

REGULAR SEASON GAME NINE

CLEVELAND BROWNS VS. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

NOVEMBER 3, 2024 @ 1:00 PM ET

**Los Angeles Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Chargers
Week 9
11/3/2024**

Opening Statement:

"I'm just so proud of our team and the way they played today. A great team effort. There will be a lot of guys to talk about, a lot of guys who shined big time in this game. It was a wonderful feeling of winning. A wonderful victory."

Can you talk about Chargers WR Quentin Johnston's performance?

"It was a great game by Q. You could really see the speed. It's fast. It's a problem. It was just great. His development just keeps increasing. He's really doing a great job with the back shoulder ball. Every level of his game. Coach Sanjay Lal has done an incredible job. I couldn't be more proud of Q and so many of the guys you can bring up. Let's bring up some more names. It was that kind of great effort. It wasn't easy. They made a lot of great plays on their side as well. Six sacks in the first half? What a great player – 95 (Browns DE Myles Garrett), my gosh, he is so good. The guys just kept after it and kept at it. In the end, (Chargers RB) J.K. (Dobbins) was able to find a hole. (Chargers QB) Justin (Herbert) found holes. The receivers did a great job of finding holes at the intermediate level and the deep level. I'm just so proud. It takes that. It takes resilience. Just kind of relentless and the next play [mentality]. They make a play – 3, 2, 1, let it go and let's get on to the next play. Defensively, just spectacular. (Chargers CB) Tarheeb (Still) – one and a half interceptions today with the way he tipped that one back to (Chargers S) Elijah Molden. And Elijah is just always in the right spot. Elijah Molden does a great job. We defended the deep spots really well. Elijah had a great rep and defended the deep ball. A great interception by (Chargers S) Alohi (Gilman) to get him going. He was really triggering today and a great catch on the interception. (Chargers LB) Troy Dye – gave him a game ball. It was a tremendous fourth down stop. Talk about never letting up. Just put (Chargers DL) Tear Tart, the blocked field goal and that tremendous push. Justin Herbert - I think since 1920 there's only been a few quarterbacks that have had a perfect passer rating in the first half, and now he's one of them. Right up there with Tom Brady and Joe Burrow, I think has done it a couple times as well. (Chargers WR) Josh (Palmer) as well. D.D. (Chargers WR Derius Davis), just great to get his explosion back in the game. I'm really proud of him. I'm proud of all our big guys. It's a really good offensive line the Browns have and a really formidable defensive line. We've talked about before how much we ask of those big guys. They're hitting every single play. It was good. We just kept at it and kept grinding."

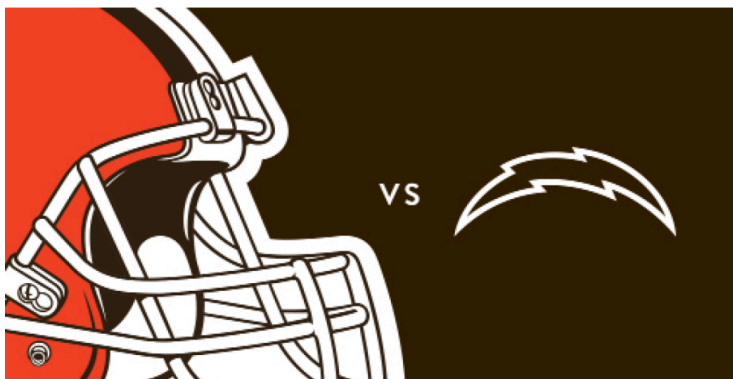
What did you see from Chargers RB J.K. Dobbins?

"That resilience. This Browns defense – they stop plays. They stop them cold. You saw the sacks, the tackles for a loss. They're just really good at it. Unless you don't get discouraged and you keep a good self-worth of yourself, and 3, 2, 1, let it go, next play is coming. I thought our guys did a really good job of that. Not getting emotionally hijacked when something didn't go right and then kept working. Fortune favors those who press on. It's at the top of the list of why I'm so proud of our team today."

You mentioned Charges CB Tarheeb Still's 1.5 interceptions. How have you seen him progress?

"You know how I feel about it. It's a gift from the football gods. Rookie corner, both Tarheeb and (Chargers CB) Cam Hart, what they've been able to do has been great. That's a really hard position and to come right in in your first year, and start and play an entire game and have success. Many a lesser man has been in there at that level at that position and their entire self-worth can be blown. These two rookie corners are really good. What I see out of them is just better, better, better; building, building; building. I'm really proud of them. That was really great. It was great. Let's keep going and see how good we can get. Let's see how good they can get. And I want to say (Chargers DB Coach) Steve Clinkscale too. I want to give Coach Clink a shoutout. I meant to give him a game ball in the locker room. What a phenomenal job. A first

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year secondary coach. New with these guys, coaching new players. Tarheeb, Cam, also Elijah Molden is new. Alohi Gilman is new to Clink. (Chargers S) Derwin (James Jr.) is new to Clink and Clink is new to them. He's just really good. He's one of my best friends and I just think he's a great coach and phenomenal. (Chargers DC) Jesse Minter just continues to be a great play-caller and awesome. I have to say the same for (Chargers OC) Greg Roman because he was on that play-calling side of that defense that can stop you cold and stop you in your tracks. Keep going, keep battling them up. I thought he did an incredible job too. I'm really proud of our coordinators and coaching staff as well. I know I said I don't get nostalgic very often, but I was nostalgic today. My mom is from Cleveland and I used to come here all the time – Christmases, summer vacation. But today, it just hit me. So I'm standing out there pregame – November 25, 1961, Jack and Jackie Harbaugh were married here in Cleveland. And the cool thing about it is on their honeymoon, my dad took my mom to a Cleveland Browns game. So Jim Brown was out there playing. They were playing the New York Giants. They stayed in a hotel downtown. I don't think they ever told us which one they stayed in the night of their wedding. But the funny part is that they woke up and they went to White Castle for breakfast. Sat on the stools there. Then they walked to old Cleveland Municipal Stadium for the game. Art Modell, the owner of the Browns was giving free tickets to high school coaches in the area. So my dad was one who got free tickets to the game. I remember my dad tells it, and sometimes he embellishes it, but he's walking up to his seats and some of the other guys who played at Bowling Green with my dad on the team, were also coaches and they were there the day after the wedding at Municipal Stadium like 'Harbaugh! What are you doing here on your honeymoon? You're going to a Browns football game!' It's something we always thought was cool and were proud of. Mom and dad went to a Browns game for their honeymoon. So I did, I got a little nostalgic about that pregame right before kickoff."

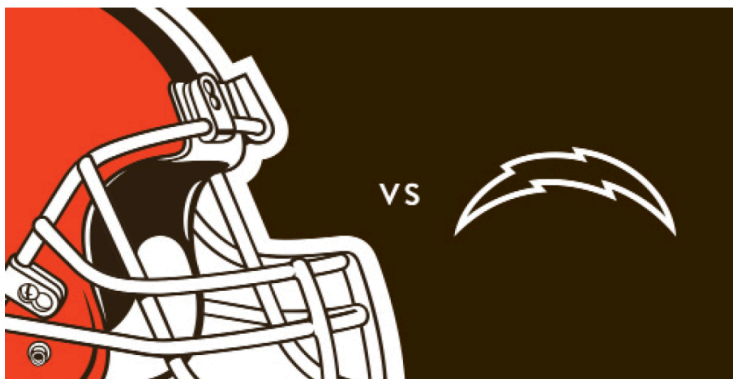
How does it feel to come back to Ohio and leave with a win?

"Great. It feels great. People don't really know, but the roots are deep in Ohio for the Harbaugh family. Mom is from Cleveland. Grew up on the East Side, went to Shaw High School. My dad, Jack Harbaugh, is from Crestline, Ohio, not too far down the road. This is where we went for vacation. We grew up here. Joe Cipiti, my grandfather and Jackie Cipiti. It's where we learned how to work. Grandpa Joe would always put you to work, some kind of yardwork. He was a great mechanic. He would always show me and John how to do things. His work ethic was unmatched. He lived to about 98 ½, but up until about 97, 98 he was working every day. Just a great love for Bill and Marie Harbaugh, too. Worked on the railroad. This is where our family is from. I was born here. My brother was born here. We were both born here, living in Perrysburg at the time. Lived in Edon, lived in Xenia. We lived in Bowling Green. We have nothing but love for the state of Ohio."

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What can you say about WR Quentin Johnston who had a career day 118 receiving yards, including a 66-yard touchdown?

"It was awesome to get him back. He's been battling and he's a tough guy. He always helps our offense when he's out there. He just makes plays, finds a way to make something happen. He had a huge play there and was dependable all day."

Was there a point of emphasis to get WR Ladd McConkey involved?

"I think it's always an emphasis of our offense to get him the ball. He's one of those guys that you just trust, is friendly to the quarterback, and is able to make things happen. So we kind of had a plan to just give him the ball as much as we can and whenever you do that something good is going to happen."

What did you see on your touchdown throws?

"I think it's just one of those looks that we prepared for. Had a good plan, had a good protection plan. Q (WR Quentin Johnston) just made a great play on it. (WR) Josh (Palmer) as well made a great play, a heads up play, and just being available with your eyes and understanding the coverage, the leverage, both of those guys did a great job at it."

What has allowed you to attack down field the past couple of weeks?

"I think a good protection plan, to understand the looks that we could get on defense, the coverages that we might expect and see, and having a receiver group that is able to communicate and understand where we're going with the ball. So when everyone's on the same page, we're able to do things like that, and that's our whole emphasis and point on offense is to be able to push the ball downfield and understand taking our shots and being smart with the ball."

Was it exciting to see WR Quentin Johnston have the day that he had?

"Yeah, it's awesome. He's been so tough, and he's been fighting to get back out there. He's done such a great job at camp. OTAs, and to have the success that he's had, no one's more happy for him than I am."

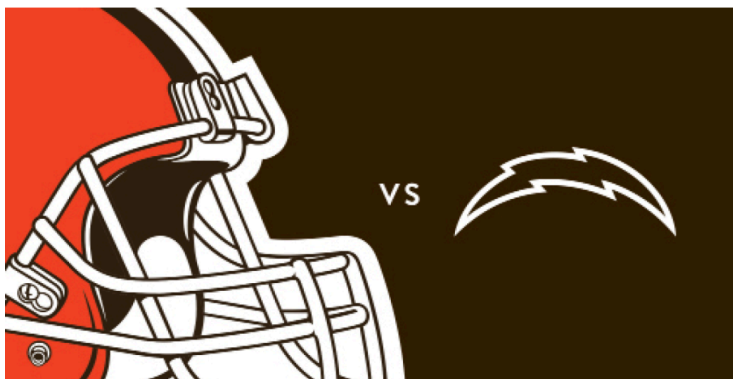
What kind of strides is the defense taking?

"The defense has been incredible all year long. They're so well-coached and they've got so many talented guys on that side of the ball. It's been really fun. It's on us as an offense to just be able to score points and understand that they're going to hold people out and they've done such a great job forcing turnovers too, three I think today, and as an offense it's just on us to be able to be smart with the ball, push the ball down the field and keep supporting them however we can."

What was the difference between the first half and second half?

"I think we just have to keep our focus and execute. I thought we made some huge steps in the first half, made some big plays, but just were unable to execute and take advantage of some of the looks that we got in the second half. We had a good protection plan, good plan out there. Just have to come out and execute, keep our focus."

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What was the reason you were sacked six times? What do you attribute that to?

"I'd have to take a look at it. I think it can all start with me getting the ball out. It's understanding the protection and we knew that they had a great rush, so it's on me to be able to get the ball out and understand where our holes are, where our problems are, so I'll have to take a look at it and keep moving forward. But we have a lot of respect for them as pass rushers."

What was it like to have (PR/KR) Derius Davis back?

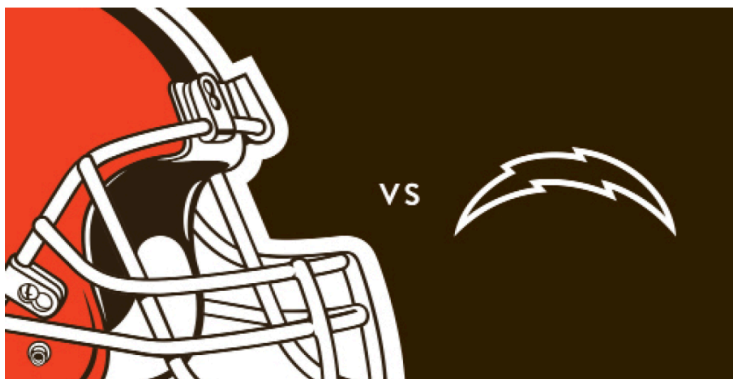
"You saw today, an incredible punt return that set us up for the score. So anytime he's on the field and he's able to get the ball, something good is going to happen. We've definitely missed him. It's been good to see him back out there and it just opens up a whole new threat on punt return."

Did Head Coach Jim Harbaugh talk to you at all about his deep ties to the state of Ohio and his homecoming today?

"He did not. I'm interested to hear about it though."

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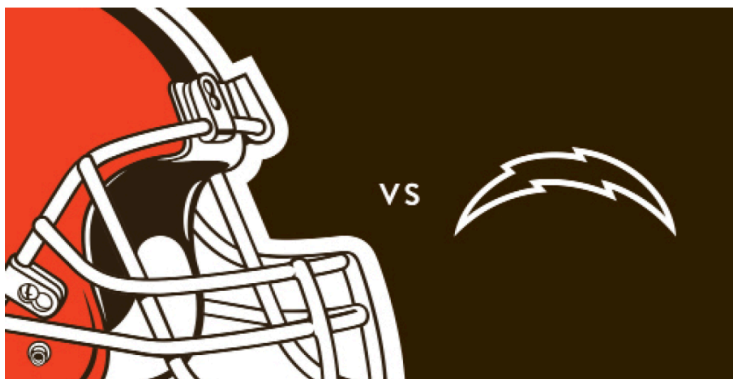
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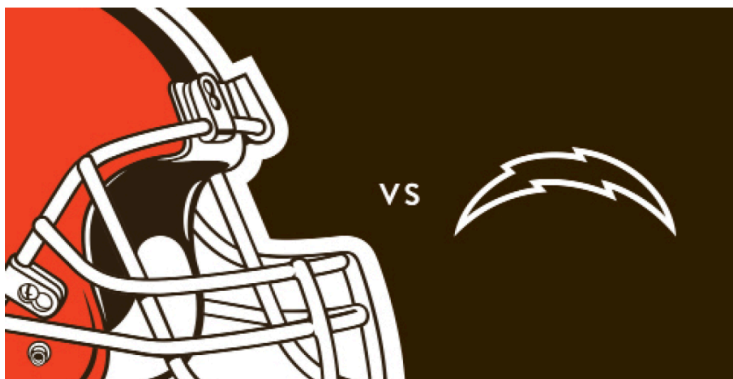
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S Alohi Gilman

Overall, what have you seen from this defense that has been making it so good this whole season?

"We have such a high commitment to each other, and it shows when we are on the field. Our coaches do a really good job preparing. In terms of preparation, it was the best week the defense had to prepare overall for every situation. Our overall success comes from a lot of things, but it truly is a lot of commitment, for the game and for each other."

A couple of years ago, you played the hero in this stadium in Cleveland at the goal line. Getting another pick today, how has the type of defense changed over time to improve to being one of the best defenses this year?

"I was actually thinking about that interception I had here earlier this morning. I think Cleveland was my first official start in my eyes and I definitely had some good luck in that game. I am truly grateful to still be here and make it a full circle moment with today's game. But for us as a unit, we go out on the field and accomplish the things we want to do, which is great. But we still have room to grow, and I am really excited about that for the future."

At what point did you realize that (CB) Cam (Hart) could contribute right away and be dependable because you do not see that from late draft picks in their rookie year?

"I knew Cam from college actually. He was a young freshman when I was a senior in college (Notre Dame). I have had a lot of confidence and talks with him before he got drafted. So it was cool to see him get drafted here because I know what type of player he is and his potential is through the roof."

S Derwin James

What's been working on all three levels?

"I'm mad we gave up that ten today. Honestly what's been working is us communicating, knowing the situations we're in. Knowing when it's sudden change, knowing when it's third and long and just knowing who is on the field."

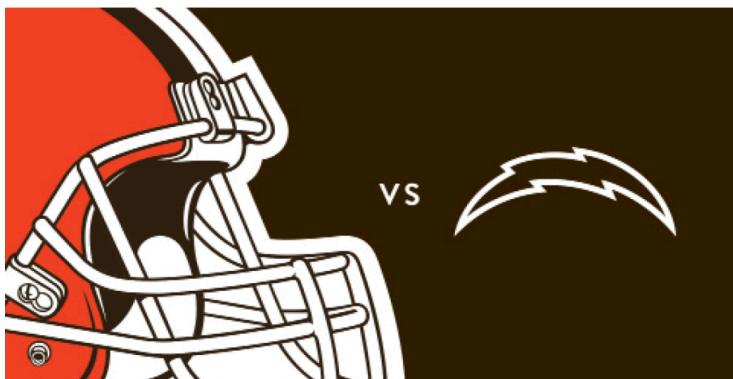
A lot of new guys on this defense. Are you surprised with how quickly it has come together?

"I'm not surprised. The coaching we have, coach Harbaugh and then the guys we have been adding. The rookie guys like Tarheeb, Cam, Elijah. Those guys just make it that much funner, that much easier."

You go up against these guys everyday in practice. How much conflict can that put on a secondary when they don't know the ball is going to?

"It makes it really tough on them. You got guys like J.K. running the ball good too. You got like Quentin, Ladd killing over the middle. Even if you're on them Herbert is going to throw them open, it's tough."

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RB J.K. Dobbins

Do you guys feel like you're finding your identity under Jim Harbaugh?

"I think we found it a few weeks ago. Our identity is tough, disciplined, hard, smart football. I think we've found that, we're putting it together each and every quarter now. Now we're just going to keep rolling."

Did you guys feel like you were starting to take control of that game going into halftime?

"Yeah a little bit. We like to start faster, but like you said we got it together and we feed off of each other. Offense, defense, passing game, run game, everything. So that's what you saw today."

Can you elaborate on how all aspects of the game came together for you guys?

"Man, it just shows how hard we're working. And it shows how we got each other's back as a team. We're going to keep getting better. We're going to keep climbing and we're going to keep doing it, we're going to keep getting better."

CB Tarheeb Still

What surprises you most about (DB) Elijah (Molden), especially since he came in after training camp and has gotten 3 interceptions this season?

"If you could see the work and prep he puts in, as well as paying attention to the little details, you would see why it makes sense to see him go out there and do what he does. He keeps his focus and is able to identify routes in practice while preparing well too, which is why he makes a lot of plays"

You got your first interception of your career. What did you see on that play and how did you feel afterward?

"I was just guarding my target and (QB) Jameis (Winston) threw the ball in my direction. Seeing it in the air, I thought to myself 'I can pick that'. So I stepped in front and ripped the ball from him. And when I stood up, it got quiet because we were away. But it was a really cool moment because all my teammates were around and congratulated me which was really cool too."

For the second week in a row, you guys have had another strong defensive effort. How have you guys continued to build week by week?

"It really comes from the preparation. Going out there and making sure we are having a good week is always key. That gives us the chance to be great in the game. During the game, we have to be looking at the attention to detail. We have to be detail-oriented, which the coaches always tell us. We just go out there and chase perfection as much as possible. We are not going to be perfect, but we can get pretty close to it as we continue to put out strong defensive efforts."

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