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POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

Los Angeles Chargers vs. Seattle Seahawks

Saturday, August 10, 2024 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On the offense:

"The offense struggled. It took us until our seventh drive before we had a first down. There's always work to be done, a lot of work to be done. Now, we've begun, which is positive and we got a place to start. Yeah, offensively there were some good things. Not near enough. It's back to work — you retool, you regroup and you get back to work on Monday."

On positives from the quarterback position:

"Yeah, there were positives. There's too few. Never mean to say it like the quarterbacks struggled. It was offense wide."

On his comfort level with the offense:

"I don't think we're in a position to be comfortable. We just have to attack it. We've got to attack the — improvement, I think there's a lot to be had. Comfortable is not the word that I would use. I don't think anybody on the offensive side of the ball would be happy with that, but to address it, that's 11 guys — it's the unit. So back to work."

On the offense:

"We've had some run through in the running game and we just got to be — we're turning some guys loose. There's issues in protection. We missed some throws. There's quite a few things."

On the defense and special teams:

"There was more good there. An incredible goal-line stand, that was great. We gave up five first downs on the drive. We let some over routes get out, we left some digs — we didn't really cover those well, the dig-routes and the overs. Missed the timing on three blitzes or more that I can think of right now. They also had some really good series, too. I thought our defense played winning football. I thought our special teams played winning football. Offensively, we underperformed."

On T Joe Alt:

"I think it was good. He got 21 plays. I thought it was really solid. Joe belongs."

On how much stock he puts into a preseason game:

"I don't know, I don't have the answer of how much stock to put into it. Whether it's the first three three-and-outs — we had some starters in there, some starters not in there. I don't know, I can't answer the question how much. Back to work, we know where we're at. I think I can see several things we need to improve and work on, and that's what we'll do — go back to work and do it."

On what is the most important thing to go back to:

“Timing, blocking in the run game. Zone blocking, the gap blocking. The timing in the passing game. The protection — good at times, other times we missed or one guy got beat or more on a play. It was pretty wide spread, but you go back and attack it.”

On looking outside the building for competition:

“Anything is possible. Top of mind right now is getting on this film and there’s several things to attack and that’s what we’re about doing.”

On the defensive success with blitzes:

“There was a lot of real good, just about everything really from my end of the field. The only things we didn’t do right, a lot of things right — the things I previously mentioned. Everything else looked really good.”

On TE Hayden Hurst:

“He seemed good. Again, we’ll see, but that’s what he said. Pretty nasty shot.”

On starters for next week:

“To be determined. I would say we’re going to look at and evaluate all positions this week, why wouldn’t we? I’m not naming the backup, [Preseason] Week 2 starter at quarterback right now. We’ll let this week’s practice reps determine that. Fair enough, right?”

On the starting quarterback for Preseason Week 2:

“I said I’m not naming it, not naming the Week 2 starting quarterback. I will let practice determine that.”

On competition for positions on the roster:

“I don’t think we’re going to have a backup — what I’m saying is, I will talk about quarterback controversies when it is talking about the starter. The starting quarterback, I’d be glad to have those discussions. I’m not going to have starting controversies over the left guard or the right guard or the backup quarterback or the third quarterback, second running back. You have my word if we are ever into a quarterback controversy, which I do not anticipate at all, you have my word I will discuss it with you all. At the same time, I will not be going into other position controversies.”

On positive players from the game:

“Yeah, it would be a long list. I would hate to really start throwing out names and, ‘Why did you throw out this one and not this one?’ I thought [LB] Shane Lee made a heck of a play on the goal line. That was outstanding. There were others. I thought we were getting some push from our defensive line. [OLB] Tuli [Tuipulotu] was, it looked like they couldn’t block him. There were a ton of good things. [LB] Troy Dye had a heck of a game, was really playing well. Several really, really good things. [K] Cameron Dicker — that 58-yard field goal, we’re going to remember that for a long time. The whole snap, hold, protection were really good. A lot of good things, just not enough to win the football game.”

On the new kickoff:

“It was interesting, it seemed pretty good. What did you think? I thought it was good. I thought our guys played well, yeah, popped that first one, we covered one really well. It was interesting. I thought our guys were schemed up well. I thought they played the play with the intensity that the play deserves. It was good. A lot of things happened, right? You had a return, a couple of big returns, you had a big stop covered, you had one that didn’t land in the landing zone. I thought we acquitted ourselves well, as I said before, on special teams throughout the night.”

On K Cameron Dicker's tackle:

"Yeah, that was — there's going to be a lot to remember. It was definitely a preseason game, collectively, for us as a team. It wasn't what we wanted. Wouldn't call it less than because it could be great, it could be good, it could be fair, it could be bad, it could be horrific. I don't think it was that. Individually, I thought that there were some people that could really put themselves — that was a great game, they're going to remember that for a really long time. That can happen in the preseason. That's definitely one — you make a 58-yard field goal and then make the tackle, he felt great about it. That's kind of where it is in the preseason. Now, no matter what it — no matter what it is, collectively, no matter what it is for each person individually how they fair in that game, either way it's a learning experience and that's why it's good to have a start."

On the game's grade:

"Below average, offensively. I thought we were winning football defensively and I thought winning football in the special teams as well. Good special teams, good defense, below average offense."

On if LB Junior Colson will play in the preseason:

"We'll see, we'll see. I'm not qualified to predict that."

On if WR Derius Davis is 'working through something':

"Yeah."

On RBs Jaret Patterson, Isaiah Spiller and Elijah Dotson:

"Yeah, I thought all three had really good moments. Ran durable, ran hard. Isaiah, I was pleased and he had a couple of really good runs, caught the ball out of backfield, got out of bounds, heads up on the two-minute. Dot [Dotson] was a workhorse, so was J-Pat [Patterson]. Yeah, I thought they acquitted themselves well. They walked out feeling pretty good about their performance, I would think. They went into it that way — they went into it confident and ready to play. Good, good, good for all three of those running backs."

On his first game back in the NFL and if it was good to get reps:

"Yeah, yeah. It was, it was good. It felt really good. To quote the old singing cowboy, Gene Autry — it was good to be back in the saddle."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK EASTON STICK

On his performance:

"Frustrating, obviously. A bunch of three-and-outs and turnovers. So, yeah, frustrating."

On areas of improvement:

"We'll go back and watch it and really find out. A little bit of everything. I think it's always a combination of things, but ultimately just not executing at a high enough level to move the football. That starts and ends with me, so it's frustrating."

On if there were nerves for the first preseason game of the year:

"No, I don't think there were nerves. I think guys were really excited to play. We practiced really hard. Were excited to play somebody else, just didn't go well."

On building off starts from last season:

"I think just a bunch of good experiences. You know it had been a long time since I played. The feel of the game, the speed, all of those different things. Those experiences are vital and I learned a lot from it. We will just keep learning as we go."

On his throw to TE Hayden Hurst:

"I just felt like there was enough space between the linebacker and safety that I could get it in. Obviously, in hindsight I should have tucked that ball down, especially backed up play second down and go from there."

On T Joe Alt and the offensive line:

"It was really good. I think for him to get out there and play real football, [T] Rashawn [Slater], [G] Zion [Johnson], all those guys. I'm really comfortable with [OL] Brenden [Jaimes], played a bunch with him a year ago. It's a great group and I love working with those guys."

On his takeaways from the game:

"Yeah, I think, we'll watch the tape and really see what happened. Go through video and learn and grow, I think personally and as an offense. We'll jump into that and see."

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS HEAD COACH MIKE MACDONALD

Opening Statement:

“Alright, it’s good to see everybody. Hey, great first start. I’m just proud of the mentality and the focus that we had taking the game on. It felt like the guys played really hard, it felt like they were focused. It’s the first game, so it’s the first time doing all the operational stuff for real. I thought our operation was clean for the most part. I got a bunch of notes written down as the game unfolded on things that we’re going to want to chase and debrief on. Overall, I’d say that it’s a foundational first game. This is something we want to build on. There’ll be plenty of details on tape that we’re going to dive into and I can’t wait to watch the tape and see how the guys did.”

On instilling confidence in new defensive players:

“We played the majority of our starters on defense, so we definitely wanted to start fast and get a feel for getting the calls in, subs getting to experience situational ball for real, and the guys were locked in. I thought we did a good job of getting the calls in fast and the guys communicated well on the back end, especially when they started going fast there. I think it was a third drive or so. It was very important.”

On expectations of the game:

“I always expect us to go out and play hard, play physical and be clean. If it’s not the way we want to look, then we’re going to want to make that right. It wasn’t a perfect showing by any stretch, but it was a solid start. I think the guys know that we should be able to take a jump here moving forward. We’ve got a big week ahead of us practicing against Tennessee and then having another game against those guys. So we’re looking forward to that.”

On players that stood out:

“I thought our front played really well. The back end was clean with the first couple guys, we felt their presence back there. I felt they tackled well. With their first time tackling for real, especially with the ones and twos, it felt like the guys who got involved were taking good angles for the most part.”

On QB Sam Howell’s performance:

“I thought Sam played really well moving the offense. Not all the starters played. I think a couple of the interior offensive line guys that were the only ones in there. It was great to see them come back out in the second half and move all the way down the field. Obviously, we want to close that drive out, but I thought we operated well and made some great decisions. I’m sure there are some plays that you’d want back, but that’s good. It’s never going to be a perfect performance, but I’m definitely pleased.”

On running the ball:

“We’ll look at the schemes. We didn’t have a lot of schemes up. We’ll see how we targeted some certain things, but I felt like the guys were getting off the rock and that should help us with what’s expected moving forward.”

On the return of DT Byron Murphy II:

“It was great to see him make a couple plays in his first game back in action. He was all juiced and the guys were excited for him. That was cool to see.”

On CB/S Coby Bryant’s interception:

“That’s team football, man. There was a good pocket, the guys communicated, made the right checks in the back end, ran their spots on play action and attacked the football. When it comes to us, let’s go make the play and try to go score.”

On the new kickoff:

“I’d say, it’s hot and cold. His [WR Laviska Shenault] return was definitely a highlight. There’s a couple things we have to look at on how we’re blocking, especially when the ball’s going across the field. I think it’ll be fun film to watch. Now we saw that for real, it’s the tempo of the play, we can change our targets and our counts, make sure our angles are on point, and we should make a big jump there moving forward.”

On both C Nick Harris and C Olu Oluwatimi playing:

“That was just the plan going into the game, they're battling it out right now.

On C Connor Williams:

“He should be coming into town pretty soon.”

On the importance of this game as head coach:

“It's very important. I thought that for the most part we were on point with our decision making and gave all the necessary information. I thought all that stuff was about as good as expected, but it's tricky. You're calling the game on defense, you're making adjustments and then you're back on offense. That's the way it goes so you have to be good, you have to be on point. We're expected to be sharp moving forward and that's my responsibility.”

On Offensive Coordinator Ryan Grubb remaining upstairs through the season:

“Yes, he'll be up there.”

On sentiment towards the team:

“I love our guys.”

On hopes for the identity of the Seahawks this season:

“A style that's really tough to play. All the edges that we're chasing, our mentality. We want to be rock solid, together and connected. We want everybody to be pushing in the same direction and we're not there yet, but that's the vision and the guys know it. We're on our way. The faster we can push together, the further we'll go. That's step one.”

On closing drives:

“We want to close drives out, for sure. The guys know that. We'll look back at how we blocked it and all that, but it would have been great to finish that drive out.”

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS QUARTERBACK SAM HOWELL

On operating in a game:

"Yeah, it was good to get back out there. We've been going against ourselves for these past few weeks. It was good to get out there against a different opponent. I thought the guys played well. Obviously, the defense, I thought had a really good game. Offensively, we did some good things. We could have scored a little more points, I thought. I would have liked to finish that drive there early in the third quarter where we got stopped on the one. Overall, I thought we did some good things."

On Head Coach Mike Macdonald:

"Coach was great. You know, the first time for him [as a head coach of an NFL team]. Obviously, a first-time head coach. He was great. I thought he did a good job. He did a good job of getting us ready for the game. Obviously, it's a little different when it's the preseason, but he did a great job. He was great before the game. Great in the huddle before the game. He did a great job and guys are buying in, for sure."

On his training camp:

"I thought the first couple of days that I wasn't my best, but after the first two days or so, I feel like I've been playing some good football, especially this past week. I thought I had a good week of practice. I think I've definitely gotten better each and every day. That's what I'm going to try and continue to do."

On using his legs to make plays:

"That's definitely something that I've always kind of done my whole career. Especially on third down, I can try and make some plays with my feet. I think that's just part of my game and something that, whenever I'm out there, I'm going to try to use. Especially on third down, especially when they're playing man coverage. When they're playing man coverage on defense, there's a lot of room to run the ball for the quarterback. When you get man coverage, you kind of look. Obviously, you're trying to throw the ball first, but I know there are good opportunities to run."

On his performances in games:

"Obviously, you try to be really good every single day and try to be the same player that you are in practice. When the lights come on, I try to take it to another level, for sure. I think part of his question here was using my feet you don't get to see a whole lot of in practice because you're not live, you know? You don't really get those live plays. I feel like that's a really big part of my game and something that I bring to the table. I try to be the same player each and every day."

On TE Brady Russell's touchdown:

"Yeah, that was awesome. Definitely, when I threw it to him, I was kind of just expecting him to get the first down. It's great when you have a guy that can run after the catch and make guys miss. Brady has had a really good camp. He's doing a great job. Every time he's in there, I'm going to try to keep finding him, for sure."

On the goal line situation:

"We were running the ball really well. I was fine with the decision to run the ball there on fourth down. Just try to get it in. We definitely have to find a way to finish that, but play-call wise, no, I thought it was pretty good."

On third-down conversions:

"I thought there were some of them where we could have done a little better of a job. Obviously, have to go back and look at the film, but I thought there were some things that we might have left out there, but you're not going to be perfect. We moved the ball well and controlled the game. I don't know what exactly the time of possession was, but I know we had it for most of the game. We played some good, complementary football, for sure."

On confidence in the offensive install:

"For sure. Obviously, every single day that you can rep the system and rep the plays in the system is another day to get better. I think we've done a really good job as an offense of finding what things we need to get better at and focusing on those each and every day. I think that's definitely paid off for us. We have a good group of guys. A lot of guys that really love ball and want to get better. I'm really excited about what we have on our football team."