

Josh.Rupprecht@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jennifer.Rojas@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jamaal.LaFrance@chargers.nfl.com
Brock.Anderson@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Lauren.Meyer@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Danny.Markino@chargers.nfl.com

Chargers Week 6 Media Availability

Wednesday, October 13, 2021 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

On LB Drue Tranquill's injury status:

"We're still receiving information about Drue. We had initial scans with our doctors and our trainers, just seeking a second opinion. We don't think that it's going to be anything long-term, IR-wise, but we are going to make those determinations here in the next few days. We'll get that information to you guys as soon as possible."

On Tranquill's injury:

"He has a pectoral injury that we're just determining the actual timeline and severity of."

On if he 'relies on what the doctors tell him' in terms of injuries:

"Yes. We listen to our team doctors and our trainers, and then if there is ever a second opinion involved from an outside doctor. As a coaching staff, we're not really involved in the decision-making of timelines and things like that. We try to listen to people that do that for a living."

On if there is 'a potential' of T Bryan Bulaga returning from injury this season:

"Yes. That's our anticipation in terms of the timeline that we've been given by the surgeon in Philadelphia [Pa.]. That timeline has yet to be expressed fully, but that is our anticipation."

On if Bulaga's core muscle injury and back injury are related:

"It's not related. They were things that happened at the same time. The core muscle injury was during training camp. He was fighting through it. The back was something that happened in the Washington game, which was separate. We tried to take care of the back first, and then the core muscle injury didn't respond as well as we had hoped in that time frame. So, we wanted to take care of the core muscle injury so that he would have a chance to come back this season."

On if G Oday Aboushi has been scheduled for surgery:

"He has. I don't know the exact date, but he will have it soon."

On Ravens QB Lamar Jackson:

“You guys are all seeing what I’m seeing. You’re seeing a player that’s never played in the NFL — there have been some guys similar, but there hasn’t been anybody like Lamar Jackson. He’s truly one of a kind. He’s truly a rare player, rare competitor. All you have to do is go all of the way back to high school, Louisville, you name it — everywhere he goes, he’s doing something amazing right before your eyes. Since he’s become the quarterback of that team, you’ve seen what’s happened. I think the thing that’s unique about Lamar is that there’s danger on every snap — there’s danger running the football and there’s danger throwing the football. How he runs the football, it can be within the design of the play — the designed run game for him — and it can be outside of the play. I think that they do a really good job of scheming to create air for him to take advantage of because they also have really good players to defend in the passing game. Sometimes what’s challenging is when you defend all of these weapons that they have, some people forget that he is the most dangerous guy that they have. He’s just truly a remarkable player. I think that you saw his performance the other night; this league is full of superstars, but he’s certainly at the top of the list.”

On if Ravens TE Mark Andrews is ‘underrated’:

“Mark Andrews is not underrated in our book. This guy is fantastic. He’s definitely worthy of that contract. You can see the absolute trust that Lamar [Jackson] has for him in all down-and-distances, all field zones. This guy has outstanding instincts, outstanding feel. He can really get open in the middle of the field. He’s great on third down, really good in the red zone. You just see two players that really have great chemistry together. Mark Andrews is the guy that can play in a lot of different locations on the field, which is why the tight end position is such an amazing position because of what’s asked of that particular position. He can do all of it well; he can block, he can catch the football split out from the formation, he can stretch you in the deep part of the field, underneath zones. He has real toughness. I’m a huge fan of his game. He’s one of the top players of that position in the league, for sure.”

On conducting a walk-through today rather than a practice:

“We’ve had two really tough games — the Monday to Sunday turnaround, and then you play in a game like that. As we go, that’s going to be more of our Wednesday mode of operation to get our guys another full day back. Today is just one long walk-through, but when we get back from the break, it’ll be like two walk-throughs to make sure that we get our guys back one more day. Then, Thursday, we’ll be back on track, full-speed. I really believe in that to get our guys ready to play on Sunday. You kind of shoot for that halfway mark from when you start this process, but because of the Monday night sequencing to the Sunday against Cleveland, we kind of started it one week sooner. Then, going on the East Coast trip, we just wanted to make sure that our guys feel their best for the weekend, because we’re going to need it.”

On the situation involving former Raiders Head Coach Jon Gruden:

“I think that respect and trust in this world are really, really difficult to achieve. I think about all of the people affected by those e-mails, whether you’re a person of color, your gender, or your sexual orientation — the people affected by those e-mails, that’s who I’m thinking about. It’s a sacred mantle for someone to call you coach, or for someone to call you a leader. Trust is really, really hard to achieve in this world — it’s really, really challenging to achieve, especially with people in those groups that I just mentioned. People are really guarded and they’re skeptical of people because of e-mails like that. I think that kindness, lifting people up, respecting people that you don’t know, I think that’s such a big part of our thing here; listening to people and learning about people, because I think that what you’ll discover is that we have so much more in common than not. For someone like me, it’s just incumbent upon you to set the example every single day, so that people that were talked about in those e-mails don’t need to feel that way. They shouldn’t feel that way. Hopefully, all of us can learn from this. It’s about bringing people together, for me, so that people can become the people that they dream about. For me, leading this football team, hopefully, we can be a light for those people in those e-mails, that not everybody is like that. There are far more people that will love you than the opposite. Hopefully, this will be a chance for everybody to come together, instead of going apart.”

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER JOEY BOSA

On preparing for the Ravens and QB Lamar Jackson

“We watched a lot of the run game today, didn’t watch a lot of him passing, but we know who he is — he’s probably the most dynamic player in the NFL when he gets the ball in his hands. At the end of the day, that’s what we’re going to need to stop. I think that we have a good plan this week. We’re just putting it in, obviously, so we’re working through some things. That’s the main focus, stopping him with the ball.”

On how this week’s gameplan compares to the defense’s plan in 2018 against the Ravens:

“It’s hard to remember our gameplan from a few years ago. We did a really good job of getting after them. I think we had nine or 10 sacks in two weeks. We didn’t let [Jackson] hurt us with his feet too much. You see what he can do, if he can make one guys miss, he’s off to the races. I think that’s the main focus this week — whatever role I have to take, I’m happy to do so. It’s always fun playing a guy like that, or like [Cardinals QB] Kyler [Murray] — and that’s a sarcastic ‘fun’ — when you’re trying to keep a dynamic runner like that in the pocket and not let him hurt you with his feet because he really is the best to do it.”

On the defense’s performance against the Browns:

“We have to be more physical on blocks. I think that I have to do a better job of getting blocks off of me, just fitting the gap isn’t enough. I have to shed them and make some plays, be more effective when it comes to that. We watched it and we learned what we could from it. Now, we’re moving on. I think everybody did a good job of just putting it behind of us, but taking what we needed to from it. This is not easy game, playing Lamar [Jackson] and the Ravens. We’re focused on them.”

On stopping the Browns on the final drive after ‘not being able to do that the entire game’:

“That’s how football works. If we had the answer to go stop them every single down, every single play, every game, then we would be able to do that, but we don’t. It’s better for players when they win their one-on-ones, and they’re successful part of the time, too. Sometimes we do well and sometimes we don’t do well. It’s hard to pick one thing that we did differently on one drive versus the other. I think that playing physical, doing our job, getting off of blocks and, obviously, making tackles is a huge part of it.”

On if he has ever been a part of a game that high-scoring:

“That high-scoring? No.”

On if the offense’s success gives the defense confidence:

“I think that we keep proving to ourselves and to everybody that we can come from behind and pull off those close wins at the end of the game, even with the mistakes like we had. After missing the field goal, I went, ‘Oh, God, here we go.’ But, no, we we’re able to come together. The defense made a great stop when we needed to. That offensive operation right now, they wouldn’t be denied. It definitely gives us a lot of confidence.”

On his adjustment to the ‘added responsibilities’ required of playing outside linebacker:

“I thought that I was doing fine until this last week with the communication. I thought that we kind of all had a tough job out there. I did a poor job in some of my coverages out there. The communication was all over the place, but it’s something that I shouldn’t need to have — that’s why we study, to be able to see the formation and understand it yourself. I think that it was a defensive effort, obviously. There were definitely some plays where I was like a little lost on my responsibility, and whether that’s me getting too tall or just seeing the formation, I have to do better at that.”

CENTER COREY LINSLEY

On T Bryan Bulaga's surgery:

"We've taken the mentality from day one in camp of next man up. We're a cohesive unit. It works like this in every position room, we all rely on each other. Sometimes our job is to run off a guy, sometimes it's to catch a ball for us. We're all working together just like that. Our production — my block — is contingent upon the right guard and the right tackle. We work as a unit, and we've had that mindset since day one. Scho [G/T Michael Schofield III] came in, he's a vet, he's played. He's done a great job for a number of years in this league. He came in and didn't miss a beat. [T] Storm [Norton] has been doing what he does. We're going to keep rolling, it's just what we have to do — support the guys that we all love. [G] Oday [Aboushi] — it was a freaky thing, it sucked. It hurt, it hurt all of us, but Oday's back at the facility now and he's got a great attitude. For him, it's moving forward, and as a room we have to keep that mindset up, keep that mentality and keep going."

On G/T Michael Schofield III's communication within the offensive line:

"It was awesome. When he came in, I said, 'Hey, do you need anything? Let me know.' He didn't miss a beat. I don't think he was ever confused on a single play, which is phenomenal. He's only been here a few weeks, but he's a great add to our room. He's a great guy, he's been around a long time. He gets it and all the confidence in the world moving forward."

On T Rashawn Slater:

"He's doing a heck of a job. I've said it before, he has all the physical tools, but if you've been around long enough, you see a lot of guys with a lot of physical tools. The difference with him is his mentality, his work ethic, his commitment to wanting to be great. That's what separates him and what will continue to separate him as a player. He's done phenomenally thus far and it's a long year, he knows that. The way he attacks every day and the way he attacks every aspect of this game is going to keep him on that climb."

On Ravens DE Calais Campbell:

"He's a great player, you see it on the film. You saw it Monday night, he can disrupt a game. He's enormous, too; he's a big guy. That's part of the reason he's able to do what he does. But as I said about [T] Rashawn [Slater], there's a lot of guys with physical tools, but you can tell he has the right attitude. The mindset [you can see] on film where if you don't bring it, he's a force to be reckoned with. We have to bring it, and it's going to be a challenge for us. It's just something we have to work through this week and be ready."

On offensive achievements against the Browns:

"As a team, as a whole, we talked about it — can we get that two-minute at the end of the half and then go double up after halftime. They did that and it was like, 'OK, how do we respond?' Nobody blinked. We went out there and never lost sight of what was at stake, never lost sight of how we felt we were playing. We had mistakes, we had issues, but we just kept moving forward. That was huge for us, especially as a confidence-builder. Knowing we can get into situations like that and not blink and have the resiliency to move forward was huge. Obviously, [QB] Justin [Herbert] is a stud, [WR] Mike [Williams] is a stud, [WR] Keenan [Allen]. We have a bunch of really good players that stepped up to the plate. All in all, it takes a mindset to get that done, especially when you're down like that."

On QB Justin Herbert:

"His mindset is that no-blink mentality. He does that, he scrambles; maybe he gets hit, maybe something happens. Next play, he comes into the huddle, and he might be excited coming in but it's just next play. That sort of focus and intent that he has every play — and then you see him make the plays like that — it's just a huge confidence builder for us. It's part of who he is."

On fourth down conversions:

"They're awesome. They were working and what [Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley said from day one in OTAs and camp of building that mindset. The 'Hey man, don't start jogging off the field yet. We could go for it on fourth if we feel comfortable, it doesn't matter.' For us, it's that attack mentality. Being in those situations where you have to have it, and getting it done. And then it's a huge confidence builder. It takes guts to do it, and Coach Staley has been calling them. We've been rolling with them, and we just have to keep that up. It's weapon for us."