TRANSCRIPTS

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POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS
Los Angeles Chargers vs. Houston Texans
Saturday, November 8, 2026 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On whether he addressed the team before coming to the press conference:
“We did after the game.”

On his message to the team after the loss:
“I’ll say the same thing I said to them, [which is] what I believe in. Stay together. Bitter pill to swallow anytime you don't win a game. But, keep fighting, fight on.”

On how the team responds after working hard and still coming up short:
“Stay together, keep fighting. In a lot of ways you’ve got to tip your cap to the Texans. They made the plays, some incredible plays. We gave up some that we haven’t. Chance for a fumble on the ground, we got opportunities to jump on that mistake, and we didn’t get it. Tight coverage, and they made some catches that were incredible. [QB C.J. Stroud], heck of a game. They made the plays and took advantage of the opportunities. So, we go back to work. That’s what we do.”

On whether he is concerned about the team fracturing:
“Like giving up or giving in? It’s not in our vocabulary. It’s not our culture.”

On whether the offense can be fixed:
“Yeah. Yes, yes. Opportunities, make plays. Yes.”

On how he is processing the loss as a competitor:
“I can’t think of any loss that’s not a bitter pill to swallow. Pick yourself back up and go back to work and fight on.”

On if Offensive Coordinator Mike McDaniel calling from the booth made a difference:
"Going to that microcosm, moving the ball. We weren't as go on third down as the Texans were, offensively. We weren't as good on third down, defensively. That was just a part of the game that we got beat."

On QB Justin Herbert getting sacked eight times:
"Yeah, too many times. Make adjustments and continue to do everything in our power to keep him protected. I thought the Texans did a lot better job protecting the quarterback, we were beat in that phase."

On if someone else gets a chance to start at left guard moving forward:
"Yeah, there's a chance. We'll look at that."

On how QB DJ Uiagalelei performed:
"I thought he kept his poise, executed to the best of his god given ability."

On if Herbert came out of the game because of a hurt hand:
"Yes. It was my decision. Justin wanted to go back into the game, it was a coach's decision to take him out."

On the details of his injury:
"They didn't know what it was at the time. Could be a fracture, we'll find out."

On if it was the middle finger on his left hand or right hand:
"Yeah, one of those two."

On if he considered pulling Herbert when down 38-9:
"No."

On finding the end zone in the fourth quarter:
"Yeah, it was good to see that explosive for the offense, for [WR Quentin Johnston]. That was a positive."

On if there was miscommunication pre-snap that led to a DE Will Anderson Jr. sack:
"There were situations where we'd like to have a [double team] but when it presents itself, it could be single in that design."

On if it was a mistake to have one-on-one protection against DE Will Anderson Jr.:
"We could go back and second guess that. We didn't get [QB Justin Herbert] protected. We didn't do a good enough job protecting the quarterback today."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On returning to the game if allowed:
"Yeah, for sure. Do whatever the team needed of me."

On left hand injury:
"We'll probably take a look at it and see what's going on but shouldn't be an issue.

On avoiding injury to throwing right hand:
"Yeah, good for throwing for sure. But something we'll take a look at and do whatever I can to make sure I'm at 100%, so it should be good."

On processing team losses:
"Just going to keep fighting. As tough as it is, there's nothing else that we can do other than go out there and give our best effort throughout the week. [We] understand that it's only us in that locker room that can do anything about it and obviously not where we want to be, but I appreciate and respect those guys showing up every day, giving their best effort. We'll have to figure it out and keep looking and doing our best to keep getting better because it hasn't been good enough yet."

On team preparation and practice before games:
"I think everyone has given such a great level of focus and detail to practice and it just hasn't translated and it hasn't gone our way. Those are the things that you have to watch the film and you have to find out where you could have gone better, what you could have done differently so we'll see."

On going multiple drives without a touchdown:
"Just weren't making plays, didn't score points when we got in the red zone, and got to execute on third down and we weren't doing that enough.

On ending touchdown drought later in the game:
"I think it's always good to score. Obviously, we want to score on every single possession. It didn't go our way, but I appreciate the fight, for everyone continuing to show up and go out there with the mindset that we are going to go down there and score. I'm glad it went our way that one."

On the season affecting his confidence:
"I just have to show up and give your best effort and play for the next game. It's a long season, there's a lot of football and you just have to go one game at a time."

On Texans defense:
"[I] definitely could have got the ball out quicker and throwing the ball away too at times. It's a fine line of wanting to make a play and try to make a play and protecting the ball. Obviously, I could have done a better job of getting the ball out quicker. They were very good. They have a premier pass rush and I have to do a better job getting the ball out."

On sacks and being wary of pressure from edge rushers:
"I'd have to take a look at those plays. I think, always, you have to be aware of any premier pass rusher like that and understand that throwing the ball away is better than a sack so that's something that I could've done better."

On his thoughts about the drought they are in:
"Yeah, I mean obviously you want to go out there and give it your best and as competitors everyone in that room they want to win. You know to be in that position at all this year is obviously very tough on everyone but the way everyone continues to fight, show up, and not point fingers it's going to make everyone tougher in the long run."

On how hard it is to make sure the team's heart doesn't break:
"As tough as it is, and I'm not sure too many people have been here, in this situation, in this room. I think it helps when you have a great team, a great group of guys in the locker room that they are not going to point fingers. That's what makes this team so special, and so close. It's been tough but we got to keep pushing, we got to keep playing. We got a game next week, and we got to get ready for it."

On how important it is for him to keep expressing to Offensive Coordinator Mike McDaniel the belief he has in him:
"Yeah, because it's not on him, it's on us as an offense. When we go out there, we have to execute and make the plays that we need to and score points. I say it all the time, but that's what matters, that's what is important for this offense, and we haven't done that. That's something we take a lot of pride in and it hasn't gone our way, but I know everyone's going to show up tomorrow, do everything they can to get their bodies ready, watch the film, and try and move forward."

On if he noticed any difference with Offensive Coordinator Mike McDaniel in the coaches booth:
"No, there's no difference. I thought he called a great game, and I think so many coordinators in the NFL go up there. Personally, I've had three or four coordinators up there, and I think the communication is still great. There were no issues with it."

On what he has learned from Offensive Coordinator Mike McDaniel:
"He is incredibly tough. He's the toughest coach I know and obviously wants to win. He's such a competitor and gives his best every week. He shows up, he's there all day and night, and wants to give his absolute best for our offense. I feel horrible we haven't been able to get it done for him yet, but it doesn't mean we are going to stop trying. We are going to keep working, keep getting better, and doing everything we can for him."

On what kind of message Offensive Coordinator Mike McDaniel comes in with every week:
"That it's really one week at a time. Where we are right now should not have any impact on our next game. So, if we can do that and we can play one week at a time, that's our best bet. That's the tough part of the NFL is being in the situation you are in right now, but you have to find a way to get out of it and do your best."

On if Head Coach Jim Harbaugh has a similar message:
"For sure."

HOUSTON TEXANS HEAD COACH DeMECO RYANS

Opening Statement:
"First and foremost, all praise and glory goes to our savior Jesus Christ, thank you for the opportunity we have to do what we do and love what we do. Proud of our guys for getting back to I feel like repping our style of play. Our offense did an outstanding job today, scored over 40 points. [QB] C.J. [Stroud], five touchdowns, spread the ball around to a ton of different guys, getting [WR] Tank Dell back over 100-yards, had a lot of guys had a lot of big days, [WR Kayshon] Boutte as well did outstanding. I love the way our guys were finishing, how our guys caught the ball, just seeing how our guys finish, blocking for the other man down-field, just a really great offensive output today."

On WR Tank Dell:
"We know we had the right look there with the cover, so we knew we wanted to get him those yards, and he deserves it for all the work he has put in. [WR] Tank [Dell] has done an outstanding job, so to see the big play happen, credit to [QB] C.J. [Stroud] first and foremost, just the ball placement on that play was insane, outstanding ball placement, and Tank jut ran underneath it, huge play for us. Proud of both guys, getting that connection going, excited to see how that continues to progress throughout the year."

On WR Nico Collins touchdown catch:
"I hadn't seen one that nice. What a catch by [WR Nico Collins]. Nico—I call him play maker. Every single day that's what he does. He makes big play after big play and we can always count on Nico and to make that type of catch in the end zone, that was an outstanding play for him."

On the defense:
"Very pleased with the defense. I felt like the guys truly repped our style, felt the physicality from our guys. Starting with [S Jalen Pitre], having him back definitely helps our defense out a ton. He's just such a spark plug for us, the way he flies around all over the field, playing physical, does a really great job of just being able to help us to be multiple on defense. And our guys tackle well, defensive line, did an outstanding job getting after the quarterback. They had eight sacks, that's a franchise record for our guys. The effort that they showed up front, it was fun to watch. Fun to watch when the quarterback drops back and our D-line is getting home, that's back to being used to what I'm used to seeing out of our defensive lines. So, I'm proud of their effort."

On team morale:
"I love the emotion and enthusiasm from our entire team. I felt like we had great energy throughout that entire game and that's what I implored to the guys last night—that's what I want to see. I want to see us encouraging one another, showing enthusiasm for one another and our guys put them on display today."

On the Chargers defense and QB C.J. Stroud:
"The Chargers are a really good defense, really good front. They had a lot of different pressures, unique things that we had to work through and pick it up. Though the offensive line did a great job and [QB] C.J. [Stroud] was able to have that poise in the pocket because of the time that the old line allowed him to have. But you see the growth, you see the maturity in C.J., top quarterback in his league because of that, because of his steadiness in the pocket, his resolve, his great energy all day. And he's having a phenomenal year, phenomenal year and he's definitely deserving of all the recognition that he should get."

On WR Kayshon Boutte:
"I've really been working with the offense trying to get them to get [WR Kayshon] Boutte a pass where he can stay up and run it in for a touchdown—he did that today. A lot of his catches he's made in the previous weeks were tough catches on the sideline, but this time he was actually able to run one for a touchdown. On that particular play to see [WR] Nico [Collins] down the field blocking and see [TE] Dalton [Schultz] down the field blocking, that's probably what I'm most proud of on that play. Guys really selling out for each other."

On QB C.J. Stroud:
"[QB] C.J. [Stroud] has brought just elite execution and play making ability. Even when it's not there, seeing him scramble, step up in the pocket and make plays running. He really gives that confidence to the entire team. When the defensive guys, they see him up making plays, everyone is excited. Everyone knows the type of energy, the type of momentum that that brings to our entire team when he's making those plays and he's done it all year. So, it's fun to watch, fun to watch him spin it. He's thrown it to a lot of different people, which is what I'm most proud of. Everybody's getting the touch and the guys are showing up and capitalizing on the opportunities that they do get."

On momentum and sustaining it:
"Yeah, it was a great win versus a really good team. I'm proud of the effort, the execution, proud of how we showed up today. Most proud of the enthusiasm and you only get that by playing good football. All three phases played really well today. It was a really good win and we flush this one and get on to the next one."

On the takeaways:
"Again, that was big for us, the takeaways really coming in there. They were in our territory, so in the red zone, we're able to come away with some picks, [CB Derek] Stingley Jr. as able to get one. We were forced to fumble there after they hit us on a huge explosive, so our guys defensively, they made stops when we needed to make stops. Third down was really great. Red zone was really great as well. They executed our keys to victory for all of us."

On Offensive Coordinator Nick Caley:
"Yeah, proud of [Offensive Coordinator Nick] Caley. He called a great game. The offense has scored a ton of points all year and he doesn't get all the recognition that he deserves. He's done a great job of calling it, mixing it up, taking shots, being aggressive and our guys are making big plays because of that. Caley called a really great game and the guys executed really well. One of our offensive staff, our offensive players, they truly the players of the game today."

On who is getting a game ball:
"The game ball today went to [WR] Kayshon [Boutte]. Had a career day, 125-yards, a touchdown. [WR] Tank [Dell] being back in the hundred yards and a touchdown. [QB] C.J. [Stroud] tied his career high, five touchdown, threw a lot of game balls. Defensive line got a game ball, tied a franchise record for eight sacks. And coach [Offensive Coordinator Nick] Caley got a game ball as well. We had over 450 yards, 44 points. Anytime you do that, it's pretty good play call."

On penalties:
"Penalties, yeah we did. We cleaned that up. Thankful that we cleaned up the penalties, cleaned up the tackling and we could still improve, still get better, but I'm thankful that the penalties did crush us today."

On WR Tank Dell:
"All the credit goes to [WR] Tank [Dell] and for the work that he put in, he was ready for his moment. Tank is, he's never shy of confidence. He's never short of the confidence. He's a confident young man. He knows his ability. He believes in himself. He put the work in and he was ready for this opportunity. So even when you go through an injury like he suffered, there are a lot of dark days, there are a lot of difficult moments on the road to recover. A lot of people don't see that, they see where he is right now, but you really understand the work that he's put in, everybody on that side run was really showing emotion and proud of the way Tank was able to come in and actually be an impact player for us, give back to the players that we're all used to seeing Tank man."

On CB Derek Stingley Jr:
"[CB Derek] Stingley [Jr.] did a great job of finding a way to take the football away. He finds it, gets opportunity after opportunity, he was able to go down and catch the ball. I was happy for him, he has been trying to get one for a while this year, and I am happy that he finally got that one today."

HOUSTON TEXANS QUARTERBACK C.J. STROUD

On the game and getting into a rhythm:
"We started off pretty hot. [WR] Nico [Collins] kicked us off on the first play of the game and we rolled from there. We had a little hiccup on the second drive, I missed some throws and then from there we just kept grinding and it opened up for us."

On being able to connect with WR Tank Dell today:
"It was great, man. I'm super proud of him [WR Tank Dell] and to just keep going. He's been through a lot the last few years. His perseverance and the faith that he has in God, where God has him in life, and what God has put him through. I'm always telling my guys he has you right where he needs you and he's working things out that you don't even know. To him to have that knowledge I think has taken him really far. Just to see him have 100 yards in his second game back off a crazy injury, like that's crazy. For him it's not, that's the type of confidence we have in Tank. He's a heck of a football player and he showed it today."

On poise and perseverance in the pocket:
"They have a good defense. They've held a lot of teams out in the first half. They were able to hold the Kansas City Chiefs to a few points in the first half and same with the Los Angeles Rams, so we knew that coming into the game. It really started with their front. Their defensive line was really good and I thought our offensive line did a good job. From Tae [OL Aireontae Ersery], to Keylan [OL Keylan Rutledge], to Evan [OL Evan Brown], to Ed [OL Ed Ingram], and all the way to Trent [OL Trent Brown] they did a great job all game. Even when it got a little rocky, they settled in and did a great job. It's hard to pass protect that many times and it be 100%. I just appreciate them keeping the fight."

On connecting with WR Kayshon Boutte:
"He's a great football player and I try to tell him, 'I know I miss you sometimes, but just trust me I have your back. I want the best for you and see you succeed in life and in football.' So, just to see him ball today was great. He's a great football player and I'm really glad he's on our team."

On what he was feeling throughout the game:
"To be honest, I was pretty sick throughout the week. I don't know what I had, but I wasn't feeling good all week. I barely practiced on Thursday and my teammates really helped me. [Offensive Assistant] Cole Weeks encouraged me throughout the week because I wasn't feeling great and even today I woke up not feeling great. So, I don't know what I had. Like the chills, but just to have that type of performance under the weather was just a testament to our team and our resilience. I'm grateful that God is allowing me to play this game even when I'm sick. I don't know, I'm just really happy with what we were able to do off of a bye week. Knock off a little rust that I feel like we had in the second drive and from there start to roll. It was a good start, but we have a lot more work to do."

On throwing for five touchdowns:
"It's amazing, it's pretty cool. I beat myself up a lot when I don't do great, so I'm going to enjoy this and celebrate with my friends, family and teammates because I know what it feels like to throw a couple interceptions. So, you need to be positive towards yourself. Something that playing the quarterback position has taught me about life, is that everyone could view you one way, but all that matters is how God views you and how you view yourself so I'm grateful that God has allowed me to have some tough skin and be able to push through some tough times. Days like this come from being on the other side when you're not playing so great, so I'm grateful that God has allowed me to have the opportunity to play today."

On the game Offensive Coordinator Nick Caley called:
"It was a great job by Cales [Offensive Coordinator Nick Caley], he got the game ball and he was very deserving of it. You know, he gets a lot of slack as well and everyone has their opinion nowadays, but we got the opportunity to go do something about it, so I have the utmost trust in him. The fact that he's been so aggressive in throwing the ball down the field shows just how much trust he has in our offensive line, tight ends, receivers, running backs and myself. Just kudos to

him for keeping the faith because it could've gone like the Giants game where it didn't go so great. So for him to have faith coming off the bye, I thought was really great."

On trying to get one more touchdown at the end:
"I mean they weren't calling timeouts at that point and were still being aggressive, so we wanted to be aggressive. We got the third down one and I thought the one I threw to [WR] Tank [Dell] at the end was a pass interference, we should have been on the one yard line. I thought it was a good ball, but it just didn't connect. God willing I'll be able to get that record, but for me I just want to play one good play at a time because that's where you get the good stats rather than saying, 'today I'm going to throw for this amount of yards' or 'this amount of touchdowns.' I'm going to do my job this play as best I can and if it doesn't happen, then okay and if it does, move forward."

On progressively getting better and playing one play at a time:
"I always have kind of had that. I remember Coach Day [Ohio State Head Coach Ryan Day] would really be on my head in a good way. He used to always tell me 'don't ever have expectations going into games, seasons, or practice and to just play one play at a time.' So, I've always had that mindset, going back to college. Honestly, I'm getting more opportunities and I'm taking advantage of them. I think our receivers are doing a great job of blocking their tails off and our run game is opening up now. It all has to do with a little of everything, but I'm really just grateful that I'm on this team, playing for this city and able to play this great game."