

December 29, 2025

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“Alright, I'll get started with everybody. So, firstly I thought today, with the team included a bit of a ‘Tell the Truth Monday’ with Dallas [Cowboys] and the recap that went with that, and then a little bit of a Philadelphia [Eagles] for us getting started jog through to get the week beginning. As we talked with the team this week has a lot of meeting, after a really challenging season and the difference of walking into a locker room with a win or loss, it's a big deal. So, I think I had told you I liked the fight of our team, but I want to see the fundamentals come through too. And so, over the last three games, I did love our fight, but our execution still has work to do and that's what I want to see heading into this weekend. So, that's kind of what I shared with the guys and, you know, went through the corrections and the things that I liked and who caused havoc and there were plays that I loved, but there's also plays that like, ‘hey man, this, this part has to be better and how can we fix that and go into it?’. So, it was good to be back with the guys today and get rolling. So glad to start with you guys as well.”

On C Tyler Biadasz:

“Tyler had injured both his ankle and his knee so, it'll be a tough stretch for him to make it back for this game this weekend.”

On if Biadasz will need surgery:

“No surgery at this time, but, you know, something that will knock him out likely for this week, but no surgeries. That's good, of where we're at, but certainly not at a level where he's got the mobility and movement just yet.”

On the possibility QB Marcus Mariota playing in the final game:

“Yeah we, he wasn't ready today to participate, you know, like we had a very light jog through, so it wasn't to that spot yet. So, until it gets to full speed and can really cut and stop and start, that's when we would say, so I'll have a better sense when I visit with you on Wednesday and if he's able to, you know, resume the type of movements that we had. But as it was today, it'd been a stretch to get there, but I'm hopeful as I have for a few days to see what it could look like. And if he could like really be himself, then he'd have a real shot at it. But I don't know that today.”

On resting starters in the final game:

“It hasn't come up with us, not something we're considering. Health definitely factors in with all the guys, you know, that. But if the guys are healthy and they can play and do the things they need to, then that would be one. But it definitely factors in, but not on the healthy player, if that makes sense to you.”

On T Laremy Tunsil and other injured players sitting out:

“Good question. That part for him, and he's got strength going straight ahead, this oblique, it's the

turning and torquing to go. So, until that comes, you know, fully around with Laremy then we'll have a better answer for that. As it sat today, he wouldn't be able to, you know, do that. Everything with your oblique is all about the rotation and the power that comes from that. So, like I said, the health, it does come into effect but if it's something that a guy can play and play well, then I think that would be different.”

On giving younger players more time to play at this point of the season:

“Yeah, I think when you earn more, that's fair to say the space for more playing time, more opportunities to go and featuring those guys in spaces. Sometimes it's not even as much the extended playing as it is, you know, they get their ops, you know, whether it's a, you know, part of a first part of a progression featured in some certain down and distances. But, yeah, that definitely some extended looks could also be by design, if that makes sense. May not even be the volume of plays, but the design too.”

On if the physical or mental errors are more prominent:

“Yeah, the mental one's more vexing for sure. Like when a, you know, like a technique where like it calls for a certain coverage, a certain check, a certain route, a certain split, those are the ones for sure that you want to make sure, ‘okay, that part is eliminated’. The physical ones that when you're playing a good technique and can live with that, and I showed that to a certain degree today in the game, we say, ‘okay, we're going to double this player and if it goes somewhere else, we can live with that knowing that like the featured player, you know, the design of it wasn't there’. Those are ones as a coach, you can say, ‘all right, by design they hit to the right person’. The ones where you allow, you know, a free runner on a blitz or a, you know, conversion where you didn't, you know, match the right way. Those are the ones that are particularly costly for us. So that's what I wanted to work on and I'll continue to shrink until I find that right balance to say, ‘hey, this is the most important thing that we need to do, you know, in this game to go win it’ but there's a little bit of a balance of both for sure.”

On how evaluating player mistakes when looking at the roster for next season:

“Yeah, it's for sure even in season some to say, ‘okay, does he sit some during that game? Is the solution fixed?’. But yeah, all of those factor into it. The, you're a hundred percent correct to say these are, you know, teaching that we've seen and it's still not getting done versus okay getting beat on a technique where we can continue to work with that player. So, yeah, both of those are, are part of the ongoing like evaluations for all of us.”

On working on fundamentals more in the offseason:

“I think so, everything's to me up to evaluate again, even the, you know, what you can emphasize at practice through the offseason program and especially during the training camp time. So, I wanted to go back and look to see where can we add, where do we, you know, emphasize different things during different parts. So, I do feel like that's, you know, something that needs to be consistently reinforced like over and over and over again. If that part of our play style is right, then I think a lot of other things can go. But when I feel that being turbulent, then I see the play being turbulent and so I want to make sure like, this is how we do that all the time. And so certainly continuity has something to do with that when guys are playing together more. But, the fundamental piece, man, like that's, that's not changing for me. Like we have to get that part right.”

On DT Daron Payne:

“Yes. Yeah, I'm glad you brought up Daron. So, he was able to do the walkthrough today, so I would

think that's a good sign for him heading into the week of where it's at. His back was not in a good space day of game, but treatment through then from the, the last few days, I would say is trending in the right way for sure for us. So that's it. That's a good sign.”

On who will start if Mariota cannot play:

“Yeah, we'd lean and start with [QB] Josh [Johnson] again. And then as far as behind him, we'll just still discuss that between [QB] Sam [Hartman] and with [QB] Jeff [Driskel]. But, if Marcus couldn't, then we'd lean in with Josh again. And there was honestly a lot that I liked in the game. I know it was a short week, but the preparation of what and how we featured him I thought was the right space. And you know, like from a decision-making process, I thought, you know, Josh did a lot of things correct that I liked, so we would lean in that way again for sure. If Marcus camped.”

On knowing this is the final week for the team this season:

“Yeah, because I think what I said to the guy I know behind the scenes there's a lot of unseen work that goes into it that people aren't lining up to talk about but I would say that I'm the one that does notice that of all the, the extra time on rehab, the extra time, you know, on the unseen work. So, I want to let them know that I do see that and I appreciate it. And so, there's no brotherhood quite like a football brotherhood and so into this space, their chance to, you know, go against another division team and playing for one another. I've seen a lot of that from our team. And so that's a group, you know, that I certainly love to represent. No doubt about it.”

On areas the team can improve in ahead of this week:

“Yeah, and I thought we were closer on the turnover margin of going into that game against Philadelphia. We threw one interception, but we really felt that would be one of the difference makers in the game. Could we come out on the end in the plus side of the turnover margin against them. Now, I guess this has been one and three against them so far with another game to go and the turnover margin for us, that's such a big piece of it. So, that would be for me going into it, A, number one, top of the pile. Going into the game, I kind of reviewed it again, all three phases again this morning. I think the field position is going to be a big piece of this too. And I think [P] Tress [Way] has been somebody, he, [S] Percy [Butler], [S Tyler] Owens, have been ones, especially on our punt team and I thought they've made a big impact. If they can put them down inside the 15, 10-yard line and have to go the long way, that would be a big deal for us. But turnover margin defensively, always tackling. And on the offensive side, we're going to have to sustain some drives and that's going to include winning some on third down. Philadelphia doesn't give up a lot of explosives and when the opportunity's there for the four-yard catch that you can extend into five or six and get a first down, those are important plays. So, those are a few of the things that come to mind right off the bat.”

On if the rookies have surprised him in any way:

“I thought with [WR] Jaylin [Lane], I thought coming in I knew the return skills were going to be good, but I thought quite honestly, after being with him every day and watching him catch punts, I thought they were exceptional. His ability to track it, his ability to make somebody miss, and so in a season on punt returns, you don't get 50 chances at returns generally. The punters who are good can angle and directed to go, but I thought he had really shown real moxie as a returner, this is not the easiest place, outdoors and wind and everything that goes with the punt returns. So, he's been somebody that's impressed. Certainly Bill [RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt] has, right from the beginning there was always a moment or two in training camp early on the cut, the explosiveness. And so, to see a 70-yard run, that just doesn't happen very often in our league. And so, it showed the speed

that he's capable of. So, certainly pleased with that. [CB] Trey [Amos] I would say exceeded my expectations in some regards just by his ability to compete right from the very beginning. Patience at the line of scrimmage, always in control and I thought you could really tell he really put a lot of work in to earn the starting job. And then [T] Josh [Conerly Jr.] coming in on the same space, I thought he's gained a lot of experience. He's been a better run blocker than I thought. Even coming out of Oregon, I knew he'd have the athleticism to pass protect because he could change direction. But if you look at like the long reverse play to [WR] Deebo [Samuel Sr.] or the combination run on the one to Bill, he was right in the middle of some of these key blocks. I think that's something that will continue to get better as it goes. So, with more strength and experience and size. I'm trying to think who I left out, but I've been pleased with the class. They're a mature group and ready to work and so that part, having meaningful roles as rookies, that's a big deal.”

On what led to S Quan Martin’s snap percentage decrease against Dallas:

“Yep, there was a busted assignment that eliminated some of his reps. And so, as I was kind of referring to with David earlier, there had been a big mistake in the game regarding coverage. And so, there were consequences to that. I'd like to also say, I love Quan and I believe in him. And that's not so unusual when a difficult play happens that you change and they have to come stand on the sideline for a moment because my belief in him is sky high. But that would've been the reason behind the less playing time in that specific moment.”

On why teams don’t consider sitting players in Week 18:

“Yeah, I want to preface it to say it's the health part. We wouldn't make the decision on somebody that wasn't able to. I guess an important piece too, all the guys are going to push to go and we'll always try to make the best decision for them and the team and for a lot of them it's development. For a lot of them it's the playing, it's the competing, it's part of what we do and who we are. I recognize the question by you and Nikki both and if there was a scenario like that, that wasn't due to injury, that would be something we'd be comfortable talking about. It's just not part of our discussions and what we do, we wouldn't have any issue discussing it. It's just not part of our philosophy.”

On consistency with complementary football:

“Yeah, it's a valid fair question. The one that I've had lots of sleepless nights on [laughs]. So, it's definitely understandable. Yeah, the consistency of those and executing those in those moments, we've missed them. And when you do, not like you're going to make every one of them. I want to make sure I'm clear on that. You don't make every two-point play, you don't make every fourth down chance, no team does, but what you do want to do is make sure when those moments are there, that you've done everything you can to put yourself into the right spot to go do that. And if you can, you can put your head on the pillow saying, okay, we did all the right things that didn't go our way. What I'd say I want to keep digging in on is to say, why the inconsistency? Do we need more reps at it? Do we need more time at it? Do we need more of the same people doing the same jobs over and over and over again? So, some of that is a factor, the continuity, but other times it could be as simple as, ‘Okay, that was one concept and that's been caught up on what's the new concept?’ What are the ways that you evolve as a team, as play callers? And so, I think all of it is under review for me. If it was just one thing for damn sure, I would've put my finger on that. When it's a multitude of things and there's layers to it, you want to keep digging and I'm into that space for sure.”

On the balance of tackling and looking for takeaways:

“Yep, I wish I could say that was the case. It's not been the case as much as it may seem. It hasn't

been as good wrap and driving your feet through the contact as it is, 'I'm going to be reckless and go take my one chance at the ball.' So, the art of tackling is really about leverage and it's owning that leverage and if you stop your feet too early, you can lose it. If you get head up on somebody as opposed to maintaining a leverage with your shoulder, you can lose it. And so, it's as much of working and owning and maintaining that leverage as it is, going to try and take the ball away. That's a really important part for us of forcing fumbles, but not over-tackling. So, the ones that we've missed, I would say by large majority have not been somebody who was reckless punching at it as opposed to tackling. But when you see good tackling, it's the feet on contact. And I thought Bobby's [LB Bobby Wagner] games over the last couple weeks, his tackling, you saw the striking and the feet on contact, that's what really strong tackling looks like, especially in open field, especially in the open field, that's the most challenging ones."

On if execution in winning time moments this season has been surprising:

"Yes, that execution of nailing exactly what to do in that space. It hasn't been as much of the last play of the games. Those ones, those type of scenarios, I felt have been strong. It's the ones of third and fourth downs, some of the two-minute ops to go, there was a scenario in the game, you don't love to be down 10 points, but I was pleased with the execution of the offense. We were able to get a kick in before two minutes and 10 seconds to kick off to the other team where we essentially have four timeouts. Well, the other part of that execution is getting the stops defensively to make them kick it again. So, when I'm speaking of those third and fourth downs have a big part of that. Sometimes just when the moments of the game change when it's alright, we got the big run with Deebo and we're down inside the two- or three-yard line, we need points in that. So, those moments, yes of not being able to nail them and recognize this is that play, this is that moment that calls for the hyperfocus. To not nail those in all three phases, that's been challenging for sure and something that I'm digging in as hard as we can, but that has to be much improved for damn sure."