



Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

"All right, everybody, we can get rolling. I thought coming off the field, it just felt like those are the games you do love to be a part of, the absolute battles. Two teams, like going for it, throwing punches back and forth and you know, I hate the outcome, but I loved the fight. It's been tough as hell for a while. And I thought our guys played hard as hell. All improving. I saw where we can get better and obviously there's plenty of room to continue to do that, but man, it was nice to have some guys back. [WR] Terry [McLaurin] I thought made a bunch of big plays, [TE] Zach [Ertz], in the same space but I thought one that just had like a warrior performance was [QB] Marcus [Mariota], you know, just kind of willing it on some plays, using his arm, using his legs, you know, it was tough ones to overcome, but, like I said, I hate the outcome, but I do love the fight where we're at. With that I can get ready to start with you guys."

On if he had no hesitation going for two in overtime:

"No. Going into it, into the overtime spot, I thought that would be the way that we would go. I kind of think of that as like a third possession in a way, to say if you get on D and you go, you can tie or you can go and, you know, like that's the way if you tie, you got to stop and get it back again. So, that was the strategy all along. Honestly, it was a play that we liked, we got batted down, but against the man-to-man, that's one that we practiced a lot, and we liked it. And so, you know, I hate the outcome, but there was no hesitation. I knew before the drive started like, 'Hey, we're going to score and we're going to go for two'. Then you're in all four-down territory. So, it's more strategy in that way."

On if going for two was true to how the team played last year:

"Yeah, we're going to be aggressive. I felt that way at the end for sure to say, 'Hey, this is, like, there was no hesitation. Like, this is how we're going to go attack'. Obviously at this in the first drive you got to get a stop to a field goal and not get the one, but they made their plays too. So, like I said, I thought leaving the field, I thought, man, this was two teams going for it. I felt that way. It felt like a battle. I loved the sideline. I love like back-and-forth trading punches. Sometimes you take one, sometimes you're giving one. And if we, I told the team, you know, like if we do those things and we hit those standards, it's not going to stay like this. And so, I like the week of preparation and that's just how we got to go get it done."

On if he's seen what he's been waiting for from defense:

"I was pleased with for the most part in the run game. I thought this has been a team that's been able to get down the edge. That's been one of the things that we haven't done as well, so I wanted to make sure we could do that. So, that part felt good. It was good to get the takeaway from [LB Bobby] Wagz [Wagner]. I thought that was one to create momentum and go and we'll need to continue to work that part. But yeah, there was progress that I think that's made certainly in the run game and we got plenty of room to grow into that. But having [S] Will Harris back, that was a big deal for us. This guy's tough. He's a great communicator. So, I really felt the energy and the toughness of the guys."

On if he could feel the impact on offense:

"I could. And just the playmaking ability I think that's really what it comes down to. Like you need to, you know, here's a guy in those spaces that catches the ones to go inside. I thought the run and the run action was going to be a big part of this game. Denver's got a fantastic D, guys at all levels, so there we knew there'd be some runs that would be one zero, could you get, you know, a 10 and eight, but also hopefully that you'd have some run actions off of that, you know, on the early downs because you didn't want to get back into a drop back game against them. Like, that's how they want to play, and these guys can go eat. And so, we didn't want to play that way. So thought the screen game, the runs, the run action, and I like how that feels and looks anyway with where we're at."

On WR Treyton Burks:

"Yeah his hunger index is high. Like this a guy that is wanting to prove it, and there's always a space for that type of competitor here. Coming in, man, like this was a fresh space. And to see him express how important it is, how hard he wants to go compete, like it's been cool to see. Everybody's got a journey, you know, and sometimes they start one way and doesn't have to stay that way. And coming here I felt nothing but intensity from him to go. And then even with his finger, 'Okay, is it going to be out longer? Nope'. And so, if you saw the stitches when you come out, I think there's no way this guy's playing next week [laughs], and then all of a sudden he's got a big splint on it. 'Yeah, I'm good, I'm playing.' And so, I like that because it shows this is important, man. Like he wants to be able to do that and I just think there's always a space for that type of competitor here. I feel that from him. And I didn't honestly get a chance to see the catch yet, but he made one in practice the other day and he like came out of the ground to go catch it. He must have been, you know, three feet in the air on a two-minute drill against the defense so I'm not surprised. But I feel his size and his length, this is a big, strong competitor when you're standing next to him, you can feel, man, this is a big dude."

On Quarterbacks Coach Tavita Pritchard becoming Stanford's Head Coach:

"Yeah, for sure. Tavita has been a great teammate for us, and I say that in the highest regard. That's one of the highest compliments that you can give a ball player or a coach, what they mean to the staff. And the development for him. So, for him being at Stanford for so long, as a ball player there, a GA, a coach, so pretty cool opportunity for him that he's connected with [Stanford General Manager] Andrew [Luck], so we're all pumped for him. It's a fantastic opportunity for him. So, we're bummed personally, but yeah, we're very excited. I just think they got great things ahead there."

On the defensive performance:

"Yeah, I was more pleased with the run game. I felt that was better. The edges were better than what I felt leaving from Miami into this. We're still going to keep working hard at pass rush and how do we find ways to do that? The breaks, the tackling, the physicality, I saw all of that. It was good to have [DT] Daron [Payne] back as well inside. But yeah, we're making strides. We got to keep improving."

On the offensive performance:

"Yeah, I thought, things that we didn't love, obviously just those are matchups, man, that you don't want to get into where it's all drop back stuff. I thought the run game, we'd have to keep digging, keep battling for it. When it gets down even close in the red zone, some zeros to go, those are hard to go against. But I like that, stay with it, stay with it because then the run actions can come off of that. But I really thought having [WR] Terry [McLaurin] back, that was a big help with it. Zach made

some big ones. Marcus, honestly, I thought he had a warrior performance of long ones to overcome, but we still got work to do, man. We tried to use cadence; we still have some issues onto that where we got to get rid of the penalty. So, there's plenty for us to dig in on and the margins are like this, and so detail it out, detail it out. But there's another step that we're going to take and hope to see that improvement this week.”

On how much diligence the team did on Burks before signing him:

“Yeah, [General Manager] Adam [Peters], I got to tip the hat to him. He was the one, and even for him coming off an injury, we know he wasn't there yet, but we said, we're not going to miss a step with you, man. We're going to develop you. And then for him, you see him in there at 6:00 a.m. wanting to learn it and go. So, the thing I just noticed about this is a guy, he wanted to prove it. He wanted to show it. And I thought, man, we're going to give him the space to go do that. Even though he wasn't all the way healthy yet, he'd been injured and so for us to just stay in, develop him. I think there's a lot there and I'm really excited he's here. I just visited with him earlier tonight before I came in, just he's got gratitude for being here, but he's also to me, it's back to him. It's like, no, no, I've got gratitude for the way you're working and the way you're putting out effort and there's going to be a big plan for you here.”

On seeing players who are getting opportunities make strides:

“Yeah, I think that's a combination. Maybe some weren't just due to opportunity and injury and such. But we had talked about the balance of winning now and developing and winning now. And I think probably Trey is a great example of that where there's both, and you can do both. And it doesn't mean it's the whole roster. But when a person's going for it, you have to recognize it and see that. It's not forcing it when somebody's putting in that kind of work.”

On if the offensive performance is what he expected from the beginning of the season:

“Yeah, just, the playmaking ability. I think that's the thing, that's okay, yeah, this is a play to go make. This is the one to go. And so, I felt that from the guys. And then, like I said, I tip my hat to Denver and to [Denver Broncos Defensive Coordinator] Vance [Joseph] and their defense. I thought this is a nice unit at playmakers, at corner and at safety and at linebacker and rushers. But it does, yeah, I do feel that way. I feel, alright, let's go fight. And I like that feeling too and hopefully there's some more guys on the way.”

QB Marcus Mariota

On WR Terry McLaurin's touchdown and the 2-point conversion:

“First of all, our guys just competed. That's why I love this locker room. I'd go out there with those guys any day of the week. (We) made big plays at the end, and the DC [Defensive Coordinator Vance Joseph] was doing a good job mixing up zero, showing zero and dropping out. I felt like on the test drive with [WR] Terry [McLaurin], they were gonna drop out and I could try to hit it before the plug defender inside. Terry did a good job of winning at the line of scrimmage. And then the 2-point (conversion), you know he brought zero. I knew I had to try and get some depth and give our guy a chance. He made a play on it, and that's just the way to go.”

On coming so close to a win after weeks of struggling to get there:

“I loved it. I don't think there was any doubt in our minds across the board. I appreciate the confidence from Q [Head Coach Dan Quinn]. It was just unfortunate we weren't able to convert.”

On having WR Terry McLaurin back in the game:

"That was great. You can see it out there. He's a special player the more that we can get him to rock. He's gonna make plays for us, and he made some big third down catches. He made an unbelievable catch to start the overtime to get us going. I mean, (he's) an unbelievable player and we're fortunate to have him."

On the interception he threw:

"I tried to throw the ball away and got hit. They covered it well, and sometimes, that's the way it goes. It was unfortunate I was trying to get it out of bounds, over our guys' heads. Intentional grounding seems to be kind of the cause here, so I was trying not to get another one and played it too close to the edge and didn't get enough on it."

On the route to the corner of the endzone catch by WR Treyton Burks:

"One on one, really, to be completely honest with you. He's shown up in practice doing stuff like that and wanted to give our guy an opportunity and he made an unbelievable play."

On the overall improvement of the team:

"We're going in the right direction. It's not exactly where we wanna be, but I think putting together a great week of practice, I think we just continue to stack these. Regardless of what it looks like for us, it's all about the process and the journey. The more that we can find ways to improve week to week, I think that sets a solid foundation for what's to come."

WR Terry McLaurin

On the emotions after the game:

"Yeah, it hurts, you know? I mean, I'm proud of the way we just played for four quarters, really. And we just fell short. So, you don't get any credit for almost. But the way we came up with the bye week, we had a great week of practice. Showed a lot of resilience. We just got to find a way to finish going forward."

On what it says about the team's fight:

"I mean, that's what you expect. I think as men in the locker room, we have a lot of pride in what we do. And in the face of adversity, when things don't go your way, it's a testament to who you are, how you still show up to work. And I know we have a group that's going to continue to show up to work each and every day, have fun, and find a way to get a win. That's what it's all about. So no matter what the record is, we're going to come back, try to be better next week, and stay resilient. Because it's not just football, it's life. Things are not gonna go your way. It's not gonna go out of your plan. Are you gonna just sit down and feel sorry for yourself? Or are you gonna put your head down and continue eventually that rock will crack when you put an effort out there like that, and weeks of practice. So we just got to find a way to finish it so we come out on the other side."

On his thoughts on the final drive:

"Yeah, that was just a man-combination that we feel comfortable with. I think [WR] Deebo [Samuel Sr.] did a great job just setting the run for me, and [QB] Marcus [Mariota] put it low in a way. So just in case, the DB [Bronco's Defensive Back] was on my back, then I can make a play. But, that's a concept that we've ran time and time again. And so, I knew they played man down there, and I was going to get an opportunity. So, shout out to Deebo for just doing his job and getting a great rub, and Marcus putting the ball."

On what he saw during the two-point conversion:

"Honestly, I was trying to get open. To be completely honest, when I heard the cheering, I thought we won, and I looked back, and they were running on the field. So that was crazy emotions. But, just on that play, I was just trying to create a rub for the guy we're trying to get the ball to. But even then, I was trying to be physical, just in case the rub doesn't get done, that I have to be a viable option to get the ball thrown to. So, we knew we were gonna go for the win, and you know we don't second-guess that at all."

On whether the performance reflected your identity as a team:

"Yeah, most definitely, I think that's who [Head Coach] DQ [Dan Quinn] is, and I think that's who he believes our group to be. And I think we earned the right to go out there and try to win that game. You know what I mean? Nobody wants to even a tie, and two minutes left, you don't want to give them a chance to come back and try to win the game. So we don't regret that decision at all. It just has to come with better execution, and you got to give them credit, because they need to play."

On how it feels to be back:

"Yeah, I'm just extremely grateful to be back out here with my teammates. I've been really supported by the group of guys in this locker room, my family, my friends, my faith has really grown during this time, and just learning to find joy and gratitude in tough circumstances. And that's just who God's called me to be and who I am. So I'm just going to continue to allow his light to shine through me and try to be a leader in this locker room and make plays on the ball comes to me. So I've just been blessed to be able to live my dream and play at a very high level for a while. And I have confidence, no matter how much time I may miss, that I'll come out and try to give us a chance to win the game. But I just give the glory to God, because it was definitely a long journey. And some ups and downs, and coming into this game. There was a rep count, but in my mind, I knew the game was close. I'm gonna spill it for my teammates. I mean, screw the rep count. So just to have the joy of the locker room guys supporting me, being out there is something I don't take for granted. So I'm just extremely grateful to be back playing the game that I love with my teammates, and just thank God that I found out this healthy and I want to continue to build more."

TE Zach Ertz

On how this loss feels:

"Tough. There you have the moral victory, I guess, if you want to call it that. We competed against a really good team, but my soul hurts. I think about those two plays that I should have made, lose the game, just tough."

On what it meant for WR Terry McLaurin to be back:

"You can just see the type of attention he gets, and how much more space there is in the middle of the field with a guy like [WR] Terry [McLaurin] out there. And then just his playmaking ability. It

doesn't matter who's guarding him, he makes plays. And so, I love that we have him back out there. His game speaks for itself."

On his thoughts on the offense today:

"Yeah, just efficient. First, second down, efficiency, and getting a lot of third and really longs. Terry and [QB] Marcus [Mariota] made a great play to kind of get some fourth downs, or fourth and manageable. So, just an efficient day against a really good defense. But at the end of the day, we lost the game, and that's all I can think about."

On the emotions after getting the touchdown but not the two-point conversion:

"As you would expect, you can imagine, losing a game on the last play of the game, there is probably no worse way to lose a game."

On if they can build off this performance in a positive way:

"I'm sure there are positives to take from it. After watching the film, I can give you what those exactly are. But like I said, right now, I'm just hurting."

CB Mike Sainristil

On the team's fight coming off the bye:

"I mean, that's just who we are. That's who we always say we're going to be. We're competitors. Every day in the offseason, [Head] Coach Q [Dan Quinn] always talks about competition, competition, competition. So it don't matter. Record don't matter. None of that stuff matters. Like we are who we are. We're going to go out there and compete every snap, until the very last whistle. That's just who we pride ourselves on being."

On his thoughts on the defense's performance tonight:

"We played well as a unit. We communicated. I think, like I said, every time that question gets asked is, we'll play our best ball when we're all on the same page. And I feel like we were able to do that today, we got a turnover when it mattered. So I think just when we're all on the same page, when we prepare how we are supposed to prepare, we go out there and perform how we are supposed to perform."

On if it's been different since Head Coach Dan Quinn took over as Defensive Coordinator:

"I think it's just on the players to make sure that it doesn't matter what's being called, who's calling it, as long as we're out there making sure we're executing what's being called. We're communicating within the calls, making sure we're checking, making the right checks, we're doing the right reads. That's what goes into playing good defense. It's not about who's calling the plays. That stuff don't matter, just about the players making sure that when we get those calls, we execute them at a high level."

On whether the team is playing closer to its true level:

"I say it's just us getting back on the same page. I think we re-found our connection as a team in Spain. Where every unit is feeding off of each other, based off the plays that's being made out there. And then we had the bye week to get guys back. So being able to come out here with a much healthier team, it played a little bit of a factor for us. But I think again, it just starts with us having a connection as teammates, and I think we found that again. And so that's something for us to continue to build off of the rest of the season."