

December 15, 2025

## **Head Coach Dan Quinn**

### **Opening Statement:**

“All right. As we get rolling, I, in the locker room last night, I told the guys and the coaches included, man, take a minute and enjoy the win. And there's nothing quite like a locker room after that. It had been, it had been a while, but today that's when you get back to it. And that's why we have our truth day. What we can do better and what we need to do better. And there's a lot that we need to do better. There was flashes, but um, that consistency continues to haunt us. There was some big plays. The complementary football at the end of the half was probably my favorite part of the game. Punt return, stop, interception, like those were ones that I thought were really cool spots. But penalties and turnover margin, other things we definitely got to improve and that's a big part of finishing. And that, you know, with the division at hand of the games that we're having in the next three that's a big deal for us and we're really pumped to go after it. And again this week. Then last thing I hit you on will be regarding [QB] Jayden [Daniels]. And we're going to sit him for the final three games. And I know your first question likely is, ‘well, DQ what went into that?’ and the answer is it was a lot. And part medical and part team. As of today, he still wasn't all the way clear to play. So, like last week, wouldn't have all the results until the end of the week, and then a short week next week with the Christmas game. So, we believe this decision allows him to take advantage of the next few weeks in a different way. He wants to practice and he will practice. He also wants to support [QB] Marcus [Mariota] in a way that Marcus has demonstrated and helped him. And so like, I thought that was significant. We all know the best way to grow is during the games, but with that, you know, not being the best way for us, there's plenty of ways for him to learn, you know, over the next three weeks. And you know, he is going to learn from this vantage point too. So, I just wanted to give you all the info that I had and then we'd get started recapping the game or however you guys want to proceed. So, let's get it rocking.”

### **On the disappointment of Daniels not playing for the rest of the season:**

“Yeah, I get it and like, that's, that was the plan for sure with five games, you know, and like in football and life, you adjust and this is the best plan for him and for the team right now. And so that's what, you know, we're always going to look into it and have lots of discussions about it. But we decided this was the best way for us over the next three games knowing that he wasn't fully cleared to get back just yet.”

### **On Daniels leaving previous games with injuries factoring into the decision to sit him:**

“Yeah, we talked, we discussed all that, but that didn't factor it into it. One didn't relate to the other. And so, it was disappointing and like, ‘Hey, let's be honest, it's been hard, you know, in a lot of ways’. So, we're just trying to make the best decisions we can, but it wasn't you know, a factor from previous. It was just a matter of, hey, not clear to do it and we're going to make the best decisions for the team and for him. That's the number one.”

### **On when Daniels was notified:**

“Just this afternoon. So, and then [General Manager] Adam [Peters] did as well. And so, yeah, it was important. We want to be communicative with all the guys, and you know, especially like their spot and Marcus as well. And Marcus will do a great job. And I thought for him also being able to prepare and get all the reps in and out, that can be a difficult process to go through as well. So we wanted to give him the

best runway to go do his thing as well.”

**On reps being important when there were six games left compared to three:**

“Yeah and it wasn't even going to be three, you know, so think it wasn't going to be cleared up for this game and then a short week to go, so then we're like, now we're coming back into less than that. So, you're right, all of that went into to the process to go do it.”

**On Managing Partner Josh Harris' involvement in the decision:**

“Adam and I obviously like, you know, keep him in the loop on all the things that are going through it. So, it's good. We continue to have dialogue with him. We meet on a regular basis before the games. Fridays, Mondays. So, we have a constant dialogue so that's helpful that it's not something that we have to go to on a big moment or anything. We just try to stay in a constant level of communication and that has been really solid for us.”

**On if they made the decision before informing Harris:**

“Yeah, I guess that would be correct in the way that you'd say it. We like talked and have discussions. I don't know if we notified him but maybe a discussion's a better way to phrase that. We certainly don't have that kind of juice to notify the owner. Yeah, that's [laugh]. I better clarify that [laugh].”

**On how to maximize Daniels's potential moving forward:**

“Yeah and going in, some of that is going to be designed by him too. And that's why we're hopeful for the rep and we thought, ‘okay here's a shot to go find those specific things for him’ and it's mostly on drop backs, honestly to say, ‘when do I remain a pass? Or when do, like eyes downfield?’ and so not having to do those in the game reps, isn't ideal, but we're going to try to find the best way possible. And I'm hopeful that in a year from now when you say, ‘what'd you learn?’, you know, when you're talking to Jayden and maybe this vantage point even over a couple of weeks when he is, you know, when he is not playing and wanting to be, that we gain some experience and maybe a vision that you wouldn't have normally had and that's what I'm hopeful that will get done. And then as it gets into the off season and the training, like obviously that's going to be a big part of what we're doing knowing how important he is. And so, he knows that he's not happy that, you know, he is going to be out, but that's where we're at, you know, as we're going through it right now. But there's lot to still learn and we're going to push that hard.”

**On the importance of complementary football for Daniels's success:**

“Yeah, you're right and you may have heard me say, I remember from last season, I said, the best part of our team is the team. It's covering a kick, it's field position, it's creating a takeaway, it's converting a fort down. And so having the complementary football to do that, that's a big deal. And when you can nail those, you know, we have more continuity certainly offensively we perform better on the fourths. But you're right man, you create a short field, you get one to go. So that's what I felt yesterday strongly about the half. It was a fantastic return by [WR] Jaylin [Lane] and then a stop and a pick. And it's like, that's the switch, man. You've seen it. We all have. And that's that momentum change that just takes place in these smallest moments. And I felt that yesterday. I felt that energy we did enough to let them back in when you [laugh] have to score lead, but that's what I'm referring to and that's what you're referring to as well. And so that's capturing the complementary way that you were describing. And I couldn't agree more.”

**On the opportunity for Mariota over the last three games:**

“Yeah, he's an impactful guy here, for a lot of reasons. But also, it's the play on the field and having him, the full three games to go take all the reps and do the preparation to go, that's a big deal. And so, we wanted to give him that opportunity as well to make sure he had the timing, the execution, the practice reps. Sometimes when you're the backup, not getting the game reps with the guys that are in during the week that can change it. So yeah, that was part of the goal for sure.”

**On Daniels' reaction when he was told his season was over:**

"I would say disappointed but understood as well. This guy's a competitor, that's what always stands out about him. I think the fact that he wanted no part of IR to practice, be there with the guys doing that, I think that speaks of the teammate and why. And so, that was important to him to show that support and wanting to do it as well. So, that told us a lot also about it because it would've been the easy way to say whatever and that's not how he is at all. So, I liked the fact that he's competitive. I like the fact that he wants this time and so that's an important piece to it."

**On balancing all of the factors when making a decision like this:**

"Yeah, it's hard. It's nice to have a partner with Adam to talk through because there's a lot that just consumes your mind day and night and the topics and what's gone well, what hasn't gone well. And so, you just try to talk it through, man. And so, having somebody to discuss with, go through options with and then ultimately make the best decisions for the team, they're hard but it's, like I said, much better to have somebody to talk it through with and talk about the pro's and the con's and we thought we had a good plan for the next five and, what's the saying go? 'Man plans and God laughs,' [laughs]. You adjust and that's what you do. And so, that's in a game that's when injuries take place. And so, you go a good plan and then you have a way to adjust it."

**On how Daniels can get better over the last three weeks of the season without playing:**

"Yeah, I say, well he's got to be cleared first. And so, it'd be unlikely for this one and then a short week coming up. So, it's hard to do that. I would agree, the best place to do it is in a game to grow it. It's the very best, but that doesn't mean you can't squeeze every ounce of energy into the practice and working through some of the specific things that we want to do. And so, that's what I would say. We're always going to make the best decisions for the team and the player, but it doesn't mean we can't take advantage of this time. And like I said, I hope when you talk to him in a year from now and say, man, that gave me a different vantage point, and I want him to gain something from this time. And that's what I would hope to accomplish from that."

**On if the team was 10-4 if Daniels would play:**

"Yeah, we're not. So, we didn't have that discussion."

**On areas where Daniels can grow as a player:**

"Yeah, I think the number one is that competitive spot for him and also those decisions to protect the team, to know when to get down, when to slide, when to throw it out of bounds. And so, most of those come on a drop back pass where you're outside the pocket and it's typical for a lot of quarterbacks who are outside the pocket, what do you do? It's scrambles, it's part of what we track every week defensively. Scramble to run, to throw, where the sack's coming from. And so, that's it to find as many outside the pocket plays. None of the design bootleg or a keeper to go outside, but typically on the drop backs that a person gets outside the pocket. So, that would be at the top of it."

**On if Daniels is still dealing with the same injury as last week:**

"It is. And it's about in the same spot. And so, that's why it hadn't been cleared to go back to it. And we also want those reps, if he was, to be where he could fully express himself and play in his own style that he does things. So, when he is not that affected a lot of the decisions too. So, we're going to do our best to simulate as much as we can in practice and let's try to do the best that we can with that spot. But yeah, he's in the same space medically. We're not cleared to go back, but structurally there hasn't been any setbacks."

**On his conversations with Offensive Coordinator Kliff Kingsbury about the offense:**

“Yeah, early in the week that's when we discuss, okay, what would the plan look like? Who would be in? These are the available receivers or tight ends. And so, we start from there of trying to be like, what would that initial 48 look like? Okay. And then once you have that plan, it's kind of easier to begin of what and who and how to game plan. And so, that was for instance this week having some guys back and then also having [TE] Zach [Ertz] out. And so, how does that balance into it? So, if you can start at the beginning of the week then you can adjust to say, this is who we'll feature, this is how we'll go. In training camp it's pretty vanilla where you're at. And then once the season begins, how will we put people in different spots? So, we start at the beginning of the week and then we work from there. And then it's been good to have some other guys work in that hadn't been a part of it. And guys like [WR Treyton] Burks who's, okay, there's something here that we want to continue to develop and we still dig in on guys like that too.”

**On Daniels’ injury effecting the team’s plan with other players and on an update for T Laremy Tunsil:**

“No, it depends just from the medical standpoint first, we'll let that drive it first. But let's get to Laremy first, he has an oblique injury, and we'll have to see what the strength looks like for him, the movement, the strength over the next couple days. And if he's able to then he will play.”