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Chargers Week 3 Media Availability

Friday, September 23, 2022 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

On QB Justin Herbert's injury status:

"He was out there at individual [period] yesterday. It's day-by-day, just waiting to see how he feels. We're going to progress through the rest of this week and see how it goes. I think that we have approached it the right way. Again, I think that he's day-to-day."

On 'insight' into Herbert 'throwing yesterday, but not throwing today':

"You want to make sure that he goes out there to actually throw, to see how he feels. Then, you want to get back to resting. That was the thought process, to put him through individual [period], get him out there, throw, perform the plan, and then see where he is. Using today as a rest day, and then seeing where we go here over the weekend."

On Herbert's performance yesterday in practice:

"He looked good. He's tough. He doesn't feel great, by any means, but he was able to go out there and throw the football. I think a lot of it was seeing his response to each throw — then, obviously, after practice, and then this morning. We're just going to keep knowing more as we go."

On Herbert 'took the same amount of throws during the individual period that he normally would' yesterday:

"He started out in routes on air, group routes. He did what he normally does because we wanted to make sure that we saw him make the throws that he would have to make in the game. Same as [normal] for yesterday."

On Herbert's 'ability to play being based off of a comfort thing':

"It's going to be that. We're going to put him first, moving forward, in terms of that. He's been great in communication with us, his team and the medical people. With the nature of that type of injury, it's going to be day-to-day."

On Herbert's injury 'altering the offense's play-calling':

"Of course, a little bit, but not a lot, in terms of the overall approach to playing against Jacksonville. We go into every game with our quarterback being the biggest asset on our team. Our protection plan and the run game, all of it, it is with our quarterback's security in mind. That's the way that we do it here. That part won't change. There could be some of the run game elements to the [game] plan that you would limit, but as it relates to how we attack Jacksonville, probably not much at all."

On CB J.C. Jackson's injury status:

"We really wanted to use this week as a rest week for him, coming off of the game. I think he played every snap in the game for us. We just want to make sure, for the long-term, that this guy is good to go. As you guys have seen him out there, there hasn't been a setback, per se. That's not what's happening. I think we're just keeping the long-term in mind with him, making sure that he's building for a full season. That's where that is at with him. But, he's in good spirits. I like where he is at."

On C Corey Linsley's injury status:

"Corey is just working through that knee. We're really trying to get him as much rest as possible. We're really trying to get him as much rest as possible. He's a guy that you can afford to rest because of his experience, you rely on games played and time on task. With him, it's just more about the rest and trying to get that thing strengthened and minimize the amount of pounding that would be there with him out there on the field for practice."

On WR Keenan Allen's injury status:

"I think that Keenan [Allen] is 50/50 for the game. We were able to see him, you guys were able to see him, yesterday at practice. Similar [to Herbert], we wanted to make sure that we gave him a day of rest, and then see how it is over the next 48 hours. I think he will be more of a game-time decision."

On 'managing' Linsley's knee injury 'over the remainder of the season':

"This is short-term. But, long-term, that's what we would do with anybody in Corey's position that has played as much as he has. We'll do it with all of the guys that have played as much football as he has played. That's kind of at the forefront of how we practice and why you develop younger players. The big part is getting them as much rest because you know what you really need from them is to be good at the game."

On 'the veteran factor' involving 'confidence with a player playing in the game that has not practiced during the week':

"I just think it's player-to-player. There are certainly young players that you could trust. It's specific to the player. It's case-by-case."

On if Herbert's decision to play 'will come down to game time':

"I think so. When I say day-to-day, I believe that. I think that we're prepared either way with the contingencies. I think that our coaching staff has done a good job with that. Our players are prepared for that. That's just kind of the nature of what's happening right now."

On if Allen 'had a setback' following yesterday's practice:

"More rest. He has to go out there and do a little bit to show where he is at because yesterday is a bigger practice. Seeing him out there in practice yesterday, then give him an extra day, and then we'll see where it's at on the weekend."

On QB Chase Daniel's performance in practice this week:

"Chase looked like how he always looks — steady, poise, command, accurate, tough, all of the things that Chase is known for. Our team really believes in him and [QB] Easton [Stick] because they've proven that every day in practice. He attacks the plan the same way, and that's part of the reason why he has been so successful in the league."

On Stick's performance in practice this week:

"Easton is getting better. Like I said in the offseason and during training camp, he is an improving NFL player. He's doing a great job for us on the work team and continues to improve his game. I have confidence in both of those guys, for sure."

On if Daniel will start at QB if Herbert does not play:

"Chase would be the starter, yes."

QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On 'how his ribs are feeling':

"They feel good. Thank you."

On the play he was injured on in Week 2:

"I'd have to take another look at the film. I think I left the ball a little bit high. I got tackled and kind of fell, but we have had plenty of time since then. We are just doing our best to be prepared for this week."

On if hits after his injury 'worsened things at all':

"I don't think so. I was able to finish the game. Unfortunately, we fell short in that game, so it's a tough loss, but I thought we did a lot of good things that game. There is a lot to build off of from there."

On improvements in his health in the last week:

"There have definitely been improvements. I think the most important thing is just to be prepared for Sunday and do your best, whatever that looks like. Just do everything you can in the treatment room, the film room, out on the field, whatever it looks like, but just to be ready."

On throwing the football yesterday in practice:

"I felt good."

On wearing a rib protector this week:

"The rib protector is normal. We have been wearing that for a while."

On if he has been wearing extra protection for his ribs:

"We haven't been fully suited up yet, so I think it's just the normal rib protector that we've been wearing."

On how extra rib protection affects a quarterback:

"I think that's an area on the quarterback that doesn't usually tend to have too much impact on the throwing motion. Whatever you add or whatever you take off, I think it's a normal motion for the quarterback."

On determining his availability for Sunday:

"I think there is a lot that goes into it. Thankfully, we have a couple days left before we play. We don't play today, and so that's up to us, our team, to make the best decision so that we are ready to go on Sunday."

On playing through pain:

"I think football is a game where you play with a lot of discomfort. I don't think anyone ever really feels good during games. The NFL is a physical, tough league. Week in and week out, guys are dealing with things. That's just part of the game — just being tough and making sure that your body is ready to go when you play."

On the most severe injury he's had playing football:

"I broke my femur. That was pretty bad."

On rib cartilage injuries:

"I think it's just part of the game. I think a couple guys on the team have kind of dealt with that. It's all about how you feel and how you go out there. There is a lot that goes into it, but just to be prepared for everything you can do on Sunday."

On if he will play on Sunday:

"I don't know. That's a decision that we have a couple days left to make. We don't play today. We play on Sunday. Whatever the plan is, I know that our team is going to be prepared to do everything we can. That decision will be made on Sunday and haven't ruled anything out."

On if a determination can be made after pre-game work on Sunday:

"I'm sure that's probably the plan is just to see how it feels on Sunday. There is a lot that goes into it. For the next couple of days, just to relax, rest and make sure that I'm at my best until Sunday."

On the sequence in Week 2 when he threw the ball away and then completed a 35-yard pass to WR DeAndre Carter:

“Looking back at it, I probably could have ran for the three or four yards to get the first down. I think that’s something that during the game, I felt like that was the best decision to make. In hindsight, I probably could have changed that, but to have those guys out there, and especially to have Dre [DeAndre Carter] on the next play go out and make a play like that — I just had to put it out there and he went and ran across the field and caught it. I’m thankful that one worked out.”

On if there’s similarities between now and a hit that caused him to miss a play in Week 3 of the 2020 season:

“I think I might have just gotten the wind knocked out of me that play, so I think it’s a little bit different.”

On Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence:

“I’ve never had the chance to play against him. I’ve got a lot of respect for his game. He’s very talented, very smart. I’m wishing nothing but the best for him.”

On treatment options before Sunday’s game:

“I think every situation is different. You have to take a look at what is best for you. I’m certainly going to do everything I can to prepare and be ready to play on Sunday. At the same time, it’s important to rest, relax, and get everything good to go.”

On if the preparations amongst the quarterbacks has been different this week:

“It’s been a normal week. They have done such a great job all year, all camp, of being ready to go and studying the playbook. We trust those guys out there and they are playmakers. To have [QB] Chase [Daniel], with as much experience as he’s had, and with [QB] Easton [Stick] as athletic as he is, there are special parts to both of their games. They’ve done a great job all camp long.”

On the Jacksonville defense:

“They have a really good front seven. Those rushers get after the passer. They have been able to force a lot of turnovers. They are really well-coached. They have a lot of athletic guys on that side of the ball and they get after the passer. It makes for a really tough defense.”

On ‘if not throwing in practice today was part of the part of the plan’:

“Correct. It was part of the plan.”

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER JOEY BOSA

On playing with OLB Khalil Mack:

"It's a lot of fun. I think we're getting along really well, off the field and on the field. He's obviously a great player. Coming out with three sacks in the first game is a pretty good start. I think it's just the beginning for us. We're still getting used to rushing together and being out there together. I think it's just going to get better over time."

On if he's seeing fewer double-team blocks this season:

"I would like to hope that we start seeing those trends, but I feel like they definitely chipped a lot the first week. I think teams are smart enough to want to put a guy in our way, at least chip or whatever help a little bit. At some point, one of the guys is going to get a one-on-one, whether it's me, [Khalil] Mack or any of the inside guys or maybe [S] Derwin [James Jr.] blitzing off the edge. At the end of the day, it's going to help everybody."

On S Derwin James Jr.'s tackle of Chiefs TE Travis Kelce:

"It was good. I wish the ball flew out. It was good. The fact that it was on the one-yard line wasn't very exciting. They almost scored a touchdown, so it really wasn't that exciting."

On the run defense:

"I think it's been good. We have the new additions, obviously. That's been huge. I think we just let that one slip away from us last week. I don't know exactly how many yards there were. That last run hurt us. It was kind of through the B-gap. I think we're definitely improving, but again, it's only two weeks in. I think the group playing together is just going to keep getting better and closer. Things are going to start clicking for us. We just have to keep grinding like we have been. We've had a good week of practice. We have to keep it going."

On how the additions of DL Sebastian Joseph-Day and DL Austin Johnson affect his game:

"Them and [DL] Jerry [Tillery] and [DL Morgan] Fox, as well, when it's the rushing downs. I think they do a really good job of covering you if you take an inside. Same with us, we know when they kind of want to get high and we could play off each other. I mean, it's not like we've had a shortage of good guys inside. I mean, rushing with [former DL] Linval [Joseph] was always fun, [former DL Brandon] Mebane and those guys. I think we have a little more depth now with a guy like Fox and Jerry, who are really great pass rushers inside who can also play the run."

On the approach for Sunday's game:

"I think at least for a defensive standpoint, we haven't really thought about it much. It's not going to change how we handle ourselves and how we play the game. I'm sure on the other side of the ball, they're reeling a little bit more than us. I know [QB] Justin [Herbert] is going to be smart, but he's going to fight to play, obviously. He's probably going to fight a little too hard to get out there even if he shouldn't, but that's just the kind of guy he is. He's going to give it his best shot. I think it's something that, as a defense, we just have to focus on our roles and go execute."

On playing with an injury:

"Like I said, it's just the kind of guy that he is. I've said this many times, but he'll come in after a game and say, 'Oh, I need to do better,' after throwing for 400 yards or whatever it is, five touchdowns. He's just a great competitor and he's a great leader. He's trying to be more of that leader. He just leads by example, obviously. Being out there and can't even hold his arm up, but he's out there, makes a bad throw and then the next throw, makes one of the most ridiculous passes on fourth down. That was unbelievable. He's a fighter. Honestly, I think somebody needs to sit him down and be like, 'Hey, if it's not feeling good, let's take it easy. It's a long season.' It's great to have a guy like that leading your team."

On Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence:

"He's another guy, a big guy like Justin [Herbert]. He can run really well. He's a great athlete. Again, it's kind of like a broken record, but as a defensive line, we want to keep him in the pocket and not let him get outside and hurt us with his feet. They had a really good game last week. It's definitely going to be a challenge."

On Jacksonville's offensive weapons:

"I think they have good players all around. [Jaguars WR Christian Kirk] is really dynamic at receiver. It all starts with the quarterback, keeping him in the pocket and limiting him. I think we have a pretty simple game plan. As an EDGE group, we're focused on a few things, which I'm not going to name specifically, but we have a few big keys that we want to hit. We feel like, if we do those and do them well, that we'll be successful."

On third-down defense:

"I mean, maybe not a point of emphasis because I think third down is always a pretty big point of emphasis. It's the second year with [Head] Coach [Brandon Staley]. I think things are just coming together. We brought in the right pieces. It takes time for a system to really get rolling and start working. I think we're getting to that point."

On containing Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes to the pocket in Week 2:

"Yeah, I feel like we do a good job of that most of the time, but there's always those one or two plays that he gets out. Those are the ones that change the whole game. I mean, yeah, we could say that we did a pretty good job of it, but at the same time, he did get out on the one that I got high. Went to the B-gap and danced around for 30 seconds and rocketed it into the end zone. It's stuff we talk about all week and then you let it happen, it's really disappointing. Things happen out there really fast, obviously. I think we did a pretty good job, but we need to do better on two or three more plays. I think that makes a difference."