



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



HEAD COACH JACK DEL RIO

Opening Statement: “Alright. It’s a typical NFL game. Usually close. Comes down to the end. Which team makes plays. We had our chances. You get your chances and you have to live with the results. Didn’t make enough today. Minus one on turnovers. Obviously, you want to be on the positive side of the turnover battle. We’re up by two, get them pinned back. Marquette [King] was phenomenal today punting the ball, flipped the field a bunch. You get them pinned back, we have to get a stop. We didn’t get it done. They milked it, they won the game. They earned it. So we’re on a short week, getting ready for the Chiefs. Questions?”

Q: Do you believe in the saying you’re as good as your record is or do you think you’re better than 2-4?

Coach Del Rio: “I believe you get what you earn. That’s what we’ve earned so far.”

Q: How did Derek Carr do today? Did you think he was off at first?

Coach Del Rio: “Specifically on Derek, I thought he did OK. It’s good to have him back, I know that. He miss threw a couple of things, but I thought for the most part he was fairly sharp. It was a lack of communication on the first. Then we had two interceptions, which is unusual. We had a communication error on the first one and the second was kind of a funky tipped ball. I felt good having him there, I know that.”

Q: Were you not prepared for Melvin Gordon?

Coach Del Rio: “They ran exactly the plays that we know they run. Including the tight end. Literally calling out the play on that. Guys that are responsible for that have to make the play. It’s unfortunate that we let the back get out a little bit, that we let the tight end get out a little bit. In most cases it was stuff we prepared for and repped.”

Q: Can you talk about going for it on fourth down?

Coach Del Rio: “Yeah, opportunity to possess and win. Didn’t want to give up those 20-yards or net 20. Gave us an opportunity. We came up short. Anytime they don’t work, then I tend it, talk about them up here. When they do, we don’t talk about them as much. I understand that.”

Q: What’s missing from the offense?

Coach Del Rio: “Just productivity. Just productivity. We’re working hard. Guys look, our team is a proud team. We work hard. We believe in each other. It’s just off a little bit. We’ll just keep working.”

Q: Did you see improvement in confidence today with your guys?

Coach Del Rio: “I felt it was a little better today, yeah. I thought we made plays, got off the field on third down. Philip [Rivers] does a great job. He’s always tough to defend. I thought for the most part we did a good job. The two drives that stick out for me are the two drives where we didn’t get off on third down. That’s where he got his points and that’s what I thought was the difference in the game. You got to make plays on third down against this bunch.”

Q: Is NaVorro Bowman visiting with the Raiders tomorrow?

Coach Del Rio: “I’m fresh off this game. I know [General Manager] Reggie [McKenzie] is in charge of that part. We’ll talk about it, but I don’t have anything to add to that story right now.”

Q: What happened in the final offensive drive that had penalties take away from the four-minute offense?

Coach Del Rio: “I saw an inability to line up properly, execute. We completed out for a chunk, it’s going to put us at second-and-short to start the drive. Instead we line up at first-and-15. That led to a three-and-out. That was a factor in us going three-and-out. I know that hook and ladder went for about a yard short. Bottom line is that penalty hurt us right there. We didn’t have a bunch. We haven’t been penalized a bunch, but we had a couple really killers.”



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Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: What's the biggest issue on offense right now?

Coach Del Rio: "I wouldn't try to sum it up in a word. I just wouldn't try. Like I said, we're working hard at it and we're close, but no cigar."

RAIDERS QB DEREK CARR

Q: Did you feel limited due to your injury today?

Carr: "No, actually I felt really fortunate because you don't know until you go out there. We had weird practices because of the smoke and stuff. So, to play full speed, I felt really good."

Q: Did you feel like the playbook was fully available to you today?

Carr: "Yeah, we go out there, and as an offense, we're going to run what's called to the best of our abilities. There was no talk of trying to get the ball out of my hands or don't take hits or anything like that. We were out there just playing. It was nothing like that."

Q: Where did the miscommunication come from on the interceptions?

Carr: "Details. That's a frustrating thing. I'm not going to lie to you. I'm really frustrated. We work too hard for that kind of stuff to happen. That's an easy catch, that's an easy play, if I do the right thing, if our players do the right thing. What I'm trying to say, is that it should be an easy play. And it was a turnover. That should never happen. We gave them two gifts. Obviously, the second time they didn't really do anything with it, but that's always fortunate when you get a turnover. We were fortunate, but at the same time - the problem is the details. It's myself and the whole offense included. We need to lock into every little detail, that's the problem. There's nothing else. Our guys work their tail off. When I get there, guys are there and they're working. We're working hard, but we have to lock in on the details."

Q: Do you think any of your problems today were related to your injury?

Carr: "It had nothing to do with my back. They play really soft zone coverage. That's just what they do. That's what coach [Gus] Bradley does. He tries makes pressure and hide some things. That's the way he does things. Usually, when they play soft, you have to take those. We had some bigger plays that were called back and some questionable things, but again, no one really cares."

Q: Can you talk about Marshawn Lynch's performance today?

Carr: "He ran really well. I love playing with him. I think all our guys like to watch him. He plays physical. I thought he did really well."

Q: Are you surprised your offense hasn't put up more points in the last 4 weeks?

Carr: "Yeah, like I said, I'm frustrated. And not in a bad way. I'm not changing anything I do. I know how to work, I know how to study, I know how to play this game. Everyone has talent, it just comes down to everyone locking in every detail of this offense. That's all it really comes down to. I'm not going to elaborate on what that is, but that's the problem. That's why it's frustrating. That's why it's kind of like we're better than that. But obviously we're not because that's not what we're putting out there."

Q: Talk about the team's confidence level after the last four weeks.

Carr: "We have a good group that's always confident now. If you ever go into a fight and you get punched, you don't just stop. If you do then that says something else about you. We have a good group of guys that Mr. [Reggie] McKenzie and Coach Del Rio have brought in, they're going to fight. They're not going to give in. So, we do have



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Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



four straight losses, but we do also have a long season. We don't have as much room to lose games, but we have all the confidence in the world. We're just trying to fix the problems, and the problems are in the details."

Q: What can you do better as a leader of the offense?

Carr: "Sometimes these things happen in life where you think you're doing a good job of certain things, especially as a leader, but then it's not going the right way. So you have to go back and think, 'What do I need to do?' At the end of the day, this is my fault. It's not my players' fault, it's not my teammates' fault. This is all on me. So, I have to get it right. I have to somehow make it click better or maybe I can talk to them better. Maybe I can explain things better. Whatever it is. They're just going to go as I go. So it's all my fault. I have to figure out a way to communicate what we need."

Q: Discuss the team's attitude before the game today.

Carr: "To be honest, I think we have a really good veteran group of guys and they know how to get ready for a NFL game from a mentality standpoint. When they knew I was playing, obviously they were excited. They were happy for me. I think they were more excited because I was feeling better. As a brother, they were just happy that I was feeling better or that I could pick my kids up again. At the end of the day, we just prepare. We're going to prepare and compete our tail off. Right now, I think we can prepare a little bit better."

Q: Does doubt start to creep in that you guys can't pull out the close games that you did last year?

Carr: "No, I don't wonder. I'm always positive. I'm sitting there looking at the clock, seeing how many timeouts we have, we need this, if they get this - I knew what yard line we needed to get to for a field goal to win it. I was ready to go in the game. At the end of the day, you just want the shot at the end. They did a good job taking the time off and kicking the field goal at the end. But to answer that, no. I'm always thinking we got this."

Q: Will you be ready for the game on Thursday?

Carr: "Absolutely, nobody cares if we play in a couple of days. They're just going to show up. We're going to play the game and I'm going to stand right here and we're going to talk again. Hopefully, it'll be a little bit better. Hopefully we're all smiling. That would be nice. Again, is there enough time, is there not? It doesn't matter. We have to get it right. We're professional football players and we're expected to be on top of things, to do what we're supposed to do, and to do our job. That's what we're supposed to do."

Q: Can you attribute any of the blame today with the coaches?

Carr: "Anytime it has anything to do with the coach, they're always going to take all the blame. But, the players are mine. Those are my guys. I'm responsible for everything. I will always be that way. I want every bit of stress off the head coach, our coordinator, my teammates. You guys know me well enough. It doesn't matter what people say - good or bad. I'm going to be the same. That's why it is my fault. At the end of the day, we're out there on the field. I feel like I can do something better. I can say it better, I can explain it better. There's something missing, I'll figure it out. We're going to figure it out because I'm not going to feel like this my whole season, my whole career. I refuse."

Q: So the scheme is fine?

Carr: "The scheme is great."

RAIDERS CB DEXTER MCDONALD

Q: Take us through that play, you ran all the way across the field and stripped him, the ball was loose and [David] Amerson fell on it.

Dexter McDonald: "The guy got ahead of me, I just had to make sure I finished the play. That's what I tried to do and fortunately I got the fumble out of there."



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: How do you regroup and get ready for the Chiefs in the next few days after a disappointing loss like today?

McDonald: "All we can do is move forward and make sure we're as best prepared as we can be for the next game."

Q: When you hold a team like the Chargers to under 20 points like that, how disappointing is it to lose a game like that?

McDonald: "You just have to keep moving forward. Me being on defense and being a defensive player, I just try to take care of what I can. I'm doing my job to help my team best as best prepared to win a game as we can."

Q: You did so many things up until that last drive. How backbreaking is it?

McDonald: "It's definitely frustrating but all we can do is take what we learn from the past and try to get better and move forward. We have a game this Thursday."

RAIDERS CB DAVID AMERSON

Q: How tough was Melvin Gordon today?

David Amerson: "He's a good running back but it wasn't anything we couldn't handle. They just got the best of us."

Q: You're sitting at 2-4 with a game just a few nights away. In terms of the mental game, how do you get rid of this one and start focusing on the [Kansas City] Chiefs?

Amerson: "You have to. Ain't nobody going to feel sorry for you. Ain't nobody coming to save us. We just need to buckle down, move one. It's crazy. It's coming pretty quick. We're aware of that. We have to do what we have to do."

RAIDERS LS JON CONDO

Q: Can you explain what happened on the missed point after attempt?

Condo: "I had a bad snap. Marquette did a good job getting it down and Giorgio did the best that he could to get it through. I let the team down. The team practices all week to go out there and do their job. I had my opportunity to go out there and do my job and I didn't come through."

Q: When you are in a funk like this as a team are those little things more frustrating?

Condo: "I mean I try to be as best as I can every time and yeah when the team drops three or four in a row now it sucks. It just seems like when it rains it pours for us right now. Nothing has gone right for us."

Q: The snap, hold and kick have been so good all year does this magnify the frustration?

Condo: "Of course, I have one job to do. Snap the ball. I didn't make it happen today and I feel bad. Again, the rest of my teammates were out there doing their jobs and I have one job and couldn't do it. I couldn't come through today."

Q: What did you say to Giorgio after?

Condo: "I said I'm sorry and this is my fault. I'll do the best I can next time."

Q: Can you put your finger on exactly what happened on that play?

Condo: "No, not really. I don't know. I know my butt came up too early and everything just wasn't in sync. Sometimes my mind starts wanting to snap before my body goes through and I think that's kind of what happened."



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Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



RAIDERS CB TJ CARRIE

Q: How frustrating was it, you had a long field on that final drive, you guys couldn't get the hold?

TJ Carrie: "It's always frustrating when things don't go your way. I think that, in that drive, we hurt ourselves. It wasn't anything they did in particular, we just didn't play sound football though we've played sound football the whole game. I think that was the determining factor, of us just not playing sound football in that last drive."

Q: What were you able to take away from [Philip] Rivers early on in the game? There were a couple of "get off the field" plays that you executed but when he absolutely needed one in crunch time he got one.

Carrie: "We gave him a lot of different looks, looks that he hadn't seen before. Any good quarterback like Rivers is going to find out what we're doing on defense and come back with an attack that will be somewhat successful for them. That's what he ended up doing. On that last drive he played on players making their plays and we didn't make our plays in that drive."

Q: With the talent, expectations and the way you guys started the year 2-0, how difficult is it to digest being 2-4 here?

Carrie: "It's always a game of inches. The game, every Sunday, no matter how the stats may rank you need to go out and play sound football because on Sunday anything can happen. US being in this situation, there's no turning back. We still have a lot of games to play. There's no help coming. The cavalry is not coming. We are the cavalry. We have to lean on each other and go in, make the corrections, we got a short week then go out and play on Thursday."

Q: What positives can you take going into the short week?

Carrie: "Getting this taste out of our mouths. Not allowing this to go on to the Thursday night game. That's the biggest positive. The coaching staff does a great job, and as teammates we lean on each other to correct each other and our mindset to make sure we're all on the same page."

RAIDERS K GIORGIO TAVECCHIO

Q: For you, this year it's always been about consistency. How do you bounce back?

Giorgio Tavecchio: "Don't change anything. Keep your belief and affirm your belief in the process and those around you which I believe in. Keep moving forward."

Q: It was obviously a high snap. What goes through your mind at that point? Were you able to get it off comfortably enough?

Tavecchio: "My mind was blank. I'd like to think I could have had a little but more poise in that situation."

Q: But that's as hard as it gets. You had to pause.

Tavecchio: "Yeah, but I'm a professional. I should be able to do that."

Q: In close games like that, special teams does usually play a prominent role. Facing a division opponent, a divisional foe, you know that going in. Do you prepare differently knowing the importance?

Tavecchio: "No, you just try to continue to take every day, every opportunity to improve, to focus on your preparation and process and try not to look at the circumstances or situation and let that define how you prepare."



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



RAIDERS WR CORDARRELLE PATTERSON

Q: When you know you have so much talent and it's still not happening does that add to the frustration?

Patterson: "I mean you could be frustrated but what is going to change? You got to go out there and just do your job. When your number is called, you have to go out there and execute and make a play."

Q: Can you take us through that fly sweep?

Patterson: "I'm a playmaker and that's just something I do. Every time I get the ball in my hands I feel like I'm going to score no matter when I touch the ball. That's the mentality I have. I was just born like that. Every time I get the ball I just go out there and try to make a play for my team."

Q: When you hit the end zone did you think in your mind that's it if we could just hang on?

Patterson: "I never think it's it. It's football man, you never know. They came in here and was hungry. They came and got the win. We just got to be better."

Q: How does the offense find that consistency moving forward?

Patterson: "I mean it's there. We just got to keep going out and executing. It all start at practice we just probably got to be better there. When coach calls the play, we got to go out and execute it. Sometimes things don't happen the way we want it to but we just got to go out there and make it work."

RAIDERS LB NICK MORROW

Q: Did they do anything different to be successful on those 3rd downs there:

Nick Morrow: "I don't think they did anything differently. It just comes down to who wants it more. We just have to make those plays and we didn't."

Q: Do you think they did anything differently because they knew you had coach [John] Pagano? Did they surprise you with anything?

Morrow: "I think the gameplay was good. I don't think they did anything new or surprised us. For the most part everything was what we game planned for."

Q: Did you guys know the play calls, what they were doing?

Morrow: "No, you just do what you usually do, look at the tendencies, look at the formations."

RAIDERS S KARL JOSEPH

Q: I know you need to look at the film, but was it one of those things where you think about those "get off the field" plays and think "man, we couldn't close"?

Karl Joseph: "I'm going to be hard on myself. I'm always hard on myself. Those plays are crucial for us. There were two plays on that last drive that were crucial. I feel like I should have made those plays and I didn't. You can't dwell on it too long. We have the [Kansas City] Chiefs coming in on Thursday so you need to move on."

Q: Was there anything they did or didn't do, did you think coach [John] Pagano had you well prepared?

Joseph: "I think we were well prepared. There were a couple plays where you add it all up that I think really cost us. That last drive really cost us. We knew it was going to be on us to not let them make those plays. It definitely hurt but we have the Chiefs coming in so that's all I'm thinking about right now."



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: Was your primary responsibility the tight end on that drive?

Joseph: “On that first play, I was the man on. I thought I was in good position. Philip [Rivers] made a good throw. I should have made that play. There’s no excuses, I should have made that play and it got away from me.”

RAIDERS LT DONALD PENN

Q: Can you talk about the loss?

Penn: “It’s tough right now I’m not going to lie. I’m pretty pissed off and I know all the guys are. One good thing is we get to play on Thursday so I don’t have to soak in it too long. That’s the only positive I can probably take out of this. We got a quick turnaround so we got to hurry up and get this stuff fixed. We can’t really soak on it that long. I’m mad right now. I’m not going to sugarcoat it. I’m pissed and I know a lot of guys are pissed.”

Q: What is the source of frustration and what can you pinpoint to try to start to fix?

Penn: “If I could pinpoint we would have won that game out there today. We going to get it fixed. You know it’s just frustrating you’re that close and we didn’t pull it out. Last year we pulled out a lot of close games and this year it ain’t going for us. One thing about this locker room is we are fighters. We are going to keep fighting it’s just tough. We went in there with a good game plan, had stuff going and just fell short. The toughest ones are the ones we fall when it’s that close. We got to deal with it, we are going to man up and we are going to get this stuff ready next week. Kansas City is a good team coming in. That’s a great team to go against to get a good feeling back in our system.”

Q: You mentioned the close games you won last year and this year you aren't. Is that execution or is that attitude?

Penn: “Man, that’s part of football. I tell everybody you got to have a little luck in this game. I’ve been playing this game for twelve years. Ball got to go your way a couple times in this game for you to be successful. Right now, it’s not going our way but we are going to keep fighting and coming to work every day. Good thing is the anger and disappointment is mad because we know we are better. We’re mad because we know we are better and we’re mad because we aren’t putting out what we know we can put out. We are going to keep working to get the thing rolling because once it gets rolling I have a good feeling we are going to get rolling.”

RAIDERS TE JARED COOK

Q: What jumped out to you on the whole sequence before halftime?

Cook: “It’s self-inflicted wounds. It’s things that harm us that we can’t have. It was a good back shoulder pass to Amari and a big gain for us but those are just plays we can’t have against ourselves.”

Q: You haven’t been penalized too often but when it happens it seems to be at really critical times. How do you clean that up?

Cook: “Just focus on execution, focus on the little things. Revisit the fundamentals, man, it’s the little things that make you good. Like the pre-snap stuff we got to clean up and be better at. Some of those things I feel like wasn’t called right but you can’t control the refs. You just got to play your game and they are going to call the game how they call it.”

Q: What’s not clicking for the offensive unit right now?

Cook: “Can’t tell you, boss. We got to put up more points. We got a goal every week to put up a certain amount of points and we haven’t been reaching it. I can’t tell you.”



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



CHARGERS HEAD COACH ANTHONY LYNN

Opening Statement: “You’re going to have to forgive me, I have little voice today. Alright, I will tell you it took all three phases to win that game. I thought the guys stepped up and made plays when they had to, and that is what we have been talking about. I am so proud that they are starting to see the fruits of their labor because these men work hard every single week, and they go out and they compete, and they just keep coming. Just keep coming. I’m glad it’s paying off.”

Q: Do you see a level of comfort now late in the game when the team needs to step up?

Lynn: “No doubt. No doubt. I feel like everyone on that sideline knew the Offense was going to go down the field and get us in position to win that game. We have been in that situation so many times and we have talked about how to win in those situations, and we’re starting to figuring it out.”

Q: Can you say how the defense played today?

Lynn: “Oh, the defense played well. They stuck up. They didn’t completely stop the run, but they slowed them down, and made plays when they had to. The turnovers were huge. It was huge, and when they give us the ball on short and change, we like to take advantage of that, and we didn’t early, but I thought we came back, and made some plays later.”

Q: The second turnover seemed to be a big momentum changer with the tipped pass. Can you comment on that?

Lynn: “And that’s what [Defensive Coordinator] Gus’s [Bradley] defense allows. It allows guys to play fast, physical, tip balls, get picks, create fumbles, and that is what they’re doing.”

Q: Can you talk about [QB] Phillip River’s comfort level going to [TE] Hunter Henry in the clutch?

Lynn: “Well, it’s a great call by [Offensive Coordinator] Ken Whisenhunt. We get in big personnel. We’re showing run. We get a little run-action there. We get [TE] Hunter [Henry] out of backfield one-on-one, and Hunter [Henry] made a hell of a play. [QB] Phillip [Rivers] made a nice play as well.”

Q: Do you want to see [RB] Melvin Gordon carrying the load and wearing down the Defense late in the game?

Lynn: “Absolutely. That’s the way I love to finish games right there.”

Q: What are your thoughts on how [WR] Mike Williams played with the ten plays and the one catch?

Lynn: “Yeah, he had the one catch, and it was a nice catch, but I thought he played fine. We’ll watch the tape. Like I said, he only had like nine or ten snaps.”

Q: Was it important for [WR] Mike Williams to be out in the field though?

Lynn: “I believe so. He hadn’t been on the field since January, so welcome to the league, Mike.”

Q: Was that the plan to have [WR] Williams to play ten snaps?

Lynn: “Yeah, ten, fifteen; however, that worked out, yeah.”

Q: Was it good to be on the right side of a late game field goal attempt this time?

Lynn: “Oh, no doubt. No doubt, it felt great.”

Q: Are you confident there with [K] Nick Novak in late game situations?

Lynn: “Very confident. He can make the kicks in practice. He made them in pregame. Yeah, absolutely.”



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: Novak did miss the one earlier from 48-yards out. Can you comment on that?

Lynn: “But, [K Novak] don’t miss the ones when the game is on the line. I did a little research on him.”

Q: The Chargers have been significantly outscored in the first quarter. How do you rectify that?

Lynn: “We just have to execute. We talk about it, and it’s coming, but I want it to come a little sooner. This Offense, we’ve got the weapons to distribute the football. We just, early on, are a little anxious when we get the ball down the field and guys have got to get settled in and we’ve got to execute a little better, but I like the way we finished though.”

Q: How do you keep adjusting from the scripted plays?

Lynn: “We just work on different personnel, different personnel groupings, studying our opponents. I give the Defenses credit too. They’re doing a good job of slowing us down. Last year, this team I think was ranked second in the league in scoring in first drive. Teams are showing us different looks, and doing things to slow us down, so I give them credit.”

Q: Was does not getting the ball to [TE] Hunter Henry rank in your frustrations for the first quarter of the season?

Lynn: “Probably at the top. Very top. Yeah.”

Q: Why wasn’t [TE] Henry not getting the ball earlier?

Lynn: People can take him away too. Sometimes you have to take what the Defense gives you. If they give you Hunter early, we’ll take Hunter early. We got to Hunter when we needed to and he made plays.”

Q: How did you think the defense played?

Lynn: “I thought the defense played well. Like I said, the turnovers were huge.”

Q: You talk about Trevor Williams being solid. What is it about him that gives you confidence?

Lynn: “He competes every single play. He’s smart. You know where he is on the field and that’s a good thing when you’re a corner.”

Q: How’s Corey Liuget?

Lynn: “He has some back tightness. He’ll probably be fine.”

Q: What about Adrian Phillips?

Lynn: “AP, don’t know yet. We’ll see.”

Q: Was he evaluated for a concussion?

Lynn: “I don’t know yet. He went in the tent, they told me he was out. I’m going to find all that stuff out.”

Q: What was the thought to put in Dan Feeney and Michael Schofield on that drive?

Lynn: “I wanted to get him in the game. I want him to play. He’s still competing for those guard positions, at least the right guard spot.”

Q: To beat an AFC West rival, does that mean something to you?

Lynn: “We don’t care who it is, we just want to win. AFC or NFC, each week our goal is just to win the ball game. Guys feel good right now. It’s a good win.”



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: You guys made a couple mistakes...

Lynn: "A couple? We made more than a couple."

Q: What are the ones in your mind that got under your skin?

Lynn: "When I go back and watch the tape on the way home, we'll figure it out. Right now I'm just happy as hell to win the game. I don't want to think about the negatives."

Q: Speaking of positives, first two-game win streak in about a year. It has to feel good.

Lynn: "Absolutely. I believe it can create some momentum. When the guys are working as hard as they're working, it's good to see the fruits of their labor."

CHARGERS QB PHILIP RIVERS

Q: How does it feel to win two in a row?

Rivers: "Yeah, really good and it being a division game, which is coming few and far between the last four or five years stretch, so it was a good team win. I thought it was a hard-fought game, back and forth. Both sides of the ball and the special teams hung in there together, especially to close it out. The guys up front battled and it was kind of an old school Chargers-Raiders game, just as far as low scoring and the back and forth. We hung in there and again we had a handful of plays we'd love to have back, but made enough to get the win."

Q: How important is Hunter Henry?

Rivers: "Yeah, I mean it's one of those deals where you want to get him the ball and you want to get [WR] Keenan [Allen] the ball, want to get [TE Antonio] Gates the ball, you want to get [WR] Travis [Benjamin] the ball, [WR] Mike [Williams] the ball, [WR] Tyrell [Williams] the ball. There are a lot of guys and I say every week it can be different. I got it to Hunter quick, early in those two little legs and it was kind of easy. Then you turn them into 10 plus points and then the two corner routes in that last drive were huge. Mike got his first catch of the day and Keenan had some big plays where his conversions were huge in that 90-something yard drive to make it 7-7 was a heck of a drive, and [Austin] Eckler got the one. The guys up front fought all day and I thought they did a heck of a job with protection. There was really no issue there, we only had one sack. Heck of a job on protection and the run game and I know for them it feels good to finish the game the way we did. We pounded it, we ran the same play three, four times in a row at the end. They knew we were running it and we were able to still get it and set up [K] Nick [Novak] for the game-winner."

Q: Can you talk about the last drive?

Rivers: "Yeah, I thought it was a heck of a call by [Ken Whisenhunt]. We've got four minutes to go, we backed up and you can't treat like a normal backed up drive where you go alright, let's just get some more room and try to get a first down and see what happens. We have to win the game. So, you call the playaction and little bit of a chunk, or chance of a shot, a chance for a big play. Really, the guy played it really good. Hunter did a heck of a job with it. Those are the kind of plays that I get excited about from a quarterback to a pass catcher relationship because Hunter's still young. He's a player in our time together, that was kind of a back shoulder corner route, which just don't happen very much. Gates hasn't pulled those. I haven't thrown Hunter one of those ever. It happens on the fly and the biggest drive of the game and he sees it and then goes and gets more with it. Those plays are always a big and for today, always big plays as you grow as a player."

Q: What happened on the play with Mike Williams?

Rivers: "All week we've been trying to sprinkle him in there and everyone was quiet all week on how much we thought he was going to play. We wanted to sprinkle him in some and let him ease his way in and he knew there if he got his own coverage he was going to have a chance to be the primary guy on the end route and he did a nice



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



job. He had a couple other nice end routes and other things he was in there on. It was exciting his first catch, getting action in division game on the road. His first game and I know he's been in huge crowds his whole career in National Championship games and I think that was good for him. Now we'll continue to mix him in and keep Travis and Tyrell fresh, keep them all fresh and mix him in there. It'll be good for him."

Q: You only threw to him once and it was the big third-down conversion. What does that do for your confidence?

Rivers: "No I haven't thrown him many balls, but it was a handful of those during this week at practice. It was just good. It was good that he felt the hold. I kind tried to talk through the throw. He was wide open on that one. It was good. He was, as to be expected with both where he played in college and the big games he played in. He wasn't real wide-eyed in there. He looked comfortable to me."

Q: Are these the kinds of wins that can build momentum?

Rivers: "Yeah, I think so. I'm a little different. Everyone has a different opinion. I don't really believe in the momentum week-to-week thing, but yet I'm contradicting myself because I do think emotionally and something about your comradery that it does. That carries you forward. As far as, 'Oh man, I'm really rolling those last two drives.' I know you're not saying that, but I think emotionally, your makeup, your comradery and the things. Just the way you approach getting back in there on a Monday and a Wednesday, it starts to build. I think the key thing is let it build. Let it build and also remind each other, 'Hey, we're 2-4. We have a ways to go.' But let it build. Shoot, who cares, let's play like we haven't lost and see if we can win a third. Just approach it that way. I think we've done that the last two weeks. I didn't know 2-4 could feel as good as it feels."

Q: You've been significantly outscored in the first quarter, what's going on?

Rivers: "Yeah, we have to get that, I hate to say solved because I think if it was a puzzle to solve, we would have long solved it. But we need to get better in the first quarter. There's no question. It's just so interesting because we've been so good at it and we haven't. I started off kind of slow. I had the one miss on the swing route to [Austin] Ekeler that he's probably going to get 7, 8, 10 [yards], who knows. Third down that was close. It was a little low to Hunter [Henry]. Then you look up and shoot, the quarter is gone, 7-0. So I just think we have to do a better job of taking advantage of each possession. Our defense is doing a really good job of not letting them get a bunch of points on the scoreboard, which is most important. Some drives are lasting a long time, so we're standing over there. This is no excuse, but we're standing over there. Then they get a stop. It doesn't matter if we stood there for six minutes, they get a stop, which they got plenty of those today or they hold them to three. Then let's go. Oh, three-and-out, punt it. Oh shoot. They keep it to another four, five minutes. We have to do a better job of complimenting with our defense, if that makes sense. Our defense, we know this style of defense, it's a heck of a defense. It's a little more make them dink and knock it all the way down the field. If they'll do that, maybe they'll mess it up. They did a few times today. The tipped interception and some things. By no way am I saying that's an excuse. I'm saying we have to do a better job of just taking advantage. I think it's an urgency. I don't mean talking about it during the week with coach and Whiz [offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt] and all of that. We talk about starting fast all the time. But just an urgency of which the way we play each drive as if...We don't get it back for a while, maybe, and that's OK and let's go. Like we did with the 90-yard drive right then before the end of the second quarter and making it 7-7. That's an awesome drive. More like that."

Q: Does the team's demeanor look different?

Rivers: "I don't so. I mean look at what we did against Denver. Down 24-7 and we fought our way back and about to have that game tied up. That game was fixing to be over in the other direction if we get to overtime. Everyone in the stadium knew it. Miami we get right there and we're about to win it right there. We did a lot of good things in those two games. The fact that they didn't finish the way we wanted them to, doesn't deter us from being able to keep putting ourselves in chances to win it. Then we just have been able to do it these last two."



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: What's it like to have Nick Novak make the game winner?

Rivers: "I think Nick loves it. I think Nick loves it. I just know from his previous time here, he loves this team. He takes a great pride. I know as all guys do in that position. He loves to know the guys count on him. He may miss one. He missed one today. I mean shoot, I've had my fair share of misses and mistakes. We all have. He loves the opportunity to help contribute. It was fun to have him out there kicking a game winner."

Q: Melvin Gordon touched the ball over 30 times.

Rivers: "Yeah, he's going to be sore in the morning (*laughing*). He caught it well. He ran it well. He ran it hard. The guys up front blocked for him. He did a great job, I thought without seeing the tape, of on the runs where there wasn't a lot there, just cram it. Just cram it and get three and get four. I think over time if you can sustain first downs and get enough first downs, then you're going to get more carries. Then you'll have more where you can crease it and have bigger runs."

Chargers WR Mike Williams

Q: How did you feel to be out there on your debut?

Williams: "Just to be out there with my teammates, in this game, it feels good. And to go out here and get that W, it feels good."

Q: How were the nerves when you got out and helped this offense go down the field?

Williams: "I was a little nervous. I mean, I tend to get nerves before every game, but just going out there, getting in the rhythm of the game, I felt good. Just going out for the first time and blocking, it felt good."

Q: What are your thoughts as your very first NFL catch came on that third down?

Williams: "Yeah that was a big catch. We went on and scored on that drive. It was a big conversion for us."

Q: Can you talk about how the team is turning things around now, winning two straight to move to 2-4?

Williams: "It is big, especially with two away games. Now we get to go home and face Denver, and just try and get another W."

Q: This is where your teammate Joey Bosa made his stake last year, did he give you any advice or comparisons?

Williams: "Yeah he actually said something like I made my debut against Oakland too, and I had two sacks. I was like hopefully I get two touchdowns. He just told me to go out there and play football."

Q: How does it feel to finally get that first game out of the way?

Williams: "It felt good. Just getting that first catch out there, there were a little bit of jitters, but it felt good."

Q: You didn't make many snaps in the first half, but made your mark in the second half. Were you anxious to get your number called?

Williams: "I was just waiting for my opportunity. Coaches will make the right decisions for the team so I was just waiting for my opportunities. The opportunities came and I just made the best of it."

Q: On that third down throw, was that a post route?

Williams: "I just had a little dig route. Just had to get my depth I felt like the route was going to be there because they were playing a lot of cover-2, so I just had to find my depth, get past the chains, and get the catch."

CHARGERS K NICK NOVAK



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: How does this win feel?

Novak: The offense put us in position. So that's all them. It's an incredible win anytime you get the opportunity to play the Raiders and get a win. It's really hard to get a W in this league and we all made the right plays when we needed to so it feels incredible.

Q: Nick, you guys multiple times went to that mortar kick. Is your leg feeling ok? Was that part of the game plan?

Novak: That was in the game plan. We wanted to kick away from the guy in the backfield, the back that was back there. Wherever he was, we wanted kick opposite and short so that was the plan. A lot of respect for that guy.

Q: How hard is it to bounce back? You got a game winner on the line but you had missed that 48-yarder to get this game started off. What's the mindset to regroup?

Novak: Yeah, that happens. That'll happen once in a while so it's important for a kicker to bounce back and not think about that stuff, get in the net, and think about the next kick.

Chargers TE Hunter Henry

Q: Right off the bat, are you thinking this is going to be easy?

Henry: "I mean we were in the three tight-end set, and it was great having all of us out there creating matchups, and ran a lot of packages with this in practice. We felt good about it. We practiced a lot in these situations so we can take control of the game."

Q: Can you talk about that one drive where you had those two big catches?

Henry: "It was good. It was nice to have my number called. Trying to make a play when the team needs me. It was nice for the offense to go down there and put the game away."

Q: Are you wanting that number called a little more?

Henry: "Sure, I mean obviously I think everybody wants to see those targets. So it is just good to get the win."

Q: How were you able to slip the DB earlier on that 35-yarder?

Henry: "It was man, so I knew he was on me. Philip [Rivers] threw an unbelievable ball, it was mostly him. I just had a lot of practice in that and trusted him."

Q: How big was this game, especially since it was a division game, and avoiding the 1-5 start?

Henry: "We want to win every game. Especially in our situation, we started off the worst way you can. It is good to win these past two close games. I think everybody needed that. It feels good to kick it in at the end and win a close one."

Q: How special has Melvin Gordon been getting those conversions on the field?

Henry: "Awesome. I mean he did it last year, we see it every day in practice. We rely on that guy. He is a beast. He's awesome."

Q: What adjustments offensively did you make?

Henry: "We just were stalling. We had to make plays and execute the plays we were practicing that week. That's the main thing. Our defense did an awesome job. Put us in great positions, and we just had to execute."

Q: How good does it feel knowing you can be one of the go-to targets?



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Henry: "I felt like I put a lot of work in all of our practices and games, and last year. I knew it was coming. I knew I had to show up and continue to put up the work."

Q: How big is Melvin Gordon for you guys?

Henry: "He is awesome. He gets a lot of those checkdowns. When they are throwing zones and checking deep, we can just check it down to him, allow him to make plays in the open field since he is dangerous."

Q: Those third down conversions are especially important, and in this game. How do you keep that going?

Henry: "If you think about it, we really weren't that great on third down. We need to be better to sustain drives. We make plays when we have to. That is the thing about this league. We did what we had to do. Defense did an awesome job and gave us a chance at the end to drive down and score."

CHARGERS WR KEENAN ALLEN

Q: How do you feel about the Raider's corners?

Allen: "Big aggressive guys, physical. They're all pretty much athletes. They fly to the ball, they get to the ball. We just had to make execution plays."

Q: Melvin Gordon was an integral part of the offense today. What would you say he means to the team?

Allen: "Everything. He ran the ball. He caught the most passes today. He gave it everything he had. He came up with two big first downs on that last drive so we could get the field goal without them getting the ball back. He's big time."

Q: What was being said on the sidelines before you went out for that final drive?

Allen: "We knew we were going to go out there and get some points. We just wanted to do it right now. We didn't want to go three and out and give them another chance to get the ball back and have a chance to go score so we definitely wanted to do it on that drive and we did and we were able to run the clock down too."

Q: Offensively, what was the difference between this week's win compared to last week's win?

Allen: "I think a little bit more execution. I think it was a little bit cleaner. Less turnovers. Less turnovers, so cleaner win."

Q: After the win over the Giants, guys had talked about how hopefully there was a breakthrough in close games. Did you sense a different kind of calm in the close game today?

Allen: "I think so. I just think as a team, our confidence coming into the game, going into practice, just executing plays, our confidence is there more coming off the win with the Giants coming into this game so it was a big help."

Q: What kind of adjustments did you guys need to make to make sure you capitalized off turnovers?

Allen: "Just be able to execute. When we get that turnover, we have to make a play right away. You have to get points out of it for sure. Three or seven, whichever one comes first. Pretty much we have to complement each other. When we score, the got to go get a stop. When they get a stop, we got to go score."

Q: What did you think of Mike Williams finally making his debut? And that big catch on third down.

Allen: "Major. Third down catch. He needed it. We needed it. So that's confidence on both sides and it kept the drive going too so it was great."

Q: Having gone to school nearby at Cal, what does it mean to get a win against the Raiders? Does it mean a little more?



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Allen: "Oh yeah. It's amazing. Rivalry game. Conference game. We don't like them. They don't like us. Big win. So that's the one's you got to win and we got it done today, so it was special."

Chargers RB Melvin Gordon

Q: Do you feel like the team is turning the corner?

Gordon: "Yeah we are. We put two wins back together and right now, we just got to keep it up. That is what we got to do."

Q: It seemed like your ultimate game. Catching the ball, running hard, are these games you prepare hard for?

Gordon: "Yeah it is. You just got to make the most of your opportunities. That is all I try to do. Make the most of your opportunities when they come. If there is an opportunity for the ball and it is there, you got to take it. There are some drops I made, but I also made some nice ones too."

Q: Did you think the final drive was doable given the circumstances?

Gordon: "I felt good. I got the receivers, the line, the tight ends we got, I knew somebody was going to make a play. It was Hunter, he made two back-to-back, and I was just so happy. I was like okay, we are good, we rolling now. I didn't know it was going to be, but we are happy."

Q: Is everyone waiting for Hunter to come busting out and making more plays?

Gordon: "Yeah, Hunter [Henry] is going to make the most of the opportunity when they come. He is not the type that is going to complain or get upset. We know the type of player he is. When the lights come on and we have to make a play, he is always there. We just got to trust the process and things will pan out."

Q: How big is this win to turn the season around?

Gordon: "It is huge. I felt like it was a win we needed. We just got to keep putting them together. I think we got the team to do that."

Q: What adjustments do you think the team needs to make to capitalize on the other team's mistakes?

Gordon: "We just got to come out and play. We got Denver, it I'm not mistaken. Denver is a good team. It is always a battle when we play them. Regardless who is at Safety, or who is on the line, they are a beast. You got to be mistake free and be the best player you can be against them. Just try to make less mistakes than them."

Q: What are your impressions of Mike Williams?

Gordon: "He came through when we needed him. With a big catch he made, whether he had just one, or two catches, he made one that helped move us into a position to win. That is what it is all about. I think once he gets fully comfortable out there, once he gets in stride, he is just so big out there and can be a great possession receiver."

Q: Do you feel like at any time, the offense can put impressive drives like that?

Gordon: "Most definitely. Last year, it felt like we just made a little too many mistakes, came out a little slower than we wanted to. You just got to be sharper with what you do. The goal is to play faster, to go out there and be the explosive team we know we can be."

Q: Philip [Rivers] said you will be sore tomorrow after all the word you did today...

Gordon: *[laughing]* "Oh yeah, I will be sore and in bed for a couple of days. It is cool. It brings me back to my old Wisconsin days. Just got to get used to it. I think I will be really sore this time. My body is good with adjustments."



OAKLAND RAIDERS vs. LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

Sunday, October 15, 2017
Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum
Postgame Quotes



Q: How much pressure do you put on yourself to be an offensive player of the week honor and to be that go-to guy?

Gordon: "I think that if no one wants to be that go-to guys, then I'm not sure what you're doing. It was all over today. A lot of guys made a lot of plays today. I got in the endzone, but it was a lot of guys out there that made big catches and plays that got us the win out there today."

CHARGERS LB KOREY TOOMER

Q: Talk to me about the importance of getting after the quarterback. Really putting pressure on the opponents QB.

Toomer: "I mean we tried as much as we could to put pressure on him. As you could see, he was getting the ball out fast so we did what we could within the game plan."

Q: How crucial was forcing those turnovers today?

Toomer: "That was big. We needed those turnovers. You get one, they come in bunches. So, when we got the second one man, it was big, we needed it, and it got us over the hump."

Q: Every time you go out there I'm sure that's the goal, make sure you get the ball back.

Toomer: "Yeah, making tackles. We're big on our tackles right now. We've been having some downfalls on our tackling so we've been going into practice and working on it everyday and obviously we came out successful."

Q: It seems that all season you guys have been making other quarterbacks feel really uncomfortable out there. How do you execute that?

Toomer: "Mel and Joey, they do a great job and our D-Line is crazy. They do a great job of keeping that quarterback under pressure and as a linebacker I can't thank them enough to put pressure because it makes it easier on the secondary."