

October 1, 2026

Offensive Coordinator David Blough

Opening Statement:

"All right, good to see everybody. Couple things as we get started. I thought it was good to get a win versus a good team. But truthfully, man, it was not really up to our standard as an offense. Too many pre-snap penalties, too many third downs where we couldn't convert. And it starts with me and coaching it and teaching it better. And there was certainly a lot of good stuff as well. There was, man, big time plays and big time moments though. [QB] Marcus [Mariota] stepped in, did an excellent job. And then a lot of our guys, when we needed them to be at their best, they certainly were. So, there's a lot to build on, right, against a good team. And then, looking forward to a good challenge this week as we get ready for Indy."

On little things that Mariota does that may go unnoticed by many:

"Well, I think this whole thing starts with the quarterback position and operating at the line of scrimmage. And we talked about it last week, but man, his mental reps and his mind was certainly a weapon for us, whether it was getting us into a right play, breaking the huddle quickly, and he did an excellent job just managing the game and then going to make his plays when they were there for him."

On what he needs to see from QB Jayden Daniels in the return to play process:

"Yeah, I think it's just the continued progression of being comfortable with the brace on, being able to go out and play ball like he plays. And we've got a good process for that as we're working him back into it."

On what contributed to run game issues during Week 3's game versus the Seattle Seahawks:

"You know, it kind of goes back to Week One where, man, we've talked about urgency out of the huddle and, and so we mix up our cadence a lot. It kind of got us and nipped us in the butt a little bit. And we knew in this game it was gonna be a little bit uphill running the football, right? We knew. And so second and eight turning into second and 13 was not where we wanted to be and it happened too many times. So, we'll get it cleaned up and be able to stay on schedule a little bit better."

On having clutch runs late in the Week 3 game and how to build off of them moving forward:

"You know, I think we've certainly learned, I've certainly learned in just a few weeks of, of getting to call him that, this is always and forever will be a player's game. And in those moments, it's about [RB] Rachaad [White], it's about Marcus it's about [WR] Terry [McLaurin] winning his one-on-ones

on fourth down. It's about the same with his go ball there. And so, we just try to put him in position to do so and then let their, you know, their talents kind of come to life. So, it was cool to see that within the system, but those guys brought it to life.”

On what he saw from the receivers in Week 3:

“I thought they played fast. Like they, we definitely fed off the energy of the crowd, kind of the short field, our defense giving us the ball down in the red zone was kind of the spark we needed to get it going. And then, you know, Marcus' check down to Rachaad that led to a touchdown and [WR] Treyton [Burks] being in the right spot and Terry going up, whether we're, you know, we knew that the closer you got to the end zone against that defense, the tougher it got. So, we were gonna try to throw it in from a little bit further out. And then, you know, Marcus being accurate, receivers going to get it was kinda, that was the difference in the game for us for passing.”

On what he's seen from RB Austin Ekeler:

“Yeah, he's the same back that we've seen, so we're gonna keep building him in. Same, you know, similar to Jayden, just the process getting him going as well, acclimated to a new system.”

On if Daniels or Mariota will start on Sunday:

“It is certainly fluid and we've liked Jayden's progression, but the system, the process of the week, it's just, we're in a different place. That's the only difference this week is we get ready to play Indy.”

On how much traveling affected Daniels' return process:

“I think our planning, our processing, ever since we've stepped foot over here, everybody on our team from medical to equipment to performance has all been on the same page about what his process is about getting us to the right spot. And then same with all of our guys, whether it's [TE] Chig [Okonkwo] or different other guys at different spots. We've just, we've had a plan since before we left for London and it stayed the same for us. It hasn't changed much, just a different place.”

On what Ekeler adds to the running back group:

“You know, I think he's got a special skillset when it comes to catching the ball on the backfield and we're looking forward to getting him going and being able to utilize him to his strengths just like we would if it's [RB Jacory] Bill [Croskey-Merritt] or Rachaad or [RB] Kaytron [Allen] or, you know, anybody else in that room.”

On working out of a resort:

“It's pretty comfortable, honestly. You get off, other than the flight over, it's pretty comfortable, but, from that lens, we wanna kinda keep it as normal as possible. So yesterday was Wednesday, as Wednesday as Wednesday gets, and today's Thursday, we're focusing third down, and tomorrow will be Friday and into the situations. And for these guys, we want to be maybe simpler, with the sleep loss coming over, but we certainly are all about doing our process just in a different place.”

On when trying to become balanced becomes predictable when it comes to game play:

“I think that's a fair question. I've, over the first couple weeks, we've dove a lot into our own self-

scout because we know there's only three weeks of information that the Colts are getting to look at on our offense. And so, how do we predict what they're seeing and how do we kind of adapt to that hopefully before they catch on? So that, it's always a chess match and we get a lot of respect for this team, this head coach, defensive coordinator that we're going up against this week. And we wanna stay ahead of that curve as well."

On how to help the offensive players have the 'clutch' ability:

"You know I think from my lens, at least, we talked a lot about like, calm is contagious, right? So, if I can be calm in those moments for those guys and just walk out and give Marcus an opportunity to talk through an old play or something and that, he'll just go and take it and run with it, man. It's just like we talked about, those guys bring it to life, and we've repped all these situations out on the practice field, and that's where the confidence comes from where, 'hey, when you get it, whether it's a two minute at the end of the half or a four minute going to execute, they're ready to roll'."

On if pre-snap penalty corrections can be coached or if it takes more work from the player:

"I think it's both. I think it starts, it certainly starts with me and our unit coaching it and you can't ever let that standard slip, whether it's in a practice or a prior game. We gotta learn from those lessons on the player side as well. So, I think as we go forward, right, we felt it cost us certainly in the first quarter on Bill's long touchdown run. We felt it at other points. And unfortunately, you have to learn those lessons the hard way and we gotta make the corrections from here."

On getting the tight end room more involved:

"Yeah, I think, from a broad stroke, we'd love them to be more involved in the passing game, but those guys do so much. They're as versatile as any position on the field. And [TE] John [Bates] does different things than Ben does, and Chig does different things than [TE Colson] Yank [Yankoff] does. And those guys really, at different points, have kinda had their moments, and similar to the running back room, we'll certainly try to continue to use them to their strengths."

On what would surprise a London fan the most if they could listen in on the headset for one drive:

"That's a good question. Hopefully not that it's very vulgar. Hopefully it, truthfully, it's probably quieter than you'd expect. When you think of a coaching headset, you think there's a lot of chatter, but there's also a lot of processing and thinking going on as well. And I bet they would think, 'man, this is all that's really getting said on the headset'."

On if he ever wishes he could run the plays he calls himself as a former quarterback:

"I certainly call plays that I'm like, 'God, I'm glad I'm not the one running it' [laugh]. Like, there's plays that you design for Jayden and for Marcus and for [QB Athan] AK [Kaliakmanis] and [QB] Sam [Hartman] that I would've never have even attempted to throw on some of them. But that comes back to us having to know their strengths."

On what he's looking for at center:

"Sure. I think, and man, you have to tip your hat to what [G] Lucas [Patrick] did last week and us,

like, [Offensive Line] Coach [Darnell] Stapleton getting those guys ready, [C/G] Nick [Allegretti] sliding over to guard. It was certainly a tough task with the defensive front that was coming in. And so, you know, Lucas certainly did an excellent job running the show. And that's one of the things that we look for, just, 'Hey, come in, take command of the huddle, make all the identifications, get us going on the same page'. It's probably the biggest thing we look for in the center position."

On if he's ever had an injury similar to Daniels and challenges of a non-throwing arm injury:

"Personally, outside of maybe like an AC sprain or something like that, I never had to deal with anything like him, but we're gonna make sure, man, that he's right, he's comfortable, and that our process is good as we take it up to game time, and then all the way into, as we just get him back on the field, we want him to feel like him."

On if they are handling Daniels' recovery differently from last year:

"Yeah, I think, the second time around you, you've certainly learned lessons of what it's gonna be like the first time, and then how do we keep his legs in shape? How do we keep him on a throwing program that will allow him to acclimate a little bit quicker? And it's, what's the swelling like? There's so many different variables that go into it this, the second time versus the first time. And it's been a really good process and conversation since halftime in the Dallas game."

On if it is better to have a timeline for game play given the fluidity of the quarterback room:

"I think, the sooner in our profession is certainly better, but we are certainly here in these roles paid to adapt and be versatile and be fluid. And that is, that's our job, to be able to have the contingencies, whether it's at quarterback, whether it's at running back, whether it's at center or guard, like, our job is to adapt and try to find a way in that week to win."

On how he feels about the running back room given the injuries and Ekeler joining:

"I feel good. I feel good with all, with where all those guys are at. [Running Backs] Coach [Anthony] Lynn, [Assistant Running Backs] Coach [Jesse] Madden have done a great job getting them ready, for whatever that rotation looks like on Sunday."

On how today's practice will run:

"Today we'll treat as like a Thursday, tomorrow we'll treat like a Friday. Just, yesterday was a walkthrough, getting us caught up from the travel and now we'll go into our Thursday, Friday preparation. So heavy emphasis, third and fourth down today."

On his biggest advice for players entering the NFL as men:

"Man, biggest advice. That's a great question. I think, one, we certainly as coaches feel the responsibility to pour into these men, much more than just the player. Like, we know how much of a business this industry is, but we want these men to feel like they've got people who have their back. And then I think the biggest advice I wish I would've heard, I did hear from some coaches, I would give to our players is just 'go for it'. Like, you'll never regret when you're 40 years old looking up, 'Hey, man, I gave everything that I had to that cause'. Just let it rip. Go for it."

On if there are significant changes playcalling for Daniels versus Mariota:

“Sure. Luckily both those guys are great passers and also great runners. So, we're very fortunate to have a backup who kind of mirrors the skill set of the starter. And when you build it, you would, you would love for it to be that way. So, I'll just say it's fairly similar.”

On McLaurin's performance against the Seattle and how important he is to the offense:

“Yeah, he's, man, he's as good a leader as we got. And just to see the result of all the work that he's put in throughout the course of 2026 come to life was what we needed, right? Like it's a touchdown here, it's a fourth and one there, it's moving the sticks on third and long in the first quarter. That's who he is and we're gonna try to continue to build off of it.”