



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

Los Angeles Chargers vs. Indianapolis Colts

Sunday, October 19, 2025 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On the defense today:

"From our whole team, just courage, fight. Our guys never quit. That's a big thing I take away, and we're going to need all that fight and we're going to need all that courage in the short week. We need to – it wasn't our best in any phase and regroup, refit and get ready for Thursday night."

On what needs to improve defensively:

"I mean, the second quarter that really was where they took a lead and that pruned us at the end of the day. Not really at all phases, but that's where we go from here."

On fixing the offensive line problems:

"I thought our guys competed. I thought they were fighting, that's the thing I take away from this. We'll take that, and we'll take all that energy, all that fight and bring it into Thursday night."

On the confidence that this type of play can be changed:

"I believe, I believe in our guys."

On the team's play and sparking a turnaround:

"Yeah, I thought it was just a little bit better in each phase, that's what I told our guys at halftime. They're giving everything they've got and that's all I can ask as a coach."

On how QB Justin Herbert did today:

"Tremendous. Competitor. Warrior. That's the way I felt about Justin and our entire team. Just keep competing, keep fighting, keep working, and believe."

On the difficulty of overcoming the two interceptions:

"That's part of it, part of the overall game and part of the second quarter. They're a good team and they're playing that kind of game because they took advantage of it. They did a good job staying ahead of the sticks and they were very good. Outside of that second quarter, I thought that we were good too."

On defensive concerns:

"I told you how I feel about our team. Constantly, constantly the important thing is improvement. Improvement will lead to success, but the way our guys compete, they way they fight, that's where my belief and confidence comes from."

On seeing an improvement on a week-to-week basis:

"Yeah, it's in all phases."

On a specific example of improvement from today:

"Yeah, it wasn't our best day, but do I have confidence in my team? Yes. Do I believe they're fighting? Yes, and that's all you can really ask for as a coach – that they're giving everything they have no matter what the circumstances. No matter if they're down 17 or 21. You keep battling, keep fighting, believe and get ready for Thursday night."

On the biggest difference from the first three weeks compared to the last four:

"Biggest difference? I don't have that list in front of me."

On the disconnect from what's being said and the performance:

"Just everything that we're doing in all three phases, just [has to get] a little bit better."

On if the team has enough talent to compete on a weekly basis:

"I believe we do."

On the long kickoff return early in the second half:

"Yeah, I don't know exactly what happened with that."

On the run defense over the last three to four weeks:

"Continue to work. There have been a few fits that've been off. That's what we do. You regroup, reload and keep working. Keep chipping away and you have to give credit. That's a heck of a good [running] back and the Colts did an outstanding job. They had us on our heels. That was something, not our best, but onto the Vikings."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On the offensive performance:

"We just can't turn the ball over like that. We can't have penalties and we have to score points in the red zone."

On what went wrong on the two interceptions:

"One got tipped and the other guy made a good play. We were down trying to make a play and missed."

On if getting hit is becoming an issue:

"No, that's football. That's a part of the job. We threw the ball a lot today. It's going to happen. It's the way it is when you're down and we had to throw. The offensive line is doing an incredible job of battling. I can always get the ball out quicker."

On not being able to prevent takeaways in game:

"It's obviously tough. You go into the game and you want to protect the ball. I just can't turn the ball over like that. It's tough the way it went. It's not the way we wanted it to go and definitely something that I'll have to take a look at – just have to put the team in a position to win and didn't protect the ball today"

On how Head Coach Shane Steichen runs an offense:

"I didn't really watch much of the offense today. I think he's an incredible coach. I loved playing for him, and I'm not surprised at all with the success that he's having."

On keeping the team in the game when the defense is not getting stops:

“I think it’s on us. We kind of put them in that position where we turned the ball over when we were in the red zone a couple times. We just can’t do that. We can’t expect to win games when I turn the ball over in the red zone like that. I was proud of the way the guys fought. They never gave up. We always thought we were in it. It was up until that last drive that it didn’t work out for us, but everyone believed in that and I think I really appreciate that the most.”

On if the route concepts are allowing for the ball to be released quicker:

“I think it’s more so, if there’s pressure, finding the check, the hot route, and understanding that sometimes they’re going to bring more guys that we can block. So, it’s having that understanding, whether it’s changing protection, seeing the blitz, going through that stuff, so that’s just how they go.”

On mental reframing after a loss during a short week:

“Fortunately, we do that every week. As soon as the game is over, you’re going to watch it, you’re going to learn from it and you’re onto the next week. You can’t let a previous performance affect your next one. We’re going to show up tomorrow, show up the next day and we’re on to the Vikings.”

On TE Oronde Gadsden’s performance :

“I think he did an incredible job. He found ways to get open and when we needed him most, he stepped up big time. He’s done a great job all year and he’s going to continue to make big plays for us”

On what helps most in preparing during a short week:

“Just getting back to work. Showing up tomorrow and watching the film and getting back to practice.”

On what the message was during half time to turn game around:

“Just staying patient. Just going out there and executing and knowing that it wasn’t us. It was uncharacteristic in the first half – you know, trusting each other and going out there and making plays. We moved the ball pretty well in the first half. [We] just can’t turn the ball over like that.”

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS HEAD COACH SHANE STEICHEN

Opening Statement:

“I’ll open up with injuries: [DE] Tyquan Lewis [DE] has a groin and [DE] Samson [Ebukam] has a knee. Overall, just the game, great fight [and] grit by our guys. I thought our guys played well offensively doing a lot of good things, moving the ball down the field. [QB] Daniel Jones was operating at an ultimate high level. The receivers were making plays. JT [RB Jonathan Taylor] ran hard – three touchdowns. I think it’s the first time in a Colts season, a single season with three games with three touchdowns, so hats off to him for that. The defense getting the takeaways, a huge red zone stop there by [S] Nick Cross and then getting the big man interception with Grove [DT Grover Stewart] was awesome, but just a great win to go on the road and get a victory against a really good football team.”

On DT DeForest Buckner breaking away from being double teamed:

“It was big. Shoot, I was hoping he’d get three, but he got two. He faces a lot of double teams, but he’s the ultimate pro man. I mean you talk about a guy, the character, the preparation, the consistency and being relentless. I mean, you can always count on him. He’s as good as it gets. One of my favorite players for sure.”

On the trust in WR Alec Pierce:

“We had a lot of trust and whoever that ball went to and that’s where the coverage went. It was a one-on-one on the outside there and [QB] Daniel [Jones] saw it, took advantage of it right there in that opportunity and made a hell of a play to ice the game.”

On RB Jonathan Taylor's crucial chip block:

"It was huge. I'll have to go back and look at it. That's the pretty part, you guys [the media] get to see the TV copy and stuff. We just get the photos down there, but it was huge, that protection there and then the route by [WR] Alec [Pierce] hitting the big one over the top on third down, third-and-long, those were hard to convert. You know, to hit that in that situation and get our offense rolling was huge."

On coming back and playing the Chargers:

"It's great to come back here. Obviously, I got a lot of great memories here. This one was, for me, it was a little emotional a little bit just because I have so much respect for the Chargers organization from the top down and all those players. Coaching those guys and seeing the alumni day today right before pregame, it was wild. Just little memories here and there with some of the guys. I was a quality control coach when some of those guys were playing, and it was fun to see those guys. Just a ton of respect for the Chargers organization."

On how the Colts offense has progressed this season:

"You got to keep going, but I think those guys are connected at the hip. Like I said, there's stuff you don't see behind the scenes, the work that's put in every day. I mean, [QB] Daniel's [Jones] as good as it gets when it comes to the preparation. You know he's going to be prepared, and I just have no doubt he's going to play well every time we step on the field. I think our guys know that and he gets us going, our offensive line sets the tone, but his preparation is just off the charts."

On QB Daniel Jones:

"I think he understands situational football. You know what I mean? That's part of it, you know what I mean? It's like be smart in these types of situations. He's played enough ball, he knows when to take chances and when not to, and I think he's done a hell of a job."

On having success against the Chargers defense and in the red zone:

"That's a great question. I think our guys do a great job of preparing and executing for different looks that we can get down there – a ton of respect for the Chargers defense and what they do. They've been really good, so a lot of respect for those guys and their coaches. Yeah, I think our guys are just executing at a high level."

On Herbert and having consistency throughout the game:

"Yeah, there's no question with the quarterback [Justin] Herbert over there, we know how good he is. He can make all the plays, and he made a ton of plays today. You know, we have to keep fighting for 60 minutes and stay in it and obviously, getting that fourth down stop there at the end was huge and then us offensively converting those fourth downs. I think that first drive or whatever it was, converting those fourth downs in our own territory were huge plays in the game."

On RB Jonathan Taylor's recent play:

"He's the best back in the league right now, there's no doubt. I think it starts with our guys up front. He's running hard, he's running physical, he's got great vision. Yeah, he's just balling out man."

On converting fourth downs and going for touchdowns:

"Yeah, I mean you always want to score touchdowns. I think it depends on field position, but definitely with 10 [QB Justin Herbert] over there, we know there's an explosive offense with him, but felt good about the calls too you know what I mean? I think that is part of it, field position and where you are at and feeling good with the calls, and I got a lot of trust and faith in our guys to go execute it. That's kind of the thought process there."

On the reaction to DT Grover Stewart's interception:

"Oh, I didn't say that. I was just so excited. I saw when he was in the pocket, he was looking for somebody and I was yelling. They can't hear me, but I'm like, 'Hands up, get them back, hands up!' And then I think it might have been [DT] Neville [Gallimore]. I can't remember who got the tip. Oh, [DT] Grove [Grover Stewart] tipped – jeez — double? I got you, Grove. So, yeah, it was unbelievable. He got the tip and the pick, man. It was awesome to see. I mean, those guys work so hard. Grover's been a staple here in this organization for a long time. You can always count on him, always stress on him to make a play up front. It was awesome to see."

On the decision to put CB Charvarius Ward on IR:

"Yeah, that's pretty much what it is."

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS QUARTERBACK DANIEL JONES

On the efficiency up to this point in the season:

"Yeah, I mean I think that comes from [Head Coach] Shane [Steichen] obviously and the way he calls it and the way he sees the game. We try to take advantage of the opportunities that we see when we have the ball. When it's not there, I got to do a good job of checking it down and making sure we're getting something that's still a positive play for us. I think we try to do that as much as we can. I think we can go back and look at the film. There were a couple of opportunities today where we could've done better."

On the last third down conversion to WR Alec Pierce:

"Yeah, I think – obviously that's not a decision I made but you love the opportunity to end the game with the ball in your hands and the coach trusting us to make a play. I thought [WR] Alec [Pierce] made an incredible catch on that play to really seal the game."

On being aggressive on fourth down:

"I think kind of the same idea, you know. When the coach is trusting you to convert and keep the drive alive in those situations, it means a lot to us. We got to take that and make sure we execute."

On the offensive success in the red zone:

"I think a high-level. JT [RB Jonathan Taylor] with a couple of really big runs down there, that makes it easy for us. When he does that – our offensive line you know did an incredible job on both of those plays. I think it's just being prepared and knowing what to expect, executing. Today, we had a couple of looks that were a little bit different and handling those and I thought we did a good job at that. I think the gameplan and the preparation has been really big for us to execute in those situations."

On how the offense has been bouncing back after negative plays:

"I think it's just that same mindset of staying aggressive in those situations. If we have an opportunity to make a play, it's just about executing that play and kind of treating it as that one play. It's that play on its own and executing that and kind of regardless of what has happened before that."

On getting into a rhythm after having a good start:

"Yeah, I think getting in a rhythm certainly helps. I think there were some times early in the game in the first half when I felt like I wasn't as sharp or we weren't as sharp, but we did a good job kind of catching ourselves and getting back into it. You know finding a play here or finding a play there and then picking it back up. So, I think being able to do that as an offense and as a group is important."

On having the best record in the league at this point in the season:

“Yeah, I mean obviously that’s a good thing and we are excited about that for sure. I think that we’re proud of how we played to this point, but I’ll keep saying like everyone knows we got a lot in front of us and in order to accomplish what we want to accomplish and be the team that we believe we’re capable of being, we’ve got to continue to improve and work and sharpen up the things that haven’t been as sharp.”

On having the highest scoring offense in the league:

“Yeah, I mean honestly when we’re playing, it doesn’t feel like we do anything out of the ordinary or crazy. I feel like it’s just simple execution play after play. Some plays are good and some plays aren’t as good, but we kind of reset our focus and play the next play and try to make that work. I think just kind of that consistent mindset from everybody and being able to respond from a bad play or follow a good play with another good play, I think is key to that.”

On the impact of RB Jonathan Taylor:

“It’s huge. Yeah, being able to hand the ball to him when something hasn’t gone as well or you’re a little out of rhythm, being able to hand him the ball and then pop an explosive run or keep you in positive down-and-distances with a chance to keep the drive alive is huge.”

On the confidence in winning games on the road:

“Yeah, I think it helps certainly our confidence level and that’s a good football team we played today, and I thought we were able to execute and do a lot of things that we wanted to do. It helps build our confidence but like I said we go back and look at where we could’ve been sharper and what we can improve on.”