

December 24, 2025

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“Alright, why don't I get started? Like a Friday for us, I'll hit you on some captains first. Offense will be [RB] Chris Rodriguez [Jr.] and man does he impact our team in a lot of really cool ways. Defensively, [LB] Frankie Luvu, division games, man, these are tough, physical games and his warrior spirit will definitely be leaned on. And I thought in a field position game, [P] Tress Way is our captain on the special team side. And so, it was nice to get to spend some extra time with him and kind of just talking about the Pro Bowl and kind of all he means to us. Thought I'd give you some clarity on the plan at quarterback as we got through the week. [QB] Josh Johnson will start, [QB] Jeff Driskel will be the backup, and we're also signing [QB] Sam Hartman to the 53. He'll be the emergency third. So, wanted to give you guys as much clarity as I had as I went through the week. And now I'll open it up to you guys, and we can get started with questions.”

On the reason for not having Hartman as the second string:

“Yeah, we just thought as we're going into it, didn't get a lot of team reps as it went. When you're kind of going through the season as the four, so we thought Jeff would add a different dimension to us and next week will play out differently. So, that was what we decided was the best thing this week and a short one. But everything's open, that's what we discussed with Sam, as we head into next week's game.”

On if QB Marcus Mariota will be ruled out:

“Yes. Marcus will be ruled out. And so, it'll go Josh then Jeff, and then Sam will be the emergency third.”

On if Mariota will be available for Week 18:

“We hope so, as we're going through just wasn't ready to turn more for the quad than the hand as it went. And so, I'll have a better sense for it for next week, but I'm hopeful for that. But I don't know exactly when it was just not able to go turn now. I think after this it'll be three more days and as we get into Monday of next week, we'll have a better sense of, ‘Okay, let's push it to make it to there.’”

On his level of confidence in Johnson:

“Yeah, I think what I liked, start maybe from the now of what I've seen this week. Obviously, it won't look exactly the same with Josh under compared to Marcus and Jayden into that space. He's got lots of versatility and so we wanted to make sure when you're going into it, when you're getting the reps as a starter, what can we do to feature the things that allow you to be that. All these guys bring different things to the table. And so, we'll try like hell to feature Josh in that way too. So, plenty of experience, but we'll try to tailor the game plan towards Josh now that he took the lion's share of the reps for the week.”

On QB Jayden Daniels' status and on if he was cleared for contact:

“He was able to practice the limited part that we did for this week, we'll get more into next week. We're not pushing the contact portion, diving down to go, we're ruling him out in that space. So, for him it's the practice piece to go. Through the contact portion, then you're into the tackling and the contact based on the position. So, we haven't gone through that process and that step with him. It's more on the practice and emphasizing the things we wanted to get work on. So, that's the space that we're in regarding him.”

On T Laremy Tunsil and DT Daron Payne:

“Yep, I'm glad you brought those up. So, there's a couple guys that won't likely make it back for the game. The first one would be linebacker Nick Bellore and then unlikely with Daron and Laremy Tunsil. So, Daron with his back, that's hasn't turned like we wanted and the same thing with Laremy on the oblique. So, in that spot at tackle, [T] Brandon Coleman took the reps at the left and then with [G Sam] Cosmi out, we've worked both [G Nick] Allegretti and [T/G Andrew] Wylie in at the guard and we'll work both of them into that spot in the game as well. And so, lots of experience with those two. We're fortunate that we have that kind of experience. So, Sam's obviously out and that's how we'll go about it. So, yeah I'm glad you brought those ones up.”

On Rodriguez Jr.'s performance this season:

“Yeah, he certainly lives to that, and I think it's his consistency that we always lean on. Chris is somebody that we count on and delivers in those spaces. I love his toughness. We thought, hey, division game as we're going to battle for it, it was kind of in that spot of Frankie, but it's his consistency both on and off the field. What he brings as a teammate, that's really what sets Chris apart. We're all proud of him of the work that he does, but man, that consistency is what we really admire about him. The toughness, the finishing that goes with the play. What you don't see is just the way he handles himself as a professional. He literally makes other people better just by how he pours into them to help them and develop. That's with [RB] Bill [Croskey-Merritt], that's with tight ends, offensive line, it's pretty remarkable.”