

December 22, 2025

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“Not a ton of updates since yesterday. With [QB] Marcus [Mariota] we're going to continue to monitor the swelling in his hand and with his quad. And I plan to have a better update after he goes through today and tomorrow. We did make one roster move. We signed quarterback Jeff Driskel and also placed [G] Sam Cosmi on IR. I wanted to give you that before we got rolling today. Ready to open up to you guys about the game and let's get moving.”

On Mariota's injury:

“Yeah, yeah. Seeing Marcus go out and seeing Sam [Cosmi] go out. I know it probably, I always give an injury update, but it carried a little more with me with the two of them just because one from Marcus, the leading standpoint and chances to go. And then with Sam, you know, I mean you knew it was coming for him to take these steps forward, coming back off the knee. And I think even over the last few weeks you really felt that even more. So, disappointed but certainly know that like, man, so much work that he put in, it's going to provide him for a long time.”

On the decisions behind playing QB Josh Johnson and signing Driskel:

“Yeah, I think the experience part for sure was a big part of that, as you're going to go, just the history and different perspective. And so that was really the reason behind it. We're really glad Jeff's here with us, obviously with some history within the system that can help. And when we visited with him, ‘Hey man, doesn't have to have everything, what's the part that you would feel comfortable with if called upon?’ And so we reiterated that to him today. But these are two really good teammates and so with Marcus, we're not sure where we're at yet. We thought this was the best decision for us over these next two games.”

On G/T Andrew Wylie stepping in for Cosmi:

“Yeah, that's where we're at right now with Andrew. Correct.”

On changes to make going into next season:

“Yeah, we're going to honestly evaluate like every part of all the things that we can. For me, from the coaching side, man, you never want a season like this. And I also want to make sure like, I don't want to waste it either to make sure what are we learning, what are we finding out, what are the lessons that that will carry forward into next season? And I'm not thinking about them now, I'm thinking about all those today and in the moment. And so, the injuries obviously are a big part of that and having a lot of discussion on that. And so, I'm just going to dig in as much as we can through the coaching and the medical, the personnel, like the players, like all of it. And that's part of the evaluation at the end of the season. But it definitely calls for a deeper look, I would say of how we do it and how we move forward. Like I said, some things are just unpreventable making, that's the game. And every once in a while, you can say that's bad luck or a bad op. And so, let's

make sure we're not crossing the line on those.”

On how to prepare Driskel for the game with him just getting here and it being a short week:

“It would still be tough, but it does help knowing that there's some history that goes along with the system and how he's done that. So, Jeff's used to into a no-huddle environment, you know, certain plays. We know what he likes and know that he performs well. So, I'd say without having to study the entire playbook in one night to say everything's available, you'd much prefer to say these are the featured plays and you can condense it if it was Jeff or anybody else into that spot too.”

On splitting quarterback reps at practice:

“As we're going through for the start of it, Josh will get the lion's share of the ones today in a short week. There's not tons that go, but Josh offers a good start. Obviously, last night began on the process for the game plan and having him in there and this morning, so we just had our first walkthrough and so what's the same, what's different? How would we work that? That'll be something that we'll work through over the next couple of days, but not a lot different for him as it is for anybody to say, what's the best thing and how would we feature them? And so that's what we'll do.”

On TE Zach Ertz and on the challenges of being hurt during the holidays:

“Yeah, you definitely can. He went to have the surgery in Texas last week. So, before he left for that we had a chance to spend an hour together and [I] think the first thing after an injury that knocks you out for a season, there's a finality to it that you're not prepared for. There was no way to prepare for something like that. Then we kind of talked about what to expect, what would be ahead, and then for him, just like when I send out a group text to the team or to the tight ends, you know, like his response kind of just proves how engaged he is as a teammate. And like those are moments that, even though he is not in the team meeting or there, just knowing, man, I'm not in the building, but I'm there. And you know, he still keeps up with everybody going through it, so it's hard for sure and especially when the finality of that injury you're not quite prepared for.”

On QB Sam Hartman:

“Yeah. The good news is that we had a whole year with Jeff, so we had some background with him as well. So, we tried to give Sam as much playing time as we could from the preseason. That was a big part of the goal for the evaluation. What I've seen a lot of the growth, we wouldn't be able to show on a stat sheet or something from this season, but it definitely has been going like this with Sam. And so going into it, we just wanted to make sure, you know, three guys onto the roster and in that space, you know, Jeff was on a practice squad, so that makes the best way to get all three in the building and being ready to perform. As far as up and order and all that, we haven't determined all of that yet, but let's get the guys in the huddle first [laughs] then we can figure out how we want to deploy everybody.”

On how Driskel fits into the quarterback room:

“Yeah, I think first thing you think about with Jeff is like extending plays. It's his ability to use his legs, he's got real speed. Those are some of the things that make Jeff unique. And I would say probably more closely related to the background of Marcus from read and his own read option and being in the gun and working in that format, that's been a big part of his career and so he's like super comfortable in those types of plays but he's been a great teammate. We loved coaching him here last year. And so when this unfortunate opportunity came about, and a chance to add him to the mix, it was good. And there's a familiarity that you can step in quickly and that helps especially

on that short week.”

On Wylie being able to step into the starting guard position:

“Yeah, we're fortunate with Andrew because of his versatility, you know, inside and outside and so playing games where he could be a tackle, be a guard. This past time he was working at the jumbo spot. But definitely the continuity and the communication, that's a big deal. So, I think you add the emphasis, you add the time together in the meetings and in the walkthroughs to make sure those two players or you know, the person on either side of him in his instance as a guard, the constant communication. But having that background that's a big deal.”

On players who care more about legacy than money and on which guys in the locker room embody that:

“Yeah, I would say the guys who just wreaked havoc I thought in the game was [S] Jeremy Reaves is one that comes to mind, trying to double team him on a kickoff and goes to make a tackle inside the 20. [RB] Chris Rodriguez is one that sticks to mind. I thought [LB] Bobby Wagner, guys of just consistency, steady performance. There's no rollercoaster in the best of and the hardest of times, they're just that type of consistent. But I would say Wags [Wagner] is probably the one that comes to mind the most in the highest of highs and lowest of lows, man, he's able to maintain this level of intensity that's just remarkable. So, I think that's the first person that would come to mind.”

On things he wants to see from the team heading into the offseason:

“Well, for sure I never want a season like this, never again. But I also know that I don't want to waste it. And what do I mean by that is there's lessons that I want now that are going to carry over into next season. I don't want to apply them then, talking about a play style and turnover margins and penalties and things that. I want these lessons now, I want them learned now. And so, if I can have a better sense of that over those two games, I do think pain and adversity and dealing with those, those are good. That's resilience and you show you have that, but on the field, man, I'm looking to see these lessons getting corrected and changed and if we can improve upon that, then I think we're not wasting the moments. And like I said, I never want it to happen, but I for sure, damn sure don't want to not take the lessons that are there for us to take.”

On the quarterback decision and on making sure he's able to evaluate other talent:

“Yeah, it's a fantastic question. The first part is just the function and the continuity offensively. How can we play at our best? Because it's a little bit of both sides. If you can play at your best, it's also going to allow other people to do their thing. And so, it won't read exactly the same off the call sheet if Marcus isn't available as it would be with Josh. But that doesn't mean there's not important people to feature and how to get the ball to. So, I think you're right on both ends that, that's definitely a part of it to make sure that some of the play makers are finding their spots to get involved without forcing an error or making a bad decision. So, it's a great point that you bring up and we're just going to try to find the balance to perform well, cleanly and if we can do that right then I think the second part is able to happen.”

On younger players who have stepped up:

“[LB] Jordan Magee, you've heard me talk about him quite a bit. He's definitely somebody that just has my attention, the intensity that he plays with, the intensity that he brings. The running backs with Bill [RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt] and Chris [Rodriguez]. I know Chris isn't a rookie but just doesn't have three years of experience in games. So, those are two at that spot, [T Josh] Conerly [Jr.] obviously. So yeah, there's definitely players, but Jordan was the first one that popped out in

my mind. [TE] Ben Sinnott's is another, the running backs. So, [WR] Trey Burks, although he is not a younger player, he's new to us but not younger. And so, those are a few that each week I just get excited to see where they're headed."

On what the team loses when Wagner isn't on the field:

"Yeah, like I said, we'll cross that when we get to the offseason. What I would say, just in general what his superpower is, it's tackling and I think this past game was one of his best in that department, in line on the edge, on screen passes. I think that's his superpower and why he's damn near 2,000 [tackles]. When you say that number out loud, it's like holy shit. But the part of that for me, that's the superpower. It's so obvious but it's so significant."

On who the emergency third quarterback was against Philadelphia:

"Such an interesting question. So yes, [WR] Luke [McCaffrey] was of course one and yes [TE Colson] Yankoff was another, but in the last game there was no Yank or Luke. So, you ready for the one that was going to be in the last one? Not [Quarterbacks Coach] David Blough, good guess. It was going to be, and obviously working in some wildcat, [WR] Jaylin Lane. You can imagine my nervousness that took place after one's out and another's there. And so, generally in that space, who's had experience taking snaps, handing it off, doing those things. So, that was who was the third emergency into that spot last week. So, on the first punt of the game when he is out, that plan changed. And so, it became [RB] Jeremy McNichols and so there's always a contingency plan, but yeah it's funny that you brought that up. That actually went through my head after the first punt, 'Okay, there we go.'"

On the emergency third quarterback this week:

"Let's keep it a secret for this week. We'll have to let you know."

On areas of improvement he's looking for over the last few weeks:

"I am and a couple things that came to mind over the last two weeks, and certainly the play style, how hard you have to play, that jumped out to me at New York. In this past week as well, in this past game I was very pleased to see our ball security, that had been something that had plagued us in our previous three games against them. And so, for us to do a nice job taking care of the ball, we fumbled a snap on one, but I'm saying the receivers, tight ends, running backs. That part I thought was significant for us, knowing that was going to be a big emphasis. I like when we highlight something, this is going to be a big emphasis in the game and then that part of taking care of it and coming through, that's a big deal to me. So, for the first play to have it go our way on creating a takeaway, that was also something that I was excited about. So, those would be two things that I'm excited about. We knew kind of, I had a four-week plan of our division and style and attitude of how we'd play. Those are a couple of things that have jumped out offensively. The line of scrimmage, the run game defensively, creating takeaways. We didn't get to that, but we did do it on the special team side. So, those are a few."