

Chargers Week 3 Media Availability

Thursday, September 21, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

On the overtime sequence:

"Ultimately, it was a three-and-out. Not a good sequence at all on my part. The first play, we had an opportunity. I like [QB] Justin [Herbert] giving ourselves a chance downfield. As we worked through that second play, they matched really, really well. Then, obviously, on third down it's just not what we're looking for. Trying to do a quick-count cadence and didn't get the proper alignment. It obviously didn't work that well for us."

On if there's 'anything built in' to the play on third down in overtime against Tennessee in the event a misalignment:

"The challenge is that the cadence is really on [C] Corey [Linsley], so he's not going to be able to see the exterior aspects of that thing. He's going to slow-play it the best he can. Obviously, on our side, hopefully if you can see it early enough, you can try and bang a timeout. Obviously, we didn't get the alignment properly."

On if the 'safety valve' of a play with misalignment would be a timeout from the sideline:

"Potentially, yeah. Obviously, not a scenario we've necessarily practiced in that situation. We've repped that play a number of times. It was an unfortunate situation."

On if quick-count cadence is done to 'catch the defense':

"Yeah, just try and catch yourself a little extra count with the pass rush. They were doing a good job up front. See if we can give ourselves just a little bit longer time by stealing that timing where they're not fully ready and set, and ready to engage."

On the first-down play in overtime:

"Obviously, we can watch the play. In a perfect world, slow-mo it, see the corner bail off and we'd all love to work through a progression. I think he certainly saw what he saw. It's not an end of the world decision in any way. He took a chance. Obviously, if you see the corner bail out sooner, he's going to work through it. Those things happen very fast."

On the second-down play in overtime:

"Again, we can detail it all up. They matched it really well. He was working through is progression. As you work from left to right, he got to that one and it was still all matched out. He ended up throwing it away to give ourselves at least the same third-down situation. We certainly felt comfortable going into that."

On late-game drives:

"We've practiced those situations a lot. It's something that we just have to continue to work on. We feel good about when we have those opportunities that we can take advantage of them. We've had two. They haven't turned out. You just keep on moving and growing each and every time. You feel like you'll take advantage of some other ones moving forward."

On the two-point conversion:

"It's just a play. We've been using [C/G] Will [Clapp] in some tight end-type situations. We put him on the field, but [T] Trey [Pipkins III] reported [as an eligible receiver]. It's something that a lot of people have been doing for a long time. More in the college space. We felt good about it going into it just with the way it played out. It was fun."

On how to decide to use the play call in a two-point situation as compared to a potential touchdown scenario:

"It's both ways. It can work in both scenarios. It was kind of a nice transition because we ended up getting the ball on the one. Kind of a lull in the action as they were kind of handling the penalty and all of the things that happened on the touchdown. We had some time just to orchestrate it and make sure everyone was coordinated. It worked well."

On if more teams will take a penalty on a touchdown at the one-yard line for a two-point conversion due this season due to the new kickoff rules:

"I think teams have done it a little bit the last few years. I know from my experience last year, we had a few opportunities in this situation where we took the one-yard line just because you can steal a two-point play. The numbers would tell you that you have a decent likelihood of converting on the one-yard line. I think it's a big opportunity to steal that extra point. Obviously, it impacted how we were able to get into overtime and have the game tied at the end, ultimately, by stealing that extra point."

On the rushing attack:

"It ultimately wasn't what we wanted. We want to be more efficient. They have certainly had a history of doing a really good job against the run. It's been that way for a long time against those guys. They're really well-coached, really sound. They have excellent talent up front. Would you like a little bit more? Absolutely, but we knew we weren't probably rushing for 200 against Tennessee. That's just not the way that thing was going to be structured."

On specific short-yardage run plays and the communication with Herbert on those plays:

"I think one of them was called and two of them, I kind of buzzed in. We just dawned on that look. Plays that we've run before, run plays based off of the look, giving ourselves the opportunity to run the ball in those situations. Potentially, have some solutions outside of it if they get into a muddy box, with your outlets. We feel good about the run opportunities. Unfortunately, they didn't work last week, but numbers tell you, third-and-two to three, those windows are really good opportunities, potentially, to steal some runs. We just weren't able to take advantage of them."

On 'buzzing in':

"Before it cuts off, you can communicate. We kind of play that game. We can play that game throughout the game, as well, just different situations."

On the ability to run effectively against the Vikings:

"Every game is going to be very different. You can watch their first game, the way it went against Tampa. I thought they stopped the run really, really well against Tampa. Tampa didn't have the day that Philly had, from a run perspective. Obviously, Philly is able to run the ball pretty well, but I don't think it's a tale that that thing is going to repeat itself. They're in the early phase of their defensive system being built out, so they'll have plenty of adjustments. What we saw against Philly, very well could be something else. We're aware of that."

On the challenges of facing Vikings Defensive Coordinator Brian Flores:

"Just the versatility of the defense, the variables. They do an excellent job of making you work on Sunday. There are going to be different things that show up that aren't on film from the first couple of weeks. The ability to kind of adapt and adjust throughout the game, I think, is huge for these guys because that's how it will be. There will be some challenge that will be presented to us that maybe we didn't have going into the game that could fall back from his Miami days of whatever it may be. They are going to give us an excellent challenge."

On 'what can be taken away from' the Chargers-Dolphins game from 2020:

"You blink a lot of football. There are slippery slopes to get yourself caught up in the games in 2019 and 2020, and even 2021. But, you do go down that road, just because there's only so much film that's there from this year. You're certainly aware of those things. You touch on just some of the things that potentially could come up. They'll probably do the same thing, as well, when you have common things, whether it's coaches or players, you're certainly going to watch those things just to just get a feel for it."

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR DERRICK ANSLEY

On the defense's performance against the Titans:

"We started fast, but didn't get the stops that we needed down the stretch and it kind of got away from us. I thought that the guys put some good things on tape. Competed. I thought that we battled against the run. A couple of plays on the back end that we wish that we could have back. But, I thought that there was a good vibe going into the game. I thought that we played hard. Definitely some things that we can learn from going forward."

On the level of confidence in the secondary:

"I don't think that there are any confidence issues. These guys have been playing together for two or three years now. We played together all training camp and practice together all of the time. There definitely aren't any confidence issues. We just have to go out there and perform and play together and make the plays that we're supposed to make."

On if the deep passes allowed against the Titans were 'technique versus leverage':

"Most of it was technique. Zont [CB Asante Samuel Jr.], he stayed in his back-pedal a little bit too long, he will tell you that. He has made those plays a thousand times. [CB] Mike [Davis], his is a game of inches. It's a matter of a split-second, getting it in there and getting it out, and it's a long foul ball. Football is a game of inches. Sometimes those inches go your way, and sometimes they don't. On those two plays, we didn't get it done."

On 'if there is a specific issue with the defense, in terms of preventing deep passes':

"No, I don't think there is any issue. I think that we have to do a better job of coaching them. It starts to me and making sure guys stay on top of routes. That's cardinal rule number one, keep the ball out of the deep part of the field, as a person that plays in the back end. I'm a secondary coach at heart, so it starts with me. We are going to continue to stress that. I think we'll learn from those mistakes and we'll get better from them."

On 'if there is a theme with the deep passes allowed':

"I think the theme is that we're not making more than we've giving up, that's really the biggest thing. We get to the point of making those plays that are able to be made, and we've made some, we just haven't made enough. We've given up more than we've made. When you talk about coaching them better, we have to attack the ball in practice. Guys work on the JUGS every day, getting their hands on footballs. Those things come in bunches, just like interceptions. Once you get your hands on them, they usually come in bunches."

On if there is 'frustration' from the defense:

"No, I don't get that sense at all. Not at all. We have the right people in our room. We'll bounce back. We'll be fine."

On the sack production against the Titans:

"Definitely good to see those guys, multiple guys, get into the backfield. We knew, going into the game — going into the year, really — that we had some guys that can win some one-on-one battles up there. Obviously, everybody knows about the edge guys, but [OLB] Tuli [Tuipulotu] has been a remarkable presence out there for us. I'm very proud of his development. [Outside Linebackers Coach] Giff Smith has done a really good job with him. [DL] Morgan Fox has been another guy that can rush at a high level inside. That group, working together with K9 [LB Khalil Mack], sprinkling in DJ [S Derwin James Jr.], it's a tough front on third down. We have to get him more third-down-and-mandibles, where we can rush the passer at high rate."

On Tuipulotu:

"He's tough. He's rugged. He plays football all day. He's low maintenance. He's a throwback-type guy. He loves contact and plays with a hot motor. Kind of a gym rat type of guy. If you tell him something one time, he's got it. He has definitely been a pleasant surprise for our defense."

On the 'importance of the turnover battle this week':

"Every week, the ball is the most important thing, that's why there's only one of them out there, and there are 11 people trying to protect it and 11 people trying to get it [*laughter*]. We have to do a really good job of protecting the offense, which I'm sure that we will, and we have to do a good job of going to get it on defense, whether that's taking it from them or getting it out of the air."

On Vikings WR Justin Jefferson:

"Justin [Jefferson] is very talented. He's a long guy. He has really good body control. He is limber, where his body can do things in the air that most people can't. It's going to be a really good challenge for us. We have a lot of respect for him and [Vikings QB] Kirk [Cousins] — and [Vikings WR Jordan] Addison, as well. They have a really good bunch over there so we have to do a really good job of doing our part and stopping them."

On the Vikings' acquisition of RB Cam Akers:

"Cam [Akers] is a good player. We know Cam from his time in the NFL, and I know from his time in high school. We recruited him when I was coaching at Alabama. He's a tough player. He was a high school quarterback. He runs hard, low to high, runs behind his pads. He's a really, really good piece for them to add over there. I'm sure they're glad to have him. We have to do a good job of respecting that and do a good job of stopping him."

On recruiting Akers and if he was 'high on him':

"We were. We had some other guys that we were recruiting, as well, so it kind of shook out where he went to Florida State and some other guys went some other places."