

**TRANSCRIPTION/TRANSCRIPTION**

**NEWS CONFERENCE/CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE**

Transcription prepared by Media Q Inc. exclusively for the Canadian Football League

Transcription préparée par Media Q Inc. exclusivement pour Ligue canadienne de football

**DATE/DATE:** November 20, 2019, 08:30 MT

**LOCATION/ENDROIT:** Boyce Theatre, Stampede Park, 1910 Olympic Way SE, Calgary, AB

**PRINCIPAL(S)/PRINCIPAUX:** Olivier Poulin, Master of Ceremonies  
Orlondo Steinauer, Head Coach, Hamilton Tiger-Cats  
Mike O'Shea, Head Coach, Winnipeg Blue Bombers

**SUBJECT/SUJET:** The 2019 Grey Cup Head Coaches' news conference with Hamilton Tiger-Cats Head Coach Orlondo Steinauer and Winnipeg Blue Bombers Head Coach Michael O'Shea.

---

**Olivier Poulin** There won't be any opening remarks. We're going to go straight to question. First question will be from Terry Jones, right up front.

**Question** I don't know if, in the history of championship sports, there have ever been two coaches that ever once got traded for each other, so let's start there. Who won the trade?

**Orlondo Steinauer** I don't think I was here when the trade happened. I think I was in Miami.

**Mike O'Shea** You were in Miami.

**Orlondo Steinauer** Yeah. It all worked out because I think when you got back we ended up on the same team anyway.

**Mike O'Shea** We did.

**Orlondo Steinauer** Hamilton won that trade. It's so long ago.

**Mike O'Shea** No. No thoughts.

**Question** After the win in Saskatchewan, you and Zack Collaros looked to be the two calmest people at the stadium. What keeps you calm at times of intense emotion after winning a west final, as an example? What is it in you that keeps you that calm?

**Mike O'Shea** Well, I think trusting the players. Right? You put a plan together, you see how hard. They prepped for the game, and you just believe they're going to go out and get it done. And we've been through enough adversity through this season. They've learned from it, they've dealt with the emotions of various outcomes, and you just think they're going to get that next play done. But I mean, one of the most important things, as I've gone through this for six seasons, is if I'm not calm then the players are going to have a hard time doing that too. But it is easy with group of guys we have.

**Olivier Poulin** Danny.

**Question** I know neither of you guys are in off-season mode, but last week Dave Dickenson had some pretty strong words about the new NFL window for players. Where do you guys stand on that? Do you guys think of it as a positive or as a bit of a negative right now for your teams and the league?

**Mike O'Shea** You know, like you said, we're not in that mode right now. I'd really have to go through the roster and look at where guys stand in their contracts and re-look at the agreement to see exactly what it says. You know, I leave that up to Kyle Walters, and I'm sure next week we'll be dealing with that in full force.

**Orlando Steinauer** Yeah, I don't really have anything to add further. I really don't have an opinion on that window. Do a deeper dive in the off season, as Oshe was referring to. But as of right now, I really don't have any strong comment either way.

**Olivier Poulin** We'll go to Steve Simmons in the back.

**Question** Hi. Been a long time, Mike.

**Mike O'Shea** How you doing, Steve?

**Question** You guys played together on a Grey Cup winner, you coached together on a Grey Cup winner, and now you're here coaching against each other for the championship. What's that journey been like, if both of you could answer that?

**Mike O'Shea** You go first.

**Orlando Steinauer** Go ahead. You're better at that.

**Mike O'Shea** We made a pact that we weren't going to talk about this stuff, but I guess I'll have to. I think it's been quite enjoyable. I mean,

every statement you made ended in the word championship. So there's been a lot of great moments.

We've both been around this league a long time, and because of that, there's also a lot of failure. There's a lot of times we didn't get championships. We lost a lot of eastern finals, we missed out on some opportunities. And I think having a number of years with Steiny together and working through those and becoming champions together, and then coaching together as champions, it's just been...I don't know that there's an exact word to describe that. But I like that the word championship and champion is always in there.

**Orlando Steinauer** Yeah, I would just add that, being around Oshe, watching him, I think one little neat tidbit is that we were actually teammates in Detroit in the NFL, and I didn't really get to know him well there except for I was aware that he was in the CFL. And when I came to the CFL, I quickly learned that he was the man. He was an established player up here. When I had the opportunity to play with him, I was competing against him in the beginning. He was on those great Toronto teams that did really well, back-to-back Grey Cups, I believe. And then once I got to be a teammate, I saw why. He would give his defence, and specifically the team, the best opportunity to win consistently. And I was just extremely impressed on how he handled himself on and off the field.

When we became champions as players, there was a lot of help. We had a lot of great teammates that bought in to a lot of the things that Oshe and I were selling. We were empowered with a great deal of the defence a lot of the times. As he alluded to, there was a lot of heartache along the way. There were some east finals that were left out there. When we finally got over the hump in '04, it felt great, and he hasn't changed as a coach. When we were in 2012, when we were able to win a Grey Cup as coaches together, he alluded to the word championship. I think that's a special time. And he's deserving of that.

**Question** Coach O'Shea, at the start of the year, one of the concerns was you had to redo your offensive line for various reasons. And then as the year went on there were injuries. Just talk a little bit about how dealing with the changes on your offensive line and that you're going into this game with a rookie centre.

**Mike O'Shea** Yeah. I think it's been pretty seamless. And it's looked that way – it's not easy, but it's looked that way because our O line coach, Marty Costello, has done a fantastic job bringing up

these young guys. I don't think it's unlike other situations on other teams: injuries are going to happen. It's a tough sport, and, when they play in the trenches, injuries do happen. But our young guys have performed well. They've accepted coaching really well. And our mix of veterans on the O line have done a great job of mentoring these young men and showing them exactly what it means to be a Bomber O lineman and the standard they have to uphold. So the credit goes to Marty, our O line coach, and the veterans in the room, and then the young guys for their willingness to step in and do it and do it the right way. And then the draft process has been great. I mean, our guys have found the right talent and the right character to come in and do this.

**Olivier Poulin**

Jeff Hamilton.

**Question**

Orlondo, I'll stay with the offensive line team, but I want to target a little bit here – Chris Van Zeyl – and have you talk about what he's meant to your team. Because I suspect it has a lot to do with just his play, on one hand, but also with the kind of guy he is, the teammate he is for other players on the team. So his addition this season, what's it meant?

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Yeah, I think anytime you can make an addition to your football team like a Chris Van Zeyl, who's a ratio changer at tackle specifically, I think anytime you have an opportunity to do that, you want jump on. Known Chris for a while. When he showed up, he showed up with no expectations. He just showed up to work hard. He didn't expect to be the leader of anything. He went out and practised, and was finishing drills ten, 15 yards down the field. He was leading by example. Didn't feel entitled to anything. And I think when you do those type of things, that's easy to follow. And I know he had the respect of the other linemen just due to his resume. Some of our D linemen have played against him, so they knew about him.

So I think the other thing that shows up is what I don't know about as a coach. It's the things in the locker room. It's the bonding. It's the hello in the hallway. It's all those little things that make a big difference, that help give you the best chance to win, that I think that he brings, versus standing in front of your football team or the offensive line and say this is what is what happened, here's how I did it. I think it's the daily interactions of a professional like that. I think he's brought a lot of those things to our football team.

**Olivier Poulin**

Alright. We're going to go to Jeff Hamilton, Steve Simmons,

then Terry Jones. Jeff.

**Question**

You guys obviously know each other, go way back. Orlando, I kind of told you I was going to ask you this yesterday. Can you guys just take a moment and I'm sure you have a lot of stories, either on the field, off the field. Maybe tell a story about each other that best sums up who the guy is.

**Orlando Steinauer**

Well, again, here's our pact. I'll just say this, that, I'm kind of at a loss for words. You can't pinpoint it. It's a relationship and a bond that's deep, and you can't really sum it up right away. But I'll just say this: that I respect the man, first of all, how he prepared. I remember him attacking his off season. I remember meeting him at Bubbles, doing extra work. I know he was going to SST, getting work. That's where you always notice the three hours on the field with Oshe. But the time he put in off the field is impressive.

And I know you're looking for a single story. There's so many in games. I'll tell you this, that we were in Montreal. And we studied film together, you know, tirelessly, oftentimes together, sometimes separate. But he always watched a little bit more film because he was always just as dedicated to special teams.

And I remember they had this guy by the name of Haskins, some of you may remember him. He was a pretty good football player at that time. But there was a certain formation they'd line up in, and I've seen Oshe turn to me and wipe his gloves off and he said I got this one. I'm going to get this one. Because he understood what was happening and where it was going to go. And that just stood out to me, that the preparation, the time he put in, it will show up on game day. And that's just a small example of an O'Shea story for you. So hopefully that's good enough for you.

**Olivier Poulin**

Mike?

**Mike O'Shea**

I don't know if it's a story on the field, but as O alluded to, I always watched film, sometimes late at night or sometimes early in the morning, on the road. And I think what I looked forward to the most was hearing that door open, when I'm laying on the floor or I've pulled the coach in from the hotel lobby or whatever, and I hear that door creak open and it was Steiny. I always looked forward to that. In fact, I often remember, and I've probably never told him this, but as I'd watch film, I'd just be looking at the door, hoping it was going to open. Alright? Because the one thing I know is Steiny's passion for the game. He's a brilliant football mind. And every

time we sat together, I got better. And that was extremely important to me. So I just enjoyed those times.

**Question**

Thanks for breaking your pact. And I just got one more for you Coach O. When you decided to come back to the CFL, what attracted you to Hamilton? What made you want to start something there and build with them? Obviously you have a history, but what was the ultimate decision to go there?

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Well, I had history in Hamilton, so I understood Bob Young's commitment to the organization, Scott Mitchell. I understood how passionate they were to doing things the right way, and not just saying it but embodying it in the building, the meeting rooms, those type of things, in the community, how they treated players. So I already had a sample size of that. Everything was going great at Fresno State. We bought a house. There was no intent on coming back. It went better than I would have imagined.

When I was approached to come back, I was hesitant at first. But then I thought if you can learn from a guy like June Jones and Jerry Glanville, who are lifers in this and have done it at whatever you may want to term as the highest level, and done it consistently, how many times is that opportunity going to come for you? And so that weighed in my decision. And also let it be known that in the CFL you are afforded a different lifestyle as far as the work-life balance. And you know, I did miss that a bit. But it was that combination, along with getting the opportunity to work with June and Jerry and be around great people and organization as leaders, is why I'm back.

**Olivier Poulin**

We're going to go to Steve Simmons. Steve?

**Question**

It's pretty rare, guys, that any team gets to a titled game with a back-up quarterback. I think, Mike, this is number three for you in terms of quarterbacks this season? Might be four, I don't know. But to get to this point with back-up quarterbacks, how have you been able to do that? To both of you.

**Mike O'Shea**

Staff. You hire great people that are competent and that are tireless workers. And then you bring people in the building that are of great character, that share similar views on work ethic and what it's going to take. So I've been blessed with both.

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Yeah, I would echo that. I think our staff's done an outstanding job. And you know, you always want to use the next-man-up mentality. However the quarterback position, I think it's at a different level. It's definitely the hardest position to play on the

field. So for us, I ran the scout team last year, and I got to work with Dane closely, and just got to watch him as a man, listen to him in the huddle lead, watch his unwavering support of Jeremiah and just his preparation, and just willingness to do whatever it took to be the best he could be. And I think that's what we're seeing currently.

**Olivier Poulin**

Next question from Terry Jones, then we have Jim Morris, Paul Friesen, Dave Naylor, and Ted Wyman. Terry?

**Question**

One of the storylines in this Grey Cup is the drought with how long it's been since Winnipeg won a Grey Cup and Hamilton won a Grey Cup. Can you both speak to the idea of how much you feel that in your time around the community, how much you think your players feel that? And as an extension of that, way back, I mean, there used to be a time in the fifties and sixties where Winnipeg and Hamilton played each other every Grey Cup, and that hasn't existed for a long time. Do you think there's any sense within your group or within your city of this history that's kind of getting restored this week?

**Mike O'Shea**

I think as we consistently built this team from six years ago, the expectations have gotten much higher in Winnipeg, and they should. And I do think the players definitely know about it. They hear about it when they're out in the community. We've got a great fan base that's very intelligent, and very respectful when you're out in the community. So those conversations aren't anything that the players should shy away from or that we shy away from. It's out there, and I feel we own a part of it, for sure. But some of the players I don't even know if some would know the year that it was last won. So we've got to live in the present and worry about this year, and not worry about the previous whatever number that is.

**Orlondo Steinauer**

And for us, you know, it was made aware as we honoured Rob Hitchcock this year. He went up on the Wall of Honour. So there was a pretty good celebration for the 20-year reunion, so obviously there's attention brought to it there. Outside of that, I'm not sure a lot of the guys on the team are really aware of that. The community is starving, absolutely. But I would say they're more buzzing. I think the attention's coming from some of the achievement that we've had throughout the season. I wouldn't say it's a focal point. I don't think it's an extra motivator. But I do think that there is a common respect amongst our football team for those people that came before us. And in our locker room we have the years that there were Grey Cup champions, and there's a bit of a gap. So I'm not

sure they pay attention to it daily, but they are aware of it.

**Question**

And can both of you reflect on those? Do you have any kind of a feel for those in your case, Angelo Mosca and all that gang from the fifties, and Bud Grant and all those Winnipeg guys, Kenny Ploen and all those guys? Do you have a feel for that group of guys?

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Yeah, you get some conversation amongst those. Ange will come out every now and again. He'd show up to practice, and some guys weren't sure. But they're excited for it. We showed a video at the beginning of the year. And we're always emphasizing that you're going to stand on the shoulders of those that came before you. And so we thought it was important they understand the history of where we're at, how we're built, and then along with emphasizing the culture that we wanted to build and who we wanted to be in 2019. So we did study the history of it a little bit. They were made aware of it. And I think there's a strong support, as was evident when the '99 team came back. But I know you're referring to history a little bit more. But they're excited when they come around. And that's not often, but there's a little bit of a buzz from them. They're definitely excited.

**Mike O'Shea**

Yeah, we have a proud alumni association too, and I think whenever I get the opportunity to be around them, I like the legacy they've left. And I don't know that our players are around our alumni enough, but I certainly enjoy it.

**Question**

Gentlemen, you both got into coaching with Jim Barker in Toronto, and I'm wondering if I could ask you both what you took away from your experiences with Jim as your first head coach.

**Mike O'Shea**

Dan, what I think of immediately is, first of all, Jim putting trust in us, putting faith in us, and then letting us work. You know, I think he wasn't coming around and managing over top of us. In casual conversations, he wanted to know the plans and he wanted to hear our ideas. I thought it was just a great environment to start with. When he first gave me the job, I sat in my office for about five days with the door closed trying to figure out how to turn the computer on. Like, I had no clue what was going on. And the drawing programs, things were going to be hand drawn and...

Yeah. I couldn't believe that Jim had put his faith in me, put trust in me.



But it paid off, and I thought his style of how he managed – how he coached me... looking back on it now, I wouldn't have realized it then, but I loved it. I loved the way he coached me.

**Orlondo Steinauer** Yeah, I was going to head down the same path there, that he let us work. And I think – not just Oshe and I, but the rest of the staff. He had a vision, and I was really impressed with how he brought us all together. We didn't have a ton of meetings, but we did have a series of meetings where he was telling us what to expect. He gave his experiences, both good and bad. And you know, he was in charge of turning around a ball club. And he's this lifer in this. And I think what was unique about Jim that I really appreciate even to this day is that he did it from every level, from a position coach to a coordinator to a head coach to personnel to a GM. That's rare. And so he understood it from all angles. And even currently, that's invaluable. And I just thought he did a great job, and how he just approached the whole staff and the football team.

**Olivier Poulin** Alright. So we have 11 questions listed down here, so we may not be able to take all of them. But we're going to go to Jim Morris and then Paul Friesen. Jim?

**Question** As a former linebacker yourself, can you talk about Adam Bighill? What's he bring as a player, and what separates him, say, from some of the other linebackers in the league?

**Mike O'Shea** Oh, you could list off a string of adjectives and attributes. I mean, physically, he has the ability to be a dominant player. His combination of size, speed, strength, he has those intangible leadership qualities. He is extremely smart, and takes a lot of pride in studying the game. He has the ability to pass along that knowledge to his teammates. He's very cerebral. And when he gets out on the field, he wants to be a savage. So I think that's a wonderful combination for a CFL linebacker.

**Olivier Poulin** I'm going to go to Paul.

**Question** It sounds like your friendship goes beyond football. Can you give an example of maybe a time you've had to lean on each other or helped each other out with something?

**Orlondo Steinauer** Oh. Yeah. There's times when I've went over to, when he was still living in Milton, went over and had lunch and just talked about the season. You know, he'd ask my input on some things. Obviously he was in a different situation at that time.

Sometimes it's a phone call, sometimes it's a text of encouragement, sometimes it's a text of congratulations. I always looked forward to it, you know, to be honest with you. Checked my locker after the game, it's just consistent. But also there's just such a common respect there that sometimes there's nothing said, but it says everything. And I think that's just kind of the bond and the appreciation and the respect we have for each other.

Other than that, you know, I asked him right away if Michael was coming out to the Grey Cup, his son. So we're always in tune with each other's families and stuff, and he's asked about Kiana, my daughter, you know, at college, at Southern Connecticut, playing basketball. So it's not all football related. There's definitely life and other things involved.

**Question**

Examples, Mike, or does that sum it up?

**Mike O'Shea**

I think that sums it up. I think he brings up his daughter Kiana, and he's being modest. I mean, I think last year she was top five in the NCAA in rebounding. So I'm trying to get a t-shirt from the team. I'm thinking I got to wear one of these shirts, like, she's killing it. And we've been around long enough with each other, we've seen our kids grow up. I mean, there's something about that – that we've lasted this long, and that we've managed to raise good kids and watched each other do it. So...

**Question**

So...

**Mike O'Shea**

...I think that's pretty neat. But that's pretty well all the personal stuff you're going to get out of me.

**Question**

So what's it like, then, going against each other in this biggest game of the season?

**Mike O'Shea**

Hey, we're highly competitive. We both want our teams to win, and win with authority. Trust me.

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Yeah. This is all fun and this is necessary, and both organizations have earned this attention. But I can tell you that after the coin toss, there's no wave across. It's going to be two physical football teams going after one goal. And nine teams start off with the same goal. There's only two teams working this week. So yeah, we want to beat each other.

**Question**

Who texted who first on Sunday?

**Mike O'Shea** Well, we played second, so...

**Orlando Steinauer** Yeah.

**Mike O'Shea** ... I don't think I got to send Steiny a message of congratulations. But there was one on my phone when I got in.

**Olivier Poulin** Alright, we're going to go to Dave Naylor.

**Question** Guys, for both of you, could you tell us a little bit about when getting into coaching kind of struck you during your careers? And were there people that you played under in the CFL that formed your vision of what kind of coaches you wanted to be?

**Mike O'Shea** I knew Steiny was always going to be a coach. And I think if we were to look at the records, I would have said I would have never been a coach. And whether he was saying the same thing or thinking the same thing, I'm not exactly sure. But when real life strikes you as maybe not fitting anymore, you know, I was 15 months into another career, and out of the blue came a phone call from Jim Barker.

So I'll go back to the same things I've said 20 years ago probably: being around stadiums and seeing the hours that coaches put in, and recognizing some of the things they had to give up lifestyle-wise, and some of the things that were taken away from them, it was one of the things that I recognized early that I was pretty sure I didn't want to jump into. And then when you taste the other side of it, being out of football, you realize this is what you do. And you make sure, because I was so aware of the men that had led me and how they navigated everyday life, I knew how I had to do it, and wanted to make sure it was done right for my family. So it was just that I had that awareness of the amount of time and effort and the cost that can be put upon coaches.

**Orlando Steinauer** Yeah, for me, so I jumped into this realm for a year. I did the TV and radio thing after ball. I know your question, Dave, was, you know, when did I know. I wasn't sure that I wanted to put my family through the same thing of not knowing where we were going to be. I felt like 12 years was a good run to, quote-unquote, kind of be selfish and to get that support, and I just wasn't sure that I wanted to jump back into it. It didn't mean that I didn't want to, but it wasn't really my time. I wasn't thinking about myself at that point. And so I thought I was going to be like the majority and jump into QEW traffic and make sure I had the unlimited phone plan, call everybody in

traffic and just do it.

And I actually accepted a job on a Friday for a company, and then I got a call from Jim Barker on Sunday. So it happened really quick for me. And Jim basically offered me the job across the table, and I had to give him the corporate line and told him I got to go talk to the wife and see. And he needed that quickly. And from there, it was just entrenched, and it's been more rewarding than I would have imagined.

**Olivier Poulin**

Ted?

**Question**

Mike, there was a scene at the end of the game in Regina where Cody Fajardo was lying on the field after he had hit the crossbar. And the first player that came over to him was Jackson Jeffcoat, patted him on the back, said something. I don't know what he said, but Saskatchewan really seemed to appreciate that act. How do you think that speaks to the character of the guys on your team?

**Mike O'Shea**

Very well. You spend so many hours a day with these guys. These guys spend so many hours together. Just to put it bluntly, you just don't want to spend that much time with assholes. Sorry. You know. So we fill our room with good character guys. And I don't know what Jackson said after, but I know that when football players compete and battle out there for a long game, and it's very physical and it's tough, there's a certain amount of respect. Obviously a lot of respect for each other, at the end of the game when it finishes. And maybe not so much during the season as when there's a finality to it, you know.

**Question**

Well, Mike, you talked about the process of building your program over the last six years. When Andrew Harris came back with the intent of getting this team to where it is now, I had conversations with him, and he talked very prophetically about the grind it was going to be to get here. We all know what he does on the field. What has he meant to the culture of this team and building this team to get to where it is now?

**Mike O'Shea**

Andrew is relentless in his approach. And he does hold players accountable, and he's got a certain grit and determination that you don't often see. You'd love every player to have it, but there are only certain players that possess it. Or when a player gets to his level and has accomplished what he's accomplished, there's obviously something more there. And I think it's a great example – his on-field performance and his drive, his ambition to be the best. He does carry a pretty big

chip on his shoulder. I think the story's been told about his route to this level and to his achievements.

But till you get a guy in the building, you don't really know about some of the intangibles. You can ask those questions, but you don't know if you're getting the right answers and till you get it right in front of you and see it live and learn about who a player is, you might not exactly have the true answers. And I love everything about the guy. I'm very thankful that he's in our building.

**Olivier Poulin**

Alright. We're going to go to Pierre Trochet. Pierre?

**Question**

Coaches, this coming Grey Cup will mark history for many reasons. One of them is having international players on the field. Well, speaking specifically for Thiadric Hansen, Germany, and Valentin Gnahoua from France, did they fill up your expectation – first question. And have they managed to give you more confidence in international prospects?

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Yeah, for us, I think that there's some definite growing pains, maybe some frustration early. But I'll tell you what. You talk about a smile on the face, working hard, notebook always open, pen upright, sitting next to Ted Laurent, gathering information, making sure that the language barrier wasn't too strong, passionate player. He battled some injury early in our situation, and then our kicker, Gabe, was able to kick one early, which was outstanding. Just seeing the smile and the happiness of the guys in the locker room for him. So I think it's a process. They understand everything, you have to get acclimated. It's tough. You're not only in a new environment, different country, and things are happening fast, people are talking about things that are second nature to them; it's not to them. So in our case, they had to do extra. But it didn't faze them one bit, so I've been very pleased with how it's worked for our organization.

**Mike O'Shea**

We've been extremely happy and I don't want to say lucky because, you pick these guys, so there's input that we have in our global players. They are phenomenal men, and they've done a fantastic job. Manuel and Sergio from Mexico, from the start of rookie camp though main training camp, they were doing all the right things off the field also to fit in with the team, to endear themselves to their teammates. And then they get on the field, and you realize that they do know football. They played football at their highest levels, and they know the game, and they can do this, right? They can play.

And then Thiadric Hansen, who's been on our roster from day one, if there's any question about what he can do, watch one of the goal line stands we have, where he stood up to centre and came off and made the tackle at the one-yard line, stopped the ball from going in from about an inch. Now he's got help from his teammates and everything like that, but he shows tremendous power and understanding and finish.

The one thing I can say about Thiadric, or one of the many things, one thing that sticks out is his thirst for knowledge and his application of that knowledge, instant application. So he came to me one time and said I'm having trouble with this drill. I gave him 30 seconds of my time on how he could get better at the drill. Post practice, he's doing the drill. The next morning pre-practice he's doing the drill. The next week, when he has an opportunity in that drill, he kills it. Now, when we do this drill, it gets filmed and we watch it at the end of every day four, and the players are always in awe when he does this. So he's come in and basically used every resource possible, asked every question possible, and then applied every answer almost immediately, which is phenomenal. And he's another guy that's fit right in from a very early point and knows the game. These guys just have to adjust to the speed of the game and the nuances of the CFL compared to the football they're playing. But I can't speak enough about these guys. Their teammates love 'em, and I love 'em.

**Olivier Poulin**

Alright, so we're going to go to Tim Baines, Glen Suitor, Dan Ralph, and Terry Jones for the last question.

**Question**

Coach O. We talk about your offence, we talk about Dane Evans, we talk about the dynamic players like Brandon Banks and Bralon Addison. Speak about your defence and what kind of role that has played in the team's success this year.

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Yeah. The defence at times has been the heartbeat of our team. I think we have three strong phases, but Mark's done an outstanding job. The whole staff has done an outstanding job. Robin and Randy, and of course Craig. It's not just about being a great defence statistically. To me, we were middle of the pack early in the year. What it became was timely plays. There's times when the offence wasn't moving the ball, when we needed to stop. That's what I've been most impressed with, just as a 10,000-foot overview here, is that whatever it's taken that week to win, they've stepped up and made those plays. And to me, that's impressive. They stayed the course.

Anybody that comes and watches us practice, we play in the

game like we practice. And that's been instilled. It's a habit that's been ingrained. And there's some great leaders over there, but they love each other. They're running around, they're having fun, and they're holding each other accountable. And I really could go on and on about the defence, but I think from the front four to the backers to the back end, it's a great collective effort.

**Olivier Poulin**

Alright. Suits?

**Question**

Yeah. Congratulations, guys, first of all, for getting here. Just a couple of quick ones. One, Coach O'Shea, part of your great story this year has been the two-quarterback system that you've got going. Back in the seventies and eighties, we saw a lot more of it. Do you guys have theories on why we haven't seen much of it over the last decade.

**Mike O'Shea**

I don't. I'd have to look back at it, but it could just be the body types; it could be the thought that teams start using two quarterbacks when they don't want to get their starter injured, if they make a substitution in short yards and goal line, and then it just evolves from there possibly is why it's worked a little bit. But you know, you don't often come across a player of Chris Streveler's physicality and attitude. So it just might be availability

**Question**

One other one too, guys. This is a different week, as you know. What's going to be the instruction for your players? How are you going to handle the distractions? Is there going to be curfews, things like that?

**Orlondo Steinauer**

Our focus will remain the same. We're set in a routine. We've got a day one, day two, day three, day before routine that'll be set. Fortunately for us, we were out here earlier, and I think most teams are staying on the road for a week, so it's not foreign to us. We're going to go out and handle our business and know that there's going to be adversity. I'm talking about from copy machines not working to this and that. Those are all just excuses, and we won't use any of those. So that's the message to the football team, that it's not going to go according to plan. Your tickets are going to get messed up, there's going to be things that go wrong. We should be adverse to all that at this point in time. Curfew? Yeah, we have a curfew time.

**Question**

Mike?

**Mike O'Shea** Same.

**Question** Yeah.

**Mike O'Shea** You try and stick to a routine, understand that it's not going to be all that, and when something does happen, it's oh, well, because we're here. You know, you're in the Grey Cup. So you just take a deep breath and move on. And we've got enough people in place trying to make sure stuff like that doesn't happen, but it's going to. And we do have a curfew also. As Don Matthews would say, you've got the rest of your lives to party as champions.

**Olivier Poulin** Dan Ralph?

**Question** Gentlemen, not long ago Danny Maciocia was asked what his thoughts were about incorporating more Canadian quarterbacks into the CFL. And he came up with the idea that every team carry a third quarterback who's Canadian, and that we eliminate converts and go with two-point conversions, where the Canadian quarterback has to be the one directing the two-point covert. I'm curious what your thoughts are on that.

**Mike O'Shea** First I've heard of it. I haven't put any thought into that. And so I wouldn't do the answer justice, to tell you the truth.

**Orlondo Steinauer** No, I would echo the same thing. I wasn't aware of that.

**Olivier Poulin** Terry?

**Question** It seems like forever that we've had two coaches sitting in front of us that haven't been in those seats before and answered this next question. Jim "Shaky" Hunt of The Toronto Sun for all those years covered 50 Grey Cups, when he got bored with one of the X and O's answers or whatever from the coaches, used to stand up and ask them about their philosophy and plans to tell the team whether or not to have sex during the week. Your opinions, please.

**Orlondo Steinauer** I say do what got you here. That's what I would say. That's what they do is what they do. And that's what I have to say.

**Mike O'Shea** Well, it's been eight years since we've climbed into this position, and another 29 since we finished the job. So there's going to be some nerves, and the expectations are very high. And the anticipation can sometimes ruin the event. So I guess



my guidance to the players would be don't exhaust yourself in the warm-up.

**Orlando Steinauer** That was good.

**Olivier Poulin** Alright. Thank you, gentlemen. Thank you, everybody that was here today. Thank you to both coaches.