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Chargers Head Coach Brandon Staley Media Availability

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

On parting ways with Offensive Coordinator Joe Lombardi and Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach Shane Day:

“First off, Joe [Lombardi] and Shane [Day] are really good coaches, and I want to thank them for everything that they helped us accomplish over the last two years. I felt like we needed to make changes to the offense. The vision for the way that I have of us playing on that side of the football, I think that there is a different gear that we can get to as a football team. It was definitely not an easy decision because they did a really quality job for two years. I think that we can make improvements on that side of the football, and that’s where we are going to have our focus moving forward.”

On the timing of the decision:

“I think that there is a different level that we need to play at, offensively, particularly at the line of scrimmage and in the run game, and having the marriage of the run and the pass, creating more explosions on early downs. There is a style of play that is still out there for us. We made improvements each season toward heading to where we can ultimately go as a football team. Again, these aren’t easy decisions. You’re not trying to stay in a certain place, you’re always trying to take your game to a different level, and that’s what it is about, it’s about us creating that optimum level — that I know that our team can get to — offensively. I think that we’ve played really quality football for two years. But, in terms of us being able to compete for Super Bowls and, ultimately, be as good as we can be, I think that there is another gear that we can get to.”

On ‘if he ever felt’ that his position ‘was truly on the line’:

“No. I have a lot of confidence in the way that we’ve done things for two years. I have a lot of confidence in what I see on the football field, week in and week out. I know the type of improvements that we’ve been able to make, as a football team, since I’ve been here. I think that the way that we finished the season, the way that we finished down the stretch, shows you all of the things that we’re excited about moving forward. I know the culture that we have in our locker room, I know the quality of the product on the field, and I also know the capacity that we have to grow. We have all these things in place where we made tremendous improvement from Year 1 to Year 2. Now, from Year 2 to Year 3, we expect to make those same types of improvements. I was really proud of the season that we had, especially with all of the challenges that were happening throughout. I felt like the way we finished the season said a lot about the guys in our locker room.”

On ‘if it is challenging to hear outside speculation’ during the season:

“The nature of the NFL, you understand the way it is, and that there’s always going to be speculation when other people may not be thinking that you are having the success that they think you should have. Internally, what matters is the way that your players, your coaches, your personnel department and your ownership, the way that they feel because they’re with you on a day-to-day basis. They are, ultimately, the ones who know who you are and what you are about. That’s what gives me a lot of confidence in our situation here.”

On if he was ‘angered’ by the ‘outside speculation’:

“No. Like I said, I’ve been in sports my whole life. Since I was a little kid, this is all I’ve ever wanted to do. I know that when you get to this level, there’s an expectation of performance, and that’s what drives you, as a competitor. What I love is that our fan base, and the people in the NFL, that there is that type of scrutiny on our team, because I think that we’ve created a set of expectations for our football team that I’m proud of. I think we continue to increase that standard every time we go out. Again, I have a lot of confidence in my game, a lot of confidence in our team and our organization in where it can go. That’s where our focus is going to be moving forward.”

On traits that he is ‘looking for’ in offensive coordinator candidates:

“You’re looking for leadership, number one. You’re looking for someone that can really connect a group and get them to play a certain type of way. I think that’s where it starts. That comes from young guys, it comes from medium guys, older guys. It doesn’t matter. But it really starts with leadership, and, I think, bringing out the style of play that we want to have as a football team because it’s about a football team and all three phases playing a certain style. That’s what I’m really after, in terms of leading the group and connecting it. Then, in terms of what that looks like, the offenses that I think are the most challenging to defend, and the people who have been here with me, are the ones that put a lot of pressure on you every snap, in terms of marrying the run game to the pass game, putting a lot of pressure on you with personnel groupings, pace, motion, and being able to get the explosions consistently. That’s what I believe in. I want to have an offense that mirrors our defense because I think that those are the types of organizations, those are the type of football teams, who are consistent, game-in and game-out, season-in and season-out. We’re going to start that process here shortly.”

On if QB Justin Herbert will have ‘input’ on determining who will be the next offensive coordinator:

“Everything that we do in the program, we try to communicate with our players. Just like when I first got here, shaping your offense, it’s going to go through him. When I talk about him being the system, I mean it. He has, now, three years of NFL experience to bank on. There are a lot of plays. As the head coach here for two years, we’re going to try and keep a lot of that consistent for him where we can, and that’s what I mean. As a head coach with an offensive background — that’s the position that I played — what we’re going to do, throughout the course of his career, is do that for him so that we can maximize him as a player. That’s what these moves are about, maximizing him as a player and continuing to challenge and grow his game with his teammates, and, ultimately, forming a team that can consistently compete for world championships.”

On ‘if it is fair to say’ that offensive coordinator candidates ‘are going to be from the offensive coaching tree’ of 49ers Head Coach Kyle Shanahan and Rams Head Coach Sean McVay:

“I think it’s fair to say that the experiences that I have, that’s a fair assessment of the style of play, because that’s the offense that I believe in. When I came here, that’s kind of how we got this off the ground. In terms of the passing game, that’s what we’ve been able to do at a high level for the last two years, throw the football. But, to be more explosive, you have to be able to run the football more consistently to put more pressure on people. What we want to do is cast a net to where we find the best person to lead our offense and to, ultimately, be a part of our team, and connect all phases to one another. That’s what I’m after.”

On if ‘more coaching changes are expected’:

“I think that the nature of coaching is that things are always fluid. Even after the Super Bowl, there are a lot of things that go on. That’s just kind of the nature of coaching. There are going to be a lot of people who are after our coaches, just like last year, with so many head coach openings. There’s going to be a lot of transition, that’s the nature of it. I would expect more changes, but the nature of those changes, I’m not positive.”

On areas of improvement for Herbert entering the offseason:

"I thought that he took a huge step forward this year as a player. This season, I think, really brought out the best in him as a player, in terms of the challenges, from an injury standpoint, both upfront and at his skill positions. I thought you were really able to discover a lot of the intangibles that make him so special. For his first two years, I think people talk about the tangible — what they can see, the output or production or the style of some of these throws that he can make — but what he really showed were the intangibles that, I think, make him one of the top players in the NFL. Him being able to lead our offense, to kind of will us down the stretch to a playoff appearance, I think show you all the growth that he has. Since he has come into the NFL, he's number one or number two in most fourth-quarter comebacks. He's just continuing to grow as a player and as a leader on this football team. This year, I thought, really showcased to me why he's so special because he had to play under circumstances that aren't ideal and he was still able to play at a premium level."

On further explanation of parting ways with members of the offensive coaching staff:

"To me, when you're looking for direction, you're looking for leadership, and then you're looking for alignment within your coaching staff. That's important to get. These decisions aren't easy. They're the toughest that you have to go through, as a head coach. Like I said, I appreciate those guys for helping us get this program off the ground and giving us a chance to be one of the top teams in the league. There's just a different level that I think that we can get to, and that's where we're going to try and head here shortly."

On meeting with ownership:

"I meet with our ownership daily, and weekly, and then, certainly, after the season. Like last year — I only have one year to compare it to — but you have an end-of-the-season review, reflection, debrief, assessment. Then, you're charting the course for your next moves in the days and weeks to come. It's the meetings that we always have. When I talk about alignment, there's no better alignment that I have than with the Spanos family, with [Owner and Chairman of the Board] Dean [Spanos], [President of Football Operations] John [Spanos] and [President of Business Operations] A.G. [Spanos]. That's where it all starts. Myself, [Executive Vice President — General Manager] Tom [Telesco], [Executive Vice President of Football Administration/Player Finance] Ed McGuire, our coaching staff — I think that's the strength of our team, the alignment within our team. I'm excited to get our offseason process started."

On if he will remain the defensive play-caller:

"Yes."

On if he has any additional staff changes to report at this time:

"We had our coaching exit meetings this week. Like I said, the nature of coaching, there's a lot of transition right now. There are a lot of jobs that are taking shape right now. Our staff is probably not going to be the same as it was at the beginning of the season. You're going to see people try to grab some of our coaches, I'm sure. You guys will be updated if and when those moves happen."

On if he wants to 'accelerate' the search process for the next offensive coordinator:

"We have one of the top jobs in the league, so we're going to be thorough with our process. There's not a rush to do anything because we want to make sure that we hire the best coach. Three years ago, there was an outside linebackers coach that only had three years of NFL experience that became a defensive coordinator, and I was that guy that no one knew about. What you have to do is go through a process to discover people like that. Like I said, good coaches come in all shapes and sizes, all levels of experience. What we're going to try and do is find the type of coaching staff that fits me, our players and our organization."

On his message to the fan base:

“We definitely improved as a franchise this season. We took a step, as a franchise. We earned ourselves a spot on the tournament. I’m as frustrated as anybody that’s a Chargers fan over what happened, because there’s no one that is investing as much as we are in what happened. The first half of that football game, I think you saw the very best of our team. Then, in the second half, we saw the places that we need to improve. Since I’ve been the head coach — I’ve been the head coach for 25 games, 25 — and that is the first time that a lead like that has happened. We’re the team, over two years, that has come back. We’re the ones that have made the comebacks. We’re the ones this season that had to fight to come back, to scrap. When I say that it’s different, it is different because if it were the same, then we wouldn’t have made the postseason. We wouldn’t have, at 6-6, won four-consecutive games to earn the top Wild Card spot. There is progress being made within our football team, and you can see it because the team that we have right now is a much different team than we had a year ago. What I would tell the fans is that I’m just as disappointed as they are, but I’m really excited to get this process started because, just like last year, when we made a lot of big improvements in our football team, that gave us this chance to compete for a championship, I know that if we keep making that type of progress, we will consistently be there at the end.”

On if he was ‘out-coached’ by Jaguars Head Coach Doug Pederson last week:

“I thought that it was a tight game. I wouldn’t say that that was the case for a half. At the end of the game, that team that we were playing showed a lot of fight, a lot of resilience. I thought that it was a high-quality game between two teams that are both young and hungry. I thought that it was just a high-level game all of the way around. I think that Doug [Pederson] is an outstanding coach. I know that we were coaching at a high level. Hopefully, we’re going to get another chance at those guys.”

On what could have been done differently in the second half:

“There are so many things in the second half of that game, in all three phases. It was one of those things — I think, you guys who were watching it, it was unique in the fact that there weren’t these catastrophic big plays that kind of led to you giving away a lead. We didn’t turn the football over. We weren’t giving up these killer, huge, big plays. We gave up one long pass and that was it. There wasn’t any big special teams errors. I know we missed a kick, but we just didn’t execute at a high enough level in the second half. When it got tight and their crowd got into it, it became a dog fight. I think, in all three phases, we just didn’t quite execute at a high enough level. I thought there were some penalties in the game that really swung the momentum of the game in the second half. We just didn’t make enough winning plays, and that starts with me, in all three phases. I needed to coach better in all three phases in order to help us finish that game. I didn’t do a good enough job of that. I take full responsibility. Like I said, that’s where you have to go after a game like that. You have to take full ownership for what happened. I’m the one who is responsible for it. Like I said, I’m proud that we were able to get a chance to compete. I thought that first half showed you what our team has inside of it and the second half showed where we need to improve.”

On why he ‘picked up the helmet’ of OLB Joey Bosa:

“Because it was on the ground in front of me. I saw a player that was having a tough moment. It’s the same way when [Rams CB] Jalen Ramsey had a tough moment in a playoff game — you’re there for your player. I would do it over again. He slammed it down again. I picked it up again and gave it to him. You want to be there when your guys are going through a tough moment. That was a tough one for him. I would do the same thing again.”

On if Bosa addressed that moment with him following the game:

“As only Joey could [*laughter*]. Obviously, he feels bad about losing his composure and what kind of happened as a result of it because it hurt us. We have to have poise in moments like that. That’s what we talk a lot about, is having your best when your best is required. Joey cares a lot. We’re going to learn from that. I think he holds himself to a high standard. I have to continue to keep holding him to a high standard.”

On if that moment is indicative of 'a program out of control':

"I think Joey Bosa had a really significant groin injury with major surgery and he competed really hard to get himself back, and sacrificed a lot for his teammates to get back out there. I know that anyone that knows Joey knows that he came in and had a dominant training camp and was a completely renewed player. Through two games, I thought he was playing as high of a level as any rusher in the game. Anyone that knows our football team knows that what you just said isn't true. [They know] that our locker room is tight, that we made improvements in every way and that the culture of our team is as strong as it has ever been since I've been here. That's what I saw after the game and the next day. As compared to a year ago, just how much tighter our locker room is. That's why it was so disappointing because I know that dis-similar to last year, this team felt like it could win a world championship. I think that's a really positive thing. Now, we just have to get our minds engineered toward what's next and making the improvements that we need to make."

On lessons that he learned this season:

"It's so high-level, we don't have enough time in this press conference. Everything that I do as a leader is to try and start with myself. There are so many things that go into being a coach. It starts, to me, with relationships and making sure that you're onboarding the right people, that you continue to improve and to grow, to hold people to that high standard. You have to live that mission. They have to see that through you. That's what I try to do, be the same guy, be consistent, have people know the type of competitor I am and be able to see me making improvements in the areas that I need to make. Our players, our coaches, you guys know the improvement that I made from my first year to my second year. You're able to see it, visibly. I don't need to tell you the improvements I made. Hopefully, I can show it. I know that is something that I have to continue to do in order to be as good as I can be in my role. That's something that all of our players know. This means more to me than anything in the world. Like I said, I'm excited to bounce back and to really attack this offseason and compete at a high level."

On building a culture:

"When Joey [Bosa] got to Ohio State, that wasn't there — Ohio State wasn't always that way. I'm from Ohio. Things take time to build. When [former Ohio State Head Coach] Jim Tressel first got to Ohio State, his way wasn't just engrained there. It took time for Tress to get it the way he wanted it like he had at Youngstown. When [former Ohio State Head Coach] Urban Meyer got there, there was a lot of good elements in place because of Tress. Things take some time. You have to see the tangible evidence that things are improving, which is what I think has happened here over the course of this season. We wouldn't have made the playoffs if that way of thinking was true. When we got completely cleaned out with our football team, we could have been a non-playoff team. We could have been like a lot of other teams in the league that end up with a sub-standard record where you feel like you're underachieving, or you've underperformed. I felt like we overperformed based upon what happened and our circumstances. I felt like, at the end of the season when we were 6-6 and that season could have gone a couple of different directions when you're playing two playoff teams, I felt like our team really rose to the occasion and finished with four-straight wins to get us into the playoffs. I think what you have to continue to do is what we did this year — continue to bring in people that have those intangibles, that come from the places that know what it takes. The people that you have in your building that have been with you from the beginning that you want to build with, you bring that all together and you're going to have something special. That's what is happening here. Again, it's something that does take some time. As long as you're doing it with the right people, which is what we have here, I know that won't be the case."

On decision-making regarding fourth down:

“Our team was completely different. As I mentioned my first year, how you play is going to be a product of who you have week-to-week, game-to-game. I thought that our aggressiveness isn’t going to change, in terms of how we feel about our quarterback and that mindset of being fearless, putting pressure on people. Our team was much different this year. We had a lot of different makeup of our team, offensively, defensively and the kicking game. I think, from year one to year two, our special teams improved significantly. Last year to this year, it’s one of the biggest improvements that we made on our football team. I think we finished sixth in the NFL in overall special teams. We had an outstanding kicker, an outstanding punter, led the league in fewest amount of return yards [allowed]. I think points and field position were a big strength of our football team this year. Our punt return and punt returner. When you have that type of attrition, offensively, that we had out wide and in your O-line, that’s going to affect how you do things. We’re never going to shy away from the big moment, but we also want to make sure that we’re wise. That’s not going to change as long as I’m here.”

On the last few days:

“You have to absorb a lot after a loss like that. The finality of the NFL unless you’re the last one standing is just really tough. That’s part of sports. It doesn’t matter if it’s the NFL or any other level. Your last game, if you don’t win it all, is always really tough. Then, immediately you have to say goodbye to a lot of people. You have to make sure that you unpack the season and treat people with the respect that they’ve earned. You have to start with your players. Then, you go with your coaching staff and you’re talking throughout the organization. We talk to you guys. It’s bittersweet because you grow a lot from these meetings. You learn a lot, which is energizing, but at the same time, it’s taking a lot from you because you know what you just put into this thing. All of that is kind of happening at the same time and you have to make tough decisions moving forward. That’s the job. You love all of it. Where I am is moving forward for this team and making sure that every day that we’re here, we’re getting closer to our ultimate goal of being world champions.”

On the rushing attack:

“I think the issues that you just mentioned are real, in terms of getting the continuity of who is out there. I think, any time you don’t have the chemistry within your personnel, it’s going to be challenging to formulate that identity that I think is really important in any part of your program, but especially at the line of scrimmage. If you want to be a line of scrimmage team, you want to have an identity in how you run the football or protect the quarterback, or throw the football, stop the run, etc. I think that was challenging from a personnel perspective, but I think that, for me, it’s getting back to the technique, fundamentals and the mindset of how we want to do things. I think that we can definitely improve in that area for next season.”

On a potential contract extension with QB Justin Herbert:

“I think that’s going to be a big topic in the offseason. I think we all know how we feel about Justin. I know those conversations will take place in the right space and time. We have really good relationships with his team. I’m confident that Justin Herbert is going to be a Charger for a long time.”

On the loss of former Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach Frank Smith:

“Frank is an outstanding coach. You can see what he did there in Miami with [Dolphins Head Coach] Mike [McDaniel]. I think, again, there are a lot of factors that go into your production. Sometimes, what’s perceived isn’t what’s real. I think, more than anything, for me — the vision that we have for this team and for our offense is committing to a style of play. I think the style of play is your technique first, that’s where it starts and the fundamentals of the position. Then, you get to the scheme and then you have to have the personnel to go do it. These players, that’s what they want. That’s what they crave, no matter what side of the football it is. That’s what I want to establish moving forward, is that style of play, especially in the running game.”

On the defense:

"I think down the stretch those last six games that we were the No. 1 defense in the NFL and it allowed us to get into the tournament. You measure yourself on how you're playing against the best people in the NFL. Certainly, when we played Miami and how we played against San Francisco and Kansas City, I think you saw like at the beginning of the year when we had our full team in those first two games, what that looked like. That next stretch where you kind of get cleaned out, I thought we made a lot of adjustments that allowed us to hang in there and play well enough to give us a chance to win. I thought, when things settled down at the end of the season, we were playing at a high level and the way that we expect to play, the standard of performance that we expect. I thought there were a lot of good takeaways from the way we finished the season. We got contributions from a lot of guys. I thought we developed guys well. I think with as many new guys as we brought in the offseason, defensively, I'm excited for them to get a full offseason together because I would expect that level to improve in a big way. I think, defensively, that we're headed in the right direction, for sure."

On limiting explosive plays:

"It wasn't the same exact run [at the end of the playoff game as that broke open the Week 3 game]. I think the explosions are something, on defense, that definitely, I thought, inhibited our overall output. I think a lot of it has to do with how we played on the perimeter. We need to make sure in the secondary that we tackle better. I think it starts with tackling. We have to tackle better on the edges of our defense. We have to make sure we put a roof on the deep part of the field. I think those are going to be the areas that we really need to focus on in the offseason because that's where a lot of the big plays were — on the perimeter in the run game."

On losing WR Mike Williams to injury in Week 18:

"You look at everything that you do. I know that there's no one that felt worse about Mike Williams not being able to compete in the game than me. Going into that game, I think there were a couple of things that I think, from a thought process that I want everyone to know. You really have to establish the standard for your team in how you're going to compete. I think the way that I believe is that it's very hard to decide who's more valuable than the others. We weren't going to find out who won that Cincinnati-Baltimore game in time to have this line change of people, in terms of the inactives and being able to switch out a bunch of guys. We weren't going to be able to do that. In preparation knowing that, you have to get your team ready to play. You have to get your team ready to compete in the game from a mindset standpoint. The people that I respect and the people that I learned from and establishing the program here — you know, [Buccaneers QB Tom Brady] never missed a regular-season game in 19 years in New England. When you're talking about building a team, you want to make sure that everybody understands the value in that. The 2007 Giants team that had clinched the Wild Card plays against the undefeated New England team. [Former Giants Head Coach] Tom Coughlin played his starters in that game. It was a whale of a game, they lost. They make it as the wild card. He got hugely criticized for it, but he was trying to do the same thing. They ended up going to win three playoff games on the road and then they beat New England in the championship. I think you have to decide how you're going to do things. Going into that game, we knew, 'Hey, we're going to start this game off with our players playing. We're going to go out there and we're going to try and compete in the game and improve.' I think, going into that game, there were a lot of other factors, too, in play, in terms of [S] Derwin [James Jr.] and Joey [Bosa]. Derwin was out a month, Joey was out three months. We're trying to get them out there to get their legs under them to go play in a playoff game. Football isn't this game — you have to play in order to be good at it. We got a lot of confidence, offensively in the Rams game. We felt like, going into Denver and playing against a playoff-caliber defense that we would be able to benefit from that. All of those factors are why we decided to do what we did. It wouldn't have mattered if it were Mike or anybody else. I don't want to lose anybody on my team. I think it's really hard for people to understand because if it would have been anyone else, I would have felt the same way. If it had been [G] Zion Johnson, [OL] Jamaree Salyer, [LB] Drue Tranquill or [CB] Asante Samuel [Jr.], that would have been really difficult to overcome — if it had been any of them. I think that's the hard part of being an NFL coach, is that you have to make decisions like that. It was tough to lose Mike in that game. I think, doing it over again, I'm proud of our process."

On contingencies in Week 18 depending on the outcome of Cincinnati-Baltimore:

“We had that contingency plan going into the game of, ‘Hey, as this game is going on, who are we going to try to get out of there?’ That’s what we did in the second half. We phased our guys out of the plan, similar to what I told you guys during the week when I was in Chicago. We phased those guys out and tried to get those other guys playing time in the game. That’s why I say we executed our plan just how we wanted to.”

On his message in the final team meeting:

“I started at the end, and then I went back to the beginning. I thought that the first half of that game showed our football team, of what we are capable of. Then, the second half, ‘Hey, that’s the improvement guys. We have to take full ownership.’ You don’t want to be in denial of what happened. You don’t want to look away and say, ‘Hey, we’re moving on and we’re not looking back.’ We have to take full responsibility for that. In all three phases of coaching and playing, it wasn’t good enough, starting with me. That’s what I did in front of the team. I said, ‘I didn’t do well enough in the game for our team.’ Then, you go backwards, from the beginning. I was really proud of our team, that we put ourselves in that position to give us a chance to compete. I thought we went through a lot. I thought it took everybody in our locker room. When we look around, we had a bunch of guys that joined up with us that weren’t even on our team in training camp, weren’t even on our team at the bye [week], that ended up playing meaningful snaps in the playoffs. We were able to on-board these guys and get them in a position to play well enough for us to win that game. I think those signs tell you that we are headed in the right direction. The people that have been here for two years know that the caliber of this locker room, the caliber of this [team meeting room] moving forward, is in a much better place than it was a year ago. That is the most important thing that you have to take away, that this group is good enough. The way that we feel right now, that is a good thing. It’s part of competition. When you feel like this, you are a lot closer than you think, when you feel like this. You go get beat and no one is feeling that way, that means you are probably a lot further away than you want to be. Our guys didn’t feel that way. They feel like we can beat anybody in the NFL. To lose like that, obviously, was the toughest side of it.”

On playing time distribution in the Week 18 game:

“In terms of playing in the game, to be able to organize that perfectly for people, in terms of putting together a team like that in that game, I just think that it is a lot more challenging than you make it think. It’s not the preseason where you have 90 guys. It doesn’t work like that. The timing of the game doesn’t work like that. We are going to learn a lot from everything that happened in the season, but I think that when you are trying to build a football team, players respect when you are coming from the place that I was.”

On ‘how personnel correlates to creating explosives in the passing game’:

“In the passing game, just because you have speed, that doesn’t mean that you are going to get to the deep part of the field. A lot of times when you have speed, you know where it is running. Even if you are fast, like if we are waiting on you, it doesn’t matter. What you have to do is you have to have the mix of the run game and the pass game to create explosions, because if people know that you are headed to the deep part of the field, or you are trying to head there, you are not going to get there. What you have to have is the balance and you have to put the pressure on the defense in both places. You have to put the pressure on them on the perimeter, on the interior, top shelf of the coverage, level two, and that is what it takes to become an explosive team. It doesn’t just mean that you have to have a bunch of gas and a bunch of team speed. If you can get team speed, that is obviously a big advantage because they can run faster to the places you are trying to get, whether that is the perimeter or the top shelf of the coverage. You can get as many explosions just turning around and handing the ball to the running back. That is a way to get explosions, point ‘A’ to point ‘B’ — that is what we’re trying to do, trying to create explosions in all of those ways so that you become a really, really tough offense to defend. The thing that I like the way we play is that a lot of people touch the ball. We had six guys have 500-plus yards receiving, and that is something that we need to build off of. Like I said, there are a lot of things, offensively, over the last two years that I am extremely proud of, but there is another level that I think that we can get to. That’s where we are headed with our process.”

On ‘the importance of experience in hiring a new offensive coordinator’ and Special Teams Coordinator Ryan Ficken being ‘the example of a successful coordinator with prior coordinator experience’:

“Ryan [Ficken] only had one year of special teams coordinator experience, but he was an assistant for a long time. Like I said, the coordinators in the league, to me, it doesn’t matter how many years of experience you have. As a coach, you know who can do it, who can lead and who has the chops to put a product on the field that is going to be difficult to defend. That’s why you have to have an open mind. You have to have a process where guys compete and, ultimately, you make a decision. I am looking for the very best person for the job. I think that can come from a lot of different places. I think I am a good example of that.”

On an update regarding CB J.C. Jackson’s recovery process:

“He is working his way back. It’s going to be a process. As you know, it’s a significant injury. He’s working hard, just like all of the rest of the guys.”

On if CB Michael Davis will need surgery on his pectoral injury:

“I don’t know that yet.”

On ‘if he never thought his job was in danger’:

“No. I have a lot of confidence in how we do things here and what we have been able to accomplish, and that is the truth. Everybody that has been around me on a day-to-day basis knows that. I am aware of the speculation because I have to be briefed of it to be prepared for guys like you [*laughter*]. I do have a family, so I understand that, that cares about me. I was not worried about that because I know what goes on here on a day-to-day basis and I know what we have in the locker room, I know what is out on that field. I am excited to keep going.”