



Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening statement:

“First thing I thought, coming back to the game and thinking back, I liked how we came out. Honestly, like the special teams, the forced fumble between [CB] Mikey [Mike Sainristil] on the hit and [LB] Kain [Medrano], I thought on the recovery it was one of the longest battles of a scrum you could ever see. It went on and on. And so, at the end of it came and he wasn't giving up the ball. I liked early on how we ran the ball offensively, how we made some stops and flew around on defense. I thought honestly like the timing of the defensive penalties, not extending some of the drives offensively. On third down, I thought that's kind of the story of the game within the game. There was a lot to like early when I told the guys this game we're going to have to arrive violently and finish violently. And I thought first half we did do that, but it has to be for the whole time. I'll give you some updates on just some injuries. We had three injuries occur during the final two minutes. I know you guys didn't get an update on that. [G] Sam Cosmi and [DT Jer'Zhan] Johnny Newton were evaluated for concussions. I'll give you an update onto that tomorrow. And [T] Brandon Coleman had a shin injury, so I don't have any [additional] updates [there]. I haven't visited with the medical staff or with any of the players on that, so I don't have any updates to share. But I wanted to make sure I was clear with you. [QB] Marcus [Mariota] injured his hand. I'll give you a better update tomorrow onto that and what it looks like in terms of the preparation for the week. But again, I haven't visited with the medical guys or with Marcus specifically, so I just want to make sure I was giving you everything I could up front. All that said, why don't we get rocking with your questions and get started.”

On the two-point conversion and the fight afterwards:

“Yeah, I thought this would be a tough game that would go all the way through. We talked last year's game, we thought the biggest difference was the turnover margin and if we could play better in that space, we'd give ourselves a real shot to go. So, that's their choice, man. I want to look at the tape and see what happened before, you know, our objections or poise or any of those things, like our guys are absolutely going to stick up for themselves and for their teammates and so I'll have a better sense as I get through it.”

On the challenges of an in-game quarterback change:

“It's challenging for sure and you know, for [QB] Josh [Johnson] obviously like not getting a lot of the reps into that space. So he'll get more as it goes. And we'll have a better sense for where it is for Marcus, but it's a tough spot for anybody to go into. That was no different really with Marcus when he had to go in. So, it's part of the gig but it's definitely tough, just for looks because oftentimes you're game planning or designing one thing, but then you have to go in and do that job. So, I thought, the play he'd like to have back would be the interception and we'll get a sense for what this week looks like.”

On the Philadelphia Eagles choosing to go for two at the end of the game:

“Yeah, I can only answer from my side and what I would do. But hey man, like that's how they want to get down then. Like all good. We play them again in two weeks.”

On what goes into deciding to go for the run or pass at the goal line:

“Some of it is the decision to go I would say are some analytics like, some numbers like ones [yarders], twos [yarders], threes [yarders] and fours [yarders]. What would the percentage be? So, like that's there, but you also factor in what do they play into that spot? So, if a team was really strong loading the box and you say, ‘Okay, hey I want to attack the perimeter or attack something differently.’ That's what you look at. It does come into like both usually before the game, we're going through in our meetings to say we'd go at this spot, we wouldn't at this spot. So that way we're kind of prepared. When we get to that space, we know, ‘Hey, this is where we'd go from, this is where we'd kick from.’ And so, I try to just be clear with everybody when we get to that spot. So maybe referring to like the first series right on. So, at that spot, if it was inside of one in this game, we thought, ‘Okay, that'd be a good spot to go.’ But further out we thought, ‘Hey, getting the points to start the game would be the way that we would go.’ So sometimes even you run it, you gain one, lose one, where is it at? But yeah, it had to be closer in that spot and then you go, and I don't second guess those. Like these are the areas that we practiced and then we dig in from there. But yeah, that's a little bit of both.”

On when he felt the game had turned:

“I think the long run by [Philadelphia Eagles RB] Saquon [Barkley] on the fourth, you know, like we had a fourth down maybe in the start of the fourth, maybe there was like 10 minutes or something like that and we punted. I felt like that was the right call then. We were close enough if you get a good stop and on the next one, we got a three-and-out, we got it again. And then there was a long one that he broke, you know, maybe 40 or 50 yards. I thought stay in there, stay in there. There wasn't anything going that was big over the top and so I think that was the one that I felt like, man, the tank's getting emptied here and it felt lower. So that was kind of that point in the game where I was like, back and forth, could you get right back into it or not? At the half I liked the fight where we were starting with the ball and obviously like losing Marcus in the game, that's like no doubt, like a factor for it. But yeah, I don't know if there was that specific play made, like [it all] felt bad.”

On if he would consider sitting guys in the final two games:

“Yeah, it's not something that we've discussed.”

On players getting ejected:

“Yeah, I think let's look — what did New York see on them? Who threw [punches], how many got ejected? I imagine it's a difficult thing for them to look at. It certainly felt like there were more than three people throwing, but you know, I'll have to take a look. Certainly not something we want, but like by the same token, like they're going to protect themselves too. So, don't like it, don't want it at all.”

On punting versus going for it in the fourth quarter:

“Sure. On the first one, I think I was just referring to that earlier, at that point we still had three timeouts, there was over nine minutes. I thought that was good result. What you want is go get a three-and-out, get a stop. We did that and so thought going into it again, could you do that again? And when you don't and we let the long run, obviously strategy-wise, not ideal. Obviously, that quarterback change, all those things factor in. It's not just as easy as why not go here, why not? In hindsight, 20-20. On the early one, I felt there's still plenty of time with all timeouts, could we go

get a stop? I like the way we've been playing and so yeah you think you can go replicate that and we didn't with the long run. So, I'd say on the first one I thought it was probably the right call and the second one, you probably roll the dice and see where you can go. Looking back on it now, at the time I thought get another punt, get another stop, get back into the game. I just didn't feel like we had to decide it then at fourth-and-five, was not easy against this crew, especially with a new QB in the game. But yeah, that's fair criticism by you.”

On his postgame conversation with Philadelphia Eagles Head Coach Nick Sirianni:

“No, I don't think any of us said anything. So, I just gave a handshake and we moved it on.”

On evaluating the team and on if it's hard to evaluate with all of the injuries:

“Yeah, well I thought the biggest determinant factor last season was the turnover margin. I thought, man, and it wasn't like we just handed it, they took it, punched it out, got it out. And so that was a big emphasis going into the game. I liked how we started, and I thought if we'd win the turnover margin, we'd have a real shot to go play well and to win it. So, in the fourth quarter had an interception, didn't get enough stops. I thought that was the real factor in it today, but man at the end I loved how the way we came out to fight, I felt like it was the right plan in terms of how we'd go. Knew it would be hard fought, that's just how it was going to be. I liked a lot more about this one obviously than previously, but there's a chance to win everyone, even with different personnel in different spots. It's how you have to best utilize the players that you have and not worry about the ones that aren't here. I think that's what we try to do and say, 'Okay, how do we win with the best options available? And we gotta do that for the whole game. And when we do that, that's when we have our best chance to go beat them.”

On the team's effort despite the 4-11 record:

“Yeah, it certainly feels terrible to hear that record. And that's hard, that's difficult. Based on what I saw at practice, I thought these guys would really play hard. Came off the week, went back to it again. And so, I sensed from what the energy I felt from them, the preparation, I felt this is a group that's ready to go do their thing. No one in our locker room is talking about who we don't have or who wasn't there, those things. And so, it was about how we'd go win it and that was really the only thing on our mind. But I'd expect that from them. I'd expect that from them this week as we prepare again, how we go about it and how we go. But it's an excellent group of guys, like that part, it's a matter of can we go finish the whole thing? But I do love the way that the energy they came out with.”

On why he stood back on the field at the end and watched the postgame between the players:

“Yeah, just wanted to make sure anything didn't go sideways and so into that spot, I know how quickly we're going to play again. I just wanted to make sure if I had to step into any space that I'd be able to bring my bouncing skills back into space. I felt like, man, this is not the time to lose somebody postgame into a game just five days away. So, it's one thing to say the poise, but it's another thing when you're the person in that moment. And so, I just thought that was the best course of action and everything was fine on both sides. Their guys, our guys, it was nothing I had to worry about. I just, that was my thoughts.”

QB Josh Johnson

On playing in this game and how it felt

“We didn’t win, so – the goal is to win the game. Personally, I understand the situation, so for me, just trying to go in there and try to find the rhythm the best way possible. It’s a lot of different things you gotta handle when you come in the game as the backup, and then being the third guy, you gotta deal with things a little bit differently. (I’m) just looking forward to this week, being able to get in there with the guys, go through the process, prepping, being on the same page, and being able to play the games through my eyes. (I’m) looking forward to that.”

On navigating injuries to both QB Jayden Daniels and QB Marcus Mariota this season and how the quarterbacks have handled those challenges:

“It’s been real challenging, obviously starting with [QB] Jayden [Daniels]. He has a lot of high expectations for himself, and he’s a great player, so you support your own teammate. And now he’s a brother, so just making sure his head is in the right space. And [QB] Marcus [Mariota], the same thing. The camaraderie was already there, and Jayden and me, I just kind of fit it in naturally. The coach is great. We have a great room. Everybody works their butt off every day, and we support each other. We wanna go out there and just be leaders of this team.”

On how quickly he knew he had to go out and play in the game:

“It was kind of up and down. When [QB] Marcus [Mariota] went to the tent, he kind of gave me a heads up, like, ‘You might have to go,’ and so I just started getting ready.”

On his goals offensively when he went into the game:

“I mean, the game plan is fine. I think what I understand that most people don’t understand is a lot of it is just about rhythm and getting into the flow of the game, and actually understanding what guys wanna do in those split seconds. Those are the things that you don’t necessarily get in my position, but that’s why I said I was looking forward to this week, ’cause we all can really be on the same page. I’m looking forward to what we are going to do on Thursday.”

On being with this team as a player who has played on quite a few in the league:

“Every day, you would not know that we have the record that we have, and that’s a credit to our leadership. It starts with ‘DQ’ [Head Coach Dan Quinn], it starts with ‘AP’ [General Manager Adam Peters], and it’s truly done. It’s unfortunate circumstances in this league. It’s unfortunate it hasn’t landed our way this year, but you literally cannot tell when you walk in that door. I think you guys see that when you come into the locker room every day. This team believes in one another. We don’t blink. We just wanna do our best, go out there, and put on a good show. That’s what we’re looking forward to do [on] Thursday.”

On the brawl that broke out after the two-point conversion:

“It just goes back to what ‘DQ’ [Head Coach Dan Quinn] wants here. He wants, we all want – everybody believes in one another, everybody fights for one another, and we’re not gonna get pushed around by anybody. Unfortunately, that happened that way. You don’t wanna see it happen that way, but at the same time, you gotta let some people know sometimes. That’s what our guys did today. They let them know. We’ll see them in two weeks.”

RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt

On having another in-game quarterback change this season:

“It's definitely different, but when stuff happens you just have to go with the flow and finish as strong as you can.”

On if he felt this game was chipper than he expected:

“Nah, not really. It was just another tough game. All the games are tough, so I feel like it was just a normal game.”

On how he feels about the team's intensity in this game despite being eliminated from playoffs:

“I feel like we try to play like that every week and come out on top. I mean, unfortunately, it just ain't happening. So, we try to come out like that every week.”

On if seeing Philadelphia win back-to-back division titles makes you motivated to win one himself:

“We got next year and that's all we can focus on. Just move forward and try to make it ours next year.”

CB Mike Sainristil

On the altercation in the second half:

“I don't know. I just know that I saw my brothers out there, so I am going to do everything to protect my brothers.”

On what was said to start that:

“No, no clue.”

On how they felt when the Eagles went for two:

“Umm I don't know, it is what it is. It's another play for us to go out there and try to stop them.”

On why he got involved in the fight:

“Like I said, I just saw my brothers out there. I am going to have my brothers' back in every situation.”

On what it says that the team is still battling for each other despite the way the season has gone:

“That's what we are, that is our standard. It doesn't matter if it is an up season or a down season, whatever that is. All you can do is take advantage of the opportunity in front of you, and we are going to make sure we do that every chance we get.”

On what he can say about the Eagles-Commanders rivalry:

“The rivalry, it is what it is for a reason. Continuing to live up to the legacy of what it was in the past, and I am excited to be a part of such a historic rivalry.”

WR Terry McLaurin

On the difficulty of having another quarterback change:

“It’s tough, you know what I mean? We came out of the half, I feel like we were in a really good position, especially getting the ball, and hit a big play. And, you know, [QB] Marcus [Mariota] goes down, it's a tough spot for [QB] Josh [Johnson] to come in, you know what I mean? But he gave us all that he had, and I don't know the update on Marcus right now. So, we gotta be ready to play whoever's back there. And fortunately for myself, I know what that experience is like. So, you know, I think I could shed a little light to our room, and what that takes to make plays for your guys when they don't necessarily have all the reps. So, whoever's back there, we're gonna, as receivers, we gotta do our job to make sure that we're helping them and making tough plays so they can get into a rhythm. But when he went down, it definitely changed things a little bit.”

On the fight during the fourth quarter:

“Eagles versus Commanders, man, that's how it goes, you know what I mean? It gets physical. It gets testy. You know, I can't speak for what was going on specifically on that play cause I was on the sideline. But, yeah, it comes with this game with these two opponents, you know what I mean? There's, you know, a lot of history, obviously, and you know they were beating us. So, they're not gonna throw in the towel, they're not gonna take it easy on us. They're trying to go for two and bury us, and as a team, you know what I mean, it's not like you tell them, don't go for two. You know we gotta stop them, you know what I mean? Offensively, we gotta help our defense. So, I don't really take any bad blood from what they did. But you don't really wanna see the game get out of hand and guys possibly get hurt in those situations. But it comes with this rivalry between us and them. And I don't think that'll ever change, to be honest.”

On the energy and intensity in tonight’s game compared to the rest of the season:

“The energy was there today. The focus was there. The preparation was there. And like I said, we liked where we were going into halftime. They're a great football team. We knew they weren't just gonna hand it to us, you know what I mean? We had to go out there and try to take it. And I'm not gonna even put it all on just the quarterback change, like it affected things. By the end of the day, there was still plenty of time for us to continue to make plays, and we just didn't, and they did. And so, when adversity hits, I kind of, you know, spoke to the team a little bit about that, you just gotta be able to pull up your bootstraps and figure out a way, you know what I mean, because that's what it takes to be successful, when things happen that are not anticipated. So, you gotta give them credit. They finished the game. They took advantage of their opportunities, and we quite didn't. So, you know, a short week, another division game against Dallas on Christmas. We're blessed to be in a situation, to be able to play on Christmas, and play a division rival, another one. So, it's gonna be a similar game to this, you know what I mean? They're not throwing away their season at all. So, we gotta figure out a way to watch the film and get better for this quick turnaround.”

On keeping the team motivated throughout the season:

“Yeah, I mean, I think it's life. Life's not gonna go your way. Adversity's gonna hit you in the face. And you have a choice to either, you know, cower or let it build your character. And you know, I've faced my own adversity, and I've learned to grow. The Lord's really helped me understand, like, you have to be able to endure these times that you're going through, and they're not going your way. And you have to find a way to still find joy. And the great thing about it is like we're playing the kids’ game. We have a great group of guys that we're playing with, and we only have two more guaranteed games with this group. So, although the playoffs are out of reach, you still wanna win.”

You don't go through all this process not to have a chance to win. So, I know our focus is gonna be on getting right this week on a short week and feed off the energy of getting to play on Christmas. I mean, we were all kids one day watching games. NFL wasn't quite playing on Christmas when I was growing up. You know, just the Christmas spirit, there's a lot of things to be thankful for. And our focus is on just keeping this locker room tight and responding this coming Thursday.”