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## Chargers Week 3 Media Availability

Thursday, September 22, 2022 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR JOE LOMBARDI

#### **On preparations for this week's game involving QB Justin Herbert:**

"You have your game plan, and there are a handful of plays that might be Justin [Herbert] only, but you put a plan together and most of it spans whatever quarterback plays. I think we will be all right. There might be a handful of plays that we scratch out if Justin is not playing, but we will be ready."

#### **On 'issues' with the run offense:**

"I think some of it is situational. We've had a lot of short-yardage runs. We have had an inordinate amount of third-and-one, third-and-two, so you're converting some of those, but they are not big gains. Some of it is just execution. Some of it is a good player on the other side that made a play. It's early in the season. I think when you watch who we have running the ball, who we have blocking for him, in a few weeks, it is not going to be as big of a deal, but it is certainly something we're focusing on."

#### **On the run game's efficiency dependent upon the opposing defense's gameplans:**

"They've been playing the run well in some cases, but I think it's too early to tell. It's something we're monitoring."

#### **On the Jaguars' defensive front:**

"They're good. I think you were aware that the ends were going to be an issue coming into it. Then, as you watch the film, these inside players are pretty active, too. It's a good group. It's one of the strengths of the defense. They sure put it on Indianapolis this past week. It's challenging."

#### **On if Jaguars Defensive Coordinator Mike Caldwell's defensive scheme is inspired from Tampa Bay Buccaneers Head Coach Todd Bowles' defensive scheme:**

"One, we only have two games on it. I would say it's certainly not a carbon copy. There is some carryover, of course, but there are different personnels. It certainly changes the way that you're going to defend people. It's certainly not the same defense. There is some carryover, but not exactly the same. It's another one of those weeks where you're watching the film and you're a little unsettled because there is just not a lot of information to go by yet. It's not like we felt that diving into Tampa would give us a lot of answers, as far as what they're doing."

#### **On RB Joshua Kelley's performance through the first two games:**

"He's always a guy that's been decisive, runs hard. Sometimes, he made a decision when it wasn't the right decision. You feel like his vision has been a little bit better, as far as picking the right holes. That's been the big thing."

**On Herbert's interception returned for a touchdown against the Chiefs and TE Gerald Everett's responsibility on the play:**

"It's one of those things that the play ends, and it's a call that comes out quickly —I'm up in the box, a thousand feet up or whatever it is, I said a thousand feet but that might be a mile [laughter], I was far up. I think it's something that I just need to pay more attention to. Having seen that, I think you can overthink it. It was a bad play. I wish it didn't happen. I feel responsible for not seeing where [TE] Gerald [Everett] was on that. It's one of those things, it's like it's everybody's fault and it's nobody's fault. It's one of those things that happened and it was unfortunate. I think we'll learn from it and be better for it."

**On if Chargers Head Coach Brandon Staley 'made the decision to go tempo' on the eventual interception returned for a touchdown:**

"It was my call."

**On if Everett 'deserves the blame' for what transpired on that play:**

"Like I said, I could have noticed it. Gerald could have ran more. Justin could have not thrown it. There are a lot of people that could have bailed us out of that, starting with me. It's a bummer. We all wish it wouldn't have happened, but it did and you move on. You learn from it and move on."

**On C Will Clapp's performance last week:**

"Good. I thought he did well. He's been in that situation before. He played that role last year in New Orleans where the center was responsible for a lot more. It's something that he's comfortable with and we're comfortable with him doing it."

**On WR Joshua Palmer's performance last week and 'not getting many receptions':**

"I think there were a couple wide routes where maybe Josh [Palmer] was a little deeper than we wanted him. There was a third down throw that I think Josh was fine. We just missed the throw. They've had a lot of reps in practice. I think they're just fine."

**On if Herbert 'wouldn't have had the quarterback pressures' if C Corey Linsley had not gotten injured:**

"I think the one that was backed up, it was another tempo, and so you kind of go up, you have to know the MIKE. I'm not sure we would have done anything different if Corey was in there. Short week. If you had to do it over again, you would have been more aware and push the center the other way. He can line up either side, so you're not always sure where he is. When you're going fast, you kind of snap it and live with it. I wish we hadn't on that rep"

**On G Zion Johnson's performance through the first two games and 'if there is a play that he wishes he could have back':**

"Everyone has a play that you wish you had back. Overall, I think he's been outstanding."

**On Herbert's performance after sustaining the injury:**

"Pretty impressive. I don't have the TV copy [in the coaches booth], so I saw the play end, but I didn't see all of his expressions and everything. You're certainly concerned. The three toughest guys that I have ever been around are [former NFL QB Drew] Brees, [Rams QB Matthew] Stafford and Justin [Herbert]. He's a tough guy, you see it, but it's pretty impressive that he can do that under the conditions."

**On if Herbert's injury status 'affects the way he calls plays':**

"I think that's always the case. You never want your quarterback to get hit. I think it'll be a game-by-game basis, just with how he's doing."

**On Johnson's performance against Chiefs DT Chris Jones in the first half of last week's game:**

"It's encouraging. He's a good player. He hasn't really had a bad day since he's been here. I keep saying, when he blocks people, they usually stay blocked. No one is 100 percent, but he's darn close. I think he's going to be a good player for a long time."

**On Jaguars OLB Josh Allen:**

"I don't have a ton of history with the player, but I see a guy that looks like he was a first-round draft pick. He has a good get-off, a good rush plan, talented. He's a guy that concerns you. The guy on the other side, [OLB Travon Walker] seems like it is going to be a repeated theme this year. You have two really A-plus rushers on each edge that you're going to have to deal with."

## **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR RENALDO HILL**

### **On the performance of the run defense through the first two games:**

"I thought that we've been pretty stout for the most part, besides a run here and there. Obviously, disappointed for the guys because they want to be perfect, but I do feel the size up inside. I feel like the secondary is doing a better job of supporting when it gets to the second level. That's definitely something to build upon, up through Week 2. I'm happy with the way that it is going right now."

### **On the defensive line contributing to the linebackers' efficiency in decision-making in run defense:**

"We ask those guys up front for a lot, to hold up double teams at the point of attack and not letting it bleed into the linebacker's lap. They've been doing a great job, so it's allowing our linebackers to play freely and get downhill, or even stack and fall back when we need to. When those double teams hold up and it's not getting to the second level, it's a good thing for our defense."

### **On S Derwin James Jr.'s tackle at the goal line of Chiefs TE Travis Kelce:**

"I know that he was a physical guy, you see him all of the time, but it probably goes to the statement when the up front guys — the O-line and D-line guys — in the weight room say, 'Does Derwin lift with you?' Derwin's comment is, 'No, they lift with me.' [*Laughter*] That's pretty much his mindset right there and that's how he plays."

### **On his reaction to the tackle:**

"I saw the ball had popped out, so I was excited. A big hit, along with a turnover, that's something that you ask for from our star player. It was exciting. I know that everybody saw it on the Twitter feeds and the other social accounts, I know that I put it on rewind a few times [*laughter*]. That was an impressive play."

### **On if he ever made a tackle like that during his playing days:**

"No, I would've never made that play — [Chiefs TE Travis] Kelce would have been in the end zone on that one [*laughter*]. He's a physical guy. Great leverage. Everything about the play that we tackle about when tackling, it showed up on that one play right there."

### **On CB Asante Samuel Jr.'s performance through the first two games:**

"He's been playing lights out. The confidence level is there. Year 2, he's not doing a whole lot of thinking, he's doing what he's been doing since Pop Warner, just reacting and playing. That's what we like to see. We knew that he had that in him when he was at Florida State. When you're going through that whole [draft] process with him coming out [for the draft], that was one of the main things that people said, that he's confident and he's a reactor. That's what we want to bring out and highlight, what he does best."

### **On CB J.C. Jackson's performance last week in his first game:**

"I thought J.C. did a pretty good job in his first game. Obviously, he's still a little hampered from the injury, but I felt him over there. He played the techniques that we needed him to play. He made it difficult for those guys."

### **On Jackson's coverage of Kelce:**

"We did a lot of different things with Derwin [James Jr.] on [Travis] Kelce, as well as J.C. That combination of both of those guys, whether you have the bigger body, and then even with J.C., he's not a little guy over there in the boundary, you feel his size. He's a little bit more cat-quick, as well. I think that with those combinations, we really enjoyed seeing what it brings to our unit."

### **On S JT Woods' development and 'what the staff needs to see' out of Woods before activating him on gameday:**

"I think that it's more so about the numbers, obviously. The roles on special teams and how they play out, that's going to play a lot into it. Defensively, he's steady coming on. We feel comfortable with the safety package that we have in there, and we also have emergency safeties, just in case. However the numbers shake out, and we can maybe spare some for the offense maybe due to something that happens on that side with an injury. That's kind of how it shook out that week. He's coming along. He's a rookie, he is going to continue to grow. He's approaching it, each day out there, that he is going to be active, and we're expecting that. If he keeps doing that, we'll see more of JT Woods on Sundays."

**On who the 'emergency safeties' are:**

"I don't want to do that, just in case there's an emergency [*laughter*]. We want to leave it a little bit of a surprise for those guys."

**On Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence:**

"He's a talented guy. He was the first pick overall. You saw him a lot at Clemson and how he just ripped it up with those talented guys over there. I think he's coming into his own little bit. He had the first year. What happens, a lot of times, you get a chance to reflect on the season. Obviously, a different scheme. I think they're highlighting his strengths. He's a guy that if you spread it out and let him go through his progressions, he can make all the throws, he can use his legs, so he's a dangerous guy. We have our hands full this week. It seems like that's going to be a common thing throughout the years, I mean you have [Chiefs QB] Patrick Mahomes one week, and now you have another big, athletic, strong quarterback that's coming in here this week. He's doing a terrific job with that group over there, and you saw him even make the jump from Week 1 to Week 2. The improvement is there with this guy and he's playing really good ball."

**On the Jaguars' support of Lawrence's development:**

"They did a great job of putting some good pieces around them, some good skill. That helps. Obviously, the [offensive] line has been playing really solid. That's been helping him. I think they're designed things around his skillset and I think it's allowing him to showcase really what he can do as the number one pick in the draft. If they keep building that, they're going to be a dangerous group."

**On the Jaguars' ability to 'disguise looks with motion and three wide receiver sets':**

"They do a good job. That goes back to his days at Philadelphia, [Head] Coach [Doug] Pederson. There's some eye candy there, but it's also the scheme of it, as well, how they're getting our guys moving and trying to get everybody discombobulated. We have to do a good job with our eyes and knowing our scheme, as well. We're taking our guys through the paces, whether that's in walk-through, and then trying to get the live reps at it. It's definitely a complicated scheme. We have to tackle this week with every rep."

**On developing 'designer pressure looks'**

"I think that's the biggest thing, trying to get them into longer situations where those setups can express themselves. That's what we want, we want to put them in the third-and-10, 11-plus, so our premium guys can get up there and rush and we can put those designer rushes in with [LB] Kyle [Van Noy] and [OLB] Chris Rumph [II], K9 [LB Kenneth Murray Jr.], all of those guys. We're trying to get it to express itself, but we're letting those guys know that it starts on first and second down, stopping the run."

**On if the 'designer looks' were 'in the scheme last year':**

"We had elements of it, but, obviously, when you get different personnel in there, it expresses itself a little bit better. We're trying to highlight everyone's strengths when we can. Third down, that is a premium time for us to do so. If we can get in those situations, we're going to try to put them to use."

**On Jaguars RBs James Robinson and Travis Etienne:**

"Both talented runners. We talked about their one-cut, downhill running. Obviously, [Travis] Etienne in the passing game. Both of them can make you miss. Good complements to each other. We have our hands full. We definitely have to do a good job of wrapping up with these guys because you've seen a ton of people make contact and fall off, and these guys get excess yards, so we have to do a good job of making sure that we get a lot of a lot of guys to the ball."