

# DENVER BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES



3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS | 8 SUPER BOWL APPEARANCES | 10 AFC TITLE GAMES | 15 AFC WEST DIVISION TITLES | 22 PLAYOFF BERTHS | 29 WINNING SEASONS

<b>Patrick Smyth</b>	Chief Communications Officer	patrick.smyth@broncos.nfl.net
<b>Erich Schubert</b>	Senior Director of Communications & Content	erich.schubert@broncos.nfl.net
<b>Nathan Edwards</b>	Assistant Director of Public Relations	nathan.edwards@broncos.nfl.net
<b>Megan Boyle</b>	Communications Strategist	megan.boyle@broncos.nfl.net
<b>Jordan Beasley</b>	Public Relations Assistant	jordan.beasley@broncos.nfl.net

## **DENVER BRONCOS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS**

***Empower Field at Mile High • Nov. 28, 2021***

### **BRONCOS HEAD COACH VIC FANGIO**

#### **On what he saw on CB Pat Surtain II's two interceptions**

"First off, [CB] Pat [Surtain II] has great hands and great ball anticipation, and both of them came in handy right there. Those are big plays. The first one probably saves the three points. They probably would kick a field goal there, although they could've went for it on fourth down. The next one, they're in field goal range again, and it becomes seven points for us. Those are two big swings in the game and big, big plays."

#### **On QB Teddy Bridgewater's injury in the first half and what lead to Bridgewater's re-entry into the game**

"He suffered a shin injury. I don't have all the particulars but if you guys have ever had a shin injury it swells up real quick—which his did. They had him take some tests to make sure nothing was happening underneath it and he toughed it out. He was nowhere near 100 percent in that second half, but he toughed it out and lead the offense. Offensively in the second half, we only had three possessions and the first one wasn't good. We went three and out. [In] the second one we got the big touchdown drive for [TE] Eric Saubert's first touchdown—which was a great play on [QB] Teddy's [Bridgewater] part. Then the third drive we had in the second half was the four-minute [mark] and we ran the clock out. Two out of three drives in the second half were excellent. Statistically, it's going to say we had 302 yards, which is kind of pedestrian, but it really was a pretty good day offensively in light of how the game unfolded. They had some long drives on us in the second half. I see here we were eight of 11 on third downs offensively. You do that and run it 33 times you're on your way to a good chance of winning."

#### **On QB Teddy Bridgewater's fourth-quarter touchdown drive and what it means for Bridgewater**

"[QB] Teddy [Bridgewater] is tough. This is unquestioned when you talk about him and I didn't question it in the big picture. Some of you have asked me—he's our quarterback. It's as simple as that."

#### **On how well OLB Bradley Chubb did in his first game off Injured Reserve**

"It was great to have him back. I don't know exactly how many plays he played. The way the game was going in the first half he could have played a lot of plays because we had a three-and-out, and a three-and-out. Then they did have a 10-play drive [and] then they had a five and six-play drive. That lends itself to getting a lot of snaps proportionately when you're trying to pitch count a guy but [with] the two long drives in the second half that's when it starts taking its toll. [Then] you've got to watch how much you're playing him, but we're thrilled to have him back. We love the guy. He's a great player. I'm glad he got this under his belt and hopefully, bigger and better things are coming."

#### **On what happened on the offensive drive before halftime**

"We just took a little too long of time there. I was wanting to say timeout so we could throw it anywhere to try a long field goal, but it didn't work out."

**On if QB Drew Lock's interception played a role in QB Teddy Bridgewater coming back in the game during the second half**

"I don't think so."

**On his overall impression of the offensive line's play and the backups who filled in for injured starters**

"I thought those guys did a great job. [T] Quinn Bailey comes off the practice squad and plays a good amount of plays against some good pass rushers and obviously we ran the ball so [I'm] thrilled for him. [G Netane] Muti comes in [and] it's the first action he's had in a while and [we're] thrilled for him. We already had backups out there so unfortunately, we seem to have the patent on losing guys no matter how hard we try not to. I'm anticipating that the tide will turn at some point."

**On if today's game reassured him about the depth at offensive line**

"Yeah, when [T] Calvin [Anderson] plays for us I'm not worried. When [G/C] Quinn [Meinerz] goes in there and plays I'm not worried. [With] [G Netane] Muti I'm not worried. We have good quality depth and to see a guy like [T Quinn] Bailey go in there and play in a game this late in the season that has some meaning to it and play as well as he did—I haven't watched him [yet.] I'll give him a grade after the tape, but just to go in there and for our offense to operate and operate well in two of those three drives is [a] credit to him. Credit to 'Munch' (Offensive Line Coach Mike Munchak) and credit to 'Kup' (Assistant Offensive Line Coach Chris Kuper) for bringing him along."

**On an injury update on G Dalton Risner**

"His back—I don't have an update on him. I think [it's] more of a day-to-day [and] week-to-week type thing. I don't have an update for you."

**On if OLB Bradley Chubb was on a play count and if he expressed any discomfort health-wise during the game**

"I don't know. I left [Outside Linebackers Coach] John Pagano in charge of that during the game. I was too busy calling defenses. I left it up to John. We had an idea what we'd like but again, it goes back to how the game is going. If you're getting a bunch of long drives on you, he's not going to play as much. If you're getting three and outs [or] four and outs you've got a better chance of him proportionately playing more of the snaps. I don't know how many he played. I did tell John once we went up 28-7 to keep him out of the next drive."

**On if there's any added satisfaction to getting the win over his former protege**

"No. During the game, I had zero thoughts that [Chargers Head Coach] Brandon [Staley] was on the other side. It's the Broncos versus the Chargers. It has nothing to do with Brandon and myself. Brandon is doing a great job with that team. I'm happy for him. I wish he was in another division, so we don't have to do this twice a year, but I had zero thought of that."

**On if QB Justin Herbert was confused by the defensive pressure towards the end of the game**

We just played [well] on defense. We really didn't add a fifth rusher much. I would say seven or eight times. We just kind of played coverage and tried to—the danger of that is his scrambling when you're rushing four. He's really good at that and he did it a few times. I'm sure he was their leading rusher so that's the danger. We were able to survive that part."

**On how certain he was heading back to the locker room at halftime that QB Teddy Bridgewater would be able to play**

"Coming in off the field, I didn't know. Going back out, I knew he was going to give it a chance. We were on defense first, so he was going to run around, take some drops, and see how it felt. I had said if he feels good and if he feels like he can go [then] we'll go with him."

**On what it means to the team to be able to fight for first place in the division next Sunday after the adversity the team has faced thus far this season**

"We seem to bring the adversity on us. Even at the end of the half today we brought that on ourselves, and we just keep overcoming it. Hopefully, we keep playing meaningful games here moving forward. We've got six left—prior to this we would have said five—and a lot of big games. We're excited to be on the hunt. This is a resilient group."

### **On how the Bye Week helped ILB Baron Browning and LB Kenny Young**

“The Bye Week helped a little. The Bye Week, with the new CBA, it’s not like when Bye Weeks first started years ago when we practiced Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and give them the weekend off. That’s not the mode of operation anymore. So we did watch film with him, and it probably helps them. He’s been putting in extra work, he comes up and meets with me some for extra. To say ‘relatively new’, you’re kind of not telling the whole story there for both of those guys. I have to kind of always be aware of it. We’re not going in with all of our calls that we normally would, say if [ILB] Josey [Jewel] and ‘A.J.’ (ILB Alexander Johnson) were in there, but that’s called adapt and adjust, I.N.A—improvise and adjust, and you’ve got to do it.”

### **On who received a game ball**

“I gave one to [CB] Pat Surtain [II], gave one to [TE Eric] Saubert for his first-career touchdown—which I was surprised to hear. He’s been a great pickup for our team. He’s one of those glue-type of guys. Hard worker, does anything, he’s tough, he’s smart. He’s been good for those young tight ends to be around. Gave one to [QB] Teddy [Bridgewater] for coming back in the second half not 100 percent, and I gave one to [T] Quinn Bailey for coming off the practice squad. Coming off the practice squad at first, then off the bench to go play.”

## **BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TEDDY BRIDGEWATER**

### **Opening statement**

“It’s a great team win today, in all three phases. Great job by a handful of guys stepping in and making some plays for us today. Talking about the guys up front, with us having to shuffle guys around, bring [T] Quinn [Bailey] up from the practice squad, [G Netane] Muti, other [G/C] Quinn [Meinerz]—those guys are playing some great ball—‘Cal’ [LT Calvin Anderson] and [RT] Cam [Fleming] and ‘Cush’ (C Lloyd Cushenberry III) basically being the lone survivor. Hats off to those guys up front for just competing, containing the Chargers’ rush, opening holes for the running backs, protecting in the pass game, so it was great by those guys. Collectively, you talk about the defense, slowing that offense down. I think they were averaging over 28 points a game or something like that. Just to see them play with that swagger, get the two turnovers, one touchdown, it was just a great job to them. The kicking game, ‘B-Mac’ (PK Brandon McManus) hitting the field goal, [P] Sam [Martin] with his punts today. You combine all three phases; I think that was a recipe for a win.”

### **On his injury in the first half**

“When you win, it doesn’t really matter what you’re going through. You feel good. I feel good right now. We’ll see how I feel when I wake up in the morning.”

### **On the emotion of his touchdown pass midway through the fourth quarter to finish a long drive that made it a 21-7 game**

“It was great to just finish with a touchdown. Guys were fighting, screening that entire drive. To come away with points is great mentally as an offense, and it does something for the defense as well.”

### **On why he was standing on one side of the sideline and his teammates were on the other while he was being evaluated for an injury and QB Drew Lock was in at quarterback**

“That’s the problem with the world, everybody trying to find a negative. They never really know what is going on, so I’m glad that you asked that question. I’m just standing behind, listening to the play call, seeing what the defense is doing. If I see something that I can bring to [QB] Drew [Lock’s] attention, I’ll do that. And then in the process I’m trying to work out my leg as well. It’s one of those deals where you watch [Quarterbacks] Coach [Mike] Shula, when we’re on offense, they stand behind the defense as well. A lot of quarterbacks around the league do that, just so they can see the defense and pass along information to the quarterback that is playing.”

### **On if his fourth quarter touchdown pass was intended to TE Eric Saubert, who caught the pass and scored, or TE Noah Fant**

“I don’t know. It was a touchdown.”

**On his feeling while being out of the game with an injury**

"I'm just really psyching myself out. Just reassuring myself that I can get out there and 'you can do this.' I just want to be out there for the guys. They work so hard throughout the week, we get so little opportunities, so it's just an opportunity for me to finish this game and help us come away with the win."

**On seeing the defense hold the Chargers off the scoreboard despite their two long drives**

"It was great to see that, our defense stopping them. It does something for us as an offense, it does something for us as a defense, and the kicking game. You see that, and you just want to take the field and reward the defense with some type of points for their effort."

**On the third-and-10 screen pass to RB Javonte Williams**

"It was a great call. I think [Offensive Coordinator Pat] Shurmur did a great job of just mixing things up. Coach put up a number earlier this week pertaining to rush attempts, passing, things like that, and coach Shurmur hit that quota. Javonte just did a great job catching the ball, using his blockers—the guys did a great job up front getting in front of the screen, and we were able to get a first down."

**On if he got kicked that resulted in his injury**

"I still don't really know what happened. I just know that [Chargers S] Derwin [James Jr.] kind of got me from behind. Thank God I wear gloves and was able to hold onto the ball a little tighter and release it, and it was an incomplete pass. But I don't know, I'll watch it tomorrow and see what really happened."

**On if he got X-rays after his injury**

"Yes, I got X-rays."

**On battling the Kansas City Chiefs for first place in the AFC West next week**

"It's a great feeling, but we got work to do. We have seven days until the next opportunity to go out and compete, so we got to make sure that we're maximizing and winning each day leading up to that game."

**On T Quinn Bailey's game**

"He did a great job. I think [Chargers DL Joey] Bosa had one sack, I don't even know if it was on him or not. He did a great job of coming in and stepping up, being physical in the run game, being athletic and agile in the passing game, so it's great to see him get a game ball and also for him to perform the way he did today. He's a guy that has a story. We all have stories, but what transpired and took place earlier this year with him and his family and to see him to continue to press and fight and fight to overcome everything that he might have been going through mentally is a great feeling. It's why you play this game, to see guys get opportunities and make the most of them. I can point out [G/C] Quinn Meinerz and [G Netane] Muti and other guys, [T] Calvin [Anderson] and [T] Cam [Fleming], but to see Quinn Bailey get that opportunity and make the most of it is a great feeling."

**On his stiff-arm on Chargers DL Joey Bosa in the first half that resulted in a touchdown pass**

"I can't even rank it. I was just trying to react and make a play, and it worked in my favor."

**BRONCOS TACKLE CAM FLEMING****On the key to playing together as an offensive line.**

"I think it was just communication. I think everybody that we have on this roster is ready. Definitely. So it was good to see [G] [Netane] Muti and [G/C] Quinn [Meinerz] step up to the plate in such a big way. We all communicated, we all stayed on the same page and that helped a lot."

**On QB Teddy Bridgewater returning to the game in the second half after a potential injury.**

"I mean, we didn't know how serious Teddy's injury was. I'm still not 100 percent sure. But it showed a lot of toughness by him to come back in there and lead us on a drive that was so big. I mean, anytime you score a touchdown, it's a big deal in the NFL. So it was a huge moment for us."

**On how much confidence the team gets from successful running drives after losing key players to injuries.**

“Any time we get a chance to be truly physical in the run game and come at opponents instead of pass protecting a ton, even though both are part of the job. We definitely like running a lot more than pass blocking for sure.”

**On C Lloyd Cushenberry III’s role as the only week 1 starter on the offensive line during today’s game.**

“Obviously Lloyd is always very vocal because he’s the center. He’s making all the calls. He’s getting us all together and corralling us. But he definitely stepped up for us. He was the only guy not on the scout team, as we were saying out there. He did great to keep us on track.”

**On if there were any conversations about G/C Austin Schlottmann being the only backup in the second half.**

“No, there was no talk like that.”

**On RB Javonte Williams’ success running the ball and his overall impact on the offense.**

“I think the biggest thing they do is encourage the coaches to call more runs, and that’s a big thing for us. We definitely want to want to run the ball. We want to be physical; we want to come downhill and hit opponents. And Javonte is definitely a big part of that, as well as [RB] Melvin [Gordon III]. Their runs, their physicalness on those runs, help us out a lot.”

## **BRONCOS TACKLE CAM FLEMING**

**On the key to playing together as an offensive line.**

“I think it was just communication. I think everybody that we have on this roster is ready. Definitely. So it was good to see [G] [Netane] Muti and [G/C] Quinn [Meinerz] step up to the plate in such a big way. We all communicated, we all stayed on the same page and that helped a lot.”

**On QB Teddy Bridgewater returning to the game in the second half after a potential injury.**

“I mean, we didn't know how serious Teddy’s injury was. I’m still not 100 percent sure. But it showed a lot of toughness by him to come back in there and lead us on a drive that was so big. I mean, anytime you score a touchdown, it’s a big deal in the NFL. So it was a huge moment for us.”

**On how much confidence the team gets from successful running drives after losing key players to injuries.**

“Any time we get a chance to be truly physical in the run game and come at opponents instead of pass protecting a ton, even though both are part of the job. We definitely like running a lot more than pass blocking for sure.”

**On C Lloyd Cushenberry III’s role as the only week 1 starter on the offensive line during today’s game.**

“Obviously Lloyd is always very vocal because he’s the center. He’s making all the calls. He’s getting us all together and corralling us. But he definitely stepped up for us. He was the only guy not on the scout team, as we were saying out there. He did great to keep us on track.”

**On if there were any conversations about G/C Austin Schlottmann being the only backup in the second half.**

“No, there was no talk like that.”

**On RB Javonte Williams’ success running the ball and his overall impact on the offense.**

“I think the biggest thing they do is encourage the coaches to call more runs, and that’s a big thing for us. We definitely want to want to run the ball. We want to be physical; we want to come downhill and hit opponents. And Javonte is definitely a big part of that, as well as [RB] Melvin [Gordon III]. Their runs, their physicalness on those runs, help us out a lot.”

## **DENVER BRONCOS SAFETY JUSTIN SIMMONS**

### **On his reaction to the team drafting CB Pat Surtain II with their first-round pick in April and overall thoughts on Surtain's two interceptions**

"I mean, I was excited. Selfishly, there's nothing better than getting to play in the backend with guys like Pat. I say as a fan of watching college 'ball' (football), you watch guys all the time. You don't really think about 'Ah, I hope this guy's my teammate' or this, that, and the other, but you admire some guys from afar and [CB] Pat [Surtain II] was one of those guys. We've said it all year long -- he's special, man. There's something special about the way he carries himself, character-wise, that you knew he would transition really well into the league. I thought up front we played great. We did a good job stopping the run. Of course, [there were] a lot of passing situations and we were able to get our hands on a few balls today. Pat just did such a good job, man. That's what we expect from him week in and week out. He's playing really good ball right now."

### **On going to Kansas City next week to compete for first place in the AFC West**

"We know the winning tradition and culture that has been set here for years beyond even when I was born. All we want to do, contrary to belief, is go out there and win football games. We want to go out there, we want to win, and we want to play our best ball. We want to play ball that Broncos Country is proud of—coming to games and watching and watching on TV and supporting. We have the best fans in the state and the country and in the NFL. Today, the message before going into today's game is like 'This is it. This is the season.' If we don't win today, you hate to think about it like that but if we don't win today, our season is on the line. We had to get a win this game. I think that came out and guys were playing with a lot of passion and energy. We have to make sure we carry that over to next week. We can't have a 'Dallas Week'. We had a good game against Dallas, and we came back the next week and kind of laid an egg against 'Philly' [Philadelphia Eagles] -- they played well too. For us, it means a lot going into next week. It's going to be a really good game. Another statement game. No matter what happens, we have to find a way to leave Arrowhead [Stadium] with a win"

### **On the momentum shift after the Charger's missed a field goal and CB Pat Surtain II's interception in the end zone**

"It's a big energy boost. That's like the game within the game. Those are point swings. That's the type of defense we need to be playing for the rest of the season. Not the roller coaster that's kind of been the first half of the year before the bye. I say it every time, I could come up here and talk about it, but all that matters is going out there and executing. We will enjoy this win tonight and really get ready to go up to Arrowhead [Stadium] and find a way to carry this formula over to leave with a win. That's all that matters."

### **On playing four rookies consistently on the defensive side of the football**

"It's really a testament to the defensive culture that's being built. Everyone knows that injuries happen. You're liable to get hurt playing the game of football. There's a 100 percent chance of you getting hurt. When guys go down, you have to be able to have [the mentality of] 'Next Man Up' and you can't miss a beat. I think that's the biggest key—over-communicating. Making sure we're all on the same page. It's not going to be perfect but what has to be perfect is your energy and just flying to the football. I think today, it wasn't perfect by any stretch—there was a few breakdowns communication-wise. But it mattered to guys out there today. It mattered to come find a way to win the football game. At the end of the day, I think we just wanted it a little bit more. Whatever that was, that's what we have to do from here on out. It really is a 1-0 mentality. After tomorrow, this game is over. We're not going to talk about it. The next time we'll look at this is when we play the Chargers down the road. We're focusing. After tonight, we're all in on the Chiefs and we have to find a way to leave Arrowhead [Stadium] with a win. I can't emphasize that enough. That will mean a lot to not only us but [also] to Broncos Country and what has been going on the last five years. This is a big game."

### **On if losing to the Kansas City Chiefs 11 straight times has made this rivalry personal**

"Yeah. It's extremely personal. No matter what I say up here -- no matter how good it sounds, bad it sounds. You have to go deal with it. No one cares what it looks like. All anyone cares about is that win-loss column. That's what we have to do—find a way to win. We'll enjoy this tonight. Look at the positives—obviously, look at the negatives. We're all in [on] next week."

### **On his thoughts about CB Pat Surtain II's speed being measured at 22.07 MPH on his interception returned for a touchdown**

"I had no idea [he was that fast]. Are you sure that's right? NextGen stats, they have all the good stuff apparently. I didn't know that—that's crazy. That's a crazy stat. Sheesh, that's fast."

## **BRONCOS CORNERBACK PAT SURTAIN II**

### **On his two interceptions**

“On the first pick, we were in cover two. I was hanging on the back side, the [No.] 2 ran the wheel and I had to take it through. Next thing I know [Chargers QB Justin Herbert] threw the ball to me and I had to make a play. The second one was a tip. I broke on the ball and took it to the house.”

### **On if he expected to get an interception today.**

“You have to expect every game to make big time plays, especially in big time games like this when it’s necessary. I felt like coming into this game, those plays were necessary to come up with.”

### **On handing one of his interception footballs to his family in the crowd**

“It was a special moment. I've always known that when I got that second pick [of the season], they were going to get that ball. I already had it in mind prior to the game and it was a special moment for both of us.”

### **On keeping the Chargers out of the end zone in the third quarter**

“That's big. They're going to make big plays, they're a great offense all around. But the key is keeping them out of the end zone. Making big stops helped us win the game.”

### **On the importance of playing the Kansas City Chiefs next Sunday**

“It means a lot. To go out there on Sunday Night Football primetime at [GEHA Field at] Arrowhead Stadium, the main thing we're focused on is getting a win. It's another big-time divisional matchup and we're going to need to win games like this down the road.”

### **On his speed on his second interception being the fastest by a defensive back in five years**

“I've always known I was fast, it's just a question of whether or not I'll showcase it. I used to run track so that track background helped me a lot.”

### **On playing meaningful games late in the season as a rookie**

“It means a lot. We feel like as a whole rookie class, we got drafted to this team to play in big time games, especially at the end of the season in big-time division matchups. We know that these are big, key games going forward toward our playoff run.”

### **On his first NFL touchdown coming in the same place as his father's last touchdown**

“I didn't know that. I keep hearing stats all over. That's crazy. Having that same experience, it's a special feeling.”

### **On his celebratory touchdown dance following his pick six**

“It's a New Orleans thing. It's called the '6th Ward Dumaine.' I have a lot of New Orleans ties in my family background so I just thought I would hit that in the end zone. It came naturally. I had to think of something while I was running back so I did that.”

### **On Broncos NT Mike Purcell picking up the pick six football for him following his touchdown**

“I told him [Purcell] after the game, 'I owe you a whole dinner or something!'”

## **BRONCOS RUNNING BACK JAVONTE WILLIAMS**

### **On his final touchdown drive**

“I feel like it was really a spark for the team. The touchdown after that really closed out the game, so any way I can help the team, that’s what I’m trying to do.”

### **On next week’s game versus the Kansas City Chiefs**

“Like [CB] Pat [Surtain II] said, it’s just a big game. I heard [DL] DeShawn [Williams] talking in the locker room, he was saying how they let the game slip last year. So you can best believe we’re going to be focused and ready to go. We’ve got to just go and get a win.”

### **On what he saw during his 42-yard reception in the 4th quarter.**

“I thought he was going to push me out of bounds. But when I saw I didn’t go out of bounds I just saw open grass, and I was just running.”

### **On how meaningful it is for the rookie class to have such an impact late in the season**

“Just being in the position to play and help his team. I feel like all the rookies I was on the field with would say it’s a blessing, that they’d be helping this team out late in the season is also a blessing. So we’re just going to keep doing what we’ve got to do though to win games.”

### **On his and RB Melvin Gordon III’s success running the ball**

“Yeah, definitely. I feel like establishing the run first is definitely something to help this team. I feel like once we establish the run, they kind of start stacking the box, and that gets ‘Court’ (WR Courtland Sutton), [WR Jerry] Jeudy, [WR] Tim [Patrick], players like that, more space to get open. It also helped [QB] Teddy [Bridgewater] with play action and stuff like that, so I feel like establishing the run first and then play action passes really helps us win games.”



## **CHARGERS HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY**

### **On if he can put a finger on the offense's inconsistencies**

"No, the way we played offensively in the first half was more reflective of our defense in the first half. We put them in some tough spots - they start the game on the one-yard line and then we didn't convert that third-and-three early in the game. Then we went turnover on downs on our third possession and then another punt. I just felt like we had a lot to do on defense. Our side of things had a lot to do with our offensive rhythm in the first half. Then in the second half, we played a lot more like we're capable of. But, you know, we had far too many penalties today. I think penalties really had a lot to do with our offensive flow and rhythm. You know, hey, we're moving, and we have got to come back. We're moving again, and now we have got to go back. So, the penalties were a big factor today and there was a lot of pressure on [QB] Justin [Herbert]. I really felt like he created and made a lot of plays for us, but we just had far too much pressure on him. When we had a chance in that fourth quarter to really make a push, we just weren't able to do it as a football team. I thought that we hung tough in that in the middle part of that game. Then we just didn't finish the game playing our best."

### **On what he attributes the quarterback pressure to**

"We're playing a lot of different combinations in there—[G] Matt [Feiler] was down today couldn't go. I just felt like, the continuity up front, that's a real thing. I just felt like there was a lot of pressure with them just rushing four guys. That didn't really bring any five-man rushes. There were a lot of four-man rushes, so there was a lot of pressure. I thought that [QB] Justin [Herbert] navigated it well—I felt like he made a lot of big plays throwing it. But we just have to play more of a complete offense around him and play cleaner football—we'll perform the way we're capable of."

### **On what he told QB Justin Herbert after his second interception of the day**

"Yeah, he's got the back open and we've got kind of a four-vertical at the back. He kind of felt like the back was going to stop, but the back kept going—he threw it just a hair behind him. He felt like the back was just going to stay put and [RB] Austin [Ekeler] kept coming, so it was just the hair behind him and then the ball tipped up. So, I felt like he created a lot of offense for us in the game. I felt like without him, I don't know where we would have been because there was a lot of pressure today. He made a couple of incredible plays, buying some time, using his legs, making first downs for us and I felt like he brought us back at the end of the half and really gave us momentum going into the half. Just like I said, when we were going in to score there, whether it would have been three or seven, we get called for an illegal man downfield on the screen. We split them on the screen (and had an) illegal man downfield. It's a third-and-14 and he felt he had [TE] Jared [Cook] in the back corner. He's trying to make a play, he's trying to be aggressive, and their corner made a good play on it. But even then, it's still 14-7 and we still have the game right in front of us. We don't get two third down stops on defense, we have a third-and-seven and a third-and-10 and that's where the momentum in the game changed—we had a chance right there. OK, 14-7, let's get the momentum back and get the ball right back to Justin. And we didn't do it. Like I said, I felt like we had a lot to do with our offensive rhythm today. Because we could have definitely created more turns from that second half. And like I said, I felt like we lost this as a team today."

### **On the decision to start OL Senio Kelemete at LG over OL Brendan Jaimes**

"Just experience. Right now, it's just experience, nothing more, nothing less. We want to make sure that when we put [OL] Brandon [Jaimes] out there, he's ready. And we'll put him out there when he's ready to play. I think we were able to get a good look at [OL] Senio [Kelemete] today—we'll evaluate that moving forward. We're hoping to get [G] Matt [Feiler] back next week. Then we'll keep evaluating that that backup guard as we go."

### **On if the ineligible receiver downfield is a timing issue**

"Yeah, just the back you know. [RB] Austin [Ekeler] kind of got hung up a little bit and then on his way out, just enforced a double clutch. It's a close one."

**On how he believes the defense played overall**

"Yeah, I felt like we were we were really good at times. I felt like that sequence when you got them at second-and-eleven, and you've got the route perfectly matched - I felt like [Chargers DE] Joey [Bosa] got held on the left edge and you're going to force them to kick a field goal there, but they end up scoring a touchdown. That was disappointing. We gave up a third-down earlier in that drive, which I felt like we definitely should have been more connected on. Then, the third-and-goal from the nine was a killer because that whole sequence, the sack-fumble there, OK, it's incomplete. Then we get a sack-fumble on a third-and-three, they fall forward, we would have been off the field there. Now they keep moving and then you get them again in a field goal situation on third-and-nine and then they split us on a run in split safety. I take full ownership for that, and I just didn't feel like 14 was indicative of how we were playing. In the third quarter I thought we were playing really well and then in the final quarter, I felt like we got ourselves into some really good situations and then we just weren't able to finish the job on third-down. We didn't cover well enough on third-down and on the screen, we just lost leverage. So, like I said, just we had a couple of opportunities to really get our offense back in the game on defense, and we weren't able to do it"

**On the Broncos' 42-yard pass to RB Javonte Williams and the roughing the passer call on DL Jerry Tillery**

"Yeah, well I'm really disappointed in our tackling we've got three guys there at the point of attack against one ball carrier. And it was disappointing because again, even though we'd given up a third-and-ten, they're still out of field goal range and we can still get the ball back. They punt it and we get the ball back and we're still back in business. But we missed the tackle, missed two tackles, missed three tackles. And then he splits us for 46. Then we had a chance on the third-and-goal from the one-[yard line]. We missed a sack on [Broncos QB] Teddy [Bridgewater]. And again, we just didn't make enough winning plays tonight"

**On if the missed tackles were the most disappointing part of tonight's loss versus the Denver Broncos**

"That's just a part of it. That play [Joey Bosa's missed sack on Teddy Bridgewater] was disappointing. Lost leverage on a couple of runs when we were in a good run structure. We have to do a better job with safeties leveraging the football with 'Naz' (S Nasir Adderly) on one of those counters. We had a chance to make winning plays today and we didn't make enough of them, and I think we'll learn a lot from this film. It's not going to be as bad as it seems right now—it won't be. I just didn't feel like we had our best stuff today."

**On RB Darius Bradwell earning a chance to play in today's game**

"Yeah, I felt like he'd earned the opportunity. Just looking for dependability and production from that group. And just like I said, we're going to keep competition open at that position until somebody emerges, and I felt like Darius had been practicing well. He'd earned an opportunity. Same with [RB] Josh [Kelley], and we're just going to keep that competition open until something happens."

**On the fumble luck, will it change as the season moves on**

"I think so. I certainly hope so. I think we're doing a good job attacking football. And I feel like we're close. And that's all we can do. And like I said, it's more how we respond from that. I mean, I felt like we came back and now we're in good shape. It's third-down and goal from the nine, you're in an advantage situation, hey, let's just force three here. I felt like we had those two opportunities in the first half to do that. A second-and-11 which wasn't necessarily on us, but we have the route coverage and Teddy breaks 'contain.' And then we had third, so you hold them to three there and then you open a three on the third and nine, and now you're saying hey, we played a good game so far and it's going to be a tight game. They've got a good defense. And then now you, you know, create an energy that way because hey, we're in the fight and then now we're going to get our offense the ball back."

**On the missed field goal**

"It just didn't pull all the way."

## **CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT**

### **On how much the pressure impacted them offensively**

“Yeah, I thought we just didn't execute as well as we could have today. You know, I thought the offensive line did a great job battling all game. They gave me plenty of time to get the ball up and battled all game. So I really feel appreciated by those guys.”

### **On the cause of the first interception [Broncos Cornerback Patrick] Surtain caught ‘not having enough on it’**

“Mhmm.”

### **On miscommunication with the second interception**

“That's just something we have got to watch and we've got to learn from. We will watch that tomorrow and we'll get better. Obviously, we don't want to have things like that happen but we'll talk about it tomorrow after we watch the film and will be better because of it.”

### **On performing better after losses and inability to string wins together**

“I think a lot of things, I think it's the NFL. And I think we're playing against a really good defense. The Denver Broncos are really well coached and they've got some really good guys on that side of the ball. It wasn't good enough by us today and that's what we need to re-address. After we watch the film tomorrow, you need to be better, and you need to learn from it. You can't throw the ball like that. You can't be in third and long and have all these penalties and expect to win. And so, a lot of it is on us.”

### **On a low number of multiple interception games in his career, what makes a strong defense hard to prepare for or adjust for**

“Yeah, they do a great job disguising everything. And you know, they're really well coached. When you when you put together a really good coach [Denver HC Vic Fangio] like that with some pretty exceptional players, you get a really good defense. We need to be better and we can't expect to win if you turn the ball over like that. There's a whole lot that goes into it, but a lot of good comes from watching [film] and you have to learn from it.”

### **On the fourth and four completion**

“Yeah, obviously a tough situation. You'd like to get the ball out quicker, and you'd like to be a little bit cleaner. But one of those things where the play breaks down in and [Chargers WR] Jalen Guyton in one of those drills that we run all the time with [Chargers WR] Keenan [Allen] and [Chargers WR] Jared [Cook], they all find a place to go. And, you know, Jalen was really friendly, caught the ball and got up field. So, he made a great play on that.”

### **On the first interception if he was too aggressive on the throw trying to force Chargers WR Jared Cook into the end zone**

“No, I think I need to just throw a better ball.”

### **On the timing of the ineligible man downfield penalty**

“Yeah, he got he got held up at the line of scrimmage. So, it forced us to hold the ball a little, couple seconds, longer and someone got downfield. So, something we will have to watch as well.”

### **On how having a number of penalties throws them off offensively**

“Yeah, it's definitely tough, especially when you have penalties like that to keep overcoming them. A lot of that is adversity and how we handle that. I felt like for most of the game, we handled that pretty well. We did overcome some penalties. But too many penalties, you can't overcome them all. Obviously, something we have to address and have to get better at this week.”

## **CHARGERS RUNNING BACK AUSTIN EKELER**

### **On his overall thoughts on the game**

“Overall, I just think we got outplayed as far as execution. We had penalties that were big, some sloppy play. I know for me, that pick six wouldn’t have happened. I say it every interview that if you aren’t consistent with your play, you’re going to get beat. I feel that’s what happened today. They outplayed us, they played more consistent, they stopped us and they made more plays on offense than we did.”

### **On how dropped catches have hurt them this year**

“If you drop catches, you have to catch it. It’s plain and simple. If that ball is thrown to you, you’ve got to catch the ball. I had one today. It was a little low but it doesn’t matter. If you get your hands on it, you’ve got to catch the ball. It’s as plain as that.”

### **On being pulled off the field to go through the concussion protocol**

“I think they dropped the ball on that one because three or four plays had gone by and then they called it down so I was a little confused. If you are going to call down to get someone into the protocol, you should do it immediately so they can get back on the field. Not let three or four plays go by. I was a little frustrated, especially because we are driving in a tight game so we need the guys on the field immediately. I don’t know how they let that go on but I digress. It is what it is and I have to move on.”

### **On seemingly taking a step back every time they take a step forward**

“I was thinking about that today. We win a game, we lose a game, then we win a game, then we lose. Where is this mentality? However we capture this mentality after a loss and how we apply it to practice this week. I hope we can do that but it’s different going in after a loss and I don’t like that. You’d like to have the same mindset going in regardless of whether we won or lost or whether you had a good game or a bad game. We are human so we feel the emotions so we do our best to come in and have that consistent mindset that it’s a new week, it’s a new opponent.”

## **CHARGERS SAFETY DERWIN JAMES JR.**

### **On his hit on Broncos QB Teddy Bridgewater and if he thought it was a fumble**

“Yes sir, I did but the review came back and they said it was incomplete so I just have to live with what they say.”

### **On what he saw on the interception**

“Me and the corner were working together, and I saw the route and saw it breaking down. The receiver ran a stop route and tried to break away from me. I didn’t believe [Broncos QB] Drew [Lock] would throw the ball but he did, and I made a play on it.”

### **On if it felt good to get a pick**

“Yeah, I’ve been touching it the last two weeks. It feels good to finally capitalize on it.”

### **On how the defense reconciles getting very close to forcing turnovers but not recovering many**

“We just try to recover every ball that hits the ground because we just never know. The play we thought was a fumble today, that was incomplete, so we just try to recover them all. It’s frustrating when you can’t recover those when you get the ball out and it could change the game. I know if we got the one today, it could have changed the game. We are going to keep chasing them.”