

## Chargers Training Camp Media Availability

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

#### **On CB J.C. Jackson's procedure:**

"J.C. had a procedure in New York with Dr. [Martin] O'Malley on his ankle. A very minor procedure. More for comfort, more than anything. It's not a structural problem. There's no injury, so to speak. That's why he didn't miss practice. This was more about comfort moving forward and him feeling his best, overall. He'll be back here shortly."

#### **On the decision to have the procedure at this juncture, rather than earlier in the offseason:**

"It only came up like two-and-a-half weeks ago, when he started to feel it in practice a little bit. It didn't prohibit him from practicing. He practiced full speed, went against the Cowboys full speed, and played beautifully. It's really more of a comfort level when he will decelerate, at times. It's just more about his peace of mind, moving forward, to do it now. That's what he wanted to do, and we supported that. He tried the rehab part of it, and then an injection, and he just felt like if we can get this thing done, that he's going to be full-speed and there's no turning back. I can't state it enough, there's not an injury with his ankle."

#### **On 'when it popped up':**

"Two-and-a-half weeks ago."

#### **On if he is aware of the technical name for the procedure:**

"I do not. It's a very minor procedure, and it's really more just about the wound healing, then as soon as the wound heals, he'll be out at practice."

#### **On who he will 'look to step up in his absence':**

"We have three corners who we think are starting-caliber players: [CBs] Michael [Davis], Asante [Samuel Jr.] and Bryce [Callahan]. Those guys will be starting in five DB-type packages until further notice. Then, when we get J.C. back soon, he will be out there."

#### **On 'how worrisome it is to open the season with two division games':**

"Not at all. We've played with all three of those guys. We have a lot of confidence in all three of those guys. Those guys are all quality players who know our defense inside and out, who have all made big plays throughout their careers, throughout training camp. They're all playing at a high level. They've all improved a lot. It's a team game. Those guys have all improved a lot, though. We're going to keep improving as a defense and those three guys are going to do what they've done every day since they've been here."

#### **On if he is 'optimistic' that Jackson will return to action 'before the season':**

"All it depends on is how fast the wound heals. When the wound heals, he will be out there, how quickly the wound heals. Anyone that has ever had a procedure like that, if the wound heals quickly, it could be on the low side, and if it takes a little bit of time, it could be on the high side. This is a minor procedure. He'll be back somewhere in that timeframe."

**On T Trey Pipkins III ‘taking all of the first-team reps at right tackle’ and if he is ‘ready to announce Pipkins as the starter’:**

“No. I told you guys that we will announce our starters when we’re ready, when we feel like we’ve made that decision. We’re not there yet. When we are, we’ll make sure that we let you guys know.”

**On preparing for the third preseason game on Friday night:**

“It’s important that we go out there and play well. Guys that had a tough night against Dallas, or a tough night in the first game against the Rams, that they’re able to bounce back and that we keep building on our practices, keep building on our games. It’s our first road game as a team, so you add that element to it. Going against a good team like New Orleans, it’ll be a good game for our guys.”

**On if LB Kenneth Murray Jr. will play on Friday night:**

“No.”

**On if Murray Jr. ‘will have any snap count restrictions’ at the start of the regular season:**

“I think it just depends on how he does the next two or three weeks, but he looked good at practice yesterday. He’ll be out there more today. I’m really excited to have him back. He looks really good. He has the right mindset. We’re just going to see how it goes the next three weeks. I definitely think he’s going to play in that game, for sure. How much? That will just depend on how he ramps up here in the next three weeks.”

**On WR Joshua Palmer’s injury status:**

“He has cleared the protocol today and he will be out there for individual [period].”

**On if the team is ‘comfortable’ with keeping three tight ends on the 53-man roster:**

“I think that a lot is going to depend on these next two weeks, how these practices shape out this week and then how it shakes out in the game, and then what’s available within the league; what we feel like fits our team best. I think that determination always depends on the tight end spot and then your fullback spot because full backs and tight ends can be used similarly, I think [former Chargers TE] Stephen [Anderson] was able to do a lot of the two-back responsibility for us last season, which was a big, important role for him, and in special teams. We’re just going to see how that takes shape, the back-half of the tight end position and the fullback position, and then, again, looking at the league, too.”

**On DB Ja’Sir Taylor’s development:**

“He has really proven to be a really versatile defensive back. We really like coaching him. He has good size for the position. We really feel like he’s a defensive back, that he can play a lot of different places — corner and then some of the sub [-package] roles, Dime Money, Star. Then, on special teams, he has enough speed to be an effective gunner. He’s a good tackler. He’s a good contact player as a defensive back. He has a sturdy body. He’s like a 190-plus [pounds] guy, so he’s strong. We really like coaching him. He’s improved a lot for us and he’s shown that he can hold his own. We’re glad that we drafted him.”

**On which quarterback will start on Friday night:**

“It’ll be [QB] Chase’s [Daniel] turn. Similar [to last week], first half and [QB Easton Stick in] the second half.”

**On the number of cups of coffee he consumes:**

“I try to keep it to three [cups] before Noon [*laughter*]. This is my favorite, Brown Sugar Latte from The Lost Bean [in Costa Mesa, Calif.]. I’m trying to get them a lot of business. It’s a quality place. They take good care of you in there. There’s good music. The coffee is always hot if you want it. They do a great job. They take good care of us. I’m trying to give them some business here. Support local [businesses].”

## **WIDE RECEIVER DEANDRE CARTER**

### **On preparing for Friday night's final preseason game:**

"It's a unique experience. It's tough for the young guys. It's an opportunity for the young guys, I would say, to go out there, put their best foot forward, and try to put good tape out there. As we know, everybody can't make the team, so that's important. Getting ready for the season, we focus on this game and then we have a little extra week next week to get ready for the Raiders and stuff like that."

### **On preparing for his offensive role this season:**

"Very excited. It will be fun to see what [Offensive Coordinator] Coach [Joe] Lombardi puts together for all of the guys in the room, for our entire unit. We've got an exciting offense, [QB] Justin [Herbert] is back there, so definitely excited to see how far we can go this year and how good we can be."

### **On 'what the last week of preseason is like with final roster decisions being made next Tuesday':**

"There is definitely tension for the young guys. Guys are kind of on the edge of their seats a little bit. But you kind of have to lean into that, if you are a player. I've been in that situation many times in my career. You kind of have to lean into that and try to use that to motivate you to go put your best foot forward, put some good tape out there and then let the chips fall where they may. You don't really want to worry about it too much because it's not necessarily in your control, but you just have to go out there and play the best you can."

### **On his level of excitement with the impending start of the regular season from a return perspective:**

"Definitely excited. Obviously, one of my main roles here. I'm just excited to see how our unit comes together, special teams unit comes together. I think we're going to be exciting back there this year. So, I'm excited about it."

### **On if this year's special teams corps has 'talked about past seasons special teams groups':**

"Not necessarily. A lot of the guys that will be on the unit — I wouldn't say a lot of the guys — some of the guys weren't here last year. [Special Teams Coordinator] Coach [Ryan] Ficken wasn't here last year, our coordinator. But, we all know we need to step up in that phase of the game, and we plan to do so."

## **LINEBACKER TROY REEDER**

### **On preparing for Friday night's final preseason game:**

"It's short, but it's exciting. It's our first opportunity as a team to go on the road and compete, so that's always kind of exciting. From the hotel to the travel, I think that's a good first opportunity for us. It's exciting. Sometimes I love these short weeks because it kind of lets you put whatever happened in the past in the past and move on. We're doing two things right now. We're getting ready for our regular season and we're preparing for the New Orleans Saints. It depends on where you are and if you are playing in the game if you're not. We're just excited to travel and get on the road together as a team."

### **On if teams can be 'overly cautious' about who plays and who does not in preseason:**

"I think that is really a department that we put a lot of trust into with our athletic training staff, our performance staff and our coaches that they're going to do the right things, we trust whatever their decisions are in terms of who is on the field, who is not and the amount of time that we spend out there. Everybody has different philosophies on that throughout the League, maybe even position groups. If you are on the field, you have to play as hard as you can and there is no holding back."

### **On the special teams coverage units:**

"I think we have a lot to improve on. Everywhere I've been before, I think I said in a previous interview, I've had four different special teams coordinators in my four years. I've learned a lot from each of them. I love [Special Teams Coordinator] Coach [Ryan] Ficken and I've had a lot of fun working with him. Honestly, right now, we need these live opportunities to learn how to play with each other, all of the guys that are out there. That's just really hard to recreate in practice, especially the way camp is now with you are hardly ever in pads, they are trying to de-load your bodies, running. These game reps are huge and crucial for us learning how to play with each other as a full unit. Obviously, we're not even to the first regular season game, so I'd like to see a lot of improvement. After last week, there is definitely a lot to look at the tape and learn from it and move on and keep getting better."

### **On if the team is starting to game plan for the Week 1 against the Raiders:**

"Not necessarily game plan for our opening opponent, but in terms of pushing things forward to what we'll be doing throughout the season, that's what I mean by that, versus we're not just focused on this week's game."

### **On the 'uniqueness' of starting the season with a Sunday, then the quick turnaround to *Thursday Night Football*:**

"It is pretty unique just because you are not going to have a really regular weekly schedule and rhythm until probably heading into Week 4 because we'll have extra time before Week 1, no time before Week 2, then the extra time before Week 3, and then going into Week 4 will be our first week of regular Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, walk-through Saturday and Sunday game rhythm. I think that's a little bit interesting. I have never had that right off the bat before, but I'm sure every department that's involved in our recovery and travel and all of that stuff is already on top of it. We'll be at the top of our game."

### **On 'what went wrong for the special teams unit' last week against the Cowboys:**

"There are just a couple of things with the coverage lanes and staying on slightly different levels where we can play off of each other. Nothing catastrophic that can't be fixed. We've been out here working on it all week and we'll continue to."