November 19, 2026

Head Coach Dan Quinn

Opening Statement:
"All right. Let's get rolling. As we're starting the process, we're all excited to get to Monday night. And it'll take everybody. This is an excellent opponent and we'll need good complementary football for sure on our end. It is good to have everybody back on the field today. One exception will be [WR] Stef Diggs, but that will be due to the schedule, he has a rest [day] on our Wednesdays in season. But past that, a full group out there and ready to get rolling."

On what makes the Cincinnati Bengals good against the blitz:
"I feel like they've been good against everything right now [laughs] as we're playing. I think [it's] a number of things. One, you're trying to get timing off with the blitz and how quick you can answer, get to the right play. And so, I think the skies will be big also in this game, due to the fact of when you go, when you don't, how do you send it? And you'll have to take your shots for sure, but scheme, playmaking ability, but certainly him [Cincinnati Bengals QB Joe Burrow] being able to manipulate it quickly, that's a big part of it."

On QB Jayden Daniels first game against Cincinnati in 2024:
"Yeah. I can remember Joe completing a lot of passes early too in that game. So, all right, that's not what you asked. I think looking back now, I think that was probably the first big moment of the belief to take your shot, be aggressive for him. We'd had a loss. We didn't play as well against Tampa [Bay Buccaneers]. We won in a shootout in our second game of field goals. So that one, I think was the moment, the big play to [WR] Terry [McLaurin] to take your shot. And I think it kind of displayed his accuracy. We had all seen it, but to see a big shot like that delivered to the right location, I think that kind of helped solidify his clutch ability. We'd seen it and now it was nice for us to experience it. So, I think that was probably the first kickoff of that."

On if having a game like the one against Cincinnati in 2024 can change a quarterback's confidence:
"I think it can. He was a confident player to go in, but anytime you get to deliver, I think it adds confidence also to those around you. And so that can also be something big to know it's not just this performance, but the other people having belief in that spot too. So, they had it before, but it definitely, when you do it, I think that adds value to it."

On how the receiver room is doing with McLaurin's absence:
"Yeah and I thought [WR] Trey's [Treylon Burks] had to battle through his foot injury, and so to have him back much closer to full speed is good. It took some timing to get everybody in the right spots, but I do feel since that game, I think that was at San Francisco [49ers], that it's just felt more gelled in some ways. And to see featuring players into their roles, that's what I'm hoping to see as we begin the second half of the season. Now that we've kind of settled in, this is the group and where

we're at a number of spots, but receiver also. But I like the depth of the group and knowing, like, a couple weeks ago we had more players down. I thought [Wide Receivers Coach] Bobby [Engram] and the guys did a really good job getting [WR Jaden] Bradley and others ready. So, I like the group. It's a deep one."

On when RB Jacory Croskey-Merritt will play again:
"He's worked hard so we wanna go through the full week. That why I opened it the other day was to get started and we literally go through the practices this week. So, we're definitely not ruling out this week's game. He's strong, he's fit, he looks good, but the football part, that's always the big piece to me to see how he performs over the next three days. But I like where we're starting with it."

On how getting a win last Thursday affects the team moving into the second half of the season:
"I think what all of us in, you've been in a competitive spot, you take advantage of an opportunity. And when you miss them, there's regret. And when you take advantage of them, I think it does provide something of proof to say 'This is how you can operate and do that.' And so, the proof is in, can you do it again? Can you do it again? And so that's the response with the group. And that's what I'm looking for."

On how CB Trey Amos has been performing coming back from injury:
"Yeah. I do feel like it did take a game or two to get back into that spot. But now, not just the conditioning barrier, but the movements, the location, finding the ball, all of those I thought have come together for him. So, I'm excited. I feel like it feels more settling. And that helps because now time and reps together with the guys. So, that's definitely a part of our improvement."

On how to decide if Cincinnati Bengals WR Tee Higgins or WR Ja'Marr Chase gets more attention from the defense:
"Yeah, it's a difficult challenge. The running back has targets, tight end does down in the red zone. So, everybody's got difficult downs, so you can't double up everybody [laughs]. But you do have to take your shots of where to go and how to go about that. So we'll have our ways, but it's definitely one of the biggest challenges with them is multiple people and performing at a high level."

On how Cincinnati having a history of high scoring games puts pressure on the offense:
"Yeah. We talked a lot today about our team, like how do we win? And so, on the, what we call our Wednesday, we put a big tape together of how we win. These are the things that we're going to do. So it wasn't just one side of it. And so, I want everybody to know this is what we're gonna do to prepare to go win. And so, a complementary game is what we need. And that doesn't mean that one side has to carry all this on their own, all of us doing those together. So that's what we'll do, and that's over the next four days, we'll put all that work in to go do that."

On lessons behind patience and sticking to the program they are trying to build and how Cincinnati can relate:
"Yeah. I think like I said, the injuries for sure with Joe being out, that was obviously a big piece of it for them. He's such an incredible player. But I think starting with him, there's a lot of resiliency and toughness that comes throughout the entire team. And like, it definitely feels like they have turned that spot again. And that's why it'd be a great challenge for us."

On Daniels exemplifying resilience by coming back strong after injuries and losses:

“I think those scars that you have when you go through them, you don't really know what you've learned until you get into the next season, the next opportunity. So for us, having him playing now, getting back into that over an extended time, that's winning football. And he's been excellent [with] location, accuracy, more games into the system, in and out of the pocket. So, the more turns, the more reps at it, that's where it's just gonna keep going this way for him.”

On what he thinks makes Cincinnati Bengals WR Ja’Marr Chase and WR Tee Higgins unique:
“Yeah, and they are different in a lot of ways. One of the things I really respect about Ja’Marr is the after the catch ability. The downfield throws, the body control to go get it, but the ability for him to break tackles in the open field to make people miss, there's another element to his game with that. Tee, I always feel the down the field throws, the length, the extension, the catch radius where it could be thinking this throw's going out of bounds and you see him catch to go that way. So not high and low where one guy only works low and one high, but I think it's the run after catch difference of how they feature them that makes them both unique. And they're both excellent players, like, good catch radius, good competitors. So, we’ll have our work cut out for us. Good tandem.”

On the importance of Daniels’ ability to sustain his strength and consistency from drive to drive, and why that is essential for a quarterback:
“Yeah. It's interesting you bring that up. It was, like knowing you go answer again, and that's part of playing the position to go. What I thought was unique about us and him in the last game, throwing interceptions, he was pissed and I thought that was good, you know, to say, ‘I'm not gonna be the reason we didn't get this done.’ And so that's a little bit different than match or go ahead. I liked seeing that in this last game as it pertains to when you're in a game that's back and forth, when you're on the sideline, you're just kinda focused for the next drive, the next moment, or the next series. He's always displayed that, and some games are like that just based on how the offenses are playing. And so sometimes you think it's gonna go that way, it doesn't. So, when you're ready for those games, you have to be able to match when that's called upon.”

On WR Antonio Williams success in the past few games and if they’ll target him more:
“Yeah. Not only on third downs, but on early downs too. And I think one of the nice parts of having that little break, it's got right in the middle of it all to say, ‘What unique things does he bring and how do we feature him compared to other players?’ So that's, you know, what I'm looking forward to seeing here as we're starting the second half. I love his development of where he's heading.”

On the defense progressing over the past few games and what stands out about their growth:
“One, I think their ability to get takeaways, that's been significant for us. But like [Defensive Coordinator] Daronte [Jones] did a nice job of maybe taking a layer or two out if there was something that we weren't hitting at the right spot to go. The tackling's been better, but I do like the way they're communicating all together. That's a big piece of it. I felt early, a big play of bust. And so, they beat us on a good play, playing the right technique, playing the right leverage, you can live with those, but seeing them answer on some critical moments in some four-minutes, I thought that's been one of the standouts too.”

On how S Percy Butler looks this season compared to last:
“It was good to get him sitting into some work. You feel Perc's speed always as a safety. Him and T.O. [S Tyler Owens] are, you know, faster than the average safety, so when it comes time on some third downs and matching up onto people, oftentimes that can be a receiver where sometimes you

don't feel into that spot, but with those two, you do feel that way. I love what he brings both he and T.O. on the team side. They usually provide the energy that can make a big play as a gunner for field position. I know [P] Tress [Way] certainly feels that way, but defensively, I like the ball skills of Perc and just the play speed that he has."

On C Lucas Patrick's status this week:
"He's good to go. So, he's back out to practicing today."

On them seemingly getting blitzed more since Daniels has been back and on why he thinks that is:
"That's a good question. It feels overall like our league is doing it more even in that way. I don't know if, I have no numbers to support that other than our game. So, I want to quantify that. Sometimes it's the opponent, you know, we've played one opponent that did more twice. LA, a big part of their package is doing that. And San Fran didn't as much, but that wasn't [San Francisco 49ers Defensive Coordinator] Raheem [Morris]'s style of how they were playing. So, I would say part of it is the systems of who you go against. Then for us, you know, the ability when you're doing that, can you capitalize? Can you do that? So, I thought in the last game, from a pressure standpoint, we had better answers certainly the last play of the game, you know, was a zero pressure, get to a check, get to the choice route with [WR] Stef [Diggs]. Those are the types of moments that when you're gonna be that aggressive, you gotta be able to deliver on the offensive side. That was a big part of it."

On going up against big and physical wide receivers like they have on the Bengals:
"Yeah. It's a difficult challenge. Any corner would tell you, you wanna be in front of guys as often as you can to make any release go lateral movement to go where the routes don't get free access. In other words, full speed from the line of scrimmage to work off the line. So that doesn't mean you have to press them every time or be at the line, but as often as you can be in front of them to make it more difficult on over the top throws. What makes it challenging for them is the second plays that happen with where they go off schedule to go and that's not a designed route, but a location that [Cincinnati Bengals QB] Joe [Burrow] can throw it. And those are as hard to guard as any, because what started as a route concept has now turned into a scramble drill. So, that'll be a big piece of it. But, more than anything, it's how connected do you get using the leverage helps a lot. If, in other words, if you have a safety who's on the inside, can I keep my outside leverage? That's where my help might be. The best of the best receivers can still work and beat somebody in their leverage by getting in front of them and shaking them, and those two are capable of that. So that alone is like, this is the leverage call for whether it's inside or outside, but can you hold it and keep it even through a contested catch?"