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## Chargers Week 5 Media Availability

Friday, October 7, 2022 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

#### **On K Dustin Hopkins' probability of playing on Sunday:**

"He's questionable. It just popped up at the beginning of the week. He's been out here. He did some kicking today. We'll see how it feels before gameday. It will be a game-time decision. He did some kicking today. He went through his routine in the morning. It's still a little tight, but we're going to see tomorrow, and then on gameday."

#### **On if the team could potentially activate K Taylor Bertolet 'for insurance':**

"Yes."

#### **On if is aware of the details of how Hopkins' injury occurred:**

"No. Just one of these odd things that popped up at the beginning of the week. I have no explanation."

#### **On LB Kyle Van Noy's injury:**

"Just football. He played a tough game. He'll be OK. He'll play in the game. Just football, but he's going to play."

#### **On if he is 'optimistic' about WR Joshua Palmer's ability to play on Sunday:**

"Optimistic. He was at practice all week. He got the reps and stuff. What we were trying to do is work that soreness out, get him enough reps to work some soreness out. We'll work him out around game time and make sure that he's safe to play."

#### **On if the team is 'considering' placing WR Keenan Allen on Reserve/Injured:**

"Not that type of situation."

#### **On how Browns DEs Myles Garrett and Jadeveon Clowney's game statuses impact preparations:**

"Not much. We were expecting both to play. You kind of have to go into the game that way, expecting that. Then, if it changes, you change. We're going to be prepared for both guys to play. We have evidence of who their backups are, too."

#### **On expectations for TE Donald Parham Jr. on Sunday:**

"We're expecting for him to get into that role that he had last year, get him into the fire and get him out there. We wanted to have these first two weeks to fully get him acclimated into practice. I'm sure that there is going to be some sucking wind out there a little bit with his first game, but we expect him to have a full role in the game."

**On how TE Gerald Everett's role 'is impacted' by Parham returning to the lineup:**

"Gerald's role is going to stay as is. What I think that you can do with Donald [Parham Jr.] is he can do some of the jobs that take the load off of Gerald a little bit, where Gerald was, I think, sharing multiple jobs with D.P. being out. I'm excited about all three [tight ends]. Gerald has had such a good start to the season. I thought that [TE] Tre' [McKitty] played really well last week. D.P. is a weapon for us, so we're hoping to use him on Sunday."

**On CB Michael Davis:**

"Mike has been, really, a joy to coach. From the minute we got here, he has just embraced us. He has been an important part to our team. He has an important role on our team this year. We see him as a starting corner. He's a starting gunner for us, doing a great job on special teams. I think his story is what the NFL is about. Where he started in his pro journey to now, it just shows who he is as a person and as a competitor. He's going to be a big factor for us this season."

**On Davis' heritage:**

"I remember when he came to sign his contract extension, he wore something that was very personal to him. I know that that side means a lot to him. In that DB room, I know that they talk about that a lot. I know that him being a California guy, and growing up really close by, that it's really special to him. Being in Southern California, you realize that he impacts a lot of people. There are a lot of people like him in Southern California. Hopefully, he can be that example of young kids, boys and girls, of where you can go. He's just been a great teammate and a great player to coach, for sure."

## **QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT**

### **On the Browns' defense:**

"They're a really good defense. They've got an entire defense on that side of the ball. They've got the front seven, the linebackers and the DBs to really play good defense. We've had to watch a bunch of film this week. We're going to have to execute and have a good plan for any chance on Sunday."

### **On any takeaways from last year's matchup:**

"I think you can take a look at it. Like you said, they were missing a couple of guys. Obviously, things are going to change from year to year, but they're a very talented team. They're really well-coached. They play sound, fundamental defense. We've seen that all year long from them."

### **On Browns DE Myles Garrett:**

"He's an exceptional player. He's as good as it gets. To have a guy like that on defense, you have to be prepared for him. You have to have a good protection plan and you have to have the guys up front to block. It's something that's really important for our offense, to be able to have a plan going into that week, and especially into that game. We definitely have to be aware of him out on the field."

### **On team morale:**

"I think it's important for a team to feel the same way regardless of the outcome and not to get too high or not to get too low. I think [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley has done a great job of emphasizing that all year long. It's never as bad as it seems or it's never as good as it seems, either."

### **On OL Jamaree Salyer:**

"Jamaree has definitely stepped it up. We knew how good he was going to be in camp. We saw him all camp long. For him to be able to step up and not miss a beat — he knows the offense really well. He's picked it up really quickly. He's got a great feel for that side of the offensive line. Him, [C] Corey [Linsley] and [G] Matt [Feiler], they work great together. He's done an incredible job at practice."

### **On Salyer 'being tough on himself':**

"Yeah, he's always out there working extra. You love to see that. He's one of those guys that stays well after practice and gets those extra reps. That's really going to be important in the next couple of months."

### **On if Salyer has asked him questions about the offense:**

"Not too often. I think he's done a good job. If he's got any questions about offensive line play, Corey and Matt are probably great guys to address."

### **On the running attack:**

"I think it's huge. It's important to be a well-balanced offense. We think really highly of our offensive line, especially our running backs and getting the ball off, and going. We felt like we did a better job of it last week. We can always be better. We can always throw the ball better, as well. Everything that goes into it is just to make sure that we're able to move the ball, keep the defense off-balance and get the ball rolling."

### **On being a full participant in practice each day this week:**

"It's awfully tough when I don't get to throw. I love throwing the ball more than anyone. Just not being out there throwing all the time is definitely something that I've had to adjust to. I'm getting more comfortable, feeling better and just continuing to get my treatment and my rehab so that I feel my best on Sunday."

### **On if the 'change in practice routine this week has to do his comfort level and pain' that he's going through:**

"I think it's just being smart. I'm not doing anything that I don't need to do. I'm getting as many reps as I can get without being too sore. Just handling it and making sure that we're being smart about it."

**On TE Donald Parham Jr.:**

“He’s a huge threat. He’s one of those guys that you really trust on 50/50 balls. He’s a great blocker, as well. He’s one of those guys, when he gets the ball, something special is going to happen. We saw that last year with him. To get him back out there definitely adds to our offense. I have so much respect for him. It’s about as tough of a situation that it gets, for him. Everyone on our team was behind him. They believed in him. I think that’s a testament to how good of a character he is and how great of a teammate he is. Everyone has his back. We’re just excited to see him back out there.”

**On his ‘maintaining his mechanics’ when ‘throwing with an injury’:**

“That’s a good question. That’s one of the things, too, about being smart and not overdoing it, not getting to the point where you’re too sore to throw. If you can get 15, 20 throws in and feel good about it, I think that’s all you need. Make sure that you get all of the reps in practice, you’re able to watch them, but to not over-exert it or put too much pressure on it.”

**On his ‘soreness’ and how today feels compared to this time two weeks ago:**

“It’s gotten a lot better. It’s definitely improving with time. I’ve been icing it, doing everything that I can in the treatment room to get better with.”

**On his level of comfort with bootlegs:**

“I think it’s great because those are plays where you make plays. To have guys like [WR] Mike [Williams], [WR] DeAndre [Carter] and [TE] Gerald Everett, those guys out on the perimeter, it’s kind of like a three-on-two fast-break offense in basketball. You get those guys, you go out there and you make something happen. Obviously, you have to be smart with naked and bootlegs, but throwing the ball away, and incompletions, are perfectly OK with those.”

**On if he is the ‘point guard’ on the ‘fast-break plays’:**

“I try to be [laughter]. I try to get the ball to those guys and let them do the cool stuff.”

**On if his ‘victory brisket’ was ‘better’ this week compared to any last year:**

“You’re always hoping for improvement. I think that it’s a lot like football where you look to get better. It’s not always going to be your best performance. That’s one of the best things about it, continuing to learn and get better, just like football.”

**On how he would ‘grade his performance’ based on this week’s brisket:**

“I thought that I could have done better. Obviously, it’s not what I wanted it to be, but I think that my teammates believe highly in my abilities. It’s just one of those things that I will continue to get better at.”