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Chargers Week 12 Media Availability

Friday, November 26, 2021 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

On G Matt Feiler's injury:

"Just some residual from the game. It swelled up. It didn't affect him during the game, but after the game, it was really sore. We've been monitoring him closely, making sure that he's in the walk-throughs. He was out there in individual today. He'll be a game-time decision."

On who will start at LG if Feiler does not play:

"We'll decide between [G] Senio [Kelemete] and [G/T] Brenden Jaimes."

On Kelemete and Jaimes:

"Both of those guys have been working hard for us. Senio has a real calming, veteran presence. He has played in a lot of different offenses. He gives you that veteran stability. Then, Brenden, we just think that he's a young player that is developing. He's ascending. Since he's been active the last couple of weeks, we feel that he has improved a lot. His overall game-ready ability is definitely different from where it was at the beginning of the season. We feel confident in both of those guys. Fortunately for us, on that left side, they are playing between [T] Rashawn [Slater] and [C] Corey [Linsley]. Either one of those guys is going to be able to do the job for us."

On activating DL Jerry Tillery and Christian Covington off of Reserve/COVID-19:

"Jerry had a really good practice yesterday. Christian was in practice today. I expect both of those guys to be ready for the game."

On the defensive line's depth for Sunday:

"[Christian] Covington will definitely start the game for us, with Jerry [Tillery] and J.J. [DL Justin Jones]. [DL] Breiden [Fehoko] and [DL] Joe [Gaziano] will be in there right away. Those five guys will be holding the rope for us."

On DB Trey Marshall's injury status:

"He is a game-time [decision]. He was in practice today, full -- when I say full, he was out there in individual and then limited in team. We're going to work him out, too, just to make sure that he is good to go. I'm hopeful for him, for sure."

On CB Asante Samuel Jr.'s injury status and DB Mark Webb Jr., being placed on Reserve/Injured:

"Asante is definitely week-to-week. Mark had a procedure, a scope on his knee, but we expect him to be back this year. The procedure went well. He's trending positively. It was just a small thing in there. He was playing well. I'm excited to get him back because he's one of those depth components in your secondary that you also need for special teams. Looking forward to getting him back. Asante is day-to-day and still in the [concussion] protocol."

QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On his Thanksgiving:

“It was fun. It’s always great to be able to spend some time with some family. I actually had [QB] Easton Stick and [Offensive Quality Control Coach] Chandler Whitmer over, too. I got to spend some time with them, too.”

“No, we didn’t cook. Unfortunately, we had practice and didn’t have enough time to cook.”

On connecting with WR Mike Williams for an NFL-record five go-ahead touchdowns in the fourth quarter this season:

“When we need him most, he steps up. He is one of those guys that you trust and he’s going to make something special happen whenever he’s out on the field. He’s done an incredible job all year long. He’s super trustworthy, dependable and he works incredibly hard. We’re not surprised at all by all of his success.”

On if catches early in the game for Williams got him and the offense into a rhythm:

“I think that any time that you’re able to convert some third downs, especially to Mike, you get the offense rolling. I think that’s been a huge emphasis this year — of when we’re able to convert those third downs, we’re able to move the ball better. It definitely is something that we need to look at going forward.”

On leading the team back in the fourth quarter and on game-winning drives:

“I think it’s something that [Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach] Shane Day and I have talked about a ton. Every game in the NFL — well, most of the games — are going to come down to the two-minute drill. You have to be at your best in the fourth quarter. With so many games being decided by so few points, you need to be at your best. We’ve done a great job of emphasizing that in practice. All of those game reps that we get, it’s all experience. Any time you’re able to go through that, I think you learn a ton.”

On if it’s possible to replicate late-game situations in practice:

“That’s a good question. It is tough, but you have to be adamant about it. You have to emphasize it. When you do two-minute and four-minute situations in practice, you have to treat it like a game. You have to learn from it, watch it back and go over the film of it. You have to put a huge emphasis on it in practice so that you have any chance in the game.”

On if falling behind after a double-digit lead and coming back to win ‘might benefit you in the long run’:

“I think it’s been huge for us to have to go through that adversity. You never really feel like you’re in control of an NFL game. Things like that are going to happen. Obviously, you’d love to continue to put up points and blow them out, but they have a pretty good offense and defense, too, and they’re trying to score. They’ve done a good job of battling back, but for us to be able to answer and put that game away, I thought that was huge growth for us.”

On similarities between the Chargers and Broncos defenses:

“They’re pretty similar. They’re both very well-coached. When you turn the tape on Denver, you see guys making plays. They have some really incredible players on defense. They make plays all over the field. You have to have an eye for No. 31 [Broncos S Justin Simmons] and No. 22 [Broncos S Kareem Jackson]. Those guys are going to play — it’s an incredibly well-coached defense. They’re going to fly around. It’s probably one of the toughest teams that we’ve played this year so far.

“Scheme-wise there are similarities, but there are definitely differences as well. They’ve done a good job of disguising looks, just like our defense does. That’s one of those things that, as a quarterback, you just need to see, go through and experience, for sure.”

On the game at Denver last season:

“That was a tough one. I felt like we moved the ball pretty well on offense, in the first half at least. In the second half, we kind of slowed down and gave them an opportunity to come back. I think that’s one of those games that we mentioned — you have to be able to put it away. That’s the NFL. I think we’ve learned a lot. They’re still very talented. They’re an incredible team that we’re going up against this week. We’ve had to watch a bunch of film, prepare like no other week so that we have any chance on Sunday.”

On WR Keenan Allen approaching 700 career receptions:

“He’s a guy that understands the defense so well. All of the option routes that we give him, he understands leverage. He’s basically a quarterback playing receiver. The stuff that he’s able to do on his routes, break leverage — he catches the ball. I think that’s the biggest thing. He converts on third down. You know that he’s a reliable weapon and you’re going to find him whenever he’s out on the field.”

On his success scrambling against the Steelers:

“That’s kind of one of those situations where they present it to you and you have to take it, especially on third down, you have to fight for every yard that you get. Whether it’s through the air or on the ground, you have to convert. I feel like we did a good job of that last week. If that happens again, great, but we’ll do everything we can to just try and convert, no matter what the situation is.”

On sliding after scrambling:

“I feel like I avoided a lot of hits. In the NFL, you don’t want to take too many hits. That’s just something that we’ve talked about a bunch this year. I felt good about it going into last week.”