

REGULAR SEASON GAME NINE

CLEVELAND BROWNS VS. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

NOVEMBER 3, 2024 @ 1:00 PM ET

**Cleveland Browns Head Coach Kevin Stefanski
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Chargers
Week 9
11/3/2024**

Opening Statement:

"Okay, obviously very disappointed with today, that first half. Costly mistakes hurt us and then we just could not dig out of that hole in the second half. So extremely disappointed and we got to learn from this. With that, I'll take any questions."

What happened on the coverage on those two deep touchdown passes?

"Yeah, miscommunications. We have to be better and we will better. Those are costly. We can't do that."

Same thing both times, Kevin?

"Yeah, I'd say it's in some ways a miscommunication, yes."

What did you see from the (Los Angeles) Chargers defense that seemed to make it so hard for you guys?

"Well, it's a good defense. We knew that going into it. They were stout, we weren't good enough on third down in the first half. I think that was a big key, not being able to sustain drives in that first half."

What about Jameis (Winston) with the three picks? Obviously not what you wanted.

"No, and again, we knew that team that we're going up against was preying on takeaways early in the season. So, we have to do a better job of taking care of the ball."

Was there any thought in the fourth quarter of putting in DTR (Dorian Thompson-Robinson)?

"No, we're just going to continue to fight."

So, Kevin, at 2-7 where do you go from here?

"Yeah, I'm not thinking really big picture, Jeff (Schudel). I'm thinking about we need to play better bottom line."

You went with Dawand (Jones) at left tackle, again. Jed (Jedrick Wills Jr.) was a not healthy scratch, but what was the reasoning behind it? Are you trying to see what you have in Dawand at left tackle?

"Well, we moved him over there in that first week, first time over there. I thought he did okay and would do better. So, I wanted to keep him over there, keep that development going."

You had two special teams miscues today, the return led to a touchdown, blocked field goal led to a touchdown. Just how disappointing is to have that unit not play as well as we've seen?

"Yeah, we own these, Daryl (Ruiter). Offense, defense, special teams, we have to play better on all three sides of the ball. We got to coach better on all three sides of the ball, but we own it. It's all of us."

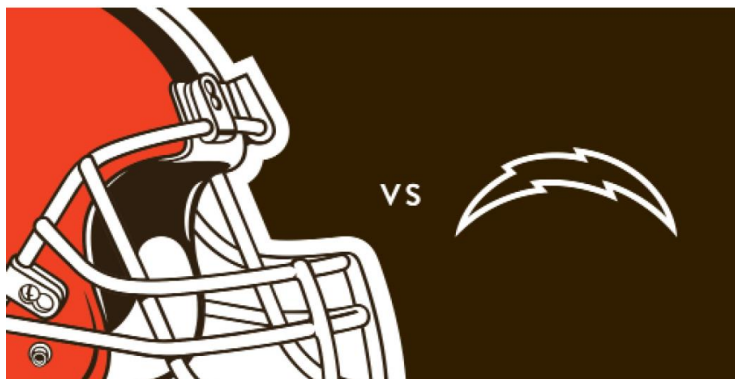
Did you feel like guys were getting open in the passing game?

"It's hard to say. Obviously, it's not as simple as that in terms of we got to protect, we got to make decisions, all those types of things."

You guys obviously really wanted to build on last week's win and try to keep this thing going a little bit, just being at home.

"Yeah, that's why it's very disappointing. I mean, it's tough to not play to our best. That's really frustrating."

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You get six sacks in the first half, you have great pressure, and then you get them in third and long and they're able to get those long passes.

"Yeah, the third downs in the first half were the key to this game. How we performed on offense, how we performed on defense. We had them in some really good distances there and we had some miscommunications, and it hurt us."

Is there any sign that (Jim) Harbaugh benefited from his brother's game the week before?

"No."

Were you surprised by something that they shut down?

"No."

Why do you think you've been unable as a team to kind of sustain any positive momentum you've gotten?

"Well, I think, listen, we're not playing good enough to win a football game, especially in that first half. We did not play well enough; we didn't play well enough on all three sides of the ball. So that's our focus really more than anything is finding a way to not beat ourselves, not have costly mistakes because they will hurt you."

There was a report during the game that Za'Darius (Smith) will be traded to Detroit. Any comment on that?

"I don't have any comments on those type of things."

As far as Jameis just kind of swinging around there, trying to get back in the game in the second half, do you fault him in any way with just kind of throwing it around?

"Well, I think you learn from every mistake, Mary Kay (Cabot), and I think there's some plays that I think he can learn from for sure. We were definitely going to play a style to try to get back in that game. More wide open, if you will, just trying to score some points. But I think you learn from every mistake, if you will. But it's something that he's got to – we have to do a better job of taking care of the ball."

I know I ask you this every week and you said that he was your starter for the rest of the season. But now at 2-7 and after a game like this, is he still your starter?

"Yes, and again, those are the type of things that we just have to play better as a team."

What do you make of Myles' (Garrett) performance today?

"I thought he played really well. I thought he got pressure early and often in that game. Unfortunately, some of those big plays that we gave up, we put ourselves in that hole in the second half. But we were getting off the field quite a bit in the second half. Just didn't sustain it like we need to."

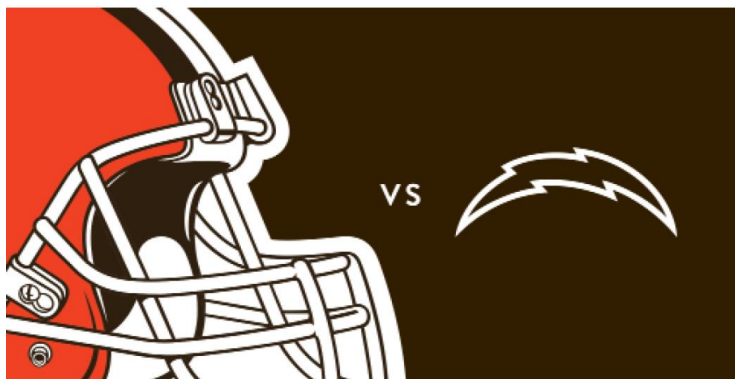
Does this change anything at all about your bye week plans? I mean, would they have gotten a extra day off?

"No, our plan was already in place."

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**Cleveland Browns Quarterback Jameis Winston
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We talked to Myles (Garrett) and he was saying that the defense had so many issues in the first half that it's not fair to ask the offense to try to dig out of that kind of hole that they put you in, so just wondering what your thoughts are on that.

"Complimentary football wins day in and day out. And as a quarterback, my job is to lead our team to get in the end zone, and we didn't do that enough."

Jameis, in the second half, when those interceptions started coming, what did you see on each of those plays?

"The first one, just got to get the ball two feet higher. That's a good play. The other two, just unfortunate events, man. My two on the same exact route just had some unfortunate things happen."

And after the nice game that you guys all had last week and you were hoping to build on it this week, going into the bye, just how hard is this one to take for you?

"Yeah, we're going to assess the tape. I know me personally, man, like I said, my faith is not wavering. I still believe. I still know what this team and this offense and this defense are capable of doing. The biggest thing is we have to eliminate plays that beat us. And I had three of them. And we all know the plays that we can help this team out with. So that's just accountability and I think we're going to embrace that. And having a week to really digest how we can get better is required."

How big is this bye week for you guys? As much mentally as anything?

"Anytime you head into a bye week, it's about studying yourself, self-scouting, looking in the mirror and saying, like, 'Hey, what can I do to help this team?' -- personally, together. And that's my main focus, like, 'Hey, what can I do to get better, to help this team?' And I challenge the other guys to do that as well."

What were the Chargers doing defensively that made it so tough for you guys? Especially in that first half where I think you had 57 yards?

"They were playing sound football. And when they're playing sound football, we have to get completions and we have to be able to matriculate the ball down the field little by little, and that's it."

How deflating was that first drive in the third quarter, you guys take eight minutes off the clock and obviously end with the interception?

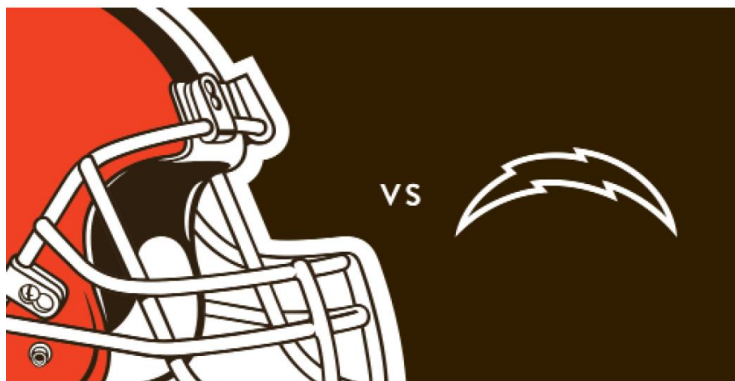
"Yeah, I have played this game for a long time and that play is still living in my head. I have to make a better ball right there. If we finish, if we score right there, the momentum changes and this game probably has a different outcome. But that's what my focus is, it's one play at a time. And that's what it's like. That one play because we have to make the most of the one play. The Browns have to win that one play, and I didn't do that on that play."

So just before that play was the slant to (Cedric) Tillman. What happened then?

"I mean it's one play at a time. We just got to continue to get better. We have to continue to look internally as a whole, individually and find a way to overcome this. We can do this. We can, we can endure, we can persevere. I've been here before, it's not my first rodeo, so I know it's required."

What did you see on that touchdown pass to Tillman?

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"He was one on one, and he made an amazing, amazing grab. That's what he's capable of doing. So I'm happy that we were able as an offense to finish with a touchdown."

You just said that you've been here before. So how do you bounce back from a three-interception game?

"You bounce back one play at a time because that's really all that matters."

What keeps players persevering through the second half when you are down 2 scores?

"Persevering through the second half, it's one play at a time. You never know which play is going to be the play to spring you forward and that faith of 'this is the play' and that laser focus on executing this play right here is required."

Have you been on a team that's sort of in this situation, maybe not 2-7, but close to the situation and has been able to turn it around?

"You know, I believe I have in my first year in Tampa. We drew together some wins at the end of the year and it's really just about staying together. And I believe we got good leaders in this locker room. I know, me personally, I'm going to continue to challenge the guys and lift the guys up. I know how this game is. This is a game that goes week by week. This is a tale of two weeks. So, I will continue to endure. If you remember, my faith is still unwavering and we're going to find a way to get better and improve from this."

You guys made such a jump offensively last week and were so high emotionally. Why do you think you weren't able to sustain that momentum this season?

"Yeah, I think just collectively complementary football. Last week we were ahead of the sticks. We did a good job of being efficient on first and second down and that leads to productive plays and productive drives and we're going to continue to pursue that and look how we can become more and more efficient on first and second down."

The next 47 hours, the uncertainty that comes with the trade deadline, maybe some teammates won't be back. As players, how do you handle that uncertainty those times?

"I think the way you handle uncertainty at any time is one day at a time. I think as a human, fear of the unknown is something that really keeps us up at night. We just don't know. But I just lean on trust in the Lord with your whole heart and lean out into your own understanding. And that's definitely what I'm going to do. I don't understand why today happened, but I'm a trust in the Lord regardless."

What will you do over the bye to even improve as a player or work on your game?

"Well, I'm going to work. I'm having my quarterback coach come in and we're going to work. I'm going to study some film, look at myself, address myself how I can help his team get better."

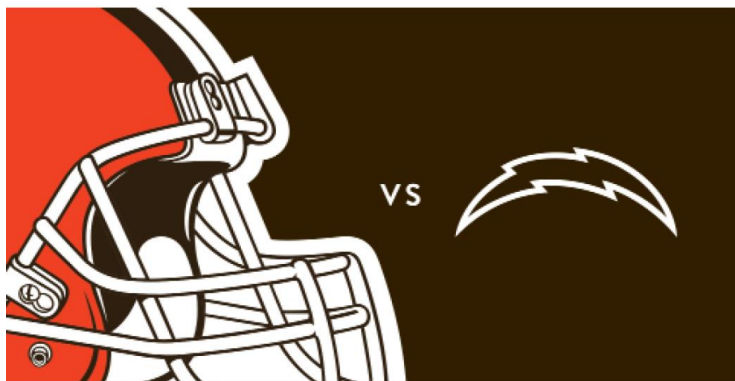
What do you think when you see Myles (Garrett) go three sacks in four plays?

"Man, I'm not amazed. It's really amazing the type of player that he is and I'm grateful to play among like him, the Nick Chubbs, the Denzel Wards, those are Hall of Fame caliber guys, and you see those guys just shine and I just want to do better for him. When you're playing with guys like that, I want to be able to -- I want him to be able to lean on me and trust that I can put some points up for him so he can keep sacking the quarterback."

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**Browns Quarterback Jameis Winston
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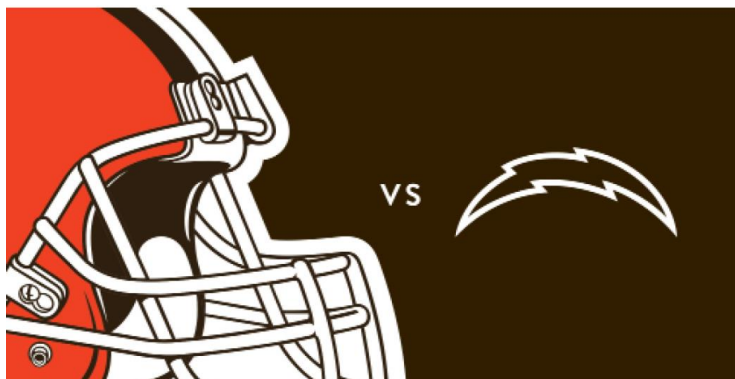


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Cleveland Browns Defensive End Myles Garrett
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Well Myles, I guess let's start with the loss. Just you guys really wanted to build on what you did last weekend. You had mentioned if you could win this game that it would change the whole atmosphere around the team. So how do you describe how this one feels to you?

"It's tough. We beat ourselves a lot of the game. Don't take anything away from them. They made the plays they were supposed to make. Big ones down the field and they capitalized when we made those mistakes. So, kudos to them for being where they're supposed to be and we just got to be better, we got to be smarter."

Obviously, you're rushing after (Justin) Herbert, how do you explain those miscommunications that led to those two long touchdowns?

"I can't explain it yet. I have to watch the film and something that we got to be on the same page about. There's just a lot of talk back there and I think somebody thought it was someone else's job and miscommunication like that leads to big plays and we've seen that before and we have to just get that corrected."

Myles, you guys have six sacks in the first half, you having three of them. What did you see in the pressure that you guys were able to apply on Herbert in the first half especially?

"I mean they're one of the best fronts we're going to face all year. So, we have a lot of respect for them, and we prepared in that way. So, I think we were just ready for what they were going to throw at us. They threw me some one-on-ones and I made the most of them. But the guys on the interior were also denting the pocket making him where he couldn't step up a lot and we were just winning when we needed to. They were really making plays."

How deflating is this after the way you guys played last week?

"It's tough. It's real disappointing because it's a lot of just self-inflicted errors. Just out of position, beating ourselves. Whether it's out of position on a run where it could really be a tackle for loss or maybe at worst, a one or two-yard gain or a play that could be pressure, maybe a QB hit, get off the field, maybe a sack. Things that could change the game end up being a touchdown there and it can't be that kind of swing. It can't be where it's touchdown or bust. We got to execute more consistently than not."

Myles, what do you attribute the miscommunications to though? I mean you guys... It's a veteran team you got out there.

"I wish I could tell you. Something we got to communicate and talk about tomorrow. We're going to watch the film, it's going to make us sick to our stomach but that's something we got to bow up and we just got to swallow this one. It's a tough loss to swallow but we really let it slide on defense. We can't expect them to bail us out on offense all the time, same with special teams."

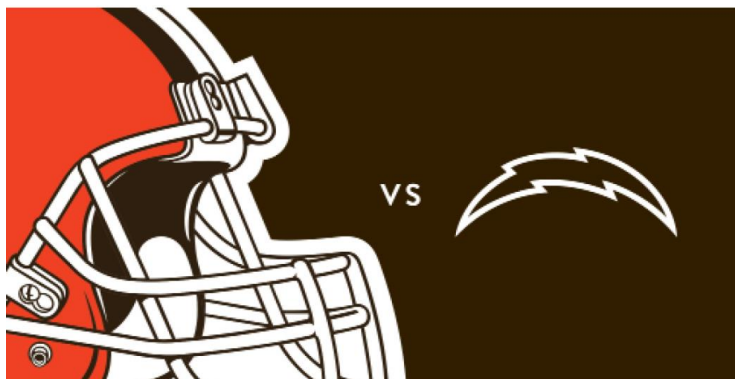
Three sacks, one of the best game of your career, certainly one of the best half of your career. How do you balance that with 27-10 loss or is there a balance?

"There's no balance. There's just loss."

What keeps you going at the second half of a game that's getting out of hand?

"The chance to change the game. When there's still time of the clock, I'm still thinking there's a way for myself or for my d-line to take over the game. For us to get a strips sack, get a force rumble, TFLs or whatever it is to be disruptive and to

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knock them out of their momentum and give us a short field or something. And unfortunately, that didn't come like we wanted but there were still a lot of big plays made up front and across the defense. But it's got to be more consistent."

Do you worry about wasting a year of your prime in a season like this?

"I mean, still halfway through the season. Halfway through the season and we still got a lot of time left. Eight games, turn around, go 10-7. First we got to go 1-0. We go 10-7, still a way to get into the playoffs, still make some noise, still go to where we want to go. So, it's just about a decision being made right now. If we have the men in here who have the character and the pride and the work to do it or not."

So again, you had mentioned that if you had gotten it to 3-6, it would change the whole atmosphere. So, at 2-7, do you really still 100% believe you guys can, one game at a time, still make this happen and achieve your goals this season?

"Yes."

What do you, as a leader of the team play in that? I mean, do you say anything as you get into the bye week about staying on top of their work or anything like that, or how do you approach this?

"You don't stray too far away from the game. And as the best player on the team, I expect myself to lead by example more than talking and telling everybody what I want. Show them how it's supposed to look and do as I do."

Two of your sacks were in three plays in the first quarter. Your other sack obviously in the first half as well. Do you ever feel like you're in the zone? And if you do, was that a time when you felt it?

"Even when plays aren't being [made]. When I'm not making plays, I still feel there are moments in which I'm in the zone, that being one of them. And sometimes, the offense throws different looks or different guys at me to get me out of my rhythm and to try to get me out the zone. But that was one of the times where I was like in one-on-one, I'm starting to get a beat, I'm starting to figure it out and things were just really starting to click. That's when there's sometimes tight ends, sometimes it's slide, full slide, halfback. Those things start to, especially when they're moving the ball, starts to try to change your rush plan. But once you can really start getting dialed in on what they're trying to do, it helps you really key in on the rushes that you can use to take over the game."

Does it make it more frustrating when it almost seemed like for a lot of the first half it was either a sack or a big pass play? How hard was that to take?

"I'd rather have no sacks at every game than to continue losing like we are. The stats are what they are, but I'd rather win every time. So, it's frustrating as hell."

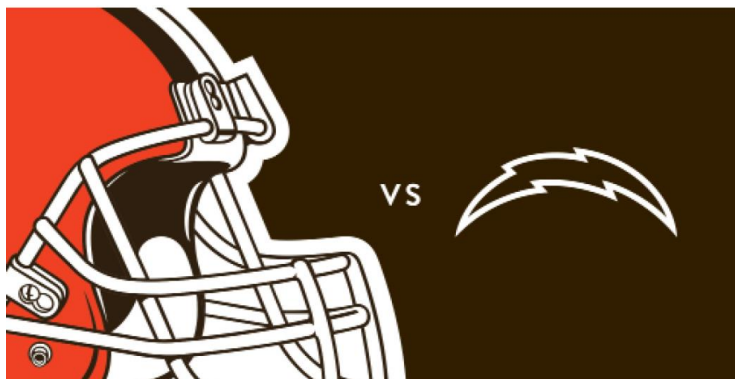
There was a report that surfaced in the middle of the game that Z (Za'Darius Smith) is going to be traded to the (Detroit) Lions by either tonight or tomorrow. I know you said you don't want that to happen, but do you feel like maybe after a loss like this it will?

"I got no idea. I don't look into the rumor mill or trade rumors. I focus on my job here and getting this team out of the hole we're in and keeping these guys together. All the talk outside of this team has nothing to do with me and nothing to do with us."

Why hasn't the team been able to sustain the momentum? Whenever you have had a little bit of success this year, you haven't been able to capitalize on it.

"Got to just keep our head down and stick to the work. I feel like sometimes we get a little bit too high, and we start feeling good about a win. We're nowhere near where we want to be. We got to stay consistent in our demeanor and how we're attacking each and every day. Sometimes we get a little bit too high, we get a little bit full of ourselves, and that takes away from the kind of preparation that we need to get wins like this."

**Browns Defensive End Myles Garrett
November 3, 2024**



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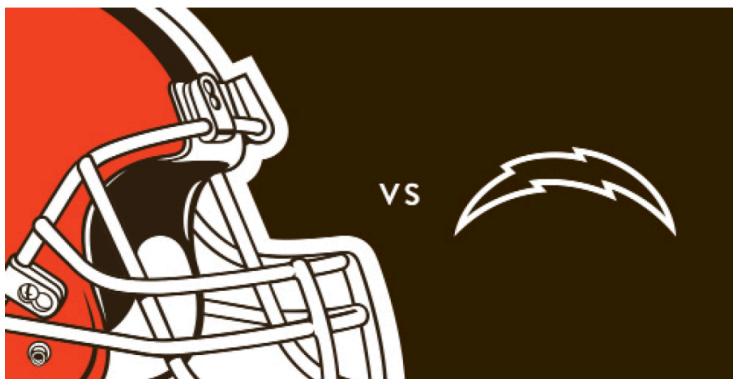
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**Los Angeles Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Chargers
Week 9
11/3/2024**

Opening Statement:

"I'm just so proud of our team and the way they played today. A great team effort. There will be a lot of guys to talk about, a lot of guys who shined big time in this game. It was a wonderful feeling of winning. A wonderful victory."

Can you talk about Chargers WR Quentin Johnston's performance?

"It was a great game by Q. You could really see the speed. It's fast. It's a problem. It was just great. His development just keeps increasing. He's really doing a great job with the back shoulder ball. Every level of his game. Coach Sanjay Lal has done an incredible job. I couldn't be more proud of Q and so many of the guys you can bring up. Let's bring up some more names. It was that kind of great effort. It wasn't easy. They made a lot of great plays on their side as well. Six sacks in the first half? What a great player – 95 (Browns DE Myles Garrett), my gosh, he is so good. The guys just kept after it and kept at it. In the end, (Chargers RB) J.K. (Dobbins) was able to find a hole. (Chargers QB) Justin (Herbert) found holes. The receivers did a great job of finding holes at the intermediate level and the deep level. I'm just so proud. It takes that. It takes resilience. Just kind of relentless and the next play [mentality]. They make a play – 3, 2, 1, let it go and let's get on to the next play. Defensively, just spectacular. (Chargers CB) Tarheeb (Still) – one and a half interceptions today with the way he tipped that one back to (Chargers S) Elijah Molden. And Elijah is just always in the right spot. Elijah Molden does a great job. We defended the deep spots really well. Elijah had a great rep and defended the deep ball. A great interception by (Chargers S) Alohi (Gilman) to get him going. He was really triggering today and a great catch on the interception. (Chargers LB) Troy Dye – gave him a game ball. It was a tremendous fourth down stop. Talk about never letting up. Just put (Chargers DL) Tear Tart, the blocked field goal and that tremendous push. Justin Herbert - I think since 1920 there's only been a few quarterbacks that have had a perfect passer rating in the first half, and now he's one of them. Right up there with Tom Brady and Joe Burrow, I think has done it a couple times as well. (Chargers WR) Josh (Palmer) as well. D.D. (Chargers WR Derius Davis), just great to get his explosion back in the game. I'm really proud of him. I'm proud of all our big guys. It's a really good offensive line the Browns have and a really formidable defensive line. We've talked about before how much we ask of those big guys. They're hitting every single play. It was good. We just kept at it and kept grinding."

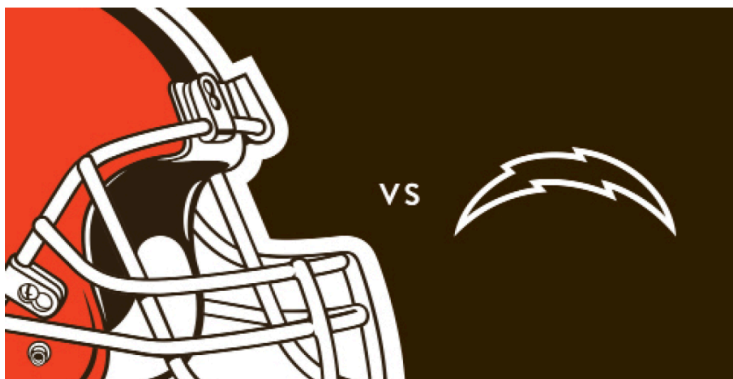
What did you see from Chargers RB J.K. Dobbins?

"That resilience. This Browns defense – they stop plays. They stop them cold. You saw the sacks, the tackles for a loss. They're just really good at it. Unless you don't get discouraged and you keep a good self-worth of yourself, and 3, 2, 1, let it go, next play is coming. I thought our guys did a really good job of that. Not getting emotionally hijacked when something didn't go right and then kept working. Fortune favors those who press on. It's at the top of the list of why I'm so proud of our team today."

You mentioned Charges CB Tarheeb Still's 1.5 interceptions. How have you seen him progress?

"You know how I feel about it. It's a gift from the football gods. Rookie corner, both Tarheeb and (Chargers CB) Cam Hart, what they've been able to do has been great. That's a really hard position and to come right in in your first year, and start and play an entire game and have success. Many a lesser man has been in there at that level at that position and their entire self-worth can be blown. These two rookie corners are really good. What I see out of them is just better, better, better; building, building; building. I'm really proud of them. That was really great. It was great. Let's keep going and see how good we can get. Let's see how good they can get. And I want to say (Chargers DB Coach) Steve Clinkscale too. I want to give Coach Clink a shoutout. I meant to give him a game ball in the locker room. What a phenomenal job. A first

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year secondary coach. New with these guys, coaching new players. Tarheeb, Cam, also Elijah Molden is new. Alohi Gilman is new to Clink. (Chargers S) Derwin (James Jr.) is new to Clink and Clink is new to them. He's just really good. He's one of my best friends and I just think he's a great coach and phenomenal. (Chargers DC) Jesse Minter just continues to be a great play-caller and awesome. I have to say the same for (Chargers OC) Greg Roman because he was on that play-calling side of that defense that can stop you cold and stop you in your tracks. Keep going, keep battling them up. I thought he did an incredible job too. I'm really proud of our coordinators and coaching staff as well. I know I said I don't get nostalgic very often, but I was nostalgic today. My mom is from Cleveland and I used to come here all the time – Christmases, summer vacation. But today, it just hit me. So I'm standing out there pregame – November 25, 1961, Jack and Jackie Harbaugh were married here in Cleveland. And the cool thing about it is on their honeymoon, my dad took my mom to a Cleveland Browns game. So Jim Brown was out there playing. They were playing the New York Giants. They stayed in a hotel downtown. I don't think they ever told us which one they stayed in the night of their wedding. But the funny part is that they woke up and they went to White Castle for breakfast. Sat on the stools there. Then they walked to old Cleveland Municipal Stadium for the game. Art Modell, the owner of the Browns was giving free tickets to high school coaches in the area. So my dad was one who got free tickets to the game. I remember my dad tells it, and sometimes he embellishes it, but he's walking up to his seats and some of the other guys who played at Bowling Green with my dad on the team, were also coaches and they were there the day after the wedding at Municipal Stadium like 'Harbaugh! What are you doing here on your honeymoon? You're going to a Browns football game!' It's something we always thought was cool and were proud of. Mom and dad went to a Browns game for their honeymoon. So I did, I got a little nostalgic about that pregame right before kickoff."

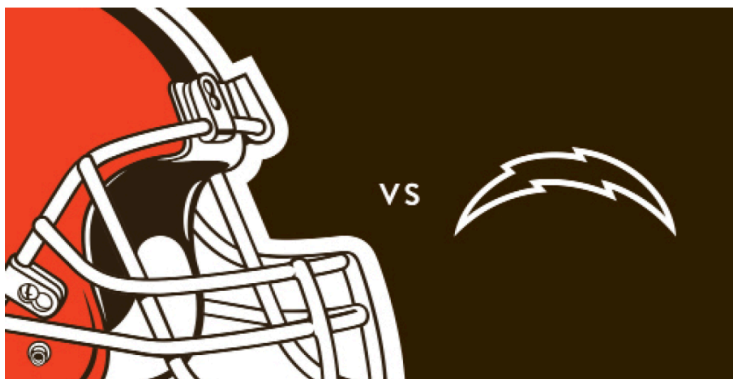
How does it feel to come back to Ohio and leave with a win?

"Great. It feels great. People don't really know, but the roots are deep in Ohio for the Harbaugh family. Mom is from Cleveland. Grew up on the East Side, went to Shaw High School. My dad, Jack Harbaugh, is from Crestline, Ohio, not too far down the road. This is where we went for vacation. We grew up here. Joe Cipiti, my grandfather and Jackie Cipiti. It's where we learned how to work. Grandpa Joe would always put you to work, some kind of yardwork. He was a great mechanic. He would always show me and John how to do things. His work ethic was unmatched. He lived to about 98 ½, but up until about 97, 98 he was working every day. Just a great love for Bill and Marie Harbaugh, too. Worked on the railroad. This is where our family is from. I was born here. My brother was born here. We were both born here, living in Perrysburg at the time. Lived in Edon, lived in Xenia. We lived in Bowling Green. We have nothing but love for the state of Ohio."

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**Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh
November 3, 2024**



REGULAR SEASON GAME NINE

CLEVELAND BROWNS VS. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

NOVEMBER 3, 2024 @ 1:00 PM ET

*Los Angeles Chargers Quarterback Justin Herbert
Cleveland Browns vs. Los Angeles Chargers
Week 9
11/3/2024*

What can you say about WR Quentin Johnston who had a career day 118 receiving yards, including a 66-yard touchdown?

"It was awesome to get him back. He's been battling and he's a tough guy. He always helps our offense when he's out there. He just makes plays, finds a way to make something happen. He had a huge play there and was dependable all day."

Was there a point of emphasis to get WR Ladd McConkey involved?

"I think it's always an emphasis of our offense to get him the ball. He's one of those guys that you just trust, is friendly to the quarterback, and is able to make things happen. So we kind of had a plan to just give him the ball as much as we can and whenever you do that something good is going to happen."

What did you see on your touchdown throws?

"I think it's just one of those looks that we prepared for. Had a good plan, had a good protection plan. Q (WR Quentin Johnston) just made a great play on it. (WR) Josh (Palmer) as well made a great play, a heads up play, and just being available with your eyes and understanding the coverage, the leverage, both of those guys did a great job at it."

What has allowed you to attack down field the past couple of weeks?

"I think a good protection plan, to understand the looks that we could get on defense, the coverages that we might expect and see, and having a receiver group that is able to communicate and understand where we're going with the ball. So when everyone's on the same page, we're able to do things like that, and that's our whole emphasis and point on offense is to be able to push the ball downfield and understand taking our shots and being smart with the ball."

Was it exciting to see WR Quentin Johnston have the day that he had?

"Yeah, it's awesome. He's been so tough, and he's been fighting to get back out there. He's done such a great job at camp. OTAs, and to have the success that he's had, no one's more happy for him than I am."

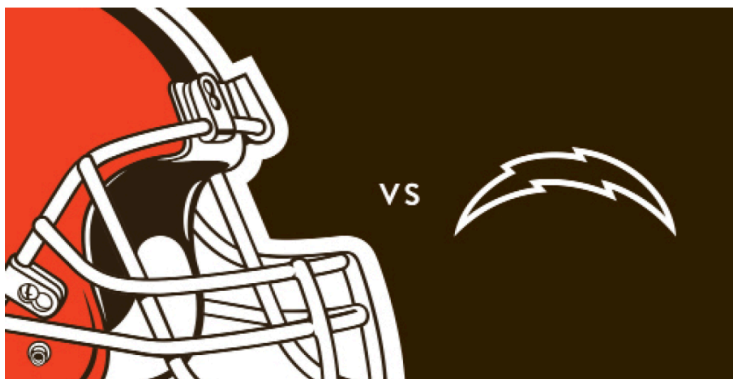
What kind of strides is the defense taking?

"The defense has been incredible all year long. They're so well-coached and they've got so many talented guys on that side of the ball. It's been really fun. It's on us as an offense to just be able to score points and understand that they're going to hold people out and they've done such a great job forcing turnovers too, three I think today, and as an offense it's just on us to be able to be smart with the ball, push the ball down the field and keep supporting them however we can."

What was the difference between the first half and second half?

"I think we just have to keep our focus and execute. I thought we made some huge steps in the first half, made some big plays, but just were unable to execute and take advantage of some of the looks that we got in the second half. We had a good protection plan, good plan out there. Just have to come out and execute, keep our focus."

**Chargers Quarterback Justin Herbert
November 3, 2024**



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What was the reason you were sacked six times? What do you attribute that to?

"I'd have to take a look at it. I think it can all start with me getting the ball out. It's understanding the protection and we knew that they had a great rush, so it's on me to be able to get the ball out and understand where our holes are, where our problems are, so I'll have to take a look at it and keep moving forward. But we have a lot of respect for them as pass rushers."

What was it like to have (PR/KR) Derius Davis back?

"You saw today, an incredible punt return that set us up for the score. So anytime he's on the field and he's able to get the ball, something good is going to happen. We've definitely missed him. It's been good to see him back out there and it just opens up a whole new threat on punt return."

Did Head Coach Jim Harbaugh talk to you at all about his deep ties to the state of Ohio and his homecoming today?

"He did not. I'm interested to hear about it though."

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