

Chargers Week 16 Media Availability

Thursday, December 21, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

INTERIM HEAD COACH GIFF SMITH

On WR Keenan Allen:

"It's kind of been the injury of the year. I'm not a very good medical guy, obviously, with a commercial rec degree. It's just been a weird injury this year. We saw it with [S] Alohi [Gilman] and [DB] Deane Leonard is still going through it. He's busting his butt. We're just working."

On if there are 'any thoughts about shutting down' Allen:

"There's no thoughts of shutting down. He's working so hard. We're going to support that. We'll just see it, day by day."

On OLB Joey Bosa:

"He had a good day. He's progressing nicely. He's hungry to get back out there. He's trending in the right way."

On if Bosa could play this season:

"I think that's his mindset. The body will tell him as we move forward."

On Saturday night against the Bills:

"I think that's why we're all in it. They have a scoreboard out there, so we're going to compete to win. It's been an awesome week. The staff has been incredible. Incredible. The organization has been unbelievable. I just happen to be the guy standing at the podium."

On emotions for him leading into Saturday:

"We're all in this because we're competitive people. I think it will be the same competitive spirit. It's just a different role that I'm tasked with. As far as the gameday feelings, it's going to be the same. You get to go out there and compete. That's why we all do it. How awesome is that? Every man strives to compete. Shoot, it will be fun."

On game management:

"Obviously, I'm not going to tell you if we're going to for it on fourth down [*laughter*]. I wouldn't let Buffalo know that [*laughter*]. Those are discussions that we've had with the coordinators. We're moving forward and we'll have a good plan going into it."

SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR RYAN FICKEN

Opening Statement:

"Good afternoon. Obviously, a tough week coming from last week. I'd like to take the time obviously, to go ahead and thank [former Head] Coach [Brandon] Staley and [former General Manager] Tom Telesco for believing in me and taking a chance on bringing us out here to L.A. Even though we achieved a lot of successes, disappointed that we weren't able to see this whole thing through. We're onto the Buffalo Bills. We have an, obviously, very difficult opponent coming into this week here. Looking forward to the challenge."

On his message to the special teams unit this week:

"We have to make sure we stay focused because we have a job to do. We have to stay focused. Buffalo is coming in here, they are a very good unit – one of the top units we're going to see all year. We have to make sure that we get back to the basics, the fundamentals. We had two penalties this past week, we have to clean that stuff up and still make sure that the focus is the focus and that's going out there and winning this ball game."

On K Cameron Dicker's Pro Bowl video:

"I have to see this because I know our video and the PR people, they do a great job with this stuff. I am actually anxious and looking forward to seeing it [*laughter*]. I have not seen it yet, but they're talking about it so it must be pretty good [*laughter*]. I know they do a great job up there, so I'm definitely looking forward to seeing it."

On Interim Head Coach Giff Smith:

"I know that it's not ever easy to go ahead and step into a situation like this and the timing with everything. He's done a great job. He's a natural leader, he's been doing this for a long time. The guys are excited, we're ready to roll and they know what the task is at hand, and we have to make sure that we go out there and we win this ball game. It's bigger than us, it's for the organization, for the fans. We have to do our part in that."