



POSTGAME TRANSCRIPTS

Los Angeles Chargers vs. Pittsburgh Steelers

Sunday, November 9, 2025 ⚡ SoFi Stadium ⚡ Inglewood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS HEAD COACH JIM HARBAUGH

On what there was to like about the team during the primetime win:

"First, I want to congratulate [WR] Keenan Allen on setting the reception record, the most in Chargers history. So many great Charger receivers – phenomenal record. Also, [OLB] Khalil Mack becomes only the second player in NFL history to have 35 or more sacks for three different franchises – him and [PFHOF LB] Kevin Greene and [K] Cam [Cameron Dicker] tied a franchise record with a 59-yard field goal. Congratulations to them, those are huge honors. The thing I like the most, I mean, I like wins that are decided by great preparation, great strategy, finesse, but the best to me are the physical ones. Won by heart and grit and guts and to me those are the best and that's what this one was. I just feel like our team's got hearts of champions and now this next week going forward, our best performance is going to be needed. I love these kinds of wins – physical, tough, heart, guts, grit."

On the play call to get WR Keenan Allen the reception record:

"Yeah, I thought it was really good. I mean it's just, [WR] Keenan's [Allen] got family here, he wanted to do it in front of the home crowd, and it was a great idea. Herb [QB Justin Herbert] made a great idea, and we went with it, and it was a great run too by him. That was just tremendous, and he's done it with – I think not that many games, right? I mean, you think about all the Charger receivers – [PFHOF TE] Antonio Gates and everybody. It's just – blessed. He's done a great job and just feels great to be a part of it."

On the focus of winning the turnover battle:

"That was huge. Played turnover free and we'd really been focused on that, really been striving for that and to pull that off was great. [RB] Kimani Vidal, great job. [QB] Justin Herbert, great job, [and] everybody taking care of the football. We knew Pittsburgh is about as good as they come in ball disruption and getting turnovers and we knew contact was going to be imminent and our guys did a great job securing the football."

On the number of turnovers that the Steelers forced last week:

"They're really good at it – [Head] Coach [Mike] Tomlin, their entire team has been great at it for many years. Yeah, just really hunker down and protect the football. To make the gritty, tough, physical – another goal line stand. The goal line stand to me is like one of those things that they don't talk that much about it in football as much anymore as they used to, but we had one last week and guys like [PFHOF LB Dick] Butkus, [PFHOF LB] Joe Schmidt, [PFHOF LB] Jack Lambert, those names come back. Not that guys aren't good at that anymore, they just don't get the opportunity, you know? Because things get spread out and there's a lot more trickery, but the one last week, that's just heart and guts. [LB] Denzel Perryman stepping in there, [S] Elijah Molden and what he did last week, [OLB] Khalil Mack coming around the

edge and to do it again today, much needed. Then, the offense to take the ball this time – last week it was 99 and a half yards, this week [it was] 90 yards for a follow-up touchdown. It's just heart of champions."

On what the defense has done better in the last three games:

"We've just gotten better. You know, tackling – the tackling has been crisp and sharper. Guys playing the defense and just doing their job, not trying to do somebody else's job but playing – just strong, tough men that are – plus faith in themselves and in their teammates and in the system and that's seeing our guys rise to the four."

On how wins like these affect the psyche of the team:

"It doesn't hurt, I'm sure. I don't think it hurts morale, I don't think it hurts the psyche of the team. I think that we just [have to] keep building and [keep] building better – build better, stronger, tougher. We have very tough men, plus faith."

On OLB Khalil Mack's safety early in the game:

"That was huge. I think that was his 35th sack [as a Charger] and it just came at a great time. We were getting pressure, we're tackling and playing tight coverage. That was key in this game. You know, [QB] Aaron Rodgers, he's the best in the business at getting the ball out quick and we had faith and belief and the confidence to play tight coverage and our guys did that. You saw [CB] Cam Hart in the red zone there, and that was a great, great play – sticky coverage. Our guys really rose up and took that challenge on. Great."

On doing more to protect QB Justin Herbert:

"He's as tough as they come and you know, I have another opinion on that I just don't want to say it publicly but a lot of the time the ball is already out and he's getting hit or they're tackling him. He got high-low, he got hit low a couple of times. I think that needs to be looked at."

On a potential late hit on QB Justin Herbert:

"Yeah, holding? Holding on us? But I think the rumors of the demise of our offensive line were premature. I thought they stepped up and played great. I think the demise – the rumors of the demise of our special teams were premature and they stepped up and played great. They got a turnover, they tackled better, getting off blocks, making tackles and sustaining blocks. I was really pleased with the way our offensive line played and our special teams and, of course, our defense – stellar, stellar job."

On what the preparation looked like to take down the Steelers:

"No, I said this one was [won by] strong, tough men. It was won by physicality, heart and guts. That's what this game was won by. I said I like the games where it's strategy and preparation, but this was one that was won by strong, tough men."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On WR Keenan Allen breaking the franchise record for receptions:

"Very impressive. He's one of the best to ever do it and it's fun to be a part of."

On the excitement surrounding WR Keenan Allen's catch:

"It was very exciting. It was awesome."

On getting hit from behind in the second quarter and being slow to get up:

"I just got rolled up. A little bit of pain but I thought we did a good job of talking about it on the sideline. I came off and felt like I was safe and comfortable to go back out there."

On the feelings about another game before the bye week:

"I thought it was a huge win for us today. I thought the defense played incredibly well today. To be able to get some turnovers like that and a bunch of huge stops and special teams getting a turnover too. They made our job so much easier. I thought the defense and special teams played so well today."

On the importance of winning the turnover battle:

"Very important because they [the Pittsburgh Steelers] are a very good football team. They've done a really good job of forcing turnovers and protecting the football. If you win the turnover battle, you're on your way to win the game. So, for us to be able to handle that today, I thought that was really good for us."

On the relationship built with WR Keenan Allen:

"Just very fortunate to have him. He's a true pro and he's taught me so much about the game. To have a guy like that teaching the receivers, hanging out with the quarterbacks, talking routes – I think his understanding of the game is second to none. We are very fortunate to have him and the teammate, the leader that he is, nobody deserves it more than him."

On the importance of ball security:

"Ball security is always a very big topic for us each week, but the Steelers have been very good at getting turnovers and that is definitely something that we are aware of. Understanding that a punt is sometimes not the worst thing. A turnover, a sack, a strip sack, things like that are worse. That was the game we had to play today, and I thought the defense did such an incredible job that they allowed us to play like that."

On facing a more seasoned, veteran quarterback like QB Aaron Rodgers:

"I've definitely grown up watching him. I've got so much respect for him as a quarterback and the success that he's had in the league. At the end of the day, it is us against the defense and he's not worrying about me. I think the amount of respect that you have for a quarterback is definitely – you understand that he's going to do a lot of things. He's going to make plays downfield. He's going to extend the day, the drives. So, as a quarterback you're going against the defense but you have to have respect for him as a quarterback."

On the defensive success helping the offense settle in and find a rhythm:

"I think it took us a little bit. There are definitely things that we would like to have back and some plays and some drives that there is definitely room for improvement, but I thought we did a good job protecting the ball, not forcing any turnovers, not giving them the ball in good field position. So, that part was good but definitely things to clean up."

On the timing that goes into the pop pass to WR Keenan Allen:

"It's a pretty simple play. It's just timing up the snap and seeing. It's a play that we run a ton and DD [WR Derius Davis] had one earlier. Just snapping at the right time and getting the ball into a position where they can catch it."

On WR Ladd McConkey's ability to make clutch plays:

"[WR] Ladd [McConkey] did an incredible job. He finds a way to get open and he's got a little bit of that [WR] Keenan [Allen] where he just understands defense, the leverage that they're playing him and is really friendly to the quarterback, never really gets undercut. He goes out and gets the ball, so he makes my job really easy."

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS WIDE RECEIVER KEENAN ALLEN

On how it felt to break the Chargers all-time reception record:

"Great."

On receiving a pop pass to break the record:

"A little bit, not really. A catch is a catch. Obviously, two catches were hard enough to get to begin with. There were a couple plays that should have been just gimme's, but the defense played them well with the tipped ball, sacks, whatever. You know, the game is the game. At the end of the game we were up by a lot of points so I just said, 'Can we just do a speed sweep or something? I'm trying to get this out of the way, so we can just go ahead about the game plan' but I'm just glad we were able to get it done."

On asking to get the record:

"Yeah."

On where this record ranks on personal records:

"It has got to be up there with the 10,000 yards [record]. Those are milestones that not a lot of people reach, even the greats, they don't even reach those types of things. We were able to do it and hats off to [PHFOF TE] Antonio [Gates], [Former Chargers QB] Phillip [Rivers], and Herbo [QB Justin Herbert] throwing the ball. I appreciate those guys."

On breaking the record at home:

"Yeah, it made it a lot more special. [PFHOF TE Antonio] Gates was here and being back in front of the fans on Sunday night, I thought it was great."

On celebrating with the team after the record was broken:

"I think that was the best part. Doing it with all of them, being with the guys and seeing their emotions making it a special moment."

On deciding to come back to the Chargers and being cognizant of the record:

"Pretty cognizant. It was always something that I wanted to do once I started to get close to it and it was definitely in hands reach at the end of the season."

On seeing HOF TE Antonio Gates after the game:

"No, I saw him before the game but haven't seen him [after]."

On the conversation with Coach Harbaugh to get the pass at the end of the game:

"We were just kind of on the sideline, and he was like, 'I'm trying to get it to you' and we ran the smoke and I'm like, 'Hey, just run the speed sweep, that's the easiest catch I can get, it's like a guaranteed catch.' He told G-Ro (Offensive Coordinator Greg Roman) on the headset. They actually called me a genius and were like 'Dang, why did we not think of that,' but yeah, no it was good."

On keeping the ball:

"Yeah, I got it. I'm just going to put it up beside the other balls that we got."

On what PFHOF TE Antonio Gates said before the game:

"Just, 'I love you' and that he couldn't wait for me to get the catches and be the guy."

On what the win means to the team:

"Huge win. Sunday night, playing against a great team in the AFC. I think getting this win tonight will get us going, get one more going into the bye week and I think we'll be right where we want to be."

On being consistent over a long period of time:

"I think it's just hats off to the work. I'm always putting in the work with the people that I put it in with in the offseason. We're not too loud with it, we don't post anything. The work is definitely put in so when we are in those situations, nothing's new, everything's normal and everything is kind of slowed down in a sense and it's really just me and the quarterback going out and making the play."

On if the record felt better after spending a year with a different team:

"A little bit. I didn't ever really feel like I wasn't going to play here again. I was going to do whatever I could to come back as we did and however it was going to play out was how it was going to play out."

PITTSBURGH STEELERS HEAD COACH MIKE TOMLIN

Opening Statement:

"You know, got to give credit to the LA Chargers, specifically [Defensive Coordinator] Jesse Minter. I thought their collective [unit] did the job. Shoot, it was probably midway through the fourth quarter before we converted a third down and you're not going to win football games not converting third down and losing the turnover battle. We certainly were loose with the ball in several instances and didn't convert enough third downs and so that's the end result. There's nothing mystical about it. We'll be back. We'll be better. We have to be, but we certainly weren't tonight. [CB Darius] Slay was out, he's in the concussion protocol. We'll see where that leaves us this week. The rest is bumps and bruises associated with play. [CB] Joey Porter Jr. went back in the game."

On covering the slot and WR Ladd McConkey:

"McConkey caught four passes, certainly that last one was the biggest one, but definitely the reason we lost this football game."

On QB Aaron Rodgers' play:

"We as an offensive collective were off today and certainly, he's a component of that. I'll let him speak for himself, but we certainly got to be better. Didn't feel like they did anything unanticipated, but certainly they outperformed us particularly in possession-down play."

On what needs to be worked on from an offensive consistency standpoint:

"Third Down."

On the offensive performance concerns:

"It's football. It's life. We'll be back."

On what goes into the confidence that the Steelers will be back:

"53 years of life and particularly in this business."

On if QB Aaron Rodgers' experience provides confidence:

"I'm not lacking confidence. I don't need a pat on the back. We stunk it up tonight. We'll be back."

On it being "just one of those games":

"I'm not trying to frame it in any way. I'm just telling you guys what happened, you guys [the media] write the narrative."

On how to assess QB Aaron Rodgers' play:

"How would you? Next."

On if DB Brandin Echols had too much on his plate:

"It happens in games, particularly when attrition is a component of it. That's just football. When you got a limited number of people available to you – this isn't college football, we don't have a hundred guys on the sideline and so certainly when attrition happens, man, you get challenged collectively and individuals within the collective."

On the issues with the run defense:

"Just on the grass too long. We didn't convert enough third downs. The time of possession was what it was. Collectives and individuals wear down when you're not standing up."

On the protection issues with the offense:

"We had issues as a collective and so that's a component of it. We got to be better."

On planning to run the ball more often in future games:

“Guys, [when] you’re 0-for-nine-or-10 on third down, you're not going to have enough snaps. We've been over that discussion a lot. Next.”

PITTSBURGH STEELERS QUARTERBACK AARON RODGERS

Overall assessment of the game:

"A lot of stuff wasn't working. We were bad on third down. I was just a little bit off. I missed DK [Metcalf] early and could've been a big play, little high to Jonnu [Smith]. But yeah we didn't run the ball super effectively in the first half. I missed obviously some throws for sure and then we weren't getting guys open and putting it altogether. Times some guys were open I missed some throws I usually make."

Reason for the lack of completions:

"No, I just missed a couple throws."

Struggles as a team:

"We didn't run the ball as well as we usually do and we didn't get open and I didn't play as well as I usually do."

Finding success running the ball in the second half:

"No, we changed a couple of the runs but no we just, Jaylen [Warren] made some really nice plays. He's a talented guy and we got to give him more touches."

Getting sacked for the safety:

"I didn't really see anybody open and I felt like when I stepped up, I saw [Khalil] Mack and I didn't realize that he kind of lost touch with Troy [Fautanu]. I should've just thrown the ball at somebody's feet there."

Dealing with inconsistencies in recent games:

"Our defense played really well tonight and offensively we were pretty bad. We got to find a way to get open on third down. I got to find a way to hit them and because that was just some bad ball."

Division standings:

"We're five and four and we're leading the division."

Penalties and miscues causing frustration:

"Yeah, it's all frustrating. That stuff happens. The one play that I threw to Jaylen's [Warren] feet, that was a run call. I was looking at the back side and we had a huge...to throw it to DK [Metcalf], and they just for whatever reason the guy dropped out right in the window, so we had nothing. You kind of live with those plays sometimes. Usually they work for big gains."

Potentially stepping up to run on some plays:

"I got to watch the film. I mean I can't take off like I used to. I feel like I was moving okay in the pocket but maybe I need to sit back a little more but I'll look at that."

On how his body feels at this point comparatively to earlier on in the season:

"Yeah. I feel good. I feel good."

On making changes offensively:

"Schematically? Yes. We are always making changes schematically, yes."

On if he had a good look to WR DK Metcalf on fourth down pass:

"No. I probably should have thrown it to the other side. He was doubled. I should have thrown it more back-shoulder, maybe worked the other side."

On this possibly being his last game in California:

"Thank god. Southern California...yeah, could be. Was I thinking about it? No."

On his demeanor and the lack of energy within the team on offense:

“Yeah. Yeah, I think I need to. I expect to play great every single week and this was not my best performance. I got to play better than this for us to win. Whatever it takes, if it's better checks, if it's better throws, whatever it is, I got to play better. I will, ya know. We got to bounce back. We have a division opponent next week. We're 5 and 4. We are ahead by a game in the division and we got to play better on offense for sure, but this is part of the season. There's ebbs and flows; there's ups and down. We can't ride the wave, ya know. It felt like our energy, and it starts with me, wasn't great on offense. I feel like we were just kind of struggling a little bit, couldn't get a play to get going. We always say 'we just get a first down, we score on that drive.' We had so many three and outs and we hurt ourselves with a couple penalties. Ya know, I didn't play very good at all. I have got to play better. We have got four division games left to play. It's a long season and it's a good opponent and we just didn't play very good tonight.”

On if he believes the energy was off starting in warm-ups:

“No. No. It's just sometimes in the game, when it's just not going it's just one of those days where we just couldn't quite get over the hump and get some first downs”.