

Josh.Rupprecht@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jennifer.Rojas@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jamaal.LaFrance@chargers.nfl.com
Brock.Anderson@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Lauren.Meyer@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Danny.Markino@chargers.nfl.com

Chargers Week 3 Media Availability

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

On the injury status of DL Justin Jones and CB Chris Harris Jr.:

"Justin Jones should practice this week at some point. He's feeling good. He ran well on the off day. He was out there in the walk-through. I don't know if it's going to be today, but we anticipate him practicing this week. Chris Harris, not as sure right now. We're still unpacking it. It's kind of a day-to-day thing with him. He has better strength and range of motion, but like I said last week, we're going to make sure that he is safe before he goes back out there."

On if Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes and Cowboys QB Dak Prescott are 'similar in their mobility' traits:

"There are a lot of different types of mobility with quarterbacks in the NFL. I think that most of the special guys in the modern NFL have it. How it expresses itself — what type of mobility it is — and how each guy plays the game is different. I think that Dak and Patrick are very different players. Although that is a strength of their game, the way Patrick plays, just his playstyle, their offensive scheme, they're very different than Dallas'. But, it is an important point that you bring up because a lot of their offense can be created outside the timing and rhythm of the initial setup. I think that anytime you have that offensively, it's an advantage for you, when your quarterback can create when maybe that first play isn't there, or if that look is crowded within the pocket. Certainly, Patrick is as good as it gets when that component happens within the play. It's going to be a big part of the game this week with him because he's so dangerous in that part of his game."

On preparing to face a team that's coming off of a loss:

"You have to treat each game like it has a life of its own. I think that you look at the game that they just played and assessed what happened, just like we did. Whether you win or you lose, there's a lot to unpack in every game. They played a really good team on the road. Things like that happen in the NFL. They've had an outstanding record, really, regardless of what year it's been, but particularly at the beginning of the season. They were playing a team that was really good. Baltimore's won a lot of football games since [Ravens Head Coach] John Harbaugh has been that coach. They played a really good team on the road and they were right there at the end. I think that they're still trying to find their way just like every other NFL team is right now. I don't think any team that is playing in the NFL is where they're going to be in January. I think every team is kind of finding itself. But Kansas City is as good as it gets. Their record speaks for itself the last three years."

On the potential of planning certain protection schemes to assist T Storm Norton:

"You're always planning for your people. You're always trying to have a lot of diversity within your protection plan. There were some things last week, relative to where Dallas was from a depth standpoint, and actually who was going to be playing for them, that we had to kind of assess as the game began, like, 'Where are these people going to be? And how are they going to deploy them?' They were still brand new. I think once we found out their plan of attack, then we were able to kind of flip the chapters within our plan for him. But you're trying to do that in every gameplan. Kansas City has a lot of quality rushers, as you know. The biggest part of pass the passing game is pass protection, the types of passes that you have, the types of protections that you have. We spent a lot of time on it. I think that last game, there was a little bit more pressure, but when you're playing in the NFL, there's always going to be some tight pockets. I feel like [QB] Justin [Herbert] manages it really well. I think with Storm, his issues are more fundamental from that game, they were fundamental issues."

If he can improve fundamentally — I know that we can help him with the scheme, but I think if he can really attack his fundamentals this week, he'll play a much better game."

On any 'notable' players that will not practice today:

"I don't think so. Nothing new from the game. We have some guys that are sore. We may hold some guys out, more cautionary, for today. I like to give guys one extra day, especially the guys that have played a lot of ball in the league. A lot of times, if we do that, it's just more precautionary, knowing that tomorrow is the big work day, so if you see that, that's probably the reason."

On 'establishing' the offensive scheme and parts to work in unison:

"We're at the beginning. I think the difference is, on offense, we have more established players, we have more guys that have played a lot of football in the NFL, so it's really more them jelling together. Where on defense, we have a lot of guys that haven't played in the NFL, and we're new. We're still working through that like everybody else is. That's no excuse for how we played on Sunday, not at all. But the facts are that we have to keep coaching better, keep defining things better for our guys, because, as I mentioned, our guys are awesome, they're completely invested. Really, they're little things. They're not these huge, hot-button items, where you're saying, 'Man, we're in trouble,' I certainly don't feel that way. It's just a lot of little things within how we deploy our personnel, how we play our techniques, how we deploy the schemes. We're going to keep getting better as we go."

On if the defensive unit is going through 'growing pains' within the run defense:

"I think that's a lot of it. If you take a look at what happened in that ballgame, like I said, we were in a lot of good run structures. We felt like that was going to be a part of their plan. They have two really good running backs and they have a really good offensive line, so we knew that that was going to be a part of it. The runs that split us, we were in good run defenses that weren't executed well. A big part of execution is knowing what to do and how to do it. As I said, that's me as a coach defining it better for our players because I know we'll do it, so I need to do that better for our guys. Then, our run defense will improve."

On the final play of the first half against the Cowboys:

"No, I definitely was not happy. My saying 'whatever' was my disappointment and frustration with the play. We were in an end of half type of defense. We had one player come off his man, which was [Cowboys WR] CeeDee Lamb, which allowed him to catch the ball. Then, after he caught the ball, we had three guys miss easy tackles — I would say that they were not difficult tackles to make — because we had poor tracking of the football. Then, thankfully, [S] Derwin [James Jr.] kind of bailed us out. That was 48 yards that could have been completely avoided. What I was most disappointed with was we lost momentum. We just missed the kick. Then, now, you get flagged for a penalty, then they go 48 yards and almost scored. Even though we had the ball back to begin the half, it didn't feel as good, it wouldn't have felt the same had we'd maybe made a kick, stopped them, got the ball back, now you have the crowd into it. I didn't like the way that that we unpacked the end of that half. Defensively, we could have avoided that, because if we just tackled him there, now we're feeling good about things. They didn't have very many passing yards; 48 on that play. You unpack that 48, and you can do the math, we played very well in the passing game. I was disappointed with how we tackled and managed that that last play."

On the Chiefs defense:

"I see a lot of difference makers. I think that [Chiefs DE] Chris Jones is one of the elite players in the league. I have so much respect for his game. I think that he's fantastic. I think [Chiefs S] Tyrann Mathieu is one of the elite players in the game. Those are two first-team All-Pro type of players. They have guys that I think everybody in the NFL has a lot of respect for, and so much leadership and toughness with Tyrann. These guys are battle-tested. I think the one thing about their defense is that they've had to play against a lot of really good people because they've played deep into the playoffs every year, so they have a lot of experience. Then, I think that they've infused their team with some nice young talent, too, within the draft. I've been able to evaluate most of the young guys within the draft process. I really like a lot of the young players that they've drafted. I think [Chiefs Defensive Coordinator] Steve Spagnuolo does a really good job coaching. He's a quality coordinator. He's a Super Bowl-champion-winning defensive coordinator at two different places. I think so much of coming off of a Super Bowl, from what I understand — I haven't played in one yet — it takes time. It takes time to get your guys exactly where you want them. I think they're going through that right now. In

terms of who they have and the respect that I have for their scheme and their coach, I couldn't have a higher respect for their defense."

On how LB Drue Tranquill can 'get on the field more':

"Drue's playing well. We're going to get him on the football field, that's for sure. He played well in the Dallas game. He's practicing great. It's one thing I said in the preseason, I do feel like he's a starter. We're trying to unpack that rotation right now. I think that so much about the beginning of the year is trying to get that right. But Drue, we're extremely pleased with his progress. He's doing a tremendous job as a core-four special teams player, but he's a starting-caliber linebacker in this league. I know that we're really happy to have him. I think you'll continue to see him play more and more."

On LB Kenneth Murray's performance through the first two games:

"I think up and down. I think there have been some really good moments, some really good moments. And then, there have been some moments that we need to have him improve. That's part about seeing the game, understanding his style of play versus what's on the other side of the football, understanding where he fits in within our defense. But, I think that he's communicating a lot better, which is something that we've worked really hard with. [Linebackers Coach] Michael Wilhoite does an outstanding job with him. Having that one-to-one relationship, linebacker-to-linebacker, has been a key relationship. But, he needs to improve for us, just like a lot of guys. I think that the exciting thing is that he's such a hard worker, he's a great person, he's a good competitor, so I think that you're going to see him continue to improve. Any mistakes that he makes, I think, will be less and less as he goes."

On RB Larry Rountree III:

"I think Larry has really proven himself in a short amount of time. We're excited to have him in that running back rotation. I think he's doing a really nice job in special teams. I think he made some really good decisions as our kickoff returner the other day. I think he's proven to be trustworthy. From a physical standpoint, he gives you another dimension as a bigger back, one who packs a punch. Then, he's done a nice job in the passing game, too, both in pass protection and then hands out of the backfield. He's been a pleasant surprise that way for us. I like coaching the guy. I really feel like the other night, all three of our running backs played a really good game. [RB] Austin [Ekeler] really played like, I think, how you guys are all used to seeing him play, as a feature player within our team. And then [RB] Justin Jackson, I thought, had a couple of really, really good runs. Then, the same with Larry. You're just trying to find ways to keep those guys fresh. I really believe in that, as much as we're asking these guys to do. Justin and Larry have played well in the kicking game for us. I'm excited about where Larry can go with his game."

On how he determines the rotation of running backs in-game:

"Such an important point when you have a lot of different running backs. I think it's a combination. If a guy's hot, you know he's feeling it, you want to you want to make sure you feature that guy. But you also want to make sure that you keep them fresh, because it's a fourth quarter game, and you want to be playing your best at the end. I think it's a combination of rhythm and timing, who's hot and who's playing well, but at the same time, having a really good substitution pattern where you can keep your guys fresh. Then, you may have some designer plays where we really want this back doing this job for us. There's some stuff like that in the plan for us. That's why I'm glad that we have three quality runners."

On CB Asante Samuel Jr.:

"I'm really impressed with Asante Samuel. He looks like he belongs out there. You can really measure him when he's going nose-to-nose with somebody really good. That red area route on [Cowboys WR] Amari Cooper — like, you can measure Asante less on his interception, which was fantastic, but more on a nose-to-nose play, where it's deny the ball down on a third or fourth down versus Amari Cooper, or in the red area, in the middle part of the end zone, when you're nose-to-nose with a premium player, with a \$100 million receiver. How are you playing? I feel like he's shown that he can go nose-to-nose. He gave up a pass to [Cowboys WR] CeeDee Lamb on a really tough route. CeeDee Lamb is expressing himself as one of the elite players in the league. It's a tough route, it's really a triple-cut route. He gave up a 14-yard pass, and so do a lot of corners. But what happened after that 14-yard play? He got right back in the huddle and kept playing. That's what we need from him. We really like coaching the guy. He's got real toughness, real instincts. He's going to have to continue improving his game because the type of passing game that you have to see in the NFL is fierce, and

the type of people he's going to have to tackle is fierce. He's the type of competitor, though, that we really like coaching."

On preparing to face the Chiefs offense and Head Coach Andy Reid:

"I have a lot of respect for Andy Reid. Going back to when I was a young man, when he became the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles — I think that a lot of people see Andy as the accomplished coach at two places and all that, but when he first got to Philly, that was a lot different, when he first got there. To establish that team as one of the premier teams in the NFC, a Super Bowl team — [former Eagles QB] Donovan McNabb, all of those great weapons that they had for so many years, guys that people now know. I go all of the way back then to the coaching job that he did. People, I think, forget that he went to Kansas City, that was in a much different place. Since he's been there, we all know what's happened, especially offensively, starting with [former Chiefs QB] Alex Smith, and then working with [Chiefs QB] Patrick [Mahomes] here, and then a lot of other skill players, too, as we know. But I also think the thing about Andy that I really respect are the types of coaches that have come out of his coaching staffs. If you take a look around the NFL, you can see some of the elite coaches have learned from Andy Reid. I think it just goes to show you the caliber of leader that he is beyond just being an offensive coach. The thing I respect about him offensively is much like I respect [Broncos Head Coach] Vic Fangio, who I was with, is that Andy Reid, the offensive coach in 1999, is a lot different than the offensive coach that he is in 2021. He's shown the ability to adapt and stand the test of time. I think that all of us can learn from that. So much respect for him."

On where S Derwin James Jr. will play if CB Chris Harris Jr. does not play on Sunday:

"We're working through it. There's a lot to work through with this team because they are so dynamic. The positioning of your men really matters against a team like this. We're unpacking it as we go. You're going to need a lot of different people to be able to cover these guys, that's for sure."

On his philosophy behind going for two after a touchdown:

"I think we're going to try and unpack each game. as we go. Our models are going to be different based off who we play. I felt like in that game, it was definitely the right situation to go for it, especially with the type of offense that that team has. Then, you also want to be able to apply pressure on the other side of things. If you make it, then it changes their model, too, early in the game. Sometimes by going for it in the first half, in a situation like that, now you flip the script on what they have going on the other side, too. I have a lot of confidence in our operation. We're going to practice it a lot. We knew that was going to happen. We got on the ball, there was no hesitation. We ran a good football play. [RB] Austin [Ekeler] made a quality run. Our offensive line blocked a quality run. I feel like, more than anything, we're just going to trust our preparation week-to-week. And then in the moment, like I said, that was a decision that went well for us. If it hadn't, then we would have kept it moving and we would have been able to assess how we needed to play moving forward. It would have changed things had we not gotten it, but we felt like that risk/reward was really good in that situation, to go for it early."

On if it's 'easier' to decide to go for it at home, rather than on the road:

"That's a great question. I think, to your point, what we can't do is be caught in-between because of how loud it gets. You can't be caught in-between, and then you send it out late, and then, maybe, you have to burn a timeout because it's not coming in quick enough and [QB] Justin [Herbert] is having trouble hearing. Being decisive one way or the other, it's a good observation. A lot of times when you see people caught in-between, I think in that circumstance, you see them, like, have to bang a timeout because they weren't quite sure — maybe you don't have the right grouping. Hey, we just scored a touchdown, is someone tired? I wanted it to be this grouping, but now he's tired. Like, can I get it? All those things, I think, factor in the play. Good observation."

On if the staff decides whether to go for two or not prior to scoring the touchdown:

"Yes."

On if defending yards after the catch has been ‘an emphasis’ this week in the defense’s preparation for the Chiefs offense:

“Yes. It’s really all of their skill players; it’s [Chiefs TE] Travis [Kelce] and [Chiefs WR] Tyreek [Hill], for sure, because everybody knows about them. But then [Chiefs WR] Mecole Hardman is a handful — I mean, he’s 4.3 [40-yard-dash speed], awesome with the ball in his hands. You can’t say enough about their runners — they have [Chiefs RB] Clyde [Edwards-Helaire], who is fantastic, but then they’ve onboarded [Chiefs RB] Jerick McKinnon, who I have a lot of experience going against [with] Minnesota, San Francisco. He’s such a quality player. Their quarterback is a problem, too. He’s really hard to tackle. A lot of people don’t realize how tough he is to tackle. He’s a much stronger man, lower body — Patrick is really strong. I don’t think that he gets enough credit for that. He’s really, really strong, physical for the position. He’s really tough to tackle, too, because he’s elusive and really strong — definitely an important point. Certainly, we didn’t tackle well enough last week against a really quality team. That’s going to be a really big point of emphasis, eliminating those yards after the catch.”

On 10 offensive penalties against the Cowboys:

“Technique. Technique and putting the emphasis on the Chargers. We could have avoided every single thing that happened in that game by playing either cleaner from a fundamental standpoint — and a lot of that is your physical fundamentals and then understanding the actual technique of the play, like, ‘Where’s my help at? Could that get me a better leverage so that I don’t hold? Can I do this run better so that I don’t get put in a disadvantage position?’ I think that’s what we’ve tried to unpack this week. It’s the little things that go into playing with clean execution. That’s where we’ve tried to put our focus. It hasn’t been clean enough through the first two weeks, for sure. As you guys have seen, it’s hurt us defensively, giving up 20 points after penalties. Offensively, by our count, over 150 yards of offense and two touchdowns. That’s certainly not where we want to be. That’s why we really have a good day at practice today and focus on our execution.”

QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On Chiefs S Tyrann Mathieu:

“He makes plays all over the field. He’s a guy that you have to game plan and prepare for. He just finds ways to make plays, and flies around the field. He can man coverage, he can zone; he can do it all.”

On ways the Chargers can improve heading into Week 3:

“We need to find completions, we need to run the ball more. We need to do all these things to better our game. Whether that’s finding check-downs or whether that’s handing the ball off — being smart or throwing it away. That’s what we have to do in the red zone.”

On his end zone interception:

“I think it’s on everyone. I need to put a better ball, or I have to see that [coverage] and go on to my next read. We talked about it in the game and [WR Jalen] JG [Guyton] needs to run through that safety. When he’s stacked, it’s kind of a tough read. I have to move on — if I see that it’s cloudy at all, I have to move on passed it and find the next read.”

On what he means by ‘cloudy’:

“It comes down to everyone. [WR Jalen] JG’s [Guyton] running this route to spread and open up the defense, and that safety is supposed to follow with him. If we don’t get the levels that we want to, it gets a cloudy read. [WR] Keenan [Allen] falls down, and I force a throw. It’s on everyone.”

On where the team is going into Week 3:

“We’re playing some good football. There are some things we that we need to clean up and that’s regardless of whatever week you’re in. There are always things to clean up, always things to improve. Whether that’s our protection plan, our routes, our run game. We have to do better with it all. We have to put up more points, especially in the red zone. That’s something that we have to execute. I think we move the ball really well. If you take away the penalty yards of last game, I think we’re in the top-3 offenses in the NFL. I think we’re doing a good job moving the ball, getting the ball downfield. I think we just need to execute better.”

On targeting WR Mike Williams after reading coverages:

"We've got a run called and those are tags or advantage looks. If they're playing a certain defense, we're prepared for that. Mike, as physical as he is and as fast as he is, he's one of those threats on the outside. You need to find him the ball."

On his options after reading coverages:

"It's a lot of options. Instead of guarding just [RB] Austin Ekeler, now you have to guard [WR] Keenan [Allen] and [WR] Mike [Williams] and [TE] Jared Cook out in the space. It really opens up our offenses and gives us a lot of options."

On his drop-backs:

"As a quarterback, I always want to throw the ball. That's me being selfish. I think we have the guys outside. We've got [WR] Mike Williams, [WR] Keenan [Allen], [TE] Jared Cook and [WR Jaren] JG [Guyton] — all these guys that make plays. Anytime we can get them the ball I think is huge for us."

On red zone efficiency:

"It's a tough thing to look at because we're moving the ball well. We're getting into the red zone and we kind of just shot ourselves in the foot. Whether that's the penalties, the fumble, or the interceptions. That comes down to us. We just need to execute better. I know that we've got the right play called. We have the right guys out there. We just need to keep repping it, get experience in and get through it."

On playing the Chiefs in Kansas City:

"I think it's a great opportunity. This is what you dream of. They've won Super Bowl [Championships]. It's a great opportunity for us to go out there, to a hostile environment, and play our football. They're an incredible team, they've got a good defense, a good offense. They're going to need everything we've got."

On Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes:

"I think he's incredibly smart. I think he's able to make every throw on the field. You can never outrun his arm."

On if facing a team coming off a loss impacts their play levels:

"I haven't looked too much into that."

On the atmosphere for Sunday's game:

"I would assume there will be a lot more fans. I think at the time [we played last year], they maybe had 15,000 or so with the COVID-19 restrictions. I'm assuming it to be a lot louder. We've been working on silent count and everything like that."

On RB Larry Rountree III:

"He's a very physical back. He's done a great job of picking up the offense. He's a guy you can hand the ball off to and know he's going to fight for a couple extra yards. I think he's done a great job,"

On first down efficiency:

"I think we can always do a better job of marrying our lookup pass and run. [Offensive Coordinator] Coach Joe Lombardi has done a great job of that so far. I feel like we've been pretty balanced, but we can always get better. To find completions when the pressure breaks down, when everything else breaks down. Find completions, find checkdowns and move the ball forward."

On red zone execution:

"I think experience is huge, but I believe in the guys we have. I believe in the play-calls we have. We just haven't executed like we need to. It's an emphasis that we need to put this week during practice. I know that we'll be better."

On if there's pressure against the Chiefs big scoring:

"I don't think there's any pressure — that's one way to look at it. I think it's an opportunity for us to show and let everyone know that we can be better. Our first two games I don't feel like are an accurate representation of our offense. I think we can be better, and I know the guys believe that too, so do the coaches. It's up to us to make that happen."

On Chiefs Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo:

"He does a great job disguising everything. He's a really great coach. He's got his players really dialed in, and they make everything look the same. You're kind of wondering, 'What coverage this? Where are they bringing the pressure from?' They do a good job of hiding everything, so it's a lot on the quarterback to find that out."

On the Chiefs defensive schemes:

"That's the tough part about playing offense, and you have to be prepared for all of that. You have to go back, and our coaches have done a great job of having a protection plan so far. [C] Corey [Linsley] and those guys up front have handled it really well. I'm looking forward to that challenge this week. They're an incredible defense."

On WR Mike Williams:

"I think Mike Williams is an incredible receiver. I think these past couple weeks have been able to show that. I know that he can get even better, as scary as that might sound. I believe that he's one of the best in the league."

On how Williams has grown in the new offensive scheme:

"I think a lot of the offense is finding our one-on-one matchups. If teams start doubling [WR] Keenan Allen, you've got to find your other guys. Mike Williams has stepped up big. [TE] Jared Cook as well; [WR] Jalen Guyton, all those guys. You need to find those matchups."

On if he expected Williams to reach the end zone on the short throw:

"No. I expected an off corner – maybe four or five yards. That's a pretty good run, if you get four yards on a little screen pass like that. But as physical as he is, and as fast, he was able to break that tackle and score."

SAFETY NASIR ADDERLEY**On his progress in the defensive scheme:**

"I'm learning a lot, seeing a lot of different looks; definitely fortunate about that. Last game, we had 62 snaps that we played on defense. I am learning a lot, and I love playing in this defense, it allows me to be very active. I'm just going to keep trying to learn as much as I can to get better every week."

On his role in the scheme when S Derwin James Jr. plays closer to the line of scrimmage:

"It's a lot to look at. Just as far as tendencies, where guys are lined up, getting guys in the right spot. That is something they demand of me and that's something that I take pride in. I want to do it at a high level, so I'm working hard at that every week as well."

On his comfort level in the defense:

"I noticed how I learn – I'm a very visual learner. I've just been in the meeting rooms using what works for me. It's working out really well. I'm seeing a lot of things – a lot of checks, and stuff that need to be made. I'm just trying to get better at that as we go."

On his growth in the defense:

"You're going to get reps like at all the time and it's just about how you respond to them. Next time that you're in a situation like that, can you improve? Can you get better and find a way to make that play? I noticed in that first game that my leverage was off. I was going to the back hip, so I couldn't really see the ball at all. Next time, when I did get that situation, I was able to get in front of them. Make them elevate their throws. That was definitely a plus. I just have to figure out a way to come down with that."

On his missed interception at Washington in Week 1:

"I have never had a problem coming down with interceptions. I am dealing with a little something with my finger going on, like dislocation. I am trying to figure out a way because it is affecting how I catch the ball. I'm trying to figure out a way to come down with those plays because those are plays I've made all my life. So that is what I'm focused on."

On his finger:

"It's something I actually injured in college. It just progressively just kept getting worse. You can see it right here. I have a splint on it now, trying to get it straightened because it just keeps kind of — it keeps deteriorating. I'm going to be fine. I have a splint on it. I was doing some hand therapy and stuff like that, so I'm going to work hard at it, and I'm going to find a way to come down with those balls."

On 'navigating' playing through his injury:

"Just trying to get a lot of reps. Just figuring out a way how I can catch the ball with my finger and the position that it is. As soon as we get out of practice, that is what I'm going to be working on. I'm going to get it right."

On Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes:

"He's a great quarterback. Everyone knows what he does on a daily basis. I think it's crucial to just keep him in the pocket. Just making sure we don't have to cover for super long on the back end. We play team football, and if we just focus on our assignments, I think we will be just fine."

On containing Mahomes:

"Just being patient. Knowing my role, knowing my assignment. Making sure I'm taking care of what I have to do, instead of doing too much, or trying to be a hero. As long as everyone is focused on their assignment, you should be in good shape"

On plan of attack against Mahomes:

"It's very rare that I should be coming up as the last line of defense. Sometimes when the running back breaks loose, I try to be very patient. Once they declare, I try to use my speed to make sure I get them down. I can't really go for big hits or anything like that. I have to have a secure tackle."

On the 'dangerous duo' of Chiefs TE Travis Kelce and WR Tyreek Hill:

"Just their explosiveness, their experience. They've seen a lot of looks, they're dynamic players. I think just focusing on my assignment and just making sure I'm trusting my athletic ability. I just want to make sure I'm doing what I'm supposed to do."

On defending the run game:

"Really just focusing on our assignments. Following that game, we noticed it really was just about the Chargers. It was things that we did that created some of those big plays. We create an environment at practice where we just fix some of those small mistakes, I think we will transcend into a really good defense."