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NFLPA COVID-19 Media Call Transcript

- George Atallah: [07:44](#) Afternoon everybody. Thanks again for joining us this week. We're not quite ready to queue up the Dora song yet, but getting close here to the end of the season, like we do every week. We'll start out with some numbers, obviously most notably four teams left and three games left to play in this most unique season. We just released our testing results earlier this afternoon and wanted to relay some of those to you in more detail for these are the testing results for the week of January 10th, through the 16th. 9,873 tests were administered to 1,606 total players and team personnel.
- George Atallah: [08:33](#) We were going through the numbers earlier to put that in a little bit of context that's about twice the number of players and personnel and staff combined as there were at the height of the NBA bubble back in the summer. The positivity and incidents rates for the week January 10th, through the 16th, we had 0.09%. Last week was 0.14%. The player positivity was down to 0.08% and the incidents rate amongst players was 0.51% still trending in a very positive direction.
- George Atallah: [09:21](#) Now that we're heading towards the end of the season, we can say that we've administered approximately the NFL and the NFL PA have administered approximately 950,000 COVID tests from the period August 1st through January 16th. Hopefully we can continue to keep everybody safe. One other notable thing to mention, we're on a four day run of no positive tests amongst the remaining teams, combined players and staff. With that, I think today we're just going to jump directly into your questions. We know there's a lot going on heading into the championship weekend and want to take the opportunity to answer as many questions as we can from all of you. Use your obviously raise hand feature so that we can get to as many as we can. Thanks everybody.
- DeMaurice Smith: [10:33](#) I have a question. JC Tretter, what were your thoughts of the end of the season? Great game, great season for the Browns, what does it mean to go, just keep in the playoffs for the fans in Cleveland?





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- JC Tretter: [10:48](#) What a change of responsibilities here. An exciting year, there's only one team that ever leaves satisfied. But a special year I think for everybody involved in Cleveland, the fans, the team, the staff there, they've been there a long time. You can just feel the excitement in the entire city of what's building here. You're already excited about getting back next year and starting right back over again and get moving in the right direction again.
- DeMaurice Smith: [11:18](#) I can do this all day unless you guys ask questions.
- George Atallah: [11:22](#) Please somebody save me. Lindsay, we got you.
- Lindsay: [11:27](#) I was like, "I raised my hand." I don't know why the rest of these guys here are really slow with the hand assumption. But anyways, I got a question for both JC and De because you guys might have different answers to this. But here we are, three games to go so I don't want to pretend that we've crossed any finish lines or anything. But when you look back over the last six to nine months, what do you think were the most important inflection points along the way? What decisions were made in those moments? Whether it was collaborative decisions that you guys made with the league or protocol changes that really enabled this season to continue.
- DeMaurice Smith: [12:03](#) You want to go first or you want me to go first?
- JC Tretter: [12:04](#) Yeah sure. I think two come to mind immediately. First is our push early on to get daily testing. I think if we don't test every day, this season doesn't go on the way it did. We don't find the success we did of completing it in the time we had. The other one, I think the continued evolution of our protocols, especially the high-risk close contacts, moving that as we learn more about the virus and as we tested every day, we knew that 90% of our positives came two to five days after initial exposure, including the high risk close contact.
- JC Tretter: [12:40](#) Where instead of merely looking at who was within six feet for 15 minutes, instead being able to pull video, being able to do interviews and still use that connects



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on data to figure out what exactly was the type of interaction those people had and then deeming them high-risk close contacts and holding them out for five days, knowing that what our incubation period usually is, those two things, knowing that what our incubation period usually is. Those two things I think kept the season going, and were just really important for us to fight for.

DeMaurice Smith: [13:09](#)

I agree completely. I think just pulling back I would say the most important thing was leadership. We had just gone through somewhat of a bruising collective bargaining ratification, but the leadership from JC, the executive committee, our players, the fact that we were going to ... I tried to avoid using the word tackle. That we were going to try to tackle this in a comprehensive way about should we be playing, and if the answer is yes that we should how could we play this safely.

DeMaurice Smith: [13:49](#)

I just think that there was a tremendous amount of leadership both on the union side and Roger with the league side. A lot of those conversations early that JC and I had with John Mara and Roger at the beginning it was just clear that it was going to take a tremendous amount of leadership, so that's what I would say is the big inflection point.

George Atallah: [14:19](#)

Thanks for the question, Lindsey. We appreciate it, and I will reiterate that D does not like to tackle anything, literally. Raphael you're up, then we'll go to Mark and Charles.

Raphael: [14:33](#)

Hello. My name is Raphael from The 3 Point Conversion. I guess this is a question for both. The first question I have, and you probably answered this last week. I missed last week. I apologize. After we saw the Brown win that first playoff game, and you know what they were dealing with as far as the COVID situation, did that make everybody feel better knowing the fact that you were dealing with this COVID-19, you went on and went through your protocols, and still played, and that team was victorious?

Raphael: [15:08](#)

I think that's the first time since sports where it's something that big in a big game like that, and they overcame the protocols, what you all made the team go through, and they end up still prevailing and winning.



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- JC Tretter: [15:23](#) I'm not sure I would say made us feel better. I think during the whole experience these situations were handled the same, and the tough thing to explain was that when you're dealing with positive tests a lot of it is both looking back, as well as looking forward, and for us we had five positives pop up on a Tuesday which means something had happened the previous week in order to have five positives come, so that exposure's already happened.
- JC Tretter: [16:02](#) And like I talked about earlier you learn how this virus moves through a building, how the close contacts work. You know more about the virus at that time, so then it's about making good decisions about further preventing an outbreak, and we didn't really have anybody in the building Monday. We closed it Tuesday, closed it Wednesday, closed it Thursday. We know that's nearing the end of the incubation period because there should be no more further contact between teammates.
- JC Tretter: [16:35](#) So then, that's the first priority is prioritizing player safety and making sure there's not going to be a further outbreak, make sure guys are safe to go back into that building and go to work. And then, once we felt that it's about preparing, and this year showed us there are a lot of different ways to prepare for a football game, a lot of different ways to learn and practice without physically being there to practice, and I think a ton of credit to our coaches for providing that guidance and getting us ready to play in a really unique circumstance.
- JC Tretter: [17:08](#) We won that game. I think Tennessee when they were dealing with their issue came out and won their game. I think a couple teams came out after dealing with some COVID issues, had a successful next week to play, so I wouldn't say it made us feel better. I think we knew all along these issues were treated the same, and we continued just to follow and trust in our protocols.
- Raphael: [17:31](#) And the second question I have, this is for D mainly. Had this collaboration between you and the NFL trying to get this COVID-19 situation correct, and make it work for the NFL and players healthy, has it strengthened you all's relationship as far as when you talk about the CBA



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DeMaurice Smith:

[18:10](#)

and everything else that's going on with the NFL, and the NFL PA, has it made you all's relationship better, or get closer I should say?

Yeah. Good question. If I could pawn this off to JC I would. We have a good working relationship with the league. I'm not sure it's made us any closer. I think we worked extremely well together this year in a very challenging environment. At the same time, they're management and we're labor, so to think that we're not going to have a dustup over something in the future, we probably are, but I do think that we have worked extremely well together over the last nine months to accomplish something that I think we'll all look back on as being rather epic.

George Atallah:

[19:02](#)

Thank you. Mark, Charles, and then Rob.

Mark:

[19:08](#)

Slightly different. Health and safety issue. We just saw a playoff weekend where two very prominent quarterbacks and four MVPs of the league were removed from games under the protocol, and everyone from coaches to players to fans for the most part seemed to accept in and that that's just how things worked now. Watching that you encourage for lack of a better word that that process now works as it should, and is accepted as it should, and moving forward with Mahomes are you confident that the return to playing protocol will be properly followed under these circumstances with an AFC championship game coming up?

DeMaurice Smith:

[19:52](#)

Let me turn it over to Thom Mayer and Sean Sansiveri who not only wrote most of those protocols, but has shepherded us through them. Let me just lead off before I turn it over to Tom. First, we never talk about an individual player's medical condition. I can't stand it when people talk about a player's medical condition because I think it's a private decision between he and his medical provider, but you know that when we, again, wrote most of the concussion protocols, and insisted on sideline concussion experts, baseline experts, return to play, that there was a let's just say less than total buy-in when we first came out with these a few years ago. Actually, now longer than a few years ago.



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- DeMaurice Smith: [20:51](#) I'm thrilled now that people have accepted this as the course of action, but it only comes about by staking out a place that we think is right, and then insisting that the protocol be followed. With that, I'll turn it over to Thom or Sean if they want to add anything else about foot stomping the way in which the protocols should happen.
- Thom Mayer: [21:17](#) I would just foot stomp that this was the brain child of the NFL PA on behalf of the players. It was negotiated out, and D, even before he became the executive director said to me in a phone call, "Are you willing to go anywhere that science takes us, but nowhere that science doesn't take us?" And of course, as the medical director of the union I was delighted to hear that, and that's precisely what we did with putting the protocols together.
- Thom Mayer: [21:46](#) I'd also emphasize that they're iterative. They change over time, and are improved as we need them to. No two concussion are the same, even in the same player, and that's important to recognize it is a unique entity, and that's the way that neurobiology works. Competitive considerations have absolutely nothing to do with it. This is a scientific exercise, a medical exercise guided by rigorous evidence-based protocols. We've got a clear five-step return to play, which we can provide to you if you wanted. It is online and easily accessible.
- Thom Mayer: [22:24](#) It also involves a neuropsychological test that is done typically between phases two and three, and then the player needs to be cleared by the team physician for concussions, and typically the primary care sports medicine physician, and by an independent neurological consultant, someone who is not affiliated by the team, named by the team, but approved jointly by my counterpart with the NFL and myself, and we fully expect that protocol to be followed.
- Thom Mayer: [22:54](#) And it is encouraging when you hear senior coaches like Andy Reid recognize that in the old days that player probably would've gone back into the same game, and those days are long gone. We're confident that things will be handled appropriately, but we, as we always do,



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monitor that to ensure that it is on behalf of the players.

George Atallah: [23:19](#)

Mark, anything else, or are you good for now?

Mark: [23:22](#)

I'm good. Thanks.

George Atallah: [23:25](#)

Okay. Charles.

Charles: [23:29](#)

Yeah. This question's for D and JC. Is there anything you guys have seen that you would like to hold onto moving out of a pandemic in terms of protocol changes? I know JC has talked before about how the off-season schedule runs, and we've seen a lot of teams function obviously without OTAs, passing programs, some of the off-season practices. When you talk to players do they seem encouraged by how their bodies feel not having gone through some of the oppressive off-season schedule at times? Is there some of that you'd like to see held onto permanently, and if so what in particular has impressed you that maybe changed, or was a forced change that has worked out really well?

JC Tretter: [24:19](#)

I think there're a lot of things. I think when you start what we did this year ... COVID forced us to be creative in how to do things this year. We had to make changes on how we've always done it in order to even get to a point where the season can happen, and a lot of that was by working creatively and collaboratively on a lot of these issues. You brought up the off-season program. That is something that's been talked about inside of locker rooms of making changes to that program for a long time.

JC Tretter: [24:58](#)

And what we saw was there are different ways to prepare for a season, and after all the work we put into of getting through this year I think it would be a shame to then just revert back to what we've always done just because we've always done it that way, and I believe there is a better way to do the off-season. I think we can rely on the same thing we did of working collaboratively to find a system in place that actually prioritizes preparedness, acclimation, loading of our tissues and muscles, and doing all the things that we talked about as we prepared for this season long-term.



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- JC Tretter: [25:38](#) Our off-season program at its core was installed with none of that in mind, so I think that's something we obviously have to negotiate that with the NFL, and we'll get our injury data from the season and learn more about that, but that's an issue I think we will continue to want to push and we've seen changes made within the CBA, with inside the same frameworks of the CBA, and I think that's one of the issues with inside the same frameworks of the CBA, and I think that's one of the issues that we'd like to continue.
- Charles: [26:08](#) Maybe as a follow-up directly to De, it's rare to see changes happen to a CBA or sort of a mini CBA installed the way it was this year. Is there any chance that seeing reality that you were able to pull off something like a miniature CBA within a CBA, why not maybe address the CBA from a year-to-year standpoint in terms of, okay, so you've got your overall CBA that you've agreed to, but does this maybe open the door to a tune-up every off-season or maybe every two years?
- Charles: [26:45](#) This is the first time you've been forced to have to sort of do this, to cook something up pretty quickly, but isn't it suggestive that maybe there can be future tune-ups that happen on a little deeper scale than normally?
- DeMaurice Smith: [26:57](#) Yeah. Actually, historically that's not accurate. We've done far more tune-ups with respect to health and safety inside the CBAs, than when we're negotiating the mammoth CBA. Sideline concussion experts during the last CBA, I think it was 2013/2014. Baseline testing, honing the return to play changes that we've made with respect to Toradol and painkillers. Things that we've done with respect to modifying practices.
- DeMaurice Smith: [27:39](#) Most of those, believe it or not, happened during the period of CBAs. And I mean, we can talk about why I think it's a better way of doing it, but stepping back in a macro way it becomes very, very hard to exercise leverage on some things when you are battling over shares of revenue and number of games being played and macro issues that usually revolve around tens if not hundreds of billions of dollars. If you want to just be crass about it, you could say the league has its most



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maximum leverage over us when they can leverage not having a season or not paying us. Right?

DeMaurice Smith: [28:33](#)

So being able to frame those issues up where there's no threat of that, since 2011 most of the changes in actual day-to-day stuff and health and safety have been in CBA changes. So I think to JC's point, working in COVID has demonstrated that we can work smarter and better and more efficiently. And a lot of those things I think are things that we're going to see, hope to make sure that they stay. And by the way, I think that when coaches see, I probably should say not all coaches, but when most coaches see that scoring is up and penalties are down, that guys appear to be as mentally refreshed as they are physically refreshed.

DeMaurice Smith: [29:27](#)

And we've seen playoff games that I think are among the most exciting that I've seen since I've had the job. I honestly believe that a lot of the things that JC was talking about are going to resonate with coaches. So anytime we just become smarter and faster, and by the way, there's nothing that prevents tune-ups and modifications in our CBA. Like I said, we've done them all the time.

Charles: [29:56](#)

All right. Thanks guys.

George Atallah: [29:59](#)

Rob and then Carita.

Rob Maaddi: [30:03](#)

Hi. This question is for De. We're nearing the end of a coaching cycle and then so far there hasn't been any black head coaches hired, they're still two opening, so that could change. I was just wondering, De, what your thoughts were on that and how do you address that with players if they have concerns, if they talk to you guys about that?

DeMaurice Smith: [30:23](#)

Well, players do raise it. And as a union and me personally, I haven't shied away from conversations about the Rooney Rule since I took the job in 2009. I think a rule or any modifications to a rule that has very little transparency and very little accountability, none of us should be surprised when it fails. Right? So I think to the league's credit, they've asked the NFLPA and us to help them improve diversity across the NFL, not only



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- DeMaurice Smith: [31:12](#) coaches or head coaches but entire coaching ranks, NFL team front offices, the league office and ultimately ownership.
- DeMaurice Smith: [31:12](#) Those are conversations that I know that we're going to start to have with the league after the Super Bowl. But to me, it has to start with those two things. Without a level of transparency and accountability, none of us should be surprised when there are only incremental steps of change or times where we've gone backwards. So I think there are concrete ways of addressing this.
- DeMaurice Smith: [31:46](#) A lot of them mirror what people have been doing in corporate America for years, but increasing transparency, giving someone the responsibility of increasing diversity and then making it accountable. I think if you have those three things as the core of how you want to make the league look like it's membership and it's community, I think those are the only ways to go about it.
- George Atallah: [32:21](#) Thanks Rob. Carita.
- Carita Parks: [32:25](#) Yes. Good afternoon. Just want to go back to COVID for a moment. With this being such an unprecedented season requiring so many changes and fluidity. If you look back on this process, what has been the biggest lesson learned? And I'd like to know that from the player perspective as well as the NFLPA perspective.
- DeMaurice Smith: [32:45](#) I'll do the PA perspective. I think echoing a couple of the things we said earlier, when you're confronted with a pandemic that is worldwide, no one can "opt out" of the impacts of it. Yeah, you recognize that it's going to have a substantial impact on your business operations. And you're looking over your shoulder and seeing this pandemic shut down baseball, shutdown basketball, shutdown March Madness. I think it created a necessity where both sides had to come together and engage in constructive leadership.
- DeMaurice Smith: [33:36](#) And so, whether that means daily testing or no pre-season games or changing the off-season or being flexible about the way in which the games were played, it really kind of starts with a level of leadership on both sides and rising to the challenge. The players, JC can weigh in, but I don't know if I've ever been more proud



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of our membership given the uncertainty that they faced in there, and the necessity of being flexible.

JC Tretter: [34:13](#)

Yeah. Just to follow up on that. I would talk about everybody involved, players, staff, coaches being okay with change. And that for any business is not easy, but this year especially, everybody needed to change the way they prepared, the way they acted within the building, the way they acted outside of the building. And for a lot of guys and coaches and staff, you've been doing the same thing for years in this league. You've prepared the same way, you've interacted the same way.

JC Tretter: [34:49](#)

It took a concerted effort by everybody involved to be okay with doing things differently, getting over the fact that you're going to have to do things differently and then doing those things the right way. And as we know with COVID, if there is even an opening for someone not to live by that, it could cost us. And I just get a ton of credit to everybody involved for doing something that's not easy for anybody, and that's accepting change and making those changes as we needed them to.

Carita Parks: [35:21](#)

Thank you.

George Atallah: [35:24](#)

Thank you for that. Scott, please go ahead.

Scott Petrak: [35:30](#)

Hey. JC, I wanted to follow up on Charles' question about the off-season program. So having gone through this one, what's your ideal kind of view for how an off-season program would run?

JC Tretter: [35:44](#)

Yeah. I think the first thing we look at is the same thing we did this year as we were trying to figure out the safest way to come back, and that's we created a committee and the science on how to prepare a player, how to train a player, how to get them ready to play. The science is pretty straightforward and pretty well-proven. And I think relying on that science and building a program from scratch that best reflects the science and then shows us how to move forward, is the way to do it.



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- JC Tretter: [36:18](#) And what this year showed was, a lot of people will say the current model of OTAs is necessary. It's necessary in order to have a season, you need it. And this year COVID forced us to do none of it. And what we saw was no negative impact, and you could argue some positive impact from that change. So that should take the fear of changing something that probably most people would have said was essential, I think players wouldn't have said that, but most staffs would have said was essential last year.
- JC Tretter: [36:53](#) After showing what that change looks like this year, it's clear that it's not essential and we should feel free and open to building a better plan. And I think those plans are always led through that health and safety lens. And I think we can build a way to make players healthier, play longer both in the season and in their careers, if we revamp this off-season program will more benefit the players and how they prepare and how to keep them healthy.
- Scott Petrak: [37:24](#) Do you think Zooms are necessary in April, May, June?
- JC Tretter: [37:29](#) Well, I think what this year showed was there a lot of ways to prepare and there are a lot of ways to learn. So I think we've seen so much this year and learned so much. Those are the discussions that need to be had of, what can we do to prepare for a season as we've seen what we did this year to prepare for a season? And all that stuff needs to be discussed and talked about, like I said, it's going to have to be bargained with the NFL.
- JC Tretter: [37:54](#) But what this year showed was all the different ways that you can prepare and how important it is to prioritize having healthy players on the field. And that should always be a priority not just for the players, but for the coaches, for the GMs, for the executives, for the fans, everybody should want healthy players playing as long as they can.
- Scott Petrak: [38:14](#) Last thing on this. You talking about health and safety, how players prepare themselves. So I'm just curious the difference between you getting ready in April, May and



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- JC Tretter: [38:33](#) June by yourself versus being there in Browns facility, how that makes you healthier. Is it just because you control it yourself?
- JC Tretter: [38:33](#) Yeah. It's probably a real long answer to try to make it as short as possible. I think you look at where it sits on the calendar itself first, and you have to understand the mindset guys have and where they stand in their careers and how this business works. Where I believe after a sixish month season of grinding your body, your body needs significant time off, your body needs to get away, to heal.
- JC Tretter: [39:00](#) Time off. Your body needs to get away, to heal. You've gone through daily car accidents for six straight months. Right now, as we know, we have a significant portion of our players enter every season on the roster bubble. They are forced into making a decision of, "I know I need time off, but can I really afford to not be in perfect shape when I get back in March in April?" Then, they look at me and say, "He didn't take it seriously. Let's find somebody else who will."
- JC Tretter: [39:32](#) That's what guys are deciding between. You put them in a position where they have to make decisions, not in the best interest of their health, but trying to stay alive and keep a job. Those decisions are made each time throughout the off season.
- JC Tretter: [39:49](#) The same thing with the break after OTAs. People talk about OTAs are necessary for acclamation, but then you take [inaudible 00:39:56] and time off, and all that acclimation is lost.
- JC Tretter: [39:59](#) It was never put on the schedule of the year and in the proper format. There are just a lot of things to improve on. I think that's the biggest way of ... There is always a balance between preparation and rest, and what we're seeing more and more of the science is how important the rest is as you get your body right.
- JC Tretter: [40:18](#) Because again, we go through so much trauma for so long to force guys into ramping back up so quickly after the season when we know it's not good for them, just isn't right.
- Scott: [40:29](#) Thanks a lot.



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- George Atallah: [40:31](#) Thanks, Scott. We'll chalk you up to non-lover of Zoom. Hal and then Jonathan.
- Hal: [40:42](#) Hi, this question is for either De or JC. Going back to the very beginning of all of this, I recall getting a release from the Dolphins, outlining how they were going above and beyond protocol, with hospital grade cleansing of the facility and things of that nature. I also talked to Brian Flores who talked about how they were going above and beyond to get the players comfortable before they even arrived.
- Hal: [41:11](#) It just got me wondering, from a national perspective, was there anything Miami did that became the standard league-wide? Anything you can pinpoint where Miami was sort of a trailblazer. If the answer to that is not really, that's fine, but if there is something, I'd be interested in that.
- DeMaurice Smith: [41:34](#) I mean, I'll weigh in here generally. Throughout the year, the compliance with the protocols was something that, at times, was uneven. I think the good news is that the league took the collectively bargained combo protocols seriously, and that when they were violated, they moved swiftly and aggressively against the people who didn't didn't comply with them.
- DeMaurice Smith: [42:11](#) I would defer to Sean if there was anything specific about Miami. But the only reason I'm just being a little careful is a lot of teams mentioned that they were going above and beyond. We made it as far as we have because I think everybody was obligated to comply with a set of protocols, and the lack of doing that resulted in swift punishment. Sean, anything specific about Miami?
- Sean: [42:53](#) Yeah, nothing specific to Miami. All best practices that we discovered throughout the season were automatically rolled into the larger protocol. Nothing stood out with Miami specifically.
- George Atallah: [43:08](#) Thanks, Hal. Jonathan Jones.



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- Charles: [43:13](#) I think this is probably more for JC. You talked just two questions ago, and have obviously talked before, about the pros of the rest on the body and limited or no OTAs, et cetera, et cetera. I've heard from plenty of coaches, especially coaches with younger rosters, who talk about the need for that practice time, that off-season work for first and second year players, especially.
- Charles: [43:43](#) I know that your perspective is one for membership, but as well, you're also a veteran. Does that cover even the rookies coming in, or the second year players who may or may not argue they do need those rests? Or, even the quote-unquote rank and file members of the union who need that extra practice time or tape to make an impression and latch onto the roster?
- JC Tretter: [44:09](#) Yeah. I think first, you start with this year. We saw a ton of success from rookies with absolutely no off-season. I think you just look at the quarterback position. We had a ton of quarterbacks step in as rookies, playing the toughest position in probably sports, and be super successful with limited time.
- JC Tretter: [44:28](#) I think you can prepare the way we did. I understand coaches, asking coaches whether you should take away practice is like asking the Cookie Monster if there should be less cookies. The answer is always going to be no, they want more. That is just kind of how it is, so that's not surprising.
- JC Tretter: [44:50](#) In the end, it's about building a better program. Building one that works for everybody involved and makes this game safer and our players healthier. Again, we need to talk to the NFL about it and work through our experts, I think, is the most important. They should have a large voice in how this is built out. But in the end, it's about making the best program for older guys, younger guys, wherever you stand in this league, making the safest program.
- Charles: [45:18](#) Then, as a followup, you had mentioned how there were mostly, or almost all pros related to the off-season in terms of how the level of play in the NFL this season.



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- Charles: [45:37](#) Obviously, that was reflected in points. I don't think that there were any more missed tackles this season than in previous years.
- JC Tretter: [46:00](#) I just recall, and I think it was week two, and especially highlighted by Saquon Barkley's injury, but there was that rash of lower body injuries very early on in the season. I'm curious if there has been any sort of data or look back on that yet, or if that was just an anecdotal aberration that we all latched onto at that point?
- JC Tretter: [46:07](#) We're going to get that data. That data hasn't come in yet. It takes some time to break it down. We will get that. We definitely want to pour over that.
- Charles: [46:41](#) Again, every injury isn't made the same. We also have people who look back and look at each injury to see how it happened. Our game is a violent collision sport. There are some injuries that, no matter how well you are acclimated or ramped up, having a 300 pound man run into the side of your leg, there's not much you're going to be able to do in that situation. So, we also look at the type of injury and whether it was preventable. But that data, all of that data from the year still hasn't come in. That'll come in probably a month.
- DeMaurice Smith: [46:41](#) Thanks, JC.
- DeMaurice Smith: [47:12](#) Yeah. The only thing I would add is even after we get all the data in, you've heard it before from me and others. We try to be very evidence-based and data-driven. That necessarily means that one set of data for one year, certainly not anecdotal stories about individual games, sometimes doesn't tell us the complete picture until we stratify that data over two or three years.
- DeMaurice Smith: [47:12](#) For those of you who are a little bit longer in the tooth, you'll remember that when we came out of the changes to two-a-day practices, back in 2011, there was a whole host of people after that 2012 season, where we had an increase of injuries, everybody was willing to jump on the bandwagon of, "Well, you know, it's the lack of two-a-day practices that has increased all the injuries," and yada, yada, yada. We look at injuries individually, and more importantly, over a period of time to discern lessons from those entries.



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DeMaurice Smith: [47:52](#)

One of the things that has clearly become an accurate picture is the change in the severity and type of injuries that happen on grass versus artificial turf. While we're talking about data, I would much rather have concrete, solution-based conversations with the league about what we now know are statistically significant differences between injuries that happen on turf versus grass. We've tried to have those conversations for a little while, and those are something that we've now got to a point where we have to have those conversations that lead to solutions this off-season.

George Atallah: [48:41](#)

Thanks for that, Jonathan. We appreciate everybody's time sticking with us. This is now the, I think, eighth or ninth briefing we've done. Good luck to all the remaining teams this weekend during Championship Weekend. We will see you guys back here next Tuesday. We'll keep these going. Thanks for everybody's participation. Have a great rest of the day.

JC Tretter: [49:09](#)

Thanks, everyone.

DeMaurice Smith: [49:11](#)

Thank you.