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Chargers Week 4 Media Availability

Friday, September 30, 2022 ⚡ Hoag Performance Center ⚡ Costa Mesa, Calif.

HEAD COACH BRANDON STALEY

On the importance of Sunday's game:

"We get the opportunity to respond from last week. I think that's the first thing, we get to respond to a tough loss and to make those adjustments that you have to make in the NFL when things change. I think that we've had a good week of practice. Now, we have to make sure that we take the field the right way on Sunday."

On WR Keenan Allen's injury 'setback':

"In individual, he kind of felt something. We're going to hold him out of this game. Just going to make sure that he keeps making progress. I don't want to push it to where you have a significant setback or a major injury. He couldn't make it this week. Next week, we'll give him another shot."

On 'not characterizing' Allen's injury 'as a major setback':

"Definitely not a major setback, but he didn't make enough progress to make it to the game."

On CB J.C. Jackson's performance this week in practice:

"Full speed. He looked really good. Excited to see him compete on Sunday."

On TE Donald Parham Jr.'s probability of playing on Sunday:

"Probably going to hold D.P. out this week. This was his first full week of practice. We want to make sure that he has two full weeks of practice. With the acclimation of pads, and then the conditioning, I think that is really important, that you're in good enough game shape. You may be healthy enough, but you want to make sure that you're in good enough football conditioning. We're going to shoot for next week when we play Cleveland."

On expectations for C Corey Linsley on Sunday:

"My expectation is for him to start the game on Sunday and just try to use today as the rest day, coming off of a pretty full practice yesterday."

On G/T Jamaree Salyer's performance this week in practice:

"Calm. Poised. Strong. Excited to see him compete."

On RB Isaiah Spiller:

"He needs to prove that he's one of the top three backs. I think that he's making progress. Our running game is not the reflection of our running backs, it's a reflection of our entire offense. I think Isaiah [Spiller] is making good progress, though, like I said the other day. The big thing is that he's in practice and that we're seeing them compete. We're seeing him in the kicking game. When he is one of our top three backs, then he will be up on gameday."

On Salyer:

“He has real poise. He was a captain in Georgia, you can see that. Talking to [Georgia Head Coach] Kirby [Smart], who I’m very close with, he’s the guy that really led that football team, a National Championship team. He’s rugged. He’s really strong. We know that the moment is not going to be too big for him, that he has that poise. He’s just has to get out there and play. We’re going to make sure that we play well around him. It’s not going to be him out there on an island playing left tackle, it’s going to be 10 other players that he’s playing with. I’m excited to see him compete, though. When you asked me about concern, I’m not concerned about him. I know what type of competitor he is. We’re going to play really well around him.”

On S Alohi Gilman not playing in the second half last week:

“We just didn’t get to the six DB stuff enough in the second half. He’s still playing well. He’s solid for us. He’s still manning that third safety role for us. When we’ve been in six DBs, so far this season, we’ve been successful. He’s doing a good job for us.”

On Spiller’s special teams development:

“That’s a big part of it. Your third [running] back definitely has to be a factor on special teams. I’m talking about a four-core contributor. Right now, [RB] Josh [Kelley] is doing a really good job for us in that role. We’re not disappointed with Isaiah [Spiller], at all. It’s not that he’s not good enough, we’re making sure that he’s ready to go. He’s still competing in practice to earn it. This isn’t uncommon for someone that’s in his position. We’re not the least bit down on him. He is progressing.”

On his opinion of the situation surrounding the Miami Dolphins and QB Tua Tagovailoa:

“I don’t have an opinion. I just know that we’re thinking about Tua [Tagovailoa]. Any time that a player goes down like that, you’re just thinking about him. All of us that are in the NFL, we have full respect for everyone who is in the NFL. That’s where our thoughts are, with Tua, and making sure that he, hopefully, has a real safe recovery because he is having a really good season.”

On if OLB Chris Rumph II’s role on special teams ‘changes’ due to an increased role as an EDGE defender:

“A little bit, but we still need him on special teams, so he’s going to definitely stay in a lead role. There could be a subtraction of a role, maybe, but we still expect for him to be a factor, similar to [LB] Drue [Tranquill]. Drue is a starter on our punt team, and we think that that is an edge for us. Drue is a starting linebacker for us, but for him to be a starter on our punt team, that’s a big edge for us. We feel like that is going to allow us to be the type of special teams unit, overall, that we want to be.”

On ‘any unfortunate flashbacks last night to what happened to Parham last year’:

“I didn’t see the game because we were working, but I know that any time that you’re dealing with concussions, or something with someone’s head, and someone’s future, it’s the toughest thing to see. I was able to see that up close last year with Donald [Parham Jr.], but then I had to go through it with [CB] Asante [Samuel Jr.] and [OLB] Joey [Bosa]. You know the way that we handled it last year with both of those players and D.P. As a coach, no one will be able to understand what it’s like to go out on that field and see one of your players like that. It’s the toughest thing to see. We feel the greatest responsibility to keep them well. I’ve had the opportunity, as the head coach, to go through it three times. All three times, our philosophy here, and our approach, is going to make sure that we’re super safe, both in that moment and then the weeks, days and months following. As we see, it’s really serious out there.”

On the ‘Chargers curse’ surrounding injuries and if he ‘believes in curses’:

“No. Curses are a part of the imagination. When you talk about topics like that, that’s just what someone wants you to believe. The way that you change that is that you join up with the right people that don’t believe that, that aren’t affected by challenges, obstacles, adversity. The way you change all of that is you join up with the people who know what it takes and who have what it takes. We’re excited to prove ourselves.”

On a surgery update for Bosa:

“Joey [Bosa] had successful surgery in Philadelphia [Pa.] with Dr. [William C.] Meyers [MD]. He’s still there now. Successful. One day closer. Like I said, we got good news because we’re looking forward to seeing him at some point this season. He’s on the road to recovery. It was successful. Again, we’ll keep you posted as we go.”

QUARTERBACK JUSTIN HERBERT

On if he 'knows what to expect with his injury' going into Sunday's game:

"I hope there is always progress. There has been a couple of weeks since it, so I've done my best to get in recovery, treatment, do everything I can to feel my best. Time is the best help and it's been nice over the past couple of days."

On when he felt 'comfortable' to play last Sunday:

"That's the tough part. Having to play with an injury like that, you have to kind of go through and learn about it. I had never experienced anything like that during a game and having to play through that and kind of figure it out, obviously, it was a tough loss for us. Didn't play the way that we needed to, but a good learning moment and hopefully we learned a lot from it."

On 'when he felt good enough to play the way he wanted to':

"I don't know if there was ever really a moment that it just clicked. I think the more reps I get throwing with it, the better I feel. This week was good to be able to throw a little bit more. Progress was made. It still has to heal and do everything I can, but recovery and treatment have been good, so I'm getting after it."

On if he has adjusted his throwing motion due to the injury:

"I try not to. I think it is just one of those things that you just have to kind of deal with and push through. The medical staff, the treatment staff, they have done a great job of taking care of me. I wouldn't be out there if I didn't think it was safe."

On if adjusting the throwing motion 'messes with muscle memory':

"Correct."

On what he has learned about himself through managing the injury:

"I think I learned a lot about our team and about our staff members. The medical staff, the treatment staff that have put in so much work over the past couple of weeks to help me be at my best and help me to get out on that field. They have handled it all so well and I have complete trust in them, especially all of the teammates around us."

"It's important to be at your best come Sunday. There is plenty of time during the week to be able to go into treatment, get everything right, so that you are able to be at your best on Sunday."

On if he has 'reached out to other quarterbacks who have experienced a similar injury':

"I have not. We're kind of limited with the time that we have, so I've done my best to be able to spend it all in treatment or focusing on our game plan."

On if the injury impacts cadence:

"It's always an interesting injury. I think for the most part that we have been able to handle most of it in throwing and repetition, going along with that. Everything has helped it since then. Just spending as much time as I can in the treatment room, getting healthy. Handling that is what is most important for me."

On if the injury has bothered him during his cadence:

"No. I think it's just one of those things you have to go with. The more reps, the better you feel."

On Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa:

"I'm praying for the best. I don't have much to add to that. I just hope he is okay. It's a horrible injury, and having gone through concussions like that, you wouldn't wish that upon anyone. I hope he is okay."

On the challenges of getting comfortable to a 'new practice rhythm':

"I think it's more important to watch as much film as you can to get a better feel of that. Whether that is watching the walkthroughs or just watching practice, maybe 30 minutes out on the field is now 30 minutes more in the film room. You kind of have to adjust your schedule based on what you learn most. I would love to be out here throwing for hours after practice, but unfortunately I am not able to do that. You just kind of have to pick it up in the film room."

On if he 'watches more practice film if he did not practice as much that day':

"I think, for the most part, we try to watch it as much as we can. Walkthroughs and practice film, after practice, after meeting, we'll stay around and watch it again. Just get a feel for the calls for all of the progressions that we have to go through. It definitely has picked up since. You have to watch more and more every time that you are not out there actually practicing, but it's been helpful so far."

On 'what he can say to the team to make sure morale stays high after the loss last Sunday':

"These guys are professionals. They've been through losses before and that's part of the NFL. No one wants to get beat like that, but when you're around long enough the NFL, things like that are going to happen and it's all about how you react. I've got complete trust in these guys and the teammates around us, the coaching staff around us, they've been professionals. They handle everything well. They show up to practice and work as hard as anyone. It's been good to see."

On players addressing the team:

"Guys are always addressing the team, so I think that's the thing that I addressed about guys are professionals. These teammates are professionals. They have been through that, unfortunately, before. That's part of the NFL. To see that from those guys, I think it's been really good to see."

On if he quickly moves on after a loss or if he likes to think about it to learn:

"Spending any time on the previous game doesn't help us win this next one. We're going to have to move on. Houston is a very good team. They have a really good defense and we're going to need everything that we have because it's an awfully tough defense. For us to have any shot on Sunday, we have to move on and get rid of this last one."

On G/T Jamaree Salyer:

"It's been good. It's only been practice. He's been solid all throughout camp and we've seen a lot from him. He's been able to pick it up really quickly."