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## Chargers Week 2 Media Availability

Friday, September 15, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

**On OLB Joey Bosa:**

“He’ll be a game time decision. He was able to do some stuff out there on the field today.”

**On if Bosa will travel:**

“That’s the idea.”

**On RB Austin Ekeler:**

“Doubtful for the game. Nothing further to add.

“It’s just an ankle sprain.”

**On if he believes RB Isaiah Spiller would be one of the three backs on Sunday if Ekeler doesn’t play:**

“I do.”

**On defensive play caller in LB Eric Kendricks is out:**

“[LB] Kenneth Murray [Jr.]”

**On Bosa’s injury:**

“No specific point in the game, just in the second half. Just general soreness in the second half.

“Aware during the game and after the game.”

**On the linebacker room without Kendricks and LB Daiyan Henley:**

“Certainly, the group is going to have to pick up for Eric [Kendricks]. It’ll be a great opportunity for those young guys.”

**On if Kendricks is listed as doubtful because of the hamstring or personal reasons:**

“More the hamstring.”

## **SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR RYAN FICKEN**

### **Opening Statement:**

“Good afternoon, guys. I thought this week we had really good practices. Looking forward to going out to Tennessee and playing the Titans. We know we have our work cut out against those guys. I think our guys are prepared, looking forward to going out there and competing. It’s going to be a great game. Looking forward our guys showcasing what they can do.”

### **On deciding on when to take a touchback:**

“That’s going to come all depending on the situation. The game, in terms of what the score of the game is, what the time on the clock is, who we’re playing, the opponent. All that is going to come into the decision. We have guidelines on what we expect. It’s very fluid throughout the game. We make sure we have those guidelines and cover all of those situations.”

### **On if it’s more ‘appealing’ to take the touchback to the 25-yard line:**

“It can be in certain situations. Depends on how deep it is in the end zone, hang time and all of that. We do have a very explosive returner. Our kickoff return unit does believe in our returner. I think when the opportunity arises, we’re going to go ahead and make sure we’re aggressive. If it’s the right time, we’ll go ahead and see how the situation plays out.”

### **On the punt deep in Chargers territory against Miami:**

“The operations in terms of protection, there’s a lot of things that can happen with that. I think we protected well in that situation. Obviously, it wasn’t the ideal punt. We’ve communicated that with [P] JK [Scott]. He knows that. He’s a pro and he gets it. He wants to go out there and do his best, which he does. He does it in practice each and every day when we do those situations. It’s just one punt on that. We just have to make sure next time we get that opportunity we go ahead and execute what we’re trying to achieve.”

### **On expectations punting in that situation:**

“That situation, obviously, try to minimize the return. You want to try and get that ball where the drive starts, around that 50-yard line where you give them at least one first down before they get into field goal range. It’s a little bit of cushion before a field goal opportunity within that range of a field goal. You get them outside of at least one first down in that situation, we consider it that we ‘won’ that down in that situation.”

### **On a punt that ended up in a touchback against Miami:**

“First off, you start off with a great punt by JK [Scott], it was a 55-yarder before it hit, then it hit another seven yards for 62. It was a 55-yard punt, 5.12 [seconds of] hang [time]. It was a great job, gave our gunners an opportunity. We’re supposed to locate that football and make a great play, find the ball. The returner did a great job bluffing, made it difficult for our gunners down there to make that play. At the end of the day, nine times out of 10 or more than that, our gunners are making that play. It just had that wrong bounce. It was an unfortunate situation in terms of them not being able to recover on it. I have full confidence in our gunners to make that play more than nine times out of 10.”

### **On playing at Tennessee:**

“For us, no change in terms of surface. Obviously, we just have to make sure we have the proper footwear. That’s what we are normally used to in terms of SoFi [Stadium]. Our equipment guys do a great job preparing us and preparing our team for the surface. Our guys are ready to go and I don’t think they’re thinking twice about it. We’re just going to go out there and play the game.”

### **On wind during the game:**

“It’s not forecasting that for right now. It’s supposed to be a nice day, 82 degrees so it’ll be good. Low wind.”

**On RB Elijah Dotson:**

“He’s the backup returner. He can be the backup kickoff returner. He’s possibly the backup punt returner as well. He’s working at both.

“He’s a really good football player. He did the kickoff returns in college, but he’s a very good football player. He’s got great ball skills. It’s something that we continue to develop. We work on that with all of our skills guys, in terms of catching punts and catching kickoffs. We always talk about it, the more you can do in terms of increasing your value. He’s been working hard at that. He’s trying to see if he can go ahead and add more value to the team.”

**On the Titans:**

“It’s a really well-coached team. In terms of the Titans, I think they play really hard. It’s a really good group. They’re big, long and athletic. It’s going to be a really good test for us. We’ve got to make sure we’re on our P’s and Q’s on everything and we’re squared away. We know the rules. It’s going to be about us, at the end of the day, and our situations. It’s a very well coached team. They’re going to play hard.”

**On K Cameron Dicker’s 50-yard field goal:**

“If it went through the uprights, it doesn’t matter the distance *[laughter]*. We believe in him at all distances, he’s very talented as we know. We just have to make sure we stay consistent. We have to make sure we help our team by adding points and being able to help our team win.”

**On Browns K Dustin Hopkins:**

“I was happy for him. Dustin [Hopkins] is an exceptional kicker. He’s a phenomenal human being, a great father and husband. I enjoyed my time with him here. Very appreciative of what he did, for not only this football team but the organization. I was very happy for him. It was one of the first games I turned on to watch. The conditions weren’t great in terms of the rain and everything. I was happy to see that, but I wasn’t surprised by any means.”