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Chargers Media Availability

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OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

On QB Easton Stick and the offense's performance against the Saints:

"Like any preseason game, there are some ups and there are some downs. Obviously, we weren't as efficient on offense as we wanted to be. I thought Easton's [Stick] legs came alive. He had some really good situational stuff with the two-minute before the half, and at the end of the game when we were able to get the one [touchdown] before the last one [drive]. Obviously, for all of us, it wasn't a performance that was ideal for us. Really, it just came down to being consistent and efficient, and just playing a clean game."

On comparing Stick's performance in the last preseason game to the first preseason game:

"I think that it is just all part of the process. Seeing different coverages, I think that's always valuable. Each week presents different challenges, being able to get to those. I thought that he had some good moments. For all of us, we just weren't as consistent."

On RBs Joshua Kelley and Isaiah Spiller:

"Just continue to give those guys opportunities. I think that both of them have different roles that we will certainly want to utilize. [RB Elijah] Dotson has popped in there and had some opportunities, as well. We're just continuing to give those guys as much opportunity and exposure as we can and, certainly, find those different roles."

On the running back group and how he will 'establish the rotation':

"I think, ultimately, you'll utilize all of those guys. I think that anyone that is on the active [roster] in the running back room, you're going to want to utilize all of those different guys. I think that [RB] Austin [Ekeler] is going to, obviously, carry a lot of it, but at different parts, we will want to utilize those guys, just to alleviate Austin for some of the workload. We'll just see how it all plays out. That will be through the season, I think, by gameplan."

On TE Stone Smartt:

"Stone [Smartt] has had an awesome progression. Just coming in and seeing where he was at and continue to work, and where OTAs were, in training camp. Certainly, for a guy going into a position where he hasn't played a ton of tight end over his lifetime, he gets better each and every day. I thought the New Orleans game was an awesome game for him — the contested catch down the middle [of the field] where he took a hit as he was catching that, it was phenomenal. Really excited with where he is going."

On his evaluation of the blocking aspect of the tight end group:

"I think that it is a continued process for those guys. I think that we're continuing to emphasize different schemes, different roles. I think that it was good to see two different schemes in the first two weeks [of preseason]. With what the Rams presented and what the Saints presented, it was going to be a little bit different. For those guys, it's different looks, different challenges. Those guys will be able to learn from all of those experiences."

On joint practices with the Saints:

"Really, really good. I love joint practices. I think they're really, really efficient. You get a ton of really good work in. I thought that New Orleans was phenomenal, great to work with. Ultimately, we got a lot of productive work there, so it was really good."

On 'establishing an identity in the run game':

"I think that it is heading where it needs to be for the regular season. You certainly have certain concepts that you feel really comfortable with, that those are going to be our bread-and-butter concepts. Then, by game plans, you're going to present different things. I think that is part of the training camp process, you want to expose them to the different tools that you will utilize through the season — 'Hey, if they give us this technique, we're going to get you to this, and if they give us that, we'll get to that,' and so on and so forth. Now, as we start heading into the regular season, we start tightening it up, narrow our focus, we can grab from the different training camp concepts as the season goes."

On RB Isaiah Spiller:

"I think Isaiah [Spiller] had a little bit last year during the regular season, but not a ton. I think, for him, as much exposure as possible is huge. We've tried to get him a lot of reps in training camp, a lot of reps in these preseason games. He has a really good patience-ness about him. He just has to keep building that suddenness. As soon as he sees it, he hits it, because he has some really talented physical tools that he can utilize. He is going to continue to improve. I think that you see it, each and every week, that he gets a little bit better. We just have to stay on that path."

On the focus of the 'first offense' in the preseason when they're not playing in games:

"A combination of scheme, and then preparing yourself for the regular season. As we kind of start shifting gears here, coming back to the facility full-time now, it starts feeling a little bit more like you're heading toward the regular season. I think that we're finalizing some of the conceptual stuff, just to make sure that we're all ready to roll. Then, all eyes are on the regular season."

On WR Quentin Johnson 'having drops' and his development:

"For any guy, it's a process. He made some tremendous catches today, he made some tremendous contested catches. We will continue to build off of those. There will be mistakes, just like with any player. He will continue to work on it. We feel really fortunate to have him here and he will definitely have a role for us as the season starts."

On 'tightening up' the offense as the team approaches the regular season

"I think that a big emphasis for us, at this point, is that a lot of it is in, but now we have to tighten it up and be cleaner and play a more efficient game. That's the big emphasis right now."

On the running back group:

"We feel like our backs have the ability to do the protection. I think they've done a nice job in the protection aspect of it, which is a huge aspect. Then, in the pass game, I think that all of them are capable of giving us something there. We definitely feel good there."

RUNNING BACK JOSHUA KELLEY

On training camp:

"It's been good. It's really good. This new offense, I really like it. I really like it, man. We're building it in right now, obviously. It's been a lot of fun. We've had a lot of competitive times in camp, seven-on-sevens, one-on-ones, team [drills]. We did scrimmages and preseason [games]. It's been good. I've seen some improvements out there. I'm just looking to continuously build and improve."

On the changes in the offense:

"I really like how downhill it is, man. I think that really fits my style. One cut, just get downhill. A lot of our outside zone, perimeter runs are just one cut. Just be decisive. That's kind of my strength as a runner. It's pretty cool, man. I feel like guys really like it, as well."

On offensive linemen liking the offense:

"I can tell these guys love it. We talk about it in the locker room, like, 'Hey, what are some of your favorite runs?' I give them a whole list. They really love it, man. They're competitive. I feel like they've been coming off the ball a lot. You saw it a lot in our [first] preseason game against the Rams, you saw it during training camp. These guys are coming off the ball and making holes for us. It's really cool, man. Also, our pass protection is going to be really elite this year. It's dope, man. They really like it. I do, too."

On if the offense is 'simpler':

"Yeah, honestly, I think [Offensive Coordinator Kellen Moore] has some carry-over. I feel like when you play in the league for a lot of years, you see a lot of carry-over from each offense you've been part of. For me, I kind of take these similarities with the schemes that I've played in the past. It's a lot simpler. Play fast. I feel like if guys are playing fast, you can make plays."

On the starting offensive line:

"It's the same guys I played with last year. For me, there's a rapport with all of them. I know what they're all capable of. Those guys are dogs. [T] Rashawn [Slater] is coming back. That's huge. It's awesome just to see that camaraderie, that chemistry those guys have. Man, those guys, they could be really a big unit. They could be one of the best in the league. I like running behind them."

On his career:

"I feel like there have been a lot of learning curves. I feel like my first two years, it was a lot of stuff where I was in my head. For me, I have the ability, I have the game. I feel like my first two years was like, 'You know what? Let me get out of my head.' Last year, I showed what I can do when I have the opportunity. Going into this year, I'm feeling really good mentally. Yeah, man. I feel like going into this year is exciting for me."

On three different offenses over his four years in the NFL:

"You know what? It's interesting because it's not ideal, don't get me wrong. It's not ideal. You don't ever want to go through that. For me, I play running back, so I can't imagine what quarterbacks and all of these guys are going through playing in so many different offenses. But I think it helps in the way that schematically, I'm getting so much football IQ and knowledge from it. You could take the positives from it. It's like, 'Dang, I'm playing in a lot of offenses, but it's helping.' You know, for me, it's like how many years I've played in this league, you're going to be finding yourself in different offenses. It helps, man."

On establishing an identity in the running game:

"I feel like there's been a huge emphasis on getting the running game going. You've heard [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley talk about it. You've heard [Offensive Coordinator] Coach Kellen Moore talk about it. We're trying to get this thing going because, obviously, you saw our ranking last year. For us, the RB room, we're trying to embrace that role. It's like, 'Hey, let's go, man.' I feel like we're getting our identity. I feel like guys are bought in, saying, 'Yo, let's run the rock.'"

On what he would like the identity to be:

"I want them to know how physical we are. Just everybody. Whether it's whoever is running the football, RBs, tight ends, O-Line, receivers, that we're really physical. We're coming off the ball and we're going to hit you. I feel like that's great. We know we can do it passing the ball. We know our quarterback, our receivers, tight ends, those guys can make plays, but I feel like we have to be more balanced and run the ball. That's on us to just get this thing going."

On if the running backs complement each other:

"I've been with [RB] Austin [Ekeler] for four years now. I know what Austin is good at. I know how I complement him. [RB Isaiah] Spiller, he's doing really well. Like this guy is coming in, he's improving. He's doing better. He's running more confidently, which is great. I'm excited for him, man. Honestly, I feel like this room, in a way, we're really under looked in there. I feel like we have some guys. This year, we have to show it, though. We can talk about it, but we have to show it."

On RB Isaiah Spiller:

"When he got in this league, I was like, 'Bro, you can't even drink or go out.' [*laughter*]. It's crazy. I couldn't imagine being that young, being drafted and having your life completely changed. It's crazy. I feel like he's handled it really well. Obviously, the rookie year is a rookie year. My rookie year wasn't the best. A lot of people's rookie years aren't. It's cool. I get the chance to talk to him about it. I see what's going on, but I'm encouraging him. Every single time he has an explosive run, a good play, I'm like, 'Hey, that's good. That's good, just keep going.' There are going to be ups and downs in everybody's career. It's really your mentality that's going to keep you going. He has his head on straight, though, he'll be alright."

On UCLA Running Backs Coach DeShaun Foster having a group text with UCLA running backs:

"That's crazy, yes he does. I'm keeping track of everybody. I've been seeing how [Browns RB Demetric] Felts [Felton Jr.] has been doing well. [Seahawks RB Zach] Charbonnet, he's been doing well. I've been keeping track of everybody. He's been a great guy for me, a great mentor, a great leader. He's always complimenting, he's like, 'Hey, I see your pass-pro clips. Way to hit this dude.' Pass pro is huge for him. I feel like that's, for me, why I got so better at it. He's always made sure, pass pro, pass pro. Even [Running Backs] Coach [Derrick] Foster, now. He's like, 'Yo, you have to protect the quarterback.' Everybody saw [QB Justin] Herb's [Herbert] contract. You have to protect the guy [*laughter*]."

On Browns QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson:

"I've been seeing him. He's been doing well, too. He's been doing his thing over there. It's pretty cool how guys you played with, you can see how they're doing across the league. It's really cool."

On QB Justin Herbert's pre-snap reads:

"Honestly, his growth has been tremendous. He's making IDs, he's making the right checks. He's really doing a great job at that, even the cadence. The cadence has been a game-changer. For him, he's got all the tools. Hall of Fame potential, Hall of Fame talent. He's amazing. I could tell the game is slowing down so much for him. Making those checks makes it easier for guys like me and the O-Line to pick these blitzes up for him."

On if Herbert is a 'more vocal' leader:

"Yeah, for sure, man. He's been a great leader. He's been more vocal. He's been getting on us, which is what you need. You should want someone to get on you. For us, we're trying to get to where we need to be as a team, you want guys to be leaders and be more vocal."

"He's encouraging dudes, man. He's encouraging guys the right way. He's making sure to say, 'Let's go. You got this.'"

On leadership:

"Everyone leads differently, man. For him, I don't mind it. He's growing and he's a great player."

RUNNING BACK ISAIAH SPILLER

On the preseason:

"I feel like I still have a lot to improve on. I've made some gains. It's been pretty fun with the guys coming out here and grinding. Taking it day-by-day."

On entering his second year:

"I feel more comfortable. I've been with the guys, it's my second year so I know what's coming. A lot more comfortable with everybody."

On being one of the youngest players in the league last year:

"It was hard, I had a lot of adversity. I got hurt. I had never been hurt before. I was out in California, never been. It was different, I had to adjust and I think that took time. It really served me well."

On his running style:

"I feel like I can do it all. Run you over, jukes or run past you. That's what I've been trying to display this offseason, that I'm an all-around back. I can block or catch."

On the holding call for his touchdown run during preseason:

"It hurt a little bit because that was my first one. It stung a little bit, but it's football, things happen. Hopefully, it'll come at a later date. I was a little winded, I was like, 'Man.' But it's cool, things happen."

On getting preseason reps:

"They've been very valuable to me. Getting comfortable playing out there more, especially before the season. Focusing on that, the details, what I need to look at on the run and in pass protections and knowing my routes. Being attentive to details this year has been really important and I think the preseason games have helped me."

On Offensive Coordinator Kellen Moore's offense:

"I think [Offensive Coordinator] Kellen Moore's offense is more towards [Texas A&M Head Coach] Jimbo Fisher. A lot of pro-style and downhill running, [former Offensive Coordinator Joe] Lombardi's was getting around the field. Moore's offense is more in my style."

On picking up the different offenses:

"I think I picked up both offenses really well. It was an easier transition, same runs just different turns."

On establishing the run game:

"I think it's been beneficial to our room, as you've seen. We're coming in with a different mentality that we're going to run the ball this year. We're trying to be at the top of the league this year. We took that as a room and try to apply it to the field. All that anger and frustration, I think it's going really well for us right now. We've got to keep it going."

On the competition in the running back room:

"It's been pretty good. Bonding with those guys every day, cracking jokes every now and then. We're always locked in, always on the details, trying to finish and put out our best. We go out there and compete against each other and try to make each other better every day. I think it's been going well for us."

On learning from the veterans:

"Taking care of your body is really important. Working out and doing all the little things, the details and being a pro. I picked up on that, I'm learning a lot."