

November 7, 2025

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“Before we get rolling today, I thought I’d just acknowledge some tough news yesterday in the NFL. And I want to take a minute to extend condolences to the Kneeland family, to the [Dallas] Cowboys. And although I didn't get to coach [Former Dallas Cowboys Defensive End] Marshawn [Kneeland], hits our locker rooms and you know, all across the league and just a tough deal and just a good reminder, man. There's always, there are always people to help support in all ways and in all spots. But some really tough news. Just again, wanted to send our condolences to their family and to their organization and all across the league. It's hard. So, hitch on a few of the captains. Offensively [RB] Chris Rodriguez [Jr.] and toughness, physicality and Chris is somebody, like our teammates count on him in such a big way. He absolutely takes care of people here in this building just by energy. His approach. Defensively [DT] Daron Payne at his games going to be one of will, line of scrimmage game for sure. He'll be right in the middle of it. And then for special teams it was [S] Jeremy Reaves and the comment I made to the team was he makes every room better that he's in, that's defensive room, defensive backs, special teams, locker room. He's definitely that kind of leader. So, all that said, get ready to get rocking with you guys and the game.”

On QB Jayden Daniels injury update and timeline:

“Well, let's start with just you know, I thought it was a good process to go through. Like all the players do get second opinions and getting all the information of what to do and how to do it. So, I thought the guys nailed that. Dr. Annunziata ran point on that, but consulting all the people and Jayden was involved with that as well. So, it's a good deal with no surgery, obviously that makes a big difference. When you have an injury not to have to go down that road. I hope to give you guys an update after the Bye Week about where he is and you know, where we go from there. But after that I'll give you an update on where it's at and we'll give us a couple weeks to get to that space. That's where we're at.”

On what he saw from CB Mike Sainristil playing on the outside last season:

“With him and [CB] Jonathan [Jones], going into the season we kind of mixed back and forth inside outside. Both of them had the versatility to do that. We kind of landed on more outside for more inside for Mike, but then we kind of worked both of them. So that's what we'll kind of continue to work into. Last year, what did we see? Obviously like the playmaking ability outside. We saw him as like a competitor just finding his way. We moved him, I think maybe it was week two or three, and I think it was week three. And I just saw him improve and get better. A lot of that is due to just his competitive nature. But it'll be some combination of both of them. And it may be just based on alignments and matchups, you know, could look like he's outside or inside. So, we're fortunate that both of them can go in both spots.”

On the Make-a-Wish child joining practice today:

“Yes, we had a new member of the team today, so Fox Thornhill was here, which was absolutely

awesome and what swag for him. We kind of met him as he was, and he and his family coming into the building and probably had maybe 60 or 70 people there. We had some music playing and as he came in, and so one of the people he was hoping to meet was Jayden. And so, he was there and he had such cool swag to him. We pointed over to him, he walked over, just gave him a nice head nod, you know, what's up, had his sunglasses on, and then just now breaking the team down afterwards, you know, [WR] Deebo [Samuel Sr.] gave him a helmet and said, this is how you break team down. I said, I got it, man, family on three what? And so, he was like already ready. So, Fox Thornhill as a Commander, man, does he have swag. And it was really cool to be a part of somebody going through a tough space of you know, when you're dealing with something as heavy as that, as a child and like to get a chance to see him happy and his family happy, his older brother and his parents, like, you know, not every profession gets that. And so, to see him on the best of days when you're going through it, that's a nice thing for the team with the smile. So, he was still outside with the guys just now, so that made me happy.”

On if he thinks the team is still going through a recalibration at this point of the season:

“Tough question. Fair question. We're obviously in a tough slump. I mean like you can't deny this. But I don't feel differently. I don't. You know, how we're performing does not make me happy. You know, we're beating ourself, we're not hitting the marks that we need to, but that doesn't change my outlook or my belief. I have a sense that it's about to go again and I see that because of practice, I see that because of locker room, but it does have to take place on the field too. That's a big deal. But I also love, there's some people that are developing, but it still comes down to the performance on the field. I have not changed my mindset on that in the midst of a tough, tough stretch for us. I have not changed my mindset on that.”

On S Will Harris' absence and what he's seen from players who have stepped up in his place:

“First thing I thought like the background with Will, I think some know, but not everybody knows. Like from the cover side, like came in the league as a corner who could play inside and play nickel and then move the safety. I love Will's urgency. You know, the importance of it, the detail of it. Like he loves football and we're remarking the night he got injured, like he hadn't even had the surgery yet. I'll be back in this much time. You know, like he was already saying that that night. It's like, just get the surgery this week, okay? [Laughs] But that kind of gives you a window into him, you know, about who he is and what, like, he's itching to get back, you know, with the team. He's here doing rehab now, he's hitting the marks that he's supposed to, but it's the coverability, it's the urgency that he plays with. I kind of felt that way from the whole time he was here. There's urgency to be a part of it. So, we definitely miss him. We're looking forward to getting him back. So, as we're getting closer to that, you know, I like the progress that he's making, but that's just a few of the things that he brings.”

On the reason for the current run game performance and future improvement:

“Yeah, we have to. That's a great question and something that we have to emphasize. And there could be a matchup where it's tough even to get the yards, but you have to dig in and keep fighting for them knowing that there could be a play pass or you know, the benefit that goes with that. As far as the difference of both, defending the whole field, honestly defending up high on shots, down the field, play passes. So having the variety of both with some balance is big, but the importance of hanging in, staying into it and it's a big part of this game for sure. I said earlier this is a line of scrimmage game on both sides and the running game for us is going to be a big part of this, all three backs.”

On players applying new corrections in practice:

“Yeah. What may seem small or tweaks or different, could be as simple as like a meeting with these two or three positions together. Extended walkthroughs where you might get, you know, 30 to 40 more reps of something just to get more clarity, more insights on it from the coaching side was can we narrow things out to make sure we know the margins are small and so how can we clearly say these are the plays, these are the ones, can we execute that? And so that's a big piece of it that we did to make sure preparation would be as elevated as we can make it and as funny as it sounds, sometimes that's less, even though you're elevating and digging in further. But that was the case this week. But I love that a couple of meetings together, this position group, this position group to increase feedback, collaboration, where exactly do you see us on this route? Where do you exactly see the player against this coverage? And so, they're the ones out on the grass. And so that's what I was hoping to see them more directive language to one another and to make sure that not just the teaching is good, but the learning is, and that they can explain it to one another.”

On managing tough conversations while maintaining brotherhood:

“Good news, I guess on some things, like tough conversations are part of it, but it all doesn't mean you have to come by somebody in a way that you know is harder than it has to be. But you do have to have those conversations about a performance, a technique. A mindset doesn't make the player. They're not happy or a coach happy, but how they respond, that's really what you're looking for. If somebody flies off the handle or goes sideways about things, then that's probably a bigger problem. So, like that disappointment, like, okay, I'm going to show you. That's a good conversation in my opinion because like all of us are here to win and perform and if something's not meeting a standard that we like you have to have those tough conversations as you said. But because we have him on a regular basis doesn't mean it's, ‘Well he's mad now.’ Like I have tough conversations sometimes after wins, you know, tough conversation after a practice to say like, ‘What the hell was that?’ You know and watch the tape or show an example but I don't try to do it in a way that's ever demeaning or that, but like, this is what the performance shows, this is what we have to do. And then the last piece of that, this is the plan to go fix it, you know, this is the technique, this is the thing I want you to work on, this is the skill as opposed to just saying demoted or this or that. Like, and here's what we need to go do. I think if you give that kind of feedback and let the player, also or the person that you're dealing with have their say too then you come to some solutions together, say, ‘Okay, this is what you want to see. How do I go figure out how to do that?’”

On the quarterback room handling changes:

“Yeah, I think the whole team just continuity is probably the hardest part as you're going through things and so how can they work with one another to help get that continuity? Sometimes at the position, the other receivers helping a new receiver, other quarterbacks, you know, bringing people together. And so that's kind of what I was referring to of like some groups together to watch practice, some groups, you know, not separate where that it's a normal thing where you can really hone in on the technique. No, no I also want to discuss it with these two or three groups together. So, that's what you do. You figure it out together. And the quarterback room is one of our strongest, players, leadership, coaching. So, they spend the most time together just by nature of the position. There's the early mornings, there's the extra time, which like the job requires. What it requires, you know, like it is, that's the job. And so, the fact that they're able to spend a lot of good time together helps be honest with one another and good performances, bad performances, things we need to do more of. Coaching and playing. So, it's a good group. It really is in that room specifically.”

On conversations between himself and Offensive Coordinator Kliff Kingsbury on the sidelines on game day:

“Yeah, I think we talk about like just stay in the balance, stay in into the balance of what we're going to do. We hit on some of the things that we liked during the week. Have we hit this yet? Have we hit this yet? So as we're going down kind of a through checklist of things that we want to see and if we've seen them, ‘Okay, is there one to come back to off of that?’ So which ones go with one another? But it's pretty easy in-game. Usually it's in between a series, you know, not during the play time, but let's see what's next, what's next, what's next? Halftime also.”

On how the increase in walkthroughs has affected the team:

“That's the goal as players, physical learners, there's obviously a classroom element of philosophy, of big picture of it, but then the physical learning of where you are, the space of that, of what that can look like, we're hopeful that pays dividends for us. In all ways for our team. We want like aggressiveness but having the discipline to stay in this pocket of doing things right. And so, finding that balance of both is a big deal for us. Yeah, but like most things, we're going to keep digging and find some of the small tweaks that can make a difference and we're hoping that specifically is one that will help us take.”

On LB Jordan Magee:

“The good for him is that he plays both positions for us. Like when we play our nickel defense, there's two backers. So, when you're in that spot, you play both, you know, as the third linebacker in the nickel package. So, in practice he plays both. So that's an advantage. Think of it like this way, as a corner who can play inside and outside, but you have to practice at both. So, it'll end up at, ‘Okay, where is he most at?’ He's got speed. He's a good blitzer. He plays square. I don't know if it's the spot as much, but the fact that he's doing both jobs now gives you a lot of comfort to know, like as we're developing him, that he's somebody that we're going to be leaning on hard.”

On how the issues on defense have bothered him:

“Yeah, so I'd say like on can you say the first, like how much does it bother me? Is that like, yeah, like 10 out of 10, it bothers me as the head coach. Like biggest thing, is I want to be the play style, you know, or philosophy of how we want to play. And so that part when I don't get that, like we want, obviously it agitates me on any of the phases and then the skill development of the players, obviously that's an important part to me because if I can help develop the guys, we can find our way back. But as far as like the involvement, yeah, I'm involved and I want to see us increase tackling and takeaways and some fundamentals that would go with that and then as we're going through it heard us say earlier, can we simplify some things? Can we make it more, you know, so we can process and hit and do things better. And so that's really where I push everybody to go to, defensively especially, but all three phases really. But that's where I'm leaning in the most. That's honestly like where I normally lean in the most.”

On how a travel week to Europe next week affects injured players:

“Yeah, the guys that can would be there with us. If there was some guys that would stay back due to, you know, certain rehab or that thing. But, yeah, we'll hit that like kind of like as we get through into Monday morning and then there'll be obviously some therapist that would be back here, but not everybody will go. But we'll kind of wait until we get through Monday and then kind of organize who's staying, who's going, and lean in from that.”