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Chargers Media Availability

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HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

On the injury status of CB Michael Davis, RB Justin Jackson and CB Asante Samuel Jr.

“Nothing different than what I said after the game. Vato [Davis] had a hamstring. We’re still evaluating that. As of right now, I think that he’s day-to-day. I think that we’ll know a lot more between now and practice on Wednesday. I would say the same for Justin Jackson with his quad. Asante is in the concussion protocol.”

On a segment of the gameplan containing elements of OLB Joey Bosa moving inside to rush between the guards and why that look wasn’t called:

“I think that if there had been a few more third-and-longs, we definitely would have gotten to those chapters. We felt really good about covering them. That was a part of the plan, for sure, to get him inside, like we’ve done in a couple of other games. It was a part of the plan, but we just didn’t activate it. I really like the way that we covered yesterday. In some of those known passing situations, I thought that we executed at a high level. Another component to that is your corner situation. When your top two corners go down — part of that plan was a five-man rush plan, which would isolate your corners a little bit more — so what we were trying to do is kind of make sure that we were safe out there. Gave the body position the help to those outside corners, and at the same time, be productive in the rush. I felt like we did a good job of managing that situation throughout the game when those corners went down.”

On Bosa facing double-team blocks and chip blocks and how he can ‘help get him out’ of those situations:

“A big component is adding a fifth guy in the rush. That helps a lot. The other thing is to get him inside. A lot of the chips happen to outside pass rushers. So, if you can move him inside, that can be an advantage at times, depending on how your front structure is manipulated. There’s a component to elite pass rushers where that is part of the game. I’ve coached [former Broncos OLB] Von [Miller], I’ve coached [Bears OLB] Khalil [Mack], [Broncos OLB] Bradley Chubb, [Rams OLB] Leonard Floyd — sometimes, that’s just a part of the gameplan. What you need to do is get the offense in a disadvantaged position, in terms of the score. That will help multiply your chances of pass rush. When it’s an even game, or you’re behind, it affects your ability to rush the passer at a high level. If you study great pass rushers and where they’ve been, most of the time, the high volume guys have been a part of teams that are ahead, that have double-digit leads — the crowd is into it, it’s loud, you can’t hear. But, if it’s a straight-up game, where it’s even-money or you’re behind, it’s just going to be hard to get all of those opportunities to truly get into rhythm and impact the game like you want to. There were plenty of chances that he had yesterday. We’re going to continue to do a good job of scheming, which I felt like we have all season long. Those rush opportunities will come the better that we play as a team.”

On his evaluation of the pass rush through the first seven games:

“Our third-down defense has been excellent. Third down-and-four or more has been excellent throughout the entire year. I think that’s been a real strength of our defense. The types of coverages that we’ve played, the types of pressure systems that we’ve played, I think that’s a real strength of our defense right now. Sack production, that will come with the more leads that we have. That’s more of a team operation. The way that we’ve rushed and covered, which is really what pass defense is — it’s rush and coverage — I feel like that’s been a strength of our team so far.”

On if he is 'going through a learning curve' as a first-year head coach:

"I think that [Ravens Head Coach] John Harbaugh and [Patriots Head Coach] Bill Belichick would say that they're in a learning curve, too. I think that every year you evolve as a coach, every game you evolve. I would think that both of those guys are different coaches than they were five years ago, 10 years ago, four games ago. I think that's just part of the NFL, just how competitive that it is. With me being a first-year head coach, there are things that are happening for the first time. I think that you're going to say that a lot when you're in this position because the dynamics of being a head coach, there's just a lot of them. When you're responsible for all three phases of the game — offense, defense and special teams — roster management, off the field performance; you're responsible for a lot. There's definitely a learning curve. Situationally, managing the game, that component, is something that I'm proving at all of the time. I think that yesterday there were some good things that we did that I continue to learn from. That's part of the job. That's part of being in competition. That's what I love about being in the NFL and that's what I love about being a head coach. I think that we've proved that we can go nose-to-nose with any of those guys that you just mentioned. Moving forward, our team is going to be well-equipped to handle whoever we play."

On 'protection issues' offensively and if improvement in that area can be addressed by either personnel changes or staying out of known passing situations:

"I think that being effective on early on downs is a good way to avoid some of those issues. Regardless of your personnel, some of those designer looks are going to be challenging. The right side of our protection needed to be better yesterday. A little bit is those two guys working together for the first time. If you look at the plan closely, those guys were helped several times within the protection scheme. Some of it wasn't just those two, it was the back coming across on a scan when they bring the nickel [defender]. It's a team operation. I said it after the game and I mean it, for us to be the passing team that we're capable of being, you can't live in the drop-back world exclusively. You can live in it, we can execute those plays, but if you're asked to do it all of the time, it's really challenging. You guys saw yesterday in two-minute, when we get behind two scores, how it is — it's really tough. You have [Patriots OLB] Matt Judon; he's an 80-million-dollar rusher. You have a bunch of good gives coming off of the edge; [Patriots DT] Christian Barmore, a first-round pick. You have guys rushing the passer at a high level, and they're teeing off because they know that it's a pass and they're jumping the snap count. They know that your cadence is going to be different when it's in two-minute, and they can really get that jump on you. That's what I'm talking about. In the same breath of Joey Bosa — when you get the lead of 10 points or more, look at the production. In the [Las] Vegas [Raiders] game, we were up 21 to nothing, and look at how we defended the pass and rushed the passer. There's and one-and-one correlation there. It's just about executing better on early downs, making sure that we continue to manipulate the pocket as much as we can and change the launch points. That's something that is a strength of [Offensive Coordinator] Joe [Lombardi], [Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach] Frank [Smith] and [Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach] Shane [Day], being able to help guys out. When you get a couple of injuries, you have to be able to live in the NFL. We're going to continue to improve. Moving forward, we need to do so."

On if RT Storm Norton and RG Michael Schofield III will remain at their respective positions:

"For now, we're definitely going to stick with those two guys. I believe in both of those guys. We need to continue to coach and play better around those guys,"

On 'being on the same page' with QB Justin Herbert in regards to what coverages the offense was expecting to see, compared to what was being displayed:

“From Justin Herbert’s standpoint, he’s looking at man-to-man a lot during the week, because they play a lot of man-to-man. They play a lot of single-safety man — that’s kind of who they are and who they’ve always been. They defend the middle of the field and they believe in that. At the same time, we also know who Bill Belichick is. We know their defensive scheme and defensive history, especially since they’re down [Patriots DB] Jonathan Jones, they’re down a couple of corners. They also know the matchup issue that they’re facing with [WRs] Mike [Williams] and Keenan [Allen] and how we play, and assessing a quarterback like Justin. That’s a big part of their operation: showing man-to-man, then playing zone. In our Thursday team meeting, when we talked about the plan to win, we know that they’re going to play zone against us, we know that it’s going to be a two-deep or three-deep mass zone. When that coverage expresses itself, we need to be patient, because they’re going to drop with depth. We’re going to have some designer stuff for down the field, but if that designer stuff isn’t there down the field, then we need to check it down and split the zone. We did that yesterday with [RB] Austin [Ekeler], with [TE] Stephen Anderson. You have to run the ball. When they’re playing two-deep zone, you have to make sure that you run the ball, which is what we did at times. That’s just the type of game that it’s going to be. When they do play man-to-man, which they did yesterday at times, then you have to be able to win outside because they do a good job of defending the middle of the field the way that they play. We did that at times. Yesterday, we did not execute our offense consistently. That’s why we had the result that we did. There was a big gap between the beginning of the game, how we started the game. That chunk in the second and third quarters wasn’t our best stuff. We need to coach and play better. I would say that our expectations for what they did were similar. They brought the nickel off of the edge and played two deep, which they hadn’t really shown much of. That was something that was, maybe, a hair different. Again, it still resulted in the same thing — a two-deep zone. I would say that we were connected on what happened yesterday.”

On communication of the game plan:

“When the game starts, you see the plan express itself. Now you’re on the sideline, saying, ‘Hey, this is part of the plan today. There’s [Patriots CB] Jalen Mills, he’s over there in the slot and then he’s fishtailing to the half play two-deep. This is [Patriots S] Kyle Dugger lined up man-to-man on number three, and now he’s playing buzz zone. There’s [Patriots CB] Joejuan Williams on the backside on a tight end, acting like he’s playing man-to-man and he’s playing two-deep.’ That’s a big part of how they play, and we were definitely prepared for it.”

On WR Keenan Allen’s dropped passes:

“It’s an aberration. I know there have been six of them, which is a lot for a player of his caliber. But I’d say it’s like [Golden State Warriors Point Guard] Steph Curry going through a tough stretch where you just say, ‘Man, it’s a tough stretch.’ He’s such a fantastic player who has fantastic hands and concentration. I see it more as an aberration and not [QB] Justin [Herbert] throwing it too hard. Keenan’s going to be just fine. We need him to come up with some of those catches, for sure. Yesterday, we had a couple third down drops that were tough. But no one’s going to take that harder than Keenan. No one’s going to be more critical of themselves than Keenan. He’s a fantastic player who I know is frustrated about yesterday. That’s what makes him so amazing.”

On QB Justin Herbert:

“As a quarterback, when you’re seeing through his lens, you go one — [TE] Donald Parham [Jr.] hit by [Patriots LB Dont’a] Hightower — you come inside to Keenan [Allen]. For whatever reason, he just got off it. I think it’s one of those things as a quarterback where he’s the only one that can explain. He’s hit that route this year several times — the inside part of the stick in that same circumstance. That’s one of those things where we’re a little bit off sometimes. I feel like our design was good, and our execution was not. It was just off at the wrong time yesterday. That’s one we’d certainly like to have back because you go from an advantage situation to a disadvantage situation. And then we didn’t convert on third and six. It’s one of those sequences where we’re doing exactly what we want to do. We want to apply pressure. We want to play with pace. That’s something we wanted to do and I liked our design yesterday. I didn’t like our execution — I was disappointed with our execution. We’re going to continue to coach better and play better because yesterday, offensively, there were a lot of good moments in there. But against that team, in the middle part of the game, that wasn’t the Chargers.”

On rushing improvements:

“We have to do a good job with formation — making sure we’re manipulating the front structures and getting into advantaged runs. It’s tough to run the ball in this league when you’re running into a disadvantaged look. Making sure we have good formations and run solutions. Whether that’s a run-to-run, a run-to-pass, an RPO or a run solution under center. I think that’s a big part of it and featuring the runs that suite our o-line and tight ends. I think that’s something that’s always on our minds — making sure we game plan the runs that our offensive group is capable of executing and trying to do that against the front structures that we’re facing. Yesterday, they [Patriots] would play the coverages that they play — the two-deep, three-deep zone. They played a lot of hybrid groupings with some lighter defenders in there. We felt like, where I was at last year, that’s just something that you have to do against these guys if they’re going to play that way. You have to attack them in the run front. I felt like we did a good job of that at times. Yesterday, [TE] Tre’ McKitty playing for us — I was really excited to get Tre’ out there involved in the plan. I felt like he had a good game yesterday for his first game going against them. Our backs had good understanding of the game plan. And we were also able to run the ball really well in the red zone, which is something you have to do against that team down there. Because of the coverage systems they play down there, there’s a lot of double brackets, cover-one specials; take out a receiver. They hit the running backs a lot. They play a lot of drop-eight down there. They make it tough on you to throw the football, so you have to be able to run the football against those guys. I felt like we did that at a winning level. We’ll continue to grow as we get going this season.”

On the running backs:

“We’re just going to let this competition sort itself out. We’ve had good flashes from the guys behind [RB] Austin [Ekeler]. I think our guys have to, No. 1, stay healthy to solidify that spot. And then the kicking game is going to factor into that when the decisions are close. Until someone grabs that No. 2 job, we’re going to continue to let competition play out.”

On offensive production:

“Our ball distribution is good. Certainly, in the run game yesterday, that’s another way you step up — being able to run the football. That was a step in the right direction between [RB] Austin [Ekeler] and [RB Justin] JJ [Jackson]. It’s not just the passing game, but in the passing game I think finding our tight ends has to continue to be something that happens — the way we can move these guys around. In the intermediate part of the field when the defense is vertically stretched, you’ve seen us check it down to a tight end or a back pretty consistently. I like the way that [WR] Joshua Palmer is coming on. I felt him the last two weeks, he’s practiced well. Whether it’s those tight ends, the receivers or the backs, those guys really have to come alive in a game like that. Because that’s where the yards are if they’re going to play you two-deep zone or three-deep zone with a bunch of underneath vertical stretch. I feel like it has to continue to be an emphasis for us because that’s where the production is if they’re going to play you like that.”

On WR Joshua Palmer:

“You can see if you watch the film the confidence in his route-running. He’s stayed after a lot with [QB] Justin [Herbert] and I think that’s earned Justin’s trust a lot more and Justin trusts exactly where he’s going to be within the play. I think that’s big, any of these receivers will tell you that. Earning the quarterback’s trust is so paramount. But I think the guy’s playing physically at the receiver position. I can see and sense more confidence from him. I think he’s going to continue to improve and I’m obviously excited about the catch in the end zone yesterday. That’s really great to see — it’s a 50/50 ball, [QB] Justin’s [Herbert] giving him a chance, and when you come down with that, that creates more confidence between those two. That’s going to be good for our offense. We need that from Josh and [WR] Jalen [Guyton], to step up behind [WR] Mike [Williams] and [WR] Keenan [Allen] in order for us to be the confidence we’re capable of.”

On the trade deadline:

“We’re a team, and we’ve been talking the entire season. You know as this deadline gets close, there’s a lot happened. What we tried to do over the bye week was really talk about our team, where we are, where we can go, different contingencies with our own team or somewhere else. Getting a kicker and a punt/kick returner was certainly a couple moves in a positive direction. We’re just going to see where these next few hours go. I feel like, in terms of being connected, we talk about our team all the time. I think that’s something I’ve enjoyed between the two of us [he and General Manager Tom Telesco] — aligning our vision for how we want to build this team, together. We’re just going to see where it goes. There’s a lot happening right now, and we’ll see where it ends up.”

On trade considerations:

"I think you have to treat that short term and long term — you have to really balance that. That's a big part of the team building process, that balance between short-term and long-term. What's the cost and what's the price of doing business. To me, it's just still about value — the type of value that you can create for your current team and your future team and what is the cost of that. The trade deadline, when you look historically you can see how that is affected teams moving forward in a positive or negative way. I know that I certainly have studied the deadline and the type of moves that are made and what it actually does for you or doesn't do for you. We're certainly trying to build this thing to be a consistent team that can play over the course of time, not just one season. That's something you have to weigh. Is this move going to help us this year in a big way? Is this going to help us? Long term, what does that do to help our chances to build the team we are capable of? I think that's certainly case-to-case, year-to-year. I know we're at the beginning here. One of the assets I was attracted to coming here teaming up with [General Manager] Tom [Telesco] and the Spanos Family is we have draft capital, and we have cap space. I think that's the sign of a healthy organization. And I think the fact we have a franchise quarterback is something really critical. There's a lot of good building blocks in place. How we use those resources, we're going to see."

On K Dustin Hopkins:

"I felt like he did a good job yesterday putting it exactly where we wanted it to go. We want to feature off his kickoff style. I thought that was a good part of the plan yesterday, and he certainly he had a good day kicking the ball, giving us some extra points. I thought that he gave us a lift yesterday and I was proud of him. He was just a total pro yesterday — good start for him."

On CBs Ryan Smith and Tevaughn Campbell:

"They held their own. It's not a surprise that when they went out there, that [Patriots QB] Mac [Jones] went right after them. I thought TC held the line and so did Ryan. They [Patriots] tried on that left side, twice. I feel like late in the game, TC turned 16 loose on the crossing route — which was a tough route. Both those guys competed. My hat's off to [Secondary] Derrick Ansley and [Defensive Coordinator] Renaldo Hill and [Assistant Secondary Tom] Tommy [Donatelli] for keeping those guys ready. I felt like they came in and executed. Those guys are both pros and I was proud of them -- those guys really held the rope for us and competed well in the game."

On the Broncos trading OLB Von Miller:

"I haven't been able to talk to Von, but he's a first ballot Hall of Famer — he's one of the elite players in the history of the game. He means a lot to me; I wouldn't be here without him. Hopefully he's happy about it, that's all I know. I want what's best for him, that's all I care about. He means a lot to me. I haven't gotten a chance to talk to him yet, but hopefully it's good for him, [I hope] he's excited, and obviously he's going to a place that I was just at with a lot of people that mean a lot to me. I hope it works for Von, because I'm a huge fan of his."

On patience coming with experience:

"For patience, experience is a great teacher. Every time [QB] Justin Herbert goes out there, he's going to learn more and more about playing quarterback. He's going to learn about all these defenses that are out there in the NFL. He's going to learn about the history of [Patriots Head Coach] Bill Belichick. He's going to learn how he plays against different quarterbacks, with different groups of players, with his group of players. And he's going to really understand that game within the game. The thing about [QB] Justin [Herbert] is he is at the beginning. What he's done is set this incredible precedent where people expect him to throw for 300-400 yards, 70 percent completions, four touchdowns, zero interceptions. That's a good thing that he's set that standard for himself. But he's still seeing things for the first time a lot. Just like I'm seeing things for the first time as a head coach. Now, I'm going to have tough moments too. And the thing about him is he's going to improve every time he plays this game because it means a lot to him. But you can't perform at your best all the time when you're seeing and doing things for the first time. There's going to be some setback, some disappointments. That's what I told him yesterday. What happened yesterday is part of the NFL — for both of us, it's part of the NFL. And that's what beautiful about it, is that you are going to learn a lot. He's got that inventory that he can draw from. He's got some mass looks that he can learn from. 'Hey, we're having a tough day against [Patriots LB Matthew] Judon — this how I am going to play moving forward.' There are a lot of things. 'On second-and-one, I'm going to learn. If this is bad, all the way bad, I'm going to get this out of here.' There are a lot of things in that game that he's going to learn from. That's why they say experience is a

great teacher because the only way you learn from it is by doing it. I'm excited to attack the film with him. I accept and take ownership for the mistakes because I have to do a better job coaching the guy. I have to do better job coaching him, so he plays better — because he is fantastic. That's just part of the process and I think he's going to bounce back great. With the running game, we did have those two big runs yesterday. That was not an illusion, those were good runs. Let's look at the other ones. I thought that the run game was good enough, but there are going to be some runs that you see on the film that can go for more — and that need to go for more against the way that they were playing us yesterday — but I think that we're making progress. There were some things that I think that you'll see from Tre' McKitty that, I think, are going to give us something. Those guys are blocking well for us. [C] Corey Linsley, [G] Matt [Feiler], [T] Rashawn [Slater], those guys — [G/T Michael] Schofield [III] and [T] Storm [Norton] — I think that they have confidence in how we're trying to run the ball. I think that we executed our plan yesterday at a pretty high level. Those guys that we're blocking, they are good inside; [Patriots DL] Lawrence Guy, [Patriots DT Christian] Barmore — those are big guys. They're stout on the edges with [Patriots LB Dont'a] Hightower and [Patriots LB Kyle] Van Noy, [Patriots LB] Jamie Collins [Sr.] and Judon. That's a good front that we blocked yesterday. We have to continue to grow. You never know. When you go into a gameplan and they're playing you like that, running the ball to win is going to be a big part of it."

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER JOEY BOSA

On how yesterday's game relates to losses in previous seasons:

"I don't know if this game had anything to do with the past. I think [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley made it pretty clear in the team meeting today that we're a pretty different group. We have a whole new group of coaches. We made some mistakes yesterday, but I don't think it's time to panic or start looking here or there to blame. We're 4-3, which is a lot better start than I've had most of the other years that I have been here. We've had one, obviously, bad loss to the Ravens. The other two were really close games, losses to, I think, both playoff teams. We definitely made some mistakes, but as a defense — I haven't watched the film yet — but I think that we did get better as a defense. I think that we did some things well. Obviously, there are some things that we can improve on."

On DL Justin Jones' impact on the run defense yesterday:

"Obviously, having him back is a huge help. But, also, I think that we were just really direct with what we needed to get fixed. We did a good job on the bye week getting rested up. Got some guys back; obviously, [LB] Drue [Tranquill] and J.J. [Jones] and Nas [S Nasir Adderley] and, hopefully, [LB Kenneth] Murray [Jr.] soon. I think that we just did a good job last week in practice, really stressing things that they've been doing to us in the earlier games in the year. As a defense, we need to need to be able to stop that last drive of the game when they went down and kick that field goal. We have to make sure that we can get the ball back to our offense in a position like that."

On preparing for Eagles QB Jalen Hurts and the challenge of playing a dual-threat quarterback:

"It's always tough. The NFL is kind of moving in that direction. A lot of teams seem to have the dual-threat type of quarterbacks. Jalen, I haven't watched much film yet, but like any quarterback like that, it's always huge to be able to keep him in the pocket because when they can make plays happen with their feet, that's kind of when the game opens up for them. It's going to be a challenge, but we've seen that already, so it's something that we've seen before."

On New England's final scoring drive:

"I'm trying to remember exactly what happened, but they just did a good job of completing some passes. It's still something that I have to go and watch. We did better as a defense yesterday, but in a situation like that, when we have the opportunity to get the ball back to the offense, we definitely have to stop them."

On what aided the run defense:

"Getting J.J. [Jones] back was big. After missing him for all these weeks, it was a huge bonus to have them out there playing well. Having the week off and just being able to stress the things these teams had been hurting us with over the last few weeks. We had a good week of practice and a good week of rest before that. I think it was a combination of things."

On his 'level of satisfaction' with the pass rush yesterday:

"I think that we did a pretty good job. I think that we need to do a better job of moving around and getting some opportunities where I'm getting out of chips. They were not going to let us beat them on the edge yesterday with the amount of shipping they did with the tight ends. It was something that we knew they would do. Going in, it was something that we had known, but for some reason, we didn't move on to some plans that we had, like moving on to the guard and being able to rush inside a little bit. I thought that could have been a good option yesterday. There weren't many one-on-one opportunities. We had the sack. Overall, I think that we rushed pretty well, but we have to do a better job of getting off of those chips and taking advantage of the few opportunities that we have."

On routinely facing double teams and chips:

"It's something, over the years, that I've had to deal with. I don't know if it's more or less, but it definitely was significant yesterday."

On his mentality when facing double teams:

"It's tough. Both sides were getting chipped yesterday. It's something that, I think, we have to talk about. We did kind of have that plan where we were going to rush on the guards a bit, but we never really got to it. I think that could have been effective. I feel confident that we have the guys to win their one-on-ones if I'm getting double-teamed. They were max protecting a bunch yesterday, so it was tough."

DEFENSIVE LINEMAN JUSTIN JONES**On his first game back from injury:**

"I feel good. It feels good to be a part of it and be back with the guys. One thing people don't really talk about when you're hurt is that you aren't really contributing to the team. It's hard to find your way through and lead by example. When you are out there, it's easier to be done. It felt really good being the guy out there relaying the calls and everything and being able to be out there with my teammates and making sure that the moral is high and that I bring the energy. That is one thing that I focused on when I came into the game."

On if he attended defensive meetings while he was on Reserve/Injured:

"When I was out, I still went to all the meetings. I still was in every team meeting, every defensive meeting, every D-line meeting. I was taking notes like I was playing. I was still going about my week as if I was playing; I just wasn't playing. When I came back to playing, it wasn't hard for me to transition back."

On if missing games due to injury was 'frustrating':

"Definitely. One thing I used to talk about when I would watch the games at home was not being able to echo the call, putting guys in better situations and making more plays. I just felt like I could at least do that for the guys. That kind of hurt me, seeing some guys struggle, knowing that I couldn't be out there with them."

On recovering from injury:

"When I initially hurt it, I thought it was a cramp, but it ended up being a serious strain. I came back to practice and it wasn't ready to go, so we ended up adding more time to the timetable. Going into this game, I wasn't 100 percent, but it was probably the best I've felt since I had the calf issue. I wished that I could have been out there helping my team."

On this season being the final year of his rookie contract:

"We play the Eagles this week, and we're trying to win. We haven't won the last two games, so we're just trying to get that next win. I really do want to play a long time with this team. I think that we can go a long way this season. I really think that we have the guys to do it, we have the team to do it, we have the quarterback to do it and the coaches to do it. We just have to bring it all together and make sure that we bring our team ready to play on Sunday to get this win together. That's really the plan."

On how he felt in his first game back:

“That first play made me feel like I was back. In the first half, I was getting into the rhythm of things; reading my keys, the run-pass keys and stuff like that, just getting back and playing actual football in the game. That second half, I feel like I picked my play up, just being more comfortable and getting back in the rhythm with my guys and trying to be that spark that we needed on defense. Obviously, I wish that we could have done more and got the win, but I heard a lot of the guys on the sidelines saying that they were having fun and that we needed to make more stops. We’re still having fun and playing the game, and that is big for us.”

On preparing for Eagles QB Jalen Hurts and the challenge of playing a dual-threat quarterback:

“We’ve played a lot of dual-threat guys. I feel like we’ve played a lot of quarterbacks that can move, that can really get out of the pocket and make plays. It’s nothing that we haven’t seen before, just a different team, a different offensive scheme, different play styles. I think that we have a good idea of how we will want to handle them.”

On Staley’s message to the team:

“Just making sure that we are exact with all of our techniques and fundamentals, making sure that we are exact with what the coaches are asking of us and how we accomplish those things. That’s the biggest thing for us going into this week of practice, really focusing on being exact; exact steps, exact hands, exact footwork. Nobody is perfect, but everyone is striving to be perfect so that when we’re in those close games, we can push through.”