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## Chargers Week 17 Media Availability

Friday, December 29, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### INTERIM HEAD COACH GIFF SMITH

#### **On waiving former DL Sebastian Joseph-Day:**

"It was a situation where myself and [Interim General Manager] JoJo [Wooden], just in talking — really, the easiest way to say is that it was just in the best interest for the team. Other stuff I'd rather just keep in-house, but we wish him the best. I hope he does well in San Francisco and that everybody moves on."

#### **On TE Donald Parham Jr., being inactive last week:**

"It's whatever the plan is that week. Scheme going into it. He's battled some injuries, too, with the wrist. It's been an issue. Each week is a different deal. We'll see how it goes on that."

#### **On G Zion Johnson being listed with a neck injury:**

"It kind of popped up in the weight room. We have a little time before the game. Hopefully, it will calm down. He wants to play, obviously, really bad. We'll see how it goes over the next few hours and days."

## **SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR RYAN FICKEN**

### **Opening statement:**

"Good afternoon. Just want to start off by saying that I think we had a really good week of practice. I think our guys are dialed in. We, obviously, have a big opponent in a division rival, in terms of Denver. I think our guys are ready to go. It's going to be an exciting game for us on Sunday."

### **On K Cameron Dicker:**

"I think the mental part of it is very important. The way he approaches the game. I think that's what makes him a special kicker, a special player. He is just a normal guy. A great teammate. He always puts everyone else first. I think these guys, you know, like playing for him as well. I think you see the success because of the opportunity that he gets and has, and also with our punter, with our snapper. The rapport that they all have with one another. That's what I do like him, though, to answer your question, in terms of his mental makeup. It doesn't matter how big of a kick he makes or how sure of a kick it is — he's on the next one. That next one usually is the kickoff coming up. We have to make sure we have a great kickoff. I think he's done a great job with that."

### **On Dicker's pre-game routine:**

"You know, I didn't really know about it until someone mentioned something about it. But, that's the routine. That's great. That's something that I haven't really focused much on."

"If it's his routine that gets him mentally ready to go, it works. It's fine with me."

### **On if he's thought of joining Dicker in his pre-game routine:**

"Nah, we don't want that [*laughter*]. I don't have the hair for it, to be honest with you [*laughter*]. I might need to get plugs or something [*laughter*]. I wish I had it."

### **On the kicking operation:**

"Obviously, they're doing their job, which is the most important part. It's hats off to those guys. They approach the game as professionals. They work hard at it. You see their success on the field because of how hard they've been working at it. I think they, like I've mentioned before, they have a really good rapport with one another. The operation, I think, has been seamless, but we won't take it for granted. I know it seems like the snap, hold and kick is easy and should be done, but that's happening in 1.3 seconds in terms of a field goal operation. It just shows how good they are at what they do because we expect it to go seamlessly. They still approach every day — I mean, these field goal periods and the work on the side, they're really working to make sure they do perfect it. They're always working hard at it."

### **On keeping core special teamers ready:**

"That's their job. It's the next man up. They have to make sure that they're getting the work, in terms of the meeting times, the studying. I think our core guys have done a great job of that. If you guys have seen, just like any other team there has been a lot of injuries. We're going to keep moving. The train is going to keep moving forward. You have to either jump on or you're going to be left behind. Hats off to our guys. That's where our roster and our locker room is so good. They're going to pick up the slack and keep going, making sure there's no leakage in all of that."