

# ATLANTA FALCONS

Atlanta Falcons vs. Los Angeles Chargers Postgame Quotes  
Nov. 6, 2022

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## **Atlanta Falcons**

### **HEAD COACH ARTHUR SMITH**

#### **On struggles to get off the field on third down on defense:**

"It was really a drive. What did we hold them to [in the second half], six points? It was 14 at half. So, again, obviously in the first quarter we came out the way we wanted. Then they got us off the field on third down, and on their long drive they overcame a long third down, but that's a good quarterback and an NFL team, so you kind of go back and forth. They made some plays in the second quarter. We came back in the third quarter. I thought we played pretty well. Obviously, didn't love the touchdown. I have to look at that. We overcame that, and then we got the fumble and then the turnover and came back and scored. So, a pretty short game. At the end, they made a play or two. So, whether you're mixing up calls, at the end of the day, they executed better than we did down the stretch."

#### **On whether the deep shots in the passing game were the primary options or whether that's QB Marcus Mariota seeing an opportunity:**

"I'm not going to go through the reads, but they gave us a look. At some point, they had to bring everybody up there to stop the run, and you had to back them off. I have to look at the tape to see exactly what happened. There's always a risk when you take a shot. Certainly, I tried and I have to look at the tape."

#### **On whether there's a mental aspect of getting over .500:**

"No. I think that's a convenient narrative. You know, a lot of times in this league it's really the matchups week to week, and every game is its own story. So this game right there, there was an ebb and flow,

right? First quarter, second quarter, third quarter and then down the stretch. They made one more play than we did, and that was the difference in the game. They kicked a field goal and time expired. Obviously disappointed but you gotta give the Chargers credit. And we gotta learn from it quick because we gotta turn around because we'll be playing Thursday night in a big divisional game."

**On the difference between the start in the first quarter and the second quarter:**

"Yeah, I mean usually what it comes down to is third down – miscommunication error, free hitter. We had a look on the outside, and I don't think we even got the to top of the drop. So that happened on two third downs, and that's usually the case. We made some adjustments. Obviously, we didn't make enough plays, but that's what happens, especially because it were to happen early in the drive, too. Certainly allowed them to go back out there as we, you know, you feel like you got the momentum, you got them on the ropes a little bit, but that's the NFL. We gotta find a way and we'll continue to do that and we'll get back to work tomorrow.

**On his message to DL Ta'Quon Graham after the fumble recovery and fumble late in the fourth quarter:**

"I back TQ a hundred, thousand percent. You want to make a play. It's a funny shaped ball. I love TQ, and he should never hang his head down. I mean he scooped the ball up, it slipped out. He's a defensive lineman, ball takes funny bounces sometimes."

**On his frustration with the possession with five minutes remaining that resulted in a three-and-out:**

"It's a risky take, right? First down run, second down shot and we didn't do it. Third down, didn't do it. They covered us. So that's kind of how it happened. Yeah, obviously you take a risk when you go for a shot, but the way they were up there, we thought it was worth the risk."

**On whether he feels there's been a pattern with not being able to connect on deep passes over the past few games:**

"I mean we've had some shots. That's kind of the way it goes. Obviously, we'll continue to look at timing and sometimes when your timing, depending on the protection of where you're setting up, if you gotta move a little bit, throw you off. Little drop backs, but we had some big plays and we'll continue to work on it to get that corrected."

**On RB Cordarrelle Patterson's performance:**

"Pretty good today. Glad CP is back."

**On splitting carries between the three running backs:**

"Can't get into the strategy, but happy he's back. We've got a lot of guys we believe in, and they can help us, and clearly CP helped us today in a lot of different roles."

**On an injury update for OL Matt Hennessy:**

"I don't. He tried to go back in. I'll go check, and obviously we have a quick turnaround. So, depending on what the doctor says, I'm sure they'll have to do some imaging. Matt did try to go back in the game, and I appreciate him trying, but obviously he couldn't do it and I'll just have to see what the doctors say."

**On whether there's any concern about miscommunication between QB Marcus Mariota and TE Kyle Pitts:**

"No. It's just something we gotta clean up. And we'll work to execute better. But I believe in those guys, and we'll continue to find ways to improve. Like I said, we got a lot of football. Obviously disappointed we didn't get the job done today. Credit to the Chargers, but we gotta flip the page pretty quick – as soon as I leave here because it's a short week."

**On whether the offense feeds on RB Cordarrelle Patterson's energy:**

"He certainly brings a physical element when the ball is in his hands. I mean, certainly we all saw that on the goal line. Then the reason I wanted him in there, kind of hockey sub there on the goal line when he ran it in. I mean it's a guy we believe in. He's a veteran, hard to tackle, but we got other guys. Allgeier is hard to tackle, Huntley is hard to tackle, but happy he's back and we'll continue to find ways to make sure we're being effective down in the red zone and find unique ways to get him the ball as well."

**On whether the end of the last two games is a reflection of how thin the margins are in the NFL:**

"No. You look around the league, it's so competitive, week in and week out. They usually come down to the end, and I think it's kind of the trend around the National Football League, and certainly we've been in our fair share really the last two years, but didn't get it done today."

**QB MARCUS MARIOTA**

**On the disconnect between production in the first quarter and the second quarter:**

"Really, it just starts with me. I've got to do a better job of giving our guys opportunities to make plays. I thought our guys were winning on the back end. Just didn't make some of the throws."

**On what the offense needs to do to find consistency through all four quarters:**

"Really, I think it just comes down to just executing one play at a time. I think we lose track, sometimes we lose steam a little bit. It's kind of the ebb and flow of the game. You go out there, you score ten points quick. Well, then the other side they go and have a drive. You just kind of get in a little lull a little bit. And that's just kind of the nature of the beast, and I think that's part of being a young team. So just being able to kind of keep our heads in it, stay present and do our best and just always kind of stay on edge, making sure that we're prepared and ready to go."

**On Cordarrelle Patterson's return:**

"Again, he's a great player, somebody that does kind of everything, right? It was nice to get him the ball early in the pass game and then however many ways we can get him in the run game it's going to help us out. He's just a great player. He's the type of player that you've just got to feed him and allow him to do what he does, but it's nice to have him back."

**On not being able to connect with Kyle Pitts some deep passes:**

"Actually, I thought our coaches did a great job of creating an adjustment on the sideline. We were getting some loaded boxes, but they were playing some shell defenses, some two-high safeties. We thought Kyle might have a chance to run through there. Initially the ball was supposed to go to CP [Cordarelle Patterson]. They kind of all collapsed on him and Kyle just made a great play and got through there. I've just got to give him a chance, give him a better ball."

**On games coming down to one possession and how having three-and-outs impacts their production:**

"Really, when it comes down to it, we've just got to be better on third down. They had some things on defense. Got some free hitters and that's on me. I've got to do a better job with protections. But when it comes down to it, this game is always going to be won and lost on third down. And when you're not

converting these third downs and on the flip side they're getting these long drives, and they make the plays when they need to, unfortunately you're going to find yourself on the losing end."

#### **RB CALEB HUNTLEY**

##### **On the inconsistency offensively from quarter to quarter in Sunday's game:**

"I don't know. Just like the execution, we left some plays out there that had we completed, it would have been a different game, but man that's football. We have to focus on the next opponent."

##### **On the key to starting the game well:**

"I feel like we did a good job staying patient and hitting the runs, but you know there's always some meat on the bone after you watch the film. I feel like we can rally after this loss and can come out on top Thursday."

##### **On DL Ta'Quon Graham's fumble in the fourth quarter:**

"It's not his fault, trying to make a play. You know, he is not a ball carrier, so he doesn't have the ball in his hands all the time. I feel like he did a good job of you know getting on the ball and trying to make a play, but things happen. We can't, like you said we can't just go by one play. Those periods in the game where you know, things could've changed the outcome. We can't just look at one play and like aw man that was the turn of the game."

##### **On whether it's helpful to play again on Thursday night to put the loss behind them:**

"It is. It's a shorter window for recovery, but I feel like just being out there on the field will get us back rolling and get us back loose and ready to go."

#### **T JAKE MATTHEWS**

##### **On the offense struggling after a fast start:**

"It was just a lack of execution, just a couple of things that we needed to tweak in protection. Then we got rolling again and I felt we had chances at the end of the game to put them away and we just have to give them credit, they made plays and it was a tough-fought NFL game. We'll get back to work and fix things. Like I said, we have a really big game on Thursday, so we need to get ready for that."

##### **On whether the team struggling to get over .500 with multiple opportunities to do so this season gets into the heads of players:**

Honestly, personally, I haven't really thought about that. The goal is to win every week and like I said, we've had chances and unfortunately, we haven't been able to pull through."

##### **On whether he believes this was a game the team should've had:**

You can't really say that because the reality is, they won the game. I can say that we did some things well, I just think we could've executed well better at the end to put them away. Unfortunately, we didn't do it, so we've got to go get to the film, fix it really quickly and bounce back on a short week with a really vital divisional game on Thursday."

##### **On whether it's tougher to have a game coming up on a short week or whether that helps the team move on quicker:**

The quick turnaround might help a little, I don't know but losing always sucks. We put a lot of work into it all week and had so much confidence going into it, but you've just got to give them credit, they made more plays than us in the end and there's stuff that we can fix, and the future is still bright. So, we've got to clean it up and go from there."

## **S RICHIE GRANT**

### **On his interception and how it came on a key moment right after a turnover:**

“Right. Yeah, they had gotten a little bit of momentum from our fumble, but the defense came out and said we gotta take it back. Was fortunate enough, tips and overthrows, I think he tried to get up field too fast and the ball was in the air, I saw it, I caught it and I just tried to get what I could.”

### **On overall the emotion of the game:**

“It’s tough man. It’s tough losing close like that you know. Especially when you’re out there on the field, but it happens man. We have a short week, so we can’t really linger too long. Thursday we have a big division game ahead and it’s a must win.”

### **On what they are going to do to turn things around:**

“Exactly, we do have half the season left and like I said, we do have a big division game Thursday. Our sight and our minds need to be on that game. Like I said this is a tough one to swallow, but it is what it is and move on forward to Thursday.”

## **RB TYLER ALLGEIER**

### **On how Cordarrelle Patterson changes this offense:**

“He’s just an explosive guy, you see it on the field. The first play of the game, a five-yard hitch turns into an explosive ten-yard first down. It was good to have him back.”

### **On how he’s evolving as the season progresses:**

“I’ve always had a goal of being an all-around back. I’m still striving to be that and there’s still stuff to learn. Just grateful to get back to work.”

### **On the running backs sharing the ball:**

“I think the trust we have in each other. One, two, three, four, really, it’s really like punches. It keeps the defense off guard. Everyone knows what they’re doing.”

### **On getting ready for Carolina:**

“Just have to take care of your body. It starts tomorrow, really it starts tonight. Once we get into the building, we’ve just got to get ready for a divisional opponent.”

### **On most frustrating aspect of this loss:**

“The games within the game. There’s a lot of plays that we’ve missed out on. I think I’m just grateful to learn on the field or learn in the film room and look at where we can be better.”

### **On what he said to DL Ta’Quon Graham after the fumble:**

“It’s just unfortunate. Like, what are the chances? We still believe in TQ, I still believe in TQ. He made great plays on the field. Just an unfortunate thing to happen, just the games within the game. We’ll still learn from it and then just get better from it.”

## **TE KYLE PITTS**

### **On whether he felt there was miscommunication with QB Marcus Mariota on deep shots today:**

“No. We just didn’t execute. We’ll get back to work this week.”

### **On emotions after the loss:**

“I mean, obviously it sucks we didn’t come out and get the win, but we have another opportunity this Thursday coming up.”

**On it feeling good to get back on the field quicker than normal:**

“I guess you could say that. We have another opponent this week, take the time to work and prepare and we’ll get this one.”

**On getting ready for Carolina:**

“Put this behind us, and just go back to work this week. We’re going hard this week, it’s a division game and try and beat them twice.”

**On what Head Coach Arthur Smith said after this tough loss:**

“Keep fighting. It’s a long year. We got another game this Thursday. We want to win this game and the division.”

**DL TA’QUON GRAHAM**

**On the moment he fumbled:**

“Honestly, I saw the ball, and you know, repetition, we pick up all loose balls so I picked it up and ran with it. I kept it in my right arm going down the sideline and it just slipped out. Just one of those football plays I didn’t make. It definitely sucks, but you know we’ve got a Thursday night game so it’s onto the next.”

**On what teammates told him after the play:**

“You know, just keep my head up. They know the type of guy I am. I definitely take accountability and it definitely sucks. I definitely contributed to that loss by dropping the ball, but I just got to move on and look forward to this Thursday game.”

**On what he can learn from the play:**

“You know, hold the ball with two hands, probably that. Maybe, you know, switch out the leather palms to you know, the stickies maybe, but you know just got to move on from this point and become a better football player.”

**On the emotions during the play:**

“It really sucks. Just got to hold onto the ball. You know, my teammates telling me it’s ok, but I’m probably the hardest on myself. I should’ve held onto the ball. Probably should’ve fell on it, probably got out of bounds, all of the above. I just got to move on from here.”

**On flipping the page to prepare for the Panthers right away:**

“Honestly, just turn the tape on of the Panthers either later tonight or early tomorrow morning and you know, go to work at practice tomorrow.”

**On whether he’s had a fumble recovery or a similar moment in his career:**

“You know, in college, a few times but you know, in the league this is only my second year. So this was my first one.”

**LOS ANGELES CHARGERS**

**HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY**

**On what went through his mind during the last play of the game:**

"A lot, a lot, because you navigate that drive beautifully, you're in position, you get the ball to the right hash and had a chance for the first down too. It's one of those things where in the NFL anything can happen and we're fortunate, but just a lot happened in that game today and our guys no matter what, because we had to go play after that play, because that's a roller coaster. It's as tough as it gets, now you're back, now you've got to go make a play to get in range, and our guys got back in that huddle, and they hung tough. Justin [Herbert] and Josh [Palmer] connect in great protection and got to have a situation throughout that whole two-minute drive, really a four-minute drive. Our offense just performed beautifully, played together, overcame a bunch of stuff, and finished the game playing our best ball."

**On how well he felt the offense played today:**

"I really felt like coming out of the middle eight I thought we really managed the middle eight great coming out of halftime. We got to roll up the seam wide open, that's going to be a 35 yard or big one, which can really stretch that lead possibly 21-10, and just really dominate that middle part of the game. Then we have the drop on third down for an interception that we were in range and possibly a first down there, so we had some drops today but like I said our guys can be tough. I think our offense showed a lot of poise. Justin [Herbert] was extremely poised today at the quarterback position, made a bunch of big plays for us. We were really, really good on third down. I think we were 8-of-16 on third down and you know our guys just hung tough. It was just a tough rugged game. It took all three phases. I thought we got some big plays out of our special teams punt, punt return, and just can't say enough about our guys really proud of them."

**On WR Josh Palmer and WR DeAndre filling in the top two spots:**

"I think Dre had four out of his five catches were third down catches. He's mad that he didn't score down there, but he's been fantastic for us all year, and Keenan [Allen] and Mike [Williams] out, once guys are injured, those guys have stepped up and this was a real feature game for Josh. I thought you saw the type of receiver that we believe he is, and he got his opportunities today and he really took them and ran with them, so it wasn't perfect for him, but I think you see why we feel the way we do about him, and I really thought those two guys were real bright spots for us."

**On the key to slowing the Falcons down after they got scores on the first two drives:**

"The first drive there was that one run into an eight-man front where our eyes playing linebacker just didn't play it properly, outside of that moment and we were doing just fine. I think our guys just settled in and we got into the right personnel groupings that we felt like would match up with those guys and I just felt like our guys really communicated, stay connected, and we did a good job of tackling after that and kept the ball in front of us and then put a roof over the coverage. Didn't let them get any plays in the deep part of the field, so we have taken away the passing game, and then we could really put our attention to the run game. They are a really good running team, and we try to do our best to, after that first series to kind of flush that one and come back and play good ball."

**On how he felt after the last sequence where the Chargers fumbled, and the Falcons recovered:**

"I think what I will tell you is that I think as you get more games under your belt as a head coach, you become less and less surprised. Hopefully my blood pressure is going down, and I'm handling it better. You can look at the TV copy to confirm that, but I think that what we've got to do is, you got to have that next play mindset, once it's your ball, now it's about what's next. It's about what's next and I think our guys did a great job. I thought we had a really good play call up for Josh, we had a couple of good answers if it were man or zone and we had the right protection, and Justin delivered a strike, and it's like

there's 34 seconds left on the clock. It's man-to-man, and you call that play for that player and you're able to connect and it was a sweet feeling for us to be able to rip that and get in range, and I think to finish the game with your kicker—this is our third kicker, we're going to set the NFL record for game balls for kickers in a year, three separate kickers, game balls. I think he represents what this season's been about for us is that it takes everybody on the team to win and I'm really proud of our guys.”

**On why nothing comes easy to the Los Angeles Chargers:**

“I think that there's far too much focus on the past with this club, and there's not enough focus on the present.”

**On whom focuses on the past of the Los Angeles Chargers:**

“I think outside people, I think that there's a focus on what's happened before. I think with us, this is just part of the NFL. This isn't exclusive to any team, it's hard every week in the NFL, and we're learning that as a club. Since I've been the head coach, we've played in a bunch of close ones, and we're comfortable in this space. When you have as many people go down as we have throughout the season and you go on the road, it's not going to be poetic, maybe it could be if you're full strength and you had a full army out there, and maybe it could be that way, maybe like in the first game for us or part of the second game, but for us, it's just we got to be able to fight the fight based on who we have and based on what's happening. I think our guys are really used to that and when you go 10 to nothing down on the road, I think you show a lot of about who your football team is and that's not the first time that it's happened this year. We've been able to hang tough together and get going and then finish the game playing our best, what I thought you saw that with our football team was offense/defense kicking game. It took all three phases to finish the game on the road, and I'm really glad that our guys got this one, because they earned it.”

**On what he felt the defense did better:**

“I thought we covered, I thought we covered really well. I felt that pressure plan keeping him in there. We had a couple of designer stuff to activate some of those guys in the rush game because he's a hard guy to keep in there, and that was a big part of the game, outside that loose play where he found the guy in a flat for 20 yards, there was like 90 yard passing so I think that was big. They were able to put a roof over it because he had been so prolific down the field this year. They didn't throw a lot, but what he did there was very effective so we're able to eliminate the deep plays, and then put the pressure on him and put just enough pressure on him in the passing game, I thought today.”

**On where he felt he needed to be to get the field goal and how much confidence he had in the kicker:**

“He's got a 35 mark. He's got a strong leg as you guys saw on the kickoffs, he's a versatile guy because he's an outstanding punter too, so his leg strength is one of his assets. I thought that you saw today he's got good lift on the ball, we felt good on 35, anything outside of that we were kind of going to be in a 'go for it' type mode. Cameron [Dicker] did a good job coming out Thursday kicking for us. I thought this is the third time, and the second time it's happened, and we've had to go through someone on a Thursday like this. He came in and the guys put some pressure on him on Thursday and he kind of came through, so I thought he earned his stripes on Thursday, and then for him to knock it down. Really happy for him and proud of our team for supporting it because it takes everybody, it takes Josh Harris leading the way, snapper, JK [Scott] is holder and how important that rhythm is and just proud of those guys.”

**On the play where RB Austin Ekeler fumbled:**

“We're trying to get the ball to the left hash. It was a 19-type play to get there and that's a very safe place, a safe run. There's not a lot of risk in going backward, we wanted to get it on the left hash and get

it closer. If you get the first down, then you're going to finish with it and you can take it all the way down."

**On the routine for the late kick:**

"I was next to Justin for this particular one and he was the right guy to be next to because he had done such a good job in this game, and I felt like he played a beautiful game and it's good to be next to him and have it go down because you knew that he really had to hang tough and play quarterback and that's what he's had to do this year when so much has been changing around him and he's really had to go play NFL quarterback. This is what it is in the NFL to play quarterback, you play it like this. He's been able to affect his teammates and I thought he was great today and you find him after you knock one of those down and it doesn't get any sweeter than that."

**On his first thoughts on the current state of the team:**

"Just happy for our team. At this point to focus on our team and it's been a team effort. You go on the road, and I think we've played really well on the road, and we got behind again today and you just know that this was a team win all the way, and I felt like our guys earned it, I felt like our week of practice was outstanding and I felt like at the hotel last night and then warm-ups this morning I knew our guys were going to be ready to give it everything they had and it wasn't pretty for sure but we played our best at the end. "

**On Justin Herbert's health since his rib injury:**

"We felt like he was at a good enough point to start activating a little bit more of that and thought that it was an advantage for us today to try to create more plays outside the pocket and we needed that. I thought he was very good with his mobility like that big third down to Josh it was a third-and-11, he was able to buy some time to really use his legs effectively. You're going to have to do that, when your premium guys aren't out there all the time, you're going to have to use your legs to create some space and create some time for your guys and he played the game the way he needed to play it today and I was proud of him and he practiced well, and his teammates really just fought hard for him today."

**On whether previous game plans catered to Herbert's injury:**

"When you're trying to be smart. Like last year if you go watch and pick apart how we play it, you want to be smart with your QB but we feel like he's good and it opens more options for him."

**On the culture and the concern of the team turning:**

"Well, I think the way we played today shows that, I think if we had of lost, I think that our guys would be able to say that this was a big-time effort by this football team, and it's one of those things where depending on how an official saw that play it may go in to overtime or you just see what happens. That doesn't take away how our guys played today and that is what I mean. After seven games you get a real accurate picture of the fight in the football team and then you've had experience, all these things that most people experience in a full season, but we've did it in seven games and so we had to experience a really tough loss where a bunch of guys went down in Jacksonville. Then we had three straight wins, two on the road. When we were full strength, we had two of the toughest games to start the season and I felt like we played incredible football in those games and didn't go down, but I felt like our team knew at 4-3 that is was tough and rigid but here we are. What a game like this does, because again, we had a bunch of guys out for this game is that we were able to come on the road against a team that is playing outstanding football, a team that could have a much better record than what they have and Arthur's [Smith] doing a great job with that team and you're able to win a quality game on the road after hanging tough and that shows the chemistry and ability through a game for coaches and players to figure it out. I

thought the adjustments were good and I thought in the fourth quarter when you've got to play your best, when your guys have got to play in the clutch, I thought that we got that in all three phases. I think that's something that, whether we had won or lost we got that type of level of play, that's what we need to fall back on. It's not whether we win or lose, but how we play. How we compete. That's what our focus is on, it's on us, on the Chargers and how we compete and how we play. If we to do that we are going to be able to continue to improve and get some guys back and hopefully be playing our best down the stretch."

**On OLB Khalil Mack:**

"That's who he is. He's one of the top ball producers this league has ever seen, him in college at Buffalo, you can see how many sack-fumbles he had. This guy is one of the special players in the game. What special players do is in games like this and moments like that, they go and make plays for you and that's why you go get Khalil Mack because he can do that. He can make those plays in a clutch when you have to have it and I'm not surprised at all, it was a gutsy effort by him."

**QB JUSTIN HERBERT**

**On reaction when kick went through:**

"We weren't surprised. We knew how special of a player he was, and we saw him show up on Thursday. He was perfect in practice, and we believed in him. It's huge for us to go out there and see him compete and play the way he did today."

**On the special celebration after the win:**

"It's a hard-fought win and those are tough to come by in the NFL and any win that you can get and walk away with is huge. To be able to walk away with that one, I thought all three phases, the team played well when they needed to."

**On the 22-yard pass after getting the ball back after the play with multiple fumbles:**

"Just Josh Palmer, that's a route that we've repped all the time and we trust him to go up and win in man coverage. He flattened, ran a great route, gave him a ball that he caught, got up field, and Cameron did the rest."

**On his reaction to the play with multiple fumbles:**

"I think it's a tough play. We think really highly of Ek, and we're going to give ball to him again and he's going to make a play. Ball came out, I thought it was great that our offense rallied and tried to make a tackle. The ball got out and someone recovered it. I would have to take a look at who did it, but for us to rally up on the ball and get the ball back I thought that was huge for us."

**On realizing Matt Feiler was the one to recover the fumble:**

"That's huge for him. For an offensive lineman to have that awareness to be able to get on the ball. That's not an easy job so props to him."

**On trying to bring down DL Ta'Quon Graham:**

"I was going to make the tackle and I think I dove at his legs and saw that he didn't have the ball and realized that it came out and we had the ball. It was kind of a weird couple of moments, but I wasn't going to give up on the play."

**On the team having been through so much in his short time with the Chargers:**

“It’s weird because everyone is competing, and no one’s given up. Everyone’s doing their best all throughout four quarters or however long it takes. Those are games like you mentioned maybe a couple of years ago they go a different way and we felt that in 2020 when the record did not go our way, things kept kind of snowballing out of control, but the way the guys have battled in the past couple of years and really turning that around. It’s a fight for every win. It’s not easy. It’s never easy in the NFL and that’s a really good football team that we played against, but for those guys to be able to step up and deal with punches, the adversity and answer I thought that was huge for us.”

**On the slow starts over the last month:**

“I think we made a couple plays in the first quarter. That’s the tough part about the NFL is they’ve got a really good offense and they get the ball moving, and [we] didn’t get a whole lot of possessions in that quarter. It’s on us to make the most of those possessions when we get them, and so getting a first down and just getting rolling is always something you can do better. You’re always trying to get down the field and score so it’s just executing and for us to be better.”

**On the biggest difference between the first and second quarters offensively:**

“That’s probably the NFL and obviously we’re doing everything we can to go out and execute and get the ball moving. It hasn’t gone our way and we’re not going to give up. Like you said, second quarter, third quarter, fourth quarter there’s more than just one quarter. It would be great if we were scoring 20 points in the first quarter but we’re going to do our best to adjust that, to fix that and get after it.”

**On how much better he feels now post injury:**

“It’s been better each week. I think time is the best thing for it, to heal, recover. I just do everything I can in the treatment room to do my best on Sunday. It’s one of those things that you just kind of have to go through and go through with time, making sure that you’re not getting in harm’s way, not taking unnecessary shots, things like that, but it has gotten better.”

**On making throws that he hasn’t made in the last couple of weeks:**

“I think we’ve been able to push the ball downfield over the past couple of weeks regardless of the injury, and I think Houston is one of those games where we pushed the ball downfield. It would be ideal if we could throw the ball downfield every single play and complete it, but defense has played good coverage and those guys sink back deep and they get things covered, you have to find your check ins, you have to find shallow crosses so you don’t make a bad play worse and you’re able to find something to be able to move the ball.”

**On having to adjust at kicker due to injuries:**

“That’s the tough part about the NFL. Injuries come up and you have to look to the next guy who steps up and Cameron did a great job. Like I said in practice he was perfect and he showed that confidence and we’re all...and we believed in him and it worked out there in the end. We knew that he was going to come through for us and whether it was Taylor, whether it was Dustin, whether it was Cam, they’ve all done a great job this year.”

**K CAMERON DICKER**

**On joining the Chargers on such short notice:**

“They were like ‘hey how fast can you be at the airport?’ I said ‘hour and a half.’ Hopped on a flight and came right out, so it was pretty fun.”

**On mental toughness to kick a game winning field goal in short notice situation:**

“Just my faith in God. It’s just I trust myself; I know that God has blessed me with opportunities and just allowing him to give love no matter what. Just kind of knowing that no matter what I’m doing, I am loved. And so it’s cool to feel that way and just not really care, make or miss I’m still loved.”

### **WR DEANDRE CARTER**

#### **On teammate Josh Palmer’s performance:**

“He stepped up. Keenan [Allen] and Mike [Williams] down, we needed him to step and be wide receiver one and he did that. I want to say it’s his first career 100-yard receiving game, man I’m happy for that kid.”

#### **On Carter’s increased role with receiver injuries:**

“You know, Kennan’s a big third down guy for us and he’s been out for a while, we’re hoping he’ll be back soon. But whenever they dial it up and they call my number, third down, first down, second down, already know I’m trying to make the play.”

#### **On the Chargers 5-3 record and winning a close game:**

“One, a win is a win. Two, it’s the National Football League all the games are going to be tough.”

### **S DERWIN JAMES JR.**

#### **On how the Chargers got the win:**

“By not flinching. All three phases sticking together, hanging it out. Defense getting a stop, offense driving, and special teams ending it. So, I’d say all three phases.”

#### **On his sack against Marcus Mariota and shifting momentum on the drive:**

“I feel like the drive before that, when Drue [Tranquill] got his, we kind of just settled in. First quarter 10-0, they got off to a good start. Then, at the end of the first, second quarter we kind of settled in and got to playing football how we know we can play, and we started to make plays.”

#### **On offensive performance and Josh Palmer’s big day:**

“I’m proud of him man, I told him after the game I am proud of him being able to step up without Keenan and Mike and all those guys. His number was called, and we needed every single one of those yards, and he got it done for us. I am proud of him.”

#### **On Cameron Dicker’s game winning FG and pressure behind the team’s third rostered kicker:**

“I got to meet him earlier in the week. I kind of put him on my shoulder at the end of the game too, I was happy for him. Like I said, it doesn’t matter, that’s what makes the NFL cool. When your number is called, you got to make a play for the team.”

### **LG MATT FEILER**

#### **On his reaction to the fumble late in the fourth quarter:**

“You know, we always practice running after the ball just in case something like that happens. I was just kind of doing that, I saw the ball come out and luckily it bounced our way and somehow, I just fell on it.”

#### **On recovering the fumble and how Feiler felt seeing the game-winning field goal:**

“Relief. It’s one of those things where your hustle, hard work, and your grit as an offense pays off and it’s a good feeling.”

**On K Cameron Dicker's ability to step into the game and win it on short notice:**

"There's a lot of pressure, especially for a guy that just came in this week. The game winning kick, he handled it great and made the kick. Kicked it right down the middle."

**TE TRE' MCKITTY**

**On the win and the Charger's current record:**

"We're just trying to keep the train rolling. We had a loss last time we were on the field, so get this win and try to move on to next week and do the same thing next Sunday."

**On returning to Georgia to play:**

"It feels good, you know I have a lot of family here. I am from Tampa, so a lot of my family came out to the game and made the drive up, so you know it was good to be back on the east coast."