

January 1, 2026

Offensive Coordinator Kliff Kingsbury

On challenges assessing QB Jayden Daniels' season given the ins and outs of the season:

"It is, yeah, I think incomplete. Just how it went. It's an unfortunate part of our game, those injuries occurred but, you know, his talent level, his appreciation for the game, work ethic, study habits, all those things were there and it's unfortunate that he didn't get to show that on the field and continue to progress on the field, but he's a tremendous talent, tremendous person, player. So, I know he'll learn from this and be better moving forward."

On what he wants Daniels to work on moving forward:

"Yeah, I'm not sure. You know, the injuries just, they happen, so I don't know if there's a way to be like, 'hey, you got to play a certain style or do this or do that'. The last year he played in all 19 games and so, I think it's just more of, you know, continuing to work at your craft and continue to be the leader you want to be and you know, all those things are going to take him to the next level and, and become the player and leader he wants to be. I don't think there's anything specific that I'm going to try and direct him, like techniques or fundamentals to playing the position more so just, if you go through the tough times and the tough games and the tough seasons, like, 'hey, continue to learn from that'. And those are usually when you learn the most. So, what did we learn and how can we improve from here?"

On how processing challenges in a season leads to the development of young players:

"Yeah, I think just the more you see there's so many defensive schemes now. People are doing so much more than they used to in the past. I think the more reps on task you can get full speed. Even at practice from your own defense, it just makes you better and better and the game slows down. I've seen that with [QB] Marcus [Mariota], like just watching his style of play and the way he talks through plays and defenses and schemes and things like that. He's just seen so much [QB] Josh [Johnson] now too. They've seen so much when you talk to him there's really nothing that they can throw at him that they haven't seen on some level. And I think that'll come with Jayden as well. But just time on task, as many reps as he can get and continue to just, you know, work his tail out to be the best player he can be."

On the importance of Daniels spending time with players who will be here next year during the off-season:

"Yeah, I think that's, that's big. I think you look at some of the all-time greats like [Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers QB Tom] Brady would have those guys come up to Montana and, and you know, run routes with their helmets on and you know, [Kansas City Chiefs QB] Pat [Patrick Mahomes] has those guys down to Dallas with the Chiefs. So, I think anytime you can get that rapport, more time on task with those guys, the better off that they tend to play."

On how not having a full offense in the off-season affected the season:

“Yeah, it was unfortunate. There's no doubt. I think the more you can play with, you know, your top guys day in, day out, get the reps, I think that's a way to, you know, reach the success you want. I think it's hard, when you're not booking those reps together, get on the same page, ‘hey, I would've done this here, done that there’, the communication, all those things. I think it's hard to really maximize who you want to be as an offense.”

On his openness to becoming a head coach again:

“Yeah, I mean going to kind of cross that bridge, you know, winning if we get there, but the focus right now is still just trying to beat Philly [Philadelphia Eagles] and you know, I'm really excited to, to work with Josh one more time. It's been really fun to see an older guy like that, the excitement he has to be able to start these games. Most of the games he's coming in his career, he hadn't had a week in preparation, so it's just kind of been thrown in there and be like, here you go, go get him. So, this has been cool to see his preparation and try to see if we can get him out there and play at a high level again.”

On evaluating his choices this season:

“Yeah, I think when you go through these seasons, it's always best to start with yourself, you know, point at yourself and, and then figure out what you could do better and then collectively what we could do better. But there's a ton of different decisions I wish we would've made and I would've made and more just like individual play calls than anything, you know, our style of play was a bit different. Like I said, trying to slow the games down, limit possessions, do things of that nature. But yeah, there are a ton of things I wish I would've done better as far as scheme and maximizing players and things of that nature. But that's, you know, an off-season kind of project when we do our self-scout, self-evaluations.”

On his confidence in the no-huddle approach:

“Yeah, I've seen it done at a high level you know, whether it's Arizona or here at a very high level and won games and had a lot of yards, a lot of success in that regard. So, I think I'm pretty confident, you know, in that style of play when the pieces are there that you can play a really high level and it's a very challenging offensive stop.”

On the biggest hurdle taking a player you see on film and preparing them to play on the field:

“That's a very thoughtful question. I think it is making them as comfortable as they can be early and it's going to be some tough moments, there's no doubt. But however, you can create a comfort level for them in their play that allows them to cut it loose and play as freely as possible early. I think that's the key there. I think it's the over analysis is what gets to a lot of young players and so, hey, if we got to simplify it here, only run a certain number of schemes, only run a certain number of reads, different things like that, I think that you start at that point and then, you know, feed them more as they go. But to me it's like simplify first, let them play, use their natural abilities, build some confidence, and then we can start adding on concepts or schemes with that of that nature.”

On RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt's ceiling as a player:

“Yeah, I just think it remains to be seen. I mean, he's a guy who hasn't played a lot of football in the last few years, but he loves to play and [when] he touches the ball, good things happen. He has some real natural ability of finding soft spot balance, plays with a downhill lean, a lot of things he just does naturally and I think as he learns how to play away from the football more the pass-pro stuff, the pass game, I think he'll just become better and better, but really excited to see where that

goes. Some of the plays he is made as a guy who's just kind of figuring it out has been really impressive.”

On Assistant Quarterbacks Coach David Blough and on his strengths as a coach:

“Yeah, he's very bright, there's no doubt. He's been around some great offensive minds in Detroit with [Chicago Bears Head Coach] Ben [Johnson], learned a lot there. Was in Minnesota with the KOC [Minnesota Vikings Head Coach Kevin O'Connell], so I think his biggest strengths are he sees it from the lens of the player and yet he can kind of separate and still be the coach. And he's really demanding too, I think he's the guy who maximized who he was as a player, knew he had to get every ounce of out of every throw and rep and didn't get as many reps as he probably would've liked. And so, you feel that in his coaching when he is coaching these guys and when they're practicing and playing, he's not going to let him off the hook if it's a lazy rep, ‘Hey, do it again. We need a better one than that.’ And I think that's really been good for that room, just watching him work with those guys, they definitely appreciate and respect kind of his honesty and that he's been through it on that level.”

On his off-season process:

“We'll have a whole process of kind of self-scout, self eval, what do we do good? What do we not do good? What do we want to take out, what do we want to add and go from there. But yeah, we just didn't get it done on any level really offensively. Our job is to score more points than them and we did not do that no matter how we were trying to play. And so, I think it's just looking at, hey, how do we get back on track and kind of maximize who we are, whoever's in here next year, who are we and how do we maximize the pieces we have.”

On how much WR Terry McLaurin missing most of training camp effected his connection with Daniels the season:

“Yeah, I think so. I mean unfortunately they didn't have much time on task together. I think it was the second game, Jayden went out and then Terry was out soon thereafter. But yeah, they definitely had great rapport the year before and it is just the more time on task together, I don't think it'll take much. They're two great players that are going to elevate anybody they have around them. And so, I think they'll elevate each other like they did the year previous and continue to work well.”

On going under center more with Daniels:

“Yeah, I have a different philosophy. I mean, we've been more with Josh [Johnson] obviously and [QB] Marcus [Mariota], there's more of a comfort level, but I'm not of that where you have to be under a certain amount of times. I just have never bought into that.”

On injuries to wide receivers this season:

“Yeah, we were just fortunate last year to keep that group, whether it was [Jacksonville Jaguars WR] Dyami [Brown], OZ [Chicago Bears WR Olamide Zaccheaus], [WR] Noah [Brown], Terry, [TE] Zach [Ertz] healthy for most of the year. [RB] Austin Ekeler played a big piece with his quickness and so I think this was just one of those years we weren't able to keep guys consistently out there that I think could have helped and that's part of this game and everybody deals with it and we gotta learn next time that it happens we got to be able to handle it better.”

On if the team needs more speed on offense:

“Yeah, I mean every year you're trying to upgrade and improve your roster and find pieces that fit you, but I don't think that was a key issue this year. I just think we all needed to do better.”

On his preparation during the week:

“Yeah, a little bit of both. I'm big on time on task, so if there's reps the previous week that we didn't get to that coincide schematically with what we're playing, I like to carry those over. And then, yeah, I think we're pretty specific to, ‘Hey, this defense, this is how we're going to attack it.’ And then always lean on concepts that quarterbacks like. I like to just dress up things that I know are kind of a staple to them and what they really lean on, make it present different to the defense, but same read, same type feel for them.”

On ways this season has challenged him:

“Yeah, there's no doubt. And I think the toughest seasons I've had are the ones I've learned the most and have been able to grow the most. And so, that's kind of how next week we'll look at it and approach it. But I think being able to run the football like we've been able to and running it basically more than anybody in the league this year is unique to me and new and that's the style that we needed to play. And so, I think there's definitely positives you can gain from it. It's just you gotta do better when it comes to winning and losing.”

On frustration from this season:

“Yeah, I mean it's always frustrating when you lose, there's no doubt. I mean, we're on this profession to win and when you feel capable of being better and don't hit that mark, it's definitely frustrating but like I said, you got to learn from it and figure out how you can do better.”

On G Chris Paul:

“Yeah, I think we showed a lot of growth in that room and Chris did individually. Him next to LT [T Laremy Tunsil] was really a nice tandem for us and love to have both those guys back, but I think Chris just has to continue to be consistent in his play style. When he's on he can move anybody and just has to week in, week out, really focus on that.”