

# TRANSCRIPTS

714.540.7100 ⚡ chargers.com ⚡ @chargers



Josh.Rupprecht@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jennifer.Rojas@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jamaal.LaFrance@chargers.nfl.com

Brock.Anderson@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Danny.Markino@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jordan.Colquitt@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Leonie.Strehl@chargers.nfl.com

## Chargers Week 8 Media Availability

Friday, October 27, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

**On WR Joshua Palmer's game status:**

"It will be a game-time decision."

**On if Palmer 'will work out pregame' and 'see how he feels':**

"Yes."

**On WR Jalen Guyton and DL Otito Ogbornia:**

"Progressing, but to be determined. They were in all three practices this week and that part was encouraging."

**On WR Keenan Allen on the injury report this week and if that can be attributed to 'just being a veteran, general Keenan':**

"Yeah, just general Keenan."

**On the team's approach to this week:**

"There's a freshness. Just focusing on the say and putting one foot in front of the other. I think just focusing on the things that we definitely can control and that we can definitely measure. That has been the message all week. I think that there is a freedom that comes with that. Just focusing on our playstyle. The guys have come out here with the right approach. I really like coaching this group. We have outstanding leadership. We had three good days of practice and we need to have another good one tomorrow."

## **SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR RYAN FICKEN**

### **Opening statement:**

"Good afternoon. We had a great week of practice leading up to Chicago. It's a difficult opponent that we're about to face. Obviously, we have to make sure we come out ready to go and help this team win, get back on track with a win."

### **On the performance against Kansas City:**

"Taking away from that, obviously, that [50-yard return] was unfortunate. The way we played well all the way leading up to that. At the end of the day, we have to make sure we're focused on the next play. We can't worry about what happened in the past, in the game, good or bad. We have to make sure that we focus on that next play. We have to make sure that we are a difference for our team, as we had been on the previous plays. We talked about it. It's a one-play series for our teams. We have to make sure we're dialed in and we're not going out there just expecting someone else to make the play. We have to make sure we go out there and say, 'Hey, I have to do my job so that the man next to us can have success doing their job.'"

### **On the 50-yard punt return by the Chiefs:**

"We had five unblocked guys there. Who was going to make the play? No. We have to make sure that we go make the play. We have to make sure we're doing our job, our assignment and not trying to cover for anyone else. As long as we're disciplined with that, I think we'll be fine. The thing that I know is that we have the right men in the room because of how important it is to them, how much they took on with that and how they wanted to go ahead and get back on the grass on Wednesday to make sure they can go and correct that. That's when I know that I'm very encouraged about that. We learned from it. We'll move on and showcase that this Sunday."

### **On the teaching elements moving forward:**

"We just have to do our job. We just have to make sure we're in our lanes. We can't just run down there. We do our assignments, we do our jobs so that the man next to you might have success doing their job. As long as we're doing that, we'll be fine. These guys have done it since I've been here. I'm not concerned about that. I know they're going to go ahead and get it corrected. They took all ownership. It's all as a unit. It's not just one, two or three players. It's as a unit, we have to make sure that we get it corrected so that it doesn't happen again and that we can be a positive influence."

### **On K Cameron Dicker's 55-yard field goal:**

"You guys have seen that at practice, how he displays [his leg strength]. We have the most confidence with him. We don't care about that range and everything, especially in those elements. I was very proud for him, early in the game, to go out there and connect with the swirling winds out there in Kansas City — not an easy place to kick. That gives us that confidence. It's great. He handles it like it's any other kick. The way his approach is, I love it. If it's a PAT, if it's a 55-yarder, he has the same approach. That's the consistency that he works hard on and always builds on."

### **On facing dangerous returners:**

"That's the thing that's tough about this league. There are dangerous returners however you look at them. We're playing a dangerous returner this week, as well. Some are better than others. This guy is dangerous, too, with the ball in his hands. He steals 10, 12, 15 yards right away. He's really aggressive with his hands. He does a great job. He can catch in traffic. To answer your question about [Chiefs WR Mecole] Hardman, nothing should change on our aspect. We have to do a great job of neutralizing these returners, starting with our operation and our punter. Our coverage guys, we have to do a great job out there of in terms of fanning out, getting our lanes and just doing what we do normally, in terms of our technique, our leverage. Then, we can go ahead and neutralize the returner that way. Sometimes you try and paint the sidelines and how it is. I thought our punter had an exceptional day. We had four inside the 20. We had three of them inside the 10-yard line. The field position was great, I think, all day. But again, we have to make sure we can go out there and finish the game on that last punt."

**On Bears DL Rasheem Green blocking field goals this season and if there has been an 'added emphasis' in preparing for that:**

"Absolutely. On the field goal protection, absolutely. [Green] does a great job. I believe that they also brought him there to block field goals. He is a very dynamic player. He does a great job. He did it in Seattle. He was very effective in Houston, also, when they brought him from there. He definitely has our awareness. But, we can't just solely focus on one guy. We have to make sure that we continue to our technique and that we get the whole play blocked. He definitely has a really unique trait with that."

**On if he was 'OK' with the hang time and location of Scott's final punt:**

"Yes. It was a 50-yard [punt], 4.8 [hang time]. He put up a punt that we needed to go ahead and cover. Our guys know that. It's been addressed to them. They're ready to go. They're eager to get out there. They're eager to correct it and put on tape that that is not who we are, and that is what I'm excited about the most."

**On the 'excitement' this week from the players:**

"I think that we have a great culture, a great locker room in there. These guys are ready to compete, they want to get out there and put their best foot forward because they know that that wasn't us last week. We had some highs and lows with it. They're excited. They're ready to go out there. They're competitors. That's what you want and that's what you're looking for in a locker room like this. It's going to be a fun game and fun challenge for us."

**On if he has 'ever had a start to the season' similar to this year:**

"There are a lot of those. When they happen, you just have to make sure that you believe in the process, stay the course and continue to grind through. We have had some tough opponents this season, tough games. We just have to make sure that we continue believing in the process and the good things will end up happening, especially with the way that we practice and everything. It's a long season and we have to make sure that we weather some of those storms. But, now we have to start dialing it in."