



Josh.Rupprecht@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jennifer.Rojas@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jamaal.LaFrance@chargers.nfl.com

Brock.Anderson@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Danny.Markino@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Jordan.Colquitt@chargers.nfl.com ⚡ Leonie.Strehl@chargers.nfl.com

## Chargers Week 17 Media Availability

Thursday, December 28, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

### OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

#### **On QB Easton Stick's development:**

"Easton [Stick] has done a nice job. He has certainly given us a chance these last couple of weeks, certainly this past week. I think that he operates really well. He is throwing it well. Obviously, his legs have come alive, certainly last week. It's something for him to build on, but I think that he is definitely doing a nice job."

#### **On Stick's ability to run:**

"It's something that he has utilized for a long time, certainly through his college days at North Dakota State. It's an area that we were able to utilize last week. We'll see where it fits in, gameplan-wise, over the next couple of weeks."

#### **On Stick's scramble where he did not slide and if he 'would have preferred' for Stick to slide:**

"Yeah, we prefer a slide [*laughter*]. But, he had some adrenaline there, so he went for it [*laughter*]."

#### **On if there is an element where he is 'OK' with Stick not sliding due to 'how taking a hit could galvanize the sideline':**

"It's a slippery slope. Obviously, let guys play, but you have to be smart about it. When it's unnecessary, obviously, you want to be aware of it. It's a piece of Easton's game that he has utilized and he is doing a really good job with it."

## **DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR DERRICK ANSLEY**

### **On his first NFL game calling the defensive plays:**

"Well, I thought that there were a lot of positives. I have to give a lot of credit to my staff, they made the transition very smooth. From [Interim Head Coach] Giff [Smith], with the leadership from a big-picture, all the way down to [Assistant Defensive Line Coach John] Timu with the D-line, [Defensive Quality Control Coach] Robert Muschamp with the EDGE, [Defensive Passing Game Coordinator/Secondary Coach] Tommy [Donatelli] with the back end, [Linebackers Coach] Jeff [Howard] and [Front Seven Specialist] Mike [Hiestand] with the linebackers. They did a really good job of helping us structure the week, dividing the workload. On Saturday, it was good to see us come together like that."

### **On if there were 'any issues in any part of the game in terms of communication':**

"No, the communication was fine. I think the mic went out once or twice, but our players, they got us right into the calls that we needed to be in, which is a testament to K9 [LB Kenneth Murray Jr.] and [LB] Eric [Kendricks] with the green dot. The biggest thing is that I have to manage the third-and-eight better. We have to have DJ [S Derwin James Jr.] on the field. That was totally on me, had nothing to do with him. If I can have that play back, that's really the biggest blunder that we had."

### **On the third-and-eight and rep distribution:**

"We went into the game wanting to move some people around, give us the best chance to matchup. In that situation, you'd love to have Derwin [James Jr.] on the field. We should have had him on the field. That is totally on me, I mismanaged that. It was going fast, just mismanaged that on my part. Nothing against Derwin [James Jr.], it had nothing to do with his ability. It was just a coaching error."

### **On if James Jr. 'was pulled':**

"We didn't pull him. We went into the game playing different Stars in different packages, and the play call that came out was one that didn't have him in the game, which, in that moment, I wish that I would have called a better play and had him in the game."

### **On if he would have 'preferred' to have James Jr. in the game on that particular play:**

"Absolutely. If we could do it all over again. Sometimes the ball goes your way, sometimes it doesn't. If [CB Essang] Basse gets a little bit more of the ball, then we're not having this conversation. But, obviously, we want Derwin [James Jr.] on the field as much as possible. He's a leader, he's a glue player and he can do a lot of things, which gives us the flexibility to do these types of things because he can move around like that. Hopefully, I can get that rectified on my part this week."

### **On if James Jr. 'will be exclusively at Star the remainder of the season':**

"DJ is a football player, so he is going to play everything that he needs to play to help us win. He's a team guy. We are going to continue to move him around in some spots and get him into ideal situations, and try to unleash him in that way."

### **On James Jr.'s performance in the game:**

"I was pleased with his play. Obviously, if you ask him, I'm sure that he will say that he wished that he could have a couple of plays back. That's the competitive nature in him. He played calm, he played physical, he covered guys, he blitzed, he tackled, all of the things that the Star needs to do. It's a really three positions in one; you need to cover like a corner, you need to tackle in space like a safety and you have to play the run like a linebacker. He can do all of those things at a high level."

### **On Broncos QB Jarrett Stidham:**

"I'm 0-1 versus Jarrett Stidham, he beat me in 2017 when I was at Alabama [*laughter*]. He's a good player, pocket guy. He has sneaky athleticism. He's bigger than you think. We've researched him from the Raiders and Denver and we have a pretty good idea of who he is. We have to do a really good job of containing him because he can beat you in multiple ways."

**On Bills WR Gabe Davis' 'loose play' touchdown:**

"You have to give them a lot of credit. [Bills QB] Josh [Allen] kept the play alive. The rush and cover have to work together there. He kind of climbed in the pocket. They're trained to go deep. [Davis] kind of broke it off. It was unfortunate. We should have somebody back there deep, and that's one of those plays that we wish we could have back."

**On 'the coaching point on a loose play for the deep safety':**

"Well, we have to coach them all better because the rush has to keep Josh [Allen] in the pocket — and that's not easy to do when you have five-and-a-half [blockers] on four [pass rushers]. You have to make sure that you're tighter to the front side so that [S] Alohi [Gilman] doesn't feel that air in the pocket coming on that dig [route]. Then, Alohi [Gilman] has to stay deep in the deep part of the field, which he has done a million times. It's just one of those plays. It happened as we came out and he broke it up. It's a loose play. You have to chalk it up and keep it moving."