

September 9, 2025

## **Head Coach Dan Quinn**

### **Opening Statement:**

“All right, let's get, let's get rocking everybody. I visited with the staff this morning. We were talking about September football, and really my message for them was how we play, the play style and the attitude is as important as what we call it really is as we're getting rolling. So, I'm watching our, how I want to feel that identity. Things like the ball and our turnover margin, our tackling, our breaking tackles, the running, the hitting the physicality, and then us in the winning time moments. That's all that makes up our how. So, when you continue to need to build that and grow that, all those things are part of our identity and those are things that I want to see, grow and build as we're going. And that factors in all sorts of things, discipline with penalties and all of that. So, it's our how and we're going to keep digging in that as hard as we can and I'm pumped to get rocking with you guys. So, let's, let's get rolling.”

### **On what makes it hard to defend the run game when looking at the offense:**

“I would say two things. There are the movements, that's one. And then the runs and the play passes that can look alike. A pull with a pass, a pull, on the ones that look the same because when you really start running, then you better get downhill as a backer or a safety to get into the right fit. And then here comes a play pass that rips with it. That's to me where the challenges are and then the motions that go with it.”

### **On the offensive run game causing a lot of confusion for the defense:**

“Generally, that's the hardest part whereas some of the big plays live in the passing game aren't on all drop back plays, so many of them are on a play pass that allowed a defensive player to step up and you throw one behind them. And so those are ones that you see sometimes from like a [WR] Noah Brown, where it's a hard run action and that's part of what some of the things that he does. So, you know, significantly for us down the field throws.”

### **On the level of concern surrounding QB Jayden Daniels injury report:**

“We have no level just trying to keep it policies and transparency as clear as we can, but zero concerns.”

### **On what makes TE John Bates a good blocker and his development as a pass catcher:**

“Yeah, and so we're talking about kind of the run and play pass. I think that's where John has developed up at the top of the routes. He's always been an aggressive blocker. He's got great size, but he can lower his pad. So for as tall as he is, he can still get down low and get under people. So, he's got great strength in that way. And then in the passing game on early downs is where John can be that factor. He's got good hands; he's got good range to go up because he is so long. If a defender's guarding on one side, you can throw away from him. And so, man, we are, he is a Commander through and through like he is absolutely one of your favorite players to coach too. He just, he brings it.”

### **On benefits of having Thursday's game happen this week as opposed to later in the season:**

“I think that's a fair question and there is because you have a little bit more time on the preparation side for both the coaching staffs. So, I don't know if there's an advantage, but there is more time you can think

a little more clearly during that early week in between the opening game and this game but it's the same for both.”

**On the offensive line facing the Green Bay Packers defense:**

“The thing that I was super impressed with was the speed of their defense and when you watch through the draft, okay, linebacker, yes, linebacker, yes. Then adding safeties, [Green Bay Packers DT Rashan] Gary on the outside adding [Green Bay Packers LB] Micah [Parsons] to that. So, it was the speed the D-line, linebackers through the safeties, like that battery inside. And when you have that kind of speed on defense, that also can lead into some takeaways. The ball pops up, you feel the guys go. So that type of speed is certainly something that has impressed me so far with them.”

**On what he’s seen from the Green Bay Packers offensive line:**

“For a while, I really think [Green Bay Packer Head Coach] Matt [LaFleur] and his staff, they play excellent as a unit now. They added through free agency and the draft, et cetera. But most good offensive lines, you can see the continuity, you can see them playing together. And I definitely feel that Green Bay, they have a system and a style and a way that they play and they really stayed true to that. So, the proof is in the results of what they've done in the run game. And then when you added [Green Bay Packers RB Josh] Jacobs into it, this is a tough guy and he's able to make big plays able to score touchdowns down the red zone, so, in their run game. Yeah, that's for sure. One of the key points in this game.”

**On P Tress Way’s injury update:**

“I'd say similar to Jayden, I'm feeling good. He's improving and he'll get some kicks in tomorrow and then, you know, get him ready to play.”

**On making sure guys are ready to tackle in a way they don’t get to do during practice:**

“Yeah, you're right, and that's why like the September football, I wanted to make sure the how was right, you know, the physicality, the running, the hitting. So, you'll have to drill it as best you can. Not all tackles are exactly the same. There's ones that we call ‘profile’ where I'm squared up on you, you're squared up on me in the padded practices, we do thud those up. I see you, you see me, we try to, you know, get some contact on that. Then there's one that's called a two-man tackle. You have a leverage; I have a leverage. So, we're trying to sprint to that spot. And so, so much of tackling is about leverage. There's somebody on another side, so you don't want to be straight down the middle where a guy can have a two-way go. So, owning your leverage, running your feet on contact, you can drill some of that, but there's no drill, that would simulate a 220 pound back, running his feet on contact. And so that's harder. And you do need the live reps at that. And so that's why I want the play style, the attitude to continue to build and I sense that that, that is what you want to happen. You don't want like ‘okay, we're plateauing’, you want it to keep improving but it, it's a challenge.”

**On combating a player like Parsons:**

“Are you asking what would I do if I coaching him? I'd sit him this week [laugh]. Yeah, short week.”

**On what makes a player like Parsons dangerous:**

“Like Micah and other great players, you want to know where they are to how to go play and if you have a vulnerability in a spot, you want to make sure it's, you can fortify that to a strength. So, you don't just leave it to chance and see what happens. You want to make sure there's a plan to go into it. And so, for teams like Green Bay, they've got a number of good players and that makes it also more challenging when this one and this one and that one over there. So, when there's just one player that to stop and say, ‘okay, this is what we want to do’, that's easier than when there's multiple people in different locations. So, in my experience, the best of the best teams have had a number of players that were high level hitters and now this one gets too much attention. You leave this one open, he's going to shoot the three and

make you pay. And so, you want to have enough balance in how you do things to make sure that one player doesn't get too much attention but also enough that they don't wreck the game.”

**On his thoughts after watching Daniels Week 1 game film:**

“I thought overall offensively, there were some plays, man, like just close and those are the ones that you don't get second chances in our game, but it shows that we need the timing, we need the execution. And that kind of speaks to September football a little bit. I want to make sure the how is right. And I loved his aggressiveness, that the ops [opportunities] were there, we didn't hit them all, we missed one to [WR] Terry [McLaurin] missed one to [WR] Deebo [Samuel]. But I also know that it's all of us doing it. So, one thing I've learned through him, this is as competitive a dude as you can get. And so, a miss here or a miss there, that generally doesn't stay a miss here or a miss there [laugh].”

**On how important veterans can be to building a team:**

“Yeah, it's a good question. The building a team, there's not one size to fit all, for sure. But having excellent veteran players that really have high standards for how they operate, behave, perform, practice, of course that helps. You're trying to put things in place to say, this is the professional way that we want. And somebody that doesn't look the other way when something didn't go well. So, that happens and that helps for sure. As far as in the games for this week, having been through a Thursday game, a routine, what works best? How much do you need, what's the right amount? The feedback from them can be very helpful. Most teams don't have entirely new game plans on Thursday, it happens quickly. So, what can carry over? What would we just cover in training camp just a few weeks ago? And that also helps the veteran player, the recall, the quickness in the system, your first year in the system. I would say it's a little harder on the short weeks because you don't have a volume, you don't have a library, you don't have reps that you've banked together. And then as you gain more experience, I would say the people that have played some together, if there was an advantage, I'd say that's where it leans towards.”

**On RB Chris Rodriguez being inactive against New York and on if that's the plan again against Green Bay:**

“Each game it would be a little bit different. Chris has really hit good marks. We've kind of just felt the room was really strong. This past week we had six receivers up and instead of five and so what's required for the game. It's running back, it's tight end, it's defensive end, it's receiver, those are the ones that are a little fluid, but Chris has really hit the marks and on special teams as well.”

**On creating turnovers:**

“It's so important and we thought we'd had a chance on the one that [S] Quan [Martin] had. We had a foul on the play. Boy, that's a good one to get. There was one on the ground on one Russ' [New York Giants QB Russell Wilson] scramble down by the one-yard line. We didn't get that one. So, I like that we're thinking about it. I like that we're attacking it. I thought [LB Nick] Bellore had a shot on the hit on the punt. The guy did a fantastic job, gunner did on the punt catch. I mean, I don't know what the miles per hour was, but it was a lot, going right at him. So, pretty impressive play as the returner, but we just know it controls winning, the ball does. And I think, don't quote me on it exactly, but I think in week one, if teams won the ball, they were eight or nine and one, you have to look, but it's that high. And so, the only way to get in the plus is to do it. Now that's not sloppy tackling, taking a shot at a ball when you're going to enter into the tackle. But it is having a mindfulness and aware, to say, ‘Alright, the guy's already on the way down, I'm going to take a punch.’ I catch the ball that was up in the air that was 50-50. Those are ones that are really big.”

**On RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt's underdog mentality:**

“I would maybe not call it the underdog, but just this guy is a true competitor and he wants to prove, and that's not a lot different than [T] Josh Conerly [Jr.], that's [CB] Trey Amos, these young players who are

here, 'Man, I want to show you can count on me that I belong,' they want in. And so, I like that hungry mindset, but he wouldn't be here if he didn't have the talent. And so, if I was in Montgomery, I would certainly give him a lot of stars coming out. So, that happens sometimes, why did this guy get picked late? And they do well in the NFL and sometimes you just need the right space at the right spot. And we've got a lot of belief in him, and I certainly hope he feels that, but he's earned that. That's not something that we just throw around to make a guy feel better. You've gotta show it and then for us then it's our job to develop it and pull it out of him. But this is a guy that's hungry and wants to show he can keep developing and keep improving and I would expect he is going to be hitting his stride weeks from now with more development, more time, more looks, that experience counts. And having guys like [RB] Austin [Ekeler] and J-Mac [RB Jeremy McNichols] and Chris [Rodriguez] right side by side with them, that's a big deal. If you could in scene [T] Andrew Wylie communicating with Josh Conerly after every series, man, you'd think that's as good as a teammate as you can get. He wasn't in the game, but going through the looks, going through the plays. And so, the locker room has been created by men like that, that really stand for one another and know if a guy like Bill [Croskey-Merritt] puts out they're going to back him. And if they don't, they would get on him. And fortunately for Bill, he's one that's hungry and wants to get it right."

**On CB Marshon Lattimore this season compared to last season:**

"The health, man. He went through an absolute hell of a training camp and communication, the technique, the skill work. He just hit all the markers that you hope a player's going to hit along the way to get himself ready. So, I thought going in the plan was right, he was right and I'm excited about where he can take it."

**On how a short week early in the season can help later down the road:**

"I think we were talking earlier that having it early, that's okay. Going on the road like most games, you got to deal with the crowd, that's something that we work on here a lot, but we got a lot left in the tank. Had a tough division game just like they did, and they got to deal with us too. So, it's tough matchup both sides, exactly the type of environment that you want to play. Matt and their guy's staff, well-coached team, talented guys. So, it's the exact type of matchup that you really want to be in. And so, yeah, we're really pumped to get rolling with them too."

**On a benchmark for knowing when to change the game plan:**

"You do have to, in game things could change how the game unfolds, when team's ahead, so where does that lie into? How does that factor? Very rarely does it just play out all the way like you think it's going to. I think early on in my coaching career, because you go through the game plan, 'this is what they do. Analytics said they do this on third down,' then okay, they didn't do that. So, having the ability to adjust, that's to me where the contingency comes in. You wanted to go this way, they're trying to take away that player. They're trying to overload to a side, they're trying to attack something. Okay, now you have to shift. So, there's some counter punching that goes on in the game and you don't wait for halftime. You hear about the adjustments but man, you better start countering well before that or you could be looking at a deficit that's hard to overcome. So, you want to dig in, be ready, not chase ghosts. They have to show that this is demonstrating and happening before you go too far one way or another."