



Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“Alright, good to see everybody. After last game, we spoke about complementary football and where we missed some opportunities on that. We had an [opportunity] at one at the end of the half, didn't get it, had one to come out for the second half, didn't get it. This week, we didn't not miss on those chances, and that's really important to pass the baton to the next group, to the next group. The long return resulted in a touchdown, punt return obviously was for a touchdown, but getting a stop, getting a drive to get the long field goal at the half, that's when we're at our best. And we work hard at that spot and when you miss the mark it stings like we did before, but I wanted to make sure we challenged ourselves to be aggressive and bold and take our chances when we could. That's who we are. And I thought the guys really delivered on that. It's a resilient group, so I wasn't surprised, but I was pleased to see us doing that, knowing that new faces from different spots, but the attitude, the mindset of how we want to play ball that would stay consistent. So, all that said, let's get rocking with you guys.”

On the team showing up in all three phases after a tough Week 2:

“Yeah, and special teams was right at the start of it again, and I thought they've got a knack and regaining on it. Having [WR] Jaylin [Lane] there on the punt return side, seeing [WR] Deebo [Samuel Sr.] on the kick return side. I think what we saw maybe a week ago was the covering side of punt, putting it down inside. And so, we just missed some of those chances. And so, when you can capitalize and win on field position, a long return, keeping them pinned back, those are winning football moments. And when you do it, the results, the story almost writes itself. And when you don't do it, you just keep putting yourself behind and you make it more difficult. So, it was cool to see all guys leaning in on one another today.”

On getting hit on the sideline:

“Well, we made the kick and came in and then we went out and started it again. But we all had a good laugh about it for sure.”

On how he felt after getting hit:

“Yeah, probably like you'd expect and it's this kind of part, yeah, don't want to happen, but it was all good.”

On if he got stitches:

“No, I'm good.”

On QB Marcus Mariota's performance:

“Yeah, I was pleased. I knew we'd support him like crazy. You just knew it. This teammate, what he is, I thought it looked very much quintessential Marcus. Aggressive run, pass stuff to go scrambling, being aggressive. He felt very much in control of it. I was pleased with the line in terms of the run

game to go, but for him, I knew, okay, would he stay consistent and not have extra things to go. And man, he's just so steady. And I thought that's exactly where it was, I was super proud of him.”

On what the team's performance today says about the group:

“I think more than anything is when you have a loss that you don't like and you gotta sit in it and, man, this game could not get here quick enough. But I wasn't surprised by their resilience either. We weren't happy, but we're going to make the adjustments, what do we gotta do to change it? And that's how we did it. And so, I wasn't surprised about the energy that we would see coming out. It was awesome to see that energy kind of take place right into the opening play into the offense to go. And so, I thought then defense, there was a turnover, they went back to three-and-out, no points on that. So, that's really what I was most pleased on today, was seeing us live that football back and forth between all three phases.”

On if today's performance speaks to the strength of the roster:

“I think it speaks to the entire team. We talked even some of the guys who played who didn't last week, there were maybe close to seven players who played today that maybe played against Green Bay and didn't play tonight, at tight end and receiver and running back and quarterback and some other spots. It does speak to the team. And when called upon being able to deliver, I was super proud of [RB] Jeremy [McNichols] on the long [touchdown run], maybe 60 yards or something like that. You don't know who's going to be the one to take that step and make the one, but when you have consistent performers and they're ready to go, I think he's kind of the epitome of Commander Standard. Does it right, follows through with it. So, it was good to see that tonight.”

On his return to the sideline after taking the hit going into the half:

“Just the doctors did come and evaluate me to make sure I was good and stopped the bleeding and get going. So, they had too many people around. I said, go take care of the guys [laughs] but I was certainly thankful for them as well.”

On the importance of K Matt Gay making the field goal going into the half:

“Yeah, I thought it was big. Missing the other one to go. We've got confidence in Gay and you've heard us say that, but he does have to deliver on that and hit it. There is a difference between hitting it well and making it. And so, making it, that was a big deal. Provided energy to go. We knew we were starting the other way to the half and so for the defense to get the stop to go, that's the back and forth. I was pleased to see us take the shot, Marcus got out of bounds, gave us a chance at it. We were just off in those spaces last week. I felt like too much time at the end. Long one, we missed it, they missed it. So being back in that groove was important. We work hard at that and so I was glad to see us in those spaces be able to deliver.”

On the decision to sit G Brandon Coleman:

“We really made as competition, the biggest part of it. We made both spots at guard with [G] Nick [Allegretti] and Brandon. They're a big part of what we do, but that is the central theme of where we're at. And so, we're still in the early days here to get going and competition's part of who we are in all ways, in all shapes and sizes. So, inside at guard, ‘Hey, we're going to go a different way.’ Doesn't mean where we're at for not making any statement or message. Trust me on that. This is what we're doing right today and we'll keep digging, man. That's what competing is about, and you just keep battling to find it and we'll continue to do that.”

On if the competition at the guard spots will be ongoing:

“Yep, both spots, yep.”

On LB Bobby Wagner saying DQ leads by example:

“Yeah, he's one-of-a-kind, man. Wags is, it's leading, it's performance, it's play, it's perspective and so, he really has such a good vibe on our team and who we are. His standards as a ball player, as a teammate are so high. How would you not want to go fight for guys like him and so amongst others? So yeah, we're honored and to coach him, man. He's one of a kind.”

On the defensive performance and on keeping pressure on Las Vegas QB Geno Smith:

“I thought we had to get the pressure on this guy. He can absolutely rip the ball. So, we knew that was going to be one of the factors. I think the running back's going to be a real player. He's got quickness, he can break tackles and so going into it, you can see why he's as talented as he is. So, coming in we thought, D-Line man let's make your move, make your space to go. Can we find ways to affect you? And I thought honestly, he got out of a few and showed the mobility to throw some third downs down the field. Those are hard ones, scrambling, going, completing it but I've seen that movie before with him [laughs]. Unfortunately, he's that type of competitor so when he can get outside the pocket, he's kind of got the arm strength to just about put it anywhere. But I was pleased to see the group's effort, mindset to go for it.”

On the performance of the young players during the game:

“Yeah, I think it is proving that they're ready and they're wanting to establish that to their teammates. You can be counted on, I thought there was – I can't remember the exact play, but there was a blitz pickup by [Jacory] Bill [Croskey-Merritt] against a very effective blitzer, a tough matchup, tough one to go, stood in, hit it just exactly like you would draw it up to do it. That takes confidence to go and be there. Pass protection, sometimes as a running back can be tricky and overloads and who is where. So that was demonstrated in pass protection ability, which is a hard thing to do. And so, like he'd be one in that instance and there's a number of guys, like you said, that are making their space and trying and it takes games. Like now they get opportunities and can you deliver when those moments come? Because it's one thing that they're getting a chance, but then, man, you also have to deliver on it.”

On how Mariota bounced back from the fumble:

“Yeah, I thought honestly he stayed very level-headed. He stayed aggressive into it. So yeah, I felt no flinch into that. I just felt it was very quintessential him. A really clean game. He was just on it, and I expected that, but it's always nice to see it to say, man, that's it, that's who he is. And so, we see it in practice so often, especially against the defense. And so, I'm never surprised when he plays well.”

QB Marcus Mariota

On getting to start and how the team played today:

“First and foremost, just thankful and grateful for an unbelievable group of guys. Belief is so powerful and those guys, from Monday, were just [like], ‘Hey, you got this.’ I think that instilled confidence in me, just to go out there and play my game. It was cool to see all three phases come together. It's a great steppingstone for us as we move forward in the season.”

On accidentally taking out Head Coach Dan Quinn:

"I felt so bad. I was trying to hold him up as much as I could, but he bounced up like a champ. We're good. We're good."

On staying focused regardless of some early game mistakes:

"We just didn't blink. We understand that there's gonna be ebbs and flows in the game. Regardless of how those go, we never want to ride the roller coaster. Our team does a great job just kind of staying on that same level all game. I knew that if we just executed it a little more cleanly, we could score some points, get some stops, and do some good things on special teams."

On if he realized in the moment that he ran into Head Coach Dan Quinn:

"I realized it as I was getting pushed. I was trying to hold him up as best as I could. He [Head Coach Dan Quinn] went into the training room, got bandaged up, and was like, 'Alright, let's keep going.' I think that's what really got the guys going, going into the second half."

On the two lineup changes for offense and what that did for the team during this game:

"I think they did a great job. It's never easy, especially to switch guys up front at that course of the season. I thought those guys came in and played well. The way we were controlling the line of scrimmage, running the football, it really opened some things in the pass game in the second half. A lot of credit to those guys [G Chris] Paul and [RG Andrew] Wiley just were guys that were ready to go. We're truly grateful for them and grateful for that O-Line run, because when you switch guys out like that, there can be some animosity [or] hurt feelings, but that group is very tight, and there was none of that throughout the course of the week. The guys just knew that, 'Hey, I got a job to do. I gotta do my best.' They rallied together and put together a really good game."

On RB Jeremy McNichols's long run and how that set up the next one for WR Terry McLaurin later in the game:

"That was, effort by him, wholeheartedly. He broke probably six tackles in the course of that run. When you're able to run the football that way, that's why [WR] Terry [McLaurin] gets a big play. That's why [WR] Luke [McCaffrey] gets a big play. The more that we can be versatile as an offense and create lanes in the run game, as well as allow our guys to make some plays in the pass game. I think we'll be hard to stop."

On having success during the game against strong defense:

"I think it just came down to 'mono y mono.' Our guys did a great job up front of executing their blocks. You could feel it, even as the first couple jars were going. They were leaning on them [opposing defense]. It's just credit to those guys up front."

On RB Jeremy McNichols touchdown run:

"I really thought he got tackled like four times in the course of that, and then he popped out. He's a dear friend of mine because we've been in a couple places together. To see him have success, he's always been such a good player for us. He does so much in the pass game, probably more than people even realize in terms of blocking. For him to get an opportunity to make a few plays like he did today was really cool."

On whether he feels like an ideal fit for this team at this time:

"I love this system. I really feel like I have a great connection with Cliff, Tavita, and the rest of the offensive staff. When we come down and we have these moments through the week, we're all just communicating what we like and what we don't like. We understand that there's gonna be moments

where it's not gonna work out the way that we anticipated, but we never blink. It's such a great, healthy environment for all parties involved. I've just really enjoyed my time here. Every opportunity I get, I just try to make the most of it."

On what this performance felt like for him:

"I just had fun. I really just had to take a couple moments, even after the game. [I'm] just grateful to play the game. I love it. I love this team. I love being out there. It's been such an interesting journey for me and I would never trade it for anything in the world. I think I'm here for a reason. I believe in it. I believe in God placing me here to be a part of this and I trust it. Whether that's gonna be something that's long-term, or something that keeps going, I have no idea. Right now, I'm just focused on enjoying this in the present moment and doing whatever my role is for this team because I think they have a special group of guys."

On the big returns on special teams and that energizing the offense:

"It creates momentum. When you're able to ride that momentum, especially into that first touchdown drive, it's huge. It's a great way to start the game. Our young receiver made an unbelievable play on that punt return, really at a point in the game where it could've flipped either way. He created that momentum for us. That's how we were able to get things rolling and score a bunch of points. When you're able to play a complete game like that in all three phases, it makes this team hard to stop."

RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt

On bouncing back after a loss to Green Bay:

"It meant a lot to us, after losing a game, the whole week, you get ready to get back on the field and prove you're better than what you put on tape last week. So, it was good to see everybody just go out there and execute and have fun at the same time."

On guys stepping up and making plays:

"Man, it was good. We are all pros, we are all good at our jobs, man. Shoutout to [QB] Marcus [Mariota]. Everybody knows he's the pro. And how he carries himself, he's been doing this a long time. We just had 100 percent faith in him."

On RB Jeremy McNichols' performance:

"It was great. It comes from preparation; we work hard as a unit. We push each other to be the best we can be. And it was good, just to see him do that and the long run. I mean, it was a great run."

On QB Marcus Mariota:

"He felt calm. I mean, he's been doing this for a long time. And, I mean, we had 100 percent faith in him. He's just a great leader."

WR Jaylin Lane

On what he saw during his punt return touchdown:

"First off, just glory to God, but it's really just my teammates. They work their tails off blocking for me, speaking life into me. They give me all the confidence in the world back there. All I told them was that I just need one lane and I'll make the rest happen, and that's what they did for me."

On when his last punt return for a touchdown was:

"It was last year."

On if he got the ball:

"Yeah, I did. I was a little turnt and I dropped it. I don't know who grabbed it for me, but they handed it to me on the sideline."

On how it feels to be a part of a team win after coming off a loss:

"I think it's amazing. I think it goes towards the standards we set with our whole team. We believe in complimentary football, especially on special teams and just setting up the offense to score. It started with [WR] Deebo [Samuel Sr.] on a big return and we fed off that energy and kept it going."

On being winded after a 90-yard touchdown run:

"No, the adrenaline getting into the box. I could run out and do it again as soon as it's over. You don't get winded after that."

On more younger players starting and playing:

"It's big, there's a lot of excitement from everybody. For [WR] Luke [McCaffrey] getting into the box for the first time. It's a blessing to be here and around this organization where it's like a family, a real brotherhood. Everybody is cheering for everybody to just be successful and it means a lot."

LB Bobby Wagner

On their effort to improve performance in all three phases after last week's game:

"Yeah, I think it sucks to lose a game like that on a Thursday because then you have so much time to sit and think about it. But you go back to the drawing board. That's not the team that we want to be, that's not the team that we are. And you just try to correct those mistakes. Be accountable of the things that happened and try not to make them happen again."

On HC Dan Quinn getting hit on the sideline:

"Man, I think it just represents who he is, to be honest. He talks about it all the time, just his mentality and it's literally like a 'If you get knocked down, get back up and keep going'. He literally did that. His nose was bleeding, everything's bleeding and the cut, and he stayed there, locked in and got some treatment. At halftime, he came back out, so it was cool to see."

On if the hit on HC Dan Quinn had an emotional impact on the team:

"Yeah, I mean, whenever you see somebody that leads the ship go down like that, and then bounce back up, everything that he preaches to us, we felt like we saw that in that moment. He got knocked down, got hit pretty hard and he didn't have any pads on or nothing. He came back up and it was kind of like a movie. While he was getting treatment, we weren't sure if he was going to be able to come out. And so, we're gathering everybody, I'm getting ready to speak, and then he comes out of nowhere and [he's] like 'I got it'. And it was just a cool moment, I'll remember that forever for sure."

On what HC Dan Quinn said to the team at halftime:

"I don't know if I could repeat those words. Nice, very colorful."

On the pass rush throughout the game and what clicked:

"I think we just wanted to be aggressive. We understood that we have really good talented players and [Defensive Coordinator] Coach Whitt [Joe Whitt Jr.] did a really good job of sending us and mixing up the coverages and it was just a great gameplan."

On if the defense will have a lot of sacks and pressure from multiple players:

"I think we have the possibility to do that. I think we have, like I said, talented players across the board. We have guys that you have to respect. If you slant to one guy that gives another guy one on one and believe you're confident that guy can win. I feel like we definitely can do that. What we did today, I think we could do that throughout the rest of the season."

On team performance defending Las Vegas Raiders RB Ashton Jeanty:

"I think we did good. We had a couple moments where he kind of got through the line of scrimmage and had some good runs. But I think, all in all, we were able to get really good hits on him. And we limited the yards to carry out the lead. I haven't seen the thing fully but it felt like they were at two yards for a while. I'm not sure what they ended up with, but I just think we just have to keep going, keep growing. I think, towards the end of the game we have to make sure we clean up some of those leaning yards."

On challenges he faces as a leader when he loses guys to the secondary:

"I don't think there's a challenge. I do it every play, but I think when guys go out, it's more important for me to repeat myself and make sure that I don't just say it once because you know those guys, they have a lot going on. They're trying to see the formation and see a lot of things. And so, I've learned through the guys that helped me, sometimes repeating, reminding them, and talking to them, helps calm things down."

On what it says about the team to win without the usual starters:

"I think we preach next man up, and that's all across the board. We try to have guys think the mindset of even though you're not a starter, your moment could come in at any given point. And so, when you have a game like this, you feel that the guys are listening because you know that you have to step in and you have to perform as well as the starter. And so, I think collectively, as a group, we have stuff that we still need to clean up, but I think those are positive stuff for us."

RB Jeremy McNichols

On going through his touchdown run:

"I saw a big push from the O-Line and the tight ends. It was a big call by [Offensive Coordinator] Kliff [Kingsbury]. There were a bunch of guys trying to tackle me, I tried to make a play and try to get out of it and just go out there and finish. I saw our guys and just got to finish in the endzone."

On how it feels to help the team with a big run:

"It's great. Just being able to make a play for the team and working all week. Coming off a tough loss, it's what we talked about right after that loss, we took some time away, and we came back to

work on Monday. We knew what needed to be done. We knew we needed some sparks in the room, and I think that's what happened today."

On QB Marcus Mariota running into Head Coach Dan Quinn:

"Oh, man. I was out there, I was blocking, and then I saw a safety coming down. I saw Marcus trying to get out of bounds. I saw him run int DQ [Quinn], but DQ, he's a bad man. That's how he lives, so that's how we live as well. We back him, so I'm glad he got up and that he's okay. That really propelled us after that too."

On how his 60-yard touchdown run helped to set up other plays:

"The run game is always going to open up the pass game so establishing that early and having success with that is going to open up the pass game down field. [WR] Terry [McLaurin] was able to capitalize on that."