



WAS Postgame (at Giants) Transcript: Head Coach Dan Quinn

December 14, 2025

Opening Comments: During the week we talked a lot about intensity and urgency, and I definitely saw that. We also talked about the ball, and I did not see that, the importance of that. Four fumbles, two in the fourth quarter. I'm fortunate to be standing here saying we got the win after that. Also, saying how good it felt in the locker room. I told the guys, this has been hard going through this process together, take a few extra moments today. There's nothing like the feeling of a winning locker room. We're in this division tournament, as we're battling through our space there's plenty of stuff for us to correct and pick at, but I thought you've been hearing it enough inside the building, outside the building, I wanted to start off maybe by saying what's right instead of what's wrong. Complementary football was there today and I think that it expressed itself the most at the end of the first half. Punt returns, interceptions, and points and that's leaning in on all three phases. I was pleased to see the run game on offense. Seeing Terry (McLaurin) make a big play, the Mikey (Sainristil) interception, Jaylin (Lane) on the punt return. One guy I thought that stepped up for us also was Antonio (Hamilton) had a couple big stops for him. He had an incredible week. His wife graduated from South Carolina State on Thursday, they won a bowl game Saturday, and he made a bunch of plays today. I had a sense he'd be ready; he's one of those players that has the competitive nature to him in that spot. More than anything, just, you know, please take a few minutes extra today in that locker room. I told them we're in a division tournament of four games and today was one of those March Madness survive and advance. It was a lot to see the complementary football. Especially at the end of the first half, that was a big deal (inaudible).

Q: We saw (running back Jacory Croskey-Merritt) Bill get probably his most carries in a couple months, today. How did you see him stay engaged in a time where he wasn't starting anymore?

QUINN: Yeah, talk about a room that we like, and we didn't know where it would go with (running back) Chris (Rodriguez Jr.) towards the end of the week. He practiced Friday, it just wasn't all the way there, so, (running back) Jeremy (McNichols) going to get his space to go and as we got to it, that's like him, to go battle for it. Even in the midst of losing one and going to fight for it again. I was actually too pleased to see the touchdown he had a big block, zero hits and some of the runs, and so for him to step in and make the block. All these things are confidence and momentum for him. That's an important part of his

development, so, when you nail those that's a big deal and he just needs more of it, we're excited about where he's headed. He has a very distinct running style, especially in-between the tackles. I feel like that's where, although he's not the biggest guy that you see, he does run downhill.

Q: It looked like you guys had the game, but then of course a couple fumbles, they score. Did it feel like a, 'Here we go again,' or how did you sense the group at that point?

QUINN: I pushed those thoughts aside to say this is your chance, this is your stop. It was great to see a couple fourth down stops by the defense. One down on the goal line and another there. Actually, scored on one, I thought that was a good throw and play. I thought it was worth taking a shot. It matters to be in these fights, in these moments to go make a stop. There's nothing like these feelings of winning time games and see us nail some of those, that's important for us. We were gonna get in the left-hand column by any means necessary it felt like, and however long that took.

Q: What does it mean to see a guy like (cornerback) Antonio Hamilton Sr. get a good shot? He seemed to have a pretty good game.

QUINN: Yeah, Antonio had, I was telling the guys earlier, like an incredible week. His wife graduated from South Carolina State Thursday. He was at the graduation. He came back Thursday night, late and called me at about 10 o'clock – 'I don't know that I can get out, the weather.' Got on a flight, got back, went to it, and South Carolina State won Saturday in the Celebration Bowl. He's an excellent competitor. I feel like that's at the top of the list. From the time that he got here, even in the preseason, he was showing like he was down for it. We started the season with him on the practice squad, but there were plays on special teams that, I think it was against the Ravens, I can't remember if it would have been before then, but I pointed out in the team meeting, this guy wants to be here. And we started with him on the practice squad, and you know, kind of part of our special teams due to the injuries, at corner, obviously, that would change some things where it would go with (cornerback) Jonathan (Jones), so he was somebody that no one would – like he played R5 last week, but if we asked him to play outside at corner he's going to take care of that too. I listed him in the run game with Terry, and Mikey, and Jaylin, and also Antonio Hamilton – I thought he stepped up for the team in a significant way.

Q: Terry and Marcus (Mariota) talked about what it's like playing for you, and how you embolden some of your coaches and you challenge them as players. What does it feel like for you to see them come in a game like this where the outside world can say it's not a lot to play for, but they still battled and came out with a win?

QUINN: After the game, I had told them, this was on the heart, this is as challenged as we've been in a long time, and long as I can remember. If you're about to do something really hard, these are the type of guys I'd want to take to do it with. It sucks that we're going through that, but the last two months have been extremely challenging. Start of the season, make it 3-2, kind of think about this game, and to drop eight, couple gut punches. It's hard, man. You want guys having your back in the circle there, like I'm down for it. I saw that on practice on Wednesday and Thursday, it's 27 degrees with the wind chill and we're playing December football, we're going out and adding and going and there wasn't one pushback. And so I think because of reasons like that, they make a winning locker room more meaningful. I'm happy for them, they needed that space to have that enjoyment together. I even told them man, take a few extra minutes today. Nothing like a winning locker room.

Q: I know the game can dictate whether you can stick with the run or not. But when you can stick with the run like you did today, what does that do for this team?

QUINN: It opens up some play action, for sure. It felt like we had more time of possession than we did in plays, so I asked Sean and we had less than them, and so just by having the ability to run it and be physical, I thought it was good even though maybe early on, they stuffed us on some runs. And you can get away from that if you aren't careful. Stay in it, made a good play, they get a stop, doesn't mean that's how the game's gonna go, just how the play was. So I think it's important. And some big first downs, working some of those. I think Jeremy had another significant first down, maybe not the pass, but inside the tackles, I was impressed today. I thought Bill, downhill, aggressive. Even though he's not the biggest guy, I think the downhill runs, that helped a lot.

Q: Nobody will talk much about it, but how important were those two fumble recoveries by Josh (Conerly Jr.) in the first half?

QUINN: I agree. I felt like, how the hell is the offensive tackle recovering two fumbles? And, because he was disappointed with penalties, man, they kicked our ass today. But to see the fumble recoveries, those are big plays. And I asked, 'did you get it' and you could say his face was down, and the penalty, like, 'come on, that's a big play, let's get back to it.' It's been cool to see the challenge for him, this season, the growth, and there's big things ahead for him. It was also good to see Coleman step in, and we got banged up today, first a shoulder then an oblique. Brandon's (Coleman) another one, he's in the lineup, Chris Paul came in and Chris Paul spread it, he did an excellent job. It wasn't just a plug in play. Chris earned that space to stay in there, so it was nice to see him come back here, I don't know where Laremy is at in terms of injury status. To see him go and battle, that made me happy.

Q: You take anything extra away from the game when you see the young guys impact the game in all three phases? The punt return, the pick, you have Bill on offense, just kind of the group of young guys kind of stepping up and playing a little bit more.

QUINN: They need it. And you didn't know where it would go, with the punter change, we have a chance at it, and so you have a chance at a big return. But that was a function of the entire punt return group, but more than anything it's like we see the win in the locker room because that part is probably the best part of the game. The locker room after the win, you know we haven't had a lot of that. You never want to take that for granted. I even said it tonight, take a few extra minutes. It's worth it, guys have off tomorrow with the early week, I want them to enjoy it, and then we're back to it Tuesday. But there's a lot of guys I'm excited about. I'm excited about the linebackers, who are young. I'm excited to see the running backs and other spots, but more than anything, complementary football. You see that today, at the end of the half, that was significant. I thought that was the game, like you got to be sooner there with the ball. Four fumbles to win the game, holy (expletive) guys. I could be standing here talking about the ball, what was disappointing about that and not, and so you've got to get that part of our football. But man, was I pleased to see some big plays and big moments I've referred to, on the Terry catch and a touchdown, the Mikey interception, the fourth down stops. Those are game changers. We made it harder than it had to be, that's for sure.

Q: A couple of injuries you have, Laremy and then Noah (Brown) among others go out. Any updates?

QUINN: Noah had a rib injury. I don't have all the updates, and Laremy came back from a shoulder and ended up having an oblique injury. So, I don't have a true update, just that they weren't able to return to their spot. Yankov also hurt his ankle, so I'll have a better update as we go, but I don't have any further updates. I haven't met with any of the medical guys just yet. But those three, and we'll have a better sense tomorrow, and hopefully Chris can come back too. He missed today, he was close but wasn't there to fully be himself. Definitely in this kind game, it's a Chris Rodriguez kind of game, and so we're going to make sure we do that all the time, and there's moments to make the best decisions for the team and for the player, like you've got to do that.

WAS Postgame (at Giants) Transcripts: QB Marcus Mariota

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Q: How does it feel to finally get back on a winning streak?

MARIOTA: Unbelievable. There's nothing like a winning locker room and our guys, all three phases, found a way to make big plays today and just a credit to those guys. Like we talked

about all week, it's never easy, at this point in time, with what's going on in our season. But those guys continue to fight, continue to battle and truly appreciate who this group is and we'll just keep finding ways to get better.

Q: After last week, how important was it to have a game to win.

MARIOTA: Yeah, just to put it into perspective, it's hard to go two months without winning a football game. And for our guys to be able to put that aside, fight all week and knowing it was going to be a division opponent on the road, games like this are never easy, weather was tough, windy, cold, snowy, so many reasons, so many things for our guys to not show up and play and our guys found a way today and just appreciate them for that.

Q: What do you think keeps the teams engaged?

MARIOTA: It starts up top. Q (Head Coach Dan Quinn) does a good job of making sure day to day, we're competing and when we have that type of atmosphere and that culture, you can't help but just kind of fall in line. You've got to give credit to Q. Like you said, I've been in places where this can go very ugly, very quickly and they keep finding a way, they keep our guys engaged and find ways to improve.

Q: How much did the last loss really sting and maybe play a role into getting this win?

MARIOTA: Yeah, I mean that one was definitely tough, and I think looking back on it, we could have all played a little better. But like I said, without being said, guys just found a way to grind it out. Nobody packed their bags, nobody was worried about what the outside noise was. We found a way just to get back to work and put three great practices together and continue just to build foundation for what's coming next.

Q: Can you walk us through two plays? One, the shot to (wide receiver) Terry (McLaurin) for the score and then the fumble.

MARIOTA: (Laughs) Oh man. Terry – unbelievable play, unbelievable call. We kind of had run a similar look the previous week and we felt we could maybe get a shot if we had a certain coverage and (Commanders Offensive Coordinator) Kliff (Kingsbury) called it at the perfect time. We figured they were going to try to double Terry and that route specifically is a great route for that. When he gets one-on-one with a safety like that, he's tough to cover and he made an unbelievable play. And then the fumble, yeah, I have to find ways to stop with these – I literally probably have one play a game where it's just like I need to take care of the football. It was a moment where I got off some pressure, I saw (wide receiver) Deebo (Samuel Sr.) in the flat, he was uncovered, try to reach to throw it and I don't know if his hand got it or something happened where it hit it. Those are things that I've just got to

continue to work on. I feel like that's stuff in my game that if I can limit those things, I can help this team win.

Q: Thoughts on Bill (running back Jacory Croskey-Merritt)? First game he's had the chance to be the lead back in a while.

MARIOTA: Unbelievable, unbelievable. We've talked about it all year. He's got a special talent and the way that we've been operating with running back by committee, each of those guys have found ways to make the most of their opportunity, whether it's C-Rod (running back Chris Rodriguez), JMac (running back Jeremy McNichols) or Bill. The more that we can spread it out with them, I think that creates versatility for us because all three of guys are great players.

Q: With no (tight end Zach) Ertz, how do you feel like that tight end room stepped up without him?

MARIOTA: Yeah, made some big plays. JB (tight end John Bates) had an awesome play action pass on first down, I think it was in the second quarter maybe. Huge play. And then, I mean, Benny (tight end Ben Sinnott) at the end, unbelievable play, they brought zero, he was one-on-one. Made a great route and made a huge play for us. What's crazy is our guys our kind of banged up and we had to try to figure out some things, again, credit to the coaching staff because it's tough when you have certain plays for a certain personnel groupings and then we have guys coming in and out of the lineup, it's things that they have to adjust to on the sideline and we've found ways to bring an extra tackle in and find ways to run the football. I've got to give a lot of credit to the staff because that's not easy to do.

Q: Speaking of injuries, (wide receiver) Noah Brown, went down again, the rib injury. Just seeing what he's going through.

MARIOTA: Tough. I feel for him. He's been battling all year. He's an unbelievable player and we were excited all week, he had such a great week of practice. Made a huge play on that third down to start the game off and it's just unfortunate. We'll be there for him as he continues to get back. Hopefully it's nothing too serious and he can come back for us.

Q: How nice was it to see (wide receiver) Jaylin (Lane) run down the field like that?

MARIOTA: Huge. Unbelievable play. He's been close a couple times throughout the year. Obviously, he had that one against the Raiders, but anytime you give him an opportunity with the ball in his hands, he's got a special talent and we're fortunate to have him.

Q: What's it say about this group, the season you've had and then today there was a couple times it looked like this was going to be flipped upside down, you kept responding?

MARIOTA: It's the guys in the locker room. It's the (linebacker) Bobby Wagners, it's the (outside linebacker) Von Millers, it's the (tackle) Laremy Tunsils. Those guys have played a lot of great football for a long time and they're prideful in that. When you have those type of guys in your locker room, showing what it's supposed to look like, especially to our young guys, regardless of what our record is, it's huge and it's important. And like I keep reiterating, our guys just kind of fall in line and they follow these guys and we're fortunate to have them.