



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sunday, October 9, 2016
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Raiders Head Coach Jack Del Rio

Opening Statement: “Alright, a little Wild West out there today. A couple of AFC West teams going at. Back and forth. In fair our guys hung in there [and] made enough plays to go home happy today. That’s what the idea is, come out of here with a smile on your face and celebrate being tied for first after five weeks. We’re happy with that. Obviously, not always all you want. We were only 1-of-3 in the red zone today. We’ve been on fire down there, but we did get the one we needed. Gave up a lot of yards today, but Philip does that to you. All in all I think we had 12 rookies that played today and started five of them. Winning a big game like that with a bunch of young guys contributing, a guy named Perry Riley [Jr.] coming in here, signed on Tuesday and played the whole game. Really proud of the effort that our guys put forth. Good, solid victory. A lot to correct like we always say and we move on. Questions?”

Q: What were your thoughts on going for it on fourth-and-2?

Coach Del Rio: “It’s like all these situations, you make the call, what you think is best for the team and then you count on your guys going out and executing. Crab [Michael Crabtree] got open and made a nice play.”

Q: Can you talk about Crabtree’s performance with getting better each week?

Coach Del Rio: “He’s a great football and really having a heck of a year for us. A lot of hard work with him and Derek [Carr] getting on the same page with timing. I know we got Coop [Amari Cooper] on track today for one touchdown. Really a couple others were really close, could have been. On the replay one, I’m still not sure how that ended up not being a touchdown, but bottom line is the guys are working hard. Crab and Coop and all the guys really with Derek has been a good thing for us. A strength for us.”

Q: Why did you make the decision to go for it on fourth-and-2?

Coach Del Rio: “Usually you don’t have to answer a lot about why when you get it (*laughing*). Especially a touchdown. I mean come on (*laughing*).”

Q: What did you see in Perry Riley Jr. to start him?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, he did a good job. I think he lead our team in tackles. Veteran guy. He’s got fire. You can just see the fire in him and his desire to soak up everything he could this week and be prepared to help us today. Malcolm [Smith] was dressed and available in an emergency, but really didn’t want to play him if we didn’t have to. That was the plan coming in. We held up fairly well throughout the day and so Perry stayed in there throughout.”

Q: Are you looking forward to a game that doesn’t come down to the last couple of minutes?

Coach Del Rio: “I’m OK with 3-2 or 50-49. Winning at the end of the day is what we’re about. We’ll keep looking to correct things that we know have to be better. We’ll continue to enjoy the victories.”

Q: Where there any continuous mistakes in the red zone?

Coach Del Rio: “No. It just comes down to execution. You’re not going to go through the year at whatever the percentage that 10-for-11 is. You’re not going to go through the year at that percentage rate. I think everybody understands that.”

Q: What does it take to get to a spot where the quarterback can easily trust a wide receiver like Carr does with Crabtree?

Coach Del Rio: “I think the timing, the reps, the trust that they’ve built and the relationship. I really think that’s where it begins. That’s what gives you a chance to end up doing those types of things.”

Q: Did you think that Carr was sharp early on or later?



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Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, I thought he got stronger as the day went on. You can’t be on fire all the time. Early in the game, we were able to force some turnovers. I think on the day we ended up +3, which is a great thing for our football team. We’re looking to generate those turnovers. We just want to take advantage of them when we get them. Get that touchdown punched in there and jump up on people when you’re turning the ball over like that.”

Q: What did you think of the two rookie running backs?

Coach Del Rio: “I thought they were solid. I thought the rotation of those guys, all three of the guys that dressed today and played today, that they shared the work and did a nice job. Gave us what we needed.”

Q: Can you talk about Stacy McGee’s performance?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, Stacy. Yeah, he did a nice job. I think he ended up involved in a couple of sacks. We count on him for a lot of physical play. That was good to see. We need it from all the different guys, and Stacy shined today.”

Q: Can you talk about the rookie defenders performance?

Coach Del Rio: “It was good to see. Getting a lot of guys up to speed and playing big roles. Obviously, guys that are starting, really big roles. Other guys that are playing back up roles, we count on anybody that we dress. We count on them to help us win. They’ve been doing their share.”

Q: Do you get the sense that Cooper and Carr feel relieved to get Cooper’s first touchdown of the season?

Coach Del Rio: “I didn’t sense that at all. I think we know that Coop is going to get his numbers. Like I said, Khalil [Mack] is going to get his numbers. These guys are good players. They’re going to play. We just want them to play. We don’t want to start pressing about numbers. It’s about winning games. It’s about growing and improving as a team. We have a lot of growth in front of us. A lot to improve on. In the meantime, we’re finding ways to come out of here with victories and that’s important.”

Q: What were your thoughts on the challenge in the end zone?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, I thought right foot, left foot and a catch. There was a pass interference or an illegal contact, whichever way...Whether the ball’s in the air or not, I couldn’t judge that from my angle. He was definitely in the pocket. It was definitely an illegal contact of some sort. I thought he did re-establish himself, therefore it would be a touchdown. Those guys have a lot better viewpoint than me. They go under the hood and look at it in slow-mo. I have to trust that they’re seeing it better than I am standing on the sideline. We went ahead and punched in with Jamize [Olawale] after that anyhow. It would’ve just been nice for Derek and Coop to have that touchdown pass. Especially, for those fantasy league people out there that were playing them (*laughing*).”

Q: What has the team learned from these close wins?

Coach Del Rio: “Well, we talked last year about learning how to compete and stay in the fight in every game. I thought we did that with all [games with the] exception of the opener against Cincinnati. Every game from then on, we kind of understood what felt like and what it was to stay in the fight and battle the whole day. I think this year, we wanted to take a step forward in terms of understanding how you flourish in those situations and make the winning plays. We work hard at it and we’ve been successful to start the year. That means that we have a lot in front of us that we have to continue to do and do well as a football team to find ways to close the games. The NFL is about close games. Most of our games are one score games and you have to play well in those critical moments in order to win.”

Q: How’s the team’s confidence in the close games?

Coach Del Rio: “We’re gaining confidence the more you do it. The more you work at it. The more you perfect the things you’re looking at, I think you gain confidence with that. I think everybody in that locker room understands we have a long way to go and a lot to improve.”



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Q: What specifically on defense can you improve on?

Coach Del Rio: “Stop playing Santa Claus. Stop giving out presents. We gave out a couple today, a couple of 50-yard passes gift wrapped and placed them under the tree. At some point we’ll stop doing that.”

Q: What was going through your mind during the snap on the blocked field goal?

Coach Del Rio: “I was already kind of going ahead, ‘Hey, if we don’t block it and they make the kick, somehow we’re going to come out of here with a win regardless.’ I was kind of thinking that way. Then all of a sudden, the ball squirted through there and we ended up gaining possession. At that point it’s like, ‘OK, this one you have to put away.’”

Q: How did you address the team on the first win at home?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, my whole thing was let’s make sure we’re performing and we create that lead up to the game the way we do when we travel. I think we do a really good job of when we travel. We’ve got them kind of sequestered. There’s a routine and the lead up to the game is all of us are in it. I just wanted to make sure we were feeling that way leading up to our home games as well. That was addressed and emphasized this week. We’ll see. We’re 1-1 at home. We need to continue to put together wins at home. Our crowd was tremendous. There’s nothing like giving them the present of a great effort and a big win when we’re at home.”

Q: Does being tied with Denver mean anything to you right now?

Coach Del Rio: “That means we’re tied for first after five games. It means there’s a lot of season in front of us and a lot of opportunities to grow as a football team. That’s what we’ll do.”

RAIDERS QB DEREK CARR

Q: Was it a surprise when Coach Del Rio went for it on the 4th-and-2?

Carr: “No surprise. I think he was probably just as frustrated as we were that we weren’t getting touchdowns. We love that he believes in us and the empowerment of the offense that he believes in us to get it down. I’m just thankful I didn’t overthrow it.”

Q: Did you expect Coach Del Rio to go for it?

Carr: “I’m starting to kind of think like him. I kind of was like; he’s going to go for it. He looked at the kicker and said no get off. And in my head, it’s just natural. 4th and 2 in the red zone and we’re going to go for it. I’m starting to think, we’re getting on the same page, which is pretty cool.”

Q: How does it feel to have WR Michael Crabtree as a safety net?

Carr: “Oh my gosh. I’m trying to think of something better to say, but it’s just nice. You guys can think of a cooler way to say it, but that’s good enough. It’s nice, it just really is.”

Q: Does it matter if WR Michael Crabtree is open?

Carr: “No, as you guys probably saw- I take some chances here and there. We just hope they work out more times than they don’t, but he’s a guy that’s super competitive. He wants to win. Whenever, he’s upset – if he’s ever upset, it’s because he’s just competitive and wants the team to win. It’s not that he wants the ball, it’s just that he wants the team to win. I can roll with someone like that any day.”

Q: How does it feel to be 4-1?

Carr: “It’s nice, but the road still goes to Denver. They are Super bowl champs, division champs. I will always pay respects to them because that’s what they’ve earned. We have earned absolutely nothing yet. We have earned 4



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wins in 5 games, which is a great feeling. It's a great feeling, trust me. Don't twist that. It feels really nice, but we haven't done anything yet.

Q: Do you think you had a slow start today?

Carr: "Yes. It was frustrating because it was little things. The interception- they were holding our running back, on a screen, so I threw it at the running back, hoping to get the call. Then, their nose tackle picks the ball off. It's just one of those things. I should have burned it at his feet instead of trying to be cute and get the penalty, all those things. It was just ridiculous. The ball I overthrew to Jalen [Richard] on, which he would probably still be riding. I went to throw the ball at Crab [Michael Crabtree] and then tucked it because I saw how open Jalen was and never reset my feet. I tried to get it to him fast because he was so open and then I did something that was so dumb. It was just bad. I told the guys; hey it's my fault that we started this slow. I'll pick it up. We're fine. I'm fine. Let's just win this game."

Q: Can you discuss the process behind the last two minutes of each half?

Carr: "You have to be ready. You have to be on top of it and in front of it. We sat there with Coach [Todd] Downing. Every time we have a two-minute drive, Nick Holz comes up, because he's the two-minute guy, he does the presentation during the week. We talk before the first half. He brought him over and he said this, this, this. They think this, this, this. They could do this. They haven't shown it, but they could do this. Same thing second half. He comes up, we all three have that conversation. Just to get our mind thinking that way. Then when it gets there and that happens. We do it enough times where I can go get ready."

Q: Do you think the team is much more confident in close games compared to 1-2 years ago?

Carr: "Absolutely. We have a lot of confidence and it's definitely not an arrogant thing. We're very humble, especially with this game. It will humble you really quick. That's nothing that we worry about. They guys have a lot of confidence because we work really hard. You guys know I don't like when we throw around that term loosely. Hard work, it sucks. We like to make sure we hang our hat up. We work extremely hard and especially in those situations. We spend a lot of time throwing routes, going over coverage, going over two-minute drills, end of game situations. You hang your head on that. We've done this before. Let's be confident when we take the field and go do it."

Q: Can you take us through the long pass to WR Amari Cooper that led to the touchdown?

Carr: "They brought down 31 – I believe it was him covering. They obviously had some injuries. They were swapping in guys and stuff like that. We saw them bring him down versus that look on Coop. Coop on a lot of matchups is what you like, especially down the field. I just tried my best to hold the safety – number 20, to the right hash and gave Coop a shot to go run underneath it."

Q: Did you feel like you could have had more touchdowns to WR Amari Cooper?

Carr: "It's something that we talked about when we came into the locker room. I was happy that we won, but him and I looked at each other and said man we left too much out there. We left so much out there, it's too much. We can't do that. We're not going to get away with that every time. We do a great job at holding each other accountable—whether I can make a better throw or him doing a better route. Whatever it is, we're going to work on it together. We scored 34 points and we're disappointed. That's a good feeling. It's a really good thing that as an offense we're there. If we can have that many yards and points and still feel like we haven't scratched the surface of what we can do. That's a good thing."

Q: Do you think the rest of the season is going to be a string of close games?

Carr: "It has been so far. We were talking about it, it would be nice to enjoy a fourth quarter at some point. But in this league, teams are too good. I said it last week, this league is designed for everyone to go 8-8. It really is. It's that close in talent, coaching, everything. Somewhere, you just have to find ways to win and get it done in the end."



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It would be nice if we didn't have to do the stress and drama in the end. That would be nice, but knowing this league, we're going to keep fighting, straining. Coach Del Rio uses that word a lot, strain. It's very going to be easy. We can never expect it to be easy. We have to go out there and strain for everything and earn everything."

Q: How did you feel about the Chargers' snap?

Carr: "Super thankful. The way the game was going, a guy like Phillip, he's thrown for a billion yards in his career against every defense known to man. He's seen every coverage. He's seen every blitz. You're not going to throw something at him that he hasn't seen. In a game with him, you know you just have to score. That's a credit to Philip. He's a dominant player. He's up there with Peyton [Manning] in yards and touchdowns. I have so much respect for him and he knows that. When it comes down to the end, when you get a play like that, you don't feel as good."

Q: How did it feel to get the first touchdown to Amari Cooper?

Carr: "First one is always the hardest, no matter what it is. I'm just happy for him because he works his tail off. He works extremely hard. He had his best week of practice. That's a credit because he's had really good weeks of practice. He's working extremely hard to get better and he doesn't get frustrated with those kinds of things. He keeps his head down, just like everybody on this team. They keep their head down; they don't worry about those things. Let's just worry about winning. What can we do to contribute to winning? I'm just happy he got into the end zone and we could throw that one away."

Q: Charles Woodson once said he saw greatness in you. Can you discuss how that has impacted you as a player?

Carr: "Wow. I do remember 'Wood' talking to me and saying that to me. I didn't know he was ever going to bring it up. That moment right there meant a lot. Obviously because who was saying it. I was 20-something years old and he was saying that to me. I was only here for a couple months. I appreciate it, though. For him to say those things, I just have so much respect for him. I'll never say those things. I'll let someone else say those kinds of things. I'm very honored that he would say that. I'm thankful. 'Wood,' I love you man. Happy 40th, belated. You're up there now."

Q: How do you think Joey Bosa performed today?

Carr: "A couple of those plays where he got the sack, when the ball was in my hand late, I have to figure out a way to get rid of it. Not let those things happen. I did a better job during the beginning of the year. Just getting rid of it, even if it's not there. Just burning it and that's the fine line I have to fight all the time of trying to make every play. I think that he's a good player. I told him afterwards, keep working hard. You could tell he's a high motor, hard-working guy. I love playing against really good people. I hope he continues to get better because it's going to be fun competing against him for a long time."

Q: Did you see your alma mater, Fresno State play at half time? How did you feel about your fans today?

Carr: "I heard a little bit as we were coming down. That was really cool. I love Raider Nation. I love Fresno State. Fresno knows that. Whenever we get to the game, you'll see Fresno State flags. Some guys are wearing No. 4 jerseys in red. It's things like that, that just grabs my heart, every time. Just to see that much support. The No. 4 jerseys, things like that will never get old to me. I've been dreaming about things like that ever since I was a little kid. I'm very blessed and honored that people would even want to wear mine, which is really cool. I love our fans, I really do. I'm thankful for them. I'm just happy that we're 4-1. I love for other people to feel good. I don't care how I feel. I'm thankful that they can go home and feel happy today."



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RAIDERS DT STACY MCGEE

Q: That's five games that came down to the wire. How do you like playing in these games that seem to come down to the final minute?

McGee: "It's exciting. It's fun but this is what football is all about, what the NFL is all about. The last drive, it always comes down to the two minutes. We just kept going and we wanted it more."

Q: Offensively, it has to be nice to see Derek Carr on the other side of that huddle when you're in that situation and to have him beat the chargers and put you guys in position to be successful."

McGee: "I have faith in Derek, he is a great offensive player. We have a great offense this year. I'd put anything on them going down and scoring in a two-minute situation."

Q: Tell us about this sack of [Philip] Rivers.

McGee: "Working hard, practicing hard as a d-line to get to the quarterback all year. Hopefully we're going to keep getting them, piling them up as a d-line."

Q: Well you got him. I saw the body language, you snapped up and gave a 'Yeah'.

McGee: "It's all exciting to get the sacks going. Hopefully the whole d-line, we get them going together."

Q: Four turnovers by the defense today, it took a while to shake them off. What does that say about this defense that seems to be gelling by the week?

McGee: "We're coming together as a defense very week, playing Raider ball. That's what we talk about every day, playing Raider ball and being great."

Q: What does Raider ball mean?

McGee: "Being great, being relentless, being smart out there flying around hitting people."

Q: I don't know if you know this, but Denver lost today. You guys have a share of the AFC West lead.

McGee: "That's good for us. We're going to make our run. Hopefully we go to the Super Bowl."

Raiders S Reggie Nelson

Q: What are your feelings with all of these close games every week?

Nelson: "We make it interesting on ourselves. We got to come out and finish games and put a complete defensive game together."

Q: What is it about this team that made you guys make the big stops and plays when you had to today?

Nelson: "One thing about this team is we don't give up. We showed that numerous times now and I think we really don't want to be in that position, but it just so happens to be it. We just got to keep on getting better each week and not put ourselves in those positions."

Q: It seems like every week now it goes down to the last minute...

Nelson: "Some people may think it is fun, but it is pretty stressful. [laughing] I mean we get paid to do this job and that is what we play defense for. We love it and we take the challenge head on."

Q: How important was it to finally get a win in front of your home fans?



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Nelson: “It was really important for us to get this win at home, in this stadium. We gave our fans something to cheer about and give them a reason to come back out next weekend and cheer for us again. It is always important to get those wins at home and make it exciting for the home fans.”

Q: How big a win is this with it being a division win?

Nelson: “It was a big win. We know how important this game was and we stepped up together and came out on top. It is always good to get that division win.”

Q: What are your thoughts about the Chiefs coming next week?

Nelson: “You only got a couple of hours to enjoy it. Enjoy it while you can, but like I said, we got a tough division game and hopefully our fans come out and we can give them something to cheer about again.”

Q: You are tied now atop the AFC West with the Broncos loss today, how does that feel?

Nelson: “As long as we keep winning it is good for us. I can’t worry about the Broncos until they show up on our schedule so my focus right now is on the Kansas City Chiefs and try to get this next division win.”

Q: Why has it taken this defense so long to gel together and what has been the big difference?

Nelson: “Just a lot of work we put in. There is always something to fix, and I’m sure there are things to fix from this game. We just got to continue to fix the problems and play good football. Shout out to Karl Joseph for his first pick in the NFL, so we just got to continue to work the defense and keep putting teams away.”

Raiders RB DeAndré Washington

Q: Seemed like you were able to find some space, make one cut and run. Was the game plan today?

Washington: “We just wanted to move and push those chains. I think collectively we did a good job of picking up the slack with Latavius [Murray] down, so I think we did a good job between the running backs.”

Q: How does it feel to be 4-1 and atop the division?

Washington: “It feels magnificent. We look forward to another division match next week and we need that one.”

Q: What should we call you and Jalen?

Washington: “I don’t know what to tell you [laughing]. I think we have a nice package. With Latavius [Murray] there we are even better. We just got to continue to work and play off of each other.”

Q: Did the team feel there were missed opportunities coming off the first-half down 10-9?

Washington: “Definitely. I think we were in the red-zone at least a good two or three times and we just didn’t come away with points. Luckily, we found a way to win and take advantage of those opportunities.”

Q: As you are driving down the field trying to take the lead, what is the mood like in the huddle?

Washington: “You look at our games and they have down to the wire. We knew it was going to be a tough fight, and San Diego led a lot of games all the way down to two minutes. Even though we were unable to find the groove early, we were able to make those big plays in the end.”

Q: How did you guys react when Coach [Del Rio] said we are going to go for it on the 4th and 2?

Washington: “We know the type of coach Jack [Del Rio] is and he makes those calls. He believes in us and we just got to go out there and execute.”

Q: Do you think those calls have helped send a winning attitude and make you guys 4-1?



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Washington: “I think it is just the culture we have going on here. We want to put our down on the gas pedal and that is the approach that helps the team.”

Raiders LB Khalil Mack

Q: Would you say you guys still have some flaws after giving up some big plays?

Mack: “Oh yeah definitely. We gave up too many big plays and we will make sure we fix them ahead of our game next week against the Chiefs.”

Q: What has been the difference in coming out ahead in these games that go down to the wire?

Mack: “The difference is defense. The defense has to be the difference in these games. We can’t have too many of these games coming down to the wire so we got to learn from these games and continue to get better. We had a few turnovers in there. Karl [Joseph] turnover there was big. There are some things though that we got to finish coming down the stretch.”

Q: How are you feeling overall?

Mack: “No doubt I’m happy we won the game. But defensively, we got to do a lot better.”

Raiders CB Sean Smith

Q: Did you feel like you know you were going to make a play, did you know were going to win this game?

Smith: “It’s all in the mentality, just in the right moment, who we are. We have the utmost confidence in everyone on defense. We know everyone is capable of playing the way we need to win the game. For us, I feel like we should have won this game easily. With the talent we have on defense, it shouldn’t have been close. You have somebody who shouldn’t have been in the game still in the game. These hard fought games are fun, but at the same time they’re unnecessary.”

Q: What’s the next step for the defensive line?

Smith: “We just need to finish guys off, execute what we’re set up to do. We’re well-coached, well-prepared. We need to get these games over with early. “

Q: You guys have given up a lot of yardage, but you always seem to have that one big play, that one big break where things go your way. Would you say you’re blessed right now?

Smith: “That’s not a word I would use. We’ll definitely take the win. A win is a win, they’re very hard to come by. But when you think about those yards, when you go into the details as a defense this is going to catch up to us. We have some work to improve but we’ll take this win.”

Raiders LB Bruce Irvin

Q: How do you look at this win? You guys are 4-1, you’re supposed to be a great team with the best defense. Do you guys say ‘hey, we’re getting by despite that’?

Irvin: “You’re always happy to get the win with how hard it is to win in this league. We’re not even close to where we’re supposed to be at. It’s bad. I’m glad we got the win but I’m not in a good mood about how it’s going.”

Q: What do you think the problem is?



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Irvin: “I just think guys need to communicate, need to talk, let each other know what we’re seeing so we can make the right adjustments. When that lapses, we give up explosive plays. That was the case today. We gave up a chunk of yards. We keep getting better each and every week. We just need to work on communicating, playing together.”

Q: Have you seen a time where you guys were communicating, is it just misfires?

Irvin: “The biggest thing in this league is being consistent. You can’t have a good couple plays then give up explosive plays. Unless we fix that, everybody including myself, we’re going to continue to be an inconsistent defense with a lot of talent. Once again, I’m happy about the win, guys played their butts off, but we’re far from where we need to be at.”

Q: When they lined up for the field goal to tie the game what was the mood like? What was going through your minds at that point?

Irvin: “We thought we were going to go to overtime. The football gods looked out for the Oakland Raiders today and we appreciate it.”

RAIDERS S KARL JOSEPH

Q: How long did it seem like the ball was floating in the air on that interception?

Joseph: “It felt like it was in slow motion. I caught it like a punt, too.”

Q: Have you ever been a punt returner?

Joseph: “No. Those are probably some of the hardest ones to catch. It felt like it was in the air forever. I was just happy I came down with it.”

Q: Bruce [Irvin] was saying you guys need to communicate more. Are you guys trying to do that, talk on the sideline?

Joseph: “I thought we are. We just have to make the plays when we need to make them. That’s what it comes down to. We just need to keep going to work. Come Tuesday we’ll what we need to work on. I know myself, I left a lot of plays out there. I know I have to keep getting better. We have to keep getting better as a team.”

Q: On that interception, you had to wait for it to come down. On the fumble recovery you didn’t even have time to think about it.

Joseph: “I was just happy I got on the ball.”

Q: Are you feeling a lot more comfortable than you were a couple weeks ago?

Joseph: “Most definitely. I think each week I go out there I feel more comfortable. I trust the process. I’m still bothered a bit with the knee, so I just have to keep trusting the process, keep going and getting better every week.”

Q: In a game where there’s lots of yards, does it magnify those turnovers. Does it make it even more important?

Joseph: “We have to get better. We have a lot of work to do. We still have to get better. Our best football is ahead of us as a defense. I know with our secondary, we’re not happy with it. We’re happy with the win but we’re not happy with the performance. Myself, I know there are a lot of plays I could have made.”

Q: [Philip] Rivers plays this team twice a year, the Chargers play this team twice a year. I don’t know that we’ve ever seen any as many deep balls as he threw today. Did that come as a surprise?

Joseph: “Watching film, we knew he was going to try us deep in our secondary. We made lots of plays on it, but we also missed lots of plays. It’s something we’re going to have to look at next time we play.”



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Raiders LB Perry Riley Jr.

Q: How did you feel playing today?

Riley Jr.: "I've been playing football for 22 years now, never took a year off, so at the end of the day it comes back to making tackles, making plays and that's what I try to do."

Q: Did the first forced fumble make you feel good?

Riley Jr.: "It did. I was mad he caught it, because he kind of gave me a push, but getting them to fumble it and we getting it back definitely made up for that."

Q: Did you enjoy playing in front of the Raiders' crowd?

Riley Jr.: "I did, I did. The crowd was definitely into t the whole game. It was a close game for the majority game, so it was fun to have them on our backs and on our sides and giving us the extra push we needed in the fourth quarter."

Q: Did you have an idea that you would have an extensive amount of playing time?

Riley Jr.: "Yeah, I was ready for it. I didn't know exactly until we got here and they told me I was going out for intros. But, I was ready for it, I prepared for it. I didn't want to get caught off guard. I prepared as if I was starting."

Q: Do you feel like you were playing with a little extra fire today?

Riley Jr.: "I mean, I always try to play with fire. This is my first game of the season, so maybe. But, every game I try to come with fire, so I don't know about anything extra, that's just me."

Q: What was this week like for you adjusting to the defense?

Riley Jr.: "The terminology was the biggest thing to getting the playbook down. At the end of the day, it's 11-on-11, you can only run a certain amount of coverages, they're all pretty much the same everywhere, it's just the terminology is different. Once I got that down, the rest came."

Q: Was it big getting the forced fumble early in the game?

Riley Jr.: "I mean, yeah, anytime, you get a forced fumble home or away, it doesn't matter. A turnover is a big play for a team and I was happy to get it done."

Q: How important are turnovers when there are a lot of yards given up?

Riley Jr.: "Very important. I mean, we had three turnovers in the first half. I think we were still losing going into halftime. Turnovers played a huge part in taking points off the board. You know, any game like I said, no matter if it's the first game of the season, super bowl, a turnover's big as far as momentum, just changing the flow of things and getting us the ball back."

Q: Do you believe that you and Cory James played well together?

Riley Jr.: "For the most part, for the most part. There were things that we need to clean up and I'm sure we'll get to that on the film, we'll correct it. For the most part, we did a good job of playing well with each other and we got the win."

Q: Where does this week rank as far as tough things you've experienced in your career?

Riley Jr.: "I mean, it's up there. I don't know about the exact ranking, but it was pretty tough. I just hit it hard and relied on my experience."



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Q: How happy are you to be playing with Bruce Irvin again?

Riley Jr.: “Very happy, we haven’t played together since our sophomore year in high school, It’s good. It’s good to get to see him on the field again next to me and talking to him throughout the plays. It’s definitely good. It’s easier to settle in here having somebody I consider my brother like that being here with me.”

Q: How special is it to you being a part of a Raiders team that’s now tied for first place in the division after your first week here?

Riley Jr.: “Very special. Their record and the talent they had on this team was a big thing to get me to come here. I was very high on them. I knew they were a good team, they were already 3-1, they have great offensive talent, great defensive talent, so I just wanted to come here and be a part of it.”



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Chargers Head Coach Mike McCoy

Q: Have you seen it all yet?

McCoy: "Just when you think you've seen it all, something like that happens. Too many turnovers throughout the game and critical mistakes at critical times once again."

Q: Why not go for it on fourth-and-1 there?

McCoy: "I made the decision to kick the field goal."

Q: Why?

McCoy: "Because that's what I did."

Q: Do you not have confidence in your team in situations like that?

McCoy: "I decided to go with the field goal. We kicked the field goal and we didn't make it."

Q: Last week after the game, you were angry. Are you shocked this week?

McCoy: "You think you've seen it all, and then something like that comes up and you move down the field, decide to kick a field goal and you have that with the snap. You have a punt in a certain situation, turnovers, big plays, all those things throughout the entire game."

Q: I know Drew Kaser is a rookie, but are you looking for a new punter?

McCoy: "We'll talk about that later on. We'll talk about those little things, what we've got to do moving forward."

Q: Was Drew Kaser hurt?

McCoy: "No."

Q: Did you consider putting another guy in there?

McCoy: "No."

Q: How do you find new ways to win a game?

McCoy: "We're obviously not making the plays we need to. It's like I've said week in and week out: It's not one position, it's not one player. It's a number of different things that have happened."

Q: What are your thoughts on how Joey Bosa played?

McCoy: "From the sideline, from what I saw, it's what you expect from a player like that. There's a number of plays you look and say, 'Wow there's the wow factor.' He played lights out."

Q: What did you say to the guys afterward?

McCoy: "I'll keep what we talk about in the locker room in the locker room."

Q: How did you feel the team played when you got down by 10? It seemed like there wasn't any give up at that point.

McCoy: "There's been no give up. There will be no give up here. Our guys play their hearts out every week. They show up. They do what they've got to do and they fight their tails off to the bitter end, just like today."

Q: Is it frustrating the way the team has played over this stretch?

McCoy: "That's an understatement."



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Q: Is Philip Rivers getting the credit he deserves?

McCoy: "I will say this about Philip: He's one of the best of all time. Year in and year out, he performs at the highest level in the league. He's a special player. He is special."

Q: What did you see on Melvin Gordon's fumble?

McCoy: "Yeah it's unfortunate. I'll have to look at the film to see exactly. I didn't really see a great view of it when he went down so we'll see was there a technique or something in there for why it came out, but I did not see it clearly so I don't have a great answer for you right there."

Q: How do you think the defense played?

McCoy: "I think there was the good and bad, but that's also something you look at the film and kind of evaluate it as we go, once I see it on the way home and look at it and look at every little detail of it. There were some good things. I think there were a lot of positive plays. We gave up a couple of big plays."

Q: Was it disappointing that that team didn't capitalize on some of the potential game-changing plays the defense made?

McCoy: "That's one thing we've talked about. It's sudden change. When you create a turnover, get the ball with a certain situation, I think we have to score a touchdown to get points off that at least. I know that's something we've talked about and addressed throughout the entire year when those guys get a turnover to really put a team away and make the big play off it because those are game-changing plays that change the momentum. You create a turnover and then you also get points off of it."

CHARGERS QB PHILIP RIVERS

Q: What was your mindset being down 10 points in the fourth quarter?

Rivers: "Well we knew we needed to answer and put a good drive together. We had plenty of time, we felt at that point we had plenty of time. Put a good drive together, finish with points, preferably a touchdown – and we did that. It was a heck of a drive responding after we got down 10. Then our defense got [the ball] right back and at that point I thought we were going to win 38-34 and walk out of here right there at the buzzer like we have in the past. But we didn't convert there on that second and third down there in that series before the two-minute warning."

Q: What are your thoughts on deciding to try the field goal instead of go for it?

Rivers: "It's easy now, right? I mean, you kick it. You kick it and you tie it up. If we go for it on fourth [down] – I mean, we may get it, and I believe we could have – but if we don't get it, then what in the world are we doing. We're down three with two minutes left and we just tried to go for it on fourth down on what's been a chip shot for [Chargers kicker Josh] Lambo the last year and a half. I think it's easy after the fact to say that."

Q: At 1-3, should you take the risk there and go for it on fourth down to pull out the win?

Rivers: "1-3 is early. It's just so easy to say after the fact. I mean, what's 1-3? We're about to be two games out of the division lead and playing the division leader on Thursday if we win. It's too early to say, 'What's there to lose? Go for it there.' I personally thought it was the right call. I mean now I wish we would have gone for it but at the time I didn't even think there was any question – I was getting my butt off the field to kick the field goal."

Q: How discouraging are these losses becoming?

Rivers: "Discouraging probably isn't stating it strong enough. I don't know if there's many more ways left to find a way to lose, but we certainly can't feel sorry for ourselves. Denver will roll in here in about 96 hours so we've got to be ready for that."



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Q: Does having a short week help you get over this mentally?

Rivers: “Shoot, I don’t know what helps at this point. We’re 1-4, we’ve got to go find a way to win a game. We haven’t won a division game in 10 tries now or whatever. We have to really just worry about today and tomorrow. Everyday we’re on, we can’t really look at what’s still out there. Everything is still out there. I sound like a broken record, but it is. You’ve just got to carry on – it’s the only way I know.”

Q: What does it mean to pass Johnny Unitas and Warren Moon on the all-time touchdown list?

Rivers: “I don’t think right now, necessarily, but yes. I never met my grandfather – my dad’s dad – but [Unitas] was his favorite player. My dad would say to me, ‘I see you up there near Johnny Unitas, my daddy loved Johnny [Unitas].’ So anyway, it is meaningful, but again a lot of guys contribute. A lot of guys were on the other end of all those. Obviously you’d love to enjoy it a little bit after a come from behind win like we thought we were going to have. It is, it still can be. I can separate the two. Obviously you all know I’m all about the team and I’m all about winning, but I think certain names that you either pass or are up next to, I can separate the two and appreciate.”

Q: Was the game plan changed to go deep?

Rivers: “Yeah we had a handful of shots that we knew we wanted to take and then we ended up taking those and then some. We just felt like that was one place we had an advantage. We’re going to have to double protect some – and the guys did a great job – I got hit a couple times but the linemen did a heck of a job. If you’re going to do that then you’re going to sacrifice getting those guys out of their route quickly. Well if you’re going to do that then let’s use our speed guys, I mean [Chargers WR] Travis [Benjamin] and [Chargers WR] Tyrell’s [Williams] biggest asset is their speed. We knew that – again, [the Raiders] won the game – but we didn’t think they could run with us on the back end. I underthrew the first one for an interception but other than that we made some huge plays down the field. Anytime you have that many yards in the air and that many chunk plays and score 31 points, we put the defense in a tough spot. I thought the defense kept giving us opportunities. Once again, we just didn’t get it done.”

Q: What did you see on the potential game tying field goal attempt?

Rivers: “I didn’t see it. I was getting ready to turn back to watch it and I saw us chasing it. So wasn’t even staring at it when it actually started.”

Q: What was your reaction when you saw the fumble on the field goal attempt?

Rivers: “Again, you can’t make this stuff up. You think, ‘Is there any other way we can find a way to do this?’ Obviously that wasn’t going to win us the game, but it was going to get us right there and who knows. I imagine, with Oakland and Derek [Carr] and those receivers, they’ve made some plays so I would imagine they were going to go try to win it, obviously, with a field goal – but you get a stop and you never know. We may have it right back there again or we go to overtime. Again, yeah, it does make you go, ‘Aww we should have gone for it.’ If we drill that, we’re all not even thinking about that.”

Q: How do you stay sane through these excruciating losses?

Rivers: “I only know one way, and you see it on our hat and shirt and everything I do. I am where I am and I’m going to begin again tomorrow and be where I am, then I’m going to do the same thing on Tuesday and the same thing on Wednesday. I don’t know another way. Again, I hate losing more than anybody, but I know there’s a greater purpose in all of it, as a man. For me, I’m trying to look at it that way at this point. Whatever it is, shoot, whatever character trait that this is trying to mold out of me individually, then I’m going to attack it head on and keep fighting – that’s the only way I know.”

Q: Would you have been able to handle these same struggles five-to-10 years ago?



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Rivers: “Maybe not. Maybe not. Again, I think – and I’ve always prioritized faith, family, and football – but obviously you grow in all areas. I think growing in my faith, and my family growing, and growing as a man and as a husband. I don’t hate losing less, I don’t care any less. I just think I’m better equipped by God’s grace to handle situations like this. So if there’s any positive that can come out of it, maybe there’s a 10 or 11 or 12-year-old boy watching somewhere going, ‘You know what? He’s handling it well, as bad as it can be.’ That’s the only good that I can see right now, coming out of it. Maybe we’re going to go on an unbelievable run. Maybe we’re getting all of these out of the way so we can win, what, 10 in a row?”

Chargers RB Melvin Gordon

Q: This was a short week, how are you responding after that game?

Gordon: “I mean, you have to get over it, and get ready for Denver. We play them Thursday, so we have to go.”

Q: What happened on the fumble?

Gordon: “I have to really look at it. I’m really conscious about it. I honestly don’t even know what to tell you. I have to watch it and see. But at the end of the day, it can’t happen.”

Q: How do you rebound from something like this, back-to-back weeks?

Gordon: “I don’t know man, as far as the fumble? I don’t know. You just try not to think about it. I try my hardest to go back out there and make up for it. Tried to do what I could. I know I put us in a bad position after that. Short field, after that turnover they scored right after. I tried my hardest to make up for it, do what I can. We got in a position, but just fell short again.”

Q: How frustrating are these types of losses?

Gordon: “It’s very frustrating. It happened with us all last season—the close games. It’s starting all over again, we have to change something. It’s frustrating. We can’t let it beat us coming in playing Denver.”

Chargers P Drew Kaser

Q: What happened on the 15-yard punt at the end of the game?

Lambo: “It’s something that I have to go back on film, and go back and watch, and see what happened.”

Q: Are you injured at all on that play, or are you injured beforehand?

Lambo: “I can’t comment on that right now. It’s just something I have to go back, and work on, work on myself, and get ready for this upcoming week.”

Q: Where’s your head at right now after that game?

Lambo: “I just got to move on, and get ready for Denver this upcoming Thursday. Short week, so we have to prepare and get ready for a tough division opponent.”

Q: The final field goal. Walk us through the sequence there, and what happened?

Lambo: “Yeah, felt great about it. That is something else I have to go back in film, and just see what happened. I can’t sit here and tell you exactly what happened, but we have to go back in film, and review it. See what happened.”

Chargers NT Brandon Mebane



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Q: What happened with the interception?

Mebane: "Oh man, I just wanted to show I'm a skill position player at heart. I just saw the ball thrown. And that was my first one ever. I was just kind of like... it just didn't even seem real. When I got up, I was like 'man I really did catch it.' But you know at the end of the day, I still want to win regardless of the interception I got."

Q: You've had a lot of success in Seattle. Is there a feeling that something is going to go wrong right now?

Mebane: "No, no it's not a feeling. We just have to stick together, and stay fighting, and keep believing in each other. And you know, we still could make a run, just have to believe in each other."

Q: It looks like the teams on the field with you aren't necessarily better, it's just a mistake here and there. Is it frustrating?

Mebane: "Yeah, you know we definitely have to limit our mistakes. We all have to look at ourselves as individuals. You know, just evaluate yourself, and make sure we limit our mistakes. We can't just make things up at the end. Stay consistent. Just play football."

Chargers TE Hunter Henry

Q: Hunter, fifth weekend, is the game slowing down for you a little bit because you made an impact?

Henry: "I feel like I just have to keep doing what I am doing. It's trying to work hard in practice, and learn from the best, so I pick up everything I can from him [Antonio Gates], and it's helping a lot on the field."

Q: It seems like Phillip Rivers really trusts you. Do you do any extra work with him? That is a veteran with a rookie. Are you guys talking a lot?

Henry: "During the summer, I worked with [Antonio] Gates a lot, and built trust up with him. Over the summer and at times during training camp, I was the guy out there. The last two weeks I have been that guy too, so that trust is being built."

Q: How do you feel about yourself getting in the league right now? Can you separate yourself from the whole team?

Henry: "I am a team guy. I don't really care about stats. I just want to win, so that's the most important thing for me. We just have to look in ourselves, and play better."

Chargers LB Melvin Ingram

Q: It seems that things just keep going wrong...

Ingram: "I don't know what's going on but we got to start making more plays, everybody, both sides of the ball. We got to get more plays to try to put the game away."

Q: At first, it didn't look like they had your number at all... did it seem like they were rolling over you?

Ingram: "Never. Nobody is just going to roll over, we got too much pride."

Q: What do you do next week?

Ingram: "Same thing. Come out and grind, try and get it through."

Chargers DE Joey Bosa



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Q: How did you feel coming out today?

Bosa: "It feels good to have a decent game coming back but like... I could have five sacks and we lose, it's a loss for me. So if we're not winning, I'm losing and we got to make a change."

Q: You were used a lot different ways out there today, are we going to see just all of the formations all of the time, is that the plan?

Bosa: "Yeah, it's up to the coaches they put me in the right position to do what I do so yeah, we'll see moving forward. Next week I'm sure we'll start integrating me more into the first and second down but they've got a good plan on defense so I'm just going to follow them."

Q: You were in the backfield a lot, how did that feel for you being back there, is it easier than you thought it'd be?

Bosa: "It's football. Its same as college except players are all better so I've been doing it my whole life it felt pretty natural. It's nice to get the butterflies out because I was pretty nervous running that scheme, a lot of tension leading up to this moment but I'm happy with how I played, I know I can play a lot better but until we start winning, it doesn't really matter."

Q: How was your fitness level out there in terms of the plays you were out there?

Bosa: "It was good, it was the first time I really was feeling playing football in a long time so it took a series or two to get used to but once I got the butterflies out and kind of back into the swing of playing, it was fun."

Q: You've been on the sidelines watching the last couple games when these things have been happening in the games and now you're on the field, little different perspective on that?

Bosa: "Yeah it's pretty unbelievable these things that are happening to us but there's no one else to blame other than ourselves. We got to get together as a team and really find out why this is happening because it's a theme and things don't happen for no reason, there's a reason. We got a lot of great guys that are playing really hard and it's not a talent thing, we just got to figure it out and I think we will."

Q: How did you feel about the decision to go for it on fourth down?

Bosa: "I wanted to go for it, I thought it was a good decision, a nice chip shot bring it into overtime but stuff happens. We could say whatever we want about the whole play but in reality, as a team, we shouldn't let it get to that point every single week for it to last. We could point fingers, blame this and that but we just got to look at ourselves."