



### Week 8 – The Bye Week

Jake Delhomme and Seneca Wallace did not practice again this week, so it appears that the mercurial Colt McCoy will make his 3rd straight start on Sunday, this time against Evil Mastermind Bill Belichick and the top-ranked New England Patriots.

That's like Terrelle Pryor getting his first three starts as a true freshman against Florida, Oklahoma, and Alabama. And he plays for Purdue, not Ohio State.

Understandably, Mike Holmgren was asked many QB-related questions in his [Midseason State of the Team press conference](#)

. Holmgren responded time and again that the decision belonged to the Head Coach (obviously), but he slipped in a couple of points that I thought tipped his hand:

*"Would you like to know a little more about your current young 'un? Yes. Do I have a good feeling about him now and what he's done? Absolutely, but it's two games."*

*"I think [the decision about the QB situation going into next year] could be [the most important decision as Browns' President]. I've gone on the record many times as saying the most important player on your team is the quarterback. I think you have to get to the Super Bowl and become a viable playoff caliber team year after year after year. You have to have that guy. I think it's a huge decision Tony (Grossi), I do. I'm stating the obvious I think."*

*"Things are hard to predict, but if you have a quarterback you believe in though, you can build around that and get there a little faster I think."*

*"I think part of the thing about young quarterbacks playing is that as long as you can keep them healthy, as long as they don't get too scarred and too beaten up. I'm talking mentally scarred, every game that they play is probably a good thing as long as that happens. We would like to win games, it will be a discussion the coaching staff has, there's no question about it. It might be academic at this point because while Jake (Delhomme) and Seneca (Wallace) are improving, exactly where they are I honestly couldn't tell you right now."*

*"Until it's clear that either one of those veteran quarterbacks can play physically, Colt will play, Colt has to play. As soon as it becomes where you have a choice to make then you have to sit down, have that conversation and make the choice."*

Seneca himself has said that he should be ready, and feels that he's earned the starting job. He also touted the concept of picking a QB and going with him (which I happen to agree with). He thinks that QB should be him.

It may actually be true that Wallace gives the team the best chance to win. But it sounds to me (from those last two quotes especially) that the Powers That Be (or at least Holmgren) wouldn't mind Seneca being "injured" a bit longer to get a better look at McCoy without causing controversy. I imagine a conversation that goes something a bit like this:

INT. PRACTICE FACILITY - DAY

Seneca Wallace sits on the artificial turf of the Browns' indoor practice facility, stretching his legs while wearing full uniform, helmet off. Up drives Mike Holmgren in his custom-designed golf cart, stopping next to Wallace.

Holmgren: *Mornin', Seneca.*

Seneca: *Mornin', Coach. How was vaykay?*

Holmgren: *Oh, nice, nice, thanks for askin'. Arizona's a little nicer this time of year than Ohio.*

Seneca: *You're telling me.*

Holmgren: *You practicing today?*

Seneca: *Yep.*

Holmgren: *You are?*

Seneca (confused): *Yeah.*

Holmgren: *Medical cleared you?*

Seneca: *Yeah.*

Holmgren: *How's your ankle?*

Seneca: *It hurts a little bit, but it should be fine.*

Holmgren: *It doesn't look fine.*

Seneca (looking at his ankle): *What do you mean?*

Holmgren: *It looks swollen.*

Seneca: *No it doesn't.*

Holmgren: *It's huge.*

Seneca: *I... it isn't...*

Holmgren (pointing): *No, you can clearly see that ankle is bigger than the other one.*

Seneca: *That's not the ankle that got hurt.*

Holmgren (taken aback, then quickly recovers): *That's what I meant.*

Seneca (confused): *Huh?*

Holmgren: *Here, get up, let me see you walk on it.*

Seneca stands up and walks in a little circle with no limp.

Holmgren: *Looks like you're favoring it.*

Seneca (looking down while he's walking): *It does?*

Holmgren: *Yeah. Big time.*

Seneca: *It feels fine.*

Holmgren: *It looks like it's really hurting you to me.*

Seneca: *It's not.*

Mike raises an eyebrow and wiggles his fingers at Wallace mysteriously.

Holmgren (chanting): *Your ankle is really hurting you.*

Seneca stops walking and stares at him.

Seneca: *What are you doing?*

Mike quickly stops his finger wiggling and scratches his head, looking away.

Holmgren: *Oh, nothing, nothing. Well, gotta go.*

He starts to drive away.

Holmgren: *I'll just tell Eric that you need another couple days before you're ready then.*

Seneca: *But... Coach!*

Holmgren (calling as he drives away): *Nice talkin' to you, Seneca!*

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OK, I know there's someone out there just freakin' out about the fact that the Browns didn't put a claim in on Randy Moss. "WE NEED TALENT!" they're screaming. "ARRRRRRRGGGGHHHHH!"

