

## Chargers Week 11 Media Availability

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

**On preparing for this week's game:**

"We had a good practice today. The guys came in here and were ready to go."

**On if the coaching staff has 'considered significant changes on defense':**

"We have not. We believe in how we play and we believe in the guys that we're playing with. You're going to make adjustments throughout the year, but nothing significant."

**On if he will continue calling the defensive plays:**

"Yes."

**On if there is an update regarding WR Keenan Allen's shoulder:**

"No."

**On his 'philosophy' on 'shaking things up':**

"I think that every situation is different. I think if you feel like it gives you the best chance to win, or you think that it could spark your team or something, people do that. But we don't feel like that's the direction that we're going to take."

**On if he is 'hopeful' that Allen could play this week:**

"Yeah."

**On if there is an update regarding TE Gerald Everett's back:**

"No. Day-to-day."

**On signing TE Stephen Anderson to the practice squad:**

"Some of the guys are nicked in that room and Stephen [Anderson] is a guy who was available. He did an awesome job for us in 2021. Just a good fit for what we're looking for right now."

**On 'Tell the Truth Mondays' and 'what truth was told':**

"We always do that. Since I've been here, we've been doing it the same way, same process. Same thing I told you guys after the game, we didn't start fast as a team. Offensively, I thought that we got it going. Those last five drives, I think, are indicative of how we can play — good balance, I thought that we got good explosions, I thought we were good in the third-down red zone category. We have to continue to build off that. Defensively, those first two runs in the first half, tackling and secondary run support, and then some communication and leverage in the passing game. It wasn't good enough. Same things I told you guys after the game."

**On the Packers' offense:**

"They have really good runners. 33 [Packers RB Aaron Jones] and 28 [Packers RB AJ Dillon] are a really, really quality tandem. I've played against them before. They do a really good job in the run game. I think that they're really well-coached up front. They have two young tight ends that are, I think, going to be really good players in the league. Then, they're really deep at the skill position players. They have a lot of different receivers, guys who are fast. It's a young group, but guys that have all different skillsets. [Packers QB] Jordan Love is a really athletic player. He makes a lot of big plays. This is his first year starting, but we have a lot of respect for him. The tape says that he can make a lot of plays. He has done that against a lot of quality defenses. We're going to have to be ready to play."

**On the Packers' defense:**

"I think it starts with their front seven. They have a lot of high draft capital in the front seven — edges, interior D-line, linebackers. I think that their front seven is really good. Their corners, they have a really good corner group. They've been banged up. [Packers CB Jaire] Alexander is as good of a corner as you're going to play against. [Packers QB] Eric Stokes is a high draft pick. Those two safeties are really quality players, too. They've had some attrition in the secondary, but it's a really good front seven that we're playing against."

**On if there is an 'added focus on the fundamentals' this week:**

"Always is. The fundamentals, we always start with it. Every single meeting, every single practice."

**On the offense's success in the red zone this season:**

"I think that we've had good balance of run and pass. I feel like we've been able to get that run game going, direct with [RB] Austin [Ekeler]. I think, in the passing game, [QB] Justin [Herbert] has really been able to get all five guys in the pattern and he's made good decisions down there, big plays for us."

## **QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT**

### **On his finger:**

"It's just getting better every day. We're about six weeks out, so it's getting healed up pretty well."

### **On if he is wearing a splint on his finger during practice currently:**

"No, not right now."

### **On if this is the first time that he has practiced without a splint:**

"I would have to look back, but I believe so."

### **On if he 'anticipates' his finger being 'taped up' for Sunday's game:**

"I'm not sure. I think that's something to address later in the week."

### **On if the 'healing' of his finger 'opens up the playbook' and 'executing a fake pitch with his left hand' last week:**

"I think those are plays that we've always kind of kept in there. I think, on game day, it's one of those things that you figure out that you can probably get past the pain, and some of that is a part of our offense. I think, maybe, the first couple of weeks, there might have been a difference, but having it get better, it's kind of going back to normal. Yeah, I think that is a good way of thinking about things."

### **On 'executing a sneak' last week and if that is something that he 'might not have done' in weeks previous:**

"If we needed to, I would've been able to do it. Taking snaps from under center, I think that we were able to do that for a couple of weeks, going in there. But, had we needed it in the early couple of weeks, we would've been able to do it."

### **On playing at Lambeau Field:**

"First off, I think that every game is important. We, obviously, have a lot of respect for this Packers team. It is a good opportunity for us to go out and play football. Tough week last week, tough loss, but the challenge and the excitement to get back out there on the field, especially at a place like that where we have a ton of respect for, I think it will be a good challenge and a good opportunity for us."

### **On if there was 'ever a point' where he was 'thinking about his finger a lot':**

"I think that I'm probably thinking about it the most right now *[laughter]*. No, it's gotten better. Whenever you're out on the field, you're focused on football and you're focused on doing your job and doing everything like that. Really, the only time that you get to think about it is outside of football, especially answering questions about it *[laughter]*."

### **On if there is any stadium in the NFL that he hasn't played at yet that he would like to play at, in anticipation of playing at Lambeau Field this Sunday:**

"I think Lambeau [Field] will be really cool. I think that's always been on there. I'm just hoping for a nice weather day. Obviously, you have to be prepared for anything, but there's just something about Lambeau and the history behind that and the teams that they've had. We have a ton of respect for them and that's definitely one of those places that would be up there."

### **On 'playing in the snow at Lambeau to get the full experience':**

"You can do that on Madden *[laughter]*."

### **On WR Keenan Allen:**

"He's about as tough as it gets. The team leader, the player, the teammate, he does everything for us. To handle everything that has been thrown his way and to continue to battle and to continue to fight, to keep teaching these young receivers and being the leader that he is on and off the field, we're so lucky to have and I'm so lucky to be able to throw it to him because he's one of the best ever do it. Just being able to see him attack day in and day out, the way he goes about practice, he's a true professional."

**On the offense's success in the red zone this season:**

"A big emphasis on it. We talked about it a lot this offseason, talking about how we need to go score touchdowns in the red area. That's the most important thing for putting up points in this league and being able to eliminate turnovers and create those explosive plays. As long as we're able to do those things, we're going to be able to move the ball and score points in the red zone. It was a big emphasis this offseason and continuing to talk about it, week in and week out, I think that has helped us."

**On the offense scoring touchdowns on each of their final five possessions on Sunday and how that 'can help the offense build moving forward':**

"I think you just have to build off it. You have to understand that when things are going well and when things are going the way we want to want them to, we can play pretty good offense, we can move the ball pretty well and we can get things rolling. As long as we're dialed in, we're eliminating those mental errors and those missed assignments, and we're focused on our job, I think that's huge for our offense. When we're able to do that, good things happen. It's just something to build off of, for sure."

**On the team signing TE Stephen Anderson to the practice squad:**

"Stephen [Anderson] did such a great job, especially in 2020 and 2021, of just doing everything. We asked him to play Y, we asked him to play F. He picks up the offense really quickly. He's a great teammate, great locker room guy. I know that he's going to pick up this offense really quickly. He'll do anything he can to help us out."

## **SAFETY DERWIN JAMES JR.**

### **On the defensive meetings this week:**

"Just locking in. Everybody understanding their assignment and understanding what's expected of them."

### **On the mentality:**

"You have to move forward. You don't time to wait and dwell. You have to move forward. Green Bay is coming in ready to play, so we have to be ready to play."

### **On the Detroit game:**

"The more we look at it, it was on us. A lot of that stuff was just stuff that we could have done better communication-wise. Especially on the back end, communication. Just getting guys on the ground. Missed tackles. Just cleaning that stuff up and we'll be good."

"Anyone that has pride — like you said, my name is on it. Everyone's name is one it. I don't like the way it feels. Like I said, we'll get another opportunity this Sunday to change that. That's what we're looking forward to."

### **On the Green Bay offense:**

"[Packers QB] Jordan [Love] is poised guy. He gets the ball downfield to his guys. They have two great running backs. They're a balanced team."

### **On going to Lambeau Field:**

"I'm excited to play the next game. I'm just excited anytime we get to play."