



Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

"If there was a thought bubble over my head when we came out, it would be ok, there it is. The energy, the intensity. It was definitely good to see that. There would probably be some other stuff that you wouldn't have wanted to see in that thought bubble. At the half, giving up some scores, into those spaces. A few of the things I liked, I was excited to see [WR] Deebo [Samuel] run. Honestly, I've been on the other side of that. I know what that movie looks like, so that was cool to see. It's all [TE] John Bates again, in the run game, I felt all the presence with him. I felt the D-line active early. What I told the team is penalties they cost us. We had a fourth down penalty. Those were the ones I thought, man, like that's our winning time. We've got to nail those. And then coming out for the second half, I like some of the intensity of the run game. You know, earlier was better than late. More than our last outing. Tends to be better, tackling better, but we have much to clean up to get to the standards that we want to play on. So, all that said, glad to get rocking with you.

On the decision to pull [QB] Jayden [Daniels]:

"Yeah, when you go through it, he gets more than 50 percent you know of everything you know, going into it. So, we're still, you know, obviously digging in it at the third quarterback spot with [QB] Josh [Johnson] and [QB] Sam [Hartman]. So, I knew I wanted reps for them, and if we could get quarters to do it, I was going into it with Jayden, you know, one or two series. And so, I thought that would that was good for me."

On [RB] Brian Robinson Jr. situation:

"[General Manager] Adam [Peters] and I had met with [RB] Brian [Robinson Jr.] yesterday and told him that we would hold him out of the game tonight. There's just a lot of moving parts this time of year. Those things take place. And so I just wanted to make sure that's my responsibility to let the team know whenever I can so they're not hearing any information from anywhere else. So that was all more of the standard operating procedure for me. But, if I have a chance when things come up, especially during this time of year where I can bring them together and discuss things, I want them to hear those things from me first."

On [CB] Trey Amos Hamstring:

"Yes, so we held [CB] Trey [Amos]. He had some tightness in his hamstring in practice on Saturday. So, we warmed him up good today to see if he could really open up and go. And in his mind he was ready and just still felt it a little bit so we thought this is one of those times to be cautious, and wait it out. I think regular season he would've probably been fighting us for it. So, that was the decision. We tried to see where it would take us. That's what it was"

On [QB] Jayden Daniels Touchdown and if he talked to him after about sliding:

"Yeah, you think those conversations haven't already been told? It's part of his game, and it is what makes him a special player. When the second play begins, you know, there's just an unusual play making ability that takes place. Sometimes it's with his legs, other times it's with his arm. But it is part of who he is. But, it is one of the things we worked on to say, when you take your shots and when you go. There'll be more of that. You know, at times, sometimes I'll say less of that. But you know, for most part today, I'm pleased with the preparation in the game"

On RB Austin Ekeler and a veteran situation:

"Yeah, really him and [Running Back Jeremy McNichols] Jay Mack. We weren't going to give that as much. We really wanted to feature in the running game today, [RB] Chris Rodriguez Jr. and [RB] Bill [Jacory Croskey-Merritt]. We went into that. Some games, you know, some games, you have more. We wanted to look at more. We did a little bit of that linebacker, you know, with [LB] Kaine [Medrano] and [LB] Ale [Kaho] and [LB] Duke [Riley]. That was all by design. And then as we get into next week, you know, they'll a couple guys in different spots probably saw [WR] Jaylin Lane outside. And that's by design too, to say, okay, a good feel for what you're doing in the slot. But you know him and [WR] Luke [McCaffrey], what does outside look like? Sometimes, it's not like taking a shot, but it's putting guys in different roles and saying, 'Okay, what would that look like?'. I'd much prefer to do those now and find that out. And then, okay, we can change. It's all over that with some of the safeties that played down by the line of scrimmage. [S] Jeremy Reaves has been involved that he's had just a fantastic camp. Like he is, like commander through and through as a standard. But his play, his speed, is elevated, and so he's earned, you know, more ops for himself"

On Rodriguez and [RB] Bill [Jacory Croskey-Merritt]:

"Yeah, I thought early, what I liked was decisiveness. I thought, you know, certainly saw some of the big plays. And we're still, you know, learning Bill in some ways. Not every run for every back is quite the same. Fortunately for us, with [Running Backs Coach Anthony [Lynn] here, you know, we've got a real veteran in the running back room. That's a big part of that. We've got a good sense for where [RB] Chris [Rodriguez] was coming in, but we wanted to get him more touches today, and Bill as well. So, with Austin and Jeremy, we were, you know, thinking a little bit less. And then as we get into next week, you know, Adam and I will visit, say who we want to feature and look at on Saturday."

On a deep running back room and roster:

"Going into training camp, we really thought this was a deep room. There would be real competition. [RB] Demetric Felton and [RB] Kazmir [Allen], [RB] Bill [Jacory Croskey-Merritt] and [RB] Eck [Austin Ekeler], and so we knew this was one of our strengths going into training camp, felt that we had tight end and then again, at running back, so we wanted to let it play out and go through it. I'll go back and look at the tape, but I like the energy early on from what I saw from those two and at the offensive line. I felt that I felt protection early on as well. [OT] Andrew [Wylie] was playing at left, Chris Paul was at left, [OT Nick] Allegretti was over on the right, with [OT] Josh Conerly Jr. on the right. So little bit of moving parts with them, and I was pleased to see that. Guys as part of it, moving into different roles seeing what they can do. [OT] Andrew [Wylie] is certainly somebody that stood out to me. He's been at this side, that side, inside, outside. That's what a real vet can do and he certainly did that tonight."

On Defensive Linemen in new roles:

"I definitely did. I was excited to see [DE] Deatrich Wise and [DE] Jacob Martin and [DT] Javon Kinlaw as their first start as a Commander. I didn't quite see the foul on Wise, horse collar in the pocket out. So that was one that I want to look at to see. Is there something we can do differently to coach? Inside the pocket, you're in good shape, but outside, it's not. If you start inside the pocket and then ends outside, that's a hard thing for a defensive lineman to know the difference. So, want to look at it and see if you can find stuff. You know, I like what I've seen from their addition and we are going to keep working with them really hard."

On RB Brian Robinson Jr.'s thoughts on not playing tonight:

"We visited with [RB] Brian [Robinson Jr.], I guess, yesterday afternoon, and then I visited with the team last night. So, that was Sunday, yes. So, we had a walk-through on Sunday, and then we visited with Brian after. Then I told the team when we got to the hotel last night. Not that they have to and they don't, they know that. But when I can include them on things I want to do that. Just from a teammate and where we're at. So, there's some head nodding, but I'd rather tell them than not. So that's my pact to them. If I know, I'm going to share it with them."

On RB Brian Robinson Jr.'s reaction:

"Yeah, I'll keep that between us. News like that, it's not always that easy, but he's somebody that we respect a lot. That's for sure."

On his thoughts about TE John Bates two blocks during the game:

"Yeah, it was our last padded practice. I thought it was John's best practice. It might have been just two or three days ago, but I really felt the urgency, the down blocks, the contact. It really had a good spot. He's had a good [training] camp. I think there was an elevate. Sometimes you're here and you take it to the next spot. I felt that's when John kind of carried over into the game. So, I was looking forward to our run game being emphasized tonight."

On RB Brian Robinson Jr.'s future:

"Yeah, like I said, the conversations we had felt the best, John, to sit out tonight. Then I'll give you an update once there's one to share with you."

On why he thinks TE John Bates is a good blocker:

"For as tall as he is, John, this guy can really play with good leverage. If you can beat somebody to the punch, whether it's at tight end or any offensive line spot, tight hands and play it low, he's got real power. So that's the spot. There's been some, honestly, some great battles between he and [DE Deatrich] Wise [Jr.] and [DT Javon] Kinlaw out on the edge. So, I imagine there's some iron and sharpening iron that's going on with that. I see John as one of the very best at what he does. And so it's been cool to see that."

QB Jayden Daniels

On playing four snaps:

"It was fun, get back out there, play football, live again. So, it was a fun feeling."

On getting Jacory [Croskey-Merritt] his touchdown ball back:

"I did, I did. It was his first one, and I know he was super excited about it. And I blame other people that are on the field at that time. They're supposed to grab the ball for him, you know. And that was an instance, but I still remember mine last year when Zach [Ertz] and [WR] Terry [McLaurin] made sure I got my ball. So had a return of favor."

On his touchdown run:

"Yeah, wanted to throw the corner route to [RB Chris Rodriguez Jr.] C-Rod, it was man coverage, and I was late over the middle to [WR] Deebo [Samuel]. And then after that, my instincts kind of just took over."

On the run game overall:

"Yeah, I mean, they ran hard. Obviously, the O-line did their job, gave them lanes to rush in. They ran hard. Fought for extra yards."

On RB Brian Robinson not playing:

"DQ [Head Coach Dan Quinn] addressed the team and let us know. And that's kind of how he does business. So, he addressed the team."

On not having a pass in four plays:

"I mean, I wanted to play more but see y'all in Week 1 if I don't play next week."

On if he thought about sliding during touchdown run:

"Not at all."

On if anyone said something to him for not sliding:

"They took me out after that. So."

On growth of RB Chris Rodriguez:

"Yeah, he keeps his head down and keeps working. He makes the most of his opportunities when he gets the chance too. So, I'm super excited for him and what he can do."

On thought process when not sliding during the touchdown:

"I'm playing football. I'm out there. I know everybody puts a big emphasis on preseason, but at the end of the day it's a game to me, whether preseason, regular season or playoffs, so. I had the opportunity to score. Other people probably didn't like it, but, hey, it is what it is."

RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt

On the lane opening up and finding the endzone:

“It was a blessing to be able to be in that position. And once I seen daylight, I was like, it’s finally real. So that moment felt amazing.”

On looking for the first touchdown ball and QB Jayden Daniels going out on the field to get him the ball:

“That just shows the leadership he has for this team. And it was definitely – I was in the moment when I dropped the football. I planned when I was gonna score my first, I was gonna keep the ball. I was so in the moment I just ended up dropping it. That’s the leadership that he has and I’m happy he found it [the football] for me.”

On how he felt out there besides when he scored a touchdown:

“I felt pretty good. I just noticed some things that I have to clean up.”

On what he will write on the football he scored a touchdown with:

“‘First touchdown ball against the Bengals.’ It’s something that I’ll have forever.”

On his thoughts when trying to find that ball before his touchdown:

“It was definitely hard trying to find it but it was just a surreal moment. I’m happy I ended up getting it.”

WR Jaylin Lane

On the overall effort of the team compared to the Week 1 game against New England Patriots:

“I think we definitely lived up to more of our standards this game. [The game] still didn’t turn out how we wanted but you can just see, we played with a lot more physicality that I think we didn’t play [with] in Week 1.”

On QB Jayden Daniels not playing much but playing effectively when he did:

“Yeah, you know, when he gets in, it’s gonna be efficient, it’s gonna be effective. Get in, get out right now. So, he did what he’s supposed to do.”

On how it felt being in front of the fans at Northwest Stadium:

“It’s cool man. You know, coming out for the first time, I hear a lot of ‘Go Hokies’ [Virginia Tech fans rally cry] so it’s pretty cool.”

On QB Jayden Daniels scoring a touchdown without sliding, making fans nervous:

“I mean, you know, he’s a football player. He’s got great instincts and you know, he just made a play. That’s what he’s paid to do, so it was pretty cool to see.”

S Jeremy Reaves

On his thoughts from tonight:

“I don’t think that we played to where we need to be. But we got a lot of things to learn from them. These don’t count as much as you want them to. As much as you want to go play, they count. These don’t count. So, you can go to the drawing board, figure out what you need to learn from, and get back to it.”

On how he sees himself continuing to improve:

“Continuing to improve and finding things that I need to work on, right? Big play was the third down we were in managed coverage. Just understanding that, tired or not, you gotta stop them. So, that's just one thing that I feel I can be better at. Trying to find something that's constantly improving. It's just gonna help me and the guys around me.”

On whether he felt the team took a step forward regarding mistakes:

“Yes, and no. There are a few things that obviously we wish we could get back, but that's football, right? Football isn't a game of perfect. What I reiterated to a lot of young guys is you're not going to be perfect, but all we ask is that you go out there and play hard, play physical, because that is at the base of our team. That's what we're about. So, there are a lot of things to learn from situationally-wise, myself included, just understanding that when you have opportunities, you've got to maximize those.”

On what keeps the team focused:

“I say it all the time, but I gotta pay my bills before I pay somebody else's. That's the key, right? It's understanding that you have a job to do, and no matter what's going on outside of it, the guys in here are depending on you to go do that job, and understanding that, right? You have a duty to the men around you. I have a duty to [P] Tress [Way], and I have a duty to [T Josh] Corn [Conerly Jr.]. I have a duty to all the guys around me, because they depend on me, so I can't focus on the outside when I have something to do myself.”