

September 21, 2026

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

"I think, when we start off, just regarding [QB] Jayden [Daniels] and some updates there. He had imaging done today. He'll see specialists early this week, Tuesday and Wednesday. And then, we'll go through the process from there. I know you'll have some questions regarding timelines, but until we go through that process, I'd be guessing to give you any. We will start [QB] Marcus [Mariota] on Sunday, and there's nobody easier to rally around than him. When you ask anybody on our team who some of our greatest leaders are, whether it's on or off the field, Marcus is somebody that constantly comes up. And then I wanted to give you one other injury update that I wasn't able to give you last night. [S] Nick Cross was evaluated postgame with an internal injury. He stayed overnight in Dallas and was discharged today and is flying back this afternoon. I didn't get to hit you to that [last night], but I won't get into specifics. I was glad he was discharged and on the way back here."

On if he thinks the team will be more cautious with Daniels based on what happened last year:

"Yeah, I think I'll defer to that first, as far as the specialists go and what they see and what they think. So, I don't have an answer regarding that yet. For him and all his teammates, we're gonna always make the best decision for them first. That's why we do so much of what we do behind the scenes, whether it's training or sports performance, but I don't have an answer for you on that one yet."

On if they'd bring in another veteran QB to back up Mariota:

"It's not something that [General Manager Adam Peters] AP and I have discussed today as we're going. So, I think we're gonna wait until we get all the info over the next two days and really have a sense for the timelines and that kind of stuff. I thought, like most things, man, let's take all the time we can to get it just right. But in the meantime, Marcus will start this weekend."

On what Cross's injury means for him:

"Spirit's good, but I haven't seen him yet. He's gonna come back this afternoon, so he's flying back now. I'll see him more tonight. But I should be able to give you an update on Wednesday regarding the timelines for end of the week of where he's at. Good news, obviously being discharged this morning and then on the way back, that's a step in the right [direction]."

On if Daniels suffered anything more than the elbow dislocation:

"From the reports that I've gotten, I think they're sending them all to the specialist, so I'll really have an update for you probably not until Thursday or Friday, only because he is going to see some of the specialists in-person. So, I don't think I'll have an update for you until then. But to me, honestly, I'd rather defer and wait until they have an update and then, just make sure we get all the info right."

On the injuries to T/G Brandon Coleman, DT Javon Kinlaw and G Sam Cosmi:

"I'll hit all three of them. Coleman had a finger injury, which they were able to work on last night and all signs look to him being good to go as we head into practice for the week. Kinlaw will be limited during the practice week with his shoulder. He's gonna get some imaging done on that, but I anticipate him being limited the first part of the week. And our third one was Cosmi. And he'll begin the process of the concussion protocol. So, he's into that space and just see how many steps that he can hit. I think I'll have a better update for you guys a little bit on Wednesday on some of the guys, but I'm certainly knowing that Brandon, with the finger, is certainly pointing in the right direction on that."

On what was supposed to happen on the play at the end of the half if Daniels didn't get hurt

"So it's, as Jayden's coming down the line of scrimmage, he can keep it to go in or a toss going back out to that side. So, you're right. So yeah, it was certainly a freakish one of getting stepped on. Sometimes hard to explain, man. Honestly."

On what the process looks like for Mariota and varying the playbook to match his skillset:

"Yeah, no doubt about it that it is, I think the biggest thing is, all right, what do you wanna feature with Marcus that you didn't with Jayden? Some of the things I liked in this game were our guys getting in and out quickly getting to the line. But yeah, no pullback or any of that space. So we're fortunate in that way that he's kinda put in all the same timelines and guidelines with the players. So, it won't be exactly the same, but fortunately, they'll have a lot of similarities."

On how concerned he is for Daniels and his injury:

"Yeah, the freak ones like this, it's hard to explain, honestly, as it's going. I loved everything about the first half, how he was playing and what we did. So, I haven't gone there to think about it, but obviously, total surprise to see it. Until I get more of the updates, I really don't have any, guess of timelines and that kind of stuff to hit on. But honestly, just sucks for him, you know? Like I know how much these guys put into it. When there's setbacks like this, man, you just wanna stand by him as close as you can and into this next phase on this detour to getting back onto the field."

On how Daniels is doing mentally:

"Yeah, he's honestly doing good in that space. We visited early this morning after he had the imaging done, so we got a chance to visit, and just honestly, before coming in here, had a chance to spend some time with him. He's strong, he's good, much like we see from him all the time, so, like I said, over the next few days, I think it'd be an important one to see what the next steps are on the return to play."

On conversations about Daniels' injury last year and if they're concerned about him needing surgery if it worsens:

"There was not. It was all part of the rehab plan for us. So, until we go through the steps of where we're at, I won't really have an update on that. But anytime you get re-injured, obviously there's heightened awareness on all that, and so I'm sure they'll go through all those steps."

On the team's current locker room morale:

"I certainly did and 0-2 is not where we wanted to be, that's for sure. But we also are resolute that that's not where we're going to be staying. And we had our chances in both games and both moments to not be in that spot. So, I would say, certainly hurting for Jay and some of the other guys

who were banged up, but also there's a lot of resolve with this group of knowing that, 'Hey, man, like, these are the things we have to get done together and we have enough in the room', talking about locker room in general, to really play well. So that's kind of the sentiment. Disappointment, but honestly just focus to get on the other side of it."

On what the film showed him regarding CB Mike Sainristil, the secondary and the defense overall:

"Yeah, I thought, I was talking about just overall we had, you'd heard me say about the chunk plays and leaving them off the tape, and so to have four touchdown passes is obviously disappointing. Collectively, defensively, we didn't make life hard enough on [Dallas Cowboys QB] Dak [Prescott] into those spots. So those are the things that kept me up that night, for sure last night of wanting those parts to get exactly right. But I didn't love overall our unit, just the tenacity, the finishing of what I thought we would play like, and we'll certainly work hard to get that right. But overall, I didn't love the communication, the attention out on the premiums with [Dallas Cowboys WR] CeeDee [Lamb] and with [Dallas Cowboys WR] George Pickens. So, we've got work to do on that spot. And it wasn't one person isolated in that spot."

On addressing continuous mental mistakes with defensive veterans on the field:

"What you really wanna see is urgency with your communication, you know? Like if you and I were playing next to each other, 'Hey, watch for this. Look back for this.' And so those are the things I wanna see. I wanna see urgency, I wanna see quickness in the calls and those are the things that I wanna make sure we get exactly right. To have the system in place, I feel good with it. Let's use all the tools. And when you don't, those are the times, like, man, you give Dak one instance where you're not on it, he's gonna make you pay as any good QB does. So that's what I'm looking for heading into this weekend, man. Like the urgency of the call, the tools, how we're gonna play it, and knowing that if you get those right, we'll like what it looks like but if we don't, it's not good enough."

On how he's doing as a coach and how he feels going into the home opener at 0-2:

"Yeah, I think the answer in reverse order, man, are we pumped to get back home in front of the home crowd. I feel like we haven't been home in front of the fans for a while. So that part, the team's very excited for. For me, I wanna make sure that I'm reminding them, it's hard. That's the cost of where we're at. But it's also, that's the NFL and figuring out those things together and doing the hard shit with good people, like, these are the right guys to get there. And so, I wanted to make sure I was clear on what I liked and this is the part that I wanna make sure we nail down. And so, just wanna stand tall on that for them. Give them what their feedback needs to be, but also make sure I'm the one that's saying, like, 'This is I know what we are capable of.' And so, I'm gonna push them like crazy to get there."

On the defense struggling in the red zone and allowing the first two opponents to score touchdowns similarly:

"Yep, different coverage but yeah, there's similarities, for sure, a seam route into that space. So, it's a different coverage of how we would play it than the first one, but yeah, you're right that it's one's empty, one was four open, it's very similar, but it was a different coverage. But the result is the result, man. We gotta be able to go play these down in the low red zone, that's for sure."

On if there was ever a discussion of Daniels wearing a brace this season before he got hurt:

"Yeah, I'd have to follow up with you on that. Like, there's been a lot of rehab to go through the pace, so that was nothing that was discussed prior to that. Hindsight's awesome, man [laughs]. I

wish we had it in all things, but we don't have the luxury of that. So, as we get through the next couple days, I think I'll have better insights about what it looks like moving forward."

On the defensive performance and not being able to create turnovers:

"I'd say what I liked was first off, I thought in the run game, I liked what I'm seeing over the two games. There was a long run by [Philadelphia Eagle RB] Saquon [Barkley]. I think it was a third-and-two a week ago, but I liked the front. I liked them being square, people trying to get out onto the edge. There was a good play by [OLB] Odafe [Oweh]. So that's what I've liked to see. As far as getting the takeaways, it has to be in the force fumbles, and I like that we took shots at it. You saw one, I thought [DT Daron] Payne had a couple good shots at the ball. I thought [OLB] K'Lavon [Chaisson] did on a sack of Dak. So, we gotta continue to wreak havoc, cause disruption, and I'm certain that that will take place the more that we hit it. So, I keep track of how many times we call it 'tap the rock', how many times we're making contact, a pass breakup, an interception, a force fumble, a punch at it. And so, when those numbers increase, I know the likelihood of getting them does. So, we're getting closer to the number. We're not there yet, but I definitely feel like we're closer to that."

On if there has been discussion of Daniels seeming more susceptible to elbow injuries:

"Not one of, like, more susceptible into that space. I think when you're going through the rehab process, that's probably true. There's re-injury for all things, whether it's soft tissue or otherwise, but he really put on more armor this year and worked hard during the offseason for that. He's bigger, he's stronger into that space. So, it wasn't any one specific thing that we made special attention to as we're leading up into it."