

Chargers Week 9 Media Availability

Friday, November 3, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

On the second-half offense:

"We're navigating the second half thing. It's something that, certainly, we want to improve on. It's an emphasis from that standpoint. It's something that we have to find a way to navigate and do a better job in the second half. Obviously, it's come up a few times now."

On if there was anything comparable to the Cowboys:

"It seems like every place has different things come up. We had a season where we started slow every single week and we basically had an opening score, I think, once all year. Sometimes, it goes the other way, like this. You just have to find a way to navigate it."

On the rushing offense:

"I think the run game is something that, obviously, we would like to improve on. At times, you're going to have different challenges in an offensive scheme. I think, for us, we just have to try and find something, just create some stability in it. So we can create some consistency. We're not going to rush for the 200 yards that we did in Week 1. That's not normal in this league. We have to find a way to create some stability in that world. You're just trying to navigate it to figure out what scheme we should maybe best utilize, based upon our structure. At the same time, you're going to face different opponents. We have to find a way to run a little bit better. Again, we're navigating that. If there was one simple solution, we'd hop right into that basket and go for it, but I think it's a combination of a lot of different things."

On OL Jordan McFadden lining up at fullback last week:

"I thought he did a really nice job. I thought he came downhill and was really physical. That was awesome to see. He's an offensive lineman, but he has some athleticism. Obviously, we saw that during the draft process. I felt like it was a good opportunity to find a role for him, hop in there and give us a couple of, kind of, early runs that can kind of be a little dirty. Big body. Get him in there and get him on a linebacker. I felt like it would give us something positive."

On TE Nick Vannett:

"There's certainly potential. Nick [Vannett] has played a lot of football. We're excited about that, to have a guy out there that's just played a bunch of football. He is a physical player. We're excited about what he's going to bring to us."

On the Jets' defense:

"These guys, when they create the turnovers, it has a huge impact on the game. It creates a lot of energy for their defense. It's a big challenge. They do a tremendous job. It's something they emphasize in a really phenomenal way. We have to do a really excellent job in that category."

On the Jets' defensive front and 'establishing the run early':

"I think it goes back to having a dual-threat first and second down mentality. It doesn't mean you have to establish the run or any of those things, but you have to have the ability and the threat to run the football and create some passing game off of it. That's just the really good balancing act on first and second down. Then, allow third down to be third down. Hopefully, you're in a little more manageable third downs where it's not the seven-plus variety, which favors the defense."

On RB Austin Ekeler:

"Austin [Ekeler] has done a really fine job. Him getting back into the fold the last couple of weeks and just finding that groove. He's just done an excellent job. He's such a professional. He has great experience in the pass game and the run game. Certainly, it's something that we can lean on. He's done a really good job."

On coaching on the sideline compared to in the booth:

"I've never called it [the offense] from the booth, so I wouldn't have perspective [*laughter*]. I've been in the booth before as a quarterbacks coach for a few weeks. For the most part, I've always been on the sideline. There's pros and cons to it, obviously. There's the viewpoint where you can see things really, really well. Sometimes, the communication maybe you lose track of just a little bit because you're not on the field. You're not able to communicate as easily. You're only through a headset. There's pros and cons to both. I can certainly see why people do one over the other. We've just gone down the path of being on the sideline. I like the communication aspect of it, but there are things that you have to lean on people upstairs to give you that viewpoint. They can see it higher up. You can see the whole 22 on the field so much easier from there as opposed to the sideline, where you're kind of seeing it from behind the defense or behind the offense. Sometimes, you can lose track on what front, what structure the defense is giving you. They can see it, obviously, a lot clearer."

On the benefits of being on the sideline during games, as opposed to the booth:

"Being able to communicate with [QB] Justin [Herbert], being able to communicate, really, with the whole offense. You can so much more smoothly and easily navigate the sideline in between series. I think it gives you a good feel for the game. A feeling of where things stand. I've always leaned that way. Not to say that the other way is right or wrong. I'm sure I'd love to be in the box, too, at the same time if I navigated that way."

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR DERRICK ANSLEY

On being 'an on-field coordinator' on gameday, as opposed to in the coaches booth:

"I've been a coordinator for three years now, total, and I've always been on the field. I like to be down on the field and feel the vibe of the game, the vibe of the players. Staying connected. I feel like if you're up top, you kind of lose that connection because you have to go through a middle man."

On 'if there are any game-planning reasons' as to why he is on the field on gameday:

"No, it's just kind of how we do things here. Me being a coordinator, me being involved in the secondary, I'm down there so that I can touch all of the different groups, with the D-line, edge, inside linebackers and secondary. I can help the secondary with [Pass Game Coordinator/Secondary Coach] Tom [Donatell] talking to me up top and going through the adjustments that way. No real particular reason, just kind of how we do things."

On the defensive assistant coaches in the booth and their assistance:

"All things considered, from their sightline, the down-and-distance, the personnel that's coming in and out of the game, our leverage on the football, our structure on the football, the backside routes that we can't see on the frontside. They're just an extra set of eyes up top that's very, very important to what we do for game day."

On which defensive assistant coaches are in the booth on gameday:

"[Defensive Passing Game Coordinator/Secondary Coach] Tom Donatell, [Assistant Secondary Coach] Will Harris and [Defensive Quality Control Coach] Robert Muschamp are up there. We have three really good guys up there that do a really good job."

On Jets QB Zach Wilson:

"Well, I have got history with [QB] Zach Wilson [*laughter*]. When I coached at Tennessee, we played him at BYU, and he's kind of the same, really — he's athletic, he buys time. He's not an overly fast guy, but very instinctive. He can feel that rush and escape pockets. He's dangerous on the run. He has that gunslinger-like approach, he plays the next play. He's a good player. He was a good player in 2019 when we played him and he's a good player now."

On 'carrying momentum' into the next game:

"We talked about what got us to last week's victory, and that was coming out here and killing blocks, straining to the ball, taking the ball away in practice and doing the fundamental things our way. That led to us playing well on Sunday."

On the 'celebration committee':

"Well, that had a lot to do with it [*laughter*]. Those guys definitely took a liking to that. I thought that was definitely a boost of energy for the group and it gave them a little ownership. I think you saw some of their personalities show. We just have to build off of that."

On 'getting back to the basics' of football being 'a fun game to play':

"At this level, it is a game, but it's also their job and their profession. There's a fine line, but at the end of the day, it is a game, and you have to approach it that way. There are no perfect players, no perfect coaches, no perfect schemes. You just have to make sure that you don't ride the wave and continue to keep the main thing the main thing and feed off each other. That's the beauty of football — you have 11 guys out there and all 11 guys may not have the same energy, but maybe there may be that one that sparks and that may get us all energized. That's the beauty of football."

On if the defense has 'a different feel' following last week's performance:

"No, we're the same defense. We just have to continue to do the things that we stress on, which is running to the ball, practicing the right way. You get better out there on that field. Once put the work in out there, then, usually, you get the dividend returns on Sunday and Monday."

On if teams in the NFL 'take games lightly' when playing against opponents that 'struggle in a particular phase':

"I can't speak for the entire league, but you can't take anybody for granted in this league. Everybody has good players. We have that old notion of, 'Any given Sunday,' which is real. The Jets have a really good team. [Jets Head Coach] Robert [Saleh] has done a really good job as a head coach. They play physical. They play tough. They run the ball at a really high rate. They have really good people outside with [Jets WR] Garrett Wilson and those guys. We have to do a really good job of focusing on us and doing what we need to do to go up there and get us a chance to win the game."

On 'what has led to' Jets QB Zach Wilson 'having success this season':

"I think the instincts. He's a good athlete, has really good flexibility in the pocket. He can kind of spin out of things, Houdini-type situations. I saw that in college first-hand and you see the same thing here. A really good arm. He's good on the run, so he can adlib those plays and keep things alive. We have to have really good rush-lane discipline and we have to do a really good job of staying connected on the back end, if he does get out of the pocket."