

## LAS VEGAS RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

Sunday, September 11, 2022 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

### LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

#### **On ‘the depth of the team being put on display today’:**

“I think that is an excellent observation. We needed everybody on this team that was active in order to finish this game. I think, in all three phases of the game, you saw that depth expressed itself. Starting in the kicking game, us onboarding [P] JK Scott and what he was able to do for us in the punt game, netting almost 49 yards [per punt], a punt inside of the two-yard-line, the hangtime, forcing fair catches. The operation was really critical to our success. Then a couple of guys that stand out to me is when [WR] Keenan [Allen] went down, DC, [WR] DeAndre Carter, comes in and has a huge touchdown, has a couple of huge catches for us. He gave us a huge lift. Then, all of the receivers that had to step up when Keenan goes out, those four guys holding the rope for us, I thought that was really, really big in the game. I thought you saw all three backs carry the ball. I thought, you saw at the end of the game there, being able to finish the game with the football. I was really, really excited to see that. Then, on defense, I think you saw that it’s going to take a village to defend against a team like that; in the secondary, at linebacker, rushing inside. I thought you saw all of that depth on display. It’s just a credit to our organization, just talking to our organization ownership, personnel department, coaching staff, onboarding these guys. That’s what you need in the NFL.”

#### **On if today’s defensive performance is ‘the vision’ that he had for the unit:**

“That’s an excellent offensive football team. Defending them live, they have so many weapons and they have an experienced quarterback that has seen it all. They have a lot of different ways that they can play you. When you play against a team like that, you’re going to have to have a defensive group that’s a complete group, all three levels working together. Then, you have to have depth because, as you saw, you need all of it to finish it off in two minute against a group like that. There’s a reason why I say that all the time, it’s because it’s the truth. A lot of respect for them. Our defense rose to the occasion today. When they got the ball, and it’s 24-19, and they have a chance to finish the game, your defense has to come through and close it out, and that’s exactly what happened today for us.”

#### **On the defense’s performance overall:**

“I was very proud of our group. There was a lot of confidence on that group, because there was that timeout, and I go out there and it’s like, ‘OK, well, what are we going to call here to bring us home?’ I saw 11 guys that believe that they were going to close it, and they played like it today. I think, as a coach, that’s what you’re looking for, that they have that look in their eye, that confidence in one another that what we call, we’re going to go execute and bring us home. What I thought you saw in two minutes there was our rush and our coverage playing together to bring us home.”

#### **On if the defense’s performance today the team was ‘why’ made offseason acquisitions:**

“Yes, ma’am.”

**On the benefit of the offseason defensive acquisitions:**

“They had 64 yards rushing. We forced three takeaways. [WR] Davante [Adams] is as good of a player as there is in this game. You know how good [TE Darren] Waller and [WR Hunter] Renfrow are. There just a complete group, the runners. To be able to defend a team like that, you’re going to need an arsenal in order to do it. I think that we saw all three levels of our defense play together. That’s what our vision was, was to build a complete defensive football team. I think that’s what you saw out there today, was a complete defensive football team. There’s still a lot of work to do. We’re going to look at this and there’s going to be a lot that we didn’t like, but we competed the right way and we did the things that you need to do in this league, which is force takeaways, play tight in the redzone and take the run away. I think we did that.”

**On S Derwin James Jr. covering Raiders WR Davante Adams on fourth down of Las Vegas’ final offensive possession:**

“It was a split-safety double.”

**On CB Bryce Callahan’s coverage of Raiders WR Hunter Renfrow:**

“Bryce Callahan is one of the top inside defenders in the league, and he has been since 2015. You guys are all seeing why we brought him here and why we have so much faith and confidence in him. He’s a prime-time player, and he can do a lot of things out there that help you win games. I’m really proud of him. I know that taking the field with him, it’s a great feeling, as a coach.”

**On the defensive additions benefitting the unit:**

“I’ve seen those guys do all that, so for me, it wasn’t anything new. I told the team that. Those guys played how they always play, how I’ve always seen them play. Anybody that has a past with me or that way, that’s what I expect from them. That’s what they expect from themselves. I’m just glad everybody got to see it today.”

**On if he ‘sensed anything extra’ in OLB Khalil Mack’s performance:**

“No. There’s nothing extra with Khalil Mack. Khalil Mack is that way all the time. This is just your first time seeing it.”

**On WR Mike Williams ‘not getting as targeted as often as some people thought that he should have’:**

“We had a lot of stuff up in the plan from Mike that didn’t get there. The rush on three or four times prevented us from doing it. It’s just one of those games where the ball didn’t go that way, but if you look at our targets, I think we had seven offensive players with four or more targets. I think that distribution allowed us to play the way that we wanted to play. [QB] Justin [Herbert] goes 26-of-34 for 279 [yards], three touchdowns and no interceptions. We did not have a sack in the game. I thought that distribution, and we got 31 runs off, I felt like that distribution allowed us to play a good offensive football team.”

**On Herbert’s touchdown pass to WR DeAndre Carter:**

“The one to Keenan [Allen] was better than that. The one to Keenan [Allen] was better than that. But, no, nothing is surprising. He played a really good game today. The best thing he did was lead our team today. He led our team today and kept our team together. Then, to finish with the ball there at the end of the game, protecting the ball, good operation between him and [C] Corey [Linsley] the whole day. Then, you have no sacks and no turnovers, you’re going to have a real chance in every game that you play.”

**On the offensive line not allowing a sack:**

“Well, the reason why [Raiders DE] Maxx [Crosby] and [Raiders DE] Chandler [Jones] have a lot of chatter is because they’ve earned it. They’re two of the top players in the league. Certainly, at the front of our minds. They both played really good games for them. They’re just really tough play to against. It takes all 11 to be able to take on those two guys. I thought that our offense really competed. I thought that our O-line, [G] Zion [Johnson] in his first start, just going out there against a group like that and being able to perform. Those five guys playing together, our protection plan, that was outstanding. Justin [Herbert] using his legs and the receivers and backs doing a good job of getting open. It was a tough game. It was just one of those tough NFL football games today. A well-played game by both teams.”

**On injury updates for WR Keenan Allen and CB J.C. Jackson:**

“With J.C. [Jackson], he worked out this morning pregame. He looks good. We’re excited. He’s still day-to-day, but we’re excited. Trending positive. We’ll see for Thursday. I think that it’s a higher percentage than it was today. Could have played today? Maybe. A couple of guys came up to him said, ‘Hey, he looks good.’ We’ll see. With Keenan [Allen], I don’t know enough about that right now. I just saw the guy. He looks good in there, in terms of what he was wearing, what he wore to the game [laughter]. I’m going to find out more about his status later.”

**On preparing for a short week ahead leading into Thursday night’s game:**

“Recovery. Right now, like right next to this wall, there’s a bunch of people helping our guys get ready. Our organization, again, getting our players in the best position to be successful for Thursday night, they’re working right now. We have a bunch of people working so that we can take the field Thursday night and have a chance against that group, because they’re very good group.”

**On Herbert’s performance today:**

“Poise, composure, play-making, leadership, toughness, all the quarterbacking stuff that you need in a tight game. I think a lot of the little things that, to the casual fan, they may not notice, but being strong with the ball in the pocket when you’re playing against a rush like that. Being able to make plays with your feet. That red area third down that he made, and then had the slide, making some plays with his feet to create some space for the receivers. You know that when you play against a team like that, that you are going to have to use your legs. I thought that he did a nice job of that today.”

**On CB Asante Samuel Jr. and LB Kenneth Murray Jr.:**

“Proud of Asante [Samuel Jr.]. That interception is about as good as you’re going to see in the NFL. He’s capable of that. He’s playing with confidence. He’s fearless. He got beat a couple of times out there today, but it doesn’t bother him, which I love. There’s going to be a lot of things on the film that he learns from because those are a lot of outstanding players that he’s playing against, but he’s a competitor and he can get you the ball. Those are two good things in this league. I’m proud of him. Kenneth [Murray Jr.], to come off the off season where he doesn’t have a spring, doesn’t have a training camp, to go out there and compete like he did today, hopefully, this is the beginning for him. I’m proud of his toughness, his resilience. He’s going to learn a lot from this tape, as well. Just showing that competitive spirit and that toughness that we think is really important.”

**On the rushing performance of RBs Joshua Kelley and Sony Michel:**

“I thought it was one of those tough, rugged football games. It wasn’t like a pretty run game, where we were able to get some explosives, but it was tough and rugged. What we were able to do is control the clock and control the ball. Then, I think when we had to have it, a couple of short-yardage deals, and then there at the end in a four-minute to close it out, we were able to get enough done. It was just one of those tough, rugged games. I thought all of those guys did a nice job. I thought that Josh [Kelley] had a couple of really good runs. Then, [RB] Austin [Ekeler] and Sony [Michel] kind of finish it out for us there at the end.”

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

### **On if he would describe today's game as 'tough and rugged':**

"I think that's a good description of it. I thought the defense played really well all throughout the game. To cause three turnovers and a few sacks like they did, they came up big time when we needed them the most."

### **On the offensive line's 'consistent' performance:**

"That's a pretty good description right there. If I could just backpack on that, no sacks, we moved the ball well, we ran the ball well. We needed to be more consistent in the second half, but I thought the offensive line played really well today."

### **On WR DeAndre Carter's touchdown catch:**

"It was an incredible catch by him. It was low and he went down for it and caught it. I thought [TE] Gerald's [Everett] catch was incredible, as well, kind of a broken down play. He's just a playmaker. He's a special player that when things break down, you have to find him out on the field and he makes a great catch, fights for a couple of yards and finds himself in the end zone. I thought his catch in the end zone was pretty impressive. That's a very tough catch for him to go so low, and still has to keep his eyes up for any defenders coming at him. Both catches were great by him."

### **On WR Keenan Allen's 42-yard catch in the second quarter:**

"Just Keenan, a playmaker going down the field, two defenders hidden, with him not looking back at me. You play it as if they are not there and you just go throw the ball up, and you know Keenan is going to come down with it."

### **On the receiving corps following Allen's injury:**

"I think a great thing we do is we're able to shuffle guys around and play multiple positions. Keenan is an incredible athlete. Definitely tough to play without him, but when you put in DeAndre Carter and you're able to change [WR] Josh Palmer from Z to X, [WR] Mike [Williams] can play all of those positions, too. Then, Gerald, you have another tight end there that can make some plays. You have guys that are interchangeable and able to step up when someone goes down."

### **On the defense's performance today:**

"It was awesome. I've been seeing that all camp long. They make plays. They get pressure on the quarterback and that secondary is special. They are tough to throw on and when you get guys like [CB] Bryce [Callahan] and [CB Asante Samuel Jr.] Sant, [CB Michael Davis] Vato and [S] Derwin [James Jr.], [S Nasir Adderley] Nas, it's really fun to watch them."

### **On preparing for Thursday night's game:**

"It's all about recovery. It starts now and getting your body back. We'll have practice tomorrow, Tuesday, and just keep watching film and getting a good feel for the Chiefs. It's a quick turnaround, but a great opportunity to go play football."

### **On playing back-to-back division games to open the season:**

"It's a great challenge. Division games are huge for us, and we started it off with a great one today. Got another one next week, but we're going to do everything we can to watch as much film and prepare so that we have any chance on Thursday."

### **On today's win:**

"It's just great to be able to go out there and finally play some football. We've been itching for a few months now and going through preseason, not getting any reps there, you're just excited to get back out to football and came away with a big win today, but it's quickly moving onto the Chiefs on Thursday."

### **On what he does to prepare for the quick turnaround:**

"Recover, massage, cold tubs, hot tubs. Do everything I can to get my body back. Then, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday is film watching and just getting after whatever we can."

**On if there is an advantage to having a Thursday Night Football game early in the season compared to later:**

“That’s a good question. I kind of wondered that, too. I don’t know what the advantage would be if maybe we have it later in the year or maybe we have it near the end. It is what it is. We have to play it this week and it is nice to have that and get it out of the way and go play. It’s always a great challenge. You know the Chiefs are an incredible team and we get to play on Thursday night. I know our guys are excited, so it’s all about watching film and getting ready for them.”

**On if Kansas City is ‘the toughest road atmosphere’:**

“I think it’s definitely up there. Those are fun places to play at just because the fans get into it and it’s a great atmosphere. We’ve been very fortunate enough to play at some of those places like that I have really enjoyed. Going there, it’s obviously quite a challenge, but it’s up to us to work that silent count, work everything we can this week so we’re ready for it.”

**On what they need to improve on before Thursday night’s game:**

“I think we can be more consistent in the second half. I think the defense did a great job of forcing turnovers and getting us the ball back, we just have to capitalize on that. We got tied up near the goal line, but we have to find our way out of there and get a good situation for [P] JK [Scott] to get a punt off. I think, overall, we moved the ball pretty well and executed pretty well.”

**On Williams’ targets:**

“We did everything we could to get Mike the ball. Unfortunately, they played pretty soft, so they took away a lot of things down the field. I just had to find check-downs and get the ball moving. Mike [Williams] is an incredible player. He’s a great teammate, too. He might not always catch 10 passes for a couple of touchdowns, but he’s a great teammate. He’s celebrating out there with everyone else. We’ll get him the ball, for sure.”



## **LAS VEGAS RAIDERS HEAD COACH JOSH McDANIELS**

### **Opening remarks:**

“Give credit to them. [Chargers Head Coach] Brandon [Staley] did a good job of having their team ready to go. They certainly played and coached better than we did today. There’s a lot to learn from in this game in terms of how we want to try and play and win. Obviously, it’s difficult to win, and when you lose the turnover margin the way that we did and give them opportunities. They’re a good football team and they took advantage of some of those [opportunities], especially there in the second quarter. I like the way our team fought. I respect the fact that we made it a game. We had an opportunity there at the end, but we need to do a lot better, and we can. We can do a lot better than what we did.”

### **On QB Derek Carr’s three interceptions:**

“It doesn’t matter what type of turnovers they are, you’re just giving the other team extra opportunities to do something with the ball. We’re going to have to look at each one of them and we’ll evaluate them. I thought they made a few good plays on the ball, obviously, but before you can win, you have to figure out how to not lose the game. That starts with turnovers and not giving up big plays. We’re going to need to go back to work and fix some of that.”

### **On ‘whether it’s frustrating or hopeful that the team still had a chance to win in the fourth quarter’:**

“It’s opening day. There’s a lot that goes on. I appreciate the fight that our team showed and the grit that we had. You fall behind by a couple of scores and then you have the ball in the fourth quarter with a chance to win. That’s the National Football League, though. That’s what you’re expected to do. I thought our team fought hard and tried to make it a game and put ourselves in a position to win, which we did, but again, they made a few more plays at the end than we did.”

### **On if he ‘is sending a message’ with the offensive line rotation:**

“No. There are seven guys that deserve the opportunity. They have earned the opportunity to do it. And honestly, I know what the ultimate sack number was; I thought we did a decent job in many ways of just giving ourselves a chance to get the ball out on time. When we ended up having to hold the ball, that was based on the coverage. I thought they did a good job. They changed up a lot of different things in the secondary, forcing us to hold the ball a little bit on a few things. You know, you’re blocking good rushers and you have to hold the ball a little bit. Sometimes, it’s going to happen. I thought our guys fought. Those seven guys went in there and competed hard. We knew they were going to play coming into the game. Again, there’s a lot to learn from; we’ll see how they did.”

### **On the defense’s performance:**

“We gave up some loose plays in the first half and they capitalized on our turnover at the end of the second quarter. I thought our defense made a few adjustments at half time and came back out there to compete. We tried to play some tight coverage on third down and [CB] Nate [Hobbs] got his hands on a few balls. Our team fought and made some good plays, just not enough of them.”

### **On Hobbs’ unnecessary roughness penalty on Herbert’s slide:**

“Those are tough ones. I don’t think there was anything egregious on our part, in terms of what Nate was trying to do. I think he was just going to tackle the guy. If the runner has committed to the slide, then we must do everything that we can to pull off him as a tackler. I didn’t think anybody was trying to do something to hurt anybody there. I think that is a common and difficult situation that a lot of defenders find themselves in.”

### **On Carr’s performance:**

“We had a couple of opportunities. I thought [CB Asante] Samuel [Jr.] made a great play on the deep one there in the second half. We put a little too much air on the one to [LB Drue] Tranquill. Give them credit. They were sticking to their coverages. I thought there were a lot of good plays. Derek was the big reason why we had an opportunity to win at the end. We will look at all three interceptions and see what we could have done better to lessen their chance to touch the football.”

**On if injuries are 'worrisome':**

"I don't know yet. I don't think we have anything definitive yet. Hopefully not, but I don't have any clarification on it yet."

**On 'other players stepping up' after injuries:**

"We kind of knew based on the day it was. It was hot and humid in here. We had a lot of guys that played in different roles, whether it was kicking game, or offense or defense. Based on some of the injuries that we incurred during the course of the game, I thought we had a few guys really step up and play some spots that maybe they didn't necessarily plan on playing, on both sides. Credit our guys. Again, that's the National Football League. It's next guy up. You have to go in there and do it. They were ready to go and I thought they competed hard when they went in there and had their opportunities."

## **LAS VEGAS RAIDERS QUARTERBACK DEREK CARR**

### **On throwing three interceptions:**

“We did too many good things, and I was way too aggressive. We came in with an aggressive mindset, especially with all the weapons that we have. That’s on me, the decisions to be too aggressive in certain moments. To [Davante Adams] in the endzone, he beat his guy and the guy when I threw it, just fell off, and that kind of crap is going to happen sometimes. I could have made a better throw maybe, just be better there, but I think we showed signs of doing some stuff really well. It’s on me when I’m trying to be too aggressive and force it to [tight end Darren] Waller down the middle. Trying to bomb it to [Adams], or just trying to jam it into him to get a couple of extra yards. I mean, just throw it away. That is the type of stuff I will learn from and just need be better for our team.”

### **On the second-to-last offensive drive:**

“I think [Adams] ran a good route at the end and I was getting ready to throw it, I had to try and move and find someone else. We had a chance, which is exciting, but there is no silver lining. We lost, and we are 0-1, but so are other teams after tomorrow. We are not going to overly freak out, but we are going to correct and demand more from myself and more from everybody. We will go back to work whether we won that game or not. We are going to try to move on and get better; that’s the process I believe in and that’s what I believe.”

### **On WR Davante Adams:**

“We did some good things. There are some things him and I were just talking about in the locker room. We had some production, but I think we can be better and so does he. It is exciting to get out there and play with him and have him in the mix of [wide receiver] Hunter [Renfrow], Darren [Waller] and the backs, and all those guys. I mean, first play I go right to him and it wasn’t like some big celebration. It was like, ‘Alright cool, next one.’ You know, I’ve thrown thousands of footballs in my life. It’s exciting to play with him, but he will tell you that he just wants to win. We will turn the film on and I will be better about being too aggressive in situations when I don’t have to; that’s what it really came down to.

### **On Renfrow’s ‘limited usage’ in the first half:**

“To be honest, certain coverages based on certain looks, the ball would go to [Adams] or Darren [Waller], and I think we will see that throughout the season. It could be the same question next week about Davante [Adams] or Darren [Waller], but when you have so many guys, it is hard for them all to have 10 catches or like 15 targets. That is a lot of footballs being only thrown to them. So, that is something Coach [McDaniels] and those guys will deal with throughout the season, and I’m just going to do my best to read them out. Like the one I forced to Darren [Waller] down the middle, Hunter [Renfrow] ran a great route, but it was a short route and I’m trying to go down the field. I could have easily given it to him there, but I think that will be a thing we see throughout the year.”

### **On the Chargers’ defense:**

“What I saw is what I saw during camp, a good football team. They’re a good defense, a good rush. They do a good job of playing together. On defense, you need to know where your help is, and know all those things, and they did a good job. At the end of the day, they end up beating us, but are there signs that we are going to be a good football team? Yeah, absolutely. There’s no panic. It’s hard, I’ve been out there when it is hard to get a first down and it’s hard to stop somebody, and that’s one of the best teams in the league. It didn’t feel like it was so hard to where couldn’t accomplish something. It definitely wasn’t easy, but it definitely wasn’t a miserable chance to try something. I saw that from the defense, and I saw it from our guys.”