

Chargers Week 1 Media Availability

Thursday, September 7, 2023 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

On Week 1:

"There's a lot of excitement going into the regular season. It's a long process of OTAs, to training camp, to preseason ball. Now, you finally feel like we're here and ready to roll. I think everyone is really excited."

On facing the Miami defense:

"It's challenging. A lot of times early in seasons, you tend to have one or two of these. Certainly, this one will be a huge challenge because [Dolphins Defensive Coordinator] Vic [Fangio] is one of the best defensive coaches in our entire game. You're watching Miami, you're watching some old Denver, going back to Chicago. Whatever you need to do. Certainly, there's an element of projecting. That's what happens at the beginning of the season. There's a little bit of unknown even if you've played someone that's been somewhere for 10 years, there's still an element of something will change. There's a lot of challenges to that."

On QB Justin Herbert:

"Justin has just had a phenomenal offseason. I think just the way he's led this group, handled all of the development that goes on during a training camp. He's been phenomenal. We're really excited."

On Week 1:

"It's going to be a lot of fun. It's one game, certainly, so you have to put that in perspective. We're really excited about the opportunity to get out there and kind of just go for it. Again, you'll get to the second week, re-evaluate and keep going."

On the running backs:

"I think [RB] Austin [Ekeler] is the guy that's going to carry the bulk of it. I think you need some other guys that are ready to play some secondary roles. I think that's important. We've talked about that, certainly, the last couple of weeks about roles. Everyone has different roles. There will be opportunities for the other running backs to get in there, whether it's to spell Austin for a couple of plays, a particular play or sequence of events. We'll have those things kind of built into the thing. We'll certainly get some touches to a number of those guys."

On RB Austin Ekeler:

"He does all of it. We're not going to lose any of that. All of the good stuff that we've all gotten to see from him the last couple of years, we want to embrace all of that."

On WR Quentin Johnston:

"A lot of variables are associated with that. The flow of games always take the course to multiple paths. Certainly, we have a very important role for him, just like a number of our guys. As the game flows, what that number [of snaps] ends up being, we'll kind of see how it goes, but certainly, he'll be out there plenty."

On facing the Miami defense:

"This is one of the premier defenses. Certainly, from a talent standpoint, what they've developed on that defense over the last few years has been tremendous. To bring [Dolphins Defensive Coordinator] Vic [Fangio] in, it's going to be a big challenge for us. It's going to be really, really challenging. We're really excited for it, though."

On 'how influential' Dolphins Defensive Coordinator Vic Fangio has been on the NFL:

"I think Vic has had a huge impact on our league the last few years. Going back to, probably, Chicago. You can go back to San Francisco, certainly, as well. The Chicago sequence — from Chicago to Denver and then things have kind of branched off from there. Structurally, you've seen a lot of influence in the last few years. This league is about trends. Certainly, the trend of their structure has been very high for a number of years now."

On how he 'approached Week 1' as a player and if it's changed as a coach:

"Week 1 is exciting for everyone. You're finally to the real thing, I think for everyone — players, coaches, fans. Anyone associated with this thing, it's finally here and so there's a lot of excitement. I think, perspective-wise, it's one game. You do have to view that from that standpoint. There's an element of coming out of training camp and we just want to play really clean football. It's the first time for some guys getting out there on the field in that setting. It's different than practice, different than a preseason game, even. You're really emphasizing just the clean operation and just being able to play execution football."

On if he would like another week of preparation:

"No, I think everyone is ready to go. I think everyone is ready to play football. It has been a really good process, but training camp can be a long process. Now we're here, so let's go."

On how 'refreshing' it is to not play the New York Giants in Week 1:

"Yes [*laughter*]. That's certainly shown up a number of times over the last few years. This will be a lot of fun. There will be a lot of new elements for me, which is exciting."

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR DERRICK ANSLEY

On if he is 'ready to go' for Week 1:

"Absolutely. Good day of practice. There was a lot of energy, guys executing at a high level. Ready to go."

On the defense's tackling in the preseason:

"I thought that we did some good things. We made some, we missed some, but I thought that the emphasis was put on that and I thought that the guys answered the challenge at a pretty good rate."

On his history with Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa dating back to their time together at Alabama:

"I was at Bama his freshman year in 2017. He was a freshman in there with [Eagles QB] Jalen Hurts. From Day 1, you knew that he was a leader, when he came in there. Bright, bright smile. He would light the room up when he went in there. Good human being. When he got on the field, he was very distinctive. The ball was out quick and he knew exactly where he was going with it. He was a field general. That was as a freshman. Now, he has matriculated into what he is now, and he is a really good player now, too."

On the 2020 NFL Draft's quarterback class and his first-hand experience with QB Justin Herbert, Tagovailoa and Hurts:

"It's an elite group. Jalen [Hurts] has developed into a really good quarterback. He took his team all the way to the Super Bowl. He has always been a leader. Same thing with Tua [Tagovailoa], he took his team to the playoffs last year. Then, Justin [Herbert], he's here every day. He's a really good player, as well. I think that all three of those guys have leadership qualities. You can kind of feel that when you're around them. They're all different in their own way, personally and also skillset-wise. All three of them are really good players."

On if the defense will 'follow a similar plan' compared to last year's matchup against the Dolphins:

"Really, the only thing that you can take from last year is the personnel. They have similar personnel on the field, just like we do. Last year was last year. This game is going to have a life of its own. There are going to be a lot of unique challenges, a lot of adversity in the game for both sides. We have to do a really good job of staying together, as a collective, and going out there and playing the next play. We have a really good team coming in here, so we have to do a really good job of respecting that and playing one play at a time."

On Dolphins WR Tyreek Hill:

"We know Tyreek [Hill] very well. I remember when he was in high school, Coffee County [Georgia]. He was electric then, he was electric in college, he's been electric his whole time in pro football. We've played against him a lot — I was with the Raiders in 2018, and then being here the last two years — so we know Tyreek very well. He's a great player. He's a home run threat. He can knock you out. We have to do a really good job of being mindful of his skillset and respecting that."

On DB Ja'Sir Taylor's performance against the Dolphins last year and what he 'remembers about that':

"He didn't flinch. He's a very reserved young man, doesn't say a lot. Very professional. He's locked in. If you tell him something one time, he has it. He did a really good job of answering the call. That's what pro ball is. You have a young guy coming in there — first year, nobody knows who he is — he comes in and does his job. All you need to do is just play with others. We don't need anybody to do anything more than that, just play within the scheme and do your part."

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER KHALIL MACK

On preparing to commence his 10th NFL season:

"It's hard to forget these years, man [*laughter*]. It goes by so fast. I feel great."

On 'looking forward' to playing alongside of OLB Joey Bosa:

"God-willing, I'm excited for that. I'm excited for him and myself. Less talking and more action on the field together."

On if he is 'expecting' the Dolphins to 'avenge last season's performance':

"Absolutely, but that's last year. We both have new additions to each team. We're different teams. Just looking forward to this opportunity, them coming back here. Looking forward to getting to do what we do."

On Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa:

"He's smart, he's very smart and decisive. He can get out of the pocket and create some plays down the field for his guys. I know that he is a leader for that team. I respect him. They're going to play hard for him."

On 'if his sense of urgency increases as the years go on':

"Absolutely. When you say sense of urgency, I'm not sure what you mean exactly, but I can kind of understand what [Bosa] was saying, in terms of his expectations for himself. Same for me. I want to win. I want to play in that final game at the end of the year, in February. That's the goal and that's the mission. With 97 on the other side for the whole year, that should be fun."

On if he 'is at the point where personal accolades don't matter anymore':

"I'd be lying if I said that they didn't matter, because it's a measurement of what you're doing and what you're doing for the team. I try to give my all to be able to put the team into a position to win. Whether it's affecting the quarterback or getting the ball back to [QB] Justin [Herbert] and the offense, that's what I'm here to do."

On his relationship with his former defensive coordinator, Dolphins Defensive Coordinator Vic Fangio, and the 'challenge of trying to get up to speed with that defense in the first year':

"Vic [Fangio] is a simple guy, but he is decisive on his mindset of what he's thinking going into the game. He's a great coach, a great person. It will be exciting to see him this Sunday."

On if he 'pays attention' to the injury report of an opposing team's offensive line and their availability 'in any given week':

"It's definitely a part of it because you have to know what to expect, especially up front — whether you have a new guy coming in, what to expect from their end and what they're thinking. At the same time, not letting that affect our thought process and our aggressiveness and how we want to play."