



QUOTES

• 714-540-7100 • CHARGERS.COM • @CHARGERS

JOSH.RUPPRECHT@CHARGERS.NFL.COM | SKIP.POWERS@CHARGERS.NFL.COM | JENNIFER.ROJAS@CHARGERS.NFL.COM | JAMAAL.LAFRANCE@CHARGERS.NFL.COM
BROCK.ANDERSON@CHARGERS.NFL.COM | LAUREN.MEYER@CHARGERS.NFL.COM

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS vs. CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sunday, December 9, 2018 | ROKiT Field at StubHub Center | Carson, Calif.

REFEREE JOHN HUSSEY POOL REPORT

Transcription provided by National Football League Communications

John Hussey: “So, this year in 2018, we enacted a rule where the quarterback dives forward, it used to be when he slid, we gave him protection. We give him that protection now when he dives forward, which he did. He dove forward to the goal line and as soon as his knee hit the ground, he was ruled to have given himself up. The ball was short of the goal line. If he would have fumbled the football at that point, we would have given him the ball at the spot where he gave himself up. So, the whole philosophy behind it is to continue to give him protection as he slides forward just like he used to do when he slid feet first and that’s why he was ruled down short of the goal line.”

Joe Reedy, The Associated Press: It’s a point of emphasis this year, right?

Hussey: “It’s an extension or expansion of the protection we’ve afforded the quarterback in previous years into 2018.”

Reedy: So, it doesn’t matter if he’s a runner or not? It’s defenseless player?

Hussey: “The player giving himself up is afforded that protection and as a result, he’s been put down where he actually dove forward.”

Reedy: And the replay showed that he was short?

Hussey: “The replay showed that he was short of the goal line.”

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH ANTHONY LYNN

Opening Statement:

“It was a good team win. I thought the special teams stepped up — coverage was outstanding. I thought that team had a good return — four kickoff returns for 40-plus yards, five punt returns for 30-plus yards. I thought the coverage was really good. It made a difference. [K Michael] Mike [Badgley] made a lot of good field goals for us today. We didn’t get to practice field goals Thursday because of the rain, so we practiced today. We normally score more touchdowns than that, but sometimes you just have to play complementary football, and I thought special teams did that today with the field goals and the coverage. Defensively, we stopped them when we had to. We knew they were going to run the football, and they’re a good running football team. They controlled the clock that way. I tip my hat off to them. I thought they played a good game offensively with the weapons that they have, but we stopped them when we needed to. Like I said, offensively, I thought we stalled out a few times. We started fast. We’ve talked about starting quicker, and we did. 14 points right off the bat, and then we slowed down and kicked field goals for the rest of the game. Other than that, it was a tough win. Guys showed grit. They showed good mental toughness preparing for this game because hell everyone wanted us to talk about Pittsburgh, and then if it wasn’t Pittsburgh than Kansas City — this team was dangerous, and we got out of here with a win today. I’m thankful for that.”

On if K Michael Badgley is more comfortable now:

“Yes. Mike is very comfortable in his skin. He wanted to kick it from 60-plus.”

On what he told Badgley:

“He made a couple in practice, so I was thinking about it. I’m just glad we got in a little closer.”

On if he’s concerned about the short week and fine-tuning some things on offense:

“Not really. It’s things I think we can fix execution-wise, so we’ll make the corrections tomorrow, and we’ll keep it moving.”

On RB Austin Ekeler’s status:

“I’m not sure what’s going on yet. I just know he was a little dizzy, but not sure.”

On DT Darius Philon:

“Darius stepped up this game a lot. He made a few plays for us, but that’s kind of the signature of this defense. We’ve had a lot of injuries on defense — [NT Brandon] Mebane, we’ve had [LB] Denzel [Perryman], we’ve had [CB] Jason [Verrett] and [LB] Kyzir [White]. Guys are continuing to step up. Next man up mentality, and they’re still a top-10 defense.”

On if the Bengals we’re able to take away the running game:

“No. The running game was popping early, and we tried to mix it up with some run-action. We got a couple balls tipped that would have been easy completions. Thankfully, they weren’t interceptions because they were close, but we just got out of rhythm a little bit. We tried to get back into rhythm the second half, and we could have probably forced the run a little bit, but physical front seven. You just have to keep them balanced.”

On if there was talk about where Badgley would kick it on the last drive in the first half:

“We were trying to get it as close as we could with ten seconds and one timeout, but we did a good job of executing that drive getting the ball out of bounds. [QB Philip] Phil [Rivers] threw nice balls. I think [WR] Keenan [Allen] caught a couple. It got us a little closer, but we got as close as we could, and I was going to give Mike a chance. If it was 60 or closer, Mike was going to kick it.”

On if he would have kicked it if it was over 60-yards:

“I’ve seen him kick it before, so he was going to kick it.”

On throwing a Hail Mary pass before Badgley’s field goal:

“After that play, that young man was pulling my tail. ‘Coach let me kick. Coach let me kick.’ I was going to let him kick it.”

On having a kicker that the team can count on:

“When I get down inside the 50 and the 40, I’m not thinking about fourth downs and going for it as much. It’s good to have a kicker that has leg strength.”

On having no turnovers:

“We emphasize no turnovers. I thought the guys demonstrated that today. They executed well. Most of the time — I feel like if we can play a game with no turnovers, I like our chances of winning regardless what the other team does.”

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK PHILIP RIVERS**On the fast start:**

“We started off good. We talked about coming out and getting off to a fast start. Not letting the big win from last week hang around. I thought we did a good job of that. It was just kind of a weird field position game early. After we got off to that start, then we were backed up. The [defense] kept getting great stops, but we were backed up and just couldn’t get back in a rhythm there for a while. Then we did. We did enough to win. Shoot, they all count the same. We knew these guys were going to come in and play hard and be an NFL football team. We found a way to win, in a different way. Obviously, [K Michael] Badgley was huge in the kicking game, the defense got big stops. We scored enough to win. It was a group effort again, as they all are.”

On being able to win close games this season:

“I think you have to. This is a close game league, that’s what it is. There’s games right now, Philly [Philadelphia Eagles] and Dallas [Cowboys] are tied, Pittsburgh [Steelers] and Oakland [Raiders] are down to a field goal, San Fran [San Francisco 49ers] and Denver [Broncos] is a six-point game. Baltimore [Ravens] and Kansas City [Chiefs] are in overtime and on and on. It’s a one score, close game league. When you don’t win close games — you’re not going to win all of them — but when you lose them often, you go 5-11 and 4-12. When you win a bunch of close games, you find yourself where we are right now, which is in the thick of it, but with a heck of a challenge coming on Thursday and the rest of the season.”

On the greatest challenge on a short week before Thursday Night Football:

"I think it's just making sure you get guys recovered. It's physically — that's really the challenge. I think mentally with a team being in the division, and again, there will be some wrinkles that they'll have and wrinkles that we'll have, but at least we know personnel-wise who we are playing. Schematically, for the most part, we know what their base stuff is and they know what our base stuff is. It's not a matter of, 'Gosh, we need to dig into this opponent and figure out who they are.' Now, you still have to get all of your preparation in, in a short period of time, but I think that can get done. We're used to handling that. It's more the Sunday night all the way to Pittsburgh, come back, play other physical and close game today, and then get back on the plane to go to Kansas City. I think it's physically the guys recovering. The guys that played a lot of snaps and ran, they're not going to feel like they normally feel on a Sunday, but they'll get as close to it as they can and be ready to go. Nobody's going to be caring about that at 7:20 [pm] I guess it is Central time when they kick the ball off."

On if the Bengals changed up defensively after the first few drives:

"No, I don't think so. They played for the most part what we thought. I thought their defensive ends did a heck of a job. They're long, they've been there many years. They were batting some balls down, had a chance to make some incompletions and we were backed up. We couldn't get ourselves back into our normal flow, rhythm-wise, because we were backed up. We have to do a better job of getting out of there. I think that was more it than it was something they changed."

On having K Michael Badgley:

"It's awesome. It gives you confidence that you have in him, and I think just like it's one game at a time, it's one kick at a time and everything is new. We started to run the ball there, and then we had the timeout, let's just see if something pops. [WR] Travis [Benjamin] gets the shallow, gets out of bounds, and then [WR] Keenan [Allen] makes a catch on the boundary, and then an up chance for a jump ball on the end zone then we jumped off sides, then you have a chance. That's a big three points that really the odds of scoring at all — not that percentages matter, you've seen some crazy plays from Miami and some things — but the odds of getting anything there are slim to none, so finding a way to get three is big going into the half."

On if there was any talk on when they would bring Badgley on to kick:

"I think we'd love to do that, that's if we have enough time to get into range. I think before that it was, what a 64-yarder? Shoot, the probably could make it, but we'd like to be a little closer, get five yards to get a chance to go for a field goal."

On Bagley's demeanor:

"He's a football player, at least from what I'm gathering. He played a little quarterback and safety in high school. He hasn't been a kicker his whole life, so he has a little more — not that being a kicker your whole life is a negative by any means — but I've seen him throw the football, he can throw the heck out of the ball. Just the way he carries himself I guess is a little more like a guy who has played other positions in his life."

On if he feels more hometown love since they have been winning more:

"I don't know that day-to-day. I felt Arizona game and any given day that it's better in the stadium. We're always thankful for all of our fans that are here each and every week. We had a little noise to it there when they were driving late in the game down in that end zone. It's gradual, we understand that, but I think what we've done thus far is enough to get excited about. We have to keep going. If there's ever a week of the Nunc Coepi is applying this week — we've got to begin and begin in a hurry. I heard some of the guys going back to the facility right now, get in a cold tub, start that. Start watching tape. We have to get going, start shifting gears and hurry. It's good to win, we haven't won 10 games since 2009. That's a long time. It's hard to do that in this league. I think while it's something we should be excited about, every win is a big deal, to be excited about when we wake up in the morning. We can wait for that, until tomorrow morning, but then we have to move on in a hurry."

On the importance of this win:

"Yeah I think so. If there was ever a term, 'trap game,' to be applied, it was probably this one. In the sense of, no disrespect to Cincinnati because of the scenario we just laid out. I think having the hiccup against Denver, Denver's certainly no team to be overlooked, but having that finish and not finishing in that game, every week it can help. You just saw Pittsburgh and Oakland, Oakland found a way to win that one. They were a two-win team, San Francisco was a two-win team, and went to beat Denver. Those were teams playing with everything on the line. Like I said, it's a close game league and you respect every opponent. We're not more concerned with anyone else, and that's why they kick it off. If you could just do the next game stats, give you the percentage and just say, 'Ok we won that,' we'd never play. You have to kick it off and see what happens, and anything can happen on any week."

On how much Denver was brought up this week:

"I don't know that Denver was brought up, but I think it was brought up just like you said, big game [Sunday] night. I was still getting, 'Hey, great game,' on Friday. I think that's more what it was. That game is gone. It was fun and a lot of people saw it, but it's gone. We have to make sure we move on. Not so much Denver being brought up, but that one has been eating away at me still. I've mentioned that to someone about once a week since that game that we let that one slip away. It was good to take care of business against Arizona and Cincinnati at home in similar scenarios."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS RECEIVER KEENAN ALLEN

On getting to 10 wins:

"It's fun. Great group of guys. We love the game, we love competing and we love winning."

On surpassing 1,000 yards on the season:

"It lets me know I'm productive and I can still do my job."

On the game being close:

"They're an NFL team, too. We have to come out and play. At the end of the day, we still have to get the win."

On K Michael Badgley's 59-yard field goal:

"Anytime Badgley's long enough for a kick, we think he can make it. His leg's that powerful, his accuracy's that good, and his confidence is that good too."

On preparing for Kansas City:

"Rest will be the main thing. Then the coaches game plan and go out there and execute."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS KICKER MICHAEL BADGLEY

On preparation for this game:

"I stuck with my routine. Just go out there, try to get loose and just enjoy the Los Angeles weather and this environment."

On his thoughts on his kicking game today:

"One way I've always gone it's just one kick at a time. Never be satisfied. You can never get too comfortable in a position."

On his kicking the past few weeks:

It's just one of those things where you're going one kick at a time. Practice or game, you're just going play-by-play."

On what it means to make the longest kick in team history:

"It's cool. I was blessed with opportunity to get a chance and come in here. My teammates and the organization welcomed me. It's awesome to be able to go out there and do something like that."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS DEFENSIVE END JOEY BOSA

On the win against the Cincinnati Bengals:

"It feels great. There are a lot of things we have to clean up defensively. I'm obviously proud to win, but I have to clean some things up and do some things a bit better out there."

On what he feels needs to be cleaned up:

"[[It's] just getting back to my technique. I'm missing on some [of my] timing. I'm fast and feel good physically, [but] it's just a little technique I'm having trouble with. So, I just need to get back in the office and get going."

On thoughts about the upcoming game against the Kansas City Chiefs:

"Obviously, I'm really excited for primetime Thursday [Night Football]. I had a rough first quarter. I don't think I played well. I let some plays go. It's not who I am, but it's not going to last."

On thoughts about winning another close game:

"The last three weeks, we've shown we can play from behind and pull out close wins. We'll stay confident as we can play a lot better football than we showed today. We'll get back in the office tomorrow and get ready for Thursday night."

On thoughts about facing Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes this week:

"He's a special talent obviously with what he's doing with the amount of touchdown passes and the arm that he has. [That said], it's just another week."

On the preparation for playing a game on a short week:

"I mean, it's all about getting recovered and ready to go on Thursday. It's going to be a real tough turnaround to be ready [to play a game] on Thursday. So, it's all about recovery — starting now through Thursday."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS RUNNING BACK AUSTIN EKELER

On K Michael Badgley:

"I'm glad we have someone who's being consistent because that's what we've needed."

On his touchdown:

"Shoot, I should've got in the end zone the play before that, but it didn't end up happening. So, I ended up getting another chance down there and was able to punch it in for my second rushing touchdown. Just happy to get that one in."

On he feels about the offense going into the Kansas City on Thursday:

"It's important to just get back to being healthy. Get back in there, go through all of our recovery and it will be short week, so a big mental week. Maybe not as physical as a normal week would be. It's a big game for us for sure, just like this one was for us."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS LINEBACKER UCHENNA NWOSU

On his sack at the end of the game:

"It wasn't just me. Great coverage back there by the defensive backs. For them to be able to give me the amount of time to get to the quarterback was huge. So, I congratulate them."

On how the team is currently playing:

"We're playing great football. We're playing a lot smarter than how we did earlier in the season. Less penalties, less mistakes on our end, and we're just playing a lot of smart football."

On the upcoming game against Kansas City:

"Huge game. We owe them a little payback from earlier in the season. This is game is over, so we're [going to get] ready for them right now."

LOS ANGLEES CHARGERS DEFENSIVE TACKLE DARIUS PHILON

On his sack to prevent a two-point conversion:

"It was finishing. That was one of the plays where I was just finishing."

On his reaction to the play:

"I'm super excited that I made a big play in a big-time situation for our team and got us the W."

On his celebration following the play:

"Oh, man. I knew I had done something good. I can't remember anything but just being excited for me and the team."

On the challenge of an upcoming short week:

"Just try to recover, get back and get ready. [We just] have to work on our techniques and try to just, like I said, recover and get to the next opponent."

On the defensive performance:

"It was a little bumpy for us, but at the end of the day, we finished the job. We got the job done. Now, we just get ready for the next opponent."

On contributing to stop Bengals RB Joe Mixon on fourth-and-one in the third quarter:

"I just knew that they were either coming with a quarterback sneak [a run], so I condensed the A-gap. When I saw that they weren't running a quarterback sneak, I just kind of got the penetration that we needed and I took a shot. That's what our [Defensive Line] Coach [Giff Smith] tells us all of the time, 'Take a shot in short yardage,' so I took the shot an made it bounce to my teammates, and they made a great play."

CINCINNATI BENGALS HEAD COACH MARVIN LEWIS

Opening Statement:

"The decisions I made today didn't work out for [us]. We didn't get to make the break and it seemed like this-or-that decisions today. Put us in the situation whether it's fourth down when they make a stop. The two-point conversion, so forth. We didn't get to make the breaks. Our guys who settled down on defense did a better job. I thought offensively we set out to run the football early in the game. Did a nice job. We were able to come back out in the second half and sustain it again. Again, [QB] Jeff [Driskel] continues to grow, the quarterback. Obviously, today, the margin of error and the opportunity — they make the big pass there in the start of the fourth quarter that gives them the field goal and makes a difference in the game there. We have the two penalties — the one on the goal line and later on, the one in the one minute that gives them the opportunity for the field goal — disappointing. We've got to do better. Young guys that have a lot of football ahead of them and they've just got to understand the situation and do it better."

On the overturned touchdown:

"Well, with the way they changed the rule now for quarterbacks, whether he's sliding, diving, whatever, when he first goes to begin it, that's the down-side of that."

On signs of progress:

"Well, the team needs to win. That's the only progress that really counts, is winning. We've got to keep putting them into position to win. Obviously, when they're in that position, they've got to make the plays to win the game, and keep grinding and finding a way to make plays to win the game. We've got guys playing big-time football, and we've got to make sure we're doing it all the time."

On the decision to go for two in the first half:

"I just thought, you have a lot of time left. You have a lot of time. You can look at it either way. We felt good about the two-point play. Obviously, we didn't get it. Those are the things we've got to do. It was fourth down and four inches basically. It's aggressive, but it is four inches. We've got to be able to pick that up."

On if failing to get two on that play is indicative of the season:

"No, I just think that in that point in the game, we needed to pick that up. That's part of what we set out to do in this football game, is to handle the inside run and do a better job."

On QB Jeff Driskel's progression:

"It's hard for me to say. Sometimes I have my back turned, but again I think the biggest thing is keep taking care of the football. That's the thing. We're constantly talking about [going] to the next down, continue to play within yourself and we'll rate his progressions as we go. There were some where he was a little quick, and he had opportunity — even on the two-point play — he had the play, and he went away from it. So, those are things that over time he will do better, and he's got to understand that. Again, he's doing everything he can. This is great for him and his career. This is career-changing for him to continue to play the way he's playing."

On how much use he has for moral victories:

"None."

On if moral victories mean anything considering what the team has been through:

"No. That's not what this is about. This team, the fans — they deserve a win. We've got to keep pushing and grinding and get guys in position to make plays. To say [it's] a moral victory for [WR] Tyler Boyd, that isn't worth [anything] when he's playing his tail off week in and week out, day in and day out. [RB] Joe Mixon, guys stepping up and playing on defense today. They did a great job. They put us in position with some things — the way they do things — we had to change our style, and I thought the guys did a great job of understanding the plan and changing our style after the touchdown on the screen play."

On the defensive performance:

"After the first two drives, we settled down and played. That's what you have to do. There is nothing that happened early in the football game that they hadn't been through. They didn't invent new plays. They only had 11 guys out there and we have to do a better job of understanding it and getting our job done. We have to go in and get ready for the pace of the game. For whatever reason, we have to get hit in the jaw before we respond. So I guess I have to take a bat into the locker room before the game and do something different, but it just takes us time to respond. Then to jump offsides at the end of the half, you can't do that. Those are the things that are talked about all the time — understand the situation."

On if he has ever given thought to not deferring to the second half:

"No, it's the only way you can get two possessions. That's really the only way that you get an opportunity at that. It worked out, if we just had the sack and get the ball and any momentum they may have had from stopping the two-point [conversion], we gain back. If there is something anything such as momentum at halftime, not that there is, but again, we have the opportunity to get off the field there with the sack and all 11 guys have to execute the plan all the time."

On utilizing players in different roles:

"They came in in some substituted defenses, that's all. It's just next man up. It gives them an opportunity to get out there and do something. I think [Offensive Line Coach] Frank [Pollack] felt it was appropriate to have a couple roll-throughs in there at guard."

On if their performance on defense after the first quarter and if that is the standard he has set for the team:

"That is how they should be able to play for four quarters. I thought corners had a tough duty. 13 [Chargers WR Keenan Allen] is a hell of a player. He did a nice job except for the over-route there later in the game. We did a good job trying to keep hands on him all day long and make it hard. We made them have to go to the second option. We made some plays, had some tipped balls early on, they just kept falling to the ground. We never got them in our hands. Again, these guys have worked hard. It's a long trip out here and we wanted to come back with a W and we didn't get it done."

On how a team that played how they did in Cleveland turned around and played how they did today:

"Just doing your job. In the Browns game, there is nothing that was different. Just do your job. It's a simple thing. In that case, experienced guys, young guys, it was a collective collapse in the first half of that game against the Browns. It's just not right. Since then, they've settled down and figured it out. You have to coach them hard. We'll continue to do that correct hard. We had a little bit of that in that first drive. You have to do your job. If you don't do it, who is going to do it? I can't come off the sideline and make the tackle. I want to, but they won't let me. That's the thing, we have to do it and do it right. Hopefully we have gotten it to where when we have a breakdown, they understand where it is. I think that makes a big difference."

CINCINNATI BENGALS QUARTERBACK JEFF DRISKEL

On how he felt about the game:

"I thought we played well on offense. I thought we played well on first and second downs. We just didn't make the plays, we made some plays but not the ones we needed. We have to find a way to convert those. There are no moral victories in this league. We have to fight, scratch and claw to get a win."

On being surprised with some of the play calling:

"We have to play aggressive to win a ball game and that's what we did. [Head] Coach [Marvin Lewis] had full confidence that we would convert on some of those plays and same with everyone else on offense. Unfortunately, we didn't."

On the rule change not to give himself up:

"I was not giving myself up, that is within the rule book and how it is interpreted, it is what it is. I wasn't giving myself up, I have to figure out another way to get myself in there."

On Head Coach Marvin Lewis going for it with fourth-and-one:

"It's one yard and he thought we were going to convert. I thought we were going to convert. We knew that was just the way we were going to play that game. We were going to play aggressive and if we picked that yard up it might have been a different story. We just didn't execute and when you get an aggressive call like that you just have to go out and execute and we didn't."

On if he was supposed to throw to DE Sam Hubbard on his overturned rushing score:

"He was an option. He was out on a route and they had it covered. I was trying to make a play there, but yes he was definitely in the progression. The call was unfortunate. I did what I thought I had to do to get in and that call was just tough."

On the two-point conversion with the sack at the end of the game:

"It was a pretty simple look, they didn't surprise us with anything on defense all day. We didn't convert and we didn't execute. We just have to find a way to do that. The first two options that I had I didn't think it was clean enough to let it rip so I just tried to create because you have to find a way to get in on two-point conversions. I don't know who got me, but we've just got to make that play."

On TE C.J. Uzomah being the first option on that play:

"Yeah, it's all dependent on coverage so anybody out in a route is a viable option and we just didn't get it done unfortunately."

On the headset and communication issues:

“There were a few times where I wasn’t getting anything in the headset and we were prepared for that. I didn’t let that affect us. I looked over to the sideline and got some hand signals. I was able to get the calls in and that doesn’t happen too often, but we were ready for it.”

On if he ever called a play himself:

“No, I didn’t make anything up, I looked over to the sideline and got the call from the sideline and got it into the huddle. Unfortunately, that stuff happens sometimes and we just have to have poise, which I thought we did.”

On what he was attempting to accomplish on the two-point conversion:

“On the two-point conversion we have two of our best guys over there to the left — C.J. Uzomah and [WR] Tyler Boyd. I have to find a way to get them the ball whether it’s a get them the ball right now or make somebody miss and find somebody late. I just didn’t get it done. That happens in football and it just comes down to us not making enough plays as a unit.”

On if he was banged up during the game:

“Football is a physical game and stuff like that is going to happen. I’m good. There’s really no issues, but sometimes you get banged up a little bit and you get looked at. If the doctor says you’re good and you’re good, so I was fine.”

On making a committed effort to get the ball to RB Joe Mixon:

“Yeah, you always try to get your best players the ball and I thought Joe did a nice job hitting the holes. Even sometimes when there wasn’t much there, he created. I thought he ran hard. I thought he really battled and that was big for us today being able to run the ball effectively.”

On going for it on fourth-and-one:

“I love when they want to be aggressive, Coach [Lewis] had full confidence that we were going to get it done and unfortunately we came up short. When you have your head coach’s confidence like that, that’s encouraging.”

On if the two false starts were communication issues:

“Sometimes things like that happen and it’s something that we’ve come a long way with ever since I’ve been playing. It’s still something that we’ve got to get cleaned up and those are things that hurt.”

CINCINNATI BENGALS SAFETY JESSIE BATES

On penalties and how they can be deflating:

“It’s very frustrating. It’s as simple as staying onside. It’s what we learned since the first time we played football. It’s disappointing that we keep having the same thing come up. It costs us points as well. When guys are scoring a touchdown, kicking a field goal that’s a huge part of the game and it shows up.”

On how they played today:

“We lost. It’s still frustrating that we’re losing and you can’t get it turned around. Hopefully next week, we play our last game at home in the 2018 season, and hopefully we can give our fans a win.”

On the field goal made by the Chargers right before halftime:

“It’s frustrating. I’m not sure what the score was at halftime, but we had a lot of momentum. The offense was getting the ball back coming out so jumping off sides and giving them free points was a huge part of the game. We lost by five points so it’s a different ball game. You have to continue to have discipline and take this thing by winning.”

On if it’s frustrating to have the loss with the way they played after the first quarter:

“Everyone out there knows it, we have talent and we can play anybody. It’s just playing it for four quarters and winning ball games. Unfortunately, we didn’t do that tonight. I thought we did well we just didn’t win.”

CINCINNATI BENGALS WIDE RECEIVER JOHN ROSS

On coming back home to Southern California:

“It’s one of the best feelings I’ve had. Definitely the most fun I’ve had playing in a stadium since I’ve been in college or in the NFL. Nothing can beat playing in front of your family and your friends and your son.”

On having people from his foundation at the game:

“I sponsor a class down in Long Beach, for Jackie Robinson [YMCA]. I selected four kids out of a raffle, bought them tickets and let them come watch the game with their parents.”

On what it means for the kids at his foundation to come to the game:

"It means the world. I know we all come from the same area and a lot of kids are not fortunate enough to do something like that. I wasn't when I was younger. So, just for them to come out and be able to enjoy something like this I know they had a great time."

On when he hosts camps at his foundation:

"Every season. I'm all-year round. I did a toy drive yesterday at my old high school. That's something I do. I'm thinking about doing something else for Christmas in Cincinnati. It's just always a thought process and whenever I'm free. I love to give back and help the kids. I know they deserve it."