



DALLAS COWBOYS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS – DECEMBER 21, 2025
DALLAS COWBOYS HEAD COACH BRIAN SCHOTTENHEIMER



On the game today

“I think when you look at the game, complementary football. We did not have that. Offensively, I thought in the first half we were terrific. They really struggled to stop us and thought we were kind of having our way. And then defensively, obviously we had our struggles in the first half. This team, talking about the Chargers of course, they do a great job of possessing the football. Got to be able to get off the field on third down and we weren't able to do that. And at the end of the day, I thought there were some untimely penalties. A touchdown came off the board and some third downs became third and long. So disappointed, but we have no time to worry about it. Got a game here in another couple days.”

On the fourth and one call

“Yeah again, I liked the call. Give them credit. They kind of spiked into the way we were motioning and got good penetration. We've had variations of that all year. And again, they won the down. It was a huge play. Ended up being a huge play in the game. Good misdirection. We had Turp [KaVontae Turpin] in the backfield, but again, they crossed our face and got the stop.”

On the Chargers drive after that stop

“Yeah again, I just talked about the complementary football. I thought we were unstoppable in the first half offensively and we struggled to stop them in the first half. And then in the second half, we got a few stops and we just couldn't gain the momentum back. The fourth-and-one was a huge play, we're down seven. And as you look back on it, that was kind of the big thing.”

On Matt Eberflus being up in the box

“I thought it was okay. I thought it was fine. Again, I think we'll watch the film and see how everything went. I know we need to get more pressure on the guy [Justin Herbert] and didn't do a great job getting pressure on him. And I thought both quarterbacks played great today. And unfortunately, their guy got the win.”

On if it's frustrating not getting pressure on the quarterback today

“Yeah, and he's slippery. I mean, he's big, he's athletic. You stand out there next to the guy and you watch him. I mean, you see what a big, tall athlete he is. But absolutely. We need to affect the passer. Especially when you're playing tight man to man and there's guys running across the field, you got to affect him and make him make some off target throws. And we didn't do a very good job of that today.”

On the left tackle spot

“[Tyler] Guyton's working his way back. Probably won't make it this week is what we think. So, move Tyler Smith out there. He certainly can play out there. And when we made the decision, we talked to Tyler Smith and the decision was made that we're going to do it for the year. And so, he'll be the left tackle. And again, I haven't seen the film, but the fact that we gave up the one sack late in two minute, in the first half. I mean I thought we pass protected a really good front. I mean, I think three of the four losses they've had, they've only gotten one sack. And so we certainly; I thought protected Dak [Prescott] pretty well and he looked very comfortable.”

On if Tyler Guyton is out for the year



“No, I don't think he's out for the year. I just think he's making his way back. And again, short weeks don't help.”

On if Tyler Smith will be at left tackle for the rest of the year

“That's the plan. Yep.”

On if Guyton comes back will he go to the right side?

“Well, it depends. No. I think Tyler could end up being the swing tackle. And again, you ask Smith in a couple days to move to left tackle, he can move to left guard. He's such a luxury to have.”

On the defense overall today

“Again, I want to watch the film. I think we certainly didn't get the stops we needed to in the first half. I don't think we did a great job getting off the field on third down. They certainly ran the ball really well. I think that they were hurting us with the run. Herbert hurt us with his legs a little bit. But again, like we talked about this week, what these guys ended up doing certainly in the second half - and I think it started in the second quarter - but they possessed the ball. And I think the time of possession was like 35-to-25. So, we have to help ourselves with not having penalties on third down. We shot ourselves offensively in the foot on third down and some third and manageables that went to third and long. And they kind of were making us check it down underneath and rallying and tackling. At the end of the day, we didn't play good enough to win on really any phase. “

On if there was any thought to call time out at the end of the first half to allow more time to go score before halftime

“Yeah, we kind of have a thought there, Tommy, where it depends on Jim called one, and then when they get inside the 10, you kind of want to do that, but there's a little bit of gamesmanship, where you want to kind of see. And I thought we played it the way we had talked about it.”

On preparing on a short week coming off this loss

“Yeah. Well, let me say this. I think at the end of the day, I'm really proud of how physical our guys played. And I'll use this example; Donovan Wilson, man. I mean, what a stud. Splits his eye open, goes in, gets stitches. I think he misses a couple plays. I mean, so you can't tell me our guys didn't play hard. You can't tell me our guys didn't play physical. We did that. I'm proud of them for that. At the end of the day, I just didn't think that we played very good complementary football. And some untimely penalties kind of limited our ability to do what we needed to do and limited opportunities for us offensively in the second half. And again, big swing in the game was the fourth down stop that they got down there in the red zone.”

On the defensive struggles

“Yeah. Again, he completed a bunch of balls on us, Mickey. They ran the ball pretty well. He extended some plays. So certainly it's things that we have to look at. But again, at the end of the day, when you give up that many yards and there's things that you didn't do well enough, I thought he made some great throws early in the game. And again, I thought we were better in the red zone, but unfortunately they hit some big plays. They hit the big touchdown to Ladd over there on our boundary and the big play in the first half or the start of the second half. We end up holding them to a field goal there, but that's what this game is going to be. But we'll look at the film and like we said, we'll make quick adjustments, get ready for Washington.”



On if he addressed the team about the playoffs

“I addressed it with them yesterday. I told the guys after the walkthrough yesterday morning, I said, hey, just so you guys know, there's a chance that we come to meetings tonight and we will have been eliminated from the postseason. I just wanted them to know that. I think most of them probably did. And then of course I addressed it last night. And what I told them was this. I said, hey, in life you're going to be given bad news and when given bad news or any news, you're given a choice of how you respond. And again, you can't watch this film and say our guys didn't play hard. They did play hard. We just didn't execute very well, didn't coach well enough to win. And it's a good football team over there that we played.”

On Diggs getting on the field today

“I thought he had a really good week in practice and prep and the way that he was working. And again, I want to see the film before I speak to how he played or really any of those guys played. But yeah, he did a good job this week.”

On Revel's play and being a rookie

“Yeah. I mean, you're a young corner in this league going up against a guy like Keenan Allen that's been in the league for, what is it? 12, 13 years? And again, like we talked about, you're out there chasing man-to-man. You got to get pressure on the quarterback to do that. And we didn't do that well enough today, that's for sure.”

On the fourth and one

“Yeah, it was asked, but I'll answer it again. Again, they made a really good play. It's a variation of a play we've run this year, and we tried to run a little belly, and the guy just spiked across our face and made a good play, but it was a huge, huge play in the game. It stopped momentum. It was a seven-point game at that time, 24-17. And again, guy did a nice job, and Hunter couldn't really get his pads square to get in behind the deuce spot.”

On how Tyler Smith played at left tackle and if its long term

“We talked about it, when you look at Guyton who's working to come back, it looks like he won't be able to make it back this week. We'll see he's doing better, but we just thought, hey, we're playing to win these games and we felt like he gives us the best chance right now. When we talked to Smith about it, he was great. He's like yeah, I'm fine. Which is pretty amazing. It's a testament to him as a competitor and as a man. And the fact that we gave up one sack in garbage time, two minute there at the end of the first half where Dak was actually being smart. I thought we passed protected well. I thought that was something that we were worried about coming into this game is the ability to keep Dak upright. We haven't done that in the last two weeks and I thought we did that tonight.”



On the team responding today knowing that they have been eliminated from the playoffs...

“Unfortunately we lost, but the effort, the focus, the mentality, all that was there. They executed the game playing better, played a better full game than us. I mean, at the end of the day, we didn't play complimentary football. The first half, we were rolling and we didn't get the stops on defense. Second half, we got the stops on defense, and we weren't doing much. The lack of that is where you're going to get the result like that against a good team who's great at controlling the ball. They did that tonight. I mean, I know there's plenty of times where I'm on the sideline getting antsy and fidgety because they do a great job of controlling the clock and just marching their way down field. We didn't make the stops when we needed to, and ultimately, we didn't score enough points.

On his thought process on the fourth-and-one handoff..

“Just do my job. It was just a dive play; not much more for me to do. [I] handed it off and we unfortunately didn't get it. [It was] a play that we've had success in the past. Seems like they were just more ready for it than our execution and they stopped us and that was the end of it for the offense.”

On what happened to the team's continuity with the passing game in the second half...

“I've got to go back and watch the film, honestly. I think as much as anything, it's that fourth down. If we get that fourth down, we're still rolling. We go score a touchdown there. It's a one-score game or a three-point game. You're just looking for a stop for us to go down, take the lead, and tie it up. When you're playing a team like that, who's really good at controlling the clock, we only had three drives in the first half. And I told the guys in the second half, we're probably only going to get three, maybe four. I think we got four. When you're playing a team like that, you've got to take advantage of those opportunities. You have to execute on every possession. And we didn't do that in the second half. So, when we didn't get that fourth down, that was kind of the air out of the bubble right there.”

On keeping the intensity up while playing knowing the team has been eliminated from the playoffs...

“Honestly, I guess it's different when you do this. I'm not firing any shots, but I've said it over and over; this is our job. We're blessed. You know how hard we've worked and the sacrifices we've got to even get to this league, 10 years in for myself, to be healthy. I said it to the team. I think it was Friday or Saturday when we were breaking down. This game has given us so much, how could you cheat it? So to answer, I don't know anything else. I'm not going to cheat this game. I'm going to give this game everything that I have, and that's just how my mind works. It's not a, 'Oh, I've got to flip back in or flip back or I can turn it off or it's not to play.' Now, that's how you get hurt. That's how you go out there and embarrass yourself. That's how you lose a job. So for me, it's about preparing, staying true to the process and staying true to how I play this game or prepare to play this game. A lot of work has went into this. I think Osa [Odighizuwa] said it best when he just broke down the team after the game. We've got two weeks left and nothing's promised in life. Our football careers damn sure aren't, so nothing in life is. Let's enjoy these two weeks, cherish, these moments, these practices, the time together with the men and the brothers that we love and we've got an opportunity to play with. This team won't be the same next year. Let's enjoy this and give it our best.”

On the optimism that Year 11 will be different...

“The work that I put into this. From last year to this year, I think you can go back to every year and there's been improvement. When you control the things that you can control, and you do it with a great attitude, put God first, you're not going to question yourself. You're not going to question your ability to accomplish something. We're going to keep working. I'm going to keep working. This team is going to keep working. The organization, obviously, is going to do things in the offseason and hopefully everything is just building for us to have a better year than we did this year. And I know for myself and anybody that I'm leading or that's following me, that'll be the message.”

On Tyler Smith playing left tackle today...



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“Put him at center. He can do it all. We're good at center, but honestly, I mean, he can play whatever he wants and that's credit to that guy. I mean, I go back to his rookie year when he was taking all the snaps of guard, Tyron [Smith], the left tackle, gets hurt the week of the game. Everybody's like, ‘Oh gosh, they got to put this first rounder out there who hadn't taken snaps at tackle all off season. Can he do it? Will he be good enough?’ And, the guy goes and has a Pro

Bowl year at left tackle. So then, the next year moving back to guard and All-Pro at guard. The moment they told me this early in the week that we're going to go with Tyler at left tackle, I was great with it. There was no hesitation in my mind. There was no doubt of what he was going to be able to do and the way that he was going to play. I watched him obviously practice and just his intentionality and his approach. That's a true football player and we're blessed to have him on our side. He can play wherever we need him to.”

On what kind of fire do you still see from Jerry Jones now after being with Dallas for 10 years...

“Yeah, a lot of fire, maybe as much here recently as I've seen. And whether it's him right against the clock and him knowing, which he'll tell you that, or the deals and the things that we've done have been invigorating. You can tell he's excited to help this team to make moves and do whatever he can and his power. For me, it's about controlling what I can. Enjoy these last two weeks with these guys and we'll have those conversations or answer any questions I'm asked when we get there.”

On if the team will be experimental during the rest of the season.

Probably after action. Yeah. For me, like I said, I'm very routine, very process oriented. So, I'm going to just keep doing what I know and the way that I know to approach the game to attack the game plans. When conversations like that come my way and I'll approach with them, I'll handle them then. But I'm not sure if that'll happen. Right now, to me, it's about building. We got a hell of a group, a hell of an offense. And it's about building on our side of the ball and whatever we can and just taking anything good, good momentum, good plays into the offseason.”

On George Pickens' bounce back game...

George being George. Them giving us opportunities, one-on-one opportunities, the coverage. A week ago, they [Minnesota] did a good job. And honestly, in this game, I think that might've been some of it in the second half if they started rolling his way a little bit more. And I don't know if we quite made the adjustments enough, but once again, I just go back, just really was that fourth down that was the tell tale there. But yeah, just the way the guy approaches the game, he had a hell of a week of practice and when the coverage gives us opportunities, I'm attacked no matter if it's George, CeeDee [Lamb] or whoever it is.

On offensive line performance despite frequent movement...

“I give them a lot of credit. They've had a hell of a year and that's a group of a bunch of young guys who you just said were asked to do a bunch of different things, whether it was guys coming in, playing when they weren't expected to playing, being Nate (Thomas), Brock (Hoffman) coming in for a few games. Now Tyler's (Smith) going outside to left (tackle). It hasn't been a lot of continuity, right? However, whatever they're asked to do, that group is winning there and I credit Connor Riley, Klayton Adams, and obviously each and every one of those men in that room of just their preparation, the professionalism and just handling whatever they've been asked to do at a high level. And I know it goes both ways. I tell them all the time, right, fight your ass off and I'm going to fight for you. We're in this together when it comes to sacks and protecting the ball. They've done a hell of a job.”

On if it's difficult without continuity...

“Not necessarily. No. I think that that challenge of that has been fun and watch these guys answer the bell and produce and keep me upright. And even games that I've got hit a little bit more than the others. Watching their demeanor, watching their mentality, watching them respond to that and get better. No.”



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On not making playoffs despite bounce back season...

"It's football. It's a team game. That's what makes this game special. It's what makes this game unique. It's the ultimate team game. It's not even just about me. It's not even just about the offense at times, right? It's not just about the defense. It's a full unit. It's a full team effort and everybody has to play together and they have to play complimentary. You've got to take advantage of your opportunities, the situations that the game gives you, the different matchups each week presents. It's just unfortunate. It's exciting knowing in year 10 I'm playing my best and to go back to Calvin (Watkins) to answer his point, I'm only going to get better in my mind about the way that I work and what I put into this game. It's tough. It's frustrating, but it's what this business is about and that's what makes it special."

On Tyler Smith claiming a loss of attention to detail especially against playoff teams...

"I don't know if I feel the same just yet. Got to watch the film. When you present that question, I guess I think about the three-game winning streak playing against some good teams and when it got tougher, guys were actually producing more and making the plays in those games actually on the tougher side of the game rather than in the beginning. So it's hard to say that exactly, but I know as a leader of this team, especially as the offense, it will be addressed at some point or another, whether it's now or whether it's at the end of it. But I think maybe youth has a good reasoning for that, if that is the case. And guys will understand as they get older, right? Sometimes the guys put a lot on themselves and hell, I did it when I was young, right? You put more pressure on yourself than ever is called for rather than just going and executing and doing what you've done your whole life and what you've been coached to do. Some of that comes with great leadership. Fixing that comes with great leadership. And then the other part comes with just experience, understanding that you've made it harder on yourself in those moments. How can you fix that communication as well? That'll be something I'm sure Schotty (Brian Schottenheimer), myself and all of us, that'll be talked about at the end of these two weeks more than tomorrow."

On preferring the shorter period after today's loss...

"I'd rather the shorter period. Win, lose or draw. I'm a fan of Thursday games. I know I'm probably one of the only men in the league, but I'd just rather go out and play. Love practice, don't get me wrong, it's where you get better. You got to have it, but there's just something about the game, that's what we do it for. Being in it so long, I understand the process and taking care of my body for the next couple of days to be ready to play my best on Thursday. But yeah, in the situation particularly that we're in, not playing for the playoffs or things like that, yeah, you just want to get back out there and redeem yourself."



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On the win.

“Great win, great team win. Thought we played, I mean, pretty close to our best in all three phases.”

On what went into shutting out a team in the second half for the second time in a row.

“Well, Jesse and the defensive staff. Played the run better, and put more of a roof on it, more split safety coverage to take away the big plays, and take away three. Played the run better right from the start of the half. Getting that run play better, and so we could give more help to their playmakers. Be able to double them more.”

On the play of Tre’ Harris.

“Tremendous. I think four catches, over 100 yards. One of the best catches of his career. Great speed in routes the entire day, blocked well, just a great game. Stating the obvious. Master of the obvious.”

On a broader level, offensively, just how encouraging it was to see the passing game get going after the last few weeks leaning into the run game.

“Yeah, it was good to see both run game and the pass game thriving. Justin had time to throw, and he was on fire, starting in pregame. I mean, everything was dialed in, and that was the entire first half, then the second half. He never really missed. It was the second half throw, the third and six or seven. That was... may never have a better throw than that. Just clutch, just so great, used his scrambling ability, moving the chains. I thought, really, just so much good, good, good, good, good, good. Play callers, great Greg Roman. I thought he had a great game. So did Jesse Minter. Shut that team out in the second half, made the adjustments, just so much good. Great to see so many guys. Our team is really, it’s player led, it’s player driven. These are player-led wins. Coaching’s good. Coaching matters, but the players are the ones leading this team. It all started with Justin Herbert and Derwin James, and it has been infectious. The leadership, so many guys on this team are tremendous example-setters, tone-setters, leaders, and it’s so great to see the young guys doing it, just following. KeAndre Lambert-Smith, for example. Tremendous third-down pickup. Second effort, third effort to get that first down. Quentin Johnston. Ladd McConkey, was another tremendous game by him. He was open at all times. Tre’ Harris, young guy, but the guys feed off of Zion Johnson. They just follow his example on a daily basis. He’s been tremendous. Great to see Austin Deculus step in and have a great game. Trevor Penning, that was one of the best blocks I’ve ever seen. It was so good they called a hold on it. I’ll have to go back and look at the tape, but I did not see a hold. It was a tremendous block. It was football. Thought he did great. Boze, Mekhi, Bobby Hart, what a great guy, what a great teammate he is. And Teair Tart, he really set the tone there for us in the second half, getting that TFL. Da’Shawn Hand continues to play great. Daiyan Henley, one of our captains, leading us, tremendous. Great to see Elijah Molden back and playing, and so many guys. Cameron Dicker. Our best playmakers and best leaders also are the guys who work the hardest, train the hardest, care the most about the team, and it’s unselfish in the way of, they’re always trying to give each other, somebody else, the credit. There’s never seamless self-promotion by any of our guys. They just want to play good. They just want to be good for their team. And it’s in a good place. It’s in a good place.”

On saying Herbert was dialed in before the game. What did he notice today that was different?

“Yeah, it’s kind of one of the reasons I watch warmups. That’s pretty much who I watch in warm-ups. There’s other guys that watch warmups, but I could tell just by catching the ball in warmups. He’s great every warmup, but he was dialed in the whole time. It was fantastic quarterback play. It’s definitely MVP caliber. He’s doing things game after game that are reserved for only the best that are in the game and have ever played the game. That third and seven. My goodness gracious. That was some kind of throw.”

On what cues he saw before the game that made him Herbert was dialed in.

“Yeah, that’s pretty much who I watch in warmups. There’s other guys I watch in warmups, but I could tell just by catching the ball in warmups. He’s great every warmup, but he was dialed in the whole time. It was a fantastic quarterback play. It’s definitely MVP caliber. I mean, he’s doing things game after game that are reserved for only the best that are in the game and have ever played the game. That third and seven, my goodness gracious as my grandmother Jessie would say, that was some kind of throw...She would just say ‘Goodness Gracious’ when something was really good.”

On the fourth and one stop.

“Yeah, that was huge. We’d gotten the stop previous, but that really put an exclamation point on it. Two fourth down stops.



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That was fourth and a half a yard. I don't know who all were providing the knockback, but I think it was three or four guys and filled those gaps and knocked them back. It was one of the plays of the game.”

On overcoming injuries.

“Great players, great playmakers, great leaders and morale. I mean, Napoleon Bonaparte said morale is to the physical as three is to one. Meaning that a force of troops of a thousand that were highly motivated, talented and well trained could defeat an army of 3,000 that weren't highly motivated. I just go back to that. Justin Derwin, they're the ones who really ... They're the examples. They're the ones who really started, but it's throughout the entire team. Is that infectious? Yes, that's infectious. My daughter, Katie, just had her 15th birthday, and she's got a smile and a laugh that is priceless. I mean, it's our family's most prized possession that we have, and that's infectious. I go home and it could be a bad day, but I see that smile and that laugh. It's the same that I noticed with our team, the way our players lead. It is player led all the way.”

On if he has injury updates.

“I do not.”

Final statement.

“Happy flight. Give ‘em hell. On to the Texans.”



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LOS ANGELES CHARGERS PODIUM



Justin Herbert, Quarterback

On his reflections on the game ...

"I thought all three phases played really well. Defense came up with some big stops, I think held them to shut out in the second half. And that's kind of the game that we were expecting. We know they are a very good football team. They're much better than their record indicates. And for us to be able to walk away out of this place with a win, I think it's really good for us."

On the two halves and how what looked like an emerging shootout turned out to be something else ...

"I think that's just the NFL. You're going up against a really good team and defenses are going to have time to adjust. They're going to go in at halftime and talk about what the other team is doing well, what they need to do to kind of change that. So I think that's just part of the game, but we kept fighting all throughout four quarters."

On whether he is getting more comfortable week to week with his wrapped up hand ...

"Yeah, it's getting better. I think the swellings going down. I got much better grip on the ball now. And so I think every week, every day helps and just getting used to it and allowing the bone to heal. So it's been good so far."

On whether he took a shot on his hand during his long scramble ...

"I think it's my elbow. No, the hand held up pretty well today. Just kind of landed on it funny."

On overall, how it felt to get the passing game going ...

Yeah. I think Coach Roman did a great job of calling the game the way he needed to win the game. And I think in weeks past, we've definitely had a big emphasis on the run and we felt like we were going to be able to run the ball really well and I think we did. And so today it was kind of, we're going to throw the ball a little and we're going to run it well too. So I think having both of those phases of our offense, I think it just helps us overall."

On whether a game like today shows the different ways that you guys can win as an offense ...

Yeah. I think it's always different. You'd love to go score a bunch of points and it's going to change from week to week. Certain teams do certain things and again, certain looks you're going to want to run or pass. And so I think Coach Roman just calls it the way he sees we need to do it to win. And so that's one of those things that we really appreciate from him. And just tying everything together, the run, play action, pass game. When we're able to do all three of those things, we're at our best."

On the pass protection and if it was clean ...

"I think those guys did a great job today. We got the ball out quick, had a great protection plan and really we're on our stuff this week. So it's a shout out to the front five for just communicating, talking and blocking as well as they did. Giving me time to get the ball off for sure."



On his scramble and the ball came loose and he hit his hand, and it looking like the TV camera caught him smiling ...

"I don't remember smiling. I landed on my elbow. So I think I thought I was going to score, should have made a better cut and then just kind of needed a moment on the ground. So nothing, nothing too crazy."

On how his hand is doing ...

"It's getting better. Yeah. Just getting the swelling down, just getting better grip and mobility of it, that's been the biggest thing. And I felt like today I could have hold onto the ball better. So I think as long as we're going in the right direction, it's good."

On when he goes on runs, is it his intention to run people over and make contact ...

"No, that's not really my mindset. My mindset is to go get as many yards as I can. And I think Q was doing a great job of blocking the defender. And I think I made a poor cut. I thought I was going to go one way and he ended up going that way. And so I got tackled and that's on me as a ball carrier to be better, to have better vision, be able to set up my blockers. But it's just something I got to work on. Nah, my intention was not to run anyone over. I have to do my best to avoid as many hits as I can, but anytime you can get the sideline going and show them that you're not willing to back down, I think that's cool too."

On if he would rather avoid talking about his hand during the week ...

"No, I think I've kind of gotten over that. I think it's really sometimes tough in the NFL where you don't want to talk about it and you don't want to give other teams a target to go after. And so it's one of those things where I want to be honest as I can with you guys, but at the same time, you don't want to like -- It is what it is. Teams will target you. And so I think that's the tough part. I don't mind talking about it. I think it's gotten a lot better and it's part of the game. At the end of the day, it's an entertainment business and I'm on the injury port and I got to talk about it. So it's not too bad."

On Quentin Johnston, his adjustments, one-hand catch or back-shoulder catch, and how much he's developed ...

"Those are passes where you believe in him and you say, "You know what? I'm betting on Q and he goes and makes some big plays." And there was another one that I could have thrown further and I should have laid out further, but Q is just, he's gotten so much better. It's really tough to track the ball like that and especially running down field. So I've got so much respect for receivers and what they're able to do. And Q's stepped up so big time over the past couple of weeks and it's definitely a part of his game where we definitely need to throw him more. If he's able to make plays like that, that's on me to get in the ball in space and allow him to go do his thing."

On Coach Harbaugh saying he had cues that we would have a good game...

"You go into every game thinking you're going to have a good game. So, I'm glad that he thought that. But no, I think there's something cool about being able to throw to him pregame where you got the head guy and he's out catching passes from you, and it gives you a bit of a routine and I think that's really helpful. And I can hear him talking and hyping everyone up. So, I think it's really cool".

On if Coach says anything specific...

He just says "way to spin it." We're warming up and I'll throw a couple slants or a couple other routes and you just hear him; " way to spin it," and he's right back there watching and he's just excited to get after it.



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On the win streak and being in the playoff picture...

“Yeah. I think the really cool thing about this team is we've kind of taken it week by week and we're never looking too far ahead and we're never looking too far back. And we're able to pick each other up. And the past couple of weeks, I think the defense has done such a great job of just helping us out. And today we were able to kind of help out a little bit. And I think when all three phases are playing complimentary and for each other, I think that's when we're at our best. And so to be a part of a group that just show up every day and work, go to practice, take advantage of the opportunity and then show up on game day, that's what you got to do in this league.”

On his pregame catch with Coach...

“Yeah, that's right when we come out as a team for warmups. We're out maybe two hours before throwing to the receivers and going through our pregame warmups. But with Coach Harbaugh is right when the team kind of comes out for warmups... Yeah, usually we'll warm up a little bit and then we'll go throw ten routes to him and he'll run..he doesn't run them, but he runs like a slant, an out and a couple other routes that he just catches...He spots up. And so, it's kind of just thrown to where that route would end up. And so, it allows you to kind of get your timing down with your rhythm and your steps.”

On if he envisioned winning the division before the season...

“Yeah, we really thought really highly of this team. And Coach Harbaugh said we're in a position to be in a position and I think that's all you can ask for where we're playing meaningful football in December and a lot of teams aren't. And that's the tough part about the NFL and guys have continued to show up and I think they're really thankful for the opportunity to be here and we've got a really good opponent coming to town next week and so we got to be on our stuff this week and make the most of every opportunity we get”.

On Coach saying his performance was like MVP stuff...

“Yeah, well I appreciate that. I think a lot of it goes the offensive line for the job they did today and the run game and then Keenan, Q, Lad, Trey and Dre, they made some big plays for us too. So, to have guys like that, able to throw it to them, they make my job so much easier. So, I'm really thankful for them.”

On saying please during the coin toss...

“I think, yeah, usually I always say please. You know, it doesn't hurt. Maybe we've been pretty good at coin tosses this year, so maybe that's the reason. But I think it's best to just put up good energy and hopefully you'll be able to win the coin toss.”

On if did not say please before?

“Like last year? Yeah. I think I probably did. I don't know. I think it's just one of those things you go out and if you happen to say please, please, and just maybe it helps you.”