

Chargers Training Camp Media Availability

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 ⚡ Jack Hammett Sports Complex ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR KELLEN MOORE

On 'walking the line of being aggressive and taking care of the ball':

"I think the biggest thing is that it's just a constant conversation. It's assessing different situations, different circumstances, different plays. We want to be aggressive. I don't think that any offense doesn't want to be aggressive. We want to present opportunities to take a deep shot or take a bigger play, but at the same time, make good decisions. If they're not there, move on, and that gives us opportunities to keep going. [QB] Justin [Herbert] has done that throughout his career in such a phenomenal way, so we're really excited about it."

On Herbert's 'risk versus taking care of the ball':

"I think that he has done a nice job. Every game is different, right? There are different circumstances, whether it's on your team or the other team. I think that he has really done a phenomenal job of taking care of the football. Obviously, everyone knows his statistics through his first three years. He has taken care of the ball extremely well. He'll continue to do that. Hopefully, we get a few more opportunities. Certainly, these receivers have tremendous talent to get down the field, so we're really excited about that."

On 'trying to convince' Herbert 'to take more chances':

"I haven't sensed that. I think that he has, certainly, done a phenomenal job so far in this camp. Camp is about evaluating yourself and testing yourself in different ways. Justin has, I think, done that in a really good way."

On his takeaways from the scrimmage:

"The scrimmage was a day in this process. It didn't start great, certainly had some sacks in that game and just some lack of flow. I think that our guys settled in. We got into some situational ball, which was good. Hopefully, you learn from that thing and keep building."

On if he is 'looking forward to seeing the running backs in a game situation':

"Yes. Preseason games are so phenomenal for running backs, just because it's finally their chance to really show, ultimately, what they are able to do. We have such a great group here that is going to have these awesome opportunities to hop in there, get some rushing attempts, make the plays out in space, make great decisions out in space. I'm really excited for those guys."

On what he is 'looking for' out of the offense on Saturday night:

"Number one is operation, just a clean operation and that our guys are on the same page, communicating really well. Certainly, as preseason games progress, a lot of the younger guys will get a lot of opportunities. We're really excited about those guys, just getting a chance to go play free, play football, trust yourself — you're here for a reason — and go for it."

On 'working the Middle 8 today' and that particular situation:

"I think that a really cool part of this training camp process that [Head Coach] Brandon [Staley] has really emphasized is just all of the situational football. Yesterday, we talked about starting the game fast and emphasizing the start of the game. We talked about the Middle 8 today, spent a lot of time about how you can play off of each other and how critical those can flip games when you steal points before the half, and then get an opportunity to take the ball in the second half. Those are big, big game-changing moments. We have to emphasize it, be aware of it, that these are critical things that influence games."

On if there is a 'plan' for how much each player will play on Saturday night:

"No, no plan yet. We'll get there probably in the next day or two."

On Herbert 'through the eyes of a former quarterback':

"Justin [Herbert] has, certainly, the physical things that we all see and recognize, but I think that his preparation, the way that he sees the game, the way that he processes the game, is at a really special level. I'm really excited to see him continue to grow in that way."

On what 'stands out physically' about Herbert:

"Certainly, he has the size, he has a very talented arm that we all see. I think that he moves really well. He has made some plays with his legs, I think that has been a really exciting part about this process, that he is going to be able to explore and take advantage of."

On WR Quentin Johnston:

"Quentin [Johnston] has done a nice job. The other three guys have, certainly, been here for a number of years, so it has been awesome for him to have those guys there, to lean on and to grow, while watching those guys, and then hopping in there. He's taking advantage of each and every opportunity. We're excited to keep building it."

On Johnston and 'making sure that the team isn't putting too much on his plate':

"It's just a process where you expose it to him. Like any player on our team, we expose him to a lot of football during training camp. Every day, there is something new. The wheels are always turning. As we get closer to games and, certainly, the regular season, we start building out roles and packages that they can focus on, that allow them to still play fast and play with all of the talent that they have."

On his run to camp:

"It was great [*laughter*]. Every day. Have to find a way to get it somehow [*laughter*]."

LINEBACKER DAIYAN HENLEY

On training camp:

"It's pretty good. I'm having fun. I'm enjoying it. I mean, it's football. This is my day job, now. To be able to come up here and do what I love every day, I've been enjoying it. These days are long because it's camp, but I enjoy every moment of it."

On his instincts contributing to his plays:

"It's definitely instinct. You have to be able to get to the ball. That's just kind of the name of the game. To be able to get to the ball, that's the biggest part of it. The instincts take over. I wish they were a little bit better because I want those interceptions [*laughter*]. My coach always says that a PBU [pass breakup] is what our goal is as linebackers and an interception is a bonus, but for me, that's just a low bar. For me, I'm trying to get that interception. The PBU is just okay. If I can get that interception next time, I'll be smiling a little bit more about it."

On working with LB Eric Kendricks:

"Able to be with a guy like Eric Kendricks and be able to pick his brain, talk about football — there's a lot to pick up from a guy like that because he's seen so much and he's been so involved in the game and at a high level. Whenever I get a chance to talk about what he's seeing on a play, it's always in-depth because he's trying to give me his best answer. Just talking about scheme and what to expect when we get certain formations. If we see two going up and we have to carry through, we know there's possible out-breaking routes. Just things like that. Having that talk with him has definitely been impacting me as a player on the field."

On his 'excitement level' to play the first preseason game at SoFi Stadium:

"I mean, a 10 because I'm trying to be on the scale, but 1,000 if I could just take it up a notch. I mean, SoFi, this is home. To be there down the street from my house, you could imagine how many family members I'm going to have there. There's going to be a lot. To have my first game be there, in general — I was there with the [Washington State] Cougs not too long ago for a bowl game, but I didn't play. To be there and be able to play my first game at SoFi, I mean, like I said, 1,000. Excitement is out the roof for me."

On if he dreamed of playing in the NFL so close to his high school, Crenshaw:

"No, because when I was at the 'Shaw, we didn't have an LA team. When I saw that it was a possibility at one point, being in college and being like, 'Dang, there's no chance that I get drafted by my home team.' Then, sure enough, that's what happened. To look back at the 'Shaw days and be like, this is the same thing, but just up a notch is amazing. This is crazy."

On the one-on-one period against the running backs:

"I mean, it got a little chippy. I mean, that's what happens when good players breed competition. When we're going against our running backs, the top of the class, we're trying to win. Today was a physical day. We sat there and we were doing pass rush. Our coaches tell us, the linebackers, not to bull rush, work a move. But then, you know, you have guys like me. I'm a little hard-headed. When I get a chance to go get some contact, I'll go get it. Things got chippy from there. Like I said, good competition. That's all that was."

On facing RB Joshua Kelley in practice:

"I mean, you have JK [Kelley], a dude that's coming up fierce, coming up strong. I think I had one good swipe against him. I had bull rushed — I can't think who I bull rushed because it's a blur. You get out there, you go crazy and everything is a blur. Like I said, those competition moments, I hope I'm making them better. I know we're getting better. That's why it is what it is when you get that competition."

On RB Larry Rountree III and LB Kenneth Murray Jr., in practice:

"All I'm going to say is, K9 is coming back strong. Larry, you know, he's a guy that's looking for contact. K9 is a guy that's looking for contact. Things happen. I know K9 will make those type of plays. I can't wait until our next day in pass rush. It's going to be another banger, for real."

On learning the defense:

"Everything is how it's supposed to be. For me, being the rookie, being able to have the vets that I have in the room. I'm dealing with minor mistakes every now and then, but then major plays every now and then. I think the flow is coming perfect because I've talked to my coaches and my coaches are telling me that I'm doing great. With that being said, I've been having a good camp. That's credit to my coaches and credit to my captains, my leaders. I've been able to talk to EK [Eric Kendricks]. I've been able to talk to K9 [Kenneth Murray]. Dudes like [LB] Amen [Ogbongbemiga], [LB] Nick Niemann. I have guys that surround me that help me realize that you have to learn through the mess ups. Then, when you make those plays and you figure it out, it's that much better because you won't make that same mistake again. That's all I'm focused on, is not making the same mistake twice."

On being able to 'play without having to think too much' on Saturday:

"Oh, yeah. Thanks to my coach, [Defensive Coordinator Derrick Ansley] DA, thanks to [Head Coach Brandon] Staley, that they have the scheme set up for us to just go out there and play free. Go out there and play football. Be the best players that we can be. That's why they drafted me, I believe, because I'm a guy that's active, that's mentally active and trying to go make plays for the team. I'm a team guy. With those coaches behind me, I know I'm going to be able to go out there and play free."

On transitioning from college to pro football:

"So far, I would definitely say it's a different type of intellectual game, for me, just because up here you want to know everything that you have to do. It's not just about being a robot, but it's about also making plays. To make it all translate so that you can go out there and make the plays. In college football, you're more so dependent on your athletic ability. You have those guys every now and then. Those guys do make it to the League that have intellect to back it up. That's what I'm doing here, learning that. Make sure they match. One is one is one. Sometimes, the brain is better than the body. That's what, I would say, is the biggest difference."

On 'rookie duties':

"That's team business [*laughter*]. I'm going to leave it — hey, man. Don't make me be up here and singing some T-Swift. I have a catalog of things that I can sing. Oh, let me not because they might watch this [*laughter*]. They might watch this and then I don't know what I'll be doing tomorrow, so I'm going to leave it at that [*laughter*]. It's been fun."

OUTSIDE LINEBACKER TULI TUIPULOTU

On training camp:

"It's been fun trying to feel everyone's energy. They're trying to get to know me and I'm trying to get to know them and build that chemistry within the team. I'm just trying to enjoy and have fun."

On calling OLB Joey Bosa 'sir':

"I say 'Yes, sir,' to everybody, but it's Joey Bosa so yo have to give him respect [*laughter*]. I respect those guys, him and [OLB] Khalil Mack. Whatever they need, I'll do it, rookie duties and all that."

On learning from Bosa and Mack:

"It's interesting, they're two different pass rushers. Joey [Bosa] talks about it all the time, they approach their pass rush differently. It's good to get a piece of both of them."

On his family coming to the preseason game on Saturday:

"The family is going to be deep. My paycheck is going to be a little low there [*laughter*] but, hopefully, I'll have my whole family there. I'm excited but I'm not going to get too excited, it's just another game. Try to treat it like another game and just be calm. Try to enjoy it."

On treating Saturday like 'another game' after 'growing up in the shadow of SoFi Stadium':

"I'll just treat it like another game, just enjoy and have fun with my teammates. We're all playing for each other in these preseason games. We're all trying to prove to each other that we belong on the team. We just have to do our job and have fun."

On staying in Southern California for his entire career:

"It's a blessing to be out here because when I need a break, I've got my family down the street. Just drive down there, 20 minutes away and have some balance between football and the stuff outside of football. I'm just blessed to be in a room with K-Mack and Joey and learn from them, so I'm excited. I appreciate the Chargers."

On Outside Linebackers Coach Giff Smith:

"It's interesting how he coaches because him and Joey [Bosa] have been together since Joey entered the league. They talk alike and sometimes he'll hand Joey the remote and say, 'You tell them,' because they're on the same page for everything. Hopefully, I can get on that level with him, and we can grow from there."

On being comparable to Bosa or Mack:

"I think I'm far, far from those guys. They're on a different level."

On his style of play compared to Bosa or Mack:

"I'm trying to get little bits of both, but closer to Joey [Bosa] for sure. I feel like with K Mack, he's a freak of nature — not saying Joey isn't either. I think I could get a little bit closer to Joey in terms of footwork and hands. Hopefully, I can get there."

On being comfortable:

"I still think that I have to prove myself. I'm a second-rounder, but there's still more that I've got to prove. Hopefully, I can prove that in the preseason game and throughout this training camp."

On the biggest change from college football:

"I would say the playbook, it's not too different, but it's a little bit more complicated. I think verbiage is the thing that's been catching me a lot. It can be the same type of job but different words because of what's going on in the back end. Just the playbook."

On comparing USC QB Caleb Williams to QB Justin Herbert:

"They're both really smart. I know, playing versus Caleb [Williams] the whole last year, that he is a big trash talker. He'll get in your face. Herbert isn't like that. If he wants to talk trash, he's going to do it with his playing. Not saying that Caleb doesn't do that, but that's how Herbert approaches it. It's exciting to go against them."

On T Rashawn Slater:

"I've got to win [*laughter*]. I don't think I've beaten him yet. He's a great player; strong hands and very disciplined with his outside hand and inside. It's crazy how he uses his hands — I don't want to get too deep into before I give away his little techniques. He's a great player and he's preparing me for the league."

On the 'best piece of advice' he's received:

"There's so much stuff that I've been getting from everybody, so there isn't one that I can choose from."

On 'football being his job':

"I'm happy because I'm not really a school guy [*laughter*]. I do have to go back and finish, so I'm excited to do that after the season."