

Chargers Week 11 Media Availability

Thursday, November 16, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

On the offense's performance through the first half of the season:

"I can't say that I've spent a whole lot of time doing the big picture reflection because we're kind of in this thing, week-in and week-out, but like any season, there are going to be highs and lows, and you navigate that the best you can. Certainly, we've had some games where I feel like we've found a rhythm and played a really high level, there are other times that you feel like you can improve. Hopefully, we're finding that consistency as we continue to build this thing."

On 'if there has been a game thus far' where the offense 'found' what he 'envisioned':

"I think that there are moments in a number of games. Sometimes — last week, for example — we started, certainly, not the way that we wanted to. Finished it with some rhythm and some success on offense. Those things happen. But, you have to start faster. You're always trying to find that complete game. You're always chasing that perfection. But, that's how seasons go."

On if he has 'ever scored touchdowns on five-straight drives in a game before' as a play-caller:

"I don't know, I can't say that I looked up that stat [*laughter*]."

On his 'approach' with QB Justin Herbert when Herbert 'is on a roll like that':

"I think there's just a rhythm and feeling you want to stay with, for example, whether it's the personnel group you're in, the tempo in which you're in. Once our offense found that rhythm, I felt like we were playing at a really high level. Continue to build off of that. Every week is kind of different, you have to approach each week differently. What can we take from that game that we can, hopefully, can build off of for this game? Then, marry it up with what we needed to do to attack Green Bay."

On 'adjusting the plan' with WR Keenan Allen following injuries to WRs Mike Williams and Joshua Palmer:

"Obviously, any time you lose a guy like Mike [Williams], lose Josh [Palmer] for however many games that we do, you have to adjust. That's what seasons are — guys go down and you have unfortunate things, and then you just have to navigate and find ways to put ourselves in the best position to be successful. Everyone knows who Keenan [Allen] is, we're going to try and utilize him, put him in different spots so that, hopefully, the defense has to work, if they're going to draw attention to him. He's one of the best in the league at doing that, being able to line up in all of the different spots, play different roles. He does a phenomenal job with it."

On developing the screen game:

"The screen game has been huge. [RB] Austin [Ekeler] — once we got kind of him back — he's phenomenal on the screen game, and that's one thing, certainly, that we recognized rather quickly, once we kind of got in that groove with Austin being back. Something, it seems like every game, that we've tried to get one or two of them. He's done a great job. It's been a huge thing for us. I think that our guys do a phenomenal job. The offensive line is a big part of it, just the way that they have a feel for it. [T] Rashawn [Slater] had a couple of really key blocks on it that kind of allowed us to pin the edge and give us a chance to get out on space. It's a collective group, but it's been a good part of our offense."

On Slater 'playing like an All-Pro left tackle':

"Rashawn [Slater] has done an awesome job. From a play-caller's perspective, usually when you don't think about him, that's a really good thing. He's just been really steady over there. He has done a phenomenal job. Last week, those guys had some really good pass rushers, and he did a nice job, as the whole group did."

On utilizing the screen game and quick game 'as an extension of the run game':

"Certainly, there are other things that can be an extension of your run game, especially on first and second down, whether it's screens, quick game, outlets within the run plays, trying to give yourself different opportunities just to grab access if you get it, and some freebies. In your mind, you kind of count all of that stuff on first and second down, but at the end of the day, you want to just be fishing on first and second down — we'll take our shots when we need to, but if not, let's just keep moving this thing however we need to, and then put ourselves in solid third-down situations."

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR DERRICK ANSLEY

On the performance of DB Deane Leonard last week at cornerback:

"I was very proud of Deane [Leonard]. That was kind of a last-minute situation with Vato [CB Michael Davis] getting sick, coming out of warm-ups. Deane answered the challenge. He did a really good job defending a couple of those deep balls. There are some plays, obviously, that he would like to have back, some of those tackles, but he is a guy that we have confidence in. He's a competitor. He's strong, he's fast and he's a really good person. We were proud of him coming in there and helping us out."

On the red zone defense:

"We could always be better there. We pride ourselves on being tight down there and making guys throw it in, not run it in. I think that we've done a good job in some spots. There's always room for improvement. But, we have the right guys, the right focus. We'll continue to coach it down there."

On the message to the defense on Monday following last Sunday's game:

"It was about us. Detroit did a really good job coming in here. They started fast, we didn't. We have to tackle better in some spots. Our energy was a little bit off. It's my job to get them going and I didn't do a very good job of that. Just fixing the things that we can control, which is tackling and communication on the fundamental essences of playing football on defense."

On 'if the issues were in the execution rather than scheme':

"Yeah, and I think that if you ask the players, they would say the same thing. We have to put them in good spots and they have to go execute the calls. I always say that there are no perfect calls, it's all about the players, they have to go out there and make the plays. It's our job, as coaches, to put them in positions to make those plays and we have to do a better job, on the coaching front, to get that done, and we have to execute at a much higher rate to get the results that we want."

On if the Lions 'showed a weakness in run defense':

"I wouldn't say a weakness, I just thought that they did a really good job of coming in here and playing with energy, early. They got on the edges fast, which is a good idea because we have really good edges. When that happens, we have to have other guys make the tackles. We have to get perimeter support from the secondary, we have to get backside cutback support and we have to play team defense. They did a nice job."