

# TRANSCRIPTS

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## POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

### Los Angeles Chargers vs. Houston Texans

Saturday, December 27, 2025 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

#### LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

##### **On what went wrong today:**

"So, what I think is, every time we see our team take the field, we see a team committed to winning and we didn't win today, but at no point, I mean never, never, never does this team say, 'No mas.' There are some things to clean up before the playoffs, and we'll use that. We'll use things from today to be better tomorrow."

##### **On playing the starters next week:**

"Oh, we haven't really thought about that yet."

##### **On the defense's response to the 14-0 deficit early:**

"I thought it was a great response. I mean, there are a lot of ways that goes really bad, but as I said, our team's committed to winning every time they take the field. You see it in victory, we didn't win today, but I don't want our team to change at all. I mean, they just keep competing."

##### **On if it was jarring to see the defense start that way:**

"You know, definitely didn't get off to the start we wanted, but our guys just kept competing and kept fighting."

##### **On what playing the Texans defense teaches the offense:**

"We'll learn from it. Some of the things that happened today we'll clean up and use those to be better tomorrow."

##### **On what the run-game showed today:**

"Guys competing. There were two really good defenses out there today, and I'm just really proud of our team as I am every single week when they take the field because they're committed to winning."

##### **On T Bobby Hart being pulled from the game:**

"Yeah, he proved he was playing so good at right tackle, and he was just having trouble getting into the rhythm at left tackle and put [LT] Austin [Deculus] in there and [T Bobby Hart] was the swing tackle for the game."

##### **On assessing the special teams performance today:**

"Just things to clean up. We know what we're capable of, but yeah, things were just a little bit off. Things to clean up and make us better going forward."

##### **On the missed chances in the redzone:**

"Yeah, we missed a couple opportunities down there."

**On Justin Herbert's third quarter scoring drive:**

"I mean, every week he does things that are reserved for only the best in the game – heroic. It's just the kind of competitor he is and so many feed off of him, we all feed off him. I kind of ran out of superlatives, really. I mean, it's just who he is – don't change. I think he's the best there ever was."

## **LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT**

### **On the overall thoughts about Saturday's game:**

"We didn't make enough plays today. The defense gave up some big stops for us, got some turnovers and that's on us and the offense to go execute and be able to score points in the red zone."

### **On how to finish the season strong with winning the division now out of reach:**

"Week by week. It's a long season and I think that one of the things that we've done really well this year is it's been a one game season each week. Every game is the most important. You dive into it and you give it your all each week. I've got no doubt that this team will do that again next week."

### **On what went wrong in the red zone:**

"Just have to execute. We've got to be able to convert on those third downs down there and have to score points. We got our opportunities, but it's on us to be able to execute those plays that we put in and we game plan for."

### **On lack of targets for Chargers WR Ladd McConkey:**

"That's just the way the game went. I definitely could have done a better job of getting him the ball. He's one of those guys that you have to find out there and I didn't get him the ball enough today."

### **On what the conversation is like when the score is 14-0:**

"It's just drive by drive. To go out there and do your job. You've got to get points up on the board and so I think we held for a couple field goals and that's not good enough to beat a really good team like that, so it's on us to be able to go down there and put drives together, convert on third downs, score points in the red zone and ultimately you have to score touchdowns to win."

### **On what was learned about the Texans' defense:**

"They're very good. We've got nothing but respect for them. Just the way they compete, fly around, play for each other. They're very well coached and they've got very talented guys on that side of the ball."

### **On the disappointment of not being able to accomplish the comeback:**

"That's the tough part about the NFL is the defense did such a great job all day. They got us the ball back and like I said earlier, we've got to go score points. We had those opportunities and we've got to make the most of them. The defense coming up with a few turnovers and then it's on us to go play complementary football."

### **On sticking with Chargers TE Oronde Gadsden despite early drop on the goal line:**

"He's a pro. There was no flinch out of him. I definitely could have lowered the ball, threw less on it but we kept fighting, we kept battling and he made some big plays down the stretch. He's one of those guys that's going to keep coming back no matter what and he's going to give his best effort and we're really lucky to have him."

### **On what the conversation will be before heading to Denver:**

"Just go play football. Go execute and do what we've done. We've got the right guys in the locker room. We've got the right coaching staff. It just didn't go our way today. We've got to go out there and execute, do everything right, can't turn the ball over, score points in the red zone and convert on third down."

### **On the performance of the run-game:**

"We've got a lot of respect for their [Houston Texans] front seven. We knew how good they were and I think that's one of the things that we talked about going into the game is we're going to have to run the ball well to win the game early and it didn't go our way, but I have a lot of respect for the guys that kept battling, kept fighting and kept trying to make it work."

**On the potential of playing the Texans again in the playoffs:**

"I think it always helps with reps. I think experience is the best teacher and we have nothing but respect for them and there's a lot of good film to watch and we're going to have to be critical with ourselves. We'll watch it tomorrow and keep getting better."

**On if there was growth and more composure as the game went on:**

"No, I think we just didn't execute today. We had our opportunities as an offense and you can't turn the ball over like that, so we have to go score points in the red zone. We had our opportunities, guys got open. That's on us as an offense to keep executing."

**On the fan presence:**

"I thought it was awesome. It was a lot of Chargers fans, and I think that's really cool and the environment – I think how much the community has given us, I think its really cool to be able to see that from the fans. I'm sorry that we didn't get it done for them. We felt their support, felt their noise, but it was a cool experience to see so many Chargers fans."

**On seeing the crowd develop over the time in LA:**

"I think it's cool. We're always trying to get better, and I think Coach Harbaugh has done such a great job of that. I think we do have a lot of fans here in LA. We have a lot of charger fans and it's on us to be able to deliver and give them a performance that is worthy of their support. I think as long as we're keeping it moving forward, it's been really good progress."

**On going on the road during the playoffs:**

"I think we're not trying to look too far ahead. I think we have a very good Denver Broncos opponent the next week, so we're going to do everything we can to prepare for them and make sure that we're ready to go on Saturday or Sunday."

**On the importance of rebuilding momentum before the playoffs with a win in Denver:**

"Every game is important. Especially that one because it's the next one. They're a very good opponent. We know how good they are offensively, defensively, special teams, so it's going to take a good week of preparation for us. We have to be on our stuff, dialed, locked in and have a good week of practice."

**On if the game plan changed after going down 14-0 early in the game:**

"I think you have to adapt and I think [Offensive Coordinator] Coach [Greg] Roman did a great job of that. We did our best to keep moving the ball, keep scoring. We did our best to move the ball. It didn't go our way early but there was no flinch from the guys so it was really cool to see."

**On TE Oronde Gadsden's performance today:**

"He's a playmaker. He's one of those guys that – yeah, we're all going to make mistakes, we know that, that's the unfortunate part of the game, but he makes plays and that's what he does. He kept battling and kept fighting. Keep finding him and getting him the ball because special things are going to happen."

**On the scramble on third-and-fourteen where WR Ladd McConkey laid the sideline block:**

"I had just told him, 'Thank you.' He got in the way of the tackle, and I appreciated him taking that hit for me because I could see where that defender was going and he stepped in front of that one for me."

## **HOUSTON TEXANS HEAD COACH DeMECO RYANS**

### **Opening Statement:**

"First to start, as always, the light is shining bright on the Texans, but that light is really reflective of our guy's belief in the Lord and savior. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the best. That's what's driven our team and I'm so proud of our guys. Thankful for the Lord for Honor, us to allow our lights to shine through him and just all praise and honor goes to him. Just really proud of every person on this team and organization for putting us in a spot to go play in the playoffs. It's what you play for. It's what you work hard for throughout training camp. It's what you fight in the season for, for an opportunity to be in the playoffs and go win it all. So we've earned that and it wasn't given to us. Our guys went out and earned it. We're extremely proud of everybody for that."

### **On if the fast start and big plays were part of the strategy entering into Saturday's game:**

"With the big plays to start the game, it was just really great execution starting with the O-line. We got to show up for some guys up front with the offensive line. It starts with having great protection. Our guys did a great job there. [QB] C.J. [Stroud] had outstanding throws right to [TE] Higgins [Jayden] and to both rookies. Stepping up, making extremely big plays for us to really give us that fast start, get us going with some excellent momentum. Those really were two plays that helped us to be in the position we were in."

### **On what makes this Texans team special:**

"I believe in this team because I know what these guys are about. I know how they work throughout training camp when nobody's watching. I know how close our team got throughout training camp, throughout the season. I know how we just have guys who are true believers, who are unwavering in their faith. Guys who come to work every single day. Put in that work no matter what's being said on the outside, things that really don't, it doesn't matter to us. Our guys continue to work the right way, and that's why I believe because I saw the work ethic that those guys poured into with the coaches, players, staff. Everybody pours their all into what we're doing every single day."

### **On how impressive it was to see the Texans get the win in Saturday's playoff-like atmosphere:**

"It was a really good football team. Going against the Chargers, tough football team, really tough environment. So it got pretty loud in here and hard to communicate, but I like the way our guys continue to battle no matter what we face. It's just a good football game versus a really good playoff team. They have a really great quarterback, make some big time plays for them today to allow them to stay in the game. And so hats off to those guys for the way they showed up."

### **On where the turning point was in the Texan's season:**

"From my viewpoint, the turning point for our entire season, I go back to our Jacksonville game. For us to be down as far as we were in that game and to have our backup quarterback [QB] Davis Mills to have such a clutch performance to get us into a position to win that game. I feel like that's the game that flipped our season and just showed us that no matter what we're up against, no matter who's on the field, if we stay together, stay connected, we can overcome anything."

### **On the message to the guys in locker room now being playoff bound:**

"My message to the guys is just congratulations to everyone because you guys earned this. Getting into the playoffs, it's not about an opinion or what somebody thinks. You have to earn your way into the playoffs and our guys play winning football to get us in a position to be in the playoffs."

### **On the ebbs and flows of Saturday's game:**

"Today was, you saw the ebbs and flows of the game. We were able to get explosive passes early on them and they did a great job of eliminating those explosives and made us earn it. They did a good job on third down, we didn't get off as much as we would have, we didn't stay on the field as much as we wanted to on third down. So they made some really nice plays on third down, playing aggressive, putting the pressure on us, but we stayed the course. And when it mattered most, like over there in the fourth quarter. This one is about closing games out in the fourth quarter. We knew we had to run the ball. They knew we had to run the football. And for our offensive line, from [RB] Woody [Marks] to run the ball the way he ran it. And I go back also, I know he didn't have a lot of catches, but you go to [WR] Nico Collins

and our best players in the clutch time, in the clutch moment, he comes up with another clutch play for us. He closed it out last week versus the Raiders, and then again, this week. He shows up in the big moment making a huge catch to get us across midfield. So it took everybody, and I'm proud of all the guys for the plays they made."

**On the defense and [DE] Derek Barnett:**

"Defense showed up with another impressive performance. This guy's [DE Derek Barnett] been playing lights out all year, every single game. But the way the D-line showed up today, sack after sack, really putting pressure on the quarterback, getting him down. It was really cool to see [DE Derek] Barnett get a couple sacks. A lot of different guys got sacks. Barnett, [DE] Will [Anderson Jr.], [DE] Danielle [Hunter], [DT Sheldon] Rankins, everybody was involved. [Defensive Line] Coach Rod [Wright] has done a great job with those guys all year. We needed them to play big today and they did."

**On the Texan's resilience:**

"From off the field, there's not a particular moment that the guys showed me that, 'oh this was our turning point.' When you see the way our guys show up to work with joy every single day, everybody enjoys working together, everybody enjoys the process of working, whether it's meetings, practice. When guys show up that way, with joy, smiles on their faces, excited to work and you can accomplish everything. That's what I see from our guys and that's why we're here."

**On injuries throughout the game and the players ability to stick it out on the field:**

"Every guy on our team knew what this game was about, alright. We knew this was a game to punch our ticket to get into the playoffs and our guys, they manned up. A lot of guys were dealing with pain and injuries. Guys went down on the field, but I got to go talk to [CB] Kamari [Lassiter], and he's coming up 'coach there's no way I'm coming out of this game.' That's the mindset of all of our guys. It's on the line. We know it's on the line and they want to be out there to be the reason why we're successful and when you have young men who have that mindset – that's why I love the guys because everybody has that mindset. Guys go down, it doesn't matter... 'Coach, I'm getting back on the field. I'm gonna finish this game.' When you have that heart, when you have that passion and desire by your guys, we can go accomplish anything."

**On facing a tough schedule and spending third season as a head coach:**

"For me, each year it's different. It's cool to have three years in a row, but I feel like it's about the right here, right now. In this moment, I'm more proud of this team because of all the adversity we've had to face and all the things that we've overcome. I feel like we're a really strong team. We know we can win in any given way or fashion and that's why I'm more excited about this team than heading into the playoffs."

**On contributions from the rookie class this season:**

"Our young guys have started all year. [RB] Woody [Marks], the way he runs the football. It's impressive to see, just the toughness that he plays with every single day. Our rookie receivers, they stay the course. They hadn't gotten a ton of action on the ball but when the balls came to them, [WR] [Jayden] Higgins makes a play, every single game. Higgins alone made two huge plays today for us to really break the game open."

**On the Texan's offense:**

"Chargers defense is an outstanding defense. They're the top defense in the league. They did a great job of executing some pressures there to speed us up and make us have to get rid of the football. That's ball, that happens. You're not going to pick up every single thing every time, but I felt like [QB] C.J. [Stroud] did an outstanding job. Even though he had some picks early, he continued to battle. We continued to throw the ball, he continued to make some good decisions with the ball, faced adversity, overcame it. And when we needed it most, we still threw the ball there in the clutch moment and he made an outstanding throw to [WR] Nico [Collins]. So I'm proud of the offense for the way they went out there."

## **HOUSTON TEXANS QUARTERBACK C.J. STROUD**

### **On what it means to clinch a playoff berth:**

"Yeah, it's a testament to the hard work, to how we were built from top to bottom from our ownership to [Executive Vice President and General Manager] Nick Caserio, to [Head Coach] DeMeco [Ryans], to me, [DE] Danielle [Hunter], [DE] Will [Anderson Jr.], just how our team is built. We're built tough. We're not perfect, we just try to find a way to win each week. I was never kind of worried because we weren't getting blown out by anybody, we just weren't finishing games. I think things are going to happen someday. We're going to give up points, we're going to turn over the ball. It's just how you respond. I think our response from that time when we were three-and-five and on, we've responded to those situations better."

### **On the turning point in the season:**

"Honestly, I think it goes back to the consistency of practice, practice being really hard and [Head Coach] DeMeco [Ryans] pushing us, making sure we're getting all the looks and when we're not, he lets us know. It was good to get led by somebody that wants and demands excellence and who's hard on us and that ultimately helps us win these type of guys and finish tough wins like that, but I think it goes back to practice."

### **On scoring early by hitting multiple deep balls for touchdowns:**

"They [Los Angeles Chargers defense] played really a solid shell defense. It's kind of like the way the league is going on defense is like they're playing two-high shell, they're trying to take away your best guy so you kind of move in and came up with some good plays. Those are some good plays and just pick on that. We just got to keep that going. It can't just be in the first quarter, we got to beat them up the whole game. It's something we can learn from is just keeping the gas on and making sure we're still calling it and taking care of the ball moving forward."

### **On what the proudest moment of the season has been:**

"I think I'm most proud of how we stuck together as brothers, and sisters as well. Everybody in our facility, we stuck together. When I was in college, we used to have this term called 'I vs. The World'. A lot of time in this league, in games, it's just how one it is. People turn their back on you or they start talking crazy and just doing whatever, but at the end of the day, it doesn't really matter what's happening on the outside. I thought when people were trying to divide us and try to pick on one person or one thing or whoever. We had opportunities to stick together. So, I thought that that was what this year has been for me and that's what I'm most proud of is just in that time, we stuck together and stayed one because we could've easily spun it off and the season would have went differently."

### **On realizing when the team had something special:**

"Training camp. If you look at the NFL, every game almost comes down to one score. You know, just because it wasn't going our way for three weeks in the beginning doesn't mean it's not going to be that for the rest of the way. What if we would have won out? That was our mindset every game. Just was one game at a time, and that doesn't mean the urgency wasn't up. You know, urgency is up every week, but I think for us to be able to take it one game at a time is why we're in the position we're in."

### **On winning the team's eighth game in a row and securing a playoff spot:**

"It's dope. It's a blessing to be able to go to the playoffs for the third year in a row, for me. It's funny because it's something that me and [DE] Will [Anderson Jr.] talk about a lot. We don't want to just get used to this. Of course you want to get used to it, but in a sense of like it takes a lot of hard work to get here. So, the work needs to be put in, it's not just every year the Texans are a stamp in the playoffs. That might be the outside noise, or people may have it the other way, but what really matters is the work we put in and so just not getting used to the success. So, when that time comes, you're still grateful and thankful for all those times because it wasn't great at first, but as we kept going, I think for me, my gratitude was going to another level because technically we weren't supposed to be here."

**On the rookies' contribution and what they have meant to the team:**

"I think for those guys to come in to be taught by C-Kirk [WR Christian Kirk], Nic [WR Nico Collins], J-Wat [WR Justin Watson], Hutch [WR Xavier Hutchinson] – to learn and want to learn and be coachable is going to help them early on in their career. They made two big plays for us and honestly more in the run-game and blocking. I think it goes back to our O-line [offensive line]. I thought our O-line played great. None of us are perfect, we make some mistakes and we have to get those things fixed, but it's all about winning these hard games because it's going to come down usually to one score. You can't put your head down, even if you do, you have to snap back fast. I know our rooks have done that, our vets, and we just come together as one in that moment."