



ARIZONA CARDINALS VS. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Cardinals Head Coach Kliff Kingsbury

On if the offense's inability to burn the clock at the end of the game was due to the Chargers defense or if they were unable to execute:

"I'd say all of the above. We had our chances. I think both teams played well enough to win, but they made the plays at the end, and we unfortunately didn't. Offensively, we got it back twice and went three and out. Can't do that against a good team."

On the emotions after losing so late in the game:

"It's always tough anytime you lose. I was proud of the effort and bouncing back on a short week. I thought, like I said, we played good enough to win and just didn't make the plays at the end and they did. You've got to give them a lot of credit and give coach (Chargers Head Coach Brandon) Staley a lot of credit for that call at the end. It was a big-time call and they executed it perfectly."

On the frustration level of the team heading into the bye week:

"It's just all about trying to get better at this point. I still think our best football is in front of us, and that's what we talked about was we've got to find a way to maximize who we are and what we put out there these last five weeks. We've got to rest, recover, and go from there. That type of game, that type of loss when you play that hard and have moments where you look really good, you've got to build off that somehow and be better in these last five weeks."

On having QB Kyler Murray and WR Marquise Brown back on the field together:

"I thought they played at a high level at times. There's some plays we'd like to have back, but we've just got to continue to work together, build that rapport with those two guys out there and go from there."

On how important it was to get RB James Conner going against the Chargers rush defense:

"We knew that would be a big part of the game if we could do that. I thought he ran well most of the game. Obviously, the fumble we'd like to have that back but when you can get him going early it usually is a good sign for our offense."

On if he received an explanation for the reversals of the turnovers defensively:

"Yeah. The one on the fumble apparently, they said we took it from them—which I hadn't seen that called yet this season. Then the interception they felt like it hit the ground."

On if any of the coaches in the booths told him what they saw on both turnover plays that were reversed:

"Yeah. They felt differently."



On if this loss hits him a little harder than previous games:

“No. (When) you lose in this league they're all tough. Week in and week out you put a lot into it but like I said, give them a lot of credit. I thought they hung in there and that call at the end was big time.”

On what was the difference between past games and today's game with getting off to a fast start on both sides of the ball:

“Just focus I think offensively, and defensively we made some plays early. They got us going, but I thought the energy was right but instead at the end we didn't make the plays we needed to offensively to finish out that game.”

On if he thought twice about going for it on fourth down in the first half:

“I don't. I liked what we had. They played it well. I thought we'd have a shot, but they played it really well, so you have to tip your hat to them.”

On the decision to kick a field goal instead of going for the touchdown on third and six in the second quarter:

“A lot goes into each and every one of those calls whether it's analytics, feel, or talking through it so that's what we came to our best answer at.”

On the plan for the bye week:

“We'll watch the film tomorrow and continue to evaluate where we're at, how we can get better and at each position see who we're getting back. Hopefully, we get a couple of guys back into the lineup and go from there. Five games left it's a lot of football to be played, and like I said our goal is to make sure we play the best football moving forward those last five weeks.”

On if he's concerned about his job security:

“I'm not.”

On his relationship with Murray:

“We've been good. When you're not winning obviously everybody's going to be a little on edge, but I thought he played really well today. I think moving forward he'll play at a high level. I was proud of his effort.”

On what he and Murray talk about when they have conversations about the future:

“Just how we can get better. That's it. We know we're missing some pieces offensively, but we talk about how we can utilize what we have and what's the best way to do that. I felt today he was really efficient a lot of the time and played at a high level. We just didn't make those plays at the end.”



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Cardinals Quarterback Kyle Murray

On what changed in the fourth quarter:

“We should not have even been in the situation. The whole game we had what we wanted. Our four minute offense execution lost us the game. Our defense shouldn’t have been in that position. We had three chances, three drives to put it away and didn’t. That’s pretty much the name of the game.”

On how tough it is to go into the bye week on a loss:

“We just knew we were going to win that one. It felt like we were going to win that game. The energy, everything. Offensively, we played well until the fourth quarter and on those drives when we needed it the most we didn’t make it happen. That’s on us.”

On if the loss is harder to take than others because of how the game ended:

“There are a lot of implications on this one. Understanding where we’re at, how the season has gone, where we could have gone. Obviously, we still have five games left, but we wanted to go into the bye week with a win and in the right direction.”

On what RB James Conner does for the offense:

“It was huge, but he would tell you there’s nothing to show for it. He played his ass off and got beat.”

On having WRs DeAndre Hopkins and Hollywood Brown on the field:

“It felt good. It felt good to have them back out there. There were some things we wish we could have back, but to have them back out there on the same field, that was the first time actually. It was good to see them both in action.”

On where his frustration level is at:

“We didn’t finish. We had every opportunity to win that game. Could have controlled it, ended it on our terms and we didn’t do it. That’s pretty much the frustration.”

On if he liked the play call on the 4th-and-1 play in the second quarter that resulted in an interception:

“That wasn’t for (Hopkins) actually. Schematically, we were kind of “(expletive).”

On if there is tension between him and Head Coach Kliff Kingsbury:

“There was no tension. This whole season has not gone the way anyone wanted or envisioned it to go. Between me and him though, we’re good.”

On RB James Conner’s first 100-yard game as a Cardinal:

“It’s a step in the right direction as far as the run game.”

On how poor field position played a part in the approach in play calling:

“That plays a part in it. That’s why we practice that stuff. There’s really no excuse for our last three drives. No excuse. We have the players, there’s no excuse for not finishing that game on our

terms. Not having to put the defense back out there. They did their job. We don't get a first down, we don't run the clock, that's tough to put them back on the field like that."

On the frustration from not being able to close out the game:

"Everybody thought we were winning the game and then to have the opportunity and not finish it that's the frustrating part."



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Cardinals Running Back James Conner

On how he feels after tough game:

“We lost the game, so it’s tough. With the workload, I wanted to get it going — I feel like it was personally overdue for me in the run game. It just sucks, it wasn’t enough.”

On his performance:

“It’s hard to have feelings about it, I’m just trying to do the job, run hard and get something going and be a spark for the offense. All I can do personally is build on that.”

On emotions in locker room after loss:

“It’s a bad taste in your mouth. The guys were playing hard, so it wasn’t effort related, it was just execution which is just as important. It’s just a bad taste, we have to go back and reset, and not look too far ahead—there’s going to be playoff talk but you just have to reset and get back to work.”

On why it took so long to have a breakout game like today:

“Not sure. We’re a team, we’re all in it together and we try to do what works. We all want to win and put everyone in the best position, today was just one of those days, so that’s how it all played out.”



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Cardinals Wide Receiver Marquise Brown

On if offense felt different than when he last played:

“It felt like we were fine, we just didn’t make enough plays to get it done.”

On the offensive performance in the second half:

“Just not executing.”

On how he felt physically being on the field:

“Just blessed to be able to be out there. If I’m not there, I’m not there.”

On what it means to the offense when James Conner gets going:

“It’s good to see him out there breaking runs. It gets the offense going for sure.”

On the attitude in the locker room after the game:

“At this point it is what it is. All we can do is control what we can control and get back to the drawing board after this bye.”

On what needs to be cleaned up going into the bye week:

“Everyone has to look in the mirror at themselves, coaches and players, and figure out how we are going to finish this season. That is what it’s going to come down to.”



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Cardinals Safety Budda Baker

On his immediate reaction to the loss:

“Tough loss, that’s my immediate reaction. We played some all-right football, just a tough loss for us. Especially the way it went (with the) two-point conversion—tough loss.”

On if the loss will affect the team going into the bye week:

“I wouldn’t necessarily say that. I would say it’s kind of a (time) to rejuvenate, recover, and guys spending time with their family. We have five more opportunities and (we have) to make the best of those opportunities. This week is about getting the film right tomorrow, rest, recover, rejuvenate and get ready for these last five weeks.”

On if he felt like they were able to bounce back after the loss in Mexico City:

“Yes, definitely. You could say “bounce back” with that butt whooping we got last week, but we didn’t win. We did better like you said but just didn’t do enough to win.”

On if giving the Chargers offense more chances to score wore on the defense:

“No. At the end of the day I always try to preach to our guys no matter where the ball is, our job as defensive players is to defend. Whether it’s on our own five-yard line or their five-yard line. Wherever the ball is set, that’s where we defend no matter what. That’s the mindset each and every time we go out there on that field.”

On if he feels everyone played with full effort today:

“I definitely felt like everyone had a hard-fought game. Everyone had some great plays. I definitely felt like guys fought and they fought through all four quarters.”

On what happened on the two-point conversion play the Chargers ran:

“For me personally, I was in a situation where I was double teaming the slot receiver to the right and the ball got caught to the left. For me it’s kind of like a broken record. If I’m on the right it’s going left, and if I’m on the left it’s going right. It’s kind of getting boring but at the end of the day, I’ve got to continue to do my job.”

On if the team felt like they were in control of the game:

“I definitely felt like we were in control but at the end of the day every time we’re on that field our job is to defend. If they get in the redzone give them three (points) and don’t give them touchdowns. That’s our main goal every time we’re on the field and we didn’t do enough today.”

On what the Chargers did offensively to move the ball down the field on the last drive of the game:

“They were checking down the ball and having some good yards after-the-catch. We made some tackles here and there. We made enough plays to win that game, like the two-point conversion, one stop and that’s all we needed, and we didn’t get it. Kudos to them.”

On what his message is to the team to keep them together down the stretch:

“Just kind of what I told you guys; rest, rejuvenate, recover and be with your families. At the end of the day when it’s time to work we work. We’ve got five more opportunities. We (have to) take the best of those opportunities because this league stands for not for long. We’ve got five more opportunities to play some good football and that’s the plan that we’re going to do.”



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Cardinals Corner Back Trayvon Mullen Jr.

On the overturned fumble recovery in the second quarter that lead to a touchdown:

“I feel like we were supposed to have the ball. But, it is what it is. It’s one play and we didn’t get it. It is what it is, but I can’t say too much about it.”

On what went down on the fumble recovery:

“I heard Arizona ball in the huddle.”

On what they did to regain energy after the overturned takeaway:

“I mean, you’ve just got to overcome circumstances that happen. Lots of stuff happens when you’ve got a loose football. You’ve got to be prepared for any type of situation. It happened, and we had to go out there and continue to play ball.”

On how overturned takeaways affected the team:

“It’s tough. It’s tough to deal with, especially as players. Going out there playing down after down, trying to win and make those types of plays. But when they do fall like that, it kind of gets you out of the mood but then you’ve got to lock back in and know you’ve got to finish.”

On if the defense felt tired in the last defensive drive:

“We’ve just got to finish as a team. Things happen, like I said, circumstances happen. As a team we’ve got to be together. We’ve got to stand tall. We’ve got to be together, we’ve got to play fast. And we’ve got to just find a way to win at the end of the day.”



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Cardinals Defensive Lineman Zach Allen

On the result of the game:

“Yeah, it’s a tough one. It’s kind of how football is. We stole one in Las Vegas and the football gods kind of stole one from us today. So it balances itself out somehow.”

On how the Chargers managed to march down the field for the lead:

“We have got to be better about that. As a defense you want to be on the field for situations like that and kind of prove yourself, and we didn’t today.”

On the difficulty of pressuring Chargers Quarterback Justin Herbert:

“He’s one of the best in the league and he showed it today. Obviously he’s got a great arm, great pocket presence. We got there a couple of times as a group, but I think after games like this you think about what could’ve been done.”

On a missed sack opportunity in the fourth quarter:

“Yeah, I was looping around (the play) and (Justin Herbert) had a great pocket. While I was looping (Herbert) was going out there (to the outside). That’s one I obviously wish I had back and I have got to be better about that. But we have the bye week, reset, work on it and I’ll be better about it.”

On how tough it is knowing it was a winnable game:

“Yeah obviously it stinks and you have to sit with it for an extra week but we can’t wait to get back out there and try to correct it. But you know hopefully that kind of sparks a fire and we get more intensity.”

On if there was a ‘we can’t believe that just happened’ reaction:

“Yes. I mean it didn’t feel good and it’s still pretty fresh right now so I’m still trying to fully process it.”

On if he has plans for the bye week:

“No, just staying around here.”

On rejuvenating after the bye-week:

“Yes, same thing, kind of hit the reset button. We still got five more games and it definitely will be a tough task to do that. We believe that we can win any game that we’re in, so we’ll definitely try to win all five.”



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Cardinals Offensive Lineman Kelvin Beachum

On how tough the loss is for him:

“Very tough. It’s a tough pill to swallow.”

On the offense’s consecutive three-and-outs:

“We put our defense in a poor position. I think what’s most disheartening is we talked about this very situation on Saturday. Having the ball right before the two-minute warning and being able to execute right before the two-minute to close the game out. It wasn’t the exact time, but a very, very similar situation. I think that’s what’s the most disheartening, not being able to take what we talked about in practice and in preparation and not close the game out like we needed to today.”

On the mindset going into the bye week following consecutive losses:

“Without question, the light is still on, it’s very, very dim. But we have our opportunity to come out of the bye, get healthy. Find a way to put a couple games together and try to close out the year the right way.”

On if the play calling became conservative late in the game:

“I think it was still aggressive. We didn’t execute the plays that were called. I think they did a really good job with second down, pressuring us on second down. We had the one out route to (TE) Trey (McBride). Guy got his hand in on the ball, three-and-out. Came back, got sacked on second down, which, in a two-minute situation that just can’t happen. We just can’t allow sacks to happen. But I think that they did a really good job of finding ways to be aggressive in those critical moments and we didn’t do so today.”

On running back James Conner’s performance:

“It was amazing. It was amazing. To have a running back on safeties, which is what you want to be able to have especially. He had 20 plus carries. Those guys were worn out, yards after contact. Him just wearing down their secondary was really good for us”

On how tough his season has been leading the offensive line:

“I mean, it’s been challenging. But at the same time you’ve got to find a way to thrive. It’s been cool to have some different guys in and find a way to lead in a different way. It’s being able to talk on the sideline, being able to talk during the week. It’s being able to have the conversations that I’m having with our staff about things that we’re thinking about, and how we’re putting guys in situations to be successful. It’s been cool to be a part of that entire process, but it’s been emotionally and mentally draining. But, that’s what we’re paid to do. We’re paid to win games, we’re paid to prepare, we’re paid to find a way to get wins. This year we just haven’t done that consistently enough.”

On the absence of former offensive line coach Sean Kugler:

“I mean, it’s tough. But that’s the National Football League. It’s hard to say what’s going on there, but it’s hard to have anybody lose their job. But in the middle of the season, losing your position coach is rough.”



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Cardinals Linebacker Zaven Collins

On his near interception:

“I think my hands were underneath it. My hand was under the ball in between my hand and chest and when I fell to the floor, the ball squeezed, and my chest came off the ball and then my hands brought it up. I think the referees saw it at a funny angle, I don’t think it ever touched the ground, but from that angle the ball looked like it touched the ground. It’s supposed to be undeniable evidence that it wasn’t a catch so that sucks there. We just gave the offense really good field position. I just have to catch it clean at the end of the day.”

On not stopping the Chargers at the end of the game:

“It sucks. Obviously, back-to-back scores in the endzone, there’s nothing really to say. They didn’t do anything that I think was too crazy that we haven’t seen before. We need to execute and be on toes, especially in the redzone or leading up to the redzone, we need to be on our toes all 100 yards of the field because you can score anywhere, not just the redzone. That last drive, they extended it out, obviously we had a penalty to put them at good field position. It was rough there at the end.”

On if he thought he had caught the interception:

“I thought I caught it clean, usually you can feel when the ball hits the ground based off when you catch it because you can feel the ball ricochet off the ground. The ball isn’t going to move the ground, the ball moves your hands when you’re catching the ball. You’ll feel the ricochet off the ground, and I didn’t feel the ricochet off the ground. There’s nothing you can do about it, whatever they saw in New York they thought happened and that’s what happened.”



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Chargers Head Coach Brandon Staley

On decision to go for two on final touchdown:

“I really believed in our offensive football team. I believed in our quarterback. I believed in the play call. We executed it well the entire week and I felt like it would have good answers against the defenses they might play and we wanted to finish the game on our terms.”

On QB Justin Herbert’s performance today:

“The way Justin played today is what makes him so special. Lost a bunch of players throughout the game, he never flinches. There was a lot of pressure in that second half and he always keeps poise and never loses his belief. I thought he made a lot of winning plays on that two minute drive, just a lot of big plays. I thought he played well the entire game, used his legs in this game which was huge and when you really needed him in the clutch, he delivered. What I told the team was the two weeks prior, a two minute drive, it didn’t go down for him. That’s what it’s like when you’re a quarterback in the NFL, you’re not going to make every two minute drive. But the thing he has going for him is that our entire organization believes he’s going to make it, so he brought us back. Game ball for him, big time performance, we wouldn’t have won without him.”

On the defense getting stops in the fourth quarter:

“Their last four drives were empty drives for them, so we had three three-and-outs and the game finisher there at the end and I thought our defense was very similar to Justin. I felt like we kept our poise and I felt like we made a lot of winning plays down the stretch. I thought we had a lot of big time performances by the guys stepping up in new roles and again it was just a team win - a gutsy win. I thought (S) Derwin James was fantastic in the game. He was just our heart and soul on defense. (CB) Mike Davis, who’s on the ground on Friday, and is he going to play? Is he not going to play? I thought he was fantastic today. It was just a gutsy win for our team and we showed a lot of heart in the fourth quarter.”

On what point they knew they were going for two:

“Early in the drive... early in the drive when we made a couple of first downs and the clock was winding down. We kind of said, under 40 seconds, that’s going to be our mindset.”

On this being a must-win for playoff contention:

“We’re just living week-to-week. It was about this game for us and pouring into this game and doing what we felt like was going to win us a football game and I felt like that was going to win us the football game. That’s what we’re doing here is taking it week by week, pouring into this week as a life of its own. Our guys did that this week and we were able to finish it.”

On Herbert switching to a screen on 3rd and 7 and what it says about him:

“He had a couple of plays in there that were gangster plays from the quarterback position that he brought a zero. He threw an outstanding cut going to the right, it was earlier in the game but taking full ownership of the offense. Again, his head is straight and he’s seeing it, he’s playing like that when the rush is that tough for him to keep his poise. I thought when (C) Corey (Linsley) went out for him - to keep everybody focused, keep everybody rolling - I just think it says a lot about him.”

On how he feels about the defense's performance:

“We didn't do a good enough job on the quarterback, that was disappointing. That's obviously priority number one when you play him. I thought we had two red area possessions that I didn't like, the one at the end of the half and the one that they scored in the second half. We're a better unit than that when we play down there in the red zone. That team is going to gain some yards, but if you play tough down there in the red zone, you're going to hold them to a low number. I thought we played a quality second half and I thought that although the first half was up and down, I thought that our guys played rugged and tough. I thought we had the big takeaways, I thought Derwin with the two takeaways was just fantastic. We were +2 today in the takeaway margin and I thought our defense made enough winning plays for us to win the game and all of the other stuff we can correct.”

On fumble recovery by WR Michael Bandy:

“It was one of those things where it goes to replay and you're kind of at mercy of the replay, but that's why you hustle to the ball. That's what we preach on offense is to make sure we're covering every play, you talk about pursuit on defense but we talk about pursuit on offense to make sure you're covering the ball carrier. It says a lot about him that we were able to get that ball back and keep it out of harm's way.”

On WR DeAndre Carter as a punt returner and special teams as a whole:

“I thought our (special) teams were really critical in this game and I felt like that was a huge play. I also thought the punt to back them up there at the very end, you pin them inside, it's kind of that 4th-and-6, do you go for it? Do you not? It just really felt like us pinning them down there would give us more breathing room down there. I had confidence in our defense and that punt was huge to pin him down there. I think what we executed at the end of the game, that mortar kick to kill some time off the clock. We executed that situation well, so again have to continue to have a winning edge for us.”

On making the two point conversion look smooth:

“Smooth like chocolate milk. (TE) Gerald (Everett) gave us a lot of confidence that he would run it exactly how we did. He's been doing that since the springtime and it's just one of those sweet finishers where you call your shot and you're able to finish it.”

On what a win like this can do for the team moving forward:

“I think in a game this tight for us to go behind 10-0 and for us to keep that belief on the road when it's loud and you lose a couple of plays on errors and for our guys to show the resilience, the heart and soul - hopefully fans don't get tired of hearing me talk about the heart and soul of our team. You're going to have to find it on the road when you're behind and when you're in two minutes. So this group has a lot of it. We've got a lot of quality leadership on this football team and we came here to win and it's that simple. We came here to win and that's what we did there at the end of the game.”



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Chargers Quarterback Justin Herbert

On his confidence in the two-point conversion:

“We just believed in each other and that’s one of those plays that we’ve repped a ton over the past couple of years and we feel comfortable with the guys out there. Gerald (Everett) ran a great route, made a great catch and it’s good to see from those guys.”

On TE Gerald Everett mentioning “giving each other a look” on the two-point conversion:

“I’d say it’s just trust. Belief in each other. He’s a competitor and he’s going to do everything he can to go score and (he) ran a great route. We just knew he was going to be open and he did a great job on that play.”

On what changed for the offense on the final drive:

“We just had to adjust to what they were doing. They showed some things that they hadn’t shown all year so we had to get adjusted to that and it took some time on the sideline getting together and just talking about the game plan, what we were going to do differently. The defense came up with some big stops to get us the ball back. Had our opportunities to go down to score, but (I’m) super thankful for the defense for stepping up.”

On what it says about the head coach to go for two to win:

“I think all the guys on offense wanted to be out there for that play. We knew that we had a good play. The right guys (were) on the field. The offensive line did a great job protecting me all day and gave me enough time to get the ball off and Gerald made a nice catch on the play.”

On executing a game-winning two minute drive:

“Yeah. Just keep swinging. We’ve dealt with a bunch of adversity this year and we haven’t flinched. I wish it went differently the past two weeks. The defense did a great job of getting us the ball and stopping them and letting us go down and score. For us to be able to get that opportunity today and figure it out for our defense, we’ve got so much respect for that side of the ball that we just want to hold our own.”

On the challenge of going against a blitzing defense:

“That’s definitely a good question. They did such a great job of bringing different blitzes and making them disguised and looking like another one. They did a great job of that and that’s something that we’re going to have to watch on film and keep looking at. Keep doing everything we can in terms of protection, flipping protections and things like that, but they got after it today.”

On what it says for picking up the blitz and converting late:

“I think it’s resilient. Kind of like I mentioned earlier, they brought some things that they hadn’t shown all year so we had to be ready for that and we had to talk about that on the sideline. There were a couple blitzes that maybe we didn’t pick up as well, things that I could have changed, but stick with it. We go down a center. Will Clapp steps in and does a great job analyzing the ‘Mike’ and we’ve got a lot of respect for that guy, so it was great to see from him as well.”

On the screen to Austin Eckler and what he saw on the last drive:

“We were running low on the play clock. We got out there and lined up pretty late. I think there might have been eight or nine seconds (on the play clock). Got (Ekeler) to come back, saw the look that we wanted, killed it, and he made a great play on it. The offensive line got out and made their blocks but (Ekeler), to be able to extend it. He’s done that all year, so to be able to see that from him we’re not surprised with all of the success that he’s been having.”

On feeling like every week is a “must win” game:

“That’s part of football. Every week that you’re going into, you’re going to try and win that game. There’s a lot of football to be played and the guys are excited to be a part of it. Whatever happens, happens. We’re going to do our best to go out there and win every game that we can, but we’re just thankful to be a part of it and have a chance to be playing some more football.”

On thinking about a possible two-point conversion miss:

“Yeah, you can’t really think like that in the NFL. If you start doubting yourself like that, you’re not playing as best as you can so everyone on our team has been trained to think that we’re going to go out there and we’re going to get it done and if we don’t that’s when you watch the film and you say, “what could we have done better?” For us to go out there, I think the defense believed in us hopefully and we believe in them and we all believed in each other going out there for that last play. We knew that we had a good play and the right guys out there.”

On knowing that they would be going for the two-point conversion:

“Didn’t know. I imagined that we were going to go for it, just because that’s kind of how aggressive we play and I love that about our coach. Didn’t know the exact play call, so I was just going to hear it and call it and we went with it.”

On when he saw their look on the conversion and his thoughts:

“Yeah, we kind of had to look at it as it happened. We motioned the back. One of the guys ran with him and it kind of distorted the view, but Gerald (Everett) was able to, I think, outside release him and make him go over the top and break inside. So, it was really good to see from him.”

On how glad he is to have S Derwin James Jr. on his team:

“He’s a playmaker. He’s a special guy, a great leader in our locker room and to have a guy like that on our team is a huge favor to us. He works as hard as anyone. He does everything the right way and not surprised at all by how much success he’s having too.”



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Chargers Tight End Gerald Everett

On if he was surprised the two point conversion was “clean”:

“That’s the way it was schemed up. We want to sell the stick flat concept, and we’re pretty much trying to get the out and over play he did. The rest is history. Justin (Herbert) gave a great throw and I just did my part.”

On stick flats and the impact of having the change up play ready in a key moment:

“You sell it, you sell it. Kansas City sold it, a guy took it for a pick six, that’s one of the key components in our offensive football is the stick flat concept. It’s just so simple but it works so efficiently and we made a move off of that. Whether that be a stick knot or a flat end, and you just hope that they overplay it and that’s what he did.”

On what was going through his mind when getting the play call:

“Just one. Some guys shy away from those moments and getting the ball and having their number called but my coaches and my team knows that no one would want it more than me. So I was just more than excited when he actually called it into the huddle, and I just gave Justin that look and he knew. So I trusted him and he trusted me. The o-line did a good job and the receivers ran the right routes, so that’s a scheme and schematically it worked out perfectly.”

On the “look” to quarterback Justin Herbert prior to the game-winning two-point play:

“Just the glance, you just know. Nothing needs to be said. It’s just, I’ll be there and we just have to have that. The rest of the guys have that and it’s just that eye connection, you know you better do your job and go get it.”

On the reaction after head coach Brandon Staley wanted to go for two:

“It just goes to show how much he believes in us and the courage he has. We’ve just been waiting for so long to have that moment to just be aggressive and to go. Tight games like this against good teams, I mean what better way to finish for there to be a tight game like that and to be able to go for two and that be the deciding factor.”

On if players have the opportunity to think about not completing the two point conversion:

“You try not to. You try to be optimistic and our offense kind of underwhelmed the entire game and just three and out, three and out, it kind of gets aggravating at a certain time. You just got to stay on course and we all believe in each other. It goes back to how we practice and the accountability that we all have for each other. That’s just how it goes.”

On “pinning” the guy on his back:

“No, it really just goes into running your route hard and he’ll overplay, that’s just his responsibility. As soon as he does, that’s when you kind of make your move.”



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Chargers Wide Receiver Keenan Allen

On the his catch on the final game-winning drive:

“Cover zero I think it was, just me and (QB Justin) Herbert being on the same page I stopped the route short. He was waiting on me and it ended up being good. We knew the middle was going to be wide open because everybody kind of blitzed.”

On the two-point conversion play:

“It was great, it was really a one man play. Everybody knows the ball was going to Gerald (Everett). He had to be big time right there and he was. Just a dodge route we call it, I’m clearing the middle. They ran man again and he was able to beat his man for the two-point conversion.”

On the the reaction to go for the two-point conversion at the end of the game:

“I was holding it up too. We got to go (for it) we got to go.”

On Head Coach Brandon Staley aggressive play calling throughout the season:

“He’s got the confidence in us, that’s what it means and that's what it shows.”



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Chargers Safety Derwin James Jr

On the two-point conversion:

“We already knew that we were going for two even before they started driving. We were not really worried about scoring. We already had that in mind that we were going to score and then go for two.”

On how the defense played today:

“We played great in some spots, (but) we did great in the fourth quarter. There were some spots we could have been better at but overall it was great.”

On if today was a must win game:

“Yeah we had to win this one for sure. If we want to get to where we want to get to we had to win this one.”



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Chargers Running Back Austin Ekeler

On if today's game was a must win:

“At this point all games for us feel like a must win. You see the rest of the AFC winning games and we want to get in ourselves so we have to catch up a few. To do that we have to make sure we take care of our job.”

On how big the two-point conversion was for this team:

“Two points keeps us on the right track and that keeps us on the path. It keeps everything in front of us as far as where we are trying to get to. It's one game at a time, but especially in a game where it's up and down like that. Those two points coming in on Monday changes the whole feel of the building.”

On if the players think about the consequences of those big play calls:

“We think about whatever happens. Whatever happens that's what we are going to be feeling, we are going to be feeling that emotion. We ended up getting this one so that's why we end up having this moral. The NFL is really hard and it's very close, the margin for error is so small. We've been on the other sides of those. Today we were able to make enough plays to get it done there at the very end.”

On the season so far:

“A battle. Mentally and physically. I've said this before but that's what the NFL is. It doesn't have to be that close, we could make more plays. Individually I felt like I could have played a much better game just as far as my production. That's the love-hate relationship that we have as players. It's like we hate losing but we love the battle. We love to go out there and go into the heat of it and be in situations like that, especially when we come out on top.”