

September 24, 2026

Offensive Coordinator David Blough

Opening Statement:

"A few things we liked from Sunday was our third down effectiveness, and I thought how the entire unit ran the football as a whole. A couple things to get corrected, right? One for three in the red area, and then we did not do our part to help win the turnover margin as a team. We've certainly got our hands full with a really good defense in Seattle, and we are looking forward to the challenge."

On the difference in game planning for QB Marcus Mariota versus for QB Jayden Daniels:

"I think as we piece this plan together, you realize how the ownership that we've imparted on them over the last, call it, six months together, Marcus has gone for it in such a big way for us to be able to just allow him to step right in and run our system, right? We will be very cognizant of the things that he does well, but we're excited to kind of turn him loose too."

On how the Seattle Seahawks challenge opposing quarterbacks:

"I think it's an excellent scheme and man, they've got excellent players, right? Interior defensive line, great secondary linebackers, man, they are a well-rounded unit. They limit explosive plays and they get the football off you too. So, we've got our hands full, but it's gonna be a great challenge for our group kinda to go and try to get after them."

On what has been causing inefficiency in the team's run game:

"I think it's a collective whole, right? So, I think it's all of us running off the football at the same time into the snap. I think it's the receivers blocking down the field. I think it's the backs hitting their lanes. And there's a lot of things that, as we go throughout the course of the season, every rep we get, man, I think it will continue to improve. And we've seen that, right? We've seen that from April, we've seen that into June with the OTAs and through two weeks. Quarterbacks running it, receivers running it, running backs carrying it. You know, we're making the progress that we want to see to get to where we want to be as a running team."

On what he likes about Mariota's placement on deep throws:

"I think I stood up here a few weeks ago and talked about how quarterback development is as much mental as anything. So, we have certainly felt this week with Marcus's experience over his career starting how many games he's starting, he sees the game differently. All those banked reps that you have come into play. So I think that provides accuracy. You have all those mental reps sort up of when's it supposed to come out of my hand? How's the flight trajectory of the ball supposed to get there? What does this player track the ball really well? So, he has a lot of those experiences stored up. So, we're really excited about the opportunity he has to lead our unit."

On the challenge of putting together a scheme with players rotating due to injury:

"The same thing as when we were building the system. It was, it's how do we put our players in a position to have, you know, the most likelihood of success? And so, we evaluate our own roster and what we do have, you know, we're not reflecting on what we don't right now. There's no time for that. Nobody cares. So, we are certainly gonna do everything we can to put our guys in the best position possible to beat Seattle."

On the back-to-back trick plays versus the Dallas Cowboys:

"I think philosophically speaking, we view them as normal plays, just opportunities for us to take advantage of trying to make people cover 53 and a third wide all the way to the end zone. And we got a lot of guys who can throw as you saw, you know, [WR] Antonio [Williams] had the first attempt, [WR] Dyami [Brown] there, and we work these plays a lot that we view them as normal plays. So, if we think that's the best opportunity for us to convert on a third and long, we'll let it rip. If we think it's the best chance to convert on a first and 10, we'll turn it loose there too. We just, we like to be aggressive and keep those guys engaged in that way."

On what it will take to get WR Terry McLaurin more action:

"I think it will come. We continue to do right longer and there will be, he will reap the harvest of continuing to be detailed and the production will come, right? It just hasn't yet, but we will certainly do what we can to help get him going."

On his evaluation of WR Stefon Diggs and WR Dyami Brown:

"Sure. I think when you evaluate the entire unit as a whole, we're doing that everywhere and some games turn into, 'Hey, we're down two scores,' and it's a lot of 11 personnel and they're splitting a lot of the reps and still working Stefon into the offense completely. And Dyami has a lot of built up trust. [WR] Treyton [Burks], [WR] Antonio Williams, [RB] Jaylin Lane, you know, lot of these guys have a lot of built up trust that we certainly in those moments feel comfortable going to. And it's just the way last Sunday happened to play out."

On QB Athan Kaliakmanis being one play away from starting a game and preparing for that: :

"I think when you're one play away, right, in the past, the past couple weeks, he's been two plays away, but when you're one play away, you know, it certainly turns up the heightening of the preparation. And we have felt that from him. It's been encouraging and he, man, he's on a great trajectory. We're really lucky to have him and you guys saw some of the production in the preseason and, and we'll just continue to help him grow throughout the course of a season. It's what we talked about with Marcus. It's as long as you can get reps, as long as you can be in the protection meetings and the install meetings, every time you hear something, you're gonna learn something new. And especially, it's especially true for a rookie, whether it's [WR] Kaytron [Allen] or Athan or [C] Matt [Gulbin] or [WR] Jayden Bradley or, you know, Antonio. So it's true for all those guys and you we just wanna keep seeing all of these rookies throughout the course of the season continue to go like that."

On the challenge that Seattle presents going into Week 3:

"I think you certainly have to tip your hat to what he has done there. And when you turn the tape on, the play style jumps off at you. The scheme's really good, the players are really good, but the play style is excellent as well. So, we wanna combat that with our own and, and that is what we are certainly built off of as well."

On what needs to happen in the red zone to make more successful plays:

"I think when a play doesn't work, I reflect on it myself as what could I call differently or how could I have taught it better to help make it work? And then when you watch the tape, you know, one of them, we have a miscue on a toss, right? We go backwards on second and five, or we have a couple missed opportunities down low and we just don't get into the end zone when maybe we probably could have. And at the end of the day, we gotta teach and coach better in those situations. The windows close faster, and then, we gotta make the plays when they come."

On the current state of the offensive line and their readiness to compete against Seattle:

"I think, I've said it a couple times, it's just, they do a really good job with their pressure packages and how they try to get and affect the quarterback. And then, they're elite run stoppers too. So, as long as we can stay on schedule, convert some third downs, find some ways to generate explosives, we'll be where we wanna be on Sunday, but we certainly gotta go earn it this week in practice and that's what the whole messaging has been."

On balancing the hot hand at running back:

"I think, [Running Backs] Coach [Anthony] Lynn, with all his experience over coaching backs and coordinating being a head coach in this league, he has a really good pulse for whether somebody does have a hot hand or if there's very specific things that guys are doing well on a given day. So we have a lot of communication when those decisions are made. And to your point [RB] Rachaad [White] really played excellent football for us, so there were some really good things on the tape and that's why we were kind of rolling with him late."

On how having the availability of different tight ends due to injury affects his playcalling:

"I think it affects how many of them you have on the field. It affects what kind of plays you can run with different guys on the field, and then come back to. We're trying to put all those guys in a position to do what they do well. And that is over and over and over again, ad nauseum to, you know, we had 70 snaps last week to give us a chance on every single one."

On if Seattle's strong coaching staff makes him prepare extra for the upcoming game:

"Especially as you kind of point out, you realize, after the half, they've been excellent. I mean, really throughout the course of the whole game, they've been an excellent defense, but certainly Arizona and New England both, after halftime, we gotta come out ready to roll, and we're looking forward to the challenge."

On the plan to combat Seattle's organic four-man rush:

"That's probably the most effective way to do it. If you can bring four and play seven in coverage and still affect the quarterback, it's the most effective way to do it. So, we gotta bow up, man. We gotta give them a good protection plan to be able to, whether it's effectively running the football just, stay out of known pass downs or keepers and getting Marcus on the move, all those different things. We'll certainly try to utilize our skillset to the best of our ability."

On how Mariota is helping him as a first-time play caller:

"I think what's great is all the time that we've banked in the meeting room over the last three years. All the conversations we have as it pertains to offensive football and philosophy, and now me and my role and him getting to start this game, there's nobody who knows him better and how we can try to best deploy him as a staff to go ahead and go put us in a good position to try to win the game."

On if he thinks he's improved throughout his first two games in his new role:

"You feel it every now and then, but at the end of the day, we gotta have success, like, we gotta have the execution, and we have to teach and coach better Monday through Saturday to be able to put ourselves in spots. And, we want our play style to be on display. We want the system, we want these guys to be firing on all cylinders and that, man, this is a fun process, right? We truly look at it as the 17 games that we get in a season, this marathon that we're on. We're gonna get stronger as we go. And I know for myself, I'm learning lessons every week. There's some I want back, there's some I like, and it's same for our unit, players and coaches alike."