



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

Head Coach Pete Carroll

Head Coach Pete Carroll: "What that really feels like is a real missed opportunity just in general. Monday night was just part of that, but in the division, it's a real opportunity, and we didn't play well enough on the offensive side with the turnovers that add up. That'll be what you talk about and all, but it really was – we didn't play well enough, and they covered us up pretty good. I'm anxious to see the film. Not surprised that they did such a nice job on defense, on pass defense against us. We came out of it okay as far as getting banged up, happy about that. Really, really like what's going on the defense. Couple second halves here, just terrific D, and we're going to need that to play together. But we know we missed the opportunity, and there's so many different ways that we'll get better. And so we got to go back to work really quickly and get ready for this game coming up."

Q: I know you said it's easy to look at the turnovers, but we got to look at the turnovers. Three interceptions by the quarterback. That's usually a nonstarter. Anything that you can put your finger on that?

Coach Carroll: "Yeah, well, he took a couple shots. He threw a couple bombs down there, and one was on about the two, and the other one was in the end zone. I think if that's right, yeah. The reason that he got there because he we had time to hold the football. So we protected okay, and we didn't get the ball thrown underneath. That's what I wish we would have done. I wish we would not taken those shots. They looked like we had to score quick or something. I don't feel like that when we play is the way that we should ever play. We got to take what's there, and we got to take a look at the film. I got to see why that happened like that. Surprised. We haven't looked like that at all at any time. So that's the first time that came up."

Q: Geno Smith tonight, a couple times, obviously, looked like he was limping. Did his health have anything to do his performance?

Coach Carroll: "No. He was alright. He took off and ran and made some yards too. There was a little something from last week, but it wasn't bothering him. He was okay. He made it through all the tests and all of that. So I think he'll feel more confident as he goes out again, comes back and maybe push it, but I don't think that was a big, big issue tonight."

Q: Going back to your first answer on Geno Smith and the interceptions, just in general, overall, his decision making tonight. Your thought process on it? He took a couple of shots, whether he wanted to or not, but just overall, his decision making. Second, with Brock Bowers coming in banged up, little limited, did that play a role in play calling and maybe adjustments in terms of targeting?

Coach Carroll: "I got to talk to Chip [Kelly] about that. We were concerned about him, practiced one day during the week, and he seemed okay and all that. But you saw us go to him more in the second half because he survived the first half and made it through it. I thought like we were impatient with the throwing game, and that's why the ball went down the field so far. And I don't think we needed to do that. But again, I don't want to talk too much until I see the film about the specifics of that, but it's disappointing. I know that the picks are a big issue, but that's not my concern. My concern is why we didn't get the bulk thrown and caught underneath, and we wound up taking those shots."



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Q: The first drive in that second half, 11 plus minutes, I think five third-down conversions. What did you like on that drive, and how did that mirror what you guys worked on all week?

Coach Carroll: "Yeah, we were 50% on third down in this game, and that should generally get you a chance to hold the football and move it well. I thought we converted well, and that's what happened. Did you say there was five third downs on that drive? Yeah, well that's what happened on that drive. And there were third-and-fives, and I think we might have hit one longer, 11 or 12 one time. Jakobi [Meyers] did a great job making his plays and his catches. So, we're capable of throwing the ball like that, and we're capable of showing that kind of consistency. We have to stay patient, and I think it felt like, I think I might as well say, it felt like we were impatient at times in this game."

Q: Less than 20 carries tonight for Ashton Jeanty. Any reason why you haven't been able to heavily feature him? Is that something you want to get going?

Coach Carroll: "We're just getting started. We're just getting started. He's breaking into the NFL, just figuring it out. He had 11 or something carries tonight. Is that what he had? He'll get more. That'll come. We're going to have to run the football more effectively. We got to get more yards. We had 50 or 60 yards or something rushing. That's not enough. We got to get more than that. So I'd like to see that just as well as you would, but as far as pushing the issue with him, trying to get him 25 carries or something like that, we're breaking him in and so that'll come."

Q: Your first home game here. The fans were loud. I'd just like to get your impressions of Allegiant Stadium?

Coach Carroll: "I thought the crowd was excellent. I thought that was a fantastic crowd. And they were a factor, and you can feel them. They roast us, the big occasions when we needed them to. We need to give them more to cheer about and get ahead in this game so we can feel what that would be like. But I thought it was a really good showing. It felt like a real home game with an advantage. So, I was really pleased, but I didn't know what to expect. So, I was really pleased with that."

Q: You mentioned it a couple times earlier, when Geno Smith turned the ball over, he was throwing the ball on third-and-six, third-and-15 after either a neutral or negative play right ahead of it. How do you build more balance on first and second down?

Coach Carroll: "Yeah, we didn't feel like there was consistency, and that's part of the question about the running game being kind of in the middle of all of that. But what happened tonight, Geno's [Smith] a 70% guy, and he wasn't that tonight, and more so was because of the attempts that we made. I thought that took away from that, and we just got to take what's given to us. I'm not sure that that's the case until I see the film, but I bet that's what it is."



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Q: What were your thoughts on the big plays you guys made on defense late in the game to give yourself some hope?

Coach Carroll: "Yeah, I think this is a defense that's going to come together and continue to be really difficult on our opponents. The running game has not been the issue at all. We've been able to get some rush. We've made some plays; our corners made some nice plays tonight. You got to give credit to Justin Herbert. He's a really good player, and he made good decisions and good choices, and when he had his open guy, he made the big play. It was just a crushing play because it was an easy play for us to defend, and we just got caught up a little bit and misread the big corner route that the guy ran. But other than that, I thought the whole night was good defense. I thought they rose to the occasions. I think it was four-for-13 or 14 on third down. Big time there. The running game wasn't there, had a couple sacks, and we made some plays. So I think that's a positive side of what we've shown in the first couple of weeks. But those guys can go. We got to keep it going. It won't just happen. What are we going to do now? That's what's going to count. So we got to come back against the Commanders and get rolling."

Q: Geno Smith is someone that has the utmost confidence in his arm, as he's willing to throw the ball sometimes in double or triple coverage, but is there a time where you kind of have to pull him to the side and say, "Hey, we can't?"

Coach Carroll: "Yeah, it felt like that tonight. That's right. It felt like that tonight, and he had a lot of time back there. He had chance to look and see, didn't like what he saw underneath and gave those guys some shots down the field, which he's tremendous at doing basically. So I'm not not supporting some of the choices there. I need to see what happened though. I want to see if he had other options that we could've gotten the ball out of his hands. And so he'll play. He's been a 70% guy for the last four or five years. He'll be right back at it just like he was last week."

Q: There was a report that Tom Brady meets three times a week or so with Chip Kelly, goes over film with him. We saw him up in the booth with a headset on. I was curious your thoughts on that level of participation with Tom Brady?

Coach Carroll: "Yeah, that's not accurate. That's not accurate. We have conversations. I talk to Tom [Brady]. Chip [Kelly] talks to Tom regularly. I mean, we have a tremendous asset. And we all get along well, and we respect each other. And so we just talk about life and football whenever it comes. And he has great insight, so we're lucky to have him as an owner."



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Quarterback Geno Smith

Q: In this offense, how much latitude do you have to audible?

Geno Smith: "It depends on which play it is, but, I mean, you can audible any play at any down. But you want to do things in structure, things that you've practiced. We won't just go out there and just make audibles just to make them. Everything that we do is built in within the system. I'm not sure why you asked that question, but that's pretty much how we do it. Within the system, we like to make checks and stuff like that."

Q: In terms of tonight, we asked Pete Carroll just about spot decision making, especially the ones where you took shots downfield. Can you summarize what took place and where you're at in the game at that moment, and taking those shots, especially the ones that got picked?

Smith: "The first play of the game, I was a play that we designed. I thought I had an open guy, but I led him a little bit too far up front. Ball gets tipped up, guy gets an interception. Obviously you want to have those plays back, you can't. I mean, it's the reality of it. I took a shot to Dont'e [Thornton Jr.] before the half. I thought he had a safety on him, I thought he had a shot, so I gave him a chance. Obviously, didn't work out in our favor. So again, those are things that I got to learn from and be better at. Anything that doesn't look right out there, you put that on my feet, put that on my shoulders. I feel like I got to be a lot better for our guys. I know I have to, and I will be. And then the one to Jakobi [Meyers], I had a DB with his back turned, playing Tampa 2. I thought I could fit it in there. Obviously, we need to score seven points in that situation. A field goal would have helped us, but seven points would've put us in a better position. Ball gets tipped up again, I thought I put it in a decent spot where our guy can make a play. Ball gets tipped up, they make a play on it, and we don't get points. I'm never going to make any excuses about anything. I've got to be better. We got to be better, and we've got a short week to improve on that."

Q: Are you the type of quarterback to just flush that game? It's kind of an unusual game for you, not up to your normal standards, are you able to do that? Do you go back and watch it and learn from it? How do you kind of process and move on from that?

Smith: "No, I've got to learn from it. This game is all about learning from your experiences. I've had similar games in the past where the ball is bounced in an unfortunate way, or I haven't made the best decision on a given play, or the best throw. That's a part of the game, but you can never just say you can flush it. You got to learn from it, and so I'm going to be super hard on myself, extremely hard on myself, because that's all I know. I'm going to get better this week, find ways to get better from this film, and we'll be better as a team as well."

Q: Pete Carroll talked about how they covered and didn't use the word "surprised," but he seemed to say maybe they were a little better even coming in than you thought. What did you see in terms of how they covered and how they played defense?

Smith: I mean, it was on tape. Last year, they had a top 10 defense. They played really well in the red zone, all the things that we saw on tape we expected them to do. They're a 90% zone team, I think they probably did that today. They stuck to what they do. They play their stuff. They play well, they communicate, they get out there, they fly around. Hats off to those guys for playing a tremendous game. But for us, we never underestimate anybody. It's the NFL, all these guys are capable. They're all worthy to be out there. So we got to go out there and make plays, and today we didn't."



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Q: So between last week, you had one of the best games in the league, and then you come into this game, and obviously with this performance, was this a situation where they made you play their game, something along those lines, or did they do anything that they hadn't shown that maybe surprised you?

Smith: "No. I didn't think anything was a surprise out there. I just think the way that they play and the way that teams have been playing as of recent, it's going to be a lot of two high shells, a lot of zone coverages, they're going to force offenses to be disciplined. If you don't run the ball consistently, if you don't pass the ball efficiently, you're going to have a tough day. If you don't do well on third downs and the situations in the red zone, if you don't score touchdowns, they're counting on that with their coverages. I think it all comes down to execution. I think that was the main thing. We executed well at some times, and then other times we didn't. Had a [19]-play drive, we ended with three points. So you want to make sure that you're scoring touchdowns on teams like this. That's a championship team, and we're going to have championship teams every single week. We just got to get better and just focus and execute and go out there and play our game."

Q: As far as the rushing attack, we asked Pete Carroll about Ashton Jeanty, how important is it for this system and how you play to have that balance, and how quick do you need that to come into play to get the passing game going?

Smith: "We got to have balance, but we can pass on anybody. We know that. But it's not about what we can do in the pass game. It's about what we can do as an offense collectively. Again, balance is the key to anything on offense. We got to run the ball when we need to, we got to pass the ball when we need to, and we got to be efficient in both. So we'll get better at it, we'll find ways to get better at it. Find ways to be more efficient and look towards the future. I think we have got a lot of good things ahead of us. We just got to work out."

Q: This was your first home game being the Raiders starting quarterback. Can you give us your impressions of the stadium and the fans?

Smith: "The fans were tremendous. I thought the atmosphere was great. Monday night game, first home game of the season, I thought it was awesome. I really wanted to get a win for the fans. I wanted to put on a better showing, obviously, but those are the things that we got to improve on. We're going to make the proper adjustments and get right back to it."



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

Defensive End Maxx Crosby

On his overall thoughts on the game...

Maxx Crosby: "We lost the game. We didn't play good enough to win. So, just got to watch the film."

On how to bounce back on a short week...

Crosby: "Yeah, like you said, it's a short week. We'll watch the film, flush it, learn from it, and you got to go back on the east coast again, so we got another good challenge in. I'm looking forward to it."

On how to lead the young guys by example after a loss...

Crosby: "Yeah, it's just about action. Showing the guys every day what it's like to work your ass off and set the standard. And we have that in our room, and we have a team full of guys that love playing ball, so just got to get back to the drawing board, continue getting better."

On the challenge going up against guy like Justin Herbert with his talent and skill set...

Crosby: "Yeah, he's great player. I played him a lot my career, so got a lot of respect for him. I know we're going to have another chance to see him again. So, like I said, ultimate respect."

On playing next to Jonah Lauulu and what stands out...

Crosby: "Yeah, he works his ass off, and he's getting better and better. So, yeah, love Jonah [Lauulu]. He's a super talented guy, and he's just going to keep getting better."

On if it's tough after the team played well last week and had such good energy to have this happen...

Crosby: "I mean, every game is different. We had our chances, we just didn't capitalize. So, yeah, it's a team game, and we got to keep getting better as a team and just play complimentary football. I think we did some good things, but there's definitely room for improvement, and we can watch the film and get better from it."

On getting announced for Tom Brady's flag football league and the opportunity ...

Crosby: "Yeah, definitely a blessing. It's really cool opportunity. Tom Brady, Michael Rubin, some really great guys that are in my corner. So, representing our country, that's what it's all about. So, really excited about that."

On the few times in the game where he dropped back in coverage from the line, and how much he enjoys the challenge of the things that the defense is asking him to do...

Crosby: "Yeah, it's definitely different. But for me, I trust the coaches. I trust Coach Carroll on doing some different things. So, I feel like I can excel in any spot on the defense. And for me, I'm just trying to continue to evolve as a player. And so if that means dropping a little bit we can do that."

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Wide Receiver Jakobi Meyers

On what they saw from the Chargers defense that made them so effective...

Jakobi Meyers: "They just kept everything in front honestly. So, they made us sustain long drives, and we didn't necessarily finish them with necessarily finish them well or protect the ball like we should have. But like I said, we're going to see them again."

On playing the Washington Commanders next week...

Meyers: "Ready to get to it. That's a talented team; I'm excited to go out there to play on the east coast. We just need a bounce back win, go out there, play hard. Get all the guys healthy, let's get going."

On if the offense was dealing with "growing pains" under a new play caller...

Meyers: "I'm going to say issues. It's just setting the foundation. I mean, we've got to see what works and what doesn't work. It's a little too early right now, so we're just going to keep pushing honestly, it's a long season, and if this defines our season, then we're in trouble anyway. I think we'll be all right. We're going to bounce back from this, learn from it and get better."



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

Tackle DJ Glaze

On growing Pains with new coaches and players...

DJ Glaze: "We've been working in practice, so we already know each other. We're just really trying to continue to build, continue to learn each week. We'll watch this tape, see what we can do better. We have everybody back, so no matter what happens, we try to move on, try to keep everybody involved, try to keep everybody up. That's kind of what we go by."

On how frustrating it is to be close in a game and not winning...

Glaze: "Yeah, you're right there. I know we all want it really bad, but those are the moments we just really have to lock in and capitalize. Yes, frustrating because we know, we know we can do it. We've seen each other do it, time and time again, but at the end of the day, we just got to capitalize, and that's frustrating. We get close and can't finish it off."

On pinpointing the little mistakes...

Glaze: "We got to watch [the film] and see what happened. I think we started a little slow. You really don't want to do that. I feel like we'll watch it, and we'll come out faster next week."

On missing Jackson Powers-Johnson...

Glaze: "Yeah, we miss everybody. We got to pride ourselves and [Alex] Cappa being able to come and step in. We think anybody can plug in without drop off and it felt good out there, the communication, his execution, our execution. So we definitely miss Jackson [Powers-Johnson], but we also feel very good when anybody else comes in."



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh

On his overall thoughts of starting 2-0 in the AFC West...

Head Coach Jim Harbaugh: "Great road win , division game, real blue-collar game. I thought the special teams played winning football, offense played winning football, and the defense were the guardians of victory today. I mean, they had our back, our front, our side, and it was just a tremendous defensive performance today. The turnovers, three interceptions, the fourth down stops, man, incredible stop on the 20 play drive, over 11 minutes, and we had a ball once in the third quarter. They had a once it the third quarter and we just stopped the three points there, and guys just playing like it just meant everything to them. Derwin [James], Daiyan Henley, playing with a fever. Da'Shawn Hand, Teair Tart, D Jack [Donte Jackson], Tarheeb Still, I mean, every single name you can go through, Tony Jefferson, just incredible. Thank goodness for defense, they were the guardians of victory today, and it was just a great game. It was an AFC West fight, and our guys came out on top."

On how an interception as the first pass sets the tone for the game...

Coach Harbaugh: "Yeah, that's how you want to start it, and that was a heck of a job. Our guys were really flying around in the secondary. Derwin [James] was flying around in the secondary and makes that tip, but the big sacks, the stop drives, too. I mean, he was playing at the line of scrimmage. He was playing in the intermediate. He was playing in the deep half and deep part of the field and blitzing off the edge. I've called him the best safety I've ever seen in the history of the National Football League. I don't think I'm going out on a limb there. He is one of the most incredible players I've ever watched."

On Khalil Mack's injury update...

Coach Harbaugh: "We'll get some imaging tomorrow and see where that takes us."

On how long Khalil Mack will be out if he does have to miss...

Coach Harbaugh: "We'll just take it day to day. Again, we'll see what the imaging says."

On how the team responded to having to travel to Brazil and Las Vegas...

Coach Harbaugh: "Good happy flight. Happy flight back from Brazil and another happy flight now. Our team knew it was there, they responded and played really good football. They prepared for it, and then just went out and executed and did what our team does. We move on with humble hearts from here and get ready for another division clash this week."

On what stands out about the passing offense...

Coach Harbaugh: "There's multiple guys open per down. Justin [Herbert] is finding them, and it's Quentin [Johnston], it's Ladd [McConkey], it's Keenan [Allen]. Some of the balls that Lad has been catching, opens up Q [Quentin Johnson] today. That was a perfect example of a lot of the overs, routes that Lad catches. They dropped coverage on Q, he went back to the corner. That was outstanding. There's great options, and the guys are catching the ball. I think that's the other thing that stands out is our receivers are not dropping the ball."



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

On what makes Derwin James the best safety in NFL history...

Coach Harbaugh: "It's like being around greatness every day, whether it's the practice environment, the training environment, the meeting environment, the way he is on the sideline, and mostly the way he is during the game. He's incredible. Enthusiasm unknown to mankind jumps out. When he tackles, he gets him down, but he can cover. He can play any position in the secondary. I guess what jumps out the most is he can play nickel. He can play dime backer. He can play corner. He can play in the deep half. He can play in the deep middle. He can blitz. You'd have to compare it to Willie Mays at that point. He's a five tool, six tool secondary player. It's incredible what he can do. I've come across some competitive people in my time, but he must win. He must win the down. There's never a loss of focus. There's never a change in his approach, and then he's pulling other guys along. I mean, the communication that's taking place when he's on the field, he's getting a lot of guys right and pulling them with him. He's an example-setter, tone-setter, leader, strategist. He does it all, and there's nothing he's not great at, and probably some other things. He says to me, 'We got you coach. We got you,' and I might be worried about this, or I might be worried about that, and when he tells me, 'I got you coach,' I know it. I know it like way inside. He does it all. He's like Superman. When he puts on the armor, when he puts on that suit and wears that number three, I mean, he is donning the cape. He's a Superman out there."

On the differences he noticed with this Raiders team under Pete Carroll...

Coach Harbaugh: "It was hard fought. I mean it was a battle, like all the ones every time you play the Raiders or play a Pete Carroll team. I mean, it was division rivalry, it was all of it. Both teams were just fighting. Everybody was all in out there. There was nobody that was just right down the middle. You would say, karate, yes, karate, no. Safe. Down the middle. Squashed. Take your hats off to all the guys out there. Man, everybody was all in."

On his thoughts about where the rushing offense is right now...

Coach Harbaugh: "Thought we at times did we do what we needed to do there. And yeah, some things to get better at. Game two to game three, we would like to protect the edges a little better than we did today. Give credit to the Raiders. I mean, Maxx Crosby, he wrecks some things. He's that kind of player, too. So yeah, keep building, keep going but yeah, we want to get better there and keep growing. I would sum it up by saying, whether it was offense, defense or special teams, we were at our best when our best was needed, including the rushing offense. We would have liked to close it out a little bit earlier, but closed it out when we needed to at the end."

On the job Jesse Minter did with the defense tonight...

Coach Harbaugh: "Jesse [Minter] called a masterpiece of a game. Yeah, he did a great job and that secondary was Coach [Steve] Clinkscale, Coach [Adam] Fuller, I mean, all the defensive coaches, it was a gem. I mean, they were the guardians of victory for our team tonight. At times it felt like there were more than 11 out there, especially in the secondary, which led to some coverage sacks, which led to those fourth down stops. I mean, that's tough to do Geno's [Smith] a baller. He's as good as they are in the league and for us to get our hands on three interceptions, and really big incredible plays, too. I mean, Tony Jefferson's was huge, Derwin's [James] tipping, D Jack [Donte Jackson], all the guys. I mean, Tarheeb [Still], I don't know how many PBU's he had, but he was getting his hands on the ball, and Cam Hart. And again, Dayian Henley, we elevated another linebacker because we just didn't know. He had a fever, but once he started playing, the medicine was out there on the field and it was great to see him have the game that he had."



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Said he was going to be a rising star, superstar, and so proud just happy for him played incredible. As did just about everybody on our defense."

On how rare it is to have eight different guys with pass breakups...

Coach Harbaugh: "Is that what it was? I think that's pretty rare. I don't know the history of that, but that seems pretty rare."



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

Chargers Quarterback Justin Herbert

On the first play of the game being an interception for Los Angeles...

Justin Herbert: "Yeah it was pretty cool. I thought the defense played so well today to cause those three turnovers and come with some big stops like that. They brought it today, and they played so well, and we're not surprised. We see that in practice every day."

On big defensive stops throughout the game...

Herbert: "Yeah, huge moments. They show up when we need them most, that's third down, fourth down. The defense came with big stops all game. It's reflected in the score, for sure."

On the current standings of the AFC West...

Herbert: "It's one week at a time for us. That's the way you play this game. You can't look too far ahead, and you can't in the past. We're going to watch film on this one and move on to our next opponent."

On being 2-0...

Herbert: "Yeah, two very good opponents. Obviously, there are things to clean up today, but I like the direction we're going. As long as we're moving forward, keep getting better, I like the things that this team can do."

On starting the season on the road...

Herbert: "I think that's just an opportunity for us to go play football in a different place. To be the team that we want to be, we're going to have to go play in hostile environments – away from our crowd, away from our fans – and I thought our team has done a good job handling that adversity and dealing with it. Whether it's a really loud stadium or crowd, just being able to work through that for sure."

On wide receiver Keenan Allen...

Herbert: "I don't think there's anyone better. To have a guy like that out there on the offense, he's made my job so much easier. The understanding that he has a football and defenses, he's one of the best receivers to do it. I'm so thankful to be able to throw to him and have him on our team because he just makes things happen. He gets open and he's done that for as long as he has been in the league."

On if he looked specifically for Keenan Allen for his touchdown reception...

Herbert: "I was just looking for someone to get open and he did a great job running to the back of the corner. He's the first guy to react to it, and he did, and I think that's why he was open."

On safety Derwin James Jr. and the defense...

Herbert: "I'm thankful to be able to go up against a defense like that. They make us better as an offense and I'm not surprised by the performance today. We see that in practice all the time, and the way they compete, fly around, and communicate. They're really well coached and they're really talented guys on defense as well."

On linebacker Daiyan Henley's performance...

Herbert: "We're lucky to have him. He's a true competitor. We know how bad he's feeling, but for him to show up and give us his best effort like that, he's a true leader on this team."



Las Vegas Raiders Transcript

Chargers Wide Receiver Keenan Allen

On what worked offensively in the first half...

Keenan Allen: "I think it's a great play call. The stuff that we were practicing was showing up in the game. When you have a game plan like that where you just come out and you're running against the same thing you're seeing in practice, then the game slows down and you're able to make plays."

On what he's seen from quarterback Justin Herbert through the first two games...

Allen: "When we first came off the ball, they just kind of let me and Q [Quentin Johnson] go to the other side. I think they were waiting on Ladd [McConkey] to come to them. I was free in the back of the end zone. Q took the safety, and I was able to get in the back."

On winning two divisional games to start the season...

Allen: "Just confidence to go win two divisional wins on the road, it's huge. So, great way to start the season and hopefully we can keep going."