

DENVER BRONCOS

POSTGAME QUOTES



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DENVER BRONCOS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Empower Field at Mile High • Oct. 13, 2024

BRONCOS HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

Opening Statement

“Obviously it was a disappointing loss. We did all the things that you cannot do in a game like that. We knew what type of game it was going to be. We turned it over twice in the first half. That led to points. Then you start looking at the time of possession when you do that. They ran the ball better than we did. We mustered up some offense late in the game. All of this starts with me. We have to be better offensively. We have to protect the ball better. That is what I saw. We will go from there. We have a short week. Once we are finished tonight, we will be done talking about this game.”

On the team’s slow start

“We try to look at all of that stuff. A lot of it is opponent drive. You are going to fall behind if you turn it over. We will pay close attention to it.”

On battling back in the fourth quarter

“It was difficult. [QB] Bo [Nix] made a few plays with his feet and his arm trying to get back in it as quickly as we can. It is tough when you put yourself in that much of a hole. It was a three-score game. I have not looked at the third-down numbers, but they are going to be greatly tilted toward the [Los Angeles] Chargers. All those numbers will be. We have to be better. We will see them again at some point and we will go from there.”

On CB Pat Surtain II

“He is in [concussion] protocol. Anytime you lose one of your top players, it is kind of the next man up and here we go. Not having had a chance to look at film to tell you how the other guys played, I know we struggled just getting off the field defensively on third down. We did not do a number of things well today. That is kind of where it is at.”

On young guys making plays

“We have to see these guys. We are a young team. I want to see this runner as well. I want to see [RB Audric] Estime. We are going to see [WR Devaughn] Vele and we are going to see [WR Troy] Franklin. We are not waiting to redshirt these guys. We will continue to see each week their involvement in the plan and how they fit. That is how you get confidence and get experience.”

On the Chargers’ 20-play drive

“That is a tough question. There are 20 plays in there, so there are probably a number of things. Whether we fit wrong, we missed the pressure gap wrong. I did not think we defended the run well. That is tough because we knew they came in wanting to run the football. I would have to watch the tape to give you a good answer.”

On the offense picking up in the second half

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“Let’s be honest, it picked up when we started going up tempo and you are behind. You are getting a different coverage look. We played with some tempo. Early in the first half, we had a false start. We played with tempo early in the second quarter and fumbled the football. Those were all up tempo plays, but I think towards the fourth quarter we were able to make some plays down the field. The game was in a different position at that point. We fought to get back in it.”

On the onside kick attempt

“The first one was short. That could have snuck anywhere. It has to go 10 yards. The second one we have a chance, but if it goes out of bounds it is their ball.”

On being able to turn around quickly and play Thursday night

“I think that is a great question. I say that because I think that is what is most important for these players. Normally we talk about getting the taste out of your mouth, but it has to happen when they go to sleep tonight. Tomorrow the focus is all on New Orleans, and it will be with me. It has to be or else this can lead to that. I just finished telling them, and I would have told them the same thing had we won, we have to quickly put this one to bed. We cannot forget it, but we have to learn from it. It is a short week. We have to get on to the next game.”

On running more hurry-up offense

“Yes, in fact, we have.”

BRONCOS OFFENSIVE TACKLE GARETT BOLLES

On what their fourth quarter comeback says about the team

“Well, relentless. This team is young and full of dogs. It really is. You know, me being the older guy, you know, being around these young guys, that fuels me. I’m very grateful for this team. We don’t have one single quitter on this team. We’re just a bunch of dogs that are just hungry and humble, and we just want to win and play ball. You know, we got to work out some kinks. Obviously, we got some things that we got to fix but to come back, being down by 20 or 23 points and scoring 14 points, that’s hard to do in this league. It really is hard, but we have nothing but fighters, and I couldn’t be more proud of this team after a loss like this.”

On the short turn around before the upcoming game on Thursday

“You want to get that nastiness out of your mouth and just focus, you know, we’re going to recover as best we can. Come up with our game plan that [Head] Coach [Sean] Payton and the coaching staff has for us and go down to Louisiana and take care of business.”

On what he hopes his young teammates take away from a game like this

“The young guys that we have, you would never know that they’re young. You would never know that they’re rookies or first year, second year, or third year players. You would think they’re five- to 10-year vets because this culture that we have in this locker room is just building off of each other. We just want to focus on each other and we’re a family. Sometimes you put out your best in the family and things happen, and the ball just didn’t bounce our way. You know, we lost today, but I know that this team’s going to bounce back and take care of business because that’s just who we are. We’re going to get in to watch film and do what we need to do and work out the kinks and get ready to roll on Thursday.”

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER NIK BONITTO

On what changed in the second half

“Just coming out, knowing we have to play with urgency and knowing the situation. We knew we were down by a lot, and they needed to get stopped and I feel like an urgency just changed for us, which can’t be the case. We have to come out harder from the beginning.”

On CB Pat Surtain II leaving the game with an injury

“Obviously, Pat is one of the best players in the league and not having him obviously hurts, but we have guys that we know we can compete with the best of them. We just have to be ready.”

On whether they felt they could pull off a win in the last 10 minutes

"We never wavered. We always knew we can come back in the game, no matter how many points. We've seen it last year, against Chicago and in multiple games, but we just have to come out with better urgency."

On the longer amount of time spent on defense in the first half

"I mean, we just have to find ways to get off the field. We gave up a lot of third downs that we (normally) don't do, and we just weren't playing to our type of ball in the first half. That played a big factor in not getting off the field."

BRONCOS RUNNING BACK AUDRIC ESTIME

On if you have turned the page to get ready for New Orleans

"It's a quick turnaround. This week is a little faster, so we have to be able to flush it quicker and be able to play one game at a time, one play at a time."

On having a short memory

"That's just how you have to play by. It's a four-quarter game, and it's a 17-game season. We have to be able to be locked in for that one play and not look ahead or back."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER TROY FRANKLIN

On what worked with the offense in the fourth quarter

"I think we're just really locked in with all of our one-11s as an offense as a whole. Receivers doing their job, running backs doing their job, protection with the [offensive] line in the front, then [QB] Bo [Nix] just making things happen. We had to kind of extend some plays and then we really just wanted to get something started, spark up something for us. I think we did that for sure in the second half."

On catching his first NFL touchdown pass from former Oregon teammate QB Bo Nix

"It felt good. It felt good, it did. It felt pretty good."

On the offense getting confidence after receiving that that 'spark'

"Most definitely, I think confidence definitely changes with positive plays. I think everybody just feels that, like you got a chance. Doing that definitely helps everybody's confidence."

BRONCOS DEFENSIVE END JOHN FRANKLIN-MYERS

On having a short week and playing Thursday night

"After the loss, [with a] Thursday night game, you understand that immediately you have to leave it alone and move on to the next place. We travel Wednesday, so understanding that sense of urgency and playing-wise for the Saints. But still, we have to correct the mistakes. Figure that out tonight and then tomorrow, get ready for New Orleans."

On the team not quitting

"I said it in training camp, I wasn't born with a quit button. Nobody on this team was either and you saw it in that second half. We have got to start faster, we understand that, but you have next week for that."

On how the defense played

"We haven't watched the film, so [we] definitely will have to watch the film and see. Off the rim, I know that we have to make more plays as a defensive line. Win, lose, draw. We expect to make those plays, and we didn't do that today."

BRONCOS SAFETY BRANDON JONES

On the team rebounding after a slow start

“We just didn’t start like we wanted to. [We] struggled a bit on third downs, which is usually our bread and butter. Same thing happened last week against the Raiders. I think overall we just have to be able to start faster and get the ball out. We play our best ball when we’re forcing turnovers, get the ball out and give it to our offense. We just weren’t able to execute today.”

On the Chargers’ success on third downs

“I just think overall, they just had better schemes, better play calling than we did. That’s just what it boiled down to.”

BRONCOS GUARD QUINN MEINERZ

On the difference with the offense early in the game compared to the second half

“We can't start slow. Our execution in the first half was nowhere near what we're capable of doing. On top of that, we can't turn the ball over. I'm really proud of how this group fought coming out of halftime. When you're down 23-0, it's easy to hang your head. I'm proud of the way this offense came together and put some points on the board to give us a chance.”

On the importance of moving forward, especially with how the team ended the game

“It shows that no matter what type of adversity we're going through, we will rally together. No matter what, we’re still going to be fighting until the clock says zero.”

On rookies making plays on offense and not giving up

“We have tons of great leadership on this team, and we're continuing to build this culture. As younger players join our room, it's our job as leaders and older players to get them right and to know what the expectations are. I’m really proud of the young guys on this team, following some of the older guys and understanding that the game is never over.”

BRONCOS CORNERBACK RILEY MOSS

On playing again on Thursday night at New Orleans

“It’s nice to be able to turn this thing around that quick.”

On the Chargers’ ability to convert on third down

“Some of it was coverage. I gave up a couple, and that’s part of Cover-1, Cover-0. I got to be better at that, better eyes, and I take responsibility for that. I think as a defense, we just got to continue to play hard and don’t allow the offense or the special teams or whatever affect us. We got to go out there and do our job.”

On the defense battling through adversity due to the injury of CB Pat Surtain II

“It is just one of those things that you feel it, and we can’t allow that to happen. We can’t allow adversity to sway how we’re playing. We got to be able to get through, and that’s part of it because we are a younger team, being able to be mature and being able to get over that adversity.”

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK BO NIX

On why the offense struggled to find rhythm in the first half

“We have to go back and watch it. We didn’t run enough plays consecutively to get into a rhythm. It was a few plays, and you were off the field. In a game like that where you know they’re going to control the ball, you have to find ways to stay on the field.”

On WR Troy Franklin and WR Devaughn Vele making plays

“We’re excited about those two. They’ve had great camps; they’ve had great seasons. They practice hard. They’re very smart players. They showed up today and played big in an important moment. There’s no flinch in their faces, there’s no batting their eyes. They’re really competitive players, smart players. [I’m] excited to see their growth as they continue to move forward. With those two, we’re going to have to count on and we need moving forward. They’re completely capable and ready to accept the challenge, and I’m excited to see it.”

On what happened on third downs

“You have to know the down-and-distance, and complete passes or execute plays. I don’t know what else. You have to think moving into third downs. You have to execute to find ways to make the play work. You have to hit it, and if [it’s] not [there] you have to make a play, scramble. I liked their plan. I thought we had a good plan. Sometimes you get caught in the way of the game and lose focus for a second or you miss an opportunity. In a game like that, you have to be fired and ready to roll.”

On how it felt to be able to make some plays after the half

“It’s not easy looking at the scoreboard and seeing the deficit. I thought on the sideline our guys continued to battle. Despite the situation, despite maybe missing another opportunity or getting off the field again and you have restart. It’s tough, but I think that’s our team. I think that’s what kind of team we have. We have a very determined and hard-working team. We’re able to get down and continue to fight. Not every game is going to be easy. We’re not going to blow every team out. Sometimes you get knocked down early [and] you’ve got to find a way to gut it out at the end. The fact that we gave ourselves a chance there at the end to have another opportunity says a lot about our team. I’m excited about this team. I know today wasn’t what we wanted, but I feel like we’re headed in the right direction with how we finished the game. You can’t normally take moral victories after a loss, it’s tough. Nobody likes to lose. Nobody wants to be on that side, but you can look at it and you can only go two ways. You can continue to go backwards, let it defeat you, let it crush you, and you get in your head, or you’re going to continue to move forward. I believe our team is going to continue to move forward [and] stay motivated. Today didn’t settle well with us. We’re going to continue to battle, find ways to get better, and continue to put good stuff on the field.”

On his connection with WR Troy Franklin and Franklin’s first touchdown catch

“It was huge. I knew he was going to do it eventually. [I] expected it. He expected it as well. He ran a great route. We actually had a conversion on that play. He ran the right route, had great field vision, saw the opening, got behind there on the baseline. We’ve been practicing that play this week, and he was there for me. He got open and he made the catch. I thought that was perfect. [I’m] really excited about that. That was a great connection. I thought it was unique we had an Oregon player snap it, an Oregon player throw it and an Oregon player catch it. I don’t know if that’s ever happened in the NFL. It probably has as long as the NFL has been going. I think it’s pretty cool.”

On the key to finding offensive rhythm

“Plays and first downs. When you continue to run plays over and over... There at the end, there’s only so much that they can call because they’re in prevent or two-minute defense. We study that and we see it. So the more plays you go, you get to see these looks over and over and then you start understanding what they want to be in. At that moment, you’re just trying to make completions and push the ball down the field at the same time. We were able to get chunks as we went. [WR Devaughn] Vele made a few explosive plays. [WR] Troy [Franklin] had a big catch. [WR] Courtland [Sutton] continues to show off and do the stuff that makes him great. I thought our backs made good plays on check downs and our [offensive] line protected well. We had [two sacks] tonight, but with that rush with those players we feel confident that that’s pretty good. So moral of the story, we just have to protect the ball in the first half. Then we’ll do better in the second if we can get in that rhythm faster.”

On if he would like to play more up-tempo throughout the game

“We have incredible coaches who are going to continue to put us in good positions. Whatever they want to do is what I’m going to do. It’s my job to go out there and make the play work, make the play happen. It’s not theirs. [Head] Coach [Sean] Payton trusts me to just check the ball down, and go on to the next play, and get us in a good and manageable spot and continue to go to the next play. I don’t really care what the play is, we just have to go out there and execute it.”

On developing scramble rules with the wide receivers

“That’s a feel thing. It’s hard to practice because in practice you want everything to look right and hit it on time. So you don’t really have a chance to really move around or scramble. It’s definitely an art of football, and the people that are capable of doing it right and make plays off of scrambles, that’s usually when explosives happen. It’s a great opportunity to get those explosives. I know [WR Devaughn] Vele had one of a fourth-and-2. I know [WR] Troy [Franklin] had one. So we had a few extended plays. We have to continue that moving forward. Our line played great, got me moving. [We] had holes that I can just move around. They played shell coverage, so they were keeping everything in front. They wanted to cover everything, but they weren’t necessarily getting

pressure or getting to the quarterback. So you had time to move around. I think the more you play with your guys and get out there and see how they react to a scramble, I think that's when you get better and better at it."

On turning the page quickly to Thursday night

"I think our team is excited. If we could practice tonight, we would. We'd go back out there. We have a bad taste in our mouths. We just didn't perform how we want. We feel like the fight was there. You get back in the locker room, and some guys hang their heads. Oftentimes you get in a situation where it's people start bad mouthing or talking, but there was none of that in our locker room. Everybody had their heads up like they were focused for the next week. It looked like they want to get back out there as soon as possible, so it's good that we get to play in four days. It's going to be tough on us, but we have a quick turnaround. I think we're going to handle it well, and we don't have a choice. We have to get back moving forward, and we have to grow and get better."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER COURTLAND SUTTON

On how the team played in the first half

"I think we just started off slow. I wouldn't say that it was necessarily the fault of or correlation of [CB] Pat [Surtain II] being hurt. No one wants to see him get hurt and everybody wants to see him out there playing. I think that as a whole, we just started slow, and we just dug ourselves into a hole that we're going to have to do a lot of things really well in the second half to get out of. I think the fight that we showed in the second half definitely says a lot about the character of this team. The slow start definitely hurt us. As offensive guys, not being able to convert and stay on the field definitely hurt us."

On how there is no quit in the team

"After Pittsburgh, someone asked me a question. I thought it was the most bizarre question, but they asked me 'Why do you feel like you guys are going to be able to figure this out and turn it around?' And I told them, 'Because I see the work that these guys put in.' I see that. I see the determination and the way that these guys come to work every day. The way they go and prep, get ready for games, and the way they go out there and play. When you see that and you know the character of each player, you know that you're going to be able to have success. I think we have proven it. Week-in and week-out that there's no quit in this team. Down 23-0, it could have been easy for us to lay down and say, 'Oh, they got us today', but no. We went out there and we put our best foot forward in that half and came a little short. Those are the sins from the first half, and that's something that we can address, and it's something that we can fix. However, that second half showed everything that we needed to know about this team and that there's no quit. Everybody's going to continue to battle, continue to fight, until the clock has four zeros on it. I tell the guys all the time, they're going to get everything I got the entire game, until it says zero. Whatever it may be, and I know that every guy in this locker room believes that we can accomplish whatever we want."

BRONCOS CORNERBACK LEVI WALLACE

On attitude after CB Pat Surtain II left the game

"That was the first or second play of the game. We still had four quarters to play. We wanted to go out there and execute. Obviously we did not get that done. On both sides of the ball, we have to be better. The good thing about playing on Thursday is we can get over it. We can get back to it, get back on the field and get that taste out of our mouths."

On second half adjustments

"Honestly I felt like because [CB] Pat [Surtain] got hurt, we were a little flat out there. When you have a key player like him go down early, it kind of stalls everybody. We came into halftime and we knew what we had to do. I think they only scored three points in the second half. Twenty points is nothing in the league. We gave our offense a chance to go out there and score. Our defense, we know who we are, (and that) is one of the best defenses in the league. We have to go out there and act like it."

CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On his health

“Everything turned out to be OK. I deal with this, it’s minor, it’s called atrial flutter and I got into an episode today with it, and then doctors checked me out, and it got back into sinus rhythm, normal rhythm so I came back.”

On if his heart felt uncomfortable

“I could tell there was some irregular beats. I am qualified to talk about it.”

On if this has happened prior

“I had a couple of ablations, one in 1999 and one in 2012. I always remember the one in 2012, it was during the Monday night game. [Former 49ers QB Colin] Kaepernick in the 49ers versus the Chicago Bears and Colin had a great night that night. I knew I was going to turn the game, after the game I got checked out, ended up having to have an ablation for that one, because it didn't go back into rhythm. 2-0 with arrhythmias.”

On if Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh was made aware

“I think [Chargers General Manager] Joe Hortiz called John, let him know and then John told my parents and stuff. That's what I was told.”

On how they treated him

“I went back, they did a great job. I had a little treatment, a little I.V. and [Chargers Director of Player Health, Wellness & Performance] Marco [Zucconi] gave me some kind of magnesium thing. They were on it, which was great.”

On when he felt the irregular heartbeat

“I kind of started feeling it last night but wasn't really sure. After pregame warmups, just like it was in 2012... It was during pregame warm up, I kind of started feeling, and I hadn't felt it since 2012, it hasn't happened. The one in '99, 13 years later, had to have the procedure done again so I figured I was getting close to the 13-year mark, and I’m going to need another one at some point.”

On when he felt he needed to tell someone

“I know a lot about it, so I just wanted to see what my pulse [was], I'm not good at taking my own pulse so they took my pulse, and it was in the arrythmia, but I felt like we were good, and they said now we need to get an EKG. Trust the doctors. If you're not going to trust your doctors, who are going to trust? I've always thought that and then came back in the locker room, and the paramedics came, got the EKG and they said it was back to the sinus rhythm, I said, I feel good, so I got back out there.”

On if altitude can affect this

“I don’t know about that.”

On if he can remember when former Broncos Head Coach Gary Kubiak had a similar situation

“Yes, I do remember that. I don’t have imminent knowledge about that.”

On today’s win

“Great win, great, glorious win for the team. [I’m] really proud of our team, pleased. I miss playing good football, offense, defense and special teams, four quarters of it and felt great about that.”

On QB Justin Herbert’s performance

“I thought he was about as precise as he could be or a quarterback could be. There were some great throws, some great avoided pressure and just putting the ball in the appropriate spot throughout the entire game, it was super impressive. I think hopefully this reminds everybody that Justin Herbert's really good at playing quarterback. I love it. Guys are making a tough catches and we may have dropped one on the day, but he was putting that on the money.”

On if anything changed after CB Pat Surtain II left the game

“Not really. We were kind of serving with some of our own guys coming in and out. It was good to see [WR] Quentin [Johnston] come back and [WR] Ladd [McConkey] we were working through a couple of things to come back and we were trying to get the outright, [WR] Simi Fehoko, stepped up and made a made a big play for us. I thought we did a good job keeping it off balance too,

some really great calls in there with the screens. The running game and the passing game were very complimentary today. It was good, I liked the way it was going.”

On the three-quarter shutout

“We had [CB] Kristian Fulton, who went out of the game and then gave up a couple where we did tackle the quarterback. They’ve got to tackle. Some really good plays out of the out of the pocket, then we lost coverage a couple times. I still don’t know if that touchdown at the end, the one they did call, it looked like it was incomplete. They did a heck of a job moving the ball off their own five-yard line to get that score, and then they weren’t over till it’s over. Our guys battled to the end, tough place to get a win, they’re a heck of a football team.”

On if they planned to emphasize the passing game

“Just as he’s getting more mobile. I him great credit, I don’t put any percentages on it, but this is best. We can be back there and find themselves in deeper drops, I think that’s as important. We’re kind of risking it with him in the last couple games, so definitely if you want to consider that, that’s really worth precipitating it.”

On if he is going to follow up with his health

“Yes, they’re going to do a follow up for sure. They have to do a halter monitor; I’ll go see a cardiologist tomorrow and see what’s up.”

On if he is concerned on his health moving forward

“I trust the doctors, though. I don’t how they categorize it. It’s the heart, so you take it seriously, right? Trust the doctors.”

On how the rookie corners played

“Pretty good for throughout most of the game. They didn’t find the route a couple of times there at the end. They got beat on some deep routes, but great learning experience for them, and I think it bodes well for us that they played so much, played the whole game, and played pretty darn well.”

On RB Kimani Vidal’s touchdown

“I thought it was an amazing catch. It was a great catch. It was a great throw. I’m not taking anything away from the throw, because that was a great, great throw. Also, that was a really good catch by Kimani and then I loved the way he finished it off in the end zone.”

On the 20-play drive

“I think it’s good, it keeps our defense off the field, it keeps their offense off the field. That was a heck of a drive. I think twice we were able to come out of the shadow of our goal post inside the 10-yard line and put together scoring drives, as they did at that time, I guess twice, because they got the field goal too later. That’s hard to do, it’s hard to get that many first downs, run that many plays in the drive.”

On how much he’s seen RB Kimani Vidal’s progression

“Probably the same as you. The games, I think that’s been the big progression. Now he’s in there in the games, we’re going to be able to trust him a lot more now and he continues to be able to protect the ball, make the play, and then protection, how he comes along in the protection, but I thought he put himself well that way as well. [RB] Hassan [Haskins] the two big short yardages carry, in the second half where he got that. [RB] J.K [Dobbins] had a heck of a game, it was great to see that and he was really good in protection. JK has been really good in protection all year long, and had to have the guy playing his first game to be good protection that bodes well and Hassan who hasn’t been here at the off season, but now he’s got picked up now so I mean I feel good and better about that.”

CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On Head Coach Jim Harbaugh leaving the field

“He is tough. He did a really good job of hiding it because I was unaware of it. They did a good job of keeping calm and I hope he is okay. Is he all right?”

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On the team's performance

"It was a lot easier when you do not have penalties and turnovers and things like that. You are not starting behind the chains. I thought we did a good job sitting in there, pulling our waters and making sure that we are good to go up front and get lined up. I thought the process was smooth all day. I think it helps us a ton as an offense."

On throwing the ball a lot today

"It is good. I think the important thing as a quarterback is playing to win the game. Sometimes there are going to be games where we feel like throwing is [to] our advantage. There are going to be times where we think we have to run the ball and make sure that we are controlling the game. It just worked out that way that we were going to throw the ball today. I thought it was a good opportunity for those guys to make some plays on the outside. They stepped up big time with some balls downfield. It was great to see that."

On his health impacting the passing game

"I think it just opens up more. I think when you are doing boot naked's and breaking the pocket like that, it adds dimensions to our offense. As long as we are able to do that and you feel comfortable heading out of the pocket, I think it opens up our play action game and our run game. The more we can do the better."

On their mindset after Broncos CB Pat Surtain II's injury

"It was just to play football. We have a lot of respect for him as a defender, but it is always the next play. We are not worried about who is out there or what they are doing. It is about us. As long as we are executing and doing everything we can as an offensive unit, I think we are going to like the result."

On their 20-play drive

"I could feel it. It was definitely a tough drive. To be able to do that is huge in this league. I think it speaks a lot of volume to our conditioning, especially our strength and conditioning program that we have installed here. To be able to go on a drive like that keeps our defense off the field, let's them relax and cover so it helps us as a team."

On converting on third down

"I think that is one of the most important things about offensive ball is converting on third downs. When we are able to do that, you are able to drive down the field. I think the ultimate goal is to score touchdowns and get in the redzone. I felt like we left some points out there. It is on us to be able to convert in the redzone. Third downs are a huge part of it."

On the second-half offense compared to first half

"I think it was just focus. I thought we did a good job of converting those third downs. We have to come up with some points. If we get drives down there, we have to be able to push the ball. I think it was a different game in the second half. You have the lead, you want to be able to control the game. With the run game that we have, we believe in those games. We want to hand the ball off, control the game and control the line of scrimmage. That is how we saw it."

On RB Kimani Vidal's touchdown catch

"It was awesome. He has made so many plays. It was awesome for him to go out there and get his first touchdown like that and be able to make a big play. We had kind of seen it in film the weeks prior as an opportunity. We stuck on it. He made a great catch and a great run with it."

On getting his first-career win in Denver

"Yeah, we talked about that. It has been awhile since the [Los Angeles] Chargers have won here. We have a lot of respect for this team. The offense, the defense, they are a good football team. We knew it was a tough place to play. It is an awesome atmosphere. We are happy to walk away with a win."

On Broncos QB Bo Nix

"Just from watching. I missed him by a couple years where I was not there at Oregon when he was. But my younger brother played with him. We have nothing but respect for him. He made a lot of plays out there today."

On WR Ladd McConkey

“He is a really smart football player. He knows exactly what he is doing. He is really athletic, and he is a friend of the quarterback. He is able to beat leverage. He has a great understanding of football and the defense that they play against him. He made some plays.”

On his ankle

“I have two of them still. We are going to do everything we can with treatment. It is what it is. It is part of the game. You have to make sure that you are doing everything you can to continue to progress and to get better. It is something that we will keep an eye on during the week.”

On health trending in the right direction

“It is. That is a good point. As long as we are doing that, we are going to keep adding to our offense. Naked’s, boot’s, breaking the pocket. I think it will help us as a unit.”

On Head Coach Jim Harbaugh

“I did not even know about it. He mentioned it last night, but they did a good job of keeping calm. I did not know, I was out on the field. I was just hoping that he was OK. He seemed to be OK after the game. It is definitely something I am going to go talk with him about and make sure he is OK.”

On when he found out Head Coach Jim Harbaugh left the game briefly with an illness

“I found out after. As long as he is OK.”

On if Head Coach Jim Harbaugh mentioned something

“Yeah, he just said he was really excited for the game. He said his blood was flowing and he was excited. I thought everything was good to go, but that is definitely something that he should get checked out.”

CHARGERS SAFETY DERWIN JAMES JR.**On winning the time of possession battle**

“It makes it so we’re fresh. I think we played like 15 or 20 plays in the first half. We were fresh, and then losing [CB] Kristian [Fulton] was big. We battled through it and were able to get the win.”

On winning in Denver for the first time since 2018

“It’s major. Man, you know the division games count plus two and since we haven’t won here since 2018. That’s a long time ago. That was before COVID, so it’s good to get a win for sure.”

CHARGERS GUARD ZION JOHNSON**On what it was like to control the clock in the first half.**

“It was great to get our defense off the field. We took the approach of ‘it starts with the first play’. Having an efficient first play, efficient first down, then second down, then we can have those 20-play drives and not end up in third and tens or third and fifteens.”

On what teaching points from the bye week that the team applied.

“Just fundamentals and techniques across the board, working on the little things. For the offensive line; our pass protection, our sets, our hands. For everybody else, they just needed to find themselves and do their job. We’ve been working on that the whole bye week, and I think that really showed today.”

On what needs to be the focus for the first half performance last through the second half.

“I think just execution. Staying out of third and longs. Just making sure that our first down play is an efficient play and not having negative plays on first down.”

On RB Kimani Vidal getting his first big NFL experience.

“It’s awesome. He works hard every day in practice. He’s a guy that’s a hard worker, a grinder. To see his work pay off in the game, it’s huge for him, especially for a rookie.”

CHARGERS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER KHALIL MACK

On his forced fumble

“I was in a six technique on the backside of the run. [DL] Orito [Ogbonnia] and them boys had the running back patting his feet back there, and I was able to come under and get a good pop on him and break at the ball. It’s been a minute since I got one of those. That was cool, I didn’t know I got it till I saw them scrambling on the ground trying to get the ball. Instinct, instinct play.”

On getting a road win against a division opponent

“It’s always huge when you get a division win. I heard coach say that they count for two wins. So us getting back in the win column is always a great thing.”

CHARGERS DEFENSIVE BACK ELIJAH MOLDEN

On his interception and how it set the tone of the game

“It was the first play I was in, so I was still kind of trying to get in the rhythm, feeling the game out. Luckily it was tight coverage, force and tip, and then I kind of tipped it to myself again and was able to get some yards after. I’m glad we scored off of it. Anything to help the team.”

On how the rookies had to step up today

“No question they did have to step up. We kind of knew before the week that they would. Even during the game, we had some guys go down, and people were shifted into different positions. That’s a huge credit to them, because they didn’t necessarily get the reps at that position in practice. But then, last minute, they got to adjust so huge shout out to them. I’m proud of them.”