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Chargers Week 14 Media Availability

Thursday, December 7, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

On the offense's performance against the Patriots:

"The production wasn't, obviously, what we wanted. You protect the football, you avoid the sacks, you avoid the big negatives — which, it is a positive. Ultimately, we just didn't make enough plays to have an efficient and effective game. It is what it is. Whether you play these different elements and all of those sorts of things, I thought our guys handled it really well. Again, to protect the football. I thought [QB] Justin [Herbert] threw it well in the elements. Those two things, obviously, in a positive light did help us that day."

On dropped passes:

"Obviously, trends happen through seasons. Certainly, we've missed some opportunities. Again, it's hopefully something that we can acknowledge, be very aware of and, hopefully, continue to progress and get past it. I think our guys are more than capable of moving past this and getting to the next aspect of this thing, of just playing cleaner football."

On the running backs:

"I think there's definitely competition for a lot of different situations for us. I think that's important to keep the competition alive throughout the season. I feel great about where those guys are going. I think we've had an awesome week. I'm excited about, I think [RB] Austin [Ekeler] is going to play great this week, [RB Joshua] Josh [Kelley] will play great. I think both of those guys are going to respond in a really positive way. I'm excited for them."

On RB Austin Ekeler:

"I wasn't here, obviously, last year, so I can't compare the two. I've loved working with Austin. I'm excited with where we're going. I think we're going to handle this challenge that we've had the last few weeks the right way and respond the right way. Certainly, the run game is part of that thing. We want to get that thing to come alive. It has come alive at moments. We just have to all team up together and make that happen."

On the Broncos' defense:

"Turnovers have been a huge thing. Obviously, we've seen the big sway of when they win, when they lose, how this five-game winning streak occurred. Turnovers are the big thing. You have to protect the football. They do a phenomenal job of emphasizing it. They have playmakers. They have guys with ball skill on the back end that have played a ton of football and play really well together. It's a challenge. They're definitely playing a confident game right now."

On the running backs:

"I think games sometimes play themselves out. I think both of those guys — again, both guys will get opportunities, certainly that. I feel really good about the way they've responded this week. What those numbers ultimately are, we'll kind of see how that goes. I feel great about where they're headed. I think, for all of us, we didn't play. I don't think this is all about the running backs. I think it's about all of us, myself included, that the run game is not to the standard that we want it to be. We're all teaming up together, working together to make this thing happen.

"We still feel great about Austin. I think sometimes, other guys, you sneak in and give them opportunities. Austin is going to roll. He's going to do some Austin things for us. I don't think we're going to see this drastic change here. Josh [Kelley] earns opportunities, other guys earn opportunities throughout the season. I'm really excited about those guys."

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR DERRICK ANSLEY

On if he has ever coached a defense that shut out the opponent in a game:

"In the NFL? No. First one. It was more important to get the win. Whether it was six to three or 36 to 33, just trying to get the win. We just kept telling the DBs, linebackers and D-line to get one more stop, keep making routine plays — don't get tired of making routine plays. We made enough of them at the end and held it down late."

On if the defense 'is playing their best down the stretch':

"I think that is to be determined. I've always said, and I feel like, our best football is ahead of us. We haven't hit our stride yet. There's still a level or two that we can get to, and that's what we're striving for on the practice field. Yesterday was our fastest time, as a DB group, in, really, about six weeks, so we're getting better on the practice field and we're getting stronger, we're flying to the ball. Those habits usually trend in your favor down the stretch."

On the defensive backs 'recording their fastest times':

"It's in terms of the collective group's highest speed and intensities. We track that every day. We're hitting our peak at the right time."

On utilizing GPS mechanisms to record and track player movements during practice:

"Correct, we track their movements and high speeds, then we compare them to see if we can prevent the soft tissue injuries. We use that data, and the data is coming out where those guys are moving at a good rate."

On the defense's performance last week against the Patriots:

"It was a group effort. I don't think that it was our best game, even though it was maybe our best game on the scoreboard. The guys fought for four quarters. We played hard. But, it wasn't as clean as it needed to be, and the players understand that. There are some technique things and some fundamental things that we can clean up that we have to continue to stress and harp on. Coach [Staley] is right, it was a shut out, but it wasn't a shut out performance, by our standards."

On the Broncos' offense and 'how much of their success is centered around the run game':

"A lot of it. Over the last six weeks, they've been in the top three or four in the league in terms of run rate. They make a conscious effort to get the backs involved. [Broncos QB] Russell [Wilson] is a big part of that. The RPO game is an extension of the run game. They do a really good job. Those backs are really good with [Broncos RB Javonte] Williams and [Broncos RB Samaje] Perine, they do a really good job. The tight ends can block in the C-gap area. The O-line is physical. We have our hands full this week. We're definitely looking forward to the challenge. It's an AFC West game. [S] Derwin [James Jr.] said it best, these count for two. It'll be a god challenge for us."

On OLB Khalil Mack:

"I think that we need to value the time that we have around him because he is special. This is what he does on a day-to-day basis. He is consistent. I sit between him and D.J. [James] in the team meetings and he comes in every day with the same approach, 'How you doing, D.A.?' Same thing every day. He's consistent that way. I'm proud of him. Good teammate, he's done a really good job of helping the young guys in his room. He's having an outstanding year, but he wouldn't make it about himself. The guys are helping him get those numbers. He's playing physical. He's our leader. We're happy that he is doing well."

On Mack 'not talking about his numbers, only about team wins':

"The only thing that he is worried about is the win total. He is chasing a Super Bowl and we have to do everything that we can to help him get to that milestone."