

September 23, 2026

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

"I know there's still probably a lot of questions about [QB] Jayden [Daniels], and he's seeing another specialist today, so I'll hold off answering any questions about his timeline to return until we get all the info. But, like I said on Monday, he'll be out Sunday. We'll also rule out one other player. [S] Nick Cross had an internal injury, stayed over in Dallas. Good to have him back. And, for the last part, [G] Sam Cosmi is in the concussion protocol, so we'll follow guidelines set with him. And then, [LB Frankie] Luvu and [TE] Chig [Okonkwo] and JK [DT Javon Kinlaw], they'll be rehabbing today. Then we'll see how the week goes for them into Thursday and Friday. And lastly, after injuries, the team, we're really excited, man, to be back home and have a chance to go play here. It's a great opportunity for us, so let's get ripping with you guys."

On QB Marcus Mariota starting on Sunday vs. Seattle:

"I think the nice part with Marcus, man, does he have a real command on things that we need. There's a specific way, like in each game, that you have to go about it and what it takes to win. We hit that with the team today. But with Marcus, he's one that's really in control, has good vision of it, what it is, where to go. You can hear that type of communication with him. So I think, number one, him running the system gives everybody a calmness about them knowing that he'll take care of it."

On players walking off the field during Daniels' injury:

"I'm glad you brought that up because it's just the opposite in fact. These guys were absolutely gutted. When the half was over, the referees even came and said they can't delay the half and we can't stay on the field. And they were like, 'No, I'm staying.' So it's just the opposite in fact. They were gutted, they love this guy, and so halftime was hard. It was emotional in that space. But I'm glad that he actually brought it up. And I thought coming back out, Marcus was in the front of it, 'Hey, let's get going.' We had a drive to get started right away, but it was definitely difficult for sure."

On Cross being ruled out for Sunday:

"He is, yes."

On adding more urgency and communication in the secondary:

"It's a number one top of the pile. So, the way that you do that, like most things, this is the plan, this is what we wanna see, this is how we're gonna go do it. And as a coach, you're looking for it in the meeting, you're looking for it, we just got done with our walkthrough, and then obviously looking forward on the practice field. So, the three levels of that to go, and it has to be consistent. It has to be every single time that you go, you have one moment that's not on point and with the urgency you need, all of a sudden you fall behind on the down and you get yourself out of whack. So just looking

for it, like I said, all three phases in a classroom setting, a walkthrough and then a practice and it's not there then as a code. Let's hit that one again. Let's make sure we nail it."

On Mariota's success with drop backs:

"Yeah, I think Marcus is a fast processor and with a quarterback with his experience, he's seen a lot of the looks, a lot of the defenses that could come. So, it's not surprising to see that, or even through years past of that being a good part of his game. He's just always somebody that had good vision in that space. He's an accurate thrower, but the decision of where to go, I think that's the biggest thing when you can process fast as a QB, and he certainly can."

On if issues in the secondary during the first two games were a scheme or urgency issue:

"I wish it was all one. It'd be easy to get to it. Anytime there's an issue of a few and you wanna look back to say, all right, was it a scheme one? And, you know, sometimes it's also not executing it to the level and it's not game ready or doesn't mean you have to take it all the way out, but it's not gonna be something that you feature. It's an important part of it, but like most things, if it was just one specific thing, you'd say, 'Okay, I'll just do that and change it.' So I'm certain the right people in the right spots will address to get those adjusted like we like, but it'll take really good communication, the urgency, the execution, all three phases that you were talking about."

On if the number of growing pains the team is experiencing are concerning:

"That's a fair question. Growing pains are, you want those to obviously leave the system, leave what goes away and where it is. You wanna make sure every detail you can hit to go, and if something's not quite right or there's a repeatable offense, then that's the call that you take out. So, I would say going into it, I'm certain that we'll see an uptick in the guys' communication. And if there's something that doesn't fit or gets beat on a certain scheme, I think that's the easiest thing to do is that you remove that specific call. There's plenty of ways to play it. So, that's what I intend to do and through the years, that had the best success."

On if Defensive Coordinator Daronte Jones' scheme is asking for too much:

"I don't think it is. He has high standards, obviously, for it, but if it is, you're also learning the players, what can we, what can't we? There'll be some things that we have done that we'll continue to do that we really liked over the last two weeks. And there'll be some other things that say, 'Okay, this one's not fitting right now, and we'll hold on that.' So, there'll be a little bit of adjusting that takes place."

On qualities from the defenses' performance in Week 1 built into Week 2:

"I thought in the run game, yes. I felt like the line of scrimmage being square, those were the things that I was pleased with. But there's definitely not the same if it was a level up from that, I would have thought the performance would have been better. So, this is what we're trying to avoid. If this was here, it went down, like, we got to get it back up and just stay in that space."

On DT Javon Kinlaw's status:

"He'll be rehabbing today and then, as we get closer to the week, we'll see that ramp up more. But he'll be out for today, rehabbing, working off to the side."

On when they'll know if G Sam Cosmi can play:

“Yeah, Friday, I would think is the time when you go through those processes, you wanna make sure, ‘Am I getting the look still to go?’ Generally, that's the space. There'd have to be maybe some special circumstances, but not with that injury.”

On C Matt Gulbin or T/G Andrew Wylie stepping up in Cosmi's absence:

“Yeah, we're still working through a little bit of that, not knowing where it is. So good news, we have a couple guys that have had some play experience at the spot. You don't like to juggle around a lot, but sometimes that's where it is, and you come up with the best plan and solution. So, as we get closer to Friday, we'll work through a little bit today and tomorrow to see which combinations we like, then we'll get into it.”

On why TE Ben Sinnott hasn't had more of an impact in the offense:

“I think probably in the dropback game, that was something I thought that was maybe the biggest roadblock, you know? And we were an 11 personnel team, one tight end featured, and so with he and [TE] John [Bates], I think maybe the opportunities weren't [there as much]. So, I would bet over the course of now that time's working, there'll be some more play actions and ones that he can get down the field on the teams. He's got nice speed and from the backfield, that's some of where his best blocking takes place. So, I would say as a byproduct of the first guns, might be, not log jam, but opportunity. I think that's a fair one. And then as we now get into a new system that he'll feel more comfortable, I think we'll see that tick up some.”

On positive things he's noticing from the game performances so far and what more he wants to see:

“I like the work that the guys are putting in down. So, I feel good in that space, the prep to go for it. I like seeing the new players make the transition to being on a new club to go through it. I would have thought, from the takeaway department that the defense would knock a few out. I like the play style and the hitting and going. So those are ones that we'll continue to emphasize hard. That'd probably be the one for me to say, giving the offense some more opportunities, some more chances with a new drive, a new field position to go. Those would be, that's probably the first thing that comes to mind for me.”

On RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt and RB Rachaad White and the snap counts that each got in the game:

“I think that was more a product of just the hot hand. Sometimes that's the case with running backs. You know that just from covering the team. And when that happens, you lean into it. But I like that we're making progress. I like the commitment to it. It'll help in our play action passing. So having balance is a big deal. And so, some of what took place, you see now linebackers or safeties having to get deeper, whether it's a second play where Jayden or Marcus extended it because the linebackers are getting deeper, it's the yin and yang of it. I like the commitment to it, and we'll stay connected in that way. It's a very important part of our identity offensively.”

On moments from Mariota's game last season that can be applied this year:

“Yeah, that's exactly the space that I was in to say, what were moments or a situation or play you'd like to say more of, and what are a few to say, if we had a chance to do this concept over something differently, what would that look like? And so that was kind of the first part. We did a little bit of that through the offseason, but now that we're here, it won't be exactly the same. There's certain things that Jayden does and Marcus does that aren't like, ‘This is the only way it's done.’ But it is an important part because he got more reps and experience into that spot. Difference being new

system, but still, what are the concepts and the ones like, 'When this one gets called, I want it.' And that's where you go back through the game plan and each quarterback really digs in towards the end of the week and highlights ones that double stars, double pluses, those are the ones that, man, I'm ready for that to be called."

On if the team has had a conversation on bringing in another veteran quarterback:

"We have not had a conversation regarding that."

On confidence in the quarterback room with the potential longevity of Daniels' injury:

"Yeah, I'm not gonna assume on the timeline. Once I know I'll share it with you to go, but I think for me just to say this many weeks or not I'd rather wait on that and let's get all the info. But that said, I also say yeah, we have a lot of confidence in what we do and what we've been doing. And so, when you're into that system that long, that makes a difference. But as far as a timeline and what or whom else to add or not, we'll wait on that."

On the plan to stop Seattle Seahawks WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba:

"He is, it was an amazing run for him last year and to see some of the same things already taking place for him this year, he's got a rare ability, and so he is definitely what we'd say, that is a premium. So, eyes, techniques, things that need special consideration is a big part of it, and it's a challenge."

On giving up touchdowns to tight ends and on the overall defensive red zone performance:

"Let's talk about just red zone overall for us. That's one that we have to get nailed down. And so, two of them that come to mind right now are different coverages altogether, but let's make sure we can nail like, how we wanna play it, what it looks like, where to go. And they beat us on a good throw and catch and play it, we can live with that, but let's make sure it's with the right technique at the right spaces to go. But yeah, those definitely are ones that have our attention a lot as we're going through game planning and getting rolling for this week."

On the advantage of playing at home for Week 3:

"Yeah, it's a lot. And honestly, having the crowd noise, when we're on defense, they're on offense and being able to utilize those signals and calls that make it more stressful for an offense. So yeah, all hands on deck this weekend. And it'll be an awesome environment. The team, everybody, man, we're really pumped to get rolling with everybody. But it is definitely an advantage, and the noise is the biggest part of it, that can fuel the energy, make some checks, make it difficult on them to go through that process. So, yeah, we're really pumped for it."