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Chargers AFC Wild Card Round Media Availability

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR JOE LOMBARDI

On preparing the offense for a postseason road game:

"There is, obviously, a little added adrenaline in something like this. Over the course of the year, you have developed a routine and you stick to the routine. You have your schedule and you have a seven-day week, a six-day week, which is what we have this week. We have done it before, going from Monday night to Sunday games. Try to keep it in that rhythm. What you have done has gotten you here, so don't try to make it much different, I think. Hopefully, the importance of the game, you are able to filter out the distractions a little bit better, maybe, than you are over a 17-game season. Keep doing what you have been doing, basically."

On the offensive production with and without WR Mike Williams in the lineup:

"He is such a productive player and a big part of what we do, but we have had to battle it out without him a few games already this season. We'll see where he's at. [WR] Josh Palmer does a good job of stepping up, when he has been out. If Mike [Williams] is not going, then the other guys will step up. We'll do our best to make it work."

On the difference in the Jaguars' defense from Week 3 to now:

"In Week 3, we didn't have a lot of film, there were only two games. There wasn't another team that this coordinator had come from where he had called the defense, so we were kind of going on limited information at that point. For the most part, they are healthy, so it's really the same faces — a couple of backup defensive linemen, maybe, are out, but the same guys and a lot of the same stuff. It's more comforting because you have a whole season to look at, and so you see the whole breadth of what they have done to this point, anyway. Having 17 games, you have a lot more information than we did Week 3, so that helps. They are still a very multiple defense. They do a lot of different looks. We have seen a lot more of them over 17 games than we did after two. Just a lot to be prepared for. You have to take that into account. They are playing hard. They are strong up front. They tackle well. You see it a lot more clearly after a whole season than we did in Week 3. They are a good group."

On 'if there is any mystery in his mind' as to how QB Justin Herbert will 'handle a playoff game':

"No, I think he will be fine. He will be good. He's excited."

On 'knowing' that Herbert 'will be fine':

"He is a big-time player. Usually, those guys shine brightest in the big lights. I think he will be fine. Again, our message is that it is a big game, you're not going to hide that, but don't make it bigger than it is. You don't have to do anything different than what you have done up to this point. Just go out and play football."

On the importance of the run game this week:

"I think it is very important, especially against a front like this. They're a good pass-rushing group. You don't want them to just tee off every single play, getting after the quarterback. Balance is important."

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR RENALDO HILL

On if there are 'similarities' between the Jaguars' offense now and in Week 3:

"There are some things. Obviously, a lot did happen this season from both of our standpoints. Seeing the matchups with the players that we're going to face, the things that they try to do and attack us with, we can definitely take a few of those things and be able to apply it to the gameplan this week."

On what Jaguars QB Trevor Lawrence's performance over the last five games:

"I think they do a good job of playing to their strengths. He gets the ball out quick. Obviously, he has a big frame, big sized guy. He can see over any line that he really faces. He gets the ball out quick. They are good with their RPO [run-pass option] reads. He also has the element of being able to use his legs when he needs to."

On OLB Joey Bosa's performance last week:

"I think the biggest thing was just getting him out there and getting his feet wet, being able to rush with the guys that he's going to be rushing with this week, getting that comfort level and having the communication. He was firing off the ball. We wanted to get him going direct and not run too many games with him. Seeing him against individual one-on-one pass rushes, that was the main thing we wanted to see, and obviously be able to set the run and feel confident with him being able to set the run and be an edge defender right there."

On the challenge of defending the Jaguars' 'diverse passing game':

"I think that's the biggest thing, that they do have a lot of different targets and they do spread the ball around. They feature them in all different types of ways. We have to have our attention up when certain guys are in certain locations. They have a good way of using all of those guys and they all have a special trait. We have to make sure our guys are tuned in. It's going to be our preparation and execution to go out there and get the job done this week. We all have an assignment and we have to know their assignments and how they use their guys and deploy them, and be ready for that challenge."

On the challenges in defending Lawrence and ways to thwart his throwing ability:

"Making sure that we're connected early. Do a good job of moving the coverage late. We think those will be some things that can help us. They are looking to get the ball out quick on early downs. It definitely helps them when they can get into manageable downs on third down. We have to make sure that we are connected early and make sure that he can have another click for our rush to get there and maybe take him off of those first reads. I think that is going to be the biggest thing: How fast can we get him off his first read? And, see if our rush can get there."

On returning to the postseason:

"It has been a while [*laughter*]. For the players, in general, I think they are all excited. For a lot of the guys on the defense, it's their first time. Leaning on a lot of the guys who have been in this position to kind of get those guys up to speed. We know it's a different temperature during the playoffs. I know our guys are up for the challenge. I told them that it's going to be a different feel. We want to try to make every day out here as game-like as we can and making sure that we are playing fast and really tapped into our assignments. Assignments and details, and making sure that our guys are comfortable with the scheme and can go play fast."

On Jaguars RB Travis Etienne:

"He is a back that can do it all. He can run in-between the tackles. He is great in the passing game. He is good in pass protection. There's a reason why he was drafted with a first-round pick. He's a talent. I think it took him a little bit of time at the beginning of the year, coming off that injury, to get going, but once he got going, you really saw his talent shine through. He is a feature guy for them. We know that they are going to get him in space, going to get him in screen opportunities, in between the tackles, outside the tackles. He's a mismatch guy. Like I said, they have a lot of guys on that offensive side of their scheme and they are going to do a good job of making sure that they feature and highlight them in everything that they do."