



## **Head Coach Dan Quinn**

### **Opening Statement:**

“First thing I thought, you know, don't like it as the start, we've continued that slow start and we've become way too accustomed of digging ourselves in a hole too early. Turnovers – one late, all three phases dug the hole and all three phases helped get out, but we didn't create enough takeaways to finish minus three. You really don't deserve to win many games when you're in that space. So, had chances for interceptions, had chances to get some, did not create any. Honestly, just didn't perform well enough. Run game on both sides. So, a lot that needs our attention and get right back to it as we get going right against a divisional opponent next week. But this one stings and you have a chance even to dig yourself out and go battle for it and not get that job done. But like I said, you have to create [turnovers] also to finish in the plus.”

### **On what he tells QB Jayden Daniels after a game like this and on the fumble at the end:**

“Yeah, honestly, it wasn't just that play, like there's plenty in there to go and you know, we just didn't regard it like we can. And so that's the lesson and it stings and we've got to grow from them, man. Like, we just have to make sure we're taking our spaces to go. Definitely a play he'd want back. Man, he is an incredible player who makes plays and so it sucks, but like in his space, he's going to make way more than he isn't. But, tonight that one, that one stings.”

### **On if it was a bad exchange between Daniels and RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt:**

“Think, when I go back to watching [the tape], I'll have a better answer for you tomorrow. I think it was Jayden on the keep, so that's what he told me coming off, that's like him to take responsibility even if it wasn't. So, I'll have a better answer [tomorrow], but that's what my viewpoint was. I haven't seen it yet [on tape], but that was my viewpoint of it.”

### **On the tackling issues:**

“Yeah and going in, I thought, could we play better on third down and have some space? I thought we did that one, but just in the run game it wasn't strong enough in my opinion and on the long one, obviously missed a tackle on the blitz, so that one stings. But again, I just didn't think we played well enough in any of the phases. Dug ourselves out of a hole, dug ourselves into it first, but we got a lot to clean up. Give them credit too. I thought they came in and made the plays, but you don't usually even have a chance to win at some of those at minus three [in turnovers].”

### **On S Quan Martin's missed tackle against RB D'Andre Swift:**

“Yeah, he had a man-to-man blitz, and so, we know [Swift] is elusive, a good player and so use the sideline to try to get it. And so yeah, it's an unfortunate one. [Martin] is somebody that we'd absolutely count on in that spot and also give credit to Swift, but yeah, just one-on-one matchup and you know, one that we would count on him plenty of times to do that.”

### **On defensive lapses resulting in explosive plays:**

“I can, specifically on that one, it was a blitz, and so he had a man-to-man but that was the negative of it, I guess, when you're all risk on it, you know. But we also expect him to make that too. Like Quan's an excellent player and he wants that one back, there's no doubt.”

**On the level of concern for defense against big plays:**

“Yeah, I just want it to be more physical, honestly. Tonight, you know, in the run game, I didn't love how that looked. I thought we had a chance to get up on top, you know, for an interception. But, the run game wasn't up to the standard of the team, in my opinion.”

**On if he thought the team played more physical:**

“Yeah, I'd have to look at it and give you an answer on that tomorrow. I just look down overall to extend some drive to go, that's a big deal to me.”

**On starting slow at home and on how he can address that moving forward:**

“Yeah, it was on the road, and we did continue with that when I talked about it previously going into it. On the field goals, that's not the worst thing, but to have a turnover and get knocked out that way, I think that caused us to give up some points. So, quite honestly, I think just the ball and the turnover margin, that's a big deal for us. We've got to create them to get into the plus and so for us to, two of them in the first half and one there at the end, that's not the recipe we're going to want.”

**On not getting out in front to start the season and being at a middling 3-3:**

“Yeah, I don't think that far down the line, honestly. Just want to play better and we'll continue to dig in to do that. And so, there's definitely things that I'm going to like about it. Continue to see [WR] Luke [McCaffrey] on kickoff return. There's spaces to go. So, for me it's about just us getting better and we'll dig in hard as hell to do that. We've got lots of spaces to do it, but I just don't think too far down the line. Just kind of like right into the space we're in right now.”

**On the offensive rushing attack and on the run defense:**

“Yeah, I'll have a better answer for that tomorrow when we go through it. Specifically, to why, we didn't get the big explosive runs that we normally get. Obviously, when you turn it over, you don't get as many cracks at it either, but I'll have a better answer as I go through it. Just felt like, I thought we'd have some more shots to have some movement in the run game.”

**On his message to Croskey-Merritt after fumbles in consecutive games:**

“[Don't have to worry about] the confidence. Most of the time I just want to get, what was the cause, what's the lesson that you learned? Are you fighting for extra? Was it high and tight? If somebody makes a fantastic play on you, I'll give them credit but if there's a space where it wasn't secure enough that he clamps it into the traffic, those are the lessons that we've got to get right. He's a hell of a competitor. He takes it hard. So, it's not the confidence side. I want to make sure if there's a technique error that we can see it. It didn't feel like there was a huge punch that took place, but I'll dig in for sure and find it.”

**On the lack of execution in winning time moments:**

“Yeah, I was surprised. It's an area that we obviously spend a lot of time on, a lot of space, and we'll continue to do that. But for us to come out the other end of it, just not getting and creating takeaways. I think, honestly, that's a big part of it too, man. The end, we don't like it, but we've got to go get the stops to go make that happen and we didn't. But I'll give credit to Chicago, they outperformed us tonight and that stinks.”

## **QB Jayden Daniels**

### **On the turnover during the fourth quarter:**

"I just lost the ball, completely my fault. I didn't give [RB] Bill [Croskey-Merritt] a chance, so it was my fault."

### **On feelings after having multiple turnovers in the game:**

"You win or lose, obviously as a competitor you hate losing. We have a short week, so you dwell on this for however long and then we're onto Dallas."

### **On the interception in the first half:**

"Being aggressive. Just going through my keys, but like I said, I didn't play how I should've, how I hold myself and how I should play. I'll be better."

### **On how to move forward and address the plays that aren't up to standard:**

"Just trusting myself. I don't even want to say trusting myself; just trusting the plays and the keys, my keys, and being smart with the football. There's a time and a place for everything to be aggressive. Early on, we were driving and got points on the board. I don't need to make a throw like that even though I know I can make a throw like that. You just look back on it, you learn from it. That's kind of what this game is. If you win or you lose, you can always learn from stuff and you go out and be better. I'm not a perfect player because there's no perfect player on this field or this league."

### **On if the weather and rain impacted the hand off that led to a fumble recovery by Chicago in the fourth quarter:**

"I'm not going to sit up here and blame it on the elements. At the end of the day, I have to focus. I get paid to go out there and focus on playing the play out. I had a lack of focus right there and it cost us the game."

### **On other plays in the game that he felt weren't up to their standards:**

"You're not gonna win many football games in this league if you're losing the turnover margin, so shout out to the Bears and shout out to the defense. They did their job. They got the ball back for the offense and got extra possessions. You know, you're not gonna win games like that."

### **On whether slow offensive starts are becoming an issue this season for the team:**

"We just gotta execute better. When the play call comes in, we gotta execute. It starts with me. It starts with all 11 of us on the field at the time. We gotta execute better."

### **On the Bears defensive showing him anything unexpected:**

"No, they just turned the ball over. They took the ball I should say, and you don't win football games like that. You go out there, and everything I anticipate on film, they showed and they just took the ball away more than we did."

### **On his thoughts on the offensive line performance:**

"I feel like they played well. Gave me time to go out there and make throws and receivers to make plays. Unfortunately, at the end of the day, I had a lack of focus that cost us the game."

**On the team's performance this season so far compared to last season:**

"I mean, it's football. At the end of the day, you're gonna win some games and you're gonna lose some games. You don't want to always bank on the time where it's a close game and some people may say it's luck, so you wanna go out there and play clean football, play as clean as possible. We did not do that tonight."

**LB Bobby Wagner**

**On the overall execution tonight:**

"Yeah, it's tough to win a game when you have that many turnovers. As a defense, we got to do our part in creating turnovers. We could have done that better; we could have done a better job helping the offense out. We just got to learn from them."

**On learning from these games and what to take away:**

"Yeah, there's always, you know, whether you have a great record or whether you're not where you want to be, there's always something to clean up, depending on your mindset. So, you know, I think it's up to us to clean it up. We have a lot of football ahead of us. We got a lot of great opponents ahead of us. We got to do that and get the stuff right, and we will."

**On a short week heading into Dallas:**

"A short week helps when you lose. You know, you get to get back to the drawing board, you get back to the game faster. The game comes a little bit faster. You win, and you move on. So, that's what we gotta do. We gotta go back. We gotta see the mistakes we made. We got to figure out how to get better. We got to figure out how to create turnovers. And, you know, we'll get it figured out."

**On what Chicago did on their last drive:**

"I'm not sure, I haven't seen the film. Obviously, they did a good job running the ball. We didn't do a good job stopping them."

**RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt**

**On the final exchange between him and QB Jayden Daniels:**

"We just have to be better at what we do. We'll come back next week and be ready to play."

**On his confidence after recent fumbles:**

"Oh, I still got a lot of confidence in myself. I just got to be better at my job, and that'll get fixed, for sure."

**On what Head Coach Dan Quinn told the team:**

"I mean, it stinks. I mean, like, we know it do. We got a short week, turnaround and get ready for the Cowboys."

**On how hard it is to bounce back from a loss like this:**

"I mean, we just gotta, just got to get back to work. Yeah. Just get back to work, that's it."

**On if fixing the little things will get them over the hump:**

"Yeah, for sure. I know for myself, I got to be detailed in the small fundamentals and just get better."

**On what needs to change to jump start the run game and get them back to how things were:**

"We just gonna come back and do the same thing. I mean, that's it."

**On what challenges the Bears presented or if it were the little mistakes that were made:**

"Little mistakes on my end. We just gotta get better from the mistakes. Go watch film and correct."

**On whether it's comforting to know the mistakes are fixable:**

"Yes, sir. That's why we got to practice and go back to work on the things that we need to work on to get ready next week."

**On the benefit of a short week:**

"Yeah, for sure. Happy it's a short week so we can get back out there and play."

## **WR Luke McCaffrey**

**On turning the ball over and the overall sense of disappointment:**

"Yeah, we will go back tomorrow and watch it. Obviously, you want to do everything you can to help fix what you did wrong and help our team win."

**On Head Coach Dan Quinn's reaction after the game:**

"It's a heartbreaker, but it's a quick turnaround. We've got a short week because we played on Monday and have to get ready for a division opponent next week."

**On a slower start by the offense:**

"I'm not sure. I think I'll have to watch the tape for this one. I think it's probably something different. A lot of times you can find paddings, but it's more specific stuff, as you see, but hopefully that's something to be cleaned up."

**On the confidence of the sidelines when down in points:**

"Yeah, we have a lot of warriors, a lot of brotherhood, and the combination of those two helps you have that attitude and never wavering. Have the attitude of knowing what the whole game is, and I think, if anything, at least we've shown that resilience."

**On setting up his touchdown:**

"That's probably a question for [Offensive Coordinator Kliff Kingsbury]. I'm doing my job, but I was happy that we called it. We'd had that one in the bag for a couple of weeks, so it was nice."

**On the lack of involvement in the offense except for his touchdown pass:**

"No, whatever it takes to win. It's a team game more than anything else, any other sport, more than anything. That's the biggest thing that it comes down to, is getting the whole unit together, using that brotherhood, using the warrior mentality as a whole."

**On the success of the special teams:**

“I don’t know if that’s anything new. I think last year we had a great special teams, too. I mean credit to [Special Teams Coordinator Larry Izzo]. We brought in a lot of really good players, Nick Bellore being one, you got Jeremy Reaves as another one, and on top of that, everybody buys into it. I think that says a lot, having Quan Martin, having Mikey [Sainristil] out there on kickoff is probably not normal for most teams to have your starters out there, so that’s just something you take pride in. That starts with [Head Coach Dan Quinn], and it goes to [Special Teams Coordinator Larry Izzo] and takes the mentality of the players.”

## **DT Daron Payne**

### **On his thoughts on the game overall:**

“When we were going into the game, it was going to be whoever won the turnover [battle]. On defense, we gotta find a way to hunt the ball better, get a few on third down, and just get the ball back to our offense.”

### **On the defensive performance:**

“Like I said, we gotta cut the field on third down and hunt the ball to try and win the turnover battle so we can win more games.”

### **On any strategy the defense had for Chicago Bears QB Caleb Williams:**

“Regular game plan type stuff. I don’t want to say he scrambled a whole bunch, cause he wasn’t scrambling, but it’s more so technique things and game plan things that we got to clean up.”

### **On if they did a good job controlling the line of scrimmage:**

“When they were tossing the ball into the edges, we just got to get the ball back inside.”

### **On if the short week will help prepare for the next game:**

“So this is the NFL man. There will be more games. We gotta get this nasty taste out of our mouths, go to practice, and get ready for Dallas.”

### **On how he executed blocking the field goal:**

“Just coming up low and hard and getting our hands up.”