



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

Los Angeles Chargers vs. Tennessee Titans

Sunday, November 10, 2024 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On QB Justin Herbert's performance:

"All. I'm changing his name to beast. He's beast Herbert. Half man, half beast. He made the two biggest plays of the game. The fourth down touchdown run that he made, I mean, I don't know how many people we blocked or who actually got a block and who didn't but there was a lot of unblocked guys and he just went beast mode and got that ball in the end zone. Then the sack, I mean, it appeared like it was a sack fumble just because the strength that it took to hold onto the ball while getting hit. There's probably nobody else on the planet that could have done that and then he was able to keep it in his hand and finish the throwing motion. You saw the ball still, I mean, I don't even know what that is, just wrist. The ball went 10 or 15 yards. I mean after seeing the replay, you're like, 'Okay, nobody else could have done that.' And that was, that was a huge play in the game. He's just got huge hands and he's strong. He used to carry those bricks. Used to watch him carry those big bricks in the in the summer. We're not all capable of carrying those bricks that he was, but those were the two gigantic plays in the game. It speaks volumes, I mean everything speaks volumes, right? No quarterback has completed more passes in the first five years of an NFL career than [QB] Justin Herbert in the history of the National Football League. That speaks to his greatness and just to be around it every day is, that's what it feels like. It feels like you're around greatness every single day with Justin Herbert. And there's still a long way to go. His fifth year is far from complete. He's incredible. You run out of adjectives. Just a guardian of victory for our football team. Just in awe, really, most of the time. All of the time."

On pass protection on the touchdown pass:

"Great eye that you have eye. It was a great game by offensive line. The pass protection was really good, but we were coming off the ball. We were moving people. It was our best game up front. [T] Rashawn Slater, I know I'll see more when I watch the tape, but some tremendous pass blocking. Great job [OL] Jamaree Salyer coming into the game, [T] Foster Sarell. Both of them were interchanging in there at guard. To step in like that, I thought they did a tremendous job. [T] Joe Alt had a great game. [C] Bradley Bozeman, he just leaves everything out there on the field. [Bozeman] directs and orchestrates everything up front. And [G] Zion Johnson had a really good game. I just can't think of one time where, well there was just one time where I can remember seeing that we didn't get a block. We left a guy free in the hole. But a really, really clean game from an assignment standpoint, penalty standpoint, up front. I thought our margin of error was, was very good."

On the running backs:

"Well, I mean, I'm not going to argue with you one bit. I agree with everything that you just said right there, one hundred percent. [RB] J.K. [Dobbins] has been on track to be the Comeback Player of the Year in the NFL. I mean he just adds so much toughness to our football team. [RB] Gus Edwards, you saw it today, just poured toughness into our football team."

I mean everybody gets excited when you see backs running that way. It motivates us all, especially the guys up front to just stay on their blocks if the Gus bus is coming behind you. And [RB] Hassan Haskins, he's just a freak of speed. And you know that young people use the word freak in a very positive way. I don't know if you know that, you older folks out there, but it's just in the best kind of way. Athletically, this speed and strength combination that Hassan has, it's ridiculous as the young people would say. I'm in agreement with you all the way."

On maintaining the energy level at halftime:

"It's just what I was seeing. Just [QB] Justin Herbert in beast mode, the [RB] Gus [Edwards] bus, our defense, the way we were flying around and we had to tackle a little bit better. My red blood was pumping and the example of what our guys were doing on the field, Justin, that touchdown, all the stuff he was doing and holding on to that ball before halftime. I was excited. 'Let's all be excited. Let's all take the field here in the second half and just sheer excitement to go have this opportunity to play.' It just felt like I thought we had a ton of momentum and I didn't want that half time to slow us up in any way. Let's go. Let's go. That was just what I was seeing on the field."

On the team's week-to-week effort:

"Yeah and guys just pouring their toughness, their talent, their effort into our football team. It multiplies. When you see that from [OLB] Joey Bosa, [LB] Daiyan Henley the way he's been playing, [OLB] Tuli [Tuipulotu], [QB] Justin Herbert, [RB] Gus [Edwards] bus. [RB] J.K. [Dobbins], those are force multipliers. I know everybody felt it and everybody saw it, but I might have been the one that said it. You know like, 'Hey, this is what we want to do. This is how we want to be. This is what we're doing. Let's keep doing it.'"

On if the team's improvement:

"It's all those guys I just mentioned. And game ball to John Spanos, [General Manager] Joe Hortiz. I feel it like the rest of us feel it, that this organization, this culture with everybody. It's players and it comes down from ownership. Our owners, the Spanos family, [Dean Spanos], I mean they are just willing to do anything and everything to help us to win. We all feel that and it just makes us want to do anything and everything to help our team in any way that we can. There's not a person in this organization that doesn't think that their job is the most important job in the entire organization. And how I know that is that they're really good at it. The way they double check, triple check, quadruple check everything that that they do is just inspiring and it all comes from the very top. The Spanos family, Joe Hortiz and everything that he's done to help our team. He's got the eye and we just trust. You get the feeling like, as a coach, as players that they're happy with us. They like the direction, they like how our guys are playing and the direction that this team is going in. That inspires you even more and you just keep at it going one week at a time."

On what he's added this season:

"Trying to try to add anything I can, really. That's just a part of it. There's really only one way that you could describe this win today, and that's just a team win. I mean a complete, total team win. When you look at the offense, the drives that we put together coming off our five-yard line three straight drives in a row for touchdowns. Tough, gritty type of conversions on third down and fourth down. Our defense continues, I mean we had the one drive at the beginning of the game and the opening drive. We gave up the field goal and then another very late touchdown. They're playing lights out on the defensive side. And then special teams, another big return by our punt return unit. [WR] Derius Davis, great job. [P] JK Scott, another heck of the day he had punting the football. [K] Cameron Dicker continues to be a machine, so the only way you can really describe this is a team win."

On the defense's pass rush:

"It was pretty good. I think [OLB] Tuli [Tuipulotu] had 2.0 or 3.0 sacks. Good to see [OLB] Bud Dupree getting in the mix with a big sack, [OLB] Joey [Bosa] got his 70th sack, great to see. Most snaps he's played in quite a while and I think he just moved to second in Chargers history in terms of sacks. So really excited for him. Just the type of team, and I get this from them, I get this from [S] Derwin James Jr., [QB] Justin Herbert, [T] Rashawn Slater and [LB] Denzel Perryman. It's like, you get excited for the other guy's success. You're happy for the other guy's success. That's the way we felt coming out of halftime. Like man, 'We're excited for these guys and what they're doing and let's keep going. Let's go get some more.'"

On Gordon Lightfoot being played in the locker:

“Well this is the 50th anniversary, today, November 10, 1975 of ‘The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald.’”

On if the song “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” was played in Cleveland last week because of the proximity to the wreck:

“Are you sure about that or was it Lake Superior? Today was the 50th anniversary.”

On if there’s any symbolism of the song for the team:

“There’s some, but that’s just kind of for us.”

On improvements going forward:

“I mean, the guys pour so much into it each week. It's a one-week league. We understand that. For now, just go enjoy. For me, it'll be the next six hours. Those are going to be good enjoyment, then somewhere around 5-hour, 5:30 mark, 6-hour 6:30 mark it will hit me. It'll just hit me that the Cincinnati Bengals are up next and we're on to them. Then we'll reset our battle rhythm. But right now, job well done. Pull it in and go enjoy it.”

On maintaining strong defensive performances:

“I think in about six hours that's probably one of the things that'll start hitting me. Just going to enjoy this one right here and I want our guys to because they earned it. These are hard-earned, well-earned. There's nothing easy here. Everybody is good. Everybody we play is good. Every week, every next game, future opponents, they're going to be really good and our battle rhythm will be reset.”

On his first-year success as a head coach:

“Yeah, I really can. I know. I’ve lived it. Really good players, that's what it takes. I've been fortunate as a coach, wherever I seem to have gone the players are really good. There's no such thing as a good coach with not good players.”

On the Chargers early success:

“Really, we’ve got great players. I've been saying it since day one. I mean you should all enjoy just being around the greatness of [QB] Justin Herbert. The equivalent on the defensive side is [S] Derwin James [Jr.] and [OLB] Khalil Mack. I mean [Mack] is a Hall of Fame player, over 100 sacks. I've never been around this kind of greatness. Well, there's never been more, I should say that. But these guys, I love these guys.”

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On winning three games in a row:

"I think it's huge. Coach [Offensive Coordinator Greg] Roman and I talked throughout the week about wanting to put together a complete game by us on offense. I thought we did a great job from start to the end being able to move the ball, run the ball, pass the ball however we needed to move it. I thought the guys up front did an incredible job and to be able to put that together against a very good opponent, it means a lot to me."

On the offensive line:

"I think they were really in the zone. They were causing a lot of movement up front and to have a group of guys like that that go down in and down out and fight like that, I know [RB] J.K Dobbins and [RB] Gus Edwards appreciate it and it makes my job a lot easier too."

On Head Coach Jim Harbaugh's praise:

"I really appreciate it, he's the best. To have a guy like that leading the team, it shows out there. You turn on the tape and everyone wants to play for him, wants to fight for him and the guys are playing energetic. They're excited to be out there and they're having fun. I think that's the most important thing. He's done such a great job of preparing us and letting us go play free and fast out there. So, to have a guy like that leading the charge has been awesome."

On Head Coach Jim Harbaugh's influence on the team:

"I think we just go out there and give our best each game. We know the way last year went and we learned from it. We've moved on. We've taken what we did poorly last year and have corrected or learned from it. We're a different team. We have different guys and a lot of them have learned from their mistakes and I've learned from my mistakes. We keep moving and it's always about the next game."

On what Head Coach Jim Harbaugh brings to the team:

"Guys going out there playing fast, free and enjoying the game of football. He makes meetings, weightlifting, and going out and practicing tons of fun. I didn't mean he makes it super fun, but the guys enjoy practice and they enjoy going out there and working. I think that's the most important thing."

On Jim Harbaugh's offensive identity:

"I think toughness comes to mind. Having an offensive line that does everything they can to move the defense to create room for [RB] Gus [Edwards] and [RB] J.K [Dobbins] to run the ball. Then to have a great play action game where we've got guys on the outside that go make plays. They're blocking downfield and they're doing everything they can to move the ball and continue to execute on third down. So I would say toughness, for sure."

On Head Coach Jim Harbaugh:

"It's a good point. He's got a huge impact being the Head Coach. It's games, it's practice, it's meetings. He's done a great job of teaching that."

On his relationship with Head Coach Jim Harbaugh:

"I just try to do right by him. I do everything that he teaches us and coaches us and just want to make him proud. He's seen a lot of good football and if we're listening and doing the things he says, we're going in the right direction."

On how offseason practices improved the team:

"I think it starts with organized team activities (OTAs). We call them the fourth quarter finishers after practice. After two hours out on the field, we're going to go do some more drills. We're going to pull sleds, flip sleds and guys kind of create that mental toughness and mindset that the job is not done. Football games are 60 minutes or however long it takes and to be able to fight for those four quarters. or overtime if you get it, I know the guys on this team are tough and they're going to continue to battle."

On if scoring a rushing touchdown or a passing touchdown is more exciting:

“Touchdowns are touchdowns. Whether I'm scoring them, whether [RB] J.K [Dobbins] is scoring them, [WR Quentin Johnston]. As long as we're getting in the end zone, they're all exciting.”

On if he notices his teammates' reactions on the sideline:

“Not until afterwards. I'm usually focused on the game, but I'll do my best to look at that next time.”

On quarterback runs impacting the run game:

“I think it's a big part of our offense. You're going through your reads and you're trying to push the ball downfield and if the defense is playing good coverage or guys are covered and the pressure gives up, you have to be able to break contain and go make something happen. That's exactly what we expect from [RB] J.K [Dobbins] and [RB] Gus [Edwards]. Those guys do that and battle day in and day out. So for me, it's just go out there and make plays and do whatever I can for this team.”

On running the ball:

“I think as long as the ankle is continuing to develop and progress in the way that it is, being able to run the ball has been huge for us. It's able to extend drives whether it's converting on third down or especially in the red zone, it's a threat that you have to hold the defense accountable to. So as long as I'm smart and picking my battles correctly, I think it's a big part of our offense.”

On the play call on his fourth-down touchdown run:

“A little bit of both. We had the option, but after talking about it throughout the week, we figured that was going to be the plan.”

On the Tennessee defense:

“We have a lot of respect for them. They're a very good defense and they're much better than their record indicates. We have a healthy respect for them. They fly around. They're very well coached, so for us to be able to execute and come away with 27 points is a great effort by us.”

On the defense getting 7.0 sacks:

“It's awesome. We're doing everything we can to give them rest and breaks, and as long as we're controlling possession and being out there for 10 plus [play] drives, it's only going to help them. You've got [OLB] Bud Dupree, [OLB] Khalil [Mack], [OLB] Joey [Bosa], those edge rushers have really done a great job.”

On his fumble being overturned:

“I felt like I did a pretty good job of holding onto it, but those are moments where it's not really in your control. I'm grateful for the decision of overturning it. I'll have to look at it and see whether I'm running it away or throwing it away earlier, so it's just something we need to address.”

On the impact of the fumble being overturned:

“I think it was huge. To be able to go to halftime with the lead and to avoid a play like that is big time. I have to do a better job of understanding the situation, whether it's throwing the ball away, stepping up, or doing my best to avoid the tackler. But definitely things we can learn from.”

Tennessee Titans Head Coach Brian Callahan

Opening Statement:

"No injuries to report. Came out of the game so far, so good and we'll see what that looks like once we get back Monday and Tuesday. But as of anything to report for injuries, nothing from the game. Really, key points here for us: didn't compliment each other well enough. We had a chance to go down, opening kickoff, go down there in scoring position and don't convert a third down. We have to score touchdowns in the red zone in a game like this where we knew the possessions would be limited. We kicked a field goal, got points on the board and kicked the ball back off. We give up a big return into plus territory, they punched the ball in and scored seven. We get the ball back, I think we get a first down or two, but we ultimately end up in a third and long. We had another penalty, false start. Our operation wasn't good enough today. And then we had to punt the ball. So we punt it, we pinned them down to the five yard line. Great coverage, great rush, all the things that we want. They were on the five yard line. Then they go 95 yards for a touchdown and ultimately that was the game. That was the swing. The kickoff to the touchdown to the punt, to the 95-yard drive. Didn't bow up at any point, didn't play well enough in any phase to win the game and didn't compliment each other well. So that's how you lose games on the road to good, physical football teams. Tip of the cap to them, they played well. They were physical, they were the more physical teams today, which is one of the first times I've had to say that this year. In a low possession game you need to score touchdowns and we didn't. I think were 1-of-4 or 1-of-3 in the red zone. We gave up too many sacks at the end of the day. We were holding the ball a little bit too long on some of those. Some of those are, you know, our guys get beat and that happens, but too much. Too many negative plays in the second half didn't allow us to be on game script and on schedule. That team, on 3rd-and-7 plus is, I think they've let up six conversions all year long and we weren't going to be any one of them there in that situation. So, tough. Still, guys played hard and we still kept fighting. But at the end of the day we just, we didn't have enough complimentary football and didn't play well enough."

On the overturned fumble call:

"I thought it was going to stand on the field. They initially told me that it was going to stand. They took another look at it as I walked away and then as I came back, they told me it was going to be overturned. That was all the explanation I got. I'll let you guys decide what you think the call should've been, but I don't want to lose any money."

On the ruling of a forward pass:

"I'm not sure. I don't know what the ruling of a forward pass is right now. I'm not too sure."

On if he spoke to the same official before and after the fumble review:

"Yeah."

On if he received an explanation on the overturned fumble:

"No, no. No, they did not."

On how the overturned fumble call swung the game:

"Critical momentum swing at the end of the half. To score a touchdown on defense, we haven't done that all year long. And to get a chance to put six on the board on defense right before the half on a mistake that they made was huge for momentum. We were getting the ball back. Yeah, it was a huge momentum-turning play, which I feel like we've had a lot of those this year that haven't gone our way. That's sort of what happens when you're not playing well enough. All the plays that you make feel so critical. And when they get taken away, they hurt. That was a big momentum swing for us."

On giving up big kick/punt returns:

"Well, we've got to cover better. Kickoff coverage is, you've got to meet your man and cover the ball and we didn't do a good enough job of that in that particular turn. I thought we covered well everywhere else during the day. Punt coverage was really good. We pinned them down inside the ten a couple of times. I mean, we're better but we just can't give up the one huge play on special teams a game. We've got to find a way to get that shut down."

On the Chargers playing more physical:

"We just had a hard time getting the quarterback down. [QB Justin Herbert] got out a few times, made some runs. They're a bleed offense and they suck the air out of the game. That's what [Offensive Coordinator] Greg Roman and [Head Coach] Jim Harbaugh have done forever, they run the ball well. There was nothing big. It was just a steady, it's like death by a thousand paper cuts when you play that way. We just kind of gave up just enough yards every time to, on a 95-yard drive, to allow them to go punch it in for seven when we had them backed up on the five. Which I don't know if we've done a lot of that this year. So to not have that field position and not get that stop and see them just sort of plug away down the field was, just haven't seen that a lot against our defense. They've been pretty stout and we weren't good enough today."

On OT Leroy Watson IV's penalties:

"Yeah, he's got too many. You know, I think our operation with the sound and the cadence on the road hasn't been good enough. We work it all the time, the music's on all day long. But we got to do a better job of that execution because the false starts are a killer. They put you in these long down and distances that, you're 2nd-and-15 which is really hard to overcome. It's just got to be cleaner, the operation has got to be better and that starts with me. We've got to do a better job coaching."

On QB Will Levis:

"I thought [QB] Will [Levis] was good at times. I thought, a couple times he was trying to find a bigger play in the later parts of the game. Once he started getting the ball out and just trying to play faster, that was good. I thought he did some good things today. There are definitely some things that are encouraging and things to teach off of."

On QB Will Levis creating sacks:

"Well, two of them for sure. One was on a naked bootleg, he's on the perimeter and takes a sack and that. That's usually not what you look for. Then he had one scrambling on the sideline, where you're kind of trying to run and it's a zero yard gain or whatever it was. So that's two of the sacks that were outside of the pocket. The rest of them, I'd have to watch it to know exactly. But it felt like, most of those guys, we got beat and we had to hold the ball a couple of times and we couldn't hold up."

On LB Kenneth Murray Jr.:

"Yeah, he was in position on the one play down in the red zone. They got the [pass interference], you got to look back for the ball. The other one on the touchdown, I'm not quite sure what happened there on the long touchdown. [QB Justin Herbert] held the ball for a long time, we didn't get to him and he hit the receiver crossing the field. So, I'm not quite exactly sure. I'll have to watch that and I can give you more information tomorrow on that. I'll have to look at it all to really comment further on it."

On the Chargers offense and LB Kenneth Murray Jr.:

"I wouldn't say that. I don't know if that was intentional. It looked like that one, they were looking somewhere front side and he sort of came back because he had a lot of time back there to get it off. So, hard for me to make that determination right now."

On CB Jarvis Brownlee Jr.:

"That's playing corner in the NFL. You're going to get beat. How you respond to it is what you see most of these really good corners or coverage guys get beat, they come back and they keep playing. There's really no other way to do it. Life on the island out there isn't for everyone and [CB] Jarvis [Brownlee Jr.] is tough enough to handle it and mentally tough enough to deal with it. You're going to get beat and you've got to come back and keep playing. You're going to miss a tackle and you've got to make sure you get the next one down. So, it's just a next-play mentality for guys out there and for young players it's challenging. There's a lot to learn and there's a lot of really good players in this league that force you to be at the top of your game every week you step out there. He's done a nice job and he's given up some plays he's got to learn from."

Tennessee Titans Quarterback Will Levis

On the offense:

"I'm just going to look at myself, what I could have done better. It was a nice start, cool to get the ball down the field and get that shot dialed up. That's something we've been waiting on. Second half I think personally for me, a couple situations where I could have just got the ball out of my hands earlier and helped the line with pressure. Trying to look something up, just taking my medicine and continuing to learn in that area."

On the Chargers defense collecting 7.0 sacks:

"It's on everybody, like I said I can only focus on what I can do myself. I've got to help those guys how I can, getting the ball out. It's symbiotic. They've got to give me time and I've got to learn when there is not time and get the ball out. So, just trying to do my best to work back to the line of scrimmage when I was getting in some trouble. Yeah, I got to get the ball out of my hands faster."

On how he feels:

"I'm good. Physically, I feel fine. Wake up tomorrow and see what bumps and bruises come out, but nothing crazy."

On his readiness:

"Yeah, from the rip. I wanted to get that way in practice before you get out on the game field, so I felt that way at the beginning of this week. I was ready to roll and there was no hesitation from there."

On the hits he took:

"I don't really know. I'm not feeling any soreness now. Again, wake up tomorrow, that's usually when you feel it so we'll see."

On getting the ball out faster:

"I think it's just, you know, learning how to play the position and getting better in that area. There's been times this year where I feel like I have done a good job getting the ball out and it's finding that happy medium, for sure."

On the overturned fumble at the end of the first half:

"We're just waiting for one of those calls to go our way and it just didn't happen to be today. We made a point coming into the locker room how we wanted to kick the vibes back up as an offense and put points on the board. We could've done a better job in that red zone. You know, it was a great 12-play drive getting some points up, but we needed a touchdown there to get the vibes back."

On getting the ball out quicker:

"I think it's just knowing the timing of the play and knowing when it's not there within the timing of the play. You know, when you are going down off your first or second hit sometimes it just happens, but there was a couple where I did feel like I was kind of waiting a little bit too long. Just got to know the situations to get the ball out like that, I think there was a third and long I was trying to look up a deeper route and I couldn't see it. I was trying to feel it in the pocket but if I take that underneath, even though he's not catching it at the sticks, he can still knife and go for a first. So that's just learning experiences."