

September 15, 2025

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“I'll start off just with a little bit of tough news and we have two players that will be out for the year and that's [RB] Austin Ekeler and [DE] Deatrich Wise [Jr.], and I know we hear a lot that this is a next man up league, but I just wanted to take a moment and talk about these two and they have made a tremendous impact on our team, on the field, but also off the field. These are two incredible guys and so I just want to acknowledge that before we got rolling. I'm definitely bummed for them. We have four others for some injuries that we're still assessing. [WR] Noah Brown, [CB Jonathan] Jon Jones, [TE] John Bates, and [QB] Jayden [Daniels]. I know lots of the questions will be about our QB, but I can say, here's what I know and when I say that it's all really that I know. So, he did have an MRI and he has already begun his return to play process with us. He's truly day-to-day. What does that mean for Sunday? I can't tell you that now. I'll have more to share on that when we get to Wednesday and practice and what that would look like but in the return to play, he and any of the guys would have to hit all of the markers for us to get back and do our thing. So, we got a good plan of how to return to play for him and for everybody else and I'll give you more insights just as soon as I have them. So, I want to make sure I gave you all that I had that he's day to day as we're sitting today. And I'll share more with you on Wednesday when we get together before practice. So, all that said we can get rocking about the game or any other pertinent topic for the day.”

On key indicators that Daniels would be ready to play again:

“Yeah, it starts off first on like the strength part of things, the movements, and that's step one. Then on the field, the change of direction, the pivoting, the moving, all of those would be the things to go. So, we'll just take it as it goes through the week, but he'd have to see all of the steps along this week to hit those marks, the speed, the stopping, the change of direction, all of it.”

On challenges dealing with several injuries this soon:

“Yeah, I think teams go through it. It's just at different times with injuries and such. And so having this 70-man roster, you've heard me say it's going to take everybody, it's even on the old days when it was just 53, that's not really how it goes. For those of us who have been around the league enough, you need a big deep crew. And if players do have to miss that's why we have this group and how we play. So, we'll just take it as it goes but it's a little bit of a puzzle. You have to put it together much like other teams do and, and we'll be prepared for that with the contingency plans at certain spots if we need them.”

On if Daniels injury is a knee sprain and when the injury occurred:

“He was hurt on a tackle. He was actually looking back on Micah [Parsons] and scrambled away and got hit from kind of the opposite direction I would say. But he is dealing with knee injury, like I said, it was good that he finished the game and now as we get through it, we will just kind of go through the whole process with him and we're not going to miss it either. With Jayden, we know how important he is and so we're just going to kind of take it. That's why I truly say it's day by day to make sure that he can absolutely be himself.”

On expectations for Brown and Bates:

“Yeah, I think it's a long shot, but we'll have to find out when we get through Wednesday and where we're

at. Both of them had soft tissue injuries and we'll just see what it looks like as we get through Wednesday but we're still assessing him and John and Jayden as well. So those are the four that I, too early to call it for me. And so, once we get into, we'll get together Wednesday and have a better discussion for that.”

On treating Daniels return to play differently due to his level of importance on the team:

“It gets more attention, for sure, and look here, we recognize like what Jayden is and the impact that he has here, but I'd be BS-ing if I said like, we wouldn't care about those guys in the same way. So, I think it's not less on for them, we just want to make sure we're going to try to push the guys to the right spots. All these guys are like legit competitors so there's some of us protecting them from themselves as well. But we're going to do our best to make sure we got a pretty robust return to play program, and they have to hit all the markers even to be considered to go. So, we're just not going to miss any steps along the way, man.”

On his confidence in QB Marcus Mariota and when his involvement would be decided:

“Yeah, we'll take it all the way to Friday and then, have a real good idea of where we're at. If called upon, this is an elite competitor, teammate and player so we'll just take it as we go through that one. But, yeah, our confidence in him is through the roof based on who he is, the teammate, what he's shown to us here. But I'll have a better sense for that as I go through the week and can give you better insights on that when we get together on Friday.”

On when Mariota hit the markers to be considered a contender to play:

“It was after Baltimore, it was close to Baltimore, it was like, ‘okay, could we get some reps into that one?’, I felt like in the pregame that was the, ‘okay, there it is, that looks like you all the way through’. But that was the week we weren't sure would he be able to get some during that Baltimore week, the week after he was at the full. And then from then on, I felt good, but it was really into that week that I was like ‘okay, there's the speed, there's the explosion’, and it took a while but he has fully made it all the way back. Those are frustrating to go through as the player, but I can remember having the conversation, I said, ‘Hey man, that's it today’. And that's why we waited. So, it would look like that. And I think that was the week. Through that Baltimore and then into the next week, which I'm kind of, I don't know what the right word is, like a, the end of the season preseason bye week, but that week I felt like he was back to himself.”

On what he saw with the O-line during the game against the Green Bay Packers:

“Yeah, I really felt like it was almost like a repeat from Detroit. They got out ahead and I didn't like how we started really on either side of the ball. I think you have to go back and look, it was either two punts or three punts on our first two or three possessions. They drove down some. So, I didn't love the way that we started. As bad as it felt as we got into the start of the fourth quarter, you're down a touchdown. Okay, we're staying in the fight as bad as it felt. We didn't hit on a field goal at the end of half. We missed on a good return coming out of the half. So, I thought our complimentary football back and forth wasn't right. And then when it got to the two scores, then you're back throwing it all to try to catch up again. So, I thought, alright, ‘can we stay in this fight? Here's our time to go take our shot’. They went down to score and that's where I thought the game changed, man, where we had one shot to go fight for it. Didn't love our balance honestly, to go that many runs and passes at the half, there wasn't a lot of plays. So, it looks at the end of the game, way higher in the passing, which is not what you want to do against a team that's rushing and going but I just didn't love on both sides the way we started. There's things that I liked, took care of the ball, those things, but just in terms of the, just jumping on them and being aggressive from the start, that's the thing I didn't love.”

On how the run game of the defense needs to improve moving forward:

“Yeah, I knew it was going to be a tough matchup with [RB] Josh Jacobs and I thought, for him not to get

an explosive run, I think his longest was 10, that was a big one. Quarterback had a scramble, he had a couple reverse, that was a long one. So that part, we thought I honestly was more disappointed on the play pass side of things where they're able to hit some shots down the field to the tight ends, the running back I've been impressed with, I thought he was going to be good. Not allowing any explosives by him, that was a big piece for us, but allowing some of the pass game explosives that, that's the thing that really bothered me."

On Ekeler's impact and replacing his role:

"Yeah, you're right. He has been such a factor for us both on the field and I can't emphasize this enough, the teammate he is off the field, the standard that he sets, how he goes for things. So, it won't be with one person, not right away anyway. Those roles get worked out over time, but it won't be in the exact same way. I will tell you that that's not somebody just, 'okay, let's just plug and play'. So, we'll feature some guys in some different ways for sure but it won't be in the exact same way we did it with Austin."

On balancing Daniels' long-term health with his competitive nature:

"Yes, you are correct. That's just who he is, which I also love about him by the way. But it is part of, that's my job to make sure that, one I'm getting all the information from the medical side. Is he hitting all the tests, and then you also have to trust your eyes. Where's he at? Where are we going? And so, we're just not going to miss it for he and for any of the guys in that space. So, that is the good part of being a competitor, but I'm constantly watching and pushing to see, and then before we even get onto the practice field, they have to go through a pretty strenuous testing to see where they're at even before the actual on field reps begin. So, that's for he and for a couple of other guys as well."

On filling DE Deatrich Wise's role:

"Yeah, we'll have to adjust for sure and the size and the strength that Deatrich plays with on the edge, that's a real thing and so we'll mix it around. Fortunately for the roster, we've got some guys with some size that we can put into some different locations without giving away too much, but we'll have to do that some just because of the importance of that. And that's why Deatrich was here to add some strength into the run game. And that's not going to change, but we will have to do it a little bit differently. We'll also see how we can develop [DE] Jalyn Holmes has been somebody that's been here. We've got a lot of faith in him as well and we're still looking to see what we'd add and how that would look as well."

On how Daniels is dealing with his injury:

"I think more than anything, just this is a real competitor, so you want to make sure, where's he at and what's he got to do to get himself back and hit all the marks that he needs to hit. Probably more conversations, not injury related, to be honest with you. Performance and the things we need to do better. And so that's more of what we spend our time on and for us that tell the truth process, you have to tell it, you have to receive it, you have to apply it. So, we spent probably as much time on that as we did on the injury side of things."

On correcting mistakes from last game against tight ends:

"You're right and that's what's hard. When you have, I think it was probably over 150 yards, it must have been by the two tight ends and one for a 57-yard to go. And so sometimes at tight end, man, it's eye control in the run game, make sure your eyes are in the right spot, whether it's a run or a pass. I think that's what I was referring to earlier on Tashan's question. I was disappointed that we lost the tight end on some routes that looking at one thing and it's, hey, this is thinking it's a run, you're looking into the back field. And so, I want to make sure those things we can get corrected. But yeah, no doubt about it. We knew that was one of the real focal points. They took some shots outside, which I thought, down the field on the corners, but [CB] Trey [Amos] and Shon [CB Marshon Lattimore] were into that space, but really, I agree with you that the tight ends were the matchup and we've better get that part really buttoned

up heading into this week.”

On WR Terry McLaurin and on him if he’s still ramping up from the preseason:

“Yeah, I think I'd love to see that some of the plays that he's known for, where it's the downfield shots to go, we haven't connected on them, we've taken a couple of them. We thought we had one for sure. We just missed on the one against the Giants. Early on I think, I'm not sure if it was a double move, but we didn't hit it and we took one last week, we didn't. We have to convert on those. That's kind of the superpower for him to get the catch and run plays or the shots down the field and we'll plan on working hard to do that. But no, we haven't hit those to the degree that we need to and we'll work hard to get that right, for sure.”

On how difficult it is to get McLaurin involved when defenses key in on him:

“Yeah, you do have to be ready for that. Not one team plays it exactly the same. And so, if you're talking about a double team, okay, how do you work yourself through that. Are they high and low or is it inside out? If it's in and out, it's through the top. If it's a high low, you can still work some things. So, we do have to work through that, fortunately, that's something that he has become accustomed to. But the execution that falls on all of us, the players, the coaches, all of us to really nail that. And we definitely plan on doing that but the attention that he gets garnered, I'd say it'll be similar to what he has seen. And we're at our best when everybody's attacking. And so, when we can get to that space, [TE] Zach [Ertz], it's [WR] Deebo [Samuel Sr.], it's him, it's Noah [Brown], it's all the guys. That's when we really can be our most explosive and we missed on that, and we missed the mark on that in this game. And we don't plan on staying in that space.”

On Jones’ status:

“Bates and Noah Brown and Jon Jones. So, they're the three that we're working through this week to see what he'll be. But I'll have a better assessment on, certainly Noah and John as I'm going through tomorrow and the next day about what that would look like.”

On his comfortability with RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt being used as a run blocker:

“Yeah, I would say we feel comfortable because we wouldn't have put him in had we not. And so that part, in terms of learning it he's done a good job through the offseason, through training camp into that space. Are there new looks that could come up? Yeah, no doubt about it, man. But as far as assignment wise, he's on it, Bill is. And so, [RB] Chris Rodriguez will be back into the fold as well. So, the three of them, we definitely have lots of belief, faith, system details, all of it.”

On areas of improvement through two games:

“Yeah, I would like to see, because some did improve that I wanted to see, if you asked me after game one, it was in the penalties and the tackling, and those things got better. I just want to make sure that one, our ability to eliminate explosive plays and to generate them, that's a big piece for us. We allowed some explosive passes in this game, which in the game prior we didn't, we didn't get as many explosive plays in this game. So, that one that has to happen. You've heard me talk about September football, there's mistakes, I want to see those corrected. I also want to make sure that when you're watching us play that it's just all over the tape, the way we're finishing on a back, blocking downfield. So, I want to continue to heighten onto those things. And then I want to make sure we nail our complimentary football. I thought we missed that on some spaces over the last two weeks, thought we had a chance at some points at the end of the half this week, we had a good return out to midfield to start the second half, missed on some points in that one. So, that can we sustain drives and get those points, especially when we did a nice job on some field position on the return game. So, let's make sure this complimentary football feeds in on one another and knowing if the big return we got to go get a score out of that one or when we hold them, kick it and [P] Tress [Way] puts them back inside the 10-yard line, they have to stay

back that way. And so, that's a must for me, the complimentary football. We've got to make sure we get better at that.”

On the offensive execution:

“Yeah, I wish it was all just one thing and I have to do this also. I don't like to, but you also got to give credit to Green Bay and their defense. They were disruptive, they played well and that also created some of the, not execution at the level that we want to. So, we have a good system, we know it inside out and we've got to make sure on the plays that we need to make and we go make them. And whether that's a catch and run play, a shot down the field that gets blocked up, hitting our marks in the run game, having balance, those are the things that I want to see us do better. Didn't love seeing us start slowly. Obviously, we got in a hole where it was, I'm not sure either 14-0 or 14-3. And I love that we stayed in the fight even though it felt worse than that. But when those times come, we have to go, ‘hey, it didn't go as well and now we go get back in the fight and go do it’. So, those are those moments we just, we have to find our ways to go nail it in those times. So, some of that's execution, some of that's making sure we eliminate things that jamming us up, a sack on an early down, a penalty that goes from second down to a longer second down. Those are some things that I want to make sure we address them and like we said on the tell the truth Monday, you tell it, you receive it, and now you apply it, and I want to see it get applied.”