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## Chargers Training Camp Media Availability

Monday, August 1, 2022 ⚡ Jack Hammett Sports Complex ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

#### **On an update regarding S Derwin James Jr.'s contract situation:**

"No updates. Same as."

#### **On the first practice in pads:**

"I liked the competition in one-on-ones. I wanted there to be a bunch of them so that we could really get a good look at this group. I liked the respect and competition. I thought that it was fierce. There are a lot of good players going one-on-one there. I thought that the way we practiced in 11-on-11 is indicative of a good team. You have to get used to the pads. This is our first day being in them. We'll be in them tomorrow, do a little bit more. But I felt like it was a good start."

#### **On 'what he's seeing' in 11-on-11 period:**

"The style of play — the pace, the tempo, the contact, making sure that you're keeping each other safe. You're going fierce, but you're keeping each other safe — how the rushers are with the quarterback, how the defensive players are with the backs and receivers that are carrying the football, and that your substitutions are good in and out. Can you keep your same pace when you put the pads on? I saw a good football team out there."

#### **On LB Drue Tranquill's injury status:**

"He's just dealing with the groin. Nothing long-term, but just going to make sure that he's good before he gets back."

#### **On the competition within the running back group:**

"Today was the first time that they're having to run through a lot of traffic, tight traffic with pads on. We'll be able to look at this tape and learn a lot more. In the one-on-ones, the blitz pickup, you're going to be able to see the physicality and who's going to stick their nose in there. There was some good contact in the 11-on-11, and that's what we want to be able to see — contact as a runner, contact as a pass-protector, and then the reliability as a receiver. Today is kind of the beginning, I think, for those guys. Then, special teams, like I've been saying, these guys are going to have to be a real factor. Those guys are working hard, and they know that there's a lot at stake."

**On 'what he saw' in during one-on-ones between the EDGE group and offensive tackles:**

"When you have [OLBs] Joey [Bosa] and Khalil [Mack] coming off the edge, that's going to be must-see, especially with those three tackles that you're talking about — such great work for them. It's great work for Joey and Khalil because [T] Rashawn [Slater] is one of the top tackles in all of football, and we think [T] Trey [Pipkins III] and [T] Storm [Norton] are really quality tackles, so those guys are going to make each other better. I thought the young guards today showed that they have what it takes. [G] Matt Feiler is so steady; sometimes you forget what a good player he is. But those two young guards showed that they have what it takes. They got the head on their shoulders, they're really strong inside — like really strong — and then, they work at it like crazy. And, they're going against a lot of quality inside players when you're talking about [DL] Sebastian [Joseph-Day] and [DL] Austin [Johnson] and [DL] Jerry [Tillery] and Foxy [DL Morgan Fox]. Those guys are good NFL players. Good first day of competition. We'll keep getting better at it as we go."

**On rookie G Jamaree Salyer's transition to the NFL thus far:**

"I have a lot of respect for his head coach, [Georgia Head Coach] Kirby Smart, and that program and the way they do things. You have to remember who that guy was blocking every day in practice for four years. He's just got a lot of the stuff made of quality football players; he's has physicality, toughness, discipline, he's calm, and he has that versatility to play a lot of different positions. He's off to a good start. This is going to be a great opportunity for him, in this preseason, to show what he can do."

**On if QB Justin Herbert is 'on to the next step' of his development:**

"For sure. [He is] a lot more vocal, and I think that you guys can observe it during practice. He's just a lot more present with a lot more different types of groups within the team. Specifically, on offense, he's been able to really insert himself into the skill position players, with the line, and then, with the coaching staff, time and score situation. Then you see him interact with the defense and the specialists and you just know that when you're in a second year of something, you just have a lot more confidence. Within our offense, he's able to make suggestions, or he's able to ask key questions that can really help take us to where we're capable of going. Then, when you team him up with [C] Corey [Linsley], we really feel like that's a really good thing for our team."

**On CB J.C. Jackson not participating in the final segment of team period:**

"First day in pads, we just want to make sure that we're watching all of these guys' loads and trying to build them up the right way. We're just going to make sure that we're really intentional about that. He was out there in the one-on-ones and the first team period — I think the second one, too. We're just going to make sure that we build these guys up the right way, not do too much too soon, and then, we'll keep building them up before we play our first game."

**On Linsley not participating in the one-on-one segment of practice:**

"Corey hasn't taken a one-on-one in a while [*laughter*], and I don't need to see him take a one-on-one. We're just going to keep him out of that. We have a lot of other guys to observe."

**On the 'hallmark of the offense':**

"I just think that we're going to be a lot more complete offense. I think more complete up front, more complete in the skill position players. When you're starting quarterback's in the second year of this offense, I think you can just take it a lot farther — your operation, your tempo — and then knowing exactly who you're calling plays for, being able to call those right plays for that right player. I just think there's so much more that's happening right now than there was last year. You're able to take it so much deeper the second year. They're guys that are all working hard. I expect a physical group out there and a tough group and a group that plays together, disciplined football, and we're off to a good start with that."

**On P JK Scott's performance thus far:**

"He has long levers. I think the hang [time] is one of his strengths. He can really get it up in the air, which certainly is going to help your coverage system. He can also locate it in different places, which also helps recover systems. He's off to a good start. He has a good head on his shoulders. Today was the first day in pads, which, again, they're not too dissimilar from a running back — when you put the pads on, it's going to feel different. I felt like our operation was good, snap-to-punt. We're able to really evaluate that that punt group, the interior and the gunners. JK has gotten off to a good start and I like where he is at."

## **SAFETY NASIR ADDERLEY**

### **On the start of training camp and the first day of pads:**

“It’s been good. It feels good to be back out here. Beautiful weather, just competing. I’m enjoying it out here.”

### **On personal areas of growth in his second year with this defensive system:**

“Year 2 in the system, it’s always going to be very beneficial because you’re out there thinking, now you’re able to look at it more — you’re able to look at the quarterback’s tendencies, you’re able to look at where the receivers align and the down-and-distances and all of that. When you’re not thinking about what you have to do, you’re able to look at a lot more and play a lot faster. It’s definitely been really beneficial.”

### **On S Derwin James Jr. not being present in team drills:**

“I definitely miss having my boy back there. But he’s doing a great job, being the leader that he is, making sure everybody knows what they’re supposed to do, bringing the energy. We’re excited to have him back whenever that time comes. He’s been a great leader and going about this the right way, in my opinion.”

### **On his thought process as the defensive acquisitions transpired over the offseason:**

“Just a whole lot of excitement. I mean, we see the type of players that we brought in, the type of leaders they are. You can feel it when you’re out there, they’re bringing the energy, being physical, flying around. I’m excited. We have a really good group.”

### **On S JT Woods:**

“Speed, length range, everything you want in a centerfielder. He’s very attentive, learning and making sure he knows the spots that he needs to be in. He’s getting some good lessons. He’s receptive to the information. That’s what you want, especially coming in as a young player, you’re just trying to soak in as much knowledge as you can. That’s what he’s doing.”

### **On if not James during team drills has allowed him ‘to be more of a general’:**

“Not really. Obviously, it’s always going to be different with DJ on the field. I go about my business the same way as I would if he was out there, just making sure I’m communicating and making sure I’m being a leader and running the show, just communicating because a lot of times, he’ll be down on the line of scrimmage, and I’m making the calls on the back end regardless. Not really much has changed for me.”

### **On ‘learning when to step on the gas and when not to step on the gas’:**

“It could be a live situation where I just need to be patient, I need to sit and let the play unfold. Then, I turn it on once I know. It’s definitely a blessing, being able to have speed, because then you can be a lot more patient. Then, when you do see run, or you do see pads, you can trigger a lot easier.”

### **On ‘how tough it is to hold back and be patient’:**

“Everybody knows that about me, like I’m trying to go [*laughter*]. It’s definitely been a process of learning, like, this is the situation where I need to put on the brakes, and here’s the situation where I can get on the gas.”

### **On the process of ‘learning how to hold it back’:**

“I love the coaches that we have. They’ve been very beneficial to my growth and helping me just learn the game. It’s been a gradual process. I’ve been learning, even when I came into the league, just wanted to turn it on and when not to. Overall knowledge of the game, they’ve been extremely helpful.”

### **On ‘what kind of energy’ CB J.C. Jackson has brought to the secondary:**

“A lot of energy. I’m sure you guys can feel it out there. He’s already coming in here and making big-time plays, being a leader and going up there stepping up in one-on-ones. O love playing with him.”

### **On DB Mark Webb Jr.:**

“That boy healthy. I’ve definitely known him for a long time. After seeing the injuries and stuff that he was going through last year, it definitely feels good seeing him be him. He has a lot more that he’s going to be able to show. I’m excited for him.”

## **CENTER COREY LINSLEY**

### **On the first practice in pads:**

“It was good. We had some good work. I felt like it was a good day to build off of. It’s good actually to be playing real football again. It was a good day.”

### **On rookie G Zion Johnson:**

“He’s living up to the bill right now. First day of pads. He’s a really good player. He has a ton of raw talent. You can see he’s already put a lot together. Honestly, the sky is the limit. He’s very talented. I’m excited to play next to him.”

### **On Johnson’s confidence:**

“Yeah. He’s calm. He’s a calm, collected individual that is smart as hell. There’s really not a whole lot that I’ve seen where I’m like, ‘Eh.’ He’s just a calm, confident individual who loves playing ball. I’d say [T] Rashawn [Slater] hit the nail on the head.”

### **On facing OLBs Khalil Mack and Joey Bosa in practice:**

“It’s good that we’re going against them out here. They are two phenomenal players. I played against Khalil for a number of years in Chicago. Again, another guy that lives up to the billing. I don’t know what pick he was, but obviously, he’s lived up to all of the hype. I’m excited that he’s here.”

### **On ‘how beneficial it is for the offensive line’ to face Bosa and Mack in practice:**

“For sure. Added a ton of talent out on the edge. There have been some great acquisitions all across the division. It definitely helps us going up against those two guys. Joey and Khalil have obviously made names for themselves in the League for a number of years now. It will be beneficial for us down the line.”

### **On similarities and differences between Bosa and Mack:**

“Honestly, I feel like there is a lot of similarity between the two of them. Maybe their builds are a little different. Joey might be a little taller, but I feel like they’re both complete rushers. It’s not like they’re speed guys or power guys. They can do it all. They’re technicians. They’re extremely, extremely detailed with their technique. I think when you get guys like that who have all the talent in the world and just work on their craft day in and day out, that’s what makes them who they are.”

### **On QB Justin Herbert:**

“Justin is pretty consistent in terms of who he is and how he prepares. I’m excited to see him this year. In the walkthroughs and out here in practice and everything, he is definitely in tune a little bit more with some of the suggestions that we’ve made. He’s making calls now and he’s making adjustments and stuff. Last year, he was maybe a little hesitant. He’s just going to build and get better. He’s another guy, like him and [G] Zion [Johnson] share a lot of similarities. Just calm, collected, confident, all of the C words.”

### **On the suggestions for Herbert:**

“It’s more like just working together. If he sees something, we’re like, ‘Hey, don’t hesitate to call that out and make the adjustment because we’re in tune with it.’ From an adjustment standpoint, that’s something that he’s shown in the early few days of camp and even in the offseason in OTAs and stuff. We’re like, ‘Hey, man, if you see it, call it. We’re good. As long as we’re on the same page, we’re good. Make the call.’”

### **On if Herbert ‘has become more of a vocal leader’:**

“I feel like he’s a guy where it’s more of his attitude. He says stuff. It’s not like he doesn’t rally the team up and stuff, but he’s calm — that sort of confidence where it doesn’t need to be said a whole lot. You can just see it in his eyes where you’re like, ‘This guy is in the zone.’ That’s what he brings in day-in and day-out where we all rally around him.”

**On if ‘the team’s expectations of a Super Bowl feels more real because of the defense’:**

“Honestly, I felt confident last year. You have to look at different things that happened across the year last year. It was the first year and everybody was learning, [QB] Justin [Herbert] was learning, I’m learning, we’re all learning. Now, we can take that next step. We definitely made some awesome acquisitions, like bringing in all of these D-linemen that I have a lot of respect for, and everybody that we brought in across the board. For us, now it’s about us. It’s about diving into the playbook, diving into adjustments, and diving into little minute details and a game plan where we can now build off of the stuff that we built on last year. Does it feel different? Yeah, I mean, it should. Overall, I feel the same level of focus and attention and work. It’s just we’re in a different place now.”

**On if the defensive additions ‘are just bigger bodies’:**

“I’d say it’s a little more than that [*laughter*]. We had some big guys last year. I’ve played against [DL] Sebastian [Joseph-Day] and [DL] Austin [Johnson]. Both of those guys, I feel like, are a little bit unheralded. That’s the name of the game for the inside guys — Unless you’re getting the sack total, you don’t hear the names. For those two guys, when I saw that we signed them, I was like, ‘Man, these are awesome.’ Sebastian is a phenomenal nose tackle and he’s definitely one of the best that I’ve ever gone up against. For us to get him and Austin, those are two huge pickups. I’m excited to see this year, in his second year in the defense, out of [DL] Jerry [Tillery]m too. Again, it’s just about building, taking where we were last year and then building off that.”

**On the competition at right tackle between Storm Norton and Trey Pipkins III:**

“Those guys, they know what it is. They know the battle. They know what they have to do. I feel like our room is so tight that we’re all working together. I guess I’ve never played anything but O-line, but in O-line world, it’s all about cohesion. You have to know what the guy next to you is thinking. You have to communicate. One of us can’t succeed unless the rest of the guys playing next to you can. For those two guys, they’ve been battling their butts off and they’ve been working all offseason. I know both of them have put in more work this offseason than they have ever before. We just want the best five out there, but we know that we have a really good room where the next man up, we have all of the confidence in the world.”

**On entering his ninth NFL season:**

“It’s flown by, but I feel like every year it’s the same thing. You just have to go out there and prove yourself — prove to yourself you can play, prove to the League that you’re still the same guy, and improve on things that you didn’t. I definitely feel a lot better than I thought I would when I was a rookie. I’m excited and thankful for this opportunity.”

**On the guardian caps worn during training camp:**

“They’re fine. I thought it was going to be a bigger deal than it was, but it’s all good there.”

**On if the guardian caps are heavy:**

“I thought it was going to be heavier, but I really don’t notice a difference. I got a couple of head shots today and it felt a little nicer, I guess. Maybe it will do what they’re saying it will.”

**On ‘any added physicality’ today in practice:**

“First day in pads, you can tell it’s no different than what we’ve seen in the past from these guys. We played against these guys that we’ve picked up and they’re the same dudes. They’re super talented. They’re super strong with heavy, heavy hands. They’re great with their technique. That’s the thing, in [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley’s defense, it’s assignment. They’re very smart. We were learning last year that it’s a very complex defense, but the guys that we have obviously played in the system, so they’re also very smart football players. To be able to combine those two — the technique and the heaviness and the hands and all of that — with the intelligence, it’s promising.”

**On how he and Herbert work out the mechanics of the cadence:**

“I think with us — and it was this way in Green Bay — there are certain plays that we have in the offense that we’re given the specific play call, a different cadence is going to help. We had a few sprinkled in last year, but now — again, like that Football 202 platform that he’s on right now — we have this particular play where this cadence might be beneficial given the defense, given the look that we’re going to get, given the motion, all of this stuff that kind of comes into play. Now, he’s in tune with that where he’s kind of switching it up and stuff. He’s getting better every day with that and that helps us out a ton. If they know what snap count it’s on, it helps everybody out. It’s big.”