

August 18, 2026

K Drew Stevens

On how officially being the starting kicker feels:

“Good. I mean, it honestly kind of feels the same as I’ve been feeling, in terms of the way I approach it. But, I mean it feels good. I don’t really know how much more to say to that.”

On the first preseason game:

“It was pretty good. Well, the lead up to it is not like college, because in college you have multiple practices and you game plan for that specific team. I mean, we put in a few packages, but just the lead up to it, it's just there pretty quickly. So, a little different.”

On working with guys like P Tress Way:

“I’m gonna take this opportunity to give [K] Jake [Moody] some flowers here because obviously we’re competing. He could’ve had every right, because we’re competing for a job, to just lead me in wrong directions and not be a good guy to me, you know what I’m saying? But he was. I followed him more than I followed anybody else in the building. He was like, ‘Hey, we’re gonna lift this certain way. We’re gonna go and do stuff down during this time.’ And he did not have to do that at all. So, props to Jake because he’s a great guy and he did not have to be. In terms of Tress and I, I told Tress during practice that the [age] difference between him and my dad is closer than the difference between me and him. It’s crazy that I’m playing with a 36-year-old, but learning from him is pretty cool. I like to ask questions to a lot of guys like that, that have been playing for a while at a high level. It’s fun to pick his brain, and he’s seen a lot of kickers. So, I could pick his brain on that too and learn a thing or two here and there because you never know. You never know when you learn that thing that’s gonna change your game for the better, you know?”

On if he’s surprised that they made the kicker decision this early:

“Yeah, kind of. I mean, I don’t really see why they wouldn’t just let us play the next two, you know? But that’s not my place.”

On the conversation with the coaches when they told him he’s the starter:

Coach [Special Teams Coordinator Larry] Izzo called me on the phone and then told me. It was yesterday, obviously, when I found out. And it was crazy because I was not expecting it at all, because I thought we were gonna play all three preseason games and then do it. But I mean, shoot, like, it was my first rodeo. I have no idea. I’m just trying to play good on the field. I’m not worried about off-field stuff.”

On where he’s seen the most growth in their kicking abilities:

“Easy terminology, just getting it adjusted to how good the operation is. Because I thought I had probably one of the better operations in college, if not the best, a few of those years in there. It’s insane, night and day difference between here and there. I’m not even thinking about it. It’s basically kicking off sticks. Which is why whenever I hit warmups, I was talking to [HC Dan Quinn]

DQ today when I hit warmups and I'm hitting a good kick, and then he's like, 'Yeah, it's off sticks, like, whatever.' And I'm like. It's basically off sticks when I'm kicking with them, you know? But I don't know, I feel like the mental growth, no matter if it's a good or bad day, I think the best place that I've grown is, I haven't changed anything. I'm still sticking to what I believe is gonna work. I'm not lacking conviction in certain areas. I'm believing that my thing is gonna be good enough."

On how important conviction and confidence is as a kicker:

"I would say it's almost the most important thing. I would say it is the most important thing, because how many kickers in the NFL have you seen just bomb one, perfectly dead straight, you know? Right. That means you're physically capable of doing it every time, so where's the disconnect? It's up here. So I think getting your mind right is 100% the most important thing in kicking. And being convicted is showing true belief in what it is you're doing. So, I would say it's the most important thing, being convicted. I'll give you an example. Let's say it's a right to left wind, but it's kind of gusting. Sometimes it's really strong and sometimes it's barely moving right to left. Then, let's say you're standing back in your stance and you just lined up to aim it, pretty much down the middle, and then you feel a gust. What's your plan? You don't want to be sitting back there like, 'Oh, uh, do I play it out right? Or do I think it's gonna stop gusting?' You gotta pick one thing, like, 'All right, I'm playing my line and I'm gonna just hammer it.' You can't have questions in the back of your stance. You gotta be okay if it goes wrong, as long as you stuck to your plan."

On being new to the operation and fitting well with the rest of the guys:

"It's definitely different, but it's also easier because it's really good. It's a really good operation. I remember the first day I was here, [LS Tyler] Ott snapped a ball, and the rotation was off. On rotation, we do it like a clock. Like, 12 o'clock is laces perfectly straight, pointed at the uprights. He snapped one that was 10 o'clock, so it's a little off or nine o'clock and he'd be like, 'I know, I know you're fine with it, but I gotta get that right.' It's crazy that's the standard that he's operating at. It's pretty easy to adjust when guys are good and have done it."

On if he's talked to QB Jayden Daniels since yesterday:

"I mean, like I said, he's a really good guy. He's a really good human because he did not have to. It's just all the things he does not have to do that he does. Probably two hours after I found out, obviously, he had found out, and he still texted me. He's like, 'Hey, man, best of luck. I'm here if you need anything.' And he did not have to do that, you know? He could've just not said anything. I'm sure some other guys have been like that, but I don't know. It's just a huge character thing when you do something like that, you know?"