



## MIAMI DOLPHINS QUOTES

*Sunday, October 12, 2025*

*Postgame – L.A. Chargers*

### Miami Dolphins Head Coach Mike McDaniel

#### **What's your message to just try to keep everybody together?**

MIKE MCDANIEL: I think it's pretty simple. That sucks. The way you can make it suck more – I think I'm not worried about the team staying together, I'm worried about us getting our football right and I think that's the fourth game that we've lost in the final couple minutes this season where it's been a one-score game and we haven't come out victorious, so you've got to figure that out. There's no doubt that there's guys that are hurting from the game that we let slip away, but and? I think the biggest thing is that I believe in the human beings, coaches, players and while we didn't get it done, they did show me why I believe in them. I think the resolve was real. I think we had a quarter that was very much less to be desired and ended up being down 10 points in the fourth quarter and got ourselves to position with the lead with 46 seconds left and we didn't finish the game that we started. The message is it's hard to get victories in the National Football League and so there's times when you do a lot to do it right, but we had turnovers that we could have managed better. Our special teams has done a good job all year in terms of impacting the game. I thought they did a good job this game and then you don't want to see that much return yardage. You don't want to have it on the 40 and defend from the 40 with one timeout. So these are the things that you have to go through, but we will collectively get back to work tomorrow because that's what you do and go face the next opponent while trying to correct this stuff from the tape.

**QB Tua Tagovailoa said shortly that some players have not been either going to players-only meetings or being late. I'm curious how aware were you of that's been going on. Is that something that you're worried about – fracturing in the locker room, guys not buying in, whatever the case may be?**

MIKE MCDANIEL: Player-led meetings are extra things outside of what I demand. We've been very accountable to me. It sounds like there was something on his mind with regard to the specific meetings with a couple individuals that he was trying to get corrected by being direct with communication. I think that's the only way to lead. As far as where we've been at as a program, I think we've opened the air on all of that and it's very clear how we hold people accountable and what's non-negotiable with all those things. Clearly he's sending a message, but from my standpoint, everything that I've asked of the guys, they have delivered on and so I'm sure whomever he's talking to, they'll deliver as well as he's a direct communicator with his teammates.



## How did you see the decisive long pass to Chargers WR Ladd McConkey?

MIKE MCDANIEL: Part of winning football games is executing your best technique and fundamentals at the end of the game. There's not one player or play that dictates the game. It's an accumulation of that, but when you're in a position to win a football game and you have a quarterback in your grasp, I think the play previous and that Ladd (McConkey), we have a potential sack. A potential sack in that situation is monumental because then they have to burn a timeout because then they're behind the sticks and now they have no timeouts, which can affect however you get points. We were unable to come up with that sack. I think there was a couple people that had opps. He got the ball out, and then it comes back to more fundamentals and technique where you're bringing your feet in space. We had an overrun tackle, so very controllable and it's a tough one to experience because it's at the root of the techniques and fundamentals we been talking endlessly about, how to bring ball carriers down. That was a big play in the game. It didn't decide the game; however, it could have been the decider for us if we make plays that I think we have the ability to across the board. So that's something that needs to stand out for the guys. The loss will stand out. You want to attach it to something so that you can learn from it. One of the learning lessons to me will be our technique and fundamentals to close out games, because the parity in the National Football League, that is the formula you're trying to solve. Whatever the stats are on how close the scores are on average, it's a one-possession league or one-possession-score league. So we have to figure out how to do that and until we do that, we're going to end up feeling the way we feel. I'm pretty sure guys are way over that, so we need to get back to work.

## Can you break down what happened coming out at half? It goes touchdown, interception, touchdown real quick there.

MIKE MCDANIEL: Yeah, it was not the way that we spent our halftime trying to really attack the game. I think we had a four-point lead, and in football, it's close quarters. You're a little off on a throw and ends up being an interception. I think that quarter in particular was the least complementary football that we played. I believe our successes came from I think the first takeaway that we got. I think 'JB' (Jordyn Brooks) recovered a fumble, and then the next play we scored a touchdown. I think in the fourth quarter we were down two scores with about 13 left if I remember correctly; then we scored maybe with about seven. Then they had one first down and we forced a punt and then we went back down on a five-minute drive to score. We are getting the type of football we want when we play complementary football between the three phases, and we're letting it snowball too much. That's been the case in other games. We've been trying to nip that in the butt, but it showed up in the third quarter and cost us for sure.

One-score games, you mentioned this is the fourth one. Tua earlier said that's kind of how football goes. At what point do you say a one-score loss, it's a coin flip versus, no, this is specifically something we've done wrong?



MIKE MCDANIEL: No, you always have to look at it as there is something you can control. Football games and life don't just happen to you, and so like I think that's the biggest thing that our young players have to learn and everyone has to learn, is that no one really has time, nor cares about how you feel and losing is hard and it feels like trash. No one cares. Regardless of if they're high fiving you or booing you, you have control over the next result and that's it. You have your choice of how you go about things. You have your choice if things are going to beat you down and it's going to be too difficult. And in that, you find out really who your teammates are, who people are. So I think the team knows that that's something that I'm very front-end focused on how you're able in this world and in this league to show everyone who you are by difficult times. A difficult time is losing a second consecutive game after having a lead in the last third of the fourth quarter. So that's tough. It forces you to go back to work and focus on the details and you don't know what detail is going to be the winning element, but it shouldn't matter. We have a job to do. Our job is not just to take a bunch of Ls, so we need to go back to work and be tough minded and figure out how we're going to attack the next opponent. That's where you go from there. It's very, very clear-cut and dry. I trust the team of coaches and players to be strong, strong-minded, understand the nature of the business, and attack it full-fold, and we'll start right when the sun rises tomorrow.

**To go off that, I know every game is its own entity, but is there typically a common denominator when a team struggles to close out games late?**

MIKE MCDANIEL: Yeah, generally it comes down to a lot of things. It can be as easy as who people want to point fingers at the end of the game, and I try to find themes for things that are occurring. Each game is unique to its own. I was looking to make sure that this team didn't fall victim to, 'all right, man, we want to win, but, oh, shoot, here we go again.' Fortunately or unfortunately, I got to find that information out this the third quarter, because there is where the team quits if the losses have beat them down too much. It wasn't the case. They fought back. I was proud of that, but it's not what we're looking for. There is zero victory that would be considered moral; however, I think it's reasonable to have expectation that we have our best performance at the end of games as we continue to work as a team. Otherwise we'll be forced to deal with the same result and I know no one is on board in the locker room for that. So we will be very focused on finishing football games, particularly ones that we have in our grasp.

### Miami Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa

**How would you describe your emotions?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: I don't know. Shocked. Shocked, I guess you could say. Just this is something that we've talked about collectively as a team, about being able to finish in games like this where we have the opportunity to win the game. And it's not just one side of the ball. It's every phase. I've contributed with the turnovers. We had some missed opportunities in (special) teams and then we've



had some missed opportunities on defense as well. But for us to go out there and have an opportunity to seal the game and then we don't allow that to happen – either way, last week, Carolina, (it was the) offense. This week, you can look at it however you want. That's just not the way we want to play football and establish what we have been talking about throughout OTAs, training camp, and even in our meetings, our leadership meetings. It's frustrating to say the least.

**What has been the – you mentioned some of it – the inability of this team to play complementary football where one side does well and then the special teams lets up a big return. Just so many things when one thing goes well go bad. What has been the issue with the inability to play complementary football as a team?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: Well, I think there are a lot of things though go into it. Adjustments on the other side of the ball if you're on defense, vice versa for offense. Now we got to make adjustments if we're not able to convert our third downs and continue the flow for ourselves offensively and defensively. Then with (special) teams, they've got to go out there and they've got to do what they do – knowing who they got, knowing what rush lanes they're in, all of that. So I would say it's just adjustments. Like you got to continue to adjust throughout the game, and that's the name of the game as we play it.

**What was the difference in the third quarter, the two possessions? Then in the fourth quarter, you had to score and you did it twice. What sparked it?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: I think just settling down with the guys, kind of finding the flow, get a completion, run the ball, stay ahead of the chains, third-and-manageable, convert on our third downs, and then continue to play normal football.

**The first interception went off WR Jaylen Waddle. The last one was just a last second hope. What happened on that second one, the one in between?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: The second one, that was just a bad ball. Just a bad ball – a bad ball that I threw to De'Von (Achane).

**And on the first one was there a little bit of hesitation, a pump there?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: To (Jaylen) Waddle?



Yes.

TUA TAGOVAILOA: Yeah, just as I'm dropping back, trying to see what 0 (Daiyan Henley) wants to do. Me and 0 (Henley) aren't the tallest guys out there, so when you got three pillars standing in between us, I got to find out if he's staying there looking at me, looking out for Jaylen (Waddle), or if he's pushing the coverage. Then when I verified he was pushing this way because he turned, then I came back to Jaylen.

**Last week, you said this feeling sucks. Today, you are saying shocked. Where does this team go from here now that you are 1-5 on the season?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: The only place we can go is next week. We'll talk about figuring this out. We talk about getting it together collectively, like what are the problems, what are the issues, are they getting fixed, are they not getting fixed, why are they not getting fixed, or if they're fixed, how are we not allowing it to happen again. Things of that nature. We got to look at the film again, we got to see where we can go. I contributed to a lot of that as well with the three turnovers. You can't do that and expect to win games. But we all got to look at ourselves not pointing fingers. We have to look at ourselves individually first about what I could have done to help our team win that game, and then we can come together and we can talk about we need this group to do this better or whatever. But that's what I say it's frustrating.

**What was Head Coach Mike McDaniel's message to you guys collectively as a team?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: We got to continue to stay together. Everyone is going to want to say what they want to say but we got to continue to stay together. Jordyn Brooks shared a Bible verse with us as well. I thought it was super dope about a brother being born for adversity. We're in adversity right now. He was talking about like this is what this is about. Although we can't see the picture of what God's plan is for us as a football team, where we are right now, we can continue to be grateful for where we are at but not content. Grateful but not content. We got to continue to strive to get better and do things a different way. It has to be different. It has to be different. You can't do the same things expecting that we're going to get a different result.

**TE Darren Waller scores his fourth touchdown in three games. Can you talk about what he's meant to you and this offense?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: He's a baller. D-Wall, he's a baller. The ball finds him every time in the end zone. The relationship I have with him is the relationship I have with a lot of the guys. It's just the connection. He's just so much bigger and allows for me to see him a lot earlier in my peripheral (vision), whereas I got to kind of look at guys and confirm areas for them. So with D-Wall, he's just a ball hawk. He finds the ball in the end zone.



**Q. When you threw that touchdown to TE Darren Waller with 46 seconds left, did you think you had done it or did you look up at the clock, the guy who is on the other side and think, there is a shot here?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: No, it's the NFL. The only thing – my job there was to score. Literally. If not, we would've lost the game. After that, cheering on the defense, cheering on the special teams guys to go out there. It's the NFL. Anything can happen. Even at that five second mark, if we did get a completion and we were able to do whatever the Miami Miracle is that happened, that would've been sweet. But anything can happen in the league. So I wouldn't say any time we score with a minute or 30 seconds or 20 seconds left that it's necessarily over because you got to keep playing until it hits 0:00.

**On that, do you think with Head Coach Mike McDaniel moving forward you guys have conversations, "hey, maybe we try to score with 15 seconds left, get a run play in to manage the clock a little bit better?" How do you look at that?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: Well, I don't think you work it necessarily in that sense that way ,only because the way they were using their timeouts. Outside of that, third down, you got to have a fourth-down play. There are just a lot of logistics that go into that. But then that's where you have faith in your defense. You got your defense. You also got your special teams guys going out there. You allow them to play the game as well.

**How do you keep this team from taking a "woe is me" mentality, like this keeps happening to us situation?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: Yeah, well, I think it starts with the leadership in helping articulate that for the guys, and then what we're expecting out of the guys. We're expecting this. Are we getting that? Are we not getting that? We have guys showing up to player-only meetings late. Guys not showing up to player-only meetings. There is a lot that goes into that. Do we have to make that mandatory? Do we not have to make that mandatory? So it's a lot of things of that nature that we got to get cleaned up. It starts with the little things like that.

**To be clear, you're saying some players were late or missed (player-only meetings)?**

TUA TAGOVAILOA: Late. Yeah.



## Miami Dolphins RB De'Von Achane

**How tough is that just going up and then just watching everything kind of crumble down there at the end?**

DE'VON ACHANE: Very tough, man. Like you said, we go out there expecting to win every game and to lose like that is like, you know, what more could we have done. So I just feel like we got to go -- it's always one play and we get those two sacks right there, I feel like that's the end of the game. He made the play so we got live with that. We got to watch the film and see what we can correct.

**Why do you think there were empty drives before those last two touchdowns?**

DE'VON ACHANE: Like empty drives with offense or defense? Us or them?

**Yeah, the offense only having 13 for those two touchdowns.**

DE'VON ACHANE: I think we stood all behind the stick, we threw a screen and the corner made a play. So when we're starting behind the sticks, like I said before, like when we on track I feel like we're a hard team to stop. When we behind the sticks, they make us do stuff we're uncomfortable with.

**You had 100 rushing yards for the first time all season. What was working well for you?**

DE'VON ACHANE: I feel like last week we ran the ball well. I feel like as an offense, we knew like that can't happen again. This week was kind of something like, 'OK, we had a bad week but we can't dwell on that.' We had a great week of practice and it showed today.

**How do you keep this team together looking at the record, just moving forward, you know? There's got to be some way to keep it together and not splinter.**

DE'VON ACHANE: Like you said, man, it's football. As a team I feel like as leaders and captains of this team I feel like we have to make sure we hold everybody accountable. Record is not so good, but as men we signed that contract to be on this team so it don't matter. Practice, games, we still got to show up and make sure that we out there giving 110% and not just lollygagging.

**How do you do that though? I know there's been a lot of talk on that but how this gets done, how do you change the way things are going? As a leader how do you do that, all 53 guys?**



DE'VON ACHANE: Like I said, man, you got leadership and captains in every room. Like you said, everybody just make sure that they get that room together. Make sure nobody worry about the record and then when we come together as one, just go out there and make sure we still playing football. Like you said, like today, I mean we played great. Like I said the other team, they get paid like we get paid and they made a play.

### Miami Dolphins LB K.J. Britt

**(Can you walk us through what's going on in your mind after a loss like that?)** – "It hurts. That hurts. I can't even put it into words. The thing about it is it's still a long season. It's still early on in the season. We're still working. This is the hardest-working team I've ever been a part of, day-in and day-out. Sometimes God has a funny way of doing things, but you've got to be obedient and faithful to what we know. Let's work. We've just got to come out here and get a win at the end of the day, but it hurts."

**(You had that fumble recovery in the first half. You have the lead going into the second and then you have the Chargers with the touchdowns on those first two drives. If you can, just what changed that allowed things to slip away?)** – "I don't know man. They came out and they scored, we've got to make them kick three. Kicking three is a different ballgame in this league, but they scored. We still had a chance. Still down two touchdowns in the fourth, but we fought back from it. Football is a punching match. You take some punches and you get some punches. We fought back, had a big three-and-out but just got to win the game at the end of the day."

**(When you hear What's the biggest thing you want to see change in this team before you guys have two away games?)** – "Just get the win. That's it. The work that we put in is unbelievable. From training camp to OTAs to now, it's unbelievable. We just got to go ahead and reap the benefit of it. Like I said, God has a funny way of doing things. We're knocking on it, that's the thing about it. We're knocking on the win. You go to four football games coming down to the last drive, that's essentially what it's been. If we win three of those ball games, it's not so bad. We're knocking on it. We've just got to keep doing it."

### Miami Dolphins LB Jordyn Brooks

What was your vantage point on the late play where it looked like LB Jaelan Phillips had Chargers QB Justin Herbert wrapped up and then S Dante Trader Jr. had a shot at Chargers WR Ladd McConkey in the open field before the catch-and-run?



**JORDYN BROOKS:** I was covering the (running) back on that play. My back was kind of turned to the play but it just looked like we might have missed a tackle or whatever. I didn't see what happened or how he got open. We got to make the tackle and get off the field.

**As one of the leaders of this team, I know a lot of things are said, but how do you try to avoid this from continuing to spin out of control as you sit at 1-5 and these losses kind of mount?**

**JORDYN BROOKS:** We just got to go back to work. It's just things that happen over the course of the game, this play here or this play there, you can't control everything. As a leader, I've got to start with me first and make sure I am doing my job and doing it to the best of my ability, and keeping spirits positive and keeping everybody's morale up. It's hard to do that when you are 1-5 and you expected to be 5-1. That's the challenge for anybody but it is something that I embrace so I am going to show up next week the same person and try to get this thing turned around.

**QB Tua Tagovailoa was in here and said you shared a Bible verse with the team. Can you take us through why you chose it and what you thought the impact was?**

**JORDYN BROOKS:** Yeah, I was just sharing with them the Bible says that a brother is born in adversity. Losing in this league is adversity because it affects your lives. It is not like losing in high school and little league where there is no pressure. This affects our livelihood. If we lose, you get cut, you get traded, you get fired. All these things. So I call it adversity for that reason and I think now is a chance to be a brother to my teammates, and that's what I was sharing with them is that this is where a brother is born, when stuff is hard. It is easy to be a brother when everything is good. So that's the verse that I shared with them.

**You guys were pretty solid in the red zone. I think the Chargers only had like 33% touchdown conversion rate. Just what led to the success in the red zone?**

**JORDYN BROOKS:** I think we were – I don't know, honestly. I've got to watch the film. But I think we did a lot better just holding them to three points when we could and improving in the red zone. That's something that we were really good at last year and emphasized a lot in the offseason but just haven't gotten it rolling this year, so I think this game was pretty good for us red zone wise. Just lining up, getting communicated and tackling.

**Stopping the run, this time it was RB Kimani Vidal for them. What was making him tough going against him today?**



JORDYN BROOKS: Nothing, honestly. It continues to be ourselves at the wrong times in wrong moments. I thought early in the game we actually did well. It's just a play here, a play there. Like I said, I've got to go back and watch the film but that's what I take from it.

**QB Tua Tagovailoa said that there are players that are late to player-only meetings or not showing up to meetings. As one of the leaders on this team, are you seeing that as well? Is it something that needs to be mandatory for you guys? What's going on with those meetings?**

JORDYN BROOKS: Nothing. I don't have a comment on that, honestly.

**You just talked about when you're on the field, you have your responsibilities. But as a captain of the whole defense, when something goes wrong for a player but you are taking care of your own responsibilities, how do you balance that? Especially with the other players doing their jobs?**

JORDYN BROOKS: You have to stay positive. The worst thing you can do is start yelling and pointing the finger at people. We get enough of that outside of here, so you have to be positive and make a correction where you can make one. That's the way I approach it. If somebody makes a mistake, if I make a mistake, try to be positive about it but urgent at the same time.

### Miami Dolphins LB Bradley Chubb

**(How do you guys convince yourselves that you're still a good team despite the record?) – “No convincing. It's about what we believe, what we know. The record doesn't reflect it, but we've just got to lock in and continue to believe it, continue to walk like it, continue to talk like it because we've got a talented team. We've got everything we need. It's just about finishing.”**

**(What's the number one thing that needs to happen to turn the season around whether it's run defense...?) – “Sticking together. Everybody sticking together, being on one accord and being one.”**

**(What do you want to see from this team before you guys play the Browns next weekend?) – “Just a response. Response throughout the week. I feel like everybody's going to bring it. We've been responding this whole season. It's just about getting the tide to turn for us.”**

### Miami Dolphins LB Jaelan Phillips

**(On the final play by Chargers QB Justin Herbert) – “He made a great play.”**



(How tough are getting to process these close ones? It comes down to the end, you guys had chances, and it just doesn't go your way.) – "Just got to show up and work."

(Some of the guys talked about this week, the focus is on preparation, do you need to feel on game day... how do you feel about that preparation when it comes to game day?) – "I feel like we're prepared. Just got to execute."

(You made a great rush on that final play and he's just big and hard to get down I guess, right?) – "Yeah, it's just disappointing. Disappointing."

### Miami Dolphins WR Jaylen Waddle

(In a loss like this, in the fourth quarter where you guys battled back in the fourth quarter, is that the most frustrating part?) – "Yeah, I think just the whole game in totality how we played, it's just frustrating. A good team like that, you can't have as many mishaps and missteps and think we are going to come out with a win."

(Losing like that, a couple of these games the last possession, one-possession games. Is it more frustrating because you guys look like you're just as good as these teams but you're not making the plays?) – "I think it's more frustrating just the amount of work that we put in throughout the week. Football is one of them games you put in a lot of work, but sometimes the result's not always what you hope for."

(When TE Darren Waller scored the touchdown, did it cross your mind that you might've left too much time for the Chargers to kick that field goal?) – "Justin Herbert is a great quarterback. He's got great weapons around him so there's always a chance, but we got all the confidence in the world in our defense to go out there and make stops to help us win the game."

(How do you keep this team from splintering off and being fractured right now?) – "I think we've just got a great group of leaders and captains that are not just going to let the team just collapse and fold. We've got a lot of great guys, young guys willing to learn and take the next step to where this team can go. We've got 11 games left and we can make them what we want."



## Miami Dolphins TE Darren Waller

**(How frustrating is it to be knocking on the door there, you got the touchdown and to still lose the way you guys did today?)** – “It’s tough. You work too hard during the week to have things just bite you at the end like that. It’s just tough as a team. We all put so much into having that result go the way that you would want it to go and it just didn’t go that way so I don’t even know what to say right now.”

**(How frustrating is it that the offense gets going and just sometimes it just stalls and you then guys got to be down in order to get that offense going? How frustrating is that?)** – “Having an effective offense, an efficient offense is difficult in this league. You’re going to run into difficulties, you’re going to run into walls. I just love the way that we responded in the fourth quarter down 10. It felt like there was a crossroad right there of what we wanted to do as a team and I felt like the team responded in a way, especially offensively to respond to that wall that we hit and give ourselves a chance to win the game. I think that’s all we can ask for and I respect the guys a lot for that.”

**(You have been on a couple of different teams, seen some ups and downs. What do you think your veteran voice can bring to this team that has now lost five to try to stay in the fight?)** – “I think the ironic thing about playing football and being in a performance industry is it’s so hyper-fixated on results, but in order to get the results that you want, there has to be an incredibly detailed process. You can be 5-1 and be on top of the world and you can be getting gassed up; you still have to show up and put into the process every single day. The position we’re in right now, we still have to show up and put into the process every day because you want things to change in the direction that you want them to. It’s really about letting the scoreboard take care of itself, letting the wins and losses, the standings, as far as a results standpoint, take care of themselves because you take care of those by each and every individual play, not having to hit those walls. It’s just responding to those difficulties that we’re facing right now.”

– DOLPHINS –



## MIAMI DOLPHINS QUOTES

*Sunday, October 12, 2025*

*Postgame – Los Angeles Chargers*

### Los Angeles Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh

#### **How do you feel after that win?**

JIM HARBAUGH: Great win on a lot of levels. Just feel really great about our team and the way they responded. It was a game of rebounding. I mean, get the momentum and they'd get the momentum. Then we'd get the momentum back. Then back and forth it went, they responded as well. I think the things I feel great about, we talk about next man up all the time, but I get fired up for the next man up because it's not just another game to them. It's the game, and guys like Bobby Hart and Austin Deculus, Kimani Vidal and Nyheim Miller-Hines with the big return. And a lot of examples there, but also gritty toughness of the guys that do play every game. I'll start with Zion Johnson, I mean the play he made at the end of the game on Ladd's run was incredible. Justin Herbert, I mean, he's like Hercules out there, shrugging off that sack and big play by Ladd. And Justin just played incredible, found a way to win. And same with Elijah Molden, Derwin James with the wrist, to be able to play the way he plays, I mean, reminds you of just -- reminds me, I find so many similarities to boxing and football that. Especially in the sense of man, your corner man asks you, can you go, can you keep going, and it's like give me one more round, give me one more round. And give me one more series, give me one more series, give me one more drive. Brad Bozeman, great game by him. Great game by Mekhi Becton, just kept chipping away at it, just kept staying after it. Those three guys on the inside, run blocking, pass protection was great. Talked about Ladd. Talked about -- Oronde Gadsden, talk about responding. Turns it over on the fumble and then comes back and has seven clutch catches after that. Keenan, clutch third-down plays, and Ladd, six really big clutch catches. I thought -- and other guys, Justin Eboigbe, stepping in at edge, and also two great tackles on kickoff coverage. Del'Shawn Phillips, great tackle. I thought we tackled better. I thought we got did a lot of the things people think are little, the minutiae, which is one play at a time, smart football, tackling, blocking, getting on a man and ball security. Chipping away at it, chipping away and getting closer to being the kind of football team that we think we can be and have been. So all those things I feel great about. I feel great about other things, Ben St-Juste getting his second career interception. I don't know how many guys had a career-game today, but you talk about stepping up, having the best game of your career, stepping up when it's needed most, feel great about that. Feel great just the way everybody in the organization hung be in there, and just kept fighting, kept -- because it is. I mean like boxing, it is a football fight every single week. And you got two teams that were desperate for a win and playing their hearts out there. That's the nature of the NFL. It's diabolical that way. Everybody is good. Everybody gives it their absolute best 17 games, one game at a time, it's what makes the league so great. Everybody is great. Miami, the way



they managed that fourth quarter, tip of the cap. I kicked that last field goal fourth and two thinking we'd have another -- we'd have another drive or two to get a field goal that would win it for us, and I didn't think it would be with just 40 seconds left. They managed the clock extremely well. And the way they called the game, it was pretty darn brilliant. And kickoff, as I said, that was a big play, Mr. Miller-Hines on that kickoff return set us up. And just enough protection there in the last drive. And Justin, avoiding two sacks to get the ball off twice, I mean, huge. He's Hercules, to me. He's just a mighty man. And goes for many of the guys that I've already talked about. We just keep going, keep chipping away and leave here with humble hearts and get ready for another huge game next week.

**Does a win like this because of how many injuries you guys had in the two-game losing streak, like you said, a jolt of energy or momentum shift in your mind for the team?**

JIM HARBAUGH: Yeah. I mean there's no moral defeats, but there are moral victories. Great for morale. Great for just belief, believe. Guys were talking about it on the sideline. Every time things got tough, saw our guys as the tough get going and believing in each other, believing in themselves and their teammates.

**You had 46 seconds left, they score the touchdown. You still have your timeouts. Can you describe the calm, the feeling on the sideline, the confidence you could go down?**

JIM HARBAUGH: Yeah. It was incredible belief, and kickoff return unit especially, getting that ball out at the 41. That was huge, that was great momentum. You're thinking you need 20 yards, get in Cameron Dicker's range, and we got that and a lot more. Again, I mean, that play will be burned in my mind till they throw dirt over top of me. Justin Herbert back to throw, defender wrapped around him. He's able to just mighty man it and shake it off and hit Ladd McConkey. Ladd does his stop, fly by and starts getting that necessary yardage, and here comes Zion Johnson flying ahead of Ladd, I mean just the type of effort, the want-to, the great desire to win, he gets that block shield and there's another 20, another 20 yards. Yeah, I'm going to remember that play until they throw dirt over top of me. That's how great I feel about that.

**Are you going to check the GPS tracking on Zion's miles per hour on that play?**

JIM HARBAUGH: Yeah, we gotta get that. Incredible. Incredible athlete, incredible player. Just awesome. I mean, game-winning type plays, that was one and it was Herculean effort by Ladd, by Justin, by Zion. Let's go, yeah. Is that something to build on? Yeah, that's something really great.

**What's going through your head at the beginning of that play, though, as the pressure is coming off the right side, you basically have two free rushers? What are you thinking in that moment as Justin is dropping back?**



**JIM HARBAUGH:** Oh no, probably have to use my last timeout and still gotta get those 18, 19, now it's going to be more. It's going to be 20, 25 yards that we're going to need. Incredible player, I think there's a few others, maybe in the game today, not many, could make that play. He managed the game, found a way to win. The way he quarterbacked the game, it was also great. Those two touchdowns in the red zone when we were not punching it in, second half get it in the end zone twice. Whatever he had to do, shake off a sack, scramble, find somebody on the run. Really good with the checks, and they just played really tough and really good. His talent, his effort was on full display today, and his leadership.

**Justin got spun around by Phillips, kind of like how he got spun around in the last Denver game at the end of it. From a quarterback's perspective, can you describe maybe how difficult it is to keep your head in those situation and make the play?**

**JIM HARBAUGH:** On a physical level, it just can't really be done by many, just a couple. Just a couple handful of guys really that could do that. On a mental level, I mean it's an emotionally high-jacking thing to have that occur. You've got to keep your wits about you and still be able to be spun around and visualize where those -- where there is at least somebody you can get the ball to and then having the presence of mind to relocate, relock back in, make an accurate throw, that's just reserved for the best of the best.

### Los Angeles Chargers QB Justin Herbert

**Can you first take us through that play where LB Jaelan Phillips is wrapping you up there? I saw you might have switched the hands with the football there when he was on your arm. What was going through your head there?**

**JUSTIN HERBERT:** The thing that was going through my mind was no sacks. A throwaway is better than a sack in that situation where we got to race against time. I felt like I could stay up and get the ball off, and I saw Ladd running on the other side. It was just a great play called by Coach Roman and Ladd making a great play on it.

**That juke he made on the defender, I mean he got 20 yards after that.**

**JUSTIN HERBERT:** That's what he does. He's done such a great job of that, and I just got to get him the ball in space and that's what he goes and does. When we needed him most, he showed up big time.



**Can you just talk about the emotions during the game? I think there were three or four or five lead changes, and your kicker kind of ended your drives for you. How did you maintain composure there on that last drive knowing that?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: Just as long as we have time and downs, we're going to keep fighting. I thought the offensive line did a great job battling all day, and those guys hung in there against a really good front seven. Cam came through again, and he's been so clutch and we're so lucky to have a kicker like him.

**Walk us through what you saw on that long completion to Ladd.**

JUSTIN HERBERT: Like I was saying, it's a race against time. A throwaway is better than a sack, and I was doing my best to just get the ball off. The play before, they played good coverage, got the ball off, thankfully, saved some time. Then the next play went through my reads, had to step up in the pocket, and Ladd did a great job just running across the middle, making a play and just extending the game.

**Justin, I was thinking about the Denver play, you were spun around a little bit at the end of the Denver game. But to reorient after you're spun around and make that play, is it a thought process or is it just instinctive?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: I think you go back to your training, and I think it starts with our quarterback coach, Shane Day, and our pocket movement and our pocket progression of understanding that you've got to keep your eyes down field, but at the same time you've got five, six, seven guys coming after you in the pocket. So the offensive line did a great job battling, giving me room to move up, step around and find someone down field. Ladd did a great job making a play, making the guy miss and being smart and going out of bounds.

**Is it tempting to run in that situation or are you thinking pass?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: You're thinking pass. You're thinking completions down field are more important than completions inbounds. We only have one timeout, 40-something seconds. So it's all about getting chunk plays and getting into field goal range.

**The pressure off the right, two guys free. You sort of took the hit but didn't really get knocked off your spot at all. How did you do that? How did you maintain your base in that situation and not really get moved at all by an edge rusher with a free rush?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: I'd have to watch it, but I think it's back to your training, too, and understanding that having a good base and making sure that I've got two hands on the ball, because those guys



are so well-trained and taught to go in there and rip at the ball. A mental error of just having one hand on the ball is going to cost you the game. So I think Shane Day has done such a great job of teaching us and instilling that in practice every day, and having that base and just sometimes being lucky, I guess.

### **What can you say about the way Kimani kept up in the back field today?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: Yeah, it was awesome to see. He had a great year last year. He stepped up in some big-time big plays last year, so that's what we were expecting from him. He's done such a great job of listening and understanding what we're asking of him. He took the most of it today, and it's awesome to see that he took the most of that opportunity.

### **Oronde had that early fumble but then he bounces back, how impressive is that from a rookie?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: It's obviously tough. Your first NFL season, you want it to be perfect, and he's done such a great job picking up the offense. And, yeah, mistakes are going to happen. We've all been there, interceptions, fumbles, and he did a great job responding, reacting and had five, six, seven catches after that, I think.

### **How did you feel like you guys were able to execute the game plan? Obviously down as many tackles as you guys were down, just trying to get the run game going, a lot of quick game, play-action stuff. How do you feel you guys were able to execute that to maybe neutralize the pass rush?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: I think we played the way that we needed to to win, and I think we did a great job taking what the defense gave us. We were opportunistic. And I thought the tackles stepped up, Dec and Bobby did a great job. For not playing as much as they have, they did a great job. They fought. I thought the offensive line did a great job communicating all day. Ran the ball really well, too, so that was really good to see.

### **Did you see Zion sprinting down the field in front of you on that completion to Ladd?**

JUSTIN HERBERT: I did not. I've got to watch that back.

### **He might have been moving 20 miles an hour.**

JUSTIN HERBERT: He was moving? That's awesome. Yeah, I'm definitely going to have that watch that. He's a special player, and that's going to be something else to watch.



### Los Angeles Chargers TE Oronde Gadsden

**(People like yourself stepped up, I mean you talk about the offensive line, guys on defense. What does it mean to have this kind of win with so many guys down today?)** – “It’s great. Coach Harbaugh always talked about ‘next man up’ mentality. You never know when your time can come. It’s kind of like how I was being inactive the first two games and not knowing when I was going to get my next chance, and it’s like that with a lot of other guys on the team. They were able to step up and come up, especially as injuries have solidified themselves throughout the week and guys getting notified that they’re going to be starting or they’re going to get significant snaps in the game and they came through. A lot of the o-lineman, we were in limbo with them, we didn’t know what was going on. We got the right guys out there that got us the win and that’s all that matters.”

**(I know nobody ever wants to fumble but your ability to shake it off and continue to have a great game here in Miami, what lessons can you take from a game like this?)** – “Just get on to the next play. Fortunately, it was early enough in the game and I was able to shake it off. That was the second drive of the game and we have plenty more to go, and I have plenty more plays and chances to impact the game. So I just kept playing my game and just kept doing my thing. Justin (Herbert), he remained having trust in me and the coaches remained having trust in me, keep throwing me out there. I’ve got to do better protecting the ball, obviously, that’s the biggest part of the game.”

**(To win this game though in a place where you grew up, it’s probably got to be a special moment you have for a long time?)** – “Oh yeah, definitely. Especially first time coming here. Obviously, my dad played here. I know a lot of guys on the Dolphins staff, just from meeting them over the years, so it’s been pretty cool. It’s good to get a win in Miami.”

### Los Angeles Chargers S Derwin James Jr.

**(Going into two of those games, like that Broncos one and this one, how does that make you feel knowing that you guys pull these games out so far this year?)** – “It makes me feel good because it’s hard to win in this league. You know how hard it is to win in this league, every team is good. Even when you think you’re going into the week and you’re supposed to win, not in this league. You have to come out and prepare and respect your opponent, and today we had a team win. We didn’t do all of our stuff on defense, but special teams had our back. They got the ball to the 40-yard line. Offense had two first downs, three first downs, that was complementary football overall.”

**(Is it a sigh of relief at all to get the win after a two-game skid?)** – “Not a relief, just a sign of that’s what we need to do and that’s what we’re here to do. It’s not, ‘We did it, now we relax.’ It’s what we



needed to do – 4-0 in the AFC, 3-0 in the division, just keep stacking the days, get our guys back, get healthier, and we'll be right where we need to be.”

**(What does that say about QB Justin Herbert stepping up, eluding the guy and making that pass?)** – “He’s shaking guys off of him, looking down the field, throwing. Come on, bro, we love ‘10’ and on those types of plays, he put us on his back today. We didn’t get the start we needed to get and he drove down the field and we got the field goal.”

### Los Angeles Chargers G Zion Johnson

**(The game-winning drive, what was it like from your vantage point seeing QB Justin Herbert deliver that ball to WR Ladd McConkey and then obviously K Cameron Dicker cleaning it up?)** – “I mean, it was amazing. You know Justin (Herbert) is a dog, he's under duress in that play. I just saw Ladd (McConkey) catch the ball down the field, and I was like, all right, let's go. Let's get down there, let's try to throw an extra block or something. He's just amazing. He made a few people miss and that really iced the game for us.”

**(What’s going through your head with 46 seconds left when they scored with Waller?)** – “We knew we had timeouts left. We knew if we had an opportunity, we got it going a little bit in the second half and we were going to have an opportunity to go win that game. And that's exactly what we did. We were able to convert that third down, get the ball to Ladd (McConkey) and get in field goal range, which was exactly what we set out to do.”

**(RB Kimani Vidal came out of nowhere?)** – “I mean, he didn't really come out of nowhere. Kimani has made a lot of plays throughout his time here. I even think back to last year against the Broncos, his first touchdown he scored. He's a dynamic electric guy. We know if we give him opportunities to make plays like that, he's going to have a great day and that's what he did today.”

**(I guess I was saying for the world, was this like him coming out?)** – “Oh, yeah. Yeah, we know how electric he is, and it's just great for the world to see what type of running back he is.”

### Los Angeles Chargers WR Ladd McConkey

**(On what was going through his mind on the final drive)** – “We were in the mindset of two-minute, four-minute, whatever happens. A great mindset started with we need to get a great return, gets us



to the 40. We knew we didn't have to get too much because we have Cam Dicker back there, so when we got it down there, full faith in him to seal it."

**(Did you see how much you had in front of you on that catch?)** – "When I caught it, I saw it was one-on-one. I feel like as a receiver, you catch the ball, you've got to make the first one miss and then whatever happens after that happens."

**(Did you have any eyes on the backfield as far as what was happening with the pressure or anything?)** – "Kind of, I could see Justin (Herbert) left, right, switching the ball, whatever. So for him to even find me and hit me, it was an amazing play by him."

**(Have you been waiting for a game like this, this season?)** – "I feel like as a receiver, yeah. Yeah, for sure. You want to make some big plays. You want to contribute to the team, but I try to just tell myself don't press. It's going to come, it's going to happen. I think today was a great example of that."

### Los Angeles Chargers RB Kimani Vidal

**(What was your mindset this week heading into this game, knowing you were going to have an opportunity to get a number of carries?)** – "Really to just showcase my talents. I felt like, before this game, I just hadn't done much on our field-wise. Like I played here and there, I had good plays here and there, I've had negative plays here and there. I just wanted to just do more."

**(To have two tackles, yourself in the backfield, so many guys contributing to this win. What do you think that does for the collective unit to know that any man can be counted on to deliver?)** – "Yeah, I mean, that's just how the NFL is. Guys get hurt. It's a very thin league. My boy Nyheim [Miller-Hines], he wasn't here before and he made a great kick return to set us up on the two-minute drive. That's just how the NFL is."

**(That last drive, what did you see from QB Justin Herbert to WR Ladd McConkey from your vantage point? And does it ever surprise you what No. 10 is capable of in the clutch?)** – "No, not at all. The play before that, when he got the ball out was – I don't even know how he was still standing in the pocket. Then when Ladd (McConkey) caught the ball and he had a one-on-one



situation, I knew he was going to make him miss. I have trust in all those guys and they made a great play.”

– DOLPHINS –