

# POSTGAME QUOTES

**GREEN BAY PACKERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS, Nov. 19, 2023, at Green Bay, Wis..**

**HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY:**

(on his message to the team after the game) “I thought we came into the stadium with the right mindset, but we just did not execute well enough in all three phases to finish the game. That’s where we need to focus – on our execution. We had plenty of opportunities today and just didn’t capitalize on enough of them to finish the game. This is a tough one. We have to put it behind us. We have AFC games in front of us. We have to put our focus to Baltimore.”

(on the poor execution on defense in recent weeks and inconsistency) “We haven’t found that rhythm consistently enough in the secondary. I thought we did a really good job against the run in this game. I thought we rushed well enough to win. We weren’t able to turn them over. There’s these plays that really hijack our rhythm in the passing game. That’s where we have to put our focus, that’s where it’s been, and until we get that solved consistently, you’re going to continue to see results like today because there is a lot of good defense being played out there. You can’t foul on third-and-20. You can’t cut people loose. You can’t miss tackles. We have to play cleaner football.”

(on if he has considered giving up play calling) “No.”

(on what is happening when they commit penalties on third- and fourth-and-long and why they cannot get off the field in those situations) “You just have to play good fundamentals. They’re going to throw a pass that’s going deep, so we’re connected in coverage. You have to play with good fundamentals and not grab the guy. It’s as simple as that. When you know the routes are going deep, you have to be connected with him, which is what we were. You can’t reach and grab.”

(on if he is providing messaging to the team about their issues on third- and fourth-and-long situations) “Every week. Every week we are talking about fundamentals. Every week we show the officiating videos. Every week we’re talking about it. All we can continue to do is emphasize it. I know that our coaching staff is doing that. I know the message is getting across. We’re not getting the execution on the field.”

(on the defense struggling all year, and him saying and doing the same things dating back to when he arrived in LA) “I have full confidence, like I’ve told you from the beginning, I have full confidence in our way of playing, full confidence in myself as the play caller and the way that we teach and the way that we scheme – full confidence in that. We need to bring this group together and do it consistently. That’s where it’s at. You can stop asking that question, okay? I’m going to be calling the defenses, okay? So, we’re clear? So you don’t have to ask that again.”

(on what happened on the 35-year completion to Packers WR Dontayvion Wicks) “We weren’t communicated well enough in that situation, and he turned him loose.”

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(on the fanbase seeing a disconnect between his confidence and the way the team is playing) "I'm not here to talk to the fanbase. I'm here to talk to my players, the locker room. I know we give ourselves a chance to win every single week with the game plans that we have, okay? And we have done it. You guys act like we've never played good defense – that's not the truth, that's not the truth. You act like we haven't made any improvements. Today, in the run game, we played outstanding. We're rushing the quarterback well. Where we have to do a better job of is in the passing game, and that's where our full attention is. And it's where it will continue to be. There were a lot of other things that caused us to lose today. It certainly wasn't our defense. It was the way we played as a team. We didn't play well enough in the red zone on offense. We dropped too many passes, okay? We gave up a few killer sacks, okay? We did this as a team. Stop making it about one unit because that's not what happened out there today. Our team lost, and I am fully responsible for it. And I take full responsibility. But we lost as a team today, and that's the storyline."

(on the stats showing that the defense is consistently giving up big plays) "We have made adjustments throughout the season. It hasn't shown up exactly in an impactful, consistent way, but we have made changes. We have made adjustments. Our players know that, and we're going to continue to work hard at it. We're a little bit past halfway, and we'll see what progress we make moving forward."

(on QB Justin Herbert being sacked today) "Yeah, they have a lot of good rushers over there. I thought we did a good enough job of protecting the passer today but the story for us on offense was the way we played in the red zone. We moved the ball the whole day, but we had a bunch of drops in the game that really inhibited our ability to score the football. Again, we had a fumble, and that was the story. They had one takeaway, we didn't. It happened in the red zone. And I think on offense that was the story for us, because we drove the football and moved the football well today."

(on WR Quentin Johnston's dropped ball in the final drive today, his drops in training camp and why he hasn't developed from that standpoint yet) "You were also at training camp, and he made a lot of big plays in training camp, too. So you need to do your reporting justice. He had a really good training camp, and he is improving as a player. He had a tough down there. We're going to keep going back to him. He's going to be an outstanding player. We love coaching him. Justin's going to continue going to him. The more he plays, the more he's going to be able to knock down opportunities like that."

(on if he has an update on OLB Joey Bosa) "I don't."

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## **QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT:**

(on getting over so many close losses this season) “Yeah that’s a good question. It’s tough as a team. You feel like you’re doing everything right during the week. You’re having great weeks of practice. It’s tough to fall short like that, but the most important thing is what we can do now is know; how do we answer, how do we deal with this adversity and how we get over that hump. We’re looking to having a good week of practice. We have to learn from this moment. We’ll watch the film. We’ll do everything we can to get better from this one, to learn from our mistakes and keep attacking each week.”

(on struggling in the red zone) “I think we just had some missed opportunities. I thought we were in position to be able to score some points. You can go down there, and drive and we just have to execute better. It’s on us as an offense to be able to take over those situations and score in the red zone like that. Something that we’ve talked about all year, but I know that we’re capable of doing that. It’s unfortunate that it didn’t happen today.”

(on plays he wanted back) “Yeah, I’m sure there are probably a few that we’d watch the film, and we’d love to have back.”

(on what stood out from today) “I think we have to be able to complete some balls, I have to be able to complete some footballs there at the end and make the drives keep going.”

(on losing the close games) “It’s not a lack of effort. These guys are giving their all. I feel for these guys and it’s unfortunate that we’re in this situation, but all we can do now is answer in how we can deal with this and keep moving forward. I know that these guys are going to continue to show up and give their best effort week in and week out. We’re awfully close like you said. We just have to keep pushing, keep executing and doing everything we can to learn from these mistakes and keep getting better.”

(on his relationship with S Derwin James Jr.) “Derwin and I are very close. I feel very comfortable sharing with him anything that we need to talk about, and he feels the same way. As a competitor, I respect him the most. He’s an incredible player, incredible teammate, incredible guy in that locker room.”

(on how much he ran today) “I think it’s just one of those things that you go out there and everything’s covered down field and you have to take off and you have to make a play. Sometimes, when you get a certain look when they’re playing man like that, there’s no one for the quarterback. If everything’s covered down the field, you just keep going through your reads, playing each play and taking off whenever you can.”

(on the big play to TE Stone Smartt) “It was kind of the look that we were hoping for. You know that we know how special Stone is as a player and as a ball catcher. What he’s able to do after he catches the ball. He made a great play, made a guy miss and took off for the endzone. It was awesome to see from him.”

(on how difficult this stretch of losses has been) “It’s a tough situation for sure, but all we can do now is keep moving forward and learn from it. Nothing we can do now is going to change the past results. We are exactly where we are and we have to find a way to keep moving forward. Week in and week out, I know these guys show up and give their best effort, so that’s all you can look forward to.”

(on any emphasis to throwing at the young secondary) “I thought they did a pretty good job of mixing up their looks and playing some shell and getting some doubles in. You know the guys that filled in, they’re pretty good players too. They’ve got a really good defense, and we just have to do a better job of executing down in the red zone. I thought they did a good job of switching up their looks and making everything look differently, but we just have to do a better job of executing.”

(on WR Keenan Allen coming on in the second half) "I think that was just part of the game flow. We know how special of a player he is and try to get him the ball no matter what. They did a good job of doubling him for a large part of the game, so finding those single one on one matchups and finding ways to get him the ball. I thought that was an important part of our game."