

August 12, 2025

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“Alright, good morning everybody and welcome to the burgundy and gold scrimmage. Give you some background and stuff on that. So, we'll try to work in about two quarters. We'll play a second quarter, see if we can work some situations, then we'll work into fourth quarter work, try to work in some situations there, have officials try to just move the ball, throw fouls down. Obviously, that was something in the last game, wasn't pleased with and certainly want that as often as we can. [Offensive Coordinator] Kliff [Kingsbury] and [Defensive Coordinator] Joe [Whitt Jr.] are the head coaches, and we also split coaches and staff members and so they'll all be on opposite sides, so a lot of fun with that. But it'll be a fun day, it's good, and then I have about nine players out. I told you I'd give you that update for the scrimmage today. At offensive line, [G] Sam [Cosmi] and [T] Brandon Coleman, at wide receiver, [WR] Noah [Brown] and [WR] Terry [McLaurin], quarterback, [QB] Marcus [Mariota], linebacker, [LB] Jordan Magee, [DE] Javante Jean-Baptiste, and two corners [CB] Jonathan Jones and [CB] Bobby Price. So, those nine you won't see out today, but everybody else will be going and should be a good day to get the whole thing rocking. And we're excited to see different things and people in different spots. There's a leading that goes with that too and so we're all excited for that.”

On WR Deebo Samuel sustaining his early success:

“Yeah, it's a good question. I think he is in great shape, that was the one I think first that you could tell he really put the work in physically, but also from the neck up learning [a] new system, being in different ones, it is different than the system that he has been a part of. So, I thought he really worked hard on that part. Maybe a silver lining is the extra time that he has now with [QB] Jayden [Daniels]. And so sometimes when, okay, Noah and Terry aren't there and he gets more, sometimes there's unintended consequences that can take place that you see that's good. And I think that would maybe one of those that you're probably seeing now.”

On an update for McLaurin:

“Yeah, I don't have any big updates for you on that. As far as timelines go, guys have an off day tomorrow, and then as we were working into the practices prior to next game on Monday night, maybe I can give you some insights then, but no updates to share with you today.”

On where things stand with McLaurin:

“Yeah, look, you want everybody, as the coach, out on the field at every practice, at every game. I also know that that's not reality either. And so, I just try to make sure, man, just keep pouring into the guys, keep digging into it. But I know it is part of our game where you don't have everybody all the time. It does in some ways, there's contingencies. How do you work, how do you feature guys? And so, I was kind of referring to Deebo maybe getting more connection, time to go. But as far as where I'm at, I'm aware things happen, and you adjust and that's kind of what coaching is. And you don't have your full roster all the time and you put yourself into those spaces pretty regularly. And then when those come up, you feel more normal doing that. When everything's healthy you have to force it, when the injuries and things come up during this time of year, it happens naturally. ‘Okay, let's feature, let's see what happens.’ And I

like doing that too.”

On what makes Whitt Jr. a potential future head coach in the NFL:

“Yeah, I think one thing from head coaching, very clear on expectations, very clear on identity and how to do things. And he's very organized, very detailed. So, those are big parts of the job when you're putting a whole group together and identity and standards and no gray about how you want to do things. And so, for Joe growing up as a coach's kid, dad, linebacker coach for years, is tough as hell. And so, he's very clear on standards and expectations and I think that carries over to your team because all of the players, their roles may be different, the standards and the expectations of how you do things are the same.”

On areas of growth for Daniels in year two:

“Yeah, I've noticed a lot of things. He's really on it. I mean, we know this, we've talked about work ethic, we've talked about those. Now you see other levels of making others better. ‘This is what I saw, this is the correct spot, a change of a protection.’ So, now he's able to help develop others and help them fulfill what they can be. And so that's a big deal. And that comes with communication, experience, feedback. You're not quite able to do that your first day on the job, but you gain street cred by your performance, by the things that you do. And then people trust him and so, ‘Hey man, this is what I see. This is where the ball would go.’ And as a teammate, okay, you want to hear that information cause that's giving you feedback. ‘This is what I need to do to help you in this spot.’ So, that's what I would see just him compounding and making others better just by his communication, the way he's leading. So, those would be some of the things that I've noticed so far.”

On how intentional the team splits were today:

“We did a lot to split them to find some balance back and forth and [General Manager] Adam [Peters] and his staff also were a big part of this last two days as well as are there any late trades and going through processes. So, we've really dug in to find ways to level people up, from the coaching and support and personnel for all of our jobs. None of us were ready for that one and you just go, and you figure it out and you get there, and this is a byproduct of that and it's a lot of fun to go through that. But as far as the personnel wise, we kind of did that for them and then they did the staff and how they would split up people. So, it's been a lot of fun.”

On the performance of the rookie class:

“I thought they put a lot of work in. Them and the assistants during the off season, leading up to camp knowing that man, we have to get this knowledge down so when you do get to camp, there's not the thinking and you can just rely on this, the system and get better at your skills. It's a very mature group. Guys that really put it in, we've been encouraged by that. It's a smaller group so they've probably got more individualized attention and customized for them with 15 rookies that usually it's, you know, anywhere probably between that number and, you know, 25 or so. With a smaller group, I think they've had good mentors. They've had good coaching and now they're gaining confidence. There are definitely days that go good and others that don't, but that's also part of it. I want to see the resilience to come back from the days that aren't. But what I've seen so far is guys that know what they're doing, they're prepared, they're ready to go, put their best foot forward and that's why these practices where you coaches are off to the side man, like they have to demonstrate what they know, how they can communicate and knowing that when it's your turn to lead, do it, that's your communication, that's your call so don't wait. You have to go take it.”

On assessments of the other wide receivers in McLaurin's absence:

“There are these opportunities that come up and we were just kind of talking about some of the rookies and the two rookie receivers have done a nice job of knowing what to do, how to do it.

They've played outside, a little bit inside, but mostly on the outside. I've been encouraged by what I've seen. I mean, let's face it, getting trained by [Wide Receivers Coach] Bobby [Engram] and [Offensive Assistant] Andre [Coleman], that's a pretty good setup for guys coming in to show what they can do. I'm encouraged, I want to see more. How we would feature people in different ways, like that's part of coaching. I think the best can figure out ways to do that, but I'm excited. I want to see more.”

On a possible number two and the receiver group going into the season:

“[WR] Jaylin's [Lane] been one that I've been impressed with in the slot. He's been somebody that I've seen in that role and I've seen [WR] Deebo [Samuel] in that side. You've seen Deebo move outside some, so I like what I'm seeing from those two. Obviously, like knowing Terry, like they're making progress to come back, but having those guys get more there is a good unintended consequence of that. I'm excited to see more of that quite honestly. As far as a two in that way, how we feature Deebo inside, Terry and Noah are more outside. Do we move guys around? Yeah. But I'm excited to see, you know, Deebo, some outside Jaylin, some outside. I've seen him more in the slot and they're doing a nice job. That, it's a fun part to go through to say, ‘And what else?’, and so you don't want to overload somebody, but you do want to find out.”

On giving assistant coaches the opportunity to lead:

“I think at the core, if you're a developmental coach, then you also want to develop the staff and give them chances to level up and to do things. I asked one of the coaches yesterday who was into the coordinator role. I said, ‘what was different?’ I had to make the cards right, I had to make this right and had to organize the walkthrough. Maybe to give some regard and appreciation for the next role to what that could look like. But I think if we're going to say we're going to develop players, like it starts with coaches first and that starts with me. I think if we raise the tide of the coaches and get them better, then of course that's going to filter down to the players. I think of us as a developmental team, not just with players, but with coaches too. The fun part of coaching, one of the fun parts, there's a lot of them, is the game changes and you keep adjusting and you keep growing and you keep learning and finding out new ways to do it. If I would the way that, from my years in the NFL how it started to even like a training camp, it's so different, you know this. The adaptation, the seeing what's different, how to feature players differently, like it's all fun to do that. I think I appreciate recognizing it, but I think the coaches as developmental too to say, ‘can we get better at this spot?’ and all of us have some things to work on coaches and players, but the two days like this gives new space to do you know different things.”

On choosing the coaches for the Burgundy and Gold Game:

“[Quarterbacks Coach] Tavita [Pritchard] and [Offensive Line Coach] Brian Johnson will be calling on offense and on the defensive side, [Defensive Pass Game Coordinator] Jason Simmons and [Defensive Backs Coach Tommy] Tom Donna [Donatelli] tail. Next year there'll be some different ones next year, different ones after that. I like just different roles, different spots, just to give new perspective onto things and maybe a different seat, a different view, a different lens of the position. But those four will be the play callers today. Then Joe and Kliff will, okay, ‘is fourth down, are we going’, which Kliff is probably going to go? And then it's ‘are we going to punt or kick the field goal?’ and Joe will probably punt or due to that’. Let's put them into those spaces, man. Like feel those call timeouts, do the normal stuff. Obviously, Kliff's got plenty of experience doing that, but the exercise of going through it all, it's important.”

On if McLaurin has been present with the team:

“Yep, all of it.”

On what he’s looking forward to the most today:

“I am looking forward to seeing the energy. I felt this energy from the coaches. They were in these new spots and leaving last night. I really all summer was thinking about, ‘all right, how am I going to do this block that was longer?’ and I was just thinking ‘the players, the players’. Then last night it was so much fun to see the coaches having their own meetings, doing things, putting tape together, going through. Seeing the excitement from them, that was probably what I was most excited for. Then at practice I'm always looking for execution. I'm looking for communication. I want to be sharp, I want to be crisp, I want to be taking care of the ball, the things that I look for in every practice. But I'm most excited because it was fun to see the coaches in some different spots.”