



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

Los Angeles Chargers vs. Denver Broncos

Sunday, September 21, 2025 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On RB Najee Harris:

"Preliminary is it's [an] Achilles [injury]. He's [RB Najee Harris] getting imaging right now."

On if RB Najee Harris is done for the year:

"That's preliminary is that it's an Achilles, and he's getting imaging right now."

On if RB Omarion Hampton will take on a bigger role:

"Yeah, [RB] Omarion [Hampton] – Man, what a game he had? How about that? I mean, that was a gritty – there was work. He put that work in today and he was running with purpose – gritty performance by him. Just always lunging forward, surging forward – I think he caught the ball five or six times too out of the backfield and added 70 yards in the run game. He had a heck of a game."

On what was learned about the team today:

"I don't think I have the vocabulary to really express how great I feel with this win and just the admiration for our team and for our players and coaches and just everybody. It's just another game – three wins, three games and it's taken everybody in all these games – Gritty, spectacular, that's about the best word I can come up with to describe it. [It's] just a great thrill of winning. [It's a] wonderful, wonderful feeling of victory, great thrill of victory. That's about all I got. Never losing heart – I mean, just finding a way, just a tremendous performance by so many. [QB] Justin [Herbert] rolling to his left, got a guy hanging on him and then makes that throw to (WR) Keenan (Allen) which was a spectacular catch by Keenan and everything that he did down the stretch for us. Defense – three three-and-outs to start the game and at our best when our best was needed most. You could say that for the offense, you could say that for the special teams too. That kickoff coverage late in the game there in the fourth quarter getting down inside the 25-yard line, that saved a first down. Just so much good and [K] Cam Dicker – Cold-blooded. There's another phrase that comes to my mind. I mean, the way that so many of the guys played – the way Justin played, the way [S] Derwin [James Jr.] played and the way Cam Dicker [played] at the end there. Also, [LS] Rick Lovato, that's a big-time, game-winning snap. Our protection was – nobody was in our backfield and great hold by [P] J.K. [Scott]. It was great. [I] wish I had a better look at it."

On if this game will be a point of reference later in the season:

"I think, yeah. I think so. I think it's a signature win. I think it's just one that reveals what I call a 'character win.' It reveals that, it reveals your character. Those fourth quarter comebacks and that all-out hustle again that you see from our guys from the first snap of the game to the end – The excellence of the players and their conditioning. Just another great job in the fourth quarter, and I think that speaks volumes about the training that – [Executive Director of Player Performance]

Ben Herbert [and] what he's instilled in this team and the players. I mean, they're doing a lot of conditioning, lot of extra on their own. I mean, they really want it. [The] 'want-to' factor is really high, so a lot of good, a lot of good, and we'll keep her going, but wouldn't be surprised if that didn't do a lot for a morale that was already high. I think it was Napoleon Bonaparte who said, 'Morale is to the physical as three is to one,' and boy, it won't hurt morale and in confidence and just knowing what's inside, man. There's gravel in the gut. Yeah, I think that's a great place to climb from and that's where we're at. We want to climb from here. We want to go back, we don't want to go down or stay the same, we want to keep climbing."

On the amount of hits that Justin Herbert took today:

"He's [QB Justin Herbert] the greatest. There's something about him. You know, he takes a hit, there's no facial expression that changes, there's no limp, there's no crap. It's like it didn't even happen. There's something in his competitive fire almost, it just motivates him even more, it even takes him to another notch. Whatever fill-in-the-blank is happening, he's one-of-one that I've ever seen at the quarterback position who's got that talent too to go with all the other ones. He's the fiercest."

On the reaction to WR Keenan Allen's touchdown:

"Yeah, I saw the replay on the jumbotron. That's what I saw, and the replay showed the same thing. He's [QB Justin Herbert] running to his left and he got a man hanging on him and still throws a rope to [WR Keenan Allen] who made an incredible catch, who was – he had a guy hanging on him before the catch, is the way I saw it, and he still makes that catch. I mean, great nickname, 'The Slayer', and Keenan did – does."

On how the belief translates to execution at the end of games to win games:

"It's beautiful. It was a great game. That's just the best way to say it. You know, both teams were fighting and battling just like a great football game. They have savage warriors on that side of the ball for Denver. [Broncos RB] J.K. Dobbins, savage warrior, and savage warriors beating savage warriors. It's great two opposing wills, two opposing forces, just going at it in a great football game. [I'm] just very thankful and happy! Elated to win the game!"

On the emotions seeing Najee Harris go down:

"Yeah, not good and just hoping for the best. That it was maybe an ankle or high ankle (sprain) or something else that wouldn't be long term. As I told him [RB Najee Harris] at halftime, 'You'll be back kid,' and I know he will."

On the first 3-0 start since 2002 and knowing all three wins came within the division:

"Good. [You] can't be 4-0 unless you're 3-0. Yeah, just happy, happy, happy."

On RB Najee Harris' demeanor at halftime:

"Just very cold blooded. It was kind of the way [QB] Justin [Herbert] is after one of those hits. It was the same facial expression."

On Broncos Head Coach Sean Payton's creativity at the end of the first half:

"Yeah, it was outstanding. I told him the same thing after the game, those were some great calls and play designs. The touchdown and the fourth-and-one. I thought that was real creative, real good. It was excellent, and they executed it perfectly. Yeah, it was a great game. Both teams really played good, really played at their best for four quarters."

On G Mekhi Becton Sr. update:

"He's going to be in concussion protocol."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On the last two drives of the game:

“It wasn’t pretty but like you said we got the job done. We’ve got a bunch of play makers out there and just enough time to get the ball off. Never a doubt. Guys had complete faith in each other the entire time. We knew we were losing, but there was time and downs and opportunity to get back up there. It was a great fight by our team today.”

On connection with WR Keenan Allen:

“He’s one of the best to ever do it. We are so lucky to have him on our team as a leader, as a teammate and as a receiver. He finds a way to get open and that’s what he’s done over his career, especially tonight. It’s tough coverage. They played really well. They have a really good defense. We had to pick our battles and Keenan just kept making plays and when we needed him most he showed up.”

On RB Omarion Hampton’s success in today’s game:

“I’m not surprised. We knew how special he was as soon as he got here. Running back is an incredibly tough position. The way he’s fought and picked up the offense, we’re asking a lot of him, especially as a rookie. He’s handled it all. He’s picked it up and taken it on his shoulders. We’re really lucky to have him as well.”

On value of having a player like K Cameron Dicker:

“We’re really lucky to have him as well. We knew as soon as we got down there that we were in field goal range. He’s automatic. He’s one of those guys that you don’t even have to worry about. He goes up there and he makes plays and he’s a cold-blooded killer.”

On TE Oronde Gadsden’s play in today’s game:

“He made some big plays, especially not being active the past couple of weeks. We asked him – he was going to have a big role today and he wasn’t fazed at all. He went up there, first game, and made some big plays and we’re looking for a big year from him.”

On WR Keenan Allen’s touchdown in the fourth quarter:

“I didn’t see it. I didn’t really know what had happened. I was on the ground. I checked the replay, I guess, or everyone’s reactions. I think I found out that way.”

On assessment of Keenan’s catch:

“I didn’t see it. I didn’t really see it on the replay. I’m sure he made a great play. I will watch it tonight, but I’m sure it was an incredible catch by Keenan. Like I said, he makes plays. I saw him. The defender wasn’t looking and that’s advantage-Keenan for sure.”

On escaping the pocket on WR Keenan Allen’s TD:

“Just practice. It starts in the week of practice of getting that pocket movement and understanding that they have a really good pass rush. They are going to get after the quarterback and you got to find a way to either step up, get out, make a play and extend it. I can’t really remember what down it was, but I had to extend it and make something happen because it broke down and as long as you got Keenan out there, he’s going to make a play.”

On what changed for WR Keenan Allen from the first half to the second half:

“It is just staying patient. Understanding that we’re going to get him the ball. It didn’t go our way in the first half. At times I thought we moved the ball pretty well but got in our own way and figured it out late in the game. Keenan stayed patient. We knew that we were going to come back to him, especially on a drive like that where he’s going to have to make big plays.”

On the Broncos pressure from their defensive front:

"They're really good. We knew that was going to be the challenge for today and understanding that they've got a really good front seven. They're going to do a good job of mixing up their looks and bringing those pressures. Definitely things that we can improve on and watch in the film [room] but I thought those guys strained, they fought and gave me enough time to get the ball off and got it done today."

On the composure after getting hit:

"I think it's just part of the game of playing quarterback and expecting you're going to get hit. It's going to be tough. You've got to stay gritty and understand they are going to knock you down, but you've got to get back up. The offensive line is looking at you, the receivers, the tight ends and making sure that you're the leader, stepping up and getting back up."

On if QB Justin Herbert learned his composure after getting hit from anybody:

"Probably Jim Harbaugh. I think he's one of the tougher guys. I just tried to emulate him."

On the meaning of a 3-0 start against divisional opponents:

"Three very good opponents. A lot of respect for all three of them. We knew they were going to be tough and none of them have been easy. I think the way that all three phases of our team have fought through it and battled is really good to see. Obviously, [there are] things to clean up but I'm excited [and] looking forward [to it]."

On the importance of patience moving forward:

"Not all games are going to be easy. I think we stuck through it and understood the situation of we're losing at the current moment but there's time and downs and opportunity for us to go back out there. The offense took the field, and we knew we had one job which is to go move the ball and score and that's exactly what we did. Defense got the ball back. They've come up with some huge stops all day and then special teams closed it out."

On what needs to be done to overcome injuries:

"That's the unfortunate part of the NFL is you're going to deal with adversity like that. It's always the next man up and we're going to find ways. We trust those guys in the training room too that they're going to get their work in and they're going to do everything they can to get back out on the field, but thankfully we've got a lot of guys that are going to step up like [TE] Oronde [Gadsden] today. We're going to find a way to make it work."

On seeing RB Najee Harris go down on a non-contact play:

"It's always tough to lose a brother like that. I think you never want to see that from any of your own players or an opponent. We're wishing for the best. I haven't heard anything yet but I'm hoping for the best for him."

On WR Quentin Johnston's impact in the first three games:

"He's playing confidently. He's a guy that's going to make a bunch of plays for us. He's had three great years, and I'm going to find ways to get him the ball and make sure that he's out there in space doing what he does best. He's having fun, he's enjoying, he's learned so much and were really lucky to have him."

DENVER BRONCOS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

Opening Statement:

“Obviously disappointing. Finished with a hard fought game. We felt like it was going to be a game that was close to the best. We didn't feel like the scoring would be high. There were a lot of things we did well, and then there were some things obviously we didn't do as well. We had too many penalties. I think our average third down on offense was third and 11 plus, which makes it difficult. We had the swing fall, second quarter, third quarter. Tough loss nonetheless. Credit to them.”

On if the offensive play felt similar to last week:

“Look, we were in some heavy sets early on. We got a lot of run pressures that kept us from having success in some of the heavier personal groupings that we found a little bit. Certainly, we found a little bit more success in the run game from some of the subgroupings. The penalties though, the negative plays, those are the things that you only get about eleven (11) of those drives a game and that set us back. We have two or three opportunities right in mid field. It's frustrating. Two good teams. It was a tough loss.”

On penalties in all three phases of the game:

“It's something we will look at on film. I think there was really one behavior and the rest were either technique or we got to be able to align correctly. If we get a team to punt and then we're in the neutral zone or line up offensively and have a big play, we're in the neutral zone like that. That needs to be cleaned up fast.”

On Justin Herbert's ability to use his legs:

“I thought we did a pretty good job overall relative to caging him. We dropped some coverages late in that game with the running back on a 30-some-yard play. But overall, I thought we did a good job not allowing him to really beat us with his feet. He's like Bo, both of them can get yards running.”

On one-score games over the past two years:

“This year's different. This year's different. That was a hard-fought close game. We got to get ready to come back and play a national TV game Monday night against a good team. This team, I thought we fought today, which was encouraging, and we knew it was going to be one of those games.”

On the touchdown pass from QB Bo Nix to WR Courtland Sutton:

“You're looking for certain distances, hash marks, timing and obviously it's somewhat aggressive but the play requires an aggressive defense too, and so we got that. It was the right timing and those guys made a real good play.”

On the long 3rd downs:

“The penalties are what we're doing, but look, there are a handful of things. We'll look at film tomorrow. I'm referencing minus plays that we'll be frustrated with and tomorrow's an important day. Tomorrow's more important than the game we just played because we're in this accelerated, ‘We got to get better fast’ and if we do, I think this will be alright.”

On narrow overthrows by QB Bo Nix:

“The route at the end was kind of a seam, almost like a double move. Then the third and long flea flicker was close. So, sometimes if it's a double move your eyes can betray you a little bit. I thought he's throwing it real accurately, putting the ball in good places and protecting it.”

On going big with some key downs:

“I don't know if we got snap man to man coverage in the whole game. We might have on that short yardage naked [cover] where we threw to Sutton on that over route. But that was probably was not having seen it, so we got a lot more zone.”

On emphasizing the point of not giving up a score first possession:

“Right off the bat I thought ‘man those guys fought hard’. At half time, this was the kind of game we wanted to be in, if that makes sense. It’s a good team. We think we’re a good team and we’ll see them again.”

On QB Bo Nix scramble in the fourth:

“We had a good view for sure, but I saw the way we were playing. Field position mattered.”

On looking at all the tapes:

“We’ll look at all of them. I come in here with ‘we gotta clean these up’. We’ll look closely at them.”

On RB J.K. Dobbins return:

“I think we have talked about this before. It’s not unusual for a player, coach, or son to go back and he was passionate and ready to play. He played well.”

On the decision to place LB Dre Greenlaw on short-term IR:

“We got to a point and he’s been busting his tail off. This will take a little pressure off. We could have done it earlier. There was still a goal date and it was either this week or next. We felt like the last thing we wanted to do is have him come out too early and re-injure it. Jordan and I sat down with him, spent some time discussing it and there is plenty of season left. In hindsight, we could have said it and done it sooner. But, at that time, the information was ‘hey, this is four weeks away and it’s a bit longer’”

On acceleration with the Chargers now three games up in the division:

“Yeah. I get it. We’re in the third week of the season. Alright, thank you.”

DENVER BRONCOS QUARTERBACK BO NIX

On the missed opportunities in the second half:

“Looks like the common threat was being a step too far and not hitting them.”

On the Courtland Sutton touchdown before the first half ended:

“Yeah, it was a great play. I think it was one of those things if you got a good play that you feel comfortable with that you want to shoot, and we liked what we had. We hit on it and it was a big play in the game.”

On what needs to happen to get more offensive consistency:

“Yeah, I’m not sure. I don’t know. We’d score every drive if I knew.”

On struggling to put a team away in back-to-back weeks:

“Yeah, it felt very similar. It just felt like we kept going backwards and had no explosives when we needed them. We had the ball with a chance. You know, that drive just felt like we didn’t do anything. It felt like we just kept going backwards and had long field position and long third downs. In this league, it’s not going to cut it.”

On finding success in the running game:

“It was good. It was really important. I think when we ran the ball on drives, we scored. That seems to be a common theme, so we just have to find a way to when we run the ball, get good and manageable positions and then usually it got us first downs. Then, we went down and did well on the drives.”

On two back-to-back Broncos losses:

“Well, it stinks. It definitely is not fun, it's not enjoyable but all you can do is go to the next game. I’ve never been able to figure out how to go back and change anything yet. I’m still working on that, but the most important thing is we have the whole season ahead of us. Instead of going back and changing things, all we can do is move forward and change in them in the future and do things differently and find a way to not let these close games fall into another team’s hands.”

On the sense of opportunity for a big win:

“We had run a few routes – in-breakers, stops, out-breakers and we hadn’t run anything that kind of set up something and then took off past them. We knew it in all their coverages, all their shells, [that] we would have a chance to step on the DB’s toes and maybe outrun them and we would have a chance at least at a vertical pass and that’s what we got. I thought the opportunity was there and [WR] Courtland [Sutton] got outside and got going and unfortunately, I just missed in front by a couple inches. If I had to do it again, I would have taken a little bit more time, held onto it maybe a count longer and gave him something to where he could go up for maybe a pass interference.”

On the confidence Sean Payton has in him:

“He’s confident, but I also think they were playing gaps on us and it would have been hard to run the ball. In a situation like that your best bet is probably to get outside because they had a guy in each gap and they were ready for either a quarterback sneak or a run, so they were taking away the inside and the middle and we thought our best bet would be go to the outside and [WR] Courtland [Sutton] did a good job of getting over there on the over and then he made a good catch and run. That’s the one where that drive you have to finish in a touchdown. You can’t kick a field goal and then it just felt like we got down there and it was just penalty, penalty, penalty moving us back. You’re not going to score on a top red zone defense when you’re moving backwards.”

On how to correct things moving forward:

“Honestly, not sure exactly. Not really paying attention really to what they are just know we’re going backwards, and our coaches will handle that. I just know and offside on the offense. I never even really knew that was possible to be honest with you but those things we just got to fix. It’s accountability on us. We’ll fix them, and we just can’t have that happen.”

On the Chargers secondary:

“I’d just describe them in a shell that keeps everything in front of them. They intentionally do that. They stopped the run. We knew this was going to be the game. It was going to be underneath completions. We just didn't find as many as we’d like, but we knew they were going to take away the shots. They were going to take all our stuff deep and they were going to play a shell and keep everything in front of them and we were going to have to run the ball efficiently and complete underneath passes. Really, we didn't do either one of those two so that just goes back to execution. We didn't do enough.”