

### **Eagles Head Coach Nick Sirianni**

## Q. It looked like you were upset with the officials at about the two-minute warning after that first-and-15 play, they had the play action to the tight end, what was that about? (Bo Wulf)

COACH SIRIANNI: I was on them a couple times, so I am not really sure which one you are talking about. Just the heat of the game sometimes, that happens sometimes. I always understand the officials have a very tough job and that their job is hard too. It kind of goes full circle. I'll recognize that, even though sometimes I get on them. They have a tough job, and they did their job.

#### Q. You don't remember what that was about? (Bo Wulf)

COACH SIRIANNI: I don't. I don't, actually. I'm sorry.

## Q. What was his explanation? It appeared to be an illegal offensive lineman downfield. What was the official's explanation? (*Howard Eskin*)

COACH SIRIANNI: I thought it was. They thought it wasn't. That's the way it goes sometimes. With that play, our offense, we know we have made strides on the penalties as a team. We have actually stopped running that play because we didn't think we could get that off without our guys being downfield.

That was my conversation with them. And I have to look at the tape. Again, I know they have a hard job. I'm not here to criticize them at all. They said they were two yards down field which is legal, and so I got to trust that.

## Q. On the Chargers' final drive, what would you have liked your defense to do differently? (*Dave Zangaro*)

NICK SIRIANNI: They kept them in the third and one, fourth and one. Obviously, you want to be able to get the stop. I thought they did a good job not jumping offsides. Chargers, I thought they might kick the field goal after they went the no-brainer, but they didn't. Hats off to them, they executed.

Any time they convert on a short yardage, I mean, I know the percentages are high on short yardage. I'm not sure exactly what they are league-wide, but obviously you just want to get a stop in that scenario. I will have to look at the tape of the execution, the call, and everything like that.

You just want to get a stop in that scenario and give the ball back to the offense. That's the name of the game and that's what you want to happen.

## Q. 84 completion percentage for Chargers QB Justin Herbert, did Eagles Defensive Coordinator Jonathan Gannon mix it up enough to your satisfaction? (*Jeff McLane*)

NICK SIRIANNI: Obviously any time you play a quarterback like Justin Herbert -- there is no surprise I think he's a good quarterback, we all know he's a good quarterback -- you have to be on your A game and have to be -- starts with us as coaches. So, I'm not going to say Jonathan anything because that's -- my name is on that, right? So, whatever happens on that field my name is on, offensively, defensively. I'm not the offensive coordinator, I'm the head coach.

So, again, it's all of us together. So, it's first myself, getting the right calls and putting the players in position, then Jonathan, then the players executing.

So of course, again, when a guy comes away and he's 84% you're going to say, 'We didn't do our job,' right? We just got to be better. Again, I have to go look at the tape and all the calls. Obviously not good enough starting with myself and by the defense there with the pass defense.



## Q. How do you feel like QB Jalen Hurts handled himself in the fourth quarter drive, the one that tied that game up? (*Mike Sielski*)

NICK SIRIANNI: Yeah, he was a stud. He was a big-time stud. I mean, really I got a lot of respect for [Chargers Head Coach] Brandon Staley. They knew we were moving the ball really well on offense, and he didn't leave anything -- I'm pretty confident that he didn't leave anything on his call sheet. He started coming with different things.

I think they had a blitz zero on him the last play. Jalen ended up, we all saw that, ended up getting to a play and Jalen ended up doing great communication to tell everybody what the play was and just fired a strike to [WR] DeVonta [Smith].

But I think what was really, really impressive -- obviously that throw was really unbelievable in the face of some pressure and in the face of -- I know the offensive line did a heck of a job protecting against that blitz zero, but that's advanced football right there to be able to see what was going on and to be able to get the communication at the line of scrimmage and everybody be on the same page for a 28-yard score I believe it was, and then just a couple of drives he made.

He just was really unfazed by the scenario and just showed a lot of poise. Down seven everything in his eyes said put it on me and let's go, let's keep running the ball, let's keep play-action it, make sure we are converting on third down.

And he made some unbelievable plays on third down. That play where he jumped over top and did the flip, I think if we had won that game that would be a play they showed over Philly for a long time. He just was really composed in a tight situation. That's what you want out of your quarterbacks. That's what I've seen out of good quarterbacks in my past.

So, we definitely have to build on this. There is no secret. Jalen has had good practices the last two weeks, played two good games in a row, so we just have to go back and have another week like we did last week, offensively, to put ourselves in position to win next week.

## Q. How much did the running game help set up Jalen Hurts' throwing, especially in the second half, like later in the second half? (*Martin Frank*)

NICK SIRIANNI: Yeah, I think when you're running the ball like that, defenses have to do different things to stop the run, right? I think that's -- I'm not sure exactly what we had. What did we have, guys, 170 or something like that?

When you're running the ball like that, again, there are different answers that defense has to come with, because you just never, as a defense, want to get the ball pushed down your throat.

So, they end up doing different things which ends up naturally opening up some different avenues. There are a lot of different things they could do. They could blitz a linebacker, leave somebody alone, one less zone in the secondary, they can knife defenders, knife the nickel, knife the defensive end, which sets up some of your outside zone stuff.

We just have to identify what they're doing and then attack from there. I think our offensive coaches did a nice job with just kind of seeing what they were doing, communicate what they were doing so we could get to the answers off some of the things that the Chargers were doing to us on defense.

So good job by the coaches, but even better job by the players executing with the run and play-action game.



#### Q. What was this week like for WR DeVonta Smith? (Bo Wulf)

NICK SIRIANNI: You know, I'm not going to go there. You guys can ask him if he wants to open up about that. Every conversation I have with players is going to be private. He handled himself like a pro, so I'll let him answer that.

## Q. So then your vantage point of knowing what he went through this week, to watch him go out there and play like he did... (Bo Wulf)

NICK SIRIANNI: Yeah, DeVonta, he's just a -- again, I don't know exactly everything. Again, you'll have to ask him, and he can open up with that. Obviously, I would think that's going to be on his mind. I'm not in his shoes in that scenario. It's on his mind. He went out and did his job this week, and, again, that's what I expect out of him, because he's a high character person, high character kid, high football character. Loves this game, and happy with the way he played today.

## Q. What type of growth have you seen over the last couple weeks even in this loss from all three units? (*Mike Kaye*)

NICK SIRIANNI: I think one thing that as we continue to cut down on some self-inflicted wounds. We had some today in some critical scenarios where we are going to need to get back and go back to the drawing board.

But in this league so many times my experience has been that you can lose games instead of win games, right? So, we're trending in the right direction in that. We would like to take the ball away more on defense and we're going to continue to strip at it. Those come in bunches when you get it.

Offensively, starting with [QB] Jalen [Hurts] because the ball touches his hands every down. He's done a good job taking care of the football. When you take care of the football, you give yourself a chance to win at least every week when you're taking care of the football.

So again, we have a lot of growing to do still. The formula is not easy. The formula of getting better is not easy, but we know what it is. It's going to work every single day. We can go on a run, but what I told the guys is there is no eight -- we don't come in this next week and get all eight wins right there if that's how many games we have left. You have to go 1-0 each week.

The only way to do that is to grow every single day and to go to work like they went to work last week. So, I do see growth in this football team. I think we all see that. But we have to keep growing. There are no moral victories in this league, right? A loss is a loss is a loss. That one hurt, and we have to get back and get better from this.

#### Q. Why do you think the pass rush struggled to get home today? (Dave Zangaro)

NICK SIRIANNI: [Chargers QB Justin] Herbert does do a good job getting the ball out and [Chargers WR Keenan] Allen had some good things where he can work the middle of the field. Kind of seen that with him over the years with Keenan being able to work the middle of the field.

So, when they're able to get the ball out quick we have to be able to tighten up with the coverage to be able to get Herbert to hold the ball a little bit. They did a nice job on a couple boots. I think they took advantage of a couple things with our defensive ends pinching down where they did a couple nice things with boots and getting Herbert on the move.

They had the big, long pass to get him on the move there with the long one to [Chargers WR Mike] Williams.



But again, those are some of the things we have to be able to fix to get after the passer.

## **Eagles QB Jalen Hurts**

#### On how tough it was watching the last drive from the sideline and knowing he wouldn't have time:

"It was very tough. I think for me, I always look at it like, 'What could I have done better to change the outcome of the game?' That's how I look at it all the time. Look at every opportunity you have and take advantage of every opportunity. There are some opportunities whether there's a perfect situation or not, whether there's a perfect pocket or not, whatever it was – I didn't make the play early in the game. Those are the things that are on my mind right now. The things that I didn't do to help this team win this football game. It hurts to see another team go out there and it not be in your hands at the end of the game to go out there and win it. That's why you play the game, that's why you play this position – to have it in your hands to go win it in the end. We put ourselves in a good situation, a good position, to obviously go tie and continue to keep it in the game. Ultimately, in the end we didn't get the ball back and didn't get an opportunity to go out there and score. It's a really good football team we just played. I have a lot of respect for [Chargers QB] Justin Herbert, a guy that came out the same year I did. I have a lot of respect for him and a lot of respect for the team."

#### On what missed plays he was referring to and whether it was the throw to Eagles WR DeVonta Smith:

"I have two. [On the throw to WR DeVonta Smith] I was expecting something else and ended up getting out the pocket and made a throw kind of back peddling. Maybe I didn't need to do that. I ended up leading him too much. It's just a missed opportunity in my eyes. And then I think about the opening drive to Eagles TE Dallas Goedert. I couldn't really follow through with my throw and couldn't finish through it. Maybe I could have gotten deeper in the pocket. Knowing that they were bringing five, it's kind of hard to block man-on-man sometimes. It's something I'm going to learn from, but I look at it as a missed opportunity for me regardless of [it being] late in the game, what that looks like and putting us in a position to go in. It's about what you didn't do."

# On the team's identity and whether he feels like they are getting closer to what this team can be these last two weeks:

"Clearly I think we've taken steps throughout the year. I think we've grown. I think we've communicated better. Coach to player, I think we've had better conversations and we've come to be on the same page on a more consistent basis. Going out there and it's showing. In a game like this, third downs are critical. Both teams are doing well and running the ball efficiently. Passing it efficiently. It came down to a third-down game. There were some opportunities during the game that we didn't take advantage of. The defense made two great stops on fourth down. That's something we have to capitalize on. There's a lot to learn from, but again, it's a great football team we just played. The biggest thing I take away from this is just coming out fast and taking advantage of the opportunities we have. I have no doubt in my mind that in the game the plays are going to be made to win the game, but we have to take advantage of them early."



# On whether the offense is making progress by showing a lot of balance these past two weeks and whether that's something he can take away from the game even though you want to win:

"I think you said it there at the end. I'm not satisfied with losing. I never will be as long as I'm here on this earth. We have to find ways to come out. We have done it. Doing it consistently, there's an urgency around here. There's a 'want to' around here. There's an effort around here. Doing it consistently, coming out and dominating from the jump. Taking advantages of the opportunities we have. You go against the best of the best in this league. When we have those opportunities you have to take advantage of them. That's something that I've learned in this young beginning time for me."

#### On what he thinks he showed or proved on the final offensive drive:

"It's not about any of that, it's not about any of that. I expect to do those things. I also expect to come out and start fast and do the things I need to do early in the game. We are looking at a potential 10-point differential in the game, maybe 14. So the stuff in the end, I expect that to happen. My coaches expect that to happen. [Eagles Head] Coach [Nick] Sirianni has all the trust in me to go out there and do those things. But I came here and I said, 'What could I have done better from the jump?' 'What are the opportunities that I didn't take advantage of as the quarterback of this team?' Good, bad, or indifferent I want to be better and I have to be better in the end. We have to be better as a group but I hold myself to a very high standard."

# On his vantage point of what Eagles WR DeVonta Smith went through this week and also what he did today:

"Obviously I have a lot of love for [Eagles WR] DeVonta [Smith]. I love him like a brother. I have a lot of love for [former Raiders WR] Henry Ruggs as well. I love him like a brother. My [Alabama] brother. It's tough for all of us to experience what we experienced this week, how tragic of a situation it was. But we are all warriors and we all see it through. DeVonta made some big-time plays today. He will continue to do that for us."

# On if he felt like the chemistry between him and Eagles WR DeVonta Smith has taken off especially in the second half of the season:

"I think it's, you know, when you have to make a play, the plays have to be made. There was a situation in that game where we had to make those plays to stay in it and we made them. Everybody had the confidence in everybody. DeVonta made the plays in the end but I mean, it wasn't enough. None of it was enough to win. So I'll say it again, to take away something from this, coming out from ready set go, first quarter. Taking advantage of every opportunity and being consistent in that. Maintaining that throughout the course of the game. If we do that, I already know we are a good football team, but our record will reflect what type of football team we know we are so it's all about winning."

### **Eagles RB Boston Scott**

On what it was like going back and forth with the Chargers on drives:



"I think it tells you a lot about your team and games like that where you have to respond, whether it's offense, defense, or special teams. I feel like we did that throughout the course of the game. We continued to battle, we continued to fight."

#### On Eagles QB Jalen Hurts' performance:

"From the offseason where we're doing five a.m. workouts to throwing the ball around, developing chemistry. I've always talked about – and sometimes I forget how young dude is just because of how he has taken control of the team, taken control of the offense. Tremendous amount of respect for him. He's an eraser and what I mean by that is that when things aren't right, he makes them right. So utmost respect for that guy and what he's been able to do week in and week out. He's a warrior. He's a winner."

### **Eagles T Jordan Mailata**

#### On two weeks in a row physically dominating the front to run the ball:

"Not going to lie, it is pretty tough. They were moving the front a whole bunch of times. That is where, I guess our ace up our sleeve is [Eagles Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line] Coach Stout [Stoutland]. He is a very detailed coach and goes over defensive press thoroughly, what we can expect, and so we go onto the field and practice remembering those details and executing them. It really pays off when we translate that onto the field. The cohesiveness is coming together for three weeks now with the same offensive line. It is evident that the cohesiveness is coming along and people are getting used to playing next to each other. We just have to keep it going."

#### On what the Chargers tried to do to mix things up front:

"They were just moving the defensive tackles. We have a couple of blocks that were moving last minute so I wasn't going to be able to hit them to the tight end, bang them to the guard. Those were frustrating because I like lambasting people and I like dominating people. Some of the plays tonight I was not able to translate fast enough, because it was honestly a two-way-go and at times it was frustrating to see how they were playing it and which way they were going to go. I had to trust in my coaching and take the right angle. A couple of times when it really worked and a couple of times where it didn't."

#### On the two second quarter drives having so many running plays:

"It is pretty fun, I am not going to lie. It is pretty fun. When you can get the ball moving like that, it just gives you more confidence to keep giving your all for the guy next to you. Especially our running backs, when you see how they run, they just put their head down and run, it makes you want to keep blocking for them and keep getting the yardage. It gives us that team cohesiveness. You earn each other's love and respect and just play for one another."

## Eagles TE Dallas Goedert



"I thought offensively we played pretty well. There are obviously plays that we left out there early in the game. Me and [Eagles QB] Jalen [Hurts] missed on one that should have been a really big one. We fought and the offensive line did their thing. Jalen was balling out there, extending drives on third-down and doing some crazy stuff. That is what we can do offensively. We just need to keep building on it."

#### On his perspective on the play in the first quarter when he was open:

"I had to adjust my angle. It was one that I wish I could have back and I wish I could have caught it. It was tough. I wasn't sure where the safety was, if he was with me or not over the top. I didn't want to let him intercept it either so I had to make sure I got a hand on it. That could have been a really big one and a difference-maker in the game that happened really early. Looking back at the game, that is one that could have played to our advantage."

#### On the lessons this team is learning with close games:

"Every play counts. Someone said it in there, you might have-we just have to make sure everyone is on their assignments and everybody is doing one thing. If one person messes up, then another person messes up on a different play, that's 11 if everybody has one, so we have to make sure we're detailed. In a close game, we just have to find a way to win. Get off the field defensively and stay on the field offensively."

#### On Eagles QB Jalen Hurts' performance:

"I thought he played an excellent game. Like I said earlier, that one drive where he had two third-down runs, jumped over, flipped over, and got the first down and scrambled along the sideline for a nice big gain. It seems like he is getting better and better each and every week which is what you want to see from a young quarterback."

## **Eagles WR DeVonta Smith**

#### On what the week was like for him:

"First off, my heart breaks for everyone that was involved, the family of the young lady that lost her life. It was rough at the beginning, but just coming in everyday and getting with the guys, they gathered with me and helped me out a lot. At the beginning of the week, it was tough, but, eventually, the guys helped me get through it."

#### On how tough it was to focus:

"Once I got on the field, it just went away. I had a task at hand and had to focus on football, so once I got on the field, it kind of went away."

#### On if he thinks this is the best he has played so far:

"I can still grow. I think there are some things that I could have done better. Just continuing to attack, watch the film and get better from it."

#### On what were the causes of some of his drops in previous weeks:



"Just small mistakes, me not looking the ball all the way in and not concentrating. The whole week, I just focused on concentrating on the ball and looking it all the way in."

#### On how it felt to score today:

"I'm just going out there and just doing my job. When you go out there and you execute, the ball will find who it's supposed to find."

#### On if he felt like he could score on his touchdown once he caught the ball:

"Every time I get the ball in my hands, my intentions are to score. So, I was there and then I got in."

#### On if he thinks his chemistry with Eagles QB Jalen Hurts is getting better:

"As an offense, that's what you practice for, day in and day out. Just be with each other to get better. The more that you do it, the more you attack it every day, the offense gets better and the team gets better."

### **Eagles DT Javon Hargrave**

#### On why it has been so challenging to get to the opposing quarterback in home games:

"Every week is different. I think this week they were getting the ball out so quick. It was kind of hard to get to [Chargers QB Justin Herbert]."

#### On what things the Chargers did differently this game that stood out to him:

"They chipped more than usual. The ball came out quicker than we expected. Hurry up stuff and little things."

#### On whether there were any plays from this game that he would want to have back:

"It's a lot of plays that I feel like if we did certain things, we could have gotten off the field."

# On whether he feels like they were close on the two fourth-and-one plays on the final drive of the game:

"I definitely feel like we had some chances, especially on fourth-and-one to come up big but we didn't get the job done."

#### On whether he thought the Chargers were going to kick a field goal after the timeout:

"I figured they were going to keep the offense out on fourth-and-one with the game on the line. I pretty much knew they were going to go for it."

#### On whether he wanted the Chargers to go for it:

"Yeah, I definitely did."

On whether he wanted the Chargers to go for it on fourth-and one so the defense could make a play:

"Most definitely."



# On what kind of adjustments they can make in-game when the quarterback is getting the ball out that quickly:

"We just have to keep rushing it and hopefully one time they give us a chance and we make the play."

### **Eagles LB T.J. Edwards**

# On his thoughts on what happened after holding the Chargers to 16-points halfway through the third quarter:

"At the end of the day, we didn't make enough plays. I can only speak for the defensive unit and special teams. We didn't make enough plays to win the game. I thought we were in position at times and it comes down to the details of things. I thought all of the guys gave so much effort and put so much into it. To fall short, it hurts for sure."

#### On his thoughts on the ball spot after his third-and-short tackle:

"I don't know. At the end of the day, we have to play the down no matter where the ball is and cannot focus on complaining or anything like that. We have to get ready for the next play. That is not our call and that is not what this team does to complain about the external factors. We just get ready to go and play the next down."

#### On the fourth-down play when Chargers QB Justin Herbert sneaked:

"At first, I thought we had it. We got such good push. When you have [Eagles DT] Fletch [Cox] and [Eagles DT Javon] Hargrave and all the big dudes up there, they are hard to move. It was so close. That is how it went most of the game. We didn't make the play to stop the drive and things like that. Obviously, it is disappointing. Don't give up on this team at all."

## **Eagles LB Davion Taylor**

#### On his change of mindset from the first half to the second half:

"After halftime I had to come out and just be like, 'It's 0-0.' In my head just reset. I forgot all the mistakes I had in the first quarter. I forgot everything and now it's just a new fresh start and clean slate. I just made sure every single play, like what I was saying in one of my interviews last week, just making sure I start every play with resetting my mind and go into the next play. If I miss a tackle, if I miss a play or whatever I do to just have a next play mentality."

# On how much pressure it put on the LB situation that Chargers QB Justin Herbert throws the ball out quick:

"I feel like it wasn't that much pressure. I feel like the whole week we knew what he was going to do. We prepared for it so we were just making sure we were getting our drops and getting a tipped pass when he was set and just breaking on the ball. Just run to the ball. I feel like that's what we did the whole game and I feel like it was a pretty good performance."



#### On the toss plays to Chargers RB Austin Ekeler and whether they saw that on film:

"We saw it on the film. We knew it was coming. We knew the formation they were probably going to come out with. The main thing we practiced all week was making sure we were setting the edge. When their mentality is to run the ball [and] get it to the edge, we made sure we tried to protect the edge and make him cut back so we can stop them from gaining so many yards."

#### On the mindset for the final drive:

"Stop them. We already knew that even if they would have gotten to fourth down they were going to go for it. In that situation there was a four-down mentality. We'll try our best to get them off the field, but I hate to say it but we didn't succeed."

## **Eagles S Marcus Epps**

#### On Eagles CB Darius Slay going down:

"Definitely not an ideal situation. Losing two guys that are playing really good for us and through this year, but coach does a really good job making sure everyone is prepared. Really great coach. Always is on us about the tips so everyone knows what to do out there. He has confidence and trust in us to go out there and be able to play no matter who it is."

#### On two fourth-down stops and giving the defense confidence:

"Anytime we can get a fourth-down stop, it's basically like a turnover. So, I feel like we are really close as a whole team. We just have to keep grinding and good things will start to happen and swing our way."

#### On getting the defense to the next level:

"We are really close. We all need to continue to focus up, keep grinding, keep trusting the process and just execute better out there."

## **Chargers Head Coach Brandon Staley**

### On what stood out about the Chargers game-winning scoring drive:

"I really liked the way we executed in the run game and in the pass game. I really felt like we had balance today on offense and I felt like that was one of the big keys in the game was keeping [the Eagles defensive] front off-balance. I loved our protection plan today – no sacks against a really, really good [defensive] front. My hat's off to [Chargers Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line Coach] Frank Smith, [Chargers Assistant Offensive Line Coach] Shaun Sarrett, [Chargers Offensive Coordinator] Joe Lombardi, [Chargers Passing Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks Coach] Shane Day – our entire offensive staff – because we kept [the Eagles] off-balance today. On that last drive I thought that was a good example of that. A lot of key plays on that drive. Everybody touched the ball for us on that drive and I think that makes you tough to defend. [Chargers QB Justin Herbert] executed at a really high level today. What we wanted to do was finish that game with the football. We had the big 4th & 1 that we executed and then we split them on a run that really got us in there close. Our offensive line played a very, very good



football game today. This was a line of scrimmage game and our offensive line competed at a really, really high level. [Chargers C] Corey Linsley, [Chargers G] Matt Feiler, [Chargers T] Storm Norton, [Chargers G/T Michael] Schofield, and [Chargers T] Rashawn [Slater] were outstanding. Our tight ends blocked extremely well today — all four of them — and I feel like you really saw that on display that last drive."

#### On Chargers QB Justin Herbert's precision in the passing game:

"I think you hit it. 32-for-38 in a pro game – that's really, really good. But what I liked about it is we got to the deep part of the field today and we were able to access all parts of the field in a lot of different ways. That's what you have to do against a good defense and that [Eagles defensive] front is really, really good. I felt like Justin was patient today. I felt like he was extremely accurate. I thought he played with really good timing. The last two games, not his best stuff from a timing perspective. Today, really good timing and our offensive line had a lot to do with that. Justin was outstanding in the game today."

#### On the called run for Chargers RB Austin Eckler on 3rd & 2 on the final drive:

"I felt there was a surge there [for the first down], but then I got the fourth down signal from [Chargers QB] Justin [Herbert] and we were going. It really felt like a first down. I looked up at the replay kind of past the yellow line but, evidently, that was not the case."

## On whether the Chargers would attempt a fourth down conversion on the final drive no matter the yards to gain:

"Not no matter what, but, we felt like 4th & 1 we like the quarterback in that instance as a threat and then just running the football. I felt like we would have to surge. I liked the run design on that particular short-yardage play. We worked on it all week and I was just really confident in our group [the way we were] coming off the line of scrimmage. I wanted to finish that game with the ball."

#### On holding penalties that were not called when Eagles QB Jalen Hurts escaped the pocket:

"Yeah, I mean, I thought there were a couple instances today. That was one of the big parts of the game was [Hurts] getting out on those loose plays, particularly on third down. I felt like we had a really good rush plan – five and six-man rush plan – and there were a couple runs where I felt like [Chargers OLB] Joey [Bosa] got tugged, [Chargers OLB] Kyler [Fackrell] got tugged. [I] really thought that happened to Joey a couple of times but they didn't call it. We know that [Hurts] bails to his right – he bails deep to his right – and we had a couple tough lessons that we learned on some of third and fourth downs against Jalen [where] he out-flanked us when we had a really good design on. He's a really good player that way, but we have to execute better, for sure. Because if we do, then that's a much different game."

#### On the decision not to challenge the spot on Eckler's 3rd & 2 run on the final drive:

"We just didn't have a great look at it and the play clock is going. It was, 'Hey, let's keep it moving.' But good point."

#### On his mindset when the Chargers have the ability to consistently call pass plays downfield:

"That we have an elite quarterback that can really throw it anywhere on the field. What also stood out is that's how [Chargers WR] Mike [Williams] plays. Mike just really has a big-time gift when the ball is in the air in the deep part of the field to track it. [Williams] has [Eagles CB Darius] Slay on him — and it felt like he got held, actually — but we want to be able to do that in the passing game. To make people respect the deep part of the field and Mike's certainly a guy that can get there. It just felt like Justin [Herbert], I mean, you can't underestimate what a good throw that is because a mortal player doesn't make it look that easy."

On the contributions from the tight ends and how it changes the offense in various phases:



"It changes the game, Chris. You know, gaps and vertical threats – tight ends. It gives you a huge advantage and I love the way [Chargers TE] Tre' McKitty is playing these last two games. We're getting that value that I told you guys about with him, too. You talk about [Chargers TE] Donald Parham after the catch, I mean, this guy's got some of that basketball magic making people miss. [Chargers TE] Jared [Cook] was fantastic. [Chargers TE] Stephen [Anderson] in the screen game making some people miss on the screen. That's what you got to do to be a tough team to defend is you want them to be able to respect everybody who's out there. Again, my hat's off to [Chargers Offensive Coordinator] Joe Lombardi. I felt like he called a fantastic game with the contributions of our entire offensive staff. I really felt connected today as a staff on offense and I felt like we played like it."

#### On the Chargers secondary play:

"[Eagles WR DeVonta Smith] had a couple good catches. [Chargers S Nasir Adderley] I feel like should have intercepted one, for sure. [Smith] had a couple comebacks on us which we can live with. But you bring up a good point, this is the NFL. We're down two starters at corner and the deck is stacked against you like that, you got to respond. This was a Chargers win today. We needed to come in here and play a good game on defense without two of our best guys and that's what we did today. [Chargers CB Tevaughn Campbell] was fantastic. [Chargers CB] Ryan Smith competed. We had [Chargers CB Kemon Hall] out there. It was all hands on deck in the secondary. We had [Chargers S] Tre Marshall for [Chargers S Alohi Gilman] because [Gilman] was down today. I felt like we played good team defense today. It was a tough game, it was a hard-fought game and I'm really proud of the way our guys played on defense."

#### On the satisfaction of getting a win on the road in a hostile environment:

"Yeah I think to come into an environment like this – we talked about it last night in the team meeting – this is an environment you really respect in pro sports. Philadelphia has one of the elite sports environments and when you go on the road and [the Eagles] are coming off a big win and it's a fourth quarter game, you're going to really define who you're about. We won the fourth quarter today. Last week against New England, we didn't win the fourth quarter. We won the fourth quarter today and I felt like we finished [the game] playing our best football. Our return game really showed up today in the kicking game. I really felt our special teams unit – for the first time this season – where I felt we had an advantage today. I felt like we've been coaching really hard. [Chargers Special Teams Coordinator] Derius [Swinton II], [Chargers Assistant Special Teams Coach] Mayur [Chaudhari], our staff. And then to certainly finish it with a game-winner with our new kicker, you can't script it much better than that. I think that this was one of those NFL wins that you got to have on the road."

# On whether the improvement of the Chargers pass protection can be attributed to better offensive line play or the moving of QB Justin Herbert out of the pocket:

"I think it was both. Another thing was our ability to run the football and keep them off balance. I felt like we were able to attack them a couple of different ways in the passing game, whether it was the quick game, screens, a couple of [quarterback] keepers. I felt like we were just able to keep them off balance, and that's what you have to do against guys like [Javon] Hargrave and [Fletcher] Cox. Josh Sweat, Derek Barnett and Genard Avery, are good rushers. I feel like it was a really balanced effort by our group today and I felt like our guys executed the plan at a high level. I'm really proud of everybody on our football team today."

#### On the missed extra point by K Dustin Hopkins:

"He rushed that kick. You can see it. That just wasn't his fundamental stuff. Besides that kick, I think he was fantastic, so I think it's really just a fundamental issue for him. He's a steady guy, and I think he's brought that calm, steady presence to our team. We're going to keep coaching him, but I really like the way that he's playing for us."



#### On the versatility of CB Chris Harris Jr.:

"Chris is doing so many jobs for us. There were a couple of plays in there that he would like to have back, but he's just one of those rock solid pieces for us. I'm so glad we have him and today was a good illustration of why. When you get cleaned out at corner, he can go outside and play outside corner. If something happens inside, he can go back to safety, and he was kind of ready to play a bunch of different spots today. He's definitely a big asset for us."

## On the 28-yard touchdown catch by Eagles WR Devonte Smith which tied the game in the fourth quarter:

"It's a poor coverage call by me. It's a poor play call. We were playing them to run the football. I was trying to get Derwin [James Jr.] in the post. After [Eagles QB Jalen Hurts] killed the play, I knew that they were going to kind of max it up. I was trying to get Derwin [James Jr.] in the post, and Chris [Harris Jr.] is alone by himself on that play call, and that's my fault."

#### On the play of WR Keenan Allen:

"Keenan had a really good week of practice. When you're trying to build a program, you need to do it with guys who have been in the league for eight years in order to set the example. He set the example in practice this week. Then he was just how he always is. He came up big for us in so many different situations. His play today got Justin Herbert in a really good rhythm, because Justin knows that he's the guy that he can go to get himself on schedule. I felt like we had good design, and then Keenan just does what he always does. He was clutch for us today. He had 12 receptions on 13 targets, so it was very effective targeting today for him. We kind of felt like it was going to be a zone game today, and that's where Keenan can work his magic. It was a great game plan, and you just can't say enough about our offensive line. All of this production by a million guys means that our offensive line really won the day for us."

## On the fact that WR Keenan Allen has previously expressed frustration with the Chargers passing game:

"It's just a fantastic player frustrated. He was bringing up his past. It's not my past. It's not our past. It's just some of his past. He's just a fantastic player who is frustrated. As a coach, there's nobody that's more invested in us than Keenan Allen, and today was a great example of that. When your best players are frustrated like that and you have to come 10 minutes after a tough loss and talk about it, you take that for what it is and then you trust the relationship. That relationship was on display today and Keenan was fantastic today."

#### On what makes WR Keenan Allen elite:

"The consistency standing the test of time. When I was with the [Los Angeles] Rams last year, I was with the number one corner in football [Jalen Ramsey], a guy who doesn't respect many people that way, and Keenan Allen's reputation proceeds him in this league, because it's well-earned and well-deserved. People know that this guy has real stuff. I'm so glad we have him. Beyond the magnificent wide out stuff, he's just been great for me from a leadership standpoint. I can't say enough about him."

#### On his message to the team after the win:

"I just felt like this was a mindset win for us. Coming on the road, this was a mindset win. We knew coming in here that this was going to be a hostile environment, and the game was tight. It was really tight, and there were a lot of momentum swings with the fourth downs and some of the near misses with their quarterback. We were there in the fourth quarter again with the ball and a chance to close it out. I just felt like it was a mindset win for us and I'm so proud of the guys and everybody within our team and within our organization because these are the games that you have to have in the National



Football League on the road. You have to be able to go on the road without some of your guys, and you have to go win, and that's what we did today."

## **Chargers QB Justin Herbert**

#### On his mindset and how he approached the final drive:

"It's one of those things, those four minute situations we practice all the time. Kind of like that Washington game to start the season. We felt confident out there and we have the right guys. Great play calls and the offensive line did a great job blocking so we were able to run the ball really well."

#### On how effective with the game plan he thought they were:

"I think we had a great protection plan. [Chargers Offensive Coordinator) Joe Lombardi, they did a great job implementing a protection plan. The offensive line did a great job blocking all game. I don't think we had any sacks today so that was huge. We were effective on third down. And especially on fourth down as well. When you get time with receivers like those guys on the outside they do a great job getting open."

#### On what he saw on the play when he rushed in for a touchdown:

"I believe it was Cover-0. Took a five-step drop in and stepped up and kind of saw the opening. I think [Chargers RB Austin Ekeler] might have gotten covered. I kind of ran up and tried to get as many yards as I could but there was an opening so I tried to take it."

#### On how the protection he had today allowed him to get into a rhythm:

"Well, I think it's huge. And like I mentioned earlier, we had a great protection plan. Those guys [Chargers T] Storm [Norton], [Chargers C] Corey [Linsley], [Chargers G] Matt [Feiler], [Chargers T] Rashawn [Slater], all those guys did a great job blocking. So when we're able to run the ball and throw the ball and have enough time for the guys on the outside of the ball, [Chargers G/T] Mike [Schofield III], [Chargers TE] Jared [Cook] all those guys are there to make plays. It makes our offense a lot easier.

#### On the contributions in both the passing and the running game from three tight ends:

"They're such weapons for us. To be able to run-block, pass-block, and to go win one-on-one matchups. [Chargers TE] Jared Cook, [Chargers TE] Donald Parham [Jr.], [Chargers TE] Stephen Anderson-they've done a great job. Especially blocking. They make our offense so much more dynamic. To have those guys out there they make our offense just more powerful."

#### On Chargers WR Mike Williams:

"He's one of those guys that you believe you throw the ball and he'll make the play. They're not really 50/50 balls with him. He's done such an exceptional job all year that we've got such high confidence in him and know he's going to get the job done."

### On Chargers WR Keenan Allen's performance:

"He's one of those guys you go to on third down. All season long he's been super dependable. He's had such a great work ethic the past couple of weeks. It shows out there on the field."



# On why he feels he was able to make more pocket-movement plays with their WRs the past couple of weeks:

"That's a good question. I think maybe trying to get the ball to those guys in space. There's a lot of space on the outside to get the ball to [Chargers WR] Josh Palmer, [Chargers WR] Jalen Guyton. Those guys are fast and they make plays happen. It's one of those things that we can switch up in our offense, especially try to change the protection plan. I thought it was good for us."

#### On how satisfying of a win this was after a back-and-forth second half between both teams:

"I think it's huge for us because we lost a couple tough games. The film we watched we had to get better from that. To come here in such a hostile environment. They've got an incredible team on that opposing sideline. It was a tough game and they're not going to be easy. None of the games in the NFL are going to be easy. That's kind of what we figured out the past couple of weeks. To battle through all of that adversity and come out on the other side. I think it's huge for us."

# On whether he thought Chargers RB Austin Ekeler got the first down on the last drive before it was ruled fourth down:

"My initial thought was that he got it but I don't have the best viewpoint on the field so I didn't get to see the side view. But [Ekeler] is one of those guys you hand the ball off to and he's going to make a play happen so I would have thought that he would've gotten it."

#### On whether he thinks this is a season-saving win:

"I think every game in the NFL is so tough and I think we did a great job answering it today. The guys came back and the defense stepped up big time when we needed stops. Special teams was huge with kick returns and all of that so I think if we put it all together we could be a pretty good team."

#### On being the fifth quarterback this season to complete 80% of their passes against the Eagles:

"Watching them on film, they play really tough defense. They've got some really good cover guys. It was just one of those games you get in rhythm and the offensive line gives you enough time to throw. Especially when you get guys on the outside like we do, they make my job so much easier."

#### On coming out of a slump the last two games to win today:

"Well, it's the NFL. They're all tough games and it's going to happen. It's all about how you answer adversity and kind of like we mentioned all week, it's about how you answer. I thought the guys did a great job today. Defense, offense, special teams as well. That's the NFL. Every game is going to be a tough game and you have to have your best. I felt like we were good today."

#### On the feeling after moving the ball down the field well but not being able to score at first:

"It was huge. When we came in at halftime we kind of mentioned that we're moving the ball well. We're doing things right. We just need to execute and finish those drives. The offensive line was upbeat the entire time. We knew if we kept playing behind those guys they would lead us right down the field. No one was down. Everyone knew exactly what we needed to do and came out in the second half and put up some points, so that was really good for us."



## **Chargers WR Keenan Allen**

#### On his thoughts on the Chargers win:

"Yeah, just making plays and executing and finding ways to make it work. Obviously we needed to make some plays. They took the lead there in the second half and we had to keep at them. It was a dog fight."

### On the final drive of the game and what stood out to him:

"Holding the ball for six minutes, ending the game on our terms with the ball... it feels like we just took over. That's pretty much what it was, just take over at the end of the game, and that's when games are won."

#### On taking over the game in the last few minutes:

"It feels amazing. Walk-off field goal? Nothing better."

#### On what QB Justin Herbert was like in the huddle during the final drive:

"He was great, just telling us the situation. [He said] to stay in bounds [and] watch the clock. The last play [RB Austin] Ekeler broke and got us on the ball. We only had two seconds, no timeouts. [It was] a smart play. Just great drive the whole way."