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## Chargers Week 7 Media Availability

Friday, October 21, 2022 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

#### **On WR Keenan Allen's injury status:**

"Keenan [Allen] is going to be more of a game-time decision, but he's closer. He had a good week. He was in practice — not only in individual [period] but during team — and that was important, to play 11-on-11 and get that unchoreographed movement of having to beat someone man-to-man, having to go feel what it's like to block someone and get that resistance. It was a good day today. We'll see how he responds tomorrow, but that will be more of a game-time decision."

#### **On deciding between wanting Allen to play or having him wait until after the bye week:**

"We've come this far. Patience is a virtue. We won't put him out there unless we know that he can go. How much he goes? Obviously, it's his first game back, so there will be some type of pitch count — with it being his first game back — if he goes. We'll just see. But if there's any apprehension, then he won't go."

#### **On DL Sebastian Joseph-Day's game status:**

"Sebastian [Joseph-Day] will go. He'll go. On the injury report, he's going to be questionable. He's a rugged guy. He's not going to miss this one."

#### **On how much the team 'has missed' Allen:**

"A lot. Keenan [Allen] has four-straight seasons of 100 catches. He's one of the top separators in the game, one of the most productive players at his position over the last 10 years. He's a team leader. What he allows you to do, in all ways, is just changed the math in how people play you. To get him back will be really big for us."

#### **On whom will be the third running back active on Sunday:**

"It's going to be [RB] Isaiah Spiller for the game."

#### **On if he 'has a reaction' to the 49ers trading for RB Christian McCaffrey:**

"No."

#### **On his level of confidence in the wide receiver group if Allen does not play, with WR Joshua Palmer being out:**

"The guys that will be at the game, I think the good thing is that we know them, we know what they do well. Any time that you have one or two receivers out, you have to make sure that you fill in that production other places, with your tight ends and your backs. That's what I think our coaching staff does a good job of. These are the players that we get to play with; let's go figure it out together. The good news is that [QB] Justin [Herbert] has a rapport with all of those guys that are coming out there. Whenever their number is called, at least our quarterback has a trust and confidence in them."

**On potential game activations at wide receiver:**

“There would have to be some procedural stuff to get [WR] Mike [Bandy] back up, but that’s what would take place.”

**On which wide receiver ‘would be the fifth wide receiver’ if Allen doesn’t play:**

“Not at this point, no. We’re going to work through that over the next couple of days.”

**On ‘the key’ the team winning three-straight games:**

“Stay together and figure it out. That’s how I would describe it.”

**On CB J.C. Jackson’s performance in practice this week:**

“He practiced really well this week. I’ve been really proud of his preparation and the way that he has bounced back. That’s all we can ask for from the guy. Like I said, the best is to come for him. Getting him in that rhythm and that comfort zone, him being the player that he is and doing it for us. We’ve worked really hard with him this week. I’ve been proud of the way that he has bounced back. Now, I’m excited to see him compete against a really good bunch of skill players.”

**On the importance of properly treating concussions:**

“It’s of the utmost importance. It’s one of the serious topics, since I’ve been a part of the NFL, and I know the amount of investment to make progress and to keep making progress, and to never quit on this topic because it’s so important. I think all of the clubs in the league are trying to do everything they can. I think you just know that this sport, and sports like it, that it’s tough. It’s tough to be perfect. All you can try and do is be intentional with your process to get it right. I think, every day, we learn more and more. I think as long as everybody in the NFL is committed to doing it right and making sure the protocols are in place that everybody agrees upon, and then when you agree upon it, knowing that you’re probably going to have to change it down the road to make it better, and that’s all we can do, as a league, is do everything we can for these players and their families to know that we’re thinking about them. I know that that is where I stand, we stand as a club, and that’s what we’re going to keep trying to do.”

**On learning about Palmer’s concussion symptoms following the game:**

“You’re always surprised because you just go by what happens in the game. When I say surprised, it’s that you’re learning all of the time about how this can happen. This isn’t the only time that this has happened, or someone would express more symptoms after the ball game. That’s what I said, too, that I think you guys, myself, people in the NFL, every day we are learning more and more. It’s important that we learn together so that we can create something where these players know that everyone is trying to keep them at the front of all of the decisions that we make.”

**On what it would mean to the team to win four-straight games heading into the bye week:**

“I think that it would just mean that our team has really stuck together and that we’ve tried really hard to figure it out. I think that Seattle is an excellent team. We know what we’re facing Sunday at 1:25 [p.m.]. We know that we’re facing a really good football team coming off of a really big win. We are going to need to be at our best. That group of guys, those 48 players that are at the game, we’re going to really have to take the field with the right type of energy, with the right type of purpose, and not try to feel our way into anything, be ready to play from the first snap because this team is really good.”

## **QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT**

### **On being removed from the injury report:**

"I think, with time, it has felt better. I think over the past couple of weeks, it has gotten better and just hanging in there. I'm thankful for my offensive line for keeping me upright."

### **On his comfort level moving outside the pocket:**

"I think it's gotten better over the past couple of weeks. If I felt like it wasn't safe to go out and play, I think that would have affected it in the first couple of weeks since then. I felt like it was safe to go out there and play and I was going to play the way I wanted to play. I played the way that I needed to play. It felt good out there."

### **On if he has any limitations with the injury:**

"No. I think it's just continuing to progress, get better, do everything I can to rehab, to get treatment and take care of my body. I don't think anyone is feeling great. It's the NFL. It's obviously very tough on your body. As long as you're staying ahead of that and getting after it, I think you can limit those."

### **On Seahawks CB Tariq Woolen:**

"He's a very good playmaker and that is very apparent over the past couple of games. He's done a great job all year of playing corner and being up and aggressive on guys. He's caused a lot of turnovers and that's what you want from a corner. To be able to see that on film, you definitely have to be aware of him on the field."

### **On Seahawks OLB Uchenna Nwosu:**

"You said it great right there. Uchenna was a great teammate. He's a great friend and it is a little weird going up against him. I wish him nothing but the best, but I remember all of the times, the great times, that we had together as Chargers. Definitely miss him, but glad that he's doing well."

### **On the red zone offense:**

"I think we've done a good job. There is always room for improvement. I think we've done a good job of moving the ball up and down the field. Obviously, you'd love to score as many points as you can, but we played a good defense last week, and so we'll have to do our best to just have a good plan, execute, and try and put up as many points as we can."

### **On if last year's improvement in red zone offense gives him confidence in improving it this year:**

"It's a long season. There is a lot of football. We're going to do everything we can to put up as many points as we can. We've been down a couple of guys. Losing [WR] Keenan [Allen] is never going to help you. We have to be better. We have to put up points in the red zone. I'm thankful for [K] Dustin Hopkins last week, stepping up big time and getting us just enough points to win the game. I think that's kind of important, too, sometimes is it doesn't have to be pretty, you don't have to put up super amounts of points or stats, but as long as you are getting the job done, I think that is the most important part."

### **On how much more 'dynamic' the offense is with WR Keenan Allen in the lineup:**

"Keenan is a special player. It's always tough replacing a guy like that. I felt like the guys behind him stood up and they did a great job in his absence. DeAndre Carter, Josh Palmer, those guys stepped up big time. To have those guys out there and to maybe have Keenan out there, I think it's super helpful for the quarterback."

### **On his chemistry with the wide receiver group:**

"I think it's been great because that's where the training camp reps come into play. You've been able to throw to those guys all year. To get a guy like [WR] Michael Bandy, [WR] Jason Moore [Jr.], you throw to them all during camp. You might not get a bunch of reps during the week of practice, but to have those reps and be able to trust those, rely on those guys to step in."