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Chargers Training Camp Media Availability

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DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR RENALDO HILL

On his evaluation through eight practices:

"I'm still liking what I'm seeing. We had some padded practices, so we can see those guys, their physical abilities, and some toughness. That's on display. We get a couple more days coming up here, these next few days to put the pads back on, but I'm really liking how the back end is communicating, how we're getting off the ball up front. I like how they're playing nice and square up there. The backers are flowing and playing off of those guys. I'm really liking how we're coming along. We just have to keep getting out here on this practice field and keep coming together as a team."

On 'a point' in training camp that he would like to see S Derwin James Jr. participate in individual and team drills:

"He's getting all of the walk-through parts of it. Mentally, he's locked into the game. We know what he can do physically. We know that will work itself out when it's time, but in the meantime, he's doing everything that he can do to stay involved. We're trying to indulge him in making sure that he's a part of the walk-throughs. He's still the alpha guy when he steps out here. You know the point is coming when he's going to get on the field, but I feel like he's always near me, so I feel like he is always a part of it."

On if OLBs Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack had 'rest days' today:

"Yeah. We have a big ramp-up with the pads coming on, so we wanted to make sure that those guys are ready to go for those practices coming up. They were ready to go, but it's a good chance for us to get out here and evaluate some of the other guys."

On the younger players in the EDGE group:

"[OLB] Chris [Rumph II] has been doing a great job. I feel the weight on him right now. I feel, when he goes to a power rush move, that it's on display a little bit more. Last year, if he went to that move, they probably would have grabbed him up and we wouldn't have been able to push the pocket, but he's doing a good job. You can tell he's really been working on his pass-rush game. He's really has some good setups that are working. J.D. [OLB Jamal Davis II], he's sticking to what he knows. He's a great power rusher coming off the ball and setting the edge in the run game. Really like what I see with him. Then, E [OLB Emeke Egbule] has always been steady. His thing is going to be: Can he be dynamic in the passing game? We're really pushing him in that area to be dynamic when it is time to pass rush so he can express what he does best."

On 'anything specific' that he will be 'keeping his eye out for' in Sunday night's padded practice:

"Yeah, I think the biggest thing is that we're not going to complicate the calls. We just to let these guys to line up and play sound football. It's chance for us to continue to come together as a team. There are a lot of new pieces, so get a chance for those guys to play together and communicate with each other and see what it looks like post-scrimmage. I'm looking forward to that opportunity."

On if adding players who have played in Super Bowls ‘can add to the defense’:

“I definitely do. They’ve been in those high-pressure moments. Having a guy like [OLB] Kyle [Van Noy] come in here, you can just feel it. He has a pace about him, a poise about him, where he just goes about his business on the daily. You can see that he’s a leader. He’s a vet. It’s good for those young guys that are following him to see that, as he goes about his day-to-day stuff.”

On CB Bryce Callahan playing at slot corner in Nickel:

“That’s home for Bryce. He’s done it since he came into the National Football League. He also has a great ability to play outside, but we know his strong suit is playing inside. He’s calm in there. He’s seen a lot. He has the quickness and speed to guard pretty much anybody that goes in that slot.”

On CB Michael Davis:

“I tried to mention earlier, we don’t know how these packages are going to shake out, but we want to continue to create depth and competition. We know Mike is a talented guy and we have to find ways to get guys on the field in different packages. He did slide inside on some Dime today. We’re just going to keep it going. We’re going to see how this thing develops. I think the more and more we find out what their comfort levels that are out there on the practice field, it will kind of determine how we approach our gameplan.”

On if CB J.C. Jackson will ‘travel with the opponent’s best receiver’ this season:

“There are going to be games where we’ll have that opportunity, but right now, it’s just letting us get our cleats in the grass and go. We brought him in here to be the number one, so if there are games and matchups where we feel like he’s needed, I’m sure that we’ll definitely explore those.”

On Jackson’s performance in camp thus far:

“He’s been solid. He’s been like we anticipated from his playing days in New England. He’s come out here and just been a lock-down performer. We’ve been kind of easing him in, in the process, making sure that he’s healthy and ready to go. He’s done everything we’ve asked. Every time he steps on the grass, he’s either close to making a play or he’s making a play.”

On Jackson saying that QB Justin Herbert ‘has not throwing the ball his way’:

“*[Laughter]* I think he feels it, but Justin is confident, too. I don’t know if it’s that, but you can tell that J.C. is a big, physical guy. There’s a presence over there. I don’t think that Justin is scared to throw the ball anywhere *[laughter]*.”

On S JT Woods’ development thus far:

“He’s on the come. I think the game is starting to slow down for him a lot. We kind of threw a lot at them. You can sometimes see in his rotational things where there is a little pause there, but you can’t deny that this guy has the 4.3 [40-yard-dash] speed. We just have to get him out of that slower place so that he can play fast and play at that 4.3 [speed] that he’s played in the past. He’s on the come, he’s definitely on the come.”

On if Woods ‘will be ready to fill a role on the back end’ of the defense:

“Right now, it’s still hard to tell who that guy will be. We know that he’s special at getting the ball in the back end. Right now, it’s about how much we can get him on the grass and continue to get him playing at that fast pace. Still have a lot of time, and some preseason games, to determine that, but he’s digging into it every day. We’ll see how it plays out.”

On ‘getting a player to play faster’:

“I think the biggest thing is just continuing to get the one-on-one [meetings] with him, him getting upstairs with [Assistant Secondary] Coach [Tom] Donatell and hammering those things that he needs help with. Then, once we start getting into the gameplan situations, the playbook won’t be as in-depth as what we do out here, so we’ll be able to pinpoint the things that he needs to go out there and execute and get done in order for him to play fast. Right now, we want to throw as much as we can at him to get him exposed to those things that we do. Once the gameplan comes down, we’ll be able to shrink it. Like I said, there’s a lot of time between now and the [regular season] games, so we’re just going to keep hammering at them. We know that he’ll come around.”

CORNERBACK BRYCE CALLAHAN

On how the defense has come together in training camp:

"I feel like we've slowly come together. We're figuring out how each other plays, learning to play off of them and certain calls and stuff. I feel like it's all coming together, all moving like a unit."

On how important it is to have players who have played in the defensive scheme before:

"I feel like it's real important. They can hit the ground running. They don't have to learn a whole new system. We're all kind of familiar with what's going on. So, I feel like it's a big advantage."

On his performance thus far:

"I feel like I'm playing well. I'm just out there competing and having fun and trying to let the rest take care of itself."

On adding players 'with Super Bowl experience:

"It's always good because once you get to the playoffs and Super Bowl, it's a whole different game and stuff. It's a lot more intense. Just kind of picking their brains and seeing what they did to get there, how they maintained their body throughout the whole year. It's another advantage to have."

On how he feels physically:

"I feel pretty good. Nothing really to complain about."

On his comfort level in fielding punts:

"I feel pretty comfortable catching punts. Most of the time, I'm just in there calling the fair catch, so all I have to worry about is just catching it. Not too much stress doing that."

On competing against WR Keenan Allen:

"It's a blessing. I don't think I will get better work from a slot receiver, so just being able to go up against him every day is a blessing. Probably the best work there is, so I can't complain."

On what makes Allen challenging from a defensive back's perspective:

"Just his route running. He is real shifty. He's not a little guy, either, so his catch radius is pretty big. He's got some voodoo on his routes [*laughter*]."

On 'how eager the defensive back group is' to have S Derwin James Jr. return to team drills:

"We're really eager. We know he is a good player. We know what he can do. He's a big communicator. He's a big piece to this defense. He's a big impact."

On if James' absence is 'noticeable':

"He's doing walkthroughs with us, so he's real vocal. Kind of like the quarterback of the defense and stuff. Definitely a little different. We're getting a little taste of it, an appetizer [*laughter*]."

On what he 'is seeing' out of rookie DB Ja'Sir Taylor:

"A lot of good things. He has speed, can cover the field as a deep safety, and knows the game. He's a really smart player. He's going to bring a lot to the defense."

On playing with CB J.C. Jackson:

"It's a blessing. We're both undrafted players, so I kind of connect with him on that. He's just a ball player. He has a knack for the ball. Like I said, I pick his brain and see how he does things. It's a blessing."

CORNERBACK J.C. JACKSON

On training camp:

"It's going pretty good. We're still building, it's still early in training camp. I love coming out here and competing with my teammates."

On whom tipped the ball on his interception during team period:

"I believe somebody up front tipped the ball and I came down with it. That's team defense."

On acclimating to the defensive scheme:

"I'm getting the hang of it. Switching to a new team, you always have to adjust. You have to learn, it's a process. I'm coming out here each and every day, getting to know my teammates and coaches and having fun competing."

On similarities and differences between his role in this scheme and what he did with the Patriots:

"Football is all about just having fun, playing good football together. It's the same thing. I just play ball."

On playing behind OLBs Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack:

"I've never played with a pass rush like that. We're going to see what that's like this year. I'm so excited to have those two guys. I'm very excited."

On how having an effective pass rush can impact his role:

"I believe I can make more turnovers having those two guys going at the quarterback. That should be fun. That's going to be fun."

On competing against WR Mike Williams:

"Mike is a big, progressive receiver. He plays in the boundary, I play in the boundary. It's fun going against him every day. We're competing. I'm making him better, he's making me better. I enjoy it."

On the challenges Williams presents:

"Going against Mike, it's all about technique and fundamentals. No matter how big or small the guy is, you have to always have good fundamentals and technique."

On if he has discovered 'anything new' about Williams' game:

"Not really. We played Mike twice when I was at the Patriots and I covered him, so not really. I've known Mike. I've seen what he can do. I'm excited to be out here with him."

On being one of the players acquired by the team that has 'a Super Bowl pedigree':

"The work ethic, being a very detailed worker, that's what I learned from being with another team. As you guys can see, I just work. It's all about working and getting each other better each and every day. I try to get that to rub off with my guys, the DBs. Let's just work. Compete, have fun, and let's get better."

On how he would 'describe himself' on the field:

"I'm quiet. I can turn it up a notch if I have to, but I'm more of a quiet guy."

On his level of excitement to play alongside S Derwin James Jr.:

"Derwin is a great football player. We've known each other since we were kids. I can't wait to get him out here on the field. I know that he is dealing with other things, but we can't control that. I can't control that, but I can't wait to have him out here. It's going to be very fun."

On James' mindset at the moment:

"I have nothing to do with that. That's his personal business. I'm focused on what we're doing on the field."

On getting the defense to 'acclimate with each other':

"That's why we come out here and practice, to get everybody on the same team, learning the same defensive scheme, just getting everybody together as one unit. That's what great teams do, come together as one."

On if he ‘feels that happening here’:

“Yes. Absolutely.”

On competing against QB Justin Herbert in practice:

“He hasn’t really thrown to my side [*laughter*]. I don’t know if he’s afraid or what, but Herb hasn’t been throwing to my side yet, he’s barely thrown to my side [*laughter*]. But no, Herbert is a great guy. I love practicing against him. I can’t wait to see what he does this year.”

On the defensive unit developing:

“We just have to come together. The offense is going to do their job. The defense, we are going to do our jobs. Special teams, all around, we have to come together and build this thing. A bunch of new players, so just coming together as a team, practicing each and every day.”

On CB Asante Samuel Jr.:

“He has a big future ahead of him. He’s young. I love being around Asante. Sometimes he’ll ask me questions or for tips, and as an older guy, I love to motivate and help the young guys as much as I can. Asante is going to be good. Look out for him.”

On if he feels any ‘increased pressure’ entering the season:

“Not really. I don’t feel any pressure. I just feel more excited. I’m excited to be here, excited to be a part of this team, the fans. Excited to be here. No pressure at all.”

On ‘if this season is a challenge’ that he is ‘ready to take on’:

“Of course. I’ve been doing this, it’s nothing new to me. You’ll see this year, when the season starts, what I’m going to bring to the table and to this team.”

On cornerbacks he studies:

“I grew up watching [Hall of Fame cornerback] Champ Bailey and [former NFL defensive back] Darrelle Revis. Champ Bailey is more of an older guy. He was one of the best defensive backs in the league when I was coming up. His swag and the way he played, it reminds me of me so much. Revis is another guy, who just retired, who was young, he wasn’t as old. Revis was a man-to-man corner, which, as everybody knows, is what I am. I watched all of Revis’ film. He played for [Patriots Head Coach Bill] Belichick. I really look up to and respect those two guys the most, and [Hall of Fame cornerback] Charles Woodson. That’s one of my other favorite DBs.”

On if he is ‘trying to create Jackson Island’:

“Yes, sir [*laughter*]. We’re working on that right now, Jackson Island [*laughter*].”