

DENVER BRONCOS

# POSTGAME QUOTES



3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS | 8 SUPER BOWL APPEARANCES | 10 AFC TITLE GAMES | 15 AFC WEST DIVISION TITLES | 22 PLAYOFF BERTHS | 29 WINNING SEASONS

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## **DENVER BRONCOS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS**

***Empower Field at Mile High • Jan. 8, 2023***

### **BRONCOS INTERIM HEAD COACH JERRY ROSBURG**

#### **Opening Statement**

“Thanks for being here. It's a beautiful day in Denver, Colorado. I just got done talking to the players and the coaches and the staff in the locker room. I'll just reiterate what I told them to all you as my opening statement. I'm really happy for them. I was hoping that we could come back to the center of that locker room and share the joy of a meaningful accomplishment and we did that. We came together, celebrating, we saw smiles, we saw hugs, and we saw an incredible display of unity. That's why you do this. Joy is hard to get because you have to work through something with one another. Figure out how you're going to get one another and then you get there and it's just a whole different thing. You're being fonder or being happy, it was just a beautiful thing. It's hard to describe the feelings I have for those guys.

“We gave out game balls to [RB] Latavius Murray for such a fabulous game. We gave a game ball to [WR] Jerry Jeudy, who was, as we saw, an explosive player. We gave a game ball to [Offensive Coordinator] Justin [Outten], who I'd be remiss [not] to. We gave a gaming ball to [Defensive Coordinator] Ejiro Evero and I forgot to give it to him so I'm going to apologize to him—on the way out of the locker room I'll give it to him tomorrow. Then [Defensive Special Teams Project] Bill Kollar who you all know is a legend around these parts—43 years in the NFL, these days ahead are somewhat uncertain, but [Defensive Special Teams Project] Coach [Bill] Kollar has commanded a great deal of respect around this nation as a great position coach. He deserves a shout out for that.

“That was a lot of fun in a small way. It kind of unraveled on us a little bit. We ran players in specific position and got us in a bad spot, but I thought the incredible fortitude of our team to come together when they had the ball inside our five-yard line and march it down the field at the fashion they did to kill the game was really indicative of a team that's got the guts to win. That's how you play winning football. I'm so impressed by those guys. So with that, all open it up to your questions.”

#### **On his feelings on his first NFL win as a head coach**

“It's only my first NFL win in that position, as you know. I felt the same, real frankly. I've had the same kind of feelings with other wins that I wasn't necessarily in that position. I think it's football that does that to you. Whatever your role is, you just try to do the best you can and contribute to a team victory. The fact that I wasn't calling plays on any side of the ball, and I was managing the game, I didn't feel like it was any different. I felt the same way, just felt great. So yes, is a significant thing for us? Yeah. For our family it's great. I honestly don't think that it felt any different because I've had a lot of great joyful moments with my teams before and that was one of them.”

**On what elements stood out to him about the team that looked like a winning team**

“In the last two weeks, I saw it coming in practice before our first game together at Kansas City. I saw a different—for lack of a better word—flavor. I saw a little more attention to detail and it wasn't because of me. I think that everybody just came to a point where they had seen enough and all these bad things happening. They took it upon themselves to change it. I saw it in Kansas City last week, and I saw us making a concerted effort to play together and play complementary football that happened all the way through the game. Due to some unfortunate circumstances, we didn't get the reward. I talked all week about these guys doing the same thing, only better and they did. They were physical. Our players were, you could see them rallying behind each other when a good play was made. You could see them defending themselves against the opponent when there was, you could say, a disagreement. So you can see that they have their hearts with one another. They were aligned properly. Then the style of football we play is the style that I believe is winning football. When you watch that, that's how you play winning football, with the exception of a couple special teams situations that were unfortunate, I guess. You run the ball; you have explosive plays. We talked about it last week. We didn't have enough explosive plays. and we did that today with the help of [WR] Jerry Jeudy and others. We continued to play great run defense, and I'm so impressed by [Defensive Coordinator] [Evero] Ejiro's defense. I know it was like 2.9 yards per carry. They were trying to run the ball and they couldn't. That puts us in such a better situation. That's winning football. The special teams still, we did some things well. Last week and this week--we ran out of players, put guys in tough spots, but we played together. That's what it looks like.”

**On if he received a game ball for his first head coaching win**

“Yeah, I did, but I didn't give it to myself. Mr. [Owner/CEO Greg] Penner came over and gave me a game ball and my family has it. It will be a serious memento as we go forward, I'm sure. It was great.”

**On what the game ball means to him**

“It means everything. Coaching is really a noble profession, I think, because you're working with young men and you're trying to guide them. You're working on a game that's difficult to play. It's all competitive and physically and tasking. You have to go through rough spots to get there and we did. So yes, I'm just so grateful. I've said this many times, but it's really not about me. I was happy to be a part of this group, and I really respect those men in that room.”

**On if he will be going back into retirement after this**

“[The dock] is in a very remote part of the world. It's a beautiful place. After we get to know each other, I may invite you there. AT this point in time, I'm going to keep the invitations to a minimum [laughs]. Well, we'll see. I'm showing up for work tomorrow and we will see what happens.”

**On if QB Russell Wilson is fixable**

“That whole narrative—we live in the world we live in today. I can make some comments about that, but I'll keep them to myself. I think we all understand that there's an overload of opinion out there that's masked. So when those things start snowballing then people just pile on. I think it would be good that everybody be careful not to judge. Look about you, we all have our issues. We do. So it's wisdom not to judge others. I think what you saw out there from [QB] Russell Wilson, is [QB] Russell [Wilson]. That's who he is. He is a [Pro Football] Hall of Fame NFL quarterback. Everything has to fit together for the quarterback to play winning football. I think you saw what it would look like if we got to that point. That's how I feel about [QB] Russell Wilson. He deserves to have his teammates stand up for him, and he got that, and I think that's a noble gesture by his teammates. It was demonstrated out there how they feel about him, too.”

**On if there was one thing, he set out to accomplish in these past two weeks and if he accomplished it**

“One thing? Well I think I've spoken previously, but I don't know if it's just one thing. I think maybe it is, let me just put it together and say it's a vision I have for how this game should be played. My experiences in this game are rich and the success that I've been able to experience has been with football teams that have had a shared understanding of what football looks like. I have a strong belief in a certain style of football and that's the style of football I like. I like to see us run the ball. I like to see us play physical, run defense and reject the run. I like to see us be patient. I like to see us hit big plays and get the ball in playmakers' hands. We were kind of on the road to that last week on offense. I think we have got down the road today with that style of offense, where it fits with the rest of the team. So I guess one word would be 'vision.' That fit my vision. It also fits my vision watching the players play. I hope you notice. Perhaps we all watch the ball, I understand that, but I hope you notice how these guys are supporting one another and sticking together on the side. The sideline behavior is so good. The communication with the coaches has been so good these last few weeks. I was in a different position and maybe it's not that much there—I think it is, personally—it's not because of me, it's because they saw the problems and they went about fixing them. In my view, words are so much of less valuable than actions. We have to help those behaviors. There's a result.”

**On what he will take away from this experience**

“Great, fond memories, great relationships. It's a relationship business, I believe. I've said this before with this group, I believe it's a relationship business but it's not just a relationship business, it's our job as coaches to guide players down two tracks. One is to help them be better players and men and succeed in their life and their own vision of their life. The second part is that the relationship builds as a result of that. I've been blessed with great relationships for so many years. I have so many steadfast, lifelong relationships because of this game. The things we did together. That's what I'm going to take from here on. I have made some strong bonds in my short time here. But you never know.”

**On what statement WR Jerry Jeudy has made in the kind of wide receiver he can be**

“The statement he made is the performance you see out there. [WR] Jerry [Jeudy] made a statement verbally in support of [QB] Russell Wilson, and that was profound. I also think—you just watched the guy play. I'm so impressed by his abilities and he's still growing. I saw a much more physical [WR] Jerry Jeudy so it's a good thing. It's a physical game, and he's got the ability. He is a great player.”

**On if there was an opportunity if he would like to return to with the Broncos**

“That's a really good question. This has been a great experience, you have great people here. So we don't know what the future holds. But I think it's also a good segue for me to just talk about this whole experience, perhaps in a broader scheme—broader scope. This has been an unlikely series of events. We kind of shake our heads, right? Who would have thought? I'm still trying to figure out where it is and what it is. Really frankly, I think there's something bigger at work here. All the things that happen from young [Bills S] Damar Hamlin this week and how the NFL came together in such a profound way and held hands and reached out. I am working with these talented men, both the coaches and players. It's been something that I see things a little bit differently than I did when I was on the dock to your question. There are many things that I still have to figure out. That's where the determinant is. It's hard to figure out, it's kind of a mystery. Like, why were you here? When I told the story in front of them when I was talking about the whole events last Monday night. I said, maybe this is why I'm here. To try to help explain this to you because I've spent a good three months sitting in my pole barn trying to contemplate life and maybe I have something I can offer. I tend to seek this mystery to its manifestation. I don't know what it's going to be, but I'm not going to ignore it. Certainly, I'm not going to just cut and run. My other work is very important to your question. I care greatly about these players and their current health and their health after they play. So that's not going to go away. I think I must tend to this first. I really mean that. In a team meeting on Wednesday, when we were dealing with [Bills S] Damar [Hamlin], I told the players that we have to figure it out together. I say the same thing to you all today. I guess I'm not sure why I'm standing up here. You couldn't write this story and make it believable, but here I am. So I aim to find out what it's all about. Thank you for listening to me over these last few weeks. You have my sincere wishes for very blessed 2023. I thank you for coming out today and to all the Broncos fans and supporters out there, it was a great experience. So we'll see.”

## **BRONCOS QUARTERBACK RUSSELL WILSON**

### **On how he felt over the last few games compared to the start of the season**

"I think what was great is for guys to keep fighting. In the midst of everything that [has] gone on this year, we were able to keep fighting together. When you have your teammates fighting for you—everybody is fighting for each other [and] battling until the last play of every game. It's worth fighting for. I think also too, what was really great is over the past several weeks, we started creating an identity. I even go back to the first [Kansas City] Chiefs game when we were kind of behind. We're really starting to catching fire. That was really good for us. We had one game in there that wasn't our best. I think from there we stayed together, stayed connected. We stayed connected and believed in one another. Guys were just making plays. I thought [WR] Jerry Jeudy was special this game and also all year. To see [WR] Courtland Sutton get in the end zone. To see [RB] Latavius [Murray], just how special he was since he's come on our football team, just how physical and dominant he was. [RB] Chase Edmonds getting the football. I think the [offensive] line did a tremendous job battling the past two weeks in particular, especially against a very good front in the Chiefs last week. A very good front this week. I thought those guys gave us a chance. We kept having fun – kept battling. When you have a great defense like that—those guys [were] making plays all year. It's unfortunate we weren't able to catch that identity early on. I felt that we did a really good job.

"[Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks] Coach [Klint] Kubiak and [Offensive Coordinator] Coach [Justin] Outten did a really good job of bringing us all together. There are some amazing guys on that staff. [Offensive Quality Control] Coach [Zack] Grossi, a guy who puts all of his time in. 'Coach Z' (Wide Receivers Coach Zack Azzanni) coaches up those receivers every day. The guys behind the scenes: [Coaching Fellow] Mateo [Kambui] and [Offensive Quality Control Coach Ramon] Chinyoung. All [of] those guys man, just everybody. The tight end's coach, the running backs coach—just everybody puts so much into it. It's unfortunate that were obviously not continuing on after tonight. I really believe that season 12 for me and next season, Year 2 here, begins tomorrow morning, at 5:30 in the morning, that's what we're going to do. I'm excited about it.

"I'm excited about just these guys. I'm excited about the guys that weren't on the field tonight. The guys that were on the field tonight that were battling with us all year round even if they were injured. Guys like [RB] Javonte Williams, guys like [WR] Tim Patrick—what a great leader. Guys like [DT] Dre'Mont Jones, [DT] D.J. Jones. [There are] so many great players that are on that sideline that we know when we get that nucleus back out there, how special can we be—guys like [T Garrett] Bolles, a dominant left tackle. He was one of the reasons that once I got here, I was super excited to play here just because of him. Guys like [G Dalton] Risner who fought all year with injuries. [There are] a lot of great men on this team, high-character guys. For most people, when adversity hits, they run from it. They get scared of it. They shy away from it, the work of it all. When adversity hits, they don't want to confront it. These guys in this locker room have been really special. They've confronted it all. We've all confronted it together. We've all battled together. We've all kept fighting together. That's what Broncos Country deserves—us laying it on the line every play. No matter what the situation is. No matter what the season looks like at our highest moments and our lowest moments. I'm excited. It was fun to win. I love winning. There's nothing I love more than winning. We're going to do a lot more winning coming up here in the near future. It takes a lot of determination, a lot of dedication, a lot of clarity, a lot of work ethic. I'm excited about where we're headed."

**On what the offseason will look like for him**

“This is coming up on Year 12 [in the NFL] and I believe in consistency, being consistent in your habits and work ethic, in what you do. Every day is thought out, planned out, every day, the diligence of that. Every year you always evolve and you're always trying to learn different things. This season has been a really humbling year, it's been a challenging year. But it's been a year of tremendous joy. It's been a year of tremendous joy because of the guys I have gotten to play with—the work ethic that they've put in. The early mornings in San Diego when those guys came out and just put all work in, all that hard work. The early mornings in the shed and the walkthroughs, just our player-run walk-throughs to the DB Dinner we had the other night. That was fun. Just laughing about basketball and who the greatest players are, to just the joy of practice every day. This game, as we know, doesn't last forever. As we saw with [Bills S] Damar [Hamlin] the other night, it can be gone just like that. To be able to find that passion and joy every day—in the offseason, during the regular season, and in the playoffs—[is] all that matters. I'm excited about being able to spend time with those guys, continuing to work on what we've worked on and where we've gone especially over the past several weeks. Guys will have downtime, especially coming up over the next couple of weeks when we're traveling and moving – all that stuff. Going back home, whatever it may be. We'll get right back to it and I'm excited to work again with those guys because I know there's so much growth, there's so much potential.

“I think about the young guys. I think about the guys like [WR] Brandon Johnson. I know he had a tough day tonight, but he's made some great plays for us, guys like [WR Jalen] Virgil, guys like [TE Greg] Dulcich. How great are these young players that are going to be really up-and-coming and magnificent for us? We have a great football team. I think it didn't show up this year. There's been a lot of challenges, a lot of injuries. There's been a lot of tough times. There's been a lot of changes. I know that ownership and [General Manager] George [Paton] will do a tremendous job of making sure that we put the best football team out on that field next year and also with a new head coach situation, they'll find a great head coach.”

**On what he expects from himself moving forward**

“Same thing I always expect, and that's to win. I think every year lace up the cleats and tie them up to be your best and this year was not that, but I know how much hard work we put into it and we're going to all put it together. I'm looking forward to it. I'm looking forward to overcoming; I'm looking forward to obstacles; I'm looking forward to the adversity that we've had and learning from it all and knowing where we're going. The chemistry that we were able to develop me and [WR] Jerry [Jeudy] and [WR] Courtland [Sutton] and [TE Greg] Dulcich and different guys, young guys—it's going to pay off and everything doesn't always happen overnight, I know that, but I know when it takes a lot of a lot effort. I know what it looks like, too. I know that we're going to make sure that we do everything we can to bring that back to Broncos Country here. We're going to do everything we can to make sure that we get back on the hot winning streak and win some championships here and that's what I came here for is to be a part of that and for us to all do it together, and we're going to make sure that happens.”

**On how he self-evaluates himself**

“Every year you dive into the details. You watch the games again, you study what went right, what could have gone better, and then what do you want to keep working on you know every year, and then I'll do a deep film study and examine every little detail. I think the biggest thing though is understanding that throughout all those successes and all the tough times too, you've got to trust yourself, you've got to understand that your process is your process, and also understand that there's always growth in every little thing and nobody wants to be great other than me. Every day I wake up, that's all I think about, and the season hasn't been that. It's been challenging. I think in every high moment, you understand that there may be some lows along the way I've said this to you guys before but if you want to climb a mountain, you've got to be willing to fall some. You've got to be able to keep climbing and I think that's what this football team is willing to do, that's what I'm willing to do, and we're going to keep climbing.”

**On if he is fixable and how he thinks he needs to improve**

"I've asked myself that same question, where is he at? I think that it's been a journey. It's a lot of new. It's a lot of change; a lot of obstacles, and everything else you need to try and to find that magic within every game, every play, every moment. Sometimes you've got to keep searching for it and keep working at it and keep building it and understanding that everything works together. I know that I feel like I fell short of my own standards and my own level of expectations, what I know how to do and how I love to do it. I just want to recapture that. I think that when you're going through a tough time and think anything in life and you're going through challenging moments and adversity—whether it's family relationally whether it's career-wise, football-wise, obviously—you want to find the magic and recapture that. I felt like over the past few weeks we found that again and so today it was good and it's fun, and that's what we all want. I think that it's because of those guys. It's because of their work ethic, their diligence, their focus, a tough time and it's easy to check out for a lot of guys and most people, and we didn't. I didn't get to give enough credit to [Interim Head Coach Jerry] Rosburg, but I think he did a tremendous job of bringing us together in a tough time. I think his experience of coaching this game and being such a wise soul and guy who has won a championship before, going to championship events at the highest level—there's a feeling, there's a moment, there's an experience there to winning and the experience of winning the Super Bowl and what that feels like. He's one of the coaches who have done it and there are only so many people in the world that have experienced that and to be able to take that experience, take that knowledge, take that wisdom, and to be able to spread it out across our team in a really tough time, I thought he did a tremendous job of bringing us together and making sure we understood the identity that we needed to play with. That was together, that was physical, that was explosive, too at the same time, and also have fun while doing it. He did a tremendous job with that."

**On what Broncos Country can expect from him next year**

"Hopefully, a lot of wins and get back to what we know how to do. I think that what I'm excited about is what I came here to do is to win championships. This year didn't happen and every year you go into hoping that's the case. I've been fortunate to be at the highest level sometimes but sometimes you go through tough times, too. I know that with the diligence that we're going to put into it together, what I'm going to give to this every single day, and then the excitement of it all here and with new changes and everything else, we're going to continue to grow together. I'm excited about these guys I get to play with and who we have coming back too, that's a big deal. We've got some superstars [RB] Javonte Williams and [WR] Tim Patrick and [OT] Garrett Bolles coming back. That's a big deal and I'm excited about that. That's what we're looking forward to, putting on a show next year and hopefully winning some Super Bowls. We've got to take one day at a time. I learned a long time ago that. You have to take one day at a time and understand that it's all these little beautiful little pieces along the way. Moments like tonight, to be able to celebrate together in the locker room again. Moments like tonight to be down and come back and make an explosive play and [WR] Jerry [Jeudy] to get in the deep route and [CB] Pat Surtain [II] making the great play. All those little moments, all those little obstacles along the way that builds your character, they build who you are. I'm excited to get back out here and play in front of our amazing fans. The fans helped us out so much tonight. The energy they brought, how they cheered us on, how they rooted for us throughout the whole game, how they've been with us all year, that was a difference maker so I'm excited about that, too."

## **On if he has given any input to Owner/CEO Greg Penner and General Manager George Paton and what he thinks of candidates Sean Payton and Jim Harbaugh**

"I think, first of all, we have a great ownership group. Obviously, we have some amazing, wise people. [Owner/CEO] Greg [Penner] and [Owner] Carrie [Walton Penner], [Owner] Mr. Walton himself, Rob, and obviously [Owner] Condoleezza's [Rice] a brilliant mind, [Owner] Mellody [Hobson], [Owner] Lewis [Hamilton]. We've got some amazing people at the forefront of this change and this moment here, and it's got this moment is a critical moment for us all because it's going to uplift the change and hopefully all of Broncos Country for a long time. That's what we want, we want a lot of winnings. We want some Super Bowls and championships and obviously, this decision affects so many people and so many of us all in a beautiful way. Hopefully, that's the case. What I do know is they're going to do their due diligence on some amazing coaches.

"You mentioned [former New Orleans Saints Head Coach] Sean Payton. I've been around Sean, obviously at the Pro Bowl. I've been around him across the league and I've played against them quite a bit. He's one of the world's best, obviously, a guy who has coached a [New Orleans Saints] Hall of Fame quarterback in Drew Brees, who was one of my closest friends and the guy that got to know across the league and so many other great players. He's competitive as can be, he's a winner and obviously won a Super Bowl, and then at the highest level, I was able to be around him at the Pro Bowl and just the wizardry that you would have on the field was just magnificent. It was just spectacular just being around him and just [Saints RB] Alvin Kamara, myself, [Saints WR] Michael Thomas, just these guys, we were just talking about ball and just how you saw the game. He's competitive as can be and he knows how to push guys at the ultimate level. [University of Michigan Head Coach] Jim Harbaugh, obviously I played against him early in my career when I was in Seattle and he was with the 49ers. I don't know him personally as much as well but obviously, he's a great coach, he's done a lot of winning, too. There are a lot of great people and people talk about [Cowboys Defensive Coordinator] Dan Quinn, I know him personally, too. He's an amazing coach as well, an amazing person, an amazing soul, great leader but I know 'Coach E's' (Defensive Coordinator Ejiro Evero) in here, too so there are some great candidates. I think that the great thing is we had the right people leading us. Obviously [Owner/CEO] Greg [Penner] I know he's helped lead the way and [General Manager] George [Paton]. He's one of the best GMs in the game so grateful just to be here, grateful to be with these guys in this locker room and grateful to see what happens."

## **On responding to critics after a disappointing season**

"First of all, in terms of criticism, when you want to be at the highest level, I think you have to be able to take all of the criticism. You have to be willing to take the praise. You have to be able to take the criticism, too. If anyone is the biggest critic of myself, it is me. It was not a very good year, but there has also been some good times. Knowing that truth, knowing that when you give it everything you have every day that is all you can get. You can't give it any more than 100. I try to give 100 every day. I think the other part of it—you figure out who your friends are. There are some guys who've had my back in so many different ways. We have been able to sit down, have dinner and talk or whatever else it may be, maybe talking family or life outside of football, that we get to connect on. They have helped me out and vice versa. I think that part of winning is that you get all the praise a lot of times, part of losing is they shoot you down. You expect it, and I understand it. I also know that, for me, I always want to put God first and just try to love the fullest even if it is hard. Even when it is the tougher times to be able to do that. I love these guys in this locker room, what they have done this year and how they battled, who they are as men. We got a special group of guys that we are super close with. Guys like [S] Justin Simmons and [RB] Latavius Murray who have been big shoulders to lean on. [WR] Jerry Jeudy, [WR] Courtland Sutton, [WR] Tim Patrick, [WR] KJ Hamler and [T] Garrett Bolles. Guys I can count on like [G Dalton] Risner and our little prayer group we have every Wednesday and Friday. Those have meant a lot to me. Also just being able to talk to [CB] P.J. [Locke] and laugh a little bit every once in a while. There are some guys that are so connected. You know it is true and you know it is the truth. You deal with the outside noise, but you just try to stay consistent with who you are going to be and who you are and don't waiver."

**On how the negatives motivate you moving forward**

"I think you are always motivated. You are always trying to evolve and be the best version of you every day. All you can control is trying to be the best you every day you wake up. No matter what you do in life, trying to find the best you mentally, health-wise, physically, relationally, husband-wise and being a father. Try to be the best you every day. That is what I am focused on.

"My motivation is winning. My motivation is helping this football team win. That is what I came here to do—to help the Denver Broncos win. We are going to do that. We are going to turn this thing around. I am excited about that. I am excited about the work that we are going to put in. I think that is really key, too. You have to understand that everything you desire and want is not going to come right away. It does not happen right away every time. I have been fortunate that a lot of things happened in my first 10 years pretty much right away. As hard as this season has been, it has been one of the most rewarding seasons. One of the most rewarding seasons because of change and being here with these guys. I had an amazing first 10 years with some amazing people. There are some amazing people that I am still forever close to. To be able to come to a new organization and to be around some of the most amazing men and women in the facility that you get to be around. I think about [Lead Chef] Wendy [Jaramillo] every day. You walk in the cafeteria, and she lights up every day. I think about [Culinary Team member] Brandi [Williams-Beck]. These people that may not be seen from the forefront or be written about every day. Those people put a smile on your face, keep you going and keep you motivated in every way. I do not need any extra motivation, but it did light a fire a little bit. So I am excited about that."

**On what qualities Interim Head Coach Rosburg showed in the interim role**

"First of all, I think the thing that [Interim Head] Coach [Jerry] Rosburg really showed is his experience at winning and experience winning at the highest level by winning a Super Bowl. As I said earlier, only so many people get to do that. That goes a long way. To know what that looks like, sounds like, smells like, talks like and all that, and I think all of that has been awesome to watch, experience, listen to and to be able to evolve as a team. I think the assistant coaches did a great job of rallying together and challenging us every day. I think what we were able to do as players is take on that charge and take on that challenge and be the best version of us for the last two weeks. We wish we had won that game in Kansas City. It was tough that we did not win. We felt like we were going to win it. To be able to come back this week, play in front of the world's best fans and to be in front of them screaming as loud as possible was really special tonight. We were grateful for that, and it meant a lot. It makes it all that much more worthwhile to be able to end with a bang. In terms of the next head coaches, I think No. 1 you want somebody that can lead a group of men to be the best versions of themselves every day. At the same time, teach us to be the best football players we can be. They need to challenge us to be the best, show us what winning looks like and to understand what that means. At the same time, have a blast while doing it and making all of us players rise to the level that we know how to rise to and what we expect to. There are some great people who have done it at the highest level, and we are excited to see where that takes us."



### **On Bills S Damar Hamlin**

“Every time we strap on the cleats, put our pads and helmets on, there are a few things we think about. No. 1, sometimes it is faith; sometimes it is our family, our kids, mom and dad, whoever it may be, maybe they’re gone. I always think about my wife, Ciara. I think about my mom, my kids, my family, I think about my dad who is no longer here. I think about my teammates. Every time you put those on, you are fighting for something great for them. I think watching [Bills S] Damar [Hamlin] get hit the other night, seeing him take that hit and seeing him drop to the ground and those first [few] minutes the world stopped. The world stopped in such a way that we wondered sometimes as players and athletes, is this worth fighting for sometimes? Some guys I am sure asked.

“You also ask yourself, could that have been me yesterday? Could that have been me last week? Is that going to be me next week? That goes through your head as a player. I think what was really amazing though was seeing everybody drop down to a knee and pray together. Just to have a little glimpse of hope that maybe within the next 30 seconds, next minute, next five minutes—next thing you know it is an hour later and maybe there is a glimpse of hope that he can overcome this. I think that what we showed is that when we come together and pray together we get to be all difference races, all difference sizes, all difference socio-economic statuses, all different types of fans, from Bengals fans to Bills fans to Broncos fans or maybe even people who aren’t football fans. To be able to come together and to work together for unity. That means something. That is where change happens. We always say we want to see change, and we want our communities to change and evolve. That was a glimpse of what we are able and capable of doing together if we all do it together. That right there was worth praying for, that was worth fighting for. I know [Bills S] Damar [Hamlin] is super grateful and so many other people—us as players too.

“Just to be able to walk out on that field today, come together and meet on the hash marks for Damar. Me and [Chargers S] Derwin [James Jr.], No. 3’s, being able to drop down and pray right in the center of it all. That is what life is about, to be able to come together. Not apart. Together. That was a great glimpse of that. I think that in this game you have to have adversity tolerance. Knowing that there are going to be highs and there are going to be lows; there are going to be challenges; there is going to be adversity in life and there are going to be things that we all deal with. But hopefully that glimpse of what we experienced on the field today, to be able to pray for Damar as Broncos and Chargers and fans, that adversity when we are able to go through it together makes it that much easier and better. It is well worth fighting for. I am grateful. I am grateful for all of you guys, and girls and women, in here that have helped along the way this year and been a critical part. I know this has been a tough season, but I cannot wait for next year. I cannot wait for where we are going and where we are headed. There are going to be a lot of changes and a lot of obstacles but some good things too. I am looking forward to it all. I am just grateful for this community for taking me in as just a kid that wants to dream, wants to keep winning, and wants to do it at the highest level. I am just gratefully for this community, everybody here and all Broncos fans. What a blessing it is to play for you every day. We are going to turn this thing around. I am excited about it. It starts with me, and it starts with all of us together. I am looking forward to it. I am looking forward to winning. I am looking forward to winning here and what we are capable of. That is what we came here to do and that is what we are going to do.”

## **BRONCOS LINEBACKER BARON BROWNING**

### **On what tonight’s win means for the team**

“It’s good for our confidence, just to have a little momentum in the offseason to build off of. We had a lot of games this year where it was close, and we just couldn’t get over the hump. So to finally have a complete game as a team and get a win in a close game against a good team like the Chargers means a lot.”

### **On the mood in the locker room after the game**

“I think it is mostly just embracing each other’s presence. I feel like with [Buffalo Bills S] Damar Hamlin and his situation, it just goes to show you that anything can happen and just continue to play for one another. I think that was our message all year. Through the ups and downs, we just continued to play for one another, even when one side might not have been playing up to par and vice-versa. We had some instances where we didn’t play our best ball, but we just stayed together. We never pointed the finger. We stayed together as a team cohesively.”

### **On possibly having momentum heading into the offseason and next season**

“Absolutely, I feel that way. Who knows what is going to happen with which coach will be here next year—but I think as far as the team collectively and the guys that you know are going to be back here, I think we have some great momentum. Just got to keep building off of it and stay together as a team.”

### **On Interim Head Coach Jerry Rosburg’s message the last two weeks.**

“I feel like he built off the same message that [former Head] Coach [Nathaniel] Hackett had for us—playing for each other, don’t waver or point the finger, stay together as a team. I think the biggest thing that he kept preaching to us was playing complimentary football. You get a turnover on defense, capitalize on offense to score it. I think the last two weeks we did a great job of that, playing complimentary football. I think the good teams that win games, they do that every day—play complimentary football. So for us, we have some good momentum to build off and try and do it more often next year, play complimentary football.”

## **BRONCOS GUARD GRAHAM GLASGOW**

### **On what clicked offensively the last two games**

“It felt good to win, especially the way that we won. I mean, that is a playoff team. We ended up beating three playoff teams this year. It feels good. It feels like this was how all the other games were supposed to go. It feels good to get one. It does not change the overall outlook of the season. There is not a big difference between 4-13 and 5-12, at least not in my book. But it feels good to see what could be.”

### **On offensive rhythm over the last two games**

“We played two good teams really well. One we came out with a close loss, and we came out today with a close win. I feel like if we can bring that into next season that things should be super good.”

## **BRONCOS SAFETY KAREEM JACKSON**

### **On what he is most proud of with the team**

“I guess just how we worked every week. The season didn’t go the way we wanted it to. It’s been going that way for a while, but the guys in this locker room—we still came to work every day. I feel like we still competed on Sundays. We had what, eight or nine one-score losses? I mean, there’s no moral victories in this game, you win or you lose, but at the same time to be able to come every day with this group of guys, it’s definitely an honor. We had a lot of leadership, a lot of guys in the locker room with a lot of fight. So I’m the most proud of that, just the way we worked every day.”

### **On what he’ll remember from this season**

“Just the group of guys. Every year is different, every team is different, so being able to create some relationships with these guys this year, you know, the younger guys to all of the veterans, I’ll definitely remember that. For me, it’s all about relationships. Regardless how the season went, 10 years down the line, I’m still going to have these same relationships with these guys, friends. You know, me and [S] Justin [Simmons] have a unique relationship—we’re more so like brothers. Like I said, the season didn’t go the way we wanted it to, but for me, it’s all about relationships. Obviously connecting with the young guys like ‘J-Mac’ (CB Ja’Quan McMillian), and for him to come in and play the way he did tonight, it was unbelievable. It’s all about relationships for me.”

### **On how close the team is to turning things around for the future**

“Very close. Like I said, we had eight or nine one-score games. Go back and look at those types of games, it’s one or two plays here or there. So I would say they got a great core group here and a talented group. Obviously, moving forward, just got to find ways to make those plays. I think there are quite a few guys that are coming back. I guess in the offseason, how do we make those plays? How can we get over that hump? So instead of losing those one-score games, we’re winning them. That is what football is about. You can look across the league, it is very seldom blowouts or things like that. So it’s all about finding those one or two plays.”

## **BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER JERRY JEUDY**

### **On being more physical this past month**

“The biggest thing is just consistency. Just getting consistent opportunities - I was just taking advantage of opportunities and I did get the ball. I just wanted to be able to make a play every chance I got so I feel like that is a mixture of physicality and just wanting to score. I just want to be able to bring that spark to the offense.”

### **On selecting one thing offensively that led to consistent success**

“I just feel like everybody was just executing, finding their problems and doing their jobs. Once we got that going, everything just started rolling. So I felt like that was the biggest thing, just in these past two games, scoring these points and just everybody doing their job and executing on a high level. I feel like that was what we did these last two games.”

### **On if he made a statement today going into a very important career year**

“I hope so.”

### **On his faith in QB Russell Wilson**

“I saw a side of ‘Russ’ (QB Russell Wilson) that didn't give up, even though we didn't have the season that we wanted to, he just stayed throughout the course of the year. You know, he just never gave up, never put his head down. He just kept his head up and kept grinding and kept playing, and we just finished strong how we wanted to.”

## **BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER JOSEY JEWELL**

### **On ending the season with a win**

“It's phenomenal to end it with a win. We played pretty well and there are a lot of things to build on for next year and some positives that we saw through the year. We're just going to start fast next year.”

### **On younger defensive players such as CB Ja'Quan McMillian being able to play today**

“It's awesome. He played really well today and should have had that pick—they want to review that one more time. It's awesome to see those guys who haven't been playing a bunch go out there and then kill it the first time. I expect big things from them next [season].”

### **On Interim Head Coach Jerry Rosburg**

“He's a good old-school coach. He's been around long enough so he knows a lot of ins-and-outs and is fun to play for. He understands the game. I love the insight that he brings so it was awesome.”

### **On what made Interim Head Coach Jerry Rosburg fun to play for**

“After you have some good plays or after you have a good game, he's all about it but again, he's still correcting the minor things. So still being able to keep us up but still correct us and not throw people under the bus or anything like that, just keep them high and positive about their future.”

## **BRONCOS CORNERBACK JA'QUAN MCMILLIAN**

### **On the near interception**

“I most definitely had it. It looked like I clearly had my hands under the ball, but it was ruled differently, and it is what it is. I have all next year to do it. I thought for sure I had it. I even thought I had the touchdown for a second, but they overturned it. It is what it is.”

### **On having this type of game to end the season**

“It means everything. It boosted my confidence even more going into the offseason. I am trying to get better, keep progressing and keep learning from the older guys and the coaches. I am just grateful for the opportunity.”

### **On making an impact in today's game**

"It felt great. I was on the practice squad the whole year. I just kept working and kept learning from the older guys. I paid attention in meetings. I never veered away from what we were doing in the meeting room and on the field. I just stayed the course and it felt great to come out here and show what I can do."

## **BRONCOS GUARD/CENTER QUINN MEINERZ**

### **On what clicked offensively the last two games**

"I think we played really good complimentary football with running the ball, play action and running some keepers and stuff like that. Everyone was making plays and it really started to come together."

### **On playing to win the game**

"Obviously, there are a lot of things that we cannot control going into next season as players. One thing that we can recognize is that there were good things we were able to do. Next year when we come back in, this game will serve as a reminder of what we are capable of as an offense and as a team."

### **On what type of team the Broncos are moving forward**

"I think we are a hard-nosed team. We do not care what the score is or what the situation is. We are going to battle our freaking butts off. You saw that a little bit when we played the Chiefs for the first time, and we were down 27-0. We do not flinch, and we do not blink. We are going to keep fighting no matter what. I think that is the definition of what it means to be a Bronco."

## **BRONCOS RUNNING BACK LATAVIUS MURRAY**

### **On surprise that the Chargers played their starters for so long**

"Yeah, we never, talked about that going into it. So, we were prepared for their starters to play, and our mindset was to go in there and get a win."

### **On starting on the practice squad and finishing strong**

"Yes, it was good to win. It always feels good to win. That's why we do it. That's why we practice during the week. That's what we're here for, and so, definitely felt good to finish it off the right way. I think for all of us, look, this team won't be the same, but finishing off on a positive note is always what you want."

### **On what this opportunity has meant and having football left in him**

"Yeah, yeah, I do. The opportunity has been everything. Again, I can't put into words, there was a lot of doubt, a lot of uncertainty, I just was hoping that I would get an opportunity. I knew that, if it's an injury or whatever the case may be, I may get an opportunity, I just didn't know when and where that was going to be. So, for me to start this year on practice squad and just think I guess for anybody, just believe in yourself and don't be discouraged and I think what's meant to be will be."

### **On if he had doubt**

"Oh, 100 percent. At the end of last year, I finished off with Baltimore and I thought there was a possibility I would be back there and then the offseason starts and free agency opens up and guys are getting signed. No call and then training camp beginning and you're hoping for an opportunity there and again, no call. So yeah, there was doubt. You know, but just grateful for the opportunity. Glad I stayed patient, glad I stayed in shape, and was ready for an opportunity."

### **On what advice he would give Wilson for longevity in the offseason**

"Advice I can give? I mean, like I said for me, I've kind of just paid attention to my body, made sure I'm aware of how I'm feeling. And so, again, I think in the offseason, work, right, you can't, can't go around it, you can't get around it. You got to put the work in in the offseason. And then, taking care of your body still in the offseason when you're doing all that training. You know, making sure you're smart about that. And then during the season, same thing, paying attention to your body during the week, practice, work, weight room work. Just keep stacking those days. So that's all I can say that is what I try to do and I'm just grateful to be able to play still, at this age. I feel good, I feel good like this, and I think I still got some more left. So very grateful."

## **BRONCOS DEFENSIVE LINEMAN MIKE PURCELL**

### **On surprising a 30-year Air Force veteran with Super Bowl tickets**

“That is a life-changing experience. Someone of his stature and what he has done to serve. He is just one of many. There are so many we can sit here and list off. Hats off to all of them. It is nice to take some of the spotlight and put it on them. There was a lot I read about him. He is a cool guy.”

### **On playing to win the game**

“It is a lot easier said than done, especially in this league. You want to come in and win every week. Every other locker room is just like this locker room. It is a lot easier said than done, but at least you get to end the season on a good note.”

### **On the upcoming head coaching search**

“All of that is out of my control. Obviously, we want to turn things around. It was another tough year. There were things that were out of everyone’s control. It was just an unfortunate situation and an unfortunate year. I think that our owners are going to take a deep look into this coaching search, and it is all up to them.”

## **BRONCOS SAFETY JUSTIN SIMMONS**

### **On the season being over**

“Yeah, it’s tough. I’m actually going to have to really think about it. I think it felt great to win. I think ending the season on a positive was a big objective for us, but it still doesn’t take away that the season was tough and it was hard. Obviously not something that any of us wanted, players, coaches, fans. It was tough, but glad that we won, glad that we ended on a positive, and I know we’re heading in the right direction. So, I’m really excited about that, and I’m excited to get back to winning. Next year at this point in time, we’ll be talking about who we will be facing in the first round of the playoffs.”

### **On WR Jerry Jeudy’s recent play**

“It was really cool to see him step into that. I know I talked a lot about it in the preseason and OTAs, camp, and going against him all the time. Jerry is just showing everyone what we already knew. He is a tremendous talent and just watching him go out there and play his tail off for the guys. This game (today), win or lose, has really no bearing on anything. So, I think it was really cool to see a bunch of guys go out there and give it their all. Obviously, you get paid to go out there and go play the game, one last game, but still it was really cool to see. So, Jerry and the guys on offense, I thought they did a heck of a job. Defensively, answered the bell a few times that we needed to. Just proud of the guys, and Jerry especially and just how we answered adversity.”

### **On playing good games against playoff teams**

“That’s for sure. I’m just thinking off the top of my head, 10-9 loss at Baltimore. Granted, [Ravens QB] Lamar [Jackson] went out early, but that’s a playoff team right there. Both games against Kansas City, down to the wire, just couldn’t find ways to finish those. I think they’re the No. 1 seed. And obviously played the Chargers earlier on in the year in overtime and had them on the ropes there. I said the thing for us is that we just have to find ways to close out games. Things got a little sloppy today, but we ultimately found a way to close it out and get a win. I know they pulled a few starters there, but for us to go out there and find a way to win and end a season on a positive note, I feel that was important for not only us, who put so much work into it, but for the fans as well, who deserve it. The season wasn’t what we all wanted, but it ended on a positive for all of us there.”

### **On what Interim Head Coach Jerry Rosburg brought to the team**

"I thought [Interim Head Coach] Jerry [Rosburg] did a really good job of being a really strong placeholder. I thought when he came in, he made it very clear our objective. For us, it was we're not going to roll over and just glide through these next few weeks, but really focus at competing at a high level and closing out these last few games with a win. Obviously, we got one of the two (games) done. Like I said, the KC one came down to those five or six plays that we always talk about. We just didn't make those plays. I thought he did a great job of rounding the guys and leading them. I also think it was a great job by the leaders. I think offense, defense, special teams, having those guys lock in and really focus. It's just a great locker room too. I talk about it all the time, it's a great make up of guys in there, and it means a lot to a lot of them. Like I said, I'm just happy that we're able to close it out the right way. It's way better to come up here with the season that we had with a win than a loss. So I'm appreciative of those guys and those coaches because it's not easy."

### **On Defensive Coordinator Ejiro Evero possibly being back in any capacity next season**

"Selfishly, I would love to be with Coach 'E' (Defensive Coordinator Ejiro Evero). Whatever that looks like, head coach, back as D-coordinator again. Selfishly, I would love to be with him. He's helped my game so much this year. You always learn—just when you think you know a good amount, you always learn so much more from a new mind and a new set of eyes and the way that he coaches and the way that affects coaches, the assistant coaches around the defensive room. I'm just so thankful for him and his leadership. I've learned so much from him, both on and off the field. Selflessly, I would really hope he gets that job (as a head coach). Obviously, it would be great if it was here, but for him to get that opportunity somewhere, I think he is more than deserving of it. He is just a tremendous leader. I could be up here for hours just talking about how amazing of a coach and a man he is. I'm just really appreciative of him and he deserves it."

## **BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER ALEX SINGLETON**

### **On leading the team in tackles during the season**

"I mean, it's cool. It's definitely something that would be cool in the future. I would rather have a lot more wins obviously, that would have been better, but it's nice. Nice to have, but it would probably be more (meaningful) when I'm older."

### **On what was learned about the team this year**

"I loved every second here. I think we've said it at least in our room the last couple of days as the season is ending, you know, playing for Coach 'E' (Defensive Coordinator Ejiro Evero) and with our guys in our room. Starts with our coach, and you know, obviously [ILB] Josey [Jewell], [ILB] Justin [Strnad], [ILB] Jonas [Griffith]—it's been the best year of my career. I've enjoyed every minute of it. It wasn't the [amount of] wins we wanted, but we had a lot of fun."

### **On getting a win for Interim head coach Jerry Rosburg**

"It's cool for him. I think 43 years of coaching, 22 in the NFL. Obviously not a guy that was ever slated to be a head coach, so to be able to come in and put his input in and get to do what he did and get the win, that's huge. Just knowing him and how much emotion he puts into this, he'll remember this forever, so it's really special."

## **BRONCOS CORNERBACK PAT SURTAIN II**

### **On finishing the season strong**

"Obviously, it feels good to finish the season out strong even though the season didn't go how we wanted it to. But rallying and locking in to focus on this one game to finish the season and build for next year, it feels good."

### **On playing for Interim Head Coach Jerry Rosburg**

"[Interim Head Coach Jerry Rosburg] came and stepped in and played a big part these last two weeks. To get the win—I bet it means a lot for him. Collectively as a unit, we all stepped in and stepped up to the plate. It was a great win for us."

### **On what he learned about the team this season**

“The outside noise—we heard it day-in and day-out because the season didn't go how we wanted it to, but we just stayed locked in. No matter what the results were, we just stayed bonded as a team. That goes to show you the poise and resilience we had to finish the season off strong like we did.”

### **On what kind of head coach he would want coming in**

“A coach with a winning attitude, a coach that makes everybody around him better. A coach that leads by example, at least vocally, and just a great coach all around. That's what I'm looking forward to.”

## **BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER COURTLAND SUTTON**

### **On ending the season with a win**

“It was huge. It's been a rough season and we've had our fair share of unfortunate events that have happened to us. I applaud the team for putting two solid weeks together. We might not have won the Chiefs game but guys worked their butts off and it showed going into this week. But the guys had another good week of work and preparation. No matter the circumstances we were put in - not being in the playoffs - we went out there to play to finish the season strong. The guys came to work ready to work and we're resilient. We came out in this game, and you could see the want, the desire and for a lack of better words the 'give-a-[expletive]-factor' was very high for us and it was fun to be out there from all spectrums of the game, offense, defense and special teams.”

### **On if the offense found a blueprint moving forward**

“I think we did find something. I think whoever the next guy is that comes in, I think that they're going to watch our season and then watch those last two games and compare and try to figure out what was lacking and what we did well these past two weeks and make sure that we can go into next year not having the lapses that we had in some of the other games, just to make sure that we continue to trend upwards. Take this game and let it be the jumpstart going into next year.”

### **On QB Russell Wilson**

“The way 'Russ' [QB Russell Wilson] prepares and the way that he gets himself and the team ready to go out and play, it's second to none. [WR] Jerry [Jeudy] and [WR] KJ [Hamler] both said it best saying that 'Russ' brings the best out of everybody. He demands guys' best just by the way he carries himself, the way he prepares, the way that he shows up and goes to work every single day. He's the same guy every day, and guys know who they're going to get whenever he comes into that building and when he steps onto the field for game day. The guy is prepared, he makes sure the guys around him are prepared. He's doing everything he possibly can, and I have no hesitation to think that Russell won't come back and have a Pro Bowl or All-Pro season next year. Yeah, things didn't go the way we wanted this year, and guys are going to point fingers and try to say this and that all offseason because we can't technically defend ourselves. What we put on film is what we put on film and that is what we got to hold on to. However, we know what he does, we know the preparation he puts in, we know how much he cares about this game and how much he cares about the guys around him. There's nothing in my body that questions if he's going to be able to come back and be All-Pro and a Pro Bowl caliber quarterback next year for us.”

## **BRONCOS DEFENSIVE LINEMAN DESHAWN WILLIAMS**

### **On finishing the season strong**

“The season didn't go as it was supposed to but we finished. There were a lot of ups and downs in it, but this is probably the most fun I've had playing in the NFL just because of the guys and the coaches that stuck together. I would love to stay here [in Denver] but we're going to have to see what happens.”

### **On what he would want to a future head coach to think about him and on the defense**

“That's tricky because some coaches come in and they already have their mind set on who they want. But I know if 'E' (Defensive Coordinator Ejiro Evero) is still here, you can just show the tape of us and see how we did with his defense. I think he would be able to vouch for me as well as pretty much the whole defense. We all know the team is never the same as at the end of the year, but if somehow or some way you can keep this defense together, it's going to be really nice. We're going to have a healthy [OLB] Randy [Gregory] and [OLB] Baron [Browning] is lightyears ahead of where people thought he would be. It's crazy so we're just

going to have to see how it's going to happen. It's only going to get better. We're going to know what coach 'E' thinks. In his first year of being a DC [defensive coordinator], we went out there and showed what we could do in his system. This defense is special. I think everybody can see that, not by the wins and losses, but by the performances we would put in week-in and week-out. I think a lot of people will say this defense is something special, and if we can keep it together, who knows what can happen?"

## **CHARGERS HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY**

### **On an update on WR Mike Williams' injury**

"No, just an injury to his back."

### **On if WR Mike Williams could have returned to the game**

"Possibly."

### **On why he decided to play his starters as late in the game as he did**

"We were trying to compete in the game, and we only have 48 guys on the team that are active for the game, so we wanted to make sure that they went a good way in this football game and competed at a high level. Then when we felt like it was right for them to get out of the game, and that's what we're going to do slowly phased them out so we're getting ready for next week."

### **On why he thought playing the starters late in the game was important**

"We only get two practice squad elevations for the game, and you have to put a team out there. You can't decide when you're having to play a football game who isn't going to play and who is going to play and how you're going to subtract this. You've got to go out there and play the football game because this isn't the preseason where you have 90 guys to choose from. You only have 48 players to choose from so you have to go out there, you have to feel the football team. So we did it the best we could. We wanted to play well in the game and then we wanted to be safe for next week and that's what we did."

### **On whose decision it was to play each player**

"It's definitely my decision."

### **If General Manager Tom Telesco was on board with his player decisions**

"Of course. We went into it at the beginning of the week and said we'll find out before the game what happens, but we have to go play Denver, and we're going to go try and play a good game to the best of our ability and keep everybody safe."

### **On if it was appropriate to have QB Justin Herbert playing in the fourth quarter**

"I believe that [QB] Justin [Herbert] played the right amount. I think when you look across the league, at the other teams who were playing in the playoffs and what they did this last week, I think you'll see a lot of high-level players playing in their football games. I think that's fair to say. I think you'll see all the big-time quarterbacks, big-time players out there for their football teams because they have to be. There are only 48 guys that you can choose from, and these aren't easy decisions. They're not easy decisions and hindsight is perfect for everybody on the outside, but these games are not easy to manage. They're not because you don't have that many players, and we did it to the best of our ability."

### **On reevaluating playing the starters after the second half**

"At halftime, we had our gameplan for the second half which was the same that it was going into the game, and I thought that we executed in the second half."

### **On OLB Joey Bosa**

"[OLB] Joey [Bosa] was taken out like the rest of the guys that we were trying to phase out in the game."

### **On his initial thoughts on playing the Jacksonville Jaguars**

"We're going to be ready to play. I'm proud of the football team for the season that we've had. We've come a long way since the beginning of the season. Now we've got a great week of practice so we can be at our best whenever they tell us to play."



**On if the team has improved since they played the Jacksonville Jaguars in Week 3**

“Entirely different. I think that we have a number of players who weren’t even at that game that are on our team now. There are a lot of things that happened in that football game that was certainly unique in terms of the number of people that we lost in that game, and we’ll learn a lot from that game. I think we knew that they had a good football team and that they would have a good season which they’ve had. We have full respect for them, and we know it’s going to be a tough game.”

**On the turnaround for their next game**

“If it’s a Saturday game, we’ll go Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. If it’s a Sunday game it’ll be a normal Wednesday, Thursday and Friday schedule”

**On how they played defensively**

“It was up and down. Too many big plays.”

**On if he was aware that his team clinched the fifth seed prior to the game and if that impacted the game tonight**

“I was. We felt like the process that we would take regardless of if they hadn’t won or lost—we knew what our plan was going into the game, and I thought we executed it.”

**On if they hadn’t clinched if he would have phased players out differently**

“We would have tried to manage it similar to what I said at the beginning of the week when I was in Chicago that we were going to go try and play a competitive game and then work our guys out in the second half.”

**On CB Bryce Callahan**

“It was just being cautious for next week.”

**CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT****On playing the Jacksonville Jaguars again**

“It was quite a while ago. They’re a very good team offensively, defensively, and on special teams and so it’s going to take a good week of preparation and practice for us to have a chance on Sunday.”

**On him playing today considering they had already clinched the fifth seed**

“I think it was up to the front office. It was up to [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley and whatever they decided for our offense and for our defense. I was going to be on board with 100 percent.”

**On WR Mike Williams and the injuries tonight**

“All we can do is hope for the best for [WR] Mike [Williams]. He’s an incredible player, and we’d love to have him out there. We’re hoping for the best. We’ll wait to hear the report about him, but I [know] everyone on this team wanted to go out compete today. They wanted to battle, and we believe in the front office, the coaching staff on whatever they decided so we’re behind them 100 percent.”

**On if he was aware his team had clinched the fifth seed prior to the game**

“I think a couple of guys on the team were watching it and talking about it, but it wasn’t something that was really on my mind. It was just going out there and playing and getting after it today.”

**On if he personally wanted to be playing tonight**

“We wanted to go and compete. We wanted to be out there, and kind of like I mentioned earlier, I think whatever [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley and the front office, whatever they decided for us to go out there, we were going to be on board with it 100 percent. We love this game, we love to be able to compete with each other, and we’ve got a special locker room. It didn’t go our way, unfortunately, tonight, but hopefully everyone will stay healthy and get after it for next week.”

### **On facing the Jacksonville Jaguars**

“They're a very good team offensively and defensively, they're talented. We're going to have to look back at our film from week three that didn't go our way and hopefully, we'll have to be better from that but plenty of films to watch, and excited for the opportunity.”

### **On what is different between the team now and the Week 3 team**

“I think we've grown quite a bit. That game obviously didn't go our way but it's a tough team that we're going up against, and we're pretty tough as well. Excited for the opportunity about just being in the playoffs and getting a shot at whoever but the Jags, we've got a lot of respect for them as an opponent, so it's going to take a good week of preparation and practice for us this week.”

## **CHARGERS WIDE RECIEVER KEENAN ALLEN**

### **On getting reps all the way into the fourth quarter**

“We signed up for 17 games. I only played what—six or seven games this whole year? So it was good for me to keep playing. To play in this altitude and to get some more reps in, and I'm tired right now. I can't breathe still. So just being able to get out there and play with the guys.”

### **On finishing the season 10-7**

“It was decent you know. Obviously [we] would've rather been 12-4. It was a great way to fight, it was a great way to find our character late in the season. Get wins when we when we needed to get wins, while making it to the playoffs.”

### **On the mood about the team going into the playoffs**

“We feel good about it. We're a tight knit group. I know the chemistry is great right now. Would love to have the five-game winning streak going into the playoffs. But it is what it is and I know we got playoffs coming up next week. The real season starts, and we have to get back to work.”

## **CHARGERS RUNNING BACK AUSTIN EKELER**

### **On going into the playoffs next week against Jacksonville**

“I'm still a little salty we lost this game, which I know a lot of us are. It's kind of the feeling in the locker right now. I think you know we can use that as fuel for this week, to make sure that we're all on it because you can't go out [and] play like that in the playoffs. There's no other game after this unless we go and earn it. So we're using the motivation from this game and then also the last game we played. They got the best of us so before so I'm looking forward to going out there and competing against them.”

### **On being the fifth seed in the playoffs after today's loss**

“Oh no, I think it's great for us. It means we put ourselves in position where we were able to secure our spot early, which is amazing. That's good for us. It always sucks to lose, regardless of what you're doing, and it's never fun to lose, especially when you put a lot of time in to preparing to go out there and take care of business. You know the caliber of team that you have, and we know that we can't play like the way we did today if we're going make a run.”

### **On analyzing Jacksonville after facing them Week 3**

“I think we had a few turnovers which is the downfall of any offense. Then also, our run game—I remember I had zero yards that game. So that was not a great day on the ground for us. We're trying to run the ball every single game. So that'd be an emphasis against these guys coming up. I'm looking forward to doing this game plan and getting ready for it.”

## **CHARGERS SAFETY ALOHI GILMAN**

### **On his reaction to be playing the Jaguars**

“We’re excited. We have a lot to go on preparation-wise. We’re excited. We played them earlier [this season]. We don’t like how that turned out, but we’re excited and taking it one day at a time.”

### **On the amount the starters played in today’s game**

“It’s hard to get into that mindset. I didn’t prepare myself that way. I feel like we all wanted to come out here and win; we’re all competitors. We didn’t like how that went down, and we were able to finish like that. At the same time, it’s part of the journey. It’s a part of the learning experience, and we can all take this into the playoffs in a better way. We’re excited regardless and we just have to keep working.

### **On what he remembers from the previous Jaguars game earlier this season**

“It’s been a while, so it’s hard to remember the specifics right now, but we are a way different team than we were back then. We’ve grown a lot, we’ve gone through the ups and the downs of an NFL season, a professional sports team season. The good thing about that is that is what molds us, that’s what builds us into the character, into the team we are now. I’m not going to lie, I don’t know who that team was in Week 3. So that’s where we are at now.”

## **CHARGERS LINEBACKER DRUE TRANQUILL**

### **On the starters playing today**

“I’m just there to do my job you know. He (Head Coach Brandon Staley) finally came and said it, for me, at the end of the third (quarter), ‘Hey, you’re done.’ Guys just want to compete you know. Some guys have incentives, I know [OLB] Kyle [Van Noy] was inches away from his second sack. We’re just out there competing, you’re not really thinking about it, and just let the coaches handle it.”

### **On if momentum and rhythm is real**

“Absolutely. I think as a player you’re trying to build your confidence every single week. We’re competing against the best guys in the world. As you stack days, stack practices, and stack games, you build your confidence. Heading into the playoffs you want to be at peak confidence, you want to be at peak rhythm, and peak communication everything with one another. I think that’s what we were trying to do today. It wasn’t good enough.”

### **On the growth of this team from playing Jacksonville in September**

“I think we came into this year with so many new acquisitions in free agency. Guys who hadn’t played together. I think that was game three, so we’re a [very] different team, we’ve played a lot better of late, and we’re excited for the opportunity.”