

October 17, 2026

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:

“Okay. First off, I was impressed by our team's practice. This week, I thought the overall energy and vibe to practice and to prepare speaks to the locker room, speaks to the leadership. We had a Friday style practice today, and we'll head to San Francisco tonight. And, you know, like as a whole team, man, we're very excited for this opportunity. I know you may have some questions regarding some injuries, so I will give you four that we will rule out today. And those four will be [RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt] Bill, [OLB] Javontae [Jean-Baptiste], [DE] Charles [Omenihu], and [QB] Marcus [Mariota]. And, outside of those four, everyone's traveling. And [we will have] all the way till Monday this week to make decisions as far as playing, not. But to get everybody back in and going was a big deal for us. And those four won't make the trip. So, expect some [more] updates on Monday.”

On when he noticed this week that the page had been turned from last Sunday's result:

“I'd say the extra day this week probably helped. I noticed it where it turned. I would say it's at practice on Thursday. That was our first practice day of the week. And so, in meetings, you're teaching, you're going through, you're installing, you're getting ready, but it was at practice. And we really made a big push on our execution. I love the team's fight. Could the execution and the fight, could they sync up? And seeing that at practice, that was a sign, and that's what I was looking for, honestly, as I went out to practice. That was good to see.”

On what role RB Jeremy McNichols could have with Croskey-Merritt out:

“Yeah. Like I said, we'll get to the final [decisions] by Monday, but this is one of our most professional ball players on, off, what he can bring. And so, as we get to Monday, he's had a very good week and we'll decide from there.”

On what Croskey-Merritt may be facing long-term injury wise:

“Sure. He had a re-injury of his groin. And so that's harder, you know, on the same injury. We're gonna work really hard to get him back. But that was same groin injury.”

On what he's seen and what he wants to see more of from RB Rachaad White:

“I knew like natural athlete catching out of the backfield. To going on what I see is, like these glides and he can make a cut and make big plays on that. So, having [RB Austin Ekeler] Ek back here too, there's, you know, his explosiveness in the passing game that is a big deal. So having some combination of the guys, I think that's what we'll lean on most right now.”

On execution on both sides of the ball during practice this week:

“Yep. I think it starts first, this was the fewest penalties in a week. And, you know, we've added an extra person, but to see that part come together, more significant. I felt the speed, very few repeats, you know, in a play. Let's hit that again. So those were some of the topics that I wanted to see, you

know, on our core concepts because we absolutely go nail those. And so on the first part of the week, lots of first and second downs, then we work into the third down. And then even today as, like, a big red zone emphasis. So, I wanna see each of the days, could we execute in the next phase? And so, for us, we threw a good week and that's why we're excited for the opportunity."

On preparing the defense to take on the strong San Francisco 49ers offense:

"Yeah, that has to be the case. They've got an excellent point differential, San Fran, like they haven't allowed a lot of big plays, they've created some. And so knowing where your eyes are, you know, there's a lot of shift motion that can go on with the offense. And then knowing where the premium big plays come from, you know, wide receiver, tight end, running back, and making sure on the specific calls, how you're guarding it, what you're doing. And I think the second play is that outside the pocket on the scrambles. Those are big ones too."

On what he's seen from QB Jayden Daniels dealing with this tough week:

"Yeah, I think there's a maturity about him that definitely comes through, that's number one. His relentless nature to prepare and dig in is always evident, but I also know, like, man, he's got a lot of fight in him. And sometimes those get demonstrated in the hardest moments as well, whether that's coming back from an injury or difficult moment, all of that. And so, he knows it goes with the position, but I'd also say, there's been a lot of growth this whole season of 2026 of coming back from an injury, new offense, leading, you know, like there's an elevated presence about him. It's very easy to see and yeah, I noticed it."

On what he must see from the team on Monday night:

"We must see the play style that we like. We must, in all three phases. And then the next thing is we must see the execution of our systems. And that doesn't mean every play's perfect, but it does mean right spot, right location, right hit, all of those to go. Both these teams are physical and San Francisco's proven not to be a team that beats themselves. So, I think the execution for us, that's at the top of the pile. And we need to certainly be able to play manageable third downs on both sides. I think that's gonna be a big factor in the game."

On progression he's seen from OLB Joshua Josephs:

"I have seen it, and when you're growing, there's kinda like the ups and downs to where it goes. I'm not talking about just from a game performance, but the practice. And so, to see him, and I really felt that this week, more plays, more opportunities, and I don't know if that's comfort in the system, but I would say comfort in knowing you can get it done and doing it. I've always felt his length as an edge setter, but now see him bending, see him going, and like I said, he'll have some more snaps too."

On what he liked from their explosive plays last week and what San Francisco does as an offense to have many successful drives:

"I'll start backwards, if that's okay. Starting with San Francisco. So, I think with [Defensive Coordinator Raheem Morris] Rah and their defense, I see a good tackling team, you know, that sprints to go when there's a completion. You see the second, third guy get there quickly. And for us, that's one example of one of the things that I see from them. And then for us, they can come in a number of different ways. It doesn't mean it's like sometimes we think explosive or just like a deep ball, but the explosive means it could be catch and run. It could be a seam. When the moments are there for us to deliver on those, we gotta go hit them. And that could mean Jayden's legs and throwing or him scrambling. But I like the plan that the guys put together for the week. You don't

chase them, but you do have to hunt them. All right, what is the difference? Well, when the moments are there in this system, man, like there it is. That's the one to go get it. If it's not, you get to the next progression, you get to the next play. And so I'm looking forward to seeing us execute.”

On what having primetime games and opportunities in the next five weeks means to the team:

“Yeah, it is fun to have a national game where, for instance, this one, the only game that's playing. And so, for people to see that and know, it's a big deal for us. But quite honestly, it's just in this week. It's all the focus that's there for us into this one. And it's gonna be a hell of a battle. We're looking forward to the opp.”