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## Chargers Training Camp Media Availability

Thursday, August 10, 2023 ⚡ Jack Hammett Sports Complex ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

#### **On WR Joshua Palmer 'going into the medical tent during practice':**

"We're going to know a little bit more after practice."

#### **On 'what happened' to Palmer:**

"He fell in the end zone after he caught that touchdown pass. We'll know a little bit more after practice."

#### **On DL Sebastian Joseph-Day returning to practice today:**

"He's working back in, getting his pads on. He's making his way back."

#### **On 'questions' he has 'about the team' entering the first preseason game:**

"Tackling. Any time that you tackle live for the first time, that's always something that you're going to try and focus on. Operationally, making sure that we're as clean as we can be in all three phases. You're doing something for the first time, some of these rookies have never played in an NFL game. There are a lot of people on the sideline. Just making sure that we're organized, that we give these guys a really clean gameplan so that they can go execute and that we can evaluate them."

#### **On 'relying on' QB Easton Stick on Saturday:**

"A lot. I'm really looking forward to Easton [Stick] playing a lot in the preseason and getting to show what he can do. He has had an excellent camp. I think that you can see the improvement. I told you guys that I think all three years that we've been with him, he has improved as a player. He's going to be a really steady presence for those guys on gameday on Saturday night. Really looking forward to watching him play."

#### **On if the staff has 'finalized' who will play and will not play on Saturday:**

"We're going to take the injury report from today and meet, as a coaching staff, tonight, and kind of map those reps for the ball game."

#### **On if S JT Woods will play in the game:**

"To be determined."

#### **On if Stick will start at QB on Saturday:**

"We haven't mapped it out exactly, but I think that you can expect to see Easton playing a healthy amount. [QB] Max [Duggan] will also play, for sure."

**On the offense's performance today in practice:**

"We created that situation when we were down by 14 [points], I thought that we had two good drives to bring us back. [WR] Mike [Williams] made a big-time catch on third down to get us moving. I like the way that we executed. You're going to have to do that at some point in the season, when you're down by two scores in the second half and time is not on your side. I felt like they really executed that situation well, managed the time and the clock, and then we were able to get the big play to [WR] Keenan [Allen] on the sideline. [QB] Justin [Herbert] has done that his whole career. He is outstanding when you have to push the pace and when you really have to be aggressive. He has always been good in those situations. I thought that he used his legs really well to keep us moving, stay away from trouble. It's really good for their conditioning, too. Offensively, it helps your O-line, creating a situation like that where they really have to run, receivers have to run a long way back, and you have to rely on your depth, too. I was pleased with how that went today."

**On a touchdown late that defense was contesting:**

"They didn't want it to be a touchdown [laughter]. But it was. It's been competitive. Those guys in the second group, it has been a great chance for us to evaluate them against the first group before they get to the preseason. Creating these situations allows us to evaluate them. They have a lot of pride out there. They're competing for spots. It's going to help them on Saturday night."

**On if the staff does 'more evaluating' in preseason games compared to training camp practices:**

"Practice is where is at because you can control the environment, you can get them through the situations. There is that element of the games that you're getting to see them against different schemes, you can see them apply their rules to some un-scouted looks and tackle other players. I think that there is that finishing aspect to the preseason games, which is important, and who can execute under pressure, but practice is probably where we learn the most."

**On if he will call the defense on Saturday:**

"I'll call some of it, and then [Defensive Coordinator] Derrick [Ansley] will call some of it. We haven't decided exactly, but we've done it in the past here in the preseason. We want to try to create as much opportunity for people to improve. We want to make sure that we get the preseason started off the right way. Last year, we did something similar with [former Defensive Coordinator] Renaldo [Hill] and [Wide Receivers Coach] Chris [Beatty]. We're going to make sure that we always do that. I think that it's important for our guys, so that they can develop. You'll see some of that in the preseason."

**On if he will do the same on offense:**

"With [Offensive Coordinator] Kellen [Moore], that's a different circumstance. Defensively, you can expect Derrick [Ansley] to call some."

**On if he has 'noticed any growth' from QB Justin Herbert in 'breaking down the huddle after practice':**

"I think that it really happened in the springtime. As I said, I think that he has really grown in that way every single year that I've been here, but I think that, now in training camp, after the contract extension, and knowing what we need, as a team — and he certainly knows his place on our team — I just think that you've been able to see the best of him in that way. I make that comparison of when you're a senior at Oregon, that's a lot different than when you're a sophomore or a freshman. The comparison is the same. When you come into an NFL locker room, you're not just breaking down the team as a 22-year-old kid. You have to earn your way in this league. He has definitely earned his way. He has made this his football team. That's why we've had such a good camp."

## **QUARTERBACK EASTON STICK**

### **On how eager the team is to play the preseason game:**

"Very, I think. You get to that point about three weeks into it now. You're excited to see something else. Kind of test your skills, test what you've been doing in camp against somebody else. Get into that competition, that's what everybody wants."

### **On training camp:**

"It's been a lot of fun. A transition, obviously, learning the offense, learning the system. Working with [Offensive Coordinator] Kellen [Moore], [Quarterbacks Coach] Doug [Nussmeier] and kind of figuring out the way they think and the way they want this thing to look. That's been a lot of fun. It's been fun growing together with the guys in the system. It's certainly fun getting the reps and getting the chance to play a little bit."

### **On leading young players on Saturday:**

"It'll be a lot of fun. Obviously, [QB] Justin [Herbert] is not playing. Whoever is behind center, whether it's me or [QB] Max [Duggan], kind of taking on that position and getting a chance to bring the guys together, go compete and see what happens. Like I said, you're looking forward to playing somebody else, somebody in different colors. That will be a big part of it."

### **On any change in QB Justin Herbert since his contract extension:**

"No, I haven't [seen any]. I will say though, over the [three] years playing with him, you've certainly seen him develop and grow. That's been really cool. I think, especially this year, even going back to the spring, this training camp especially, just the command that he has. The way he's communicating with Kellen [Moore], Doug [Nussmeier] in the meeting room, but also the guys out here on the field, that's been really neat to see. Kind of the maturity and the evolution there."

### **On how Herbert's communication has changed:**

"I think he's gotten to a point where he knows what he likes. When he doesn't know, he's doing a good job of making sure that him and Kellen [Moore] are on the same page, and then finding a way to relay that to [WR] Keenan [Allen], to [WR] Mike [Williams], to the offensive line. It's really clear. That's been neat to see because at first, you don't know what you don't know. You're just going out there and playing and reacting. I think, now you're starting to see, no, this is how I see it. He's taking command and it's been really cool."

## **DEFENSIVE BACK JA'SIR TAYLOR**

### **On the first preseason game:**

"I'm excited to get rolling. I mean, we've been out here since camp started, grinding with each other and trying to get better. I'm ready to put it out on the field against a different team. You know, we practice against the best offense in the league, so I'm excited to see how we match up against other teams."

### **On his second training camp:**

"I would say that it's good. I'm learning a lot. A lot of things to improve. A lot of things that I'm good at. It's good to just build that trust from my teammates. It's going well."

### **On his approach to camp:**

"I'm just trying to come in here and get better each and every day. I'm not sure how the depth chart works. As long as I come here, do what I have to do to improve each and every day, I'm sure I'll be in a position to help this team."

### **On what he looks to improve on this season:**

"In the slot, definitely pace. Playing with more feel and trust with the guys out there. Then, on the outside, just being strong and confident in my backpedal."

### **On what feels easier in his second camp:**

"I would say the schedule. Coming out here as a rookie, things move fast. You're on one field, another field, special teams, defense. Just being able to be comfortable, know where I'm going, get my feet set. That's what's easier."

### **On guarding the wide receivers:**

"I get to see speedy receivers, quick receivers, big guys going up for the ball. I'm really get the best of all the worlds when I'm training my techniques. It's good to have that many guys with those specialties on a team. I would say each of those builds have their own challenges within them. I'm glad I get to face them out here on a practice field."

### **On facing the scheme of Offensive Coordinator Kellen Moore:**

"It's great. They take deep shots. They run the ball well. Quick outs on the perimeter. Things, as a defense, that we're going to see all year round. It's good to see it now."