



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Los Angeles Chargers
Thursday, September 15, 2022
Week 2
Chiefs Head Coach Andy Reid



OPENING STATEMENT: “Alright, as far as the injuries go, we got a couple, Mike Danna strained his calf. And then, I mean really for the most part that was it. (Mecole) Hardman hurt his ankle on the one deep one. (Marquez Valdes-)Scantling had a little bit of a – all these guys came back in. Justin Watson on the onside kick hurt his shoulder just a little bit. Listen, all in all, (it was a) great win. For whatever reason, we like to keep it real close with these guys and they’re a heck of a football team. (I’m) glad we came out on the right end of it. The crowd was phenomenal, and they just kept bringing it and bringing it. I thought our defense kept bringing it and bringing it. Especially the second half, everybody – the thing I’m probably most proud of was we all stuck together, and nobody was pointing fingers at each other. And then the (Justin) Watson and (Jaylen) Watson thing too – one new player and one young player step up and make huge plays for us. And then listen, Boomer (Chris Berman) got to see his first game (at) GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium. He’s been doing it a couple of years. I’m glad he’s here. Anyways, with that, time’s yours.”

Q: In regards to Jaylen Watson, what told you this type of thing wasn’t too big for him in this point of his career?

REID: “Yeah, he had a good camp. You saw him progressively get better during camp. He played, obviously, at a high level in college, so (inaudible) he’s played against good competition. I think it probably was most of all the progress that he made at camp. (He’s a) good size, can run – you saw that after the interception and that was beautiful. I’ve got to tell you, I thought our D-line and offensive line battled like crazy. Our defense hit the quarterback (Chargers QB Justin Herbert) – who is a mobile guy and a great player – to where he was a very sore guy by the end of the game. I was proud of the guys for that relentless play. Also Clyde (Edwards-Helaire) who’s on offense. Clyde had some real good yards for us. (He) was smart at the end, he went down there, although there was a penalty on the play. Anyways.”

Q: How much did you feel the game change after Jaylen Watson’s interception return for a touchdown?

REID: “Yeah, well it was big. You’re down, if they get another score – what they would’ve been up 24-17. Yeah so, it was important (laughs). (It was a) big play. Big play.”

Q: On how relentless Jaylen Watson is. On his story of working at Wendy’s three years ago and now playing on an NFL team. What does that say about his perseverance?

REID: “Yeah, no, it’s great. Yeah, no. It’s good. Listen, he’s a heck of a player. (He’s) done well.”

Q: You had a rough start in the first half, what did you say to the guys at halftime?

REID: “So, I didn’t have to say much. The guys – we felt like we were shooting ourselves in the foot. We had a couple of hiccups on offense. Just, we didn’t do the right thing a couple of times and it cost us – and

in big situations. We felt like if we could get back on track offensively, eliminate some of the mistakes, we'd be okay. Defensively, Spags (Defensive Coordinator Steve Spagnuolo) just tightened everything up just a bit. The guys started challenging and it paid off. We made a few adjustments there."

Q: On the momentum shift of the Chargers interception that got overturned. What were you thinking in that moment? Did you think it was going to be overturned?

REID: "No, I wasn't. I was talking to the official when he was running down the field, so I kind of saw what happened."

Q: On the Chargers typically going for it on fourth down. Were you surprised that they didn't do it that much tonight?

REID: "No, listen (laughs), that's a loaded question. Last year it hurt them, so logically they kind of backed off that. I'm not questioning that."

Q: Were you prepared for them to go for it on fourth down?

REID: "Yeah, we were ready for that, but it's alright."

Q: Can you explain your reasoning of why you went for the field goal on fourth-and-goal there?

REID: "Yeah, I just thought at that point we had a couple of things we liked, but we said, 'Let's kick it. Let's get points on the board. Come out positive.' Our defense was rising up and I didn't want our offense to have a let down there if things didn't work out. I thought it was important (to) come out with points there."

Q: On games like this in the past, Patrick Mahomes used his legs a bit more. Do you sense him being a lot more patient?

REID: "Yeah, no, he did it when he needed to. The thing he did – he had a couple where he could've gone and he had some nice throws, a couple of those throws were unbelievable. But I thought he did a nice job of moving up and out in the pocket which is new as opposed to just flurrying out. I thought he did a good job of that. (A) good feel in there, but he was completing balls down the field so that's important."

Q: On Mahomes' footwork and his confidence.

REID: "Yeah so, those are the things you saw there today. A couple of those – like I said – a couple of those throws were incredible, pushing up and throwing through traffic and getting his body in the right position, the ball didn't sail on him. Sometimes if you get out of whack, you lose your core there and the ball will sail. He kept all that intact and on the move. It was impressive. And I know he works – as quarterbacks, it's like being a farmer, the work's never over. You just keep doing, working on something all the way through your career. And when you stop, that's when it goes down hill real fast. He's relentless with that stuff. He always wants to know what he can do to be better."

Q: Can you talk about your offensive tackles against the Chargers pass rush?

REID: "Yeah so, those two ends (Chargers OLB Joey Bosa and OLB Khalil Mack) are special that they have. We were able to get a little bit of the run game going early and kind of move things around just a bit. I think that possibly helped. And then our guys just beared down and I thought did a nice job with it as the game went on, particularly the second half it seemed to get a little bit better."



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Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes



Q: What type of halftime adjustments were made?

MAHOMES: “Pretty much the first half we were trying to protect the ball, come out fast and do stuff like that. I just felt in the second half we trusted in our o-line. We gave them a few chips, a few receivers hitting, tight ends kind of doing stuff to help them out. I thought they did a great job of giving me that time too, enough time to make those throws but that’s a great defense and I thought we battled and found a way to get the win.”

Q: On the momentum of the game changing quickly.

MAHOMES: “Yeah, I mean we just hung around. I think that’s the biggest thing. The defense kept us in the game. Offense, we didn’t play our best football. I think the defense, that was huge for them to keep us in that game, make some plays, get points on the board and then just give us a chance. I think with a young defense like that, to see that this early in the season, I think that’s going to carry us the rest of the way.”

Q: Do you think it says something about the team that some of the backup guys were the stars tonight?

MAHOMES: “I think that’s what we said going into camp. It’s going to be everybody. It’s not gonna be one guy. Justin Watson came in when Mecole (Hardman) was a little banged up and he got Mecole’s route and he won against a Pro Bowl, All Pro corner and so for guys like that to make their imprint on the game that’ll help us out as we get into these tough games like this that we can get touchdowns and stuff like that from everybody.”

Q: On playing in big moments and through tough stretches of play.

MAHOMES: “I think it was something where we’ve had guys that’ve been in big games, so we know how to not let it overwhelm you. Not let the moment, when it’s not going well like just change it. I mean you get down 10-0, 17 I think to 7 against a great football team like that, sometimes it can get away from you, but I think guys kept it in prospective. We scored when we needed to score. I’ll just keep reiterating. I’m so proud of those young guys on the defense, man. You just don’t know until you get in these situations. And some games like that where the offense played like we did today, because we didn’t play our best football, a lot of times we’d lose those games and for the defense to keep us around it’s a big, big step I think in the right direction.”

Q: What did you see from Jaylen Watson in camp that told you he’d be ready for this? Can you elaborate on that pick-6 from Watson?

MAHOMES: “Yeah first off, he’s confident. I mean that’s big when you’re a corner cause you’re going to get beat sometimes and you’re gonna have to step back up. It’s very hard to throw go-routes on him. I mean I know Mike (Williams) made a great play on that one where he kind of one handed it and got it back up. He’s a big, tall corner, physical, gets his hands on you but he’s fast enough to run. He’s someone that’s made plays. Whenever his number’s been called, he’s made plays. In the end he has the right birthday. His birthday is September 17th (same day as Patrick’s) so I think that works well for him too.”

Q: Did you say anything specifically to Jaylen Watson after the game?

MAHOMES: “Yeah, I talked to him and I’m having a little birthday party on Saturday, so I said it’s his birthday party now because of the way he played.”

Q: Were you trying to be more patient today?

MAHOMES: “Yeah, I mean I tried to trust in the offensive line. They did a great job and there were times where I was going to run, and guys popped open. Like the one to Trav (Travis Kelce) when I was getting out, I was thinking about running and Trav was wide open. We’ve got to work on him going straight sometimes (laughter). I know he usually makes guys miss but just turn and go straight and get in the endzone. And then the one to (Justin) Watson, same thing, I was scrambling, about to get ready to scramble, guy got open. And then the one down in the red zone. I mean a lot of big plays happened where I was getting ready to scramble and run and do stuff like that, but I mean defenses know. They know that I can run as a quarterback – not a running quarterback – run as a quarterback (laughter). So, they account for that, and they do stuff, and they have guys that are ready to come up and make plays happen. Whenever it’s there I’ll take it but if there’s guys down field, I’m going to get it to those fast guys and let them make plays.”

Q: On the interceptions getting overturned and making the defense pay with a touchdown.

MAHOMES: “First off, I’m livin right. Because I had a couple interceptions that didn’t get called with flags because there were flags and then that one got overturned when it hit the ground. Yeah, whenever you get that second opportunity where you’re going to go back out there and they had had the ball 17-7 with the ball already in the redzone and getting another opportunity to go back out there and score you have to capitalize on it when you’re playing great football teams and so it was a great job as an offense that we found a way to score on that drive. I had to stop giving them even chances. It’s just too close sometimes and I’m going to make sure I get better at that.”

Q: They’ve beaten you the last two years at home. What’s your biggest takeaway from the comeback tonight?

MAHOMES: “Yeah, I mean first off it’d be just the last two years, but the starters didn’t play in one of them so yeah they beat us last year at home which is a big game, Week 2. It kind of made us go into a bad spot where we lost a few more games. I think this year we found a way to win it. That’s going to be a team that’s going to be in the playoff picture. They’re Super Bowl contenders. They have a great defense, great offense, great special teams so to find a way to win and keep that home field advantage, I think it was huge and it’ll be something that we’ll look back on at the end of the season and say that was a big win for us.”

Q: On the first touchdown. How much were you thinking through the play and how much was just instinctual?

MAHOMES: “Yeah well when I was scrambling to the right I think, I can’t remember who it was, I was about to throw it and it closed and then I put my head down and I was getting ready to run. And I broke the tackle from (Drue) Tranquill and just out of the corner of my eye I saw red just pop across the thing and I was just trying to find a way to get it to Jerick (McKinnon) and I think those guys did a great job of it. All the guys are great in that scramble drill, we work on it. I gave it to him (Jerick McKinnon), he ran tough, got in the endzone and it was a big play in the game.”

Q: On his footwork in the pocket.

MAHOMES: “Yeah it was good. I mean I could’ve been better today I think. I was better last week than I was this week. So even with this long weekend, I know it’s still early in the season. I’ll probably go back and work on that. You just can’t lose it whenever you’re playing against a good pass rush. I think that’s when you have to be the best at it. They were obviously doing some things and they have guys that are going to win. They’re some of the best pass rushers in the league so they’re going to win sometimes but I have to keep trusting the offensive line. I thought they did a great job of battling the entire game and getting me enough time to make throws when I needed to.”

Q: How much of a relief is it to get through the short week with two wins? Looking forward, how fortunate are you to get that little rest early in the season?

MAHOMES: “It was tough. I felt like it was tougher just this year, especially with new guys. You kind of need that week to prepare and get that gameplan in. You’re trying to add a lot of different stuff and when it’s later in the season you can go back and pull from plays that you’ve ran already and to be early in the season and have to throw in a whole new gameplan on a short week like that. The guys accepted the challenge. We had a couple of miscues here and there. I think that’s what hurt us in the first half a lot, but I thought the guys stepped up when we needed to and glad we get this break now and then we can kind of get back in the normal flow of things.”

Q: Take us through the interception that got overturned. First take us through the play and then what were your thoughts as you watched the replay?

MAHOMES: “I mean you never know. I think that’s - you saw the ball hit the ground, you saw a little bit of movement - but they have been a little bit more lenient on letting the ball move and if the guy gets his hands underneath it. So, you hope that it’s overturned obviously, but on the play they got me. They were all game. They were playing one coverage and out of nowhere they threw me with a shell coverage with a corner who had been playing just kind of getting out of there the whole time. He dropped down to play cover 2 and so it got me. I don’t throw just straight to guys most times and so (we) got lucky enough that it bounced around, hit the ground and I was able to get another chance at it. I’m sure PFF will have me at a low grade for that, but I’ll keep rolling.”



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K MATT AMMENDOLA

Q: How much does this opportunity help build your confidence?

AMMENDOLA: “Yeah, no. It’s just the kicking game. People bounce around from team to team so you always kind to have to stay ready whether I’m back home or out in San Diego training. Harrison’s been great. Tommy (Townsend), James (Winchester) have all been great help just getting me ready for tonight and obviously went out there and had a great time with the guys and just happy to just really show out and make the most of the opportunity.”

Q: On the chemistry between the kicker, long snapper, holder.

AMMENDOLA: “Yeah, I would just say we got with each other the day after I signed. Hit 15 to 20 reps and just from that just getting the timing down, building the chemistry. I mean it goes a long way, you just got to lock it up when you step on the field and just go out there and just do what you’ve done a thousand times and for me to put the ball through the uprights.”

T ORLANDO BROWN

Q: On how he feels the offense did.

BROWN: “Yeah man, I think offensively we did a really good job maintaining our composure throughout the game. Obviously, we have to go back and watch the film to find out the fine details and everything, but I feel (like) ‘15’ (Patrick Mahomes) did an amazing job taking care of business, staying in the pocket (and) maintaining his composure. Like you said, it’s a lot of highs and lows in this sport. I mean that’s just part of the game, that’s just football.”

Q: You guys got a lot of the running game involved. Talk about that, it seems like that’s what you guys really want to do.

BROWN: “Aw yeah man. Whenever you can run the ball against an NFL team it’s always a great feeling and to be able to go out there and do it the way that we were able to do it, (and) close it out, that’s always a good feeling. Running the ball, it’s like, I can’t even put it into words. As offensive lineman, we love that.”

Q: On the duo of Khalil Mack and Joey Bosa.

BROWN: “I think when you’re playing against top talent, it’s always opportunity to get better, man. You know, it takes a lot of craftiness to be successful in this league and one of the reasons that their one of

the top rushers in the league, that duo. They're both really good players and like you said, I'm facing the best at all times, and I think it's just (an) uphill battle and getting better each and every week."

DE FRANK CLARK

Q: How happy were you that a rookie (Jaylen Watson) made a big interception?

CLARK: "I was very happy. You know you go back to those days, Thursday night football, Monday night football, those primetime games and (when I was) a rookie myself and there's plays out there like that you dream of stuff like that. You dream to have a pick six. I know as a defensive back that's your dream in general to have a pick six in the NFL but then you're talking about a rookie on Thursday Night Football when we're down 17-14, the game's going back and forth. They're (Chargers) driving, they're getting the ball down to our red zone and the guy makes a play at the 1-yard line and returns in 99 yards. That's the huge play any day in football so hats off to the rook, Wat (Jaylen Watson). He made the play, he made a big play for us. Eventually, obviously it helped us win the game. That lead us to win the game, it kind of, that was tide turn of the game you watched the momentum change and we held on as a defense to finish it off. The offense they went out there and they milked that clock down, I believe they got it down to the seven-minute mark after that. They did they're thing, we came back on there and finished the game off."

RB CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE

Q: Could you sense the importance of this divisional game?

EDWARDS-HELAIRE: "You said it yourself. A divisional game. At that point even knowing, as soon as the schedule came out, we knew what it was but not getting ahead of ourselves up until this point. It was game time and that's when you turn it on."

Q: What's been different with you this year from last year?

EDWARDS-HELAIRE: "It was something that we were talking about during the offseason. I been able to do things that I feel comfortable with. As far as injury wise and everything else, having gall bladder surgery last season and not really, you know, just kind of getting over the hump. Being able to do the things that I wanted to this offseason and be me, simple as that."

Q: What was your reaction to Jaylen Watson's interception, did it feel like you got a break?

EDWARDS-HELAIRE: "I wouldn't say it was necessarily a break, but it was something that we always execute. Setting change is honestly what that was, and it was one of those things that as an offense I wouldn't say that we felt that our backs were against the wall, but we knew the next time we went out, go out and execute. Only thing Wat (Jaylen Watson) (did) was make it a lot easier."

LB WILLIE GAY

Q: On getting pressure on Justin Herbert.

GAY: “Just trusting our jobs and doing what we were taught to do and trusting the fundamentals. And man, just executing when we had the opportunity.”

Q: On how experience plays into keeping their composure when they’re down.

GAY: “Those are situations that builds character (and) that builds a team up and that help you in the long run of the season. When it gets to the end – playoff time – and you face this situation again, you know, we’ve been in that situation plenty of times. That’s familiar territory for us, so we knew how to handle it and we stepped up and did what we were supposed to do.”

Q: One of the biggest plays, obviously, Jaylen Watson, what’s it mean for a guy that young to get that type of play early on for this defense?

GAY: “It’s a confidence booster for him, man and I hope he uses it and runs with it. I hope he goes to practice in a couple days and feels like he’s the best DB out there honestly. Even if he’s not yet, I want him to have that confidence because he can be that. I hope he runs with that booster because I know that helps him be more confident and play better, so I hope he takes off and runs with it, man.”

WR MECOLE HARDMAN

Q: How’s the ankle feeling?

HARDMAN: “It’s cool, it’s not bad. Get it looked at tomorrow, get some treatment. We got a long weekend, get it right and get ready for next week.”

Q: What are you doing with your time off?

HARDMAN: “My folks are in town, so we’re going to kick it, vibe, chill, relax, nothing too crazy.”

DT CHRIS JONES

Q: Did you feel the pick-6 from Jaylen Watson turn the momentum of the game with the Chargers knocking on the door?

JONES: “Yeah. It was a big play. I think that was on the goal in the endzone and for that to happen, that changed the whole dynamic of the game.”

Q: A lot of guys in the locker room postgame said they felt the Chiefs were the better conditioned team. Do you agree and how did that help in the second half?

JONES: “I think it all goes back to training camp. I mean the way we practice, how we practice, the conditioning work, the amount of plays. It’s a culmination of training camp, the grind. When you go through the season, games like this, it’s easy, it’s easy. It’s very easy. The way (Head) Coach (Andy) Reid does things it makes it easier for us during the season so a game like this, we’ve had back-to-back days like this in training camp, so you know when you take that in hindsight...that’s what it’s all about.”

DE GEORGE KARLAFTIS

Q: Great team performance, especially in the second half when it mattered. Is there anything that you guys on the defensive line talked about at half time to kind of change the tone a little bit?

KARLAFTIS: “No, just keep doing what you’re doing. Let’s get them in throwing situations, let’s stop them on first and second down, you know stuff like that and lets rush as one unit.”

Q: How big was that sequence of you and Chris (Jones) getting to (Justin) Herbert?

KARLAFTIS: “Massive. I mean – you heard the stadium – right? It was incredible. I mean, we feed off that energy as a defense. It was awesome and I think the next series we got the pick six so that was incredible. That was a great sequence of plays.”

Q: How would you rate your celebration there in the endzone after you knocked Herbert down?

KARLAFTIS: “Shoot – I wasn’t even thinking about it. I don’t even know what I did (laughter).”

S JUSTIN REID

Q: How do you think the defense did overall?

REID: “The best thing that we did today is we stuck together as a team. Nobody got on each other’s tail. We stayed together. We kept playing the next play. When crunch time came, players made big plays. Shout out to Jaylen (Watson). I thought he had an incredible game coming in as a rookie and being lined up a lot of the time on their best player 81 (Mike Williams). 81 (Mike Williams) made some plays today but overall as a defense we came out limited most of the big throws, made them drive down the field, and in crunch time made the plays that needed to be made.”

Q: On the AFC West and it’s difficulty

REID: “Absolutely, absolutely. This is what it’s going to be. We know we’re in the toughest division in football. It’s going to be like this with each one of the AFC west teams. We know that we have a target on our back too, so we know we’re going to get every team’s best shot. We’re going to be ready for it. We are going have to come out and perform. Credit to the offense, defense, special teams, everybody came out and we did what we needed to do to come away with a win. “

Q: Did you give Jaylen Watson any advice before the game?

REID: “Yeah, just do what you do. It’s not any different, don’t play differently just because you’re on the field. It doesn’t matter who’s lined up crossed from you. Play your game.”

S JUAN THORNHILL

Q: On Jaylen Watson’s 99-yard pick six.

THORNHILL: “It made a big difference – it put points on the board, so if the defense is putting points on the board – then it’s always a good thing. I think that was huge play and I told him I think that that was a game changing play and I really respect him big time for that.”

Q: Justin (Reid) just said that y’all feel like y’all were the more conditioned team. Where does that come from and where do you realize that at what point in the game?

THORNHILL: “Oh yeah – most definitely. I mean, we pride ourselves in that. We work hard each, and every day and we push ourselves hard every day and I don’t think anybody can really outplay us whenever we get to the fourth quarter. I mean we push ourselves – we run hard and basically it comes down to who has the most gas at the end of the game.”

Q: Are these the best wins because you feel like you didn’t play well but you still have a win?

THORNHILL: “Every win is a good win, but it feels even better when you play against a really good football team like the Chargers. (Justin) Herbert is heck of a quarterback – they have a really good defense – offense is very strong. And we didn’t even play – I don’t think we played our best – and we still game out with the win so I’m happy that we came out with this win, and I feel like we played pretty solid.”

DB JAYLEN WATSON

Q: Walk us through your interception and running it back for a touchdown. What did that mean for you after all that you’ve been through in your life?

JA. WATSON: “So we knew that those switch routes in the high red, so me and Justin (Reid), we worked together. The ball just ended up in my chest and I took it home. It was a surreal feeling. (I’m) just so grateful and blessed to be in this position. I didn’t even know what to do when I got in the endzone that’s everyone (saw) me just standing there. But, it’s a moment I’ll never forget.”

Q: Can you go over working in a Wendy’s with you mom and how it was a world’s away from this?

JA. WATSON: “I’m just a very resilient person. I’ve always been working for what I had. I was never given anything and I think that gave me an edge on the football field as well. So I just try to carry the edge, show some hunger, show some anger on the football field and let it out on the opponents.”

Q: When did you find out you were going to start? What type of reaction did you have?

JA. WATSON: “Monday morning. It’s really – in this game of football, injuries happen. So everyone works hard, that’s why it’s so important to have a deep roster. And this year, fortunately, we have great draft picks. I’ve just been working my butt off and if the time came when someone went down, I was going to be ready and prepared. And that’s what happened.”

WR JUSTIN WATSON

Q: How much of a game changer was that touchdown?

JU. WATSON: “Yeah – I mean so – before that touchdown even happens, I have to give a big shoutout to one of our athletic trainers, Tiffany Morton. At one point this week I was questionable and she’s the one that got me ready to play today. (She) got me comfortable, (she) got me confident so without her there is no touchdown, there is no me running that route so huge shoutout to Tiff. But man – it was just fun – we talked about that route in the receiver room – I wanted that route. Never want to see one of our receivers go down but (I) just want to give them the confidence that if they do have to take a play off the field that I am going to come in and do my job. And there’s been a lot – a lot—of work from Texas with Pat(rick) (Mahomes) from the offseason to go in and make that catch. I’m just glad to see the work show.”

Q: On battling back after being down 10 points twice.

JU. WATSON: “You know, no one shook. That’s the great thing about being at a championship organization like this – you expect to win. So, we have it to where winning is the standard (and) we knew that we were going to get back into the game. When you’ve got ‘15’ (Patrick Mahomes) leading you – you always feel like you’ve got a shot.”

Q: You said you talked about the route in the receiver room. What was it about that one? What was the discussion?

JU. WATSON: “There was two years ago that I played the Chargers, and they were sitting on my out routes – sitting on my out routes. In that game I wanted to run a double move – out and up – and it didn’t get done and they ended up taking one for a pick six. So that’s a play that I have thought about a lot over the last two years and I saw the same look – the same type of defense – and (I) just knew how to run it to win and Pat (Mahomes) threw a great ball obviously a great result.”



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Chargers Head Coach Brandon Staley



Q: How is QB Justin Herbert doing after his injury?

STALEY: “He’s okay. It was a tough game. You’re not going to see a quarterback at any level of football play tougher, do more for their team and will their team to give them a chance, than him. There’s nobody that can do what he can do – nobody. He showed a lot of guts, he showed a lot of what he shows every day – that we’re never out of the fight. He brought us back and gave us a chance.”

Q: Is Herbert physically okay?

STALEY: “Yeah, it was just a tough NFL game, and he took some big hits. None of those big hits had any impact on him bringing his team back.”

Q: Are you concerned that this is a long-term injury?

STALEY: “No. Because he’s Justin Herbert.”

Q: Was it an injury to his ribs that took him out for a play or did he lose his breath?

STALEY: “Yeah, I think that’s probably the case (that he got the wind knocked out of him).”

Q: You had two interceptions called back on penalties and a few dropped interceptions. How much do you feel that swung the game?

STALEY: “The one guy – he clubs (CB) Bryce Callahan and it’s an obvious offensive pass interference at the minimum and we get the interception. That’s as tough as it gets because we were in a perfect coverage, we were perfectly defended. So that’s a tough one. (CB) Asante’s (Samuel Jr.) was close, that’s subjective. He needs to finish that play, he’s capable of it. But I like the way our guys competed. When you get chances against that team, you have to make sure that you capitalize. We had some opportunities tonight and we didn’t finish them.”

Q: Did Herbert hurt his ribs or did he just lose his breath?

STALEY: “I think we’re going to learn a lot more tomorrow. But I think in that area of losing his wind in that area of his body, then probably.”

Q: How is C Corey Linsley?

STALEY: “I think Corey has a knee issue. I just talked to him, and he seems okay. But we’ll know more tomorrow.”

Q: Did you get an explanation on why they overturned Samuel Jr.’s interception?

STALEY: "I didn't get an explanation, no."

Q: How much did the protection change when Linsley went out?

STALEY: "Will Clapp is an outstanding backup center. We also had (T) Trey (Pipkins III) go out, but that's why you create depth. That's what we were after. We had (T) Storm (Norton) be able to go in there, and you know how much football he has played for us. Those two guys gave us a chance to compete. A lot of guys rise to the occasion, who were backup players today, and give us a chance. I'm proud of the way we competed as a team."

Q: What did Pipkins hurt?

STALEY: "Trey had an ankle."

Q: Do you know the severity?

STALEY: "I do not."

Q: What was the thought process when you punted a few times in opposing territory?

STALEY: "Just wanted to give our defense a chance to compete. I really loved the way we were playing. I felt like that was the formula to flip the field. I felt like we were aggressive when we needed to be tonight – we converted all four of our fourth downs. I just felt like, with who is over there and the way our defense is playing, I felt like the field position would be a big edge for our defense to be able to put them back there. I like the way our defense competed tonight."

Q: It looked like Herbert was struggling after his injury. Could you talk about the long pass to set up the touchdown at the end?

STALEY: "That throw was as good of a throw, under the circumstances, that you're going to see in pro sports."

Q: It looked like TE Gerald Everett wanted to sub out right before the pick-six. Mechanically, how does that work when you want to go up-tempo like that?

STALEY: "It was just kind of unlucky, what happened. It was unfortunate, we felt like we could push the pace and it didn't work out."

Q: What happened on the interception returned for a touchdown?

STALEY: "When he's matched to the flat, the tight end has the option to come back in. I think Justin was expecting him to come back in on that. It was just one of those unlucky things that happened. Obviously, we'll learn a lot from it."

Q: What can you say about the game that WR Mike Williams had?

STALEY: "The reason why we brought him back is because he's an elite competitor, he's a big-time player, a prime time player. With (WR) Keenan (Allen) being out, we knew that the coverage would be tilted to his side. There was going to be a lot of rolled-up coverage to him, but he still produced. That's the type of player he is. We gave him a bunch of opportunities today, we were trying to be aggressive to get him the

football, get him off to a good start. I really liked the way we featured him tonight and I thought he played a whale of a game.”

Q: Is there any satisfaction going 1-1 in two division games to open the season?

STALEY: “No satisfaction. No satisfaction at all.”

Q: Did you get an explanation on Chiefs TE Travis Kelce’s fumble near the goal line?

STALEY: “No, I didn’t. But it was a tremendous play by (S) Derwin (James Jr.) giving us a chance and then giving us a chance to compete there at the goal line. I thought our defense played their heart out, really tightened up down there and showed a lot of competitive fight. Again, I couldn’t be prouder of the group.”

Q: Do you leave here thinking you could have or should have won the game?

STALEY: “No, I leave here saying that we lost. That’s what I leave here saying. We lost and I thought we competed like I expect us to compete.”



Kansas City Chiefs vs. Los Angeles Chargers
Thursday, September 15, 2022
Week 2
Chargers Players



CB J.C. JACKSON

Q: How did your ankle feel coming into tonight's game?

JACKSON: "I feel healthy. I felt like I was ready to play. I wanted to join my team, and that's what I did. I played the whole game. I didn't feel no pain. I didn't feel the injury or anything."

Q: What happened on the Justin Watson touchdown?

JACKSON: "It was just bad technique by me. He didn't do anything. He didn't beat me. I beat myself."

Q: Was that just rust, since this was your first game back this season?

JACKSON: "Yeah, just rust this early in the season. It's a long season. I just need to tighten up on my technique and back to it in practice."

Q: Is it disappointing to start the season off 1-1 in the division?

JACKSON: "It's not disappointing. It's just a lesson learned. We just got to go back to practice and see how we lost the game. We'll see them again later on in the season."

Q: On the Watson touchdown, did you get turned around?

JACKSON: "He turned around and that made me open up. He went out and then he went back up. That made me turn around and lose my leverage. It was a great play by him. It was a great offensive call by the Chiefs."

S DERWIN JAMES

Q: Did you think the Asante Samuel's play was an interception?

JAMES: "I thought they were going to let it stand since they ruled it a catch. There was a little movement, but he had his hand on the ball. I thought it was a pick, but they saw it differently."

Q: Did the game turn at that point? Did you sense that?

JAMES: "I felt like that was a big turning point. But there were a lot of plays in that game that I feel like changed the game. We just got to play better as a defense and make our plays on the ball within the rules. We just got to do that."

Q: What did you think about Justin Herbert coming back into the game at the end?

JAMES: "Warrior. For being able to gut it out. He can't even walk and barely stand up. To be able to hit a dot up the seam and give us a chance to go back out there. I felt it was a great showing by him. I know Justin will be fine. He's a warrior. He'll be good."

TE GERALD EVERETT

Q: How difficult of a loss is this considering how well you played?

EVERETT: "It's a good football team. We have a great unit. They have a great unit. Patrick is one great quarterback and has a good surrounding cast but we got a great group too. The game was the difference of three points. That's how it comes down to a kick and that's what you want, ideally. In this league, you don't want it to be a blowout. You don't want to get skunked. We fought to the end. It just didn't go our way tonight."

RB AUSTIN EKELER

Q: What was the message after tonight's loss?

EKELER: "Just the importance of battling as a team. That's why we are here. That's why we have the guys on the field that we have on there because we believe in ourselves. We believe we are going to battle, and we showed that tonight. We just didn't end up making enough plays. We made too many mistakes. That's what football is, right? It's a team sport. We showed tonight, to the world, that we are going to battle to the end. We were banged up a little bit. You saw it at the end that we are going to put everything we can on the line to show that we are going to contend."

Q: How much did losing Corey Linsley effect this offense?

EKELER: "You know, Will [Clapp] picked it up. Will came in and picked up right where we were. You never want to lose any of your guys but if you do, you're expecting the next guy to know what he is. We have a lot of confidence in Will. Will has been doing it for a while and has showed us that he can play at a high caliber level too. Obviously, it hurts when you lose anybody from your starting lineup. Hopefully Corey is alright, which he said he is. Will did a good job stepping up and running the show out there. He communicated well and didn't have any mishaps and we kept it moving."

Q: What did you see on that pick six?

EKELER: "I didn't see much. I saw pressure, that's where I went. I went to try to pick up a pressure and try to take a hit off of 10. Then I looked up and all of the sudden, we are running the other way. At that point, he is full speed. It is one of those where I have no angle. I'm not that fast. Maybe I wish but it's unfortunate, that scenario. It's what's going to be seen as the big play of the game, but we had a couple of times where we went three and out. We can't do that. We can't do that if we are trying to play at the high caliber level that should be in a one-score game. I think it was tied at that time. We had opportunities where you have to take advantage of before that. We can do that but there were mistakes. That's the name of this game, consistency. Who can be the most consistent."

WR MIKE WILLIAMS

Q: What was your reaction when Justin [Herbert] was down on the field for that period of time?

WILLIAMS: "Probably like everybody else, I was just trying to see what was going on. I didn't see how he got hit or what happened. I just turned around and saw him on the ground for a while. I was just like everybody else, trying to make sure he was good."

Q: How do you feel about the game that you had tonight? Can you take us through that one-handed touchdown catch?

WILLIAMS: "I was just trying to make a play. That was the whole mindset for the whole game. It doesn't matter how the ball is coming to me, just make a catch. I was just trying to make plays for the offense and get the offense going."

Q: Is there any satisfaction in how you guys played tonight or is it just disappointment?

WILLIAMS: "It's always disappointing when you lose. You don't play this game to lose. We play this game to get a win. We fought until the end. We will watch the film, make the corrections and move on to Jacksonville."

Q: With Keenan [Allen] down, Coach [Staley] wanted to feature you early. How much do you relish in that opportunity?

WILLIAMS: "I loved it. As a playmaker, as a receiver, when you get a lot of opportunities, you look forward to it. I was looking forward to it."

Q: Obviously Justin [Herbert] was hurting. Can you just talk about that long throw to set up the touchdown?

WILLIAMS: "Yeah, that's just the mindset and the toughness that he has. To be going through whatever he was going through and to stay in there and make plays, that's the quarterback that leads us."

Q: After their interception and return, how worried were you, if at all, about the momentum swing?

WILLIAMS: "They just made a play. We weren't too concerned because there was still a lot of time left on the clock. We were still able to get back into the game. We just needed to capitalize and make plays down the stretch."