

Chargers Week 10 Media Availability

Friday, November 10, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

On entering Sunday's game 'with a clean game status report' and the team's health 'at this stage of the season':

"We're ready to play. It's been a good week of practice. The guys have responded well off of the trip. Now, it's time to play."

On 'the status of the team':

"The status is that we're two days before our game. Today, we just focused on the red area and going over the situational stuff. That's where our focus is. Tomorrow, we'll have a good walk through."

On if the team is 'having more fun':

"It would appear so. This is a really tough game. Sometimes, we all need to be reminded that it's a game. I think that these guys work really hard, they do it the right way. I think that it gets you to connect at a higher level. There's something to look forward to — when big things happen, they become bigger because you're doing it with your teammates. I think you've been able to see that tangible energy on the field and I think it spreads, everyone wants to be a part of that because it's such a tough game and it's such a team sport that when you get to share it with each other, it just means more."

On if staying the night in New Jersey following Monday night's game and flying back on Tuesday has 'helped with getting the players rested and recovered' in advance of Sunday's game:

"I believe so. I thought that I saw a tangible difference because I've done it both ways. As I was telling you guys, when I was with the Rams, we did Tampa Bay on a Monday night and flew back that night. I like this way a lot better. Getting feedback from the veteran players, guys that have been on other teams, we feel like it's a winning edge. I thought that we've practiced well."

On Lions QB Jared Goff:

"[QB] Jared [Goff] has improved every single year he's been a pro, in my opinion. When I got with him in 2020, I think that was his fourth year in the NFL, and now, you fast forward three more years and I think that he's gotten better and better and better. He puts a lot into his game. I know him well, I'm close with him. I think I said it earlier in the week, I think what he's been able to accomplish in Detroit for that team and for that city shouldn't be understated. He did the same thing when he was at Cal and he did the same thing when he was with the Rams. When he first got to the Rams, they were not a very good team. When he left, they were one of the top teams in the NFL. The same thing has happened in Detroit. I'm really happy for him."

On the Lions' offensive line:

"They play as a unit. You can tell they play as a unit. I think that they have a lot of good experience on that line. I think that they are a very complete group — tackles, guards and center. They've been able to have some attrition, they've endured attrition. They have had their backups come in and play winning football, which I think is the sign of a good unit. They play as a team. They're well-coached and they play the game the right way."

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR RYAN FICKEN

Opening statement:

"It was a great win for our game last week. Obviously, we have a big opponent coming in for this weekend. We've got a big test against these guys. I had my son's birthday yesterday. He turned 11 yesterday, so I'll give him a 'Happy Birthday' on that."

On the punt return touchdown by WR Derius Davis:

"I was really happy for the guys. I thought that they did a great job in terms of protecting. We've been close all year, we've been saying were close. We have to make sure we're still believing in it. Derius did a great job in terms of catching the punt and getting going. That's the first and foremost thing, is making sure we catch the ball because you can't take that for granted, even though he's done a great job. We got him started with the outside, I thought the corners did a great job and the interior guys did a great job blocking all the way down with legal blocks. We don't take that for granted, as well. He did a great job stretching and finding the seam and getting vertical. It just allowed that God-given talent to take over. I was really happy for him but also for the rest of the group. That's something that we can use to benefit us down the road, too. Give us that little bit of an edge. I was happy for the unit."

On Davis' 'short-area quickness':

"That's what makes him special because he can make the sudden cut. I always talk about making moves on the move. He doesn't have to break stride. He can hit it full speed and make that one cut right away. Right there, he went ahead and read the leverage on the punter. He stuck the foot in the ground and he did all of the other work. He's a special returner. We have to keep building, though. There is still a lot of work that we have to continue to work on in all situations. I was happy for him to go ahead and get that. I was happy unit, for the team. They really helped us get us going in that game."

On K Cameron Dicker:

"I think mainly just his composure. He's 'steady Eddy.' He's very consistent on his approach, not just in the games but out in practice he's a professional. It doesn't matter if it's a 55-yarder, 58-yarder, a PAT, he has the same mindset and he's going to approach every kick the same way. That's what I've been really pleased with, how he's approached the game."

On LB Daiyan Henley:

"It's very encouraging to see that [block on Monday against the Jets]. Daiyan does a great job, it's real important to him. Obviously, his college tape was that same way, the importance for special teams for him. He's very coachable and he wants to do right. That was great to see, in terms of him transitioning and taking that over week-to-week. There will be sometimes when we want to be that physical like we had a couple weeks. That was just a time in that situation where he needed to go ahead and use more of a finesse block and he did a great job. You go back to the other punt return that we talked about, the big one. There were some key blocks in terms of — [LB] Tanner Muse, he had a big key block that sprung him. It wasn't a kill shot. We were in position to go ahead and block him. We have to make sure we go ahead and do a great job of bodying them up at times. It just depends on the situation and what kind of block that we need to use."

On 'getting close' to blocking punts:

"It's a situational aspect. We don't necessarily design it for one person or another. These guys are just playing hard and they're trying to take advantage of the situation. A lot of that pressure is to kind of get the punter to punt off-rhythm. I'm really happy with those guys. We just have to make sure we stress that however it is designed, we have to have the belief anyone can go ahead and block it. I think that they believe that. It just depends on that type of situation. I'm encouraged from what I've seen."

On the coaching the gunners for down near the goal line:

"That's very difficult as a gunner. I think that situation is the most difficult part because we have to go ahead and make sure you find the ball in that situation. You also have to defend against the returners. You're looking up. You find the ball. You find the returner. The biggest thing that you don't want is for him to return it and then they get you on that. Playing that ball, especially with the spiral, the turnover ball, it's a difficult one. He [DB Deane Leonard] was in position. I have belief that he's going to make those, but it's not easy. He made it look easy getting down there, but it's a very difficult play and I thought [P] JK [Scott] had a great punt, in terms of that. I wouldn't put it past that Deane will make that next time, I think he was in good position."