Flutie kind of thing.”

(On if he thought this would happen by game four)

“No I didn’t. Like we talked then, it was a situation where I felt coming in there was a lot of talent on this team; it was a team that had been to the playoffs two years before. Last year, was stuck with a tone of injuries and I thought that this was going to be a team that was in position and I still think it is a team that can play much better than what we are. Like I said, it just hasn’t come together yet and hopefully I can provide some of that spark.”

(On if his background in the offense factored into the discussion)

“I hope so but Marc has a background in this offense as well. His time that he was with (Offensive Coordinator) Mike (Martz), it is the same. (Offensive Coordinator) Al (Saunders) has tweaked the terminology a little bit but that is just the blocking schemes and to accommodate the assistant coaches that you have that come from different systems so I would not lean on that as an excuse, one way or another. But I feel good about my background in the offense.”

(On how big the role is for the offensive line in this offense)

“I think it is a huge thing. I think when you look at this offense when Mike was here and it was really rolling well that was a very stable offensive line, one that sustained a lot of health. The success I had when I was in Kansas City with the offense, there was probably three to five seasons with the same five guys, the core guys were there and they did not have any injuries. That is an important part of it. I really did not intend to focus, I trust those guys to do their jobs and if you look at last week’s game, Marc went through the game pretty clean. He got hit just one time, in the first quarter on the third play and for the most part the line did a really good job. I tend not to focus on that, I trust those guys to do their jobs just like they trust me to pick the right guy and put it in the right spot. The receivers trust me to have it in that area and I trust them to be at the right depth and their zones and where they need to be in their passing routes. That is the

one thing that I lean on and I have leaned on for a long time. From an offensive stand point there has to be a trust factor there. They have to trust that I am going to get rid of the ball, whether it is a five-step drop and get rid of the ball. I have to get rid of the ball, I can't sit there and hold on to the ball and take too much time. Once again I lean on the word trust and hopefully that develops over the week and they really understand what I am about because I really haven't had a lot of work with the guys that are in front of me."

(On if he feels comfortable playing given his injury history)

"I would not even be on the team if I didn't have confidence completely in where I stand physically. I've played a long time, I've been very fortunate; I've been blessed to have a long career. And if there was any medical advice that I'd gotten that was wavering in the least bit, you know, I have three kids and a great family, great wife and I wouldn't risk all that. I feel comfortable with that and feel that I'm going to play like I always play and see what happens. There's a risk every single snap in the NFL, but just like when I came back in 1999 off a knee (injury). People couldn't believe that I wasn't thinking about guys falling at my legs and everything, it's just when you play the position that's just part of it. Things are going to happen around you, it's the game. Norv Turner told me in 1995, he said playing quarterback in the NFL you're going to get hit so either accept it or go find something else to do because that's just part of the position. And if you're afraid or worried or you're seeing ghosts, you have to find something else to do. That was a wake up call for me because I knew I liked the job and I knew I wanted to play and I was like okay I have to stop worrying about that stuff and once again it falls back on trust. Trust everybody to know they're responsibilities, the backs knowing who their pick-ups are in blitz, the line knowing what their adjustments are when the defense shifts from one side to another. That's the trust thing that I've referenced quite a bit."

(On what he brings to the team as the QB)

"I don't want to be someone I'm not. I try and bring a personality to the huddle. I'm not a rah-rah, in-your-face kind of guy, but I think I bring a lot of enthusiasm; I bring a lot of energy about the offense. I feel like I can answer any of the questions whether it be from a lineman or protection scheme, pass routes, depths, angles, side adjustments, hops, shifts in movement, because of my background in the offense I feel comfortable with all that so hopefully that conveys to the guys and with that comes confidence; that they have confidence in me and that it's just a trickle down effect that that trust builds. I can't speak for (QB) Marc (Bulger) and what was going on in that situation, but I can't try and be Marc or try and be something that somebody's looking for, I can just be me and try and bring that energy and knowledge of the offense and background of things that hopefully builds that confidence and gets us to the point where we're all trusting one another. Whether it be in the run game or the pass game, pass protections, that has to be there, and have fun with it. When you're moving the ball, getting first-downs, time of possession, breaking the will of the defense,

that's when it's fun from an offensive stand point. That's part of the joy of playing."

(On if he thinks they can break the will of Buffalo's defense)

"No, they're not a defense that, you know, their D-line coach was here for a lot of years and I think everybody knows the type of attitude that he brings to that defensive line. That's not a bunch that you can do that to. Don't misquote me in saying that we're going to break the will. The point is to try and do that and the way you try and do that is you get first downs, you convert third downs when everybody thinks you're not going to convert a third down, you have success in the red zone. Now, talking of all those things, the Bills have the sixth ranked third down (defense), they're only allowing whatever 17 percent on third down conversions, I think they're second or top five in the league in red zone efficiency. They've only allowed two red zone touchdowns. They've only, I think 25 percent touchdown conversion in the red zone, so those are areas that right now, they have a swagger about them in third down, they have a swagger about them in red zone situations and if you look at the Seattle game, for instance, I think Seattle had nine third downs that were 11 or more yards. You're not going to have a very good success rate on third down when you're battling nine, 11-plus yardage. You're going to have a 17 percent stop rate or success rate from an offensive standpoint trying to get 11 yards or more on third down, so we have to have success on first and second down to put us in doable down and distance on third downs."

(On what it was like breaking the huddle with the first-team today at practice)

"I felt good with it. I don't know how everybody else in the huddle felt. I think it was addressed this morning with (Head) Coach (Scott) Linehan in the meeting, with (offensive coordinator) Al Saunders in the offensive meeting I think it was addressed. I think everybody understands that this is a reflection of how the offense is playing and how we're just trying to make some changes just to get the offense moving. We haven't played as well offensively as we wanted to and, like I said at the beginning, quarterback wise you tend to either get too much credit and too much blame, but I'm excited and looking forward to the opportunity and believe me I'm going to give everything I have and see where it goes."

(On whether an improved offense can help the defense)

"Definitely, it can be, it definitely can be. I got here in '99 and I hate to keep referencing that, but that's my reference point because that's what I know and I think all of you are pretty aware of what happened there, that was a good defense. When we got here it was good defense and then all of the sudden the offense starts rolling and in that '99 season the defense starts creating turnovers, they start scoring, we start scoring on special teams, it's just, but you can have that both ways. For years in Baltimore that defense kind of controlled the tempo and set the mood for the whole team. We need all three phases to play better, it's not just the offense, but I'm going to do my best to lead this group and get the offense rolling and see what happens."

(On if it is realistic, after not taking too many reps in the preseason, that he can get into the necessary rhythm to succeed in offensive coordinator Al Saunder's offense)

"I think so. Once again I lean back on the experience card. I've been in it a long time, I understand the footwork and the timing and where the ball goes and placement and it all falls back on trust. The receivers have to be in their spots, I have to get the right depth on my drops, the line math to understand three-, five-, seven-step drops, play action drops, roll-out drops, whatever it may be, there has to be a trust factor there among the 11 guys that are the field and I feel comfortable with that."

(On if he feels comfortable throwing to all of the wide receivers)

"Probably the one that I haven't thrown the most to would be (WR) Torry (Holt). Most of the other guys tend to rotate through. We've had some injuries and we've had some other guys, so the scout team or the second offense in training camp, so a lot of the guys I've thrown to. (WR) Eddie (Kennison) I've thrown to for years. (WR) Dante (Hall) I've thrown to for years. (WR) Dane (Looker) I did a lot of work with him on the second unit and in the scout team work. (WR) Donnie Avery, he and I were on the second unit all through training camp the days that he was healthy. Really the main person would be Torry and that's something we just have to work on and gets reps at."

(On the amount of snaps he was getting before this week in practice)

"In this offense and it's been this for a long, long time, even when I was here before with Mike (Martz) and you can go back to Norv (Turner), the starting quarterback during the season gets all the snaps, that's just the way it is. Wednesdays and Thursday you get all the snaps, Fridays they may limit it a little bit and let the backup get some of the work on Fridays, but for the most part you're taking 100 percent of the snaps and they may throw the guy in Friday and let it rotate around, but that's when you get your work."

(On if he has participated on just the scout team before this week)

"Yeah, yeah. The previous three weeks definitely."