TRANSCRIPTS

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POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS
Los Angeles Chargers vs. Arizona Cardinals
Sunday, September 13, 2026 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On what went wrong in today's loss:
"Yeah, quite a few things. Much to get better at. It's a start — it's not the start that we wanted, but credit to the Cardinals. It'll be about our resolve and the way we bounce back."

On whether the mistakes and struggles moving the ball were uncharacteristic:
"Yeah, there was quite a bit of that. As I said, lots to get better at, lots to fix."

On an injury update for WR Ladd McConkey:
"No, I don't have any more than what was updated."

On the performance of the defense:
"Again, credit to the Cardinals. There were things that did not go the way we would want them to go. Out of the group of competitors we have, but it's a feeling of when you get punched. And how we respond is what I'm thinking about right now."

On how much of the offensive struggles he attributes to adjusting to a new offense:
"Yeah I mean, deep dive look at them. As I said, there are things to get better at — definitely offensively, defensively and on special teams. We have to get to that winning standard, and everybody knows that."

On what the offense can take away from its opening drive:
"That's what we're capable of. I don't think we punted in the first half. They didn't punt. We didn't punt. It was just uncharacteristic. Things happen — give them credit for making them happen — but I would call it sloppy at times, too sloppy. That's something we have to get fixed."

On the sloppy and uncharacteristic mistakes:
"Penalties — mostly in that area, and some others."

On whether penalties were a difference in the second half:
"It was a big factor. There were a lot of things — too many things, too many mistakes — that needs to be fixed."

On the decision to go for a touchdown on fourth down late in the second quarter:
"The ball being at the three, two minutes left in the game, thought that if we get the field goal, then we kick it off to them and they've got the ball with plenty of time to get a field goal of their own. That was my thought - go for the touchdown, get the seven, and then if we didn't get it, we got them backed up and a chance to get the ball back if we could get a stop. That was the thinking. We definitely need more stops. Giving up too many first downs. Nobody's letting them — that's the Cardinals executing at a higher level, and give them a lot of credit."

On what parts of the gameplay today that he would consider 'sloppy':
"Us. The false starts, the misalignments, the self-inflicted (mistakes). Execution."

On how the team will handle fixing mistakes:
"I know the type of competitors we have. There will be a big bounce back."

On what happened on the blocked punt:
"It looked like (the pressure) came from the outside. That's what I know right now."

On if there are any concerns with the special teams group in general:
"There are things we need to get better at, for sure. Better job coaching, better job practicing, better job executing. Those things need to be elevated."

On why offensive production wasn't sustainable after the opening drive:
"We had a good drive in there, we came off of our 11-yard line, (went) down to their (three-yard line), that was a very good drive, didn't end up with points. Another really good drive in there where we ended up turning the ball over. Then, we had some penalties that we didn't overcome. They had some penalties, but they were able to overcome them. That's my thought of it."

On how to get better week to week:
"(There's a) lot of areas to get better at, but that's what you do. That's what you practice, that's what you teach, that's what you hold yourself and each other accountable to."

On if this result caught the team's attention:
"We understand that we need to bounce back. It's called resolve. I understand the competitors we have on this team, and I expect nothing less."

On how important will be moving forward to sure up the interior offensive line:
"There's a lot that can get better."

On why they were rotating G Kayode Awosika and G/T Trey Pipkins III at left guard:
"Because that's what we thought was the best thing for us."

On if it was to keep both players fresh:
"Yeah, just how good [G Kayode Awosika] and [G/T Trey Pipkens III] are – the rotation was our decision."

On if he was happy with how G Kayode Awosika and G/T Trey Pipkins III played:
"There's definitely some good things, but a lot of things to get better at, too. I could, and have, said that (for) the entire team."

On if he plans to continue rotating at left guard throughout the year:
"We'll look at that."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On the flow of the game:
“It's on us and offense to not have penalties, we got to score the points in the redzone, really execute those third downs and move the ball like we needed to.”

On if he saw the safety during that interception:
“Yeah. It was a shot play that I threw, and he made a good play on it.”

On adjusting to this new system:
“Yeah. They played well but it's on us to play better. It's on us to go score points and make sure we are doing everything we can on third down and the redzone and limiting turnovers. We didn't play the way we wanted to, and we are going to have to watch film to get better.”

On the change in offense when WR Ladd McConkey went down:
“It’s always tough losing a guy like [WR] Ladd [McConkey], we are hoping for the best but we are thankful for the guys behind that stepped up and have to make plays.”

On if he felt the play was uncharacteristic:
“I would agree, yes. We just got to score points in the redzone, we didn't execute on third down and we had too many turnovers.”

On if the Cardinals were doing anything that had them ‘out of whack’:
“I think it's just on us to go out and execute the game plan. Work on the plays we worked on all week and have a good feel for that. It's on us to be able to execute the protection plan, get the ball out and do everything we need to.”

On if he felt out of rhythm in the second half as an offense:
“I think we just didn't execute. We didn't get conversions when we needed to, didn't move the ball when we needed to, and we turned the ball over too many times. We can't expect to win like that, and we have to be better because of it.”

On what happened after having a crisp first drive:
“Yeah, we didn't execute on that. That's on us to continue to put drives together like the first drive and we didn't do that. We didn't put together enough plays; we didn't play well enough.”

On if the ‘sloppiness’ grows as the game goes on:
“No, each drive is their own. We play one play at a time, and that's the mindset you have to have in the NFL.”

On fourth and three play and making something happen while feeling pressure in the pocket:
“Just understanding what I can do to change it. To change protection, throw hot, find a guy that’s open and available. That’s on me to be able to see that and work with it.”

On being able to see open teammates beforehand:
“Certain looks, yeah. But you have to have a feel in the pocket and sacks are never a good thing. That’s on the quarterback and that’s on me to be able to move, do something with the ball and avoid negative plays.”

On chemistry with WR Ladd McConkey:
“That’s a really good football player. We’re really glad to have him and he made a ton of plays today. So, I’m hoping he feels better and hoping for the best for him.”

On TE David Njoku:

“[TE] David [Njoku] is awesome. He made some big plays today and had a few big receptions. He made a lot of plays, and we need to find ways to get him the ball more. That’s on me to get him the ball.”

On complexity of Offensive Coordinator Mike McDaniel’s offense:
“I think it’s on us to execute. We’ve run those plays since OTAs and since camp, so we know them and we just have to go out there and do what we’re capable of. That hasn’t been an issue at all so we’re going to watch the film and see where we went wrong and learn from it.”

On the offense being stagnant:
“It’s always tough. You want to play your best and it didn’t go our way today.”

ARIZONA CARDINALS HEAD COACH MIKE LaFLEUR

On injuries sustained in the game:
"[CB] Max Melton had an ankle (injury) and returned obviously. [S Kitan] Crawford, ankle. He did not return, but we've got to see more tomorrow."

On first victory as Cardinals head coach:
"Again, what's been said, it doesn't matter. We don't care, and I hope we continue to feel that way. Like I just told them, humility is a day away in this league. So we get reset and get right back to work tomorrow. But I'm happy for those guys. It's been a long, long camp. We got back a week early, like Carolina. As excited as I was for the extra week, that's a lot on these guys. It's been almost two months since we started as a staff on July 20th, and we're now on September 13th. Up until three and a half hours ago we hadn't played a game yet. These last few days have almost been miserable just having to wait to get kicked off, and I'm really happy with how the guys competed."

On the red zone issues/kicking field goals:
"Tip the cap to [the Chargers], they had some scheme stuff that got us. The one that [QB Jacoby Brissett] had in the dirt… we had a scat on that and they brought a blitzer so that's on me and the scheme at that point. Again, tip of the cap, we'll go back to work. What you're feeling in those moments is that kicking field goals gets you beat in this league typically. Thank god our defense played the way they did. We'll get that cleaned up and go from there."

On the big plays produced by the defense:
"I'm proud of them. It is what it is, the noise is the noise. It's what makes this league awesome, too – that there's so many people who care about it. I just thought our defense was resilient. They go down at first… that was a really good first drive by [the Chargers]. They had good execution and [QB Justin Herbert] was able to buy time, so tip your cap to them. But I thought our guys did such a good job – the turnovers, getting after the quarterback in the second half, so really happy for those guys."

On limiting QB Justin Herbert yards per attempt:
"This is going to be kind of a common comment, so I apologize. I got to watch the tape on our defense. I felt that our defense had great energy and they looked in shape. You can ask them, but they looked like they could go out there for another two quarters. That was the point of our training camp. It's just to make sure that we were prepared for whatever battles that we needed. You know, so I was real proud of them."

On LB Mack Wilson's impact:
"People just feel good when he's the one calling it, his confidence. There's a way that you call a play whether it's quarterback or defense that gives the other ten guys confidence. Just his demeanor. It's always 'hey next snap', whether it's good or bad, put the ball down and let's go to the next one. He's so even-keeled, he's a stud."

On what it meant to give out his first game ball:
"We gave everyone a game ball. Again, maybe I'll think about it next July, I don't know. I'm just so excited about these guys and the work they put in to get results. We're not going to be result based… we know what this league is, we know it's results based, I get it. But inward, we're going to be about the process and put in the work, and let the results go where they may. We talk so much about good versus bad football – what good football looks like and what bad football looks like. There's a lot to clean up, like always in Week 1. But for the most part I thought we, in all phases, played good football."

On Jeremiyah Love's performance:
"I think you guys saw the explosiveness. I expect him to get better and better. He hasn't practiced in three or four weeks, so he's just going to get more and more conditioned to go. But I thought our (running) backs, especially in the fourth quarter, started grinding out some yards. The first week, it's hard to run the ball for whatever reason, it just is. So for us to chew out some yards there, to get out of the backup situation."

On how it felt having his first game as head coach in a building where he's familiar with many people:
“Yeah I wouldn't say I know the Chargers really at all, in my three years there in LA we didn't play them, two years in New York obviously the rosters flip but even [S] Derwin [James Jr.], never played him in two years in New York. I can't remember the last time I played the Chargers if I'm being honest with you. Obviously being back in SoFi, driving up and stuff like that, that was familiar. But this is a different atmosphere than the Rams, not better or worse, just a different atmosphere. It was just a game.”

On the consistent success of the offense:
“Yeah, I thought [QB] Jacoby [Brissett] did a heck of a job on getting the ball out, when they were starting to bring some pressure and stuff like that. Him getting the ball out, I thought our guys, you know we preach ‘this to me is good versus bad football’ . The transitions you know there was no wasted movement, the ball was getting out there, there was so much hidden yardage on some of those quick completions. If you're going to dink and dunk, not that I’m saying we were dinking and dunking, I mean there was explosives there, but you got to be good with your transitions. I thought all those guys [WR] Kendrick Bourne, [WR] Mike [Wilson], [TE] Trey [McBride] they had some. [WR] Marvin [Harrison Jr.] didn't have as many underneath but had that big one to get us out of that backed up situation. They were efficient with that, we got to clean up the redzone because we know we left a ton of points out there and typically those are issues that get you beat, and getting that starts with me.”

Being the largest underdog in betting this week:
“Yeah, I don’t look at the Vegas odds.”

Peaked in September:
I thought we peaked for this moment today. But I expect us to go that way [up]. So, for the first game, pleased. Just like every team, 16 teams are going to win, 16 teams are going to lose, maybe there is a tie later tonight or tomorrow, but we're all going to want to get better and just thinking about things over the last 48 hours and how this could go we still got to go to work tomorrow and get ready for the Super Bowl champs next weekend.”

Pre-snap penalties on offense:
“I was thinking about you when this happened. It's one of those things, I was talking to staff about it, that sometimes we talk about things too much, you almost speak them into existence. So I need to kind of stop myself from saying, I'm being serious. " So we'll get it cleaned up but we’re gonna leave it at that.”

Trey McBride touchdown sealing the deal:
“I (don’t feel like the game is over) until we put 12-personnel on a knee. I felt like we were conditioned to go out and continue to play. So that's where I felt, I felt their energy, I felt their edge. In all the phases, I thought our run game kind of got going. What was awesome about that was we got a, in my opinion, probably a Hall of Famer in [S] Derwin [James] Jr., or already a Hall of Famer, and we got a really good still young tight end, [TE] Trey McBride. It wasn't a good play call by any means, it wasn’t a good play design, but sometimes we have really good players, and a quarterback that drives it like he did, they made it right.”

Offensive execution:
“There's a lot to clean up. We need to get in and out of the huddle a bit faster stuff like that but that starts with me getting it in there. But when the ball snapped, I felt just like, I felt good distribution. It felt like they knew what was going on. Like I think I told you guys, correct me if I’m wrong, I know I told the team, what gave me a lot of confidence was really outside of [RB] Jeremiyah [Love], obviously some special teams, we’ve got a lot of guys that have played a lot of football and I think that showed today. It was just another 53 and a third out of a hundred. The work that we've put in is just a reflection of what happened today in terms of just going out there and playing good football.”

Near turnover before the end of the first half:
“Yeah he’s a tank isn’t he. Because I'm sitting there, I'm watching the concept, and I see that, and I'm like, ‘oh my god’. And again, I didn't see exactly what happened. He's such a smart quarterback that we probably got edged pretty quickly

because it wasn't a pressure. So I had to see the tape on it because, again, I was watching conceptually where the ball might end up going and that happened and that stunk in the moment but he's a load and great for him to get that out."

Feelings after first win as an NFL Head Coach:
"Nothing right now. I feel, I don't say that in a bad way, I'm just so happy for those guys. It's just, you know, the work that they put in and I don't compare us to anyone else but there was work to be had in training camp. These guys got after it, every time we put the pads on, we put the pads on and no one bitched. They just went. We've been outside probably more than what they're used to and no one bitches. They just go. I tried to peel back the reps on Thursday from the defensive perspective, let's get six in and let's go four jog through and they stopped me and we're like 'no we need the four' and it was like 108 degrees. It was hot! They just kind of kept going so again, it's the work they put in but now we have to go back and reset and get a lot better quickly for this next opponent."

ARIZONA CARDINALS QUARTERBACK JACOBY BRISSETT

On how he thought he played:
"I thought we did enough to win the game. Obviously could've done better in the redzone, I think we were 1-for-4 in the red zone or something like that. I mean, first game of the season, on the road, with a tough environment and against a really good team. Obviously happy we got the win. I think the most exciting thing is that we can learn from the win and clean some of those things up in the redzone."

On winning and still having a lot to learn:
"I think that that's the part that we'll really look at tonight and tomorrow when we get to film, to see how close we were to putting the game away a lot earlier. I thought our defense and special teams played a hell of a game and that was the difference. Obviously, we have to do our part, but I'm extremely happy with our guys. Like I said, coming on the road and battling against a really good team, that's all you can ask for."

On how much it means to win in Head Coach Mike LaFleur's first game:
"Of course. I mean, I want to get a win every game we play."

On what the offensive scheme was opening up:
"I think what he did today was when the right play needed to be called, he called it. He honestly put his trust and faith in us to go out there and execute. There were some situations where he was in the headset telling me, 'hey, we need a play here'. To hear that confidence and trust in me and trust in the guys, and we stepped up and made plays."

On the approach going into the drive TE Trey McBride scored to put the game out of reach:
"Great job by special teams on the punt block and giving us great field position. Obviously, you want to run it in there, because that's when you really take somebody's wheel out, but I mean that guy's a 99, so you'll probably see that multiple times."

On confidence playing Seahawks next week:
"We're enjoying this. Obviously, it's part of the game in the NFL, so don't want to really downplay that as far as looking ahead to next week, but we'll get to them when we get to them."

On how good TE Trey McBride is:
"He's as good as advertised. It's insane how people still downplay how good he is. I thought he played awesome today."

On WR Kendrick Bourne's performance:
"I'm pretty sure none of you guys had him on your fantasy team. To play how he played, he was just in the right spot at the right time. You know, we put him there because we trust him there. I'm just so happy that he rose to the occasion."

On how the offensive line played:
"What'd they give up, zero sacks? On the road versus two or three premiere rushers in the league, I mean that's big-time football. When we do that, we have a good chance to win."

On how QB Jacoby Brissett handled the end of last season:
"That's all the motivation I need is the confidence from my teammates. [LB] Mack [Wilson Sr.] texted me this morning and was echoing that. At a moment during the day that I really needed, and you know, once I got that text, I was like "I'm ok right now."

On the last few months:

“It doesn’t seem long, but it’s been a long ride to get to week one, and a lot of stuff is going on, so I am just so happy that we were able to go on the road, backs against the wall. Like I said, when you get back into that locker room, obviously everybody is excited, but the excitement to get back to work, I think that puts it all into perspective.”

On [RB Jeremiah Love] scoring his first touchdown:
“I mean the touchdown was all him, I don’t think he was supposed to go that way. But the way he handled the ball, I was like, ‘oh okay yeah’ and I thought he played well in the pass and run game. Getting some gritty runs, where there was one or two yards or making somebody miss in the backfield, I thought he did a really good job. He’s one of the main ones in the locker room saying, ‘I have so much left in the tank’. I thought the offensive line did a great job of giving him time and making the right reads. Obviously, TA [RB Tyler Allgeier] was on TA time. He really put a stamp on this game and the yards he got, nobody’s going to talk about because he makes it look normal, but a lot of those yards were big yards.”