



POSTGAME QUOTES & NOTES
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS vs. DENVER BRONCOS
Qualcomm Stadium (70,000) – San Diego, California
Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 – 5:25 p.m. PT

- Philip Rivers passed for 178 yards tonight and in the process he raised his career yardage total to 43,094 to pass Dan Fouts (43,040) for the all-time franchise passing mark. Rivers also passed Fouts for 13th in NFL history.
- Melvin Gordon had a 48-yard run in the third quarter to set up a 21-yard field goal. To date, it's the longest run of Gordon's career.
- In the second quarter, the Chargers capped off a 10:03 drive with a field goal. It marked the longest drive by any team in the NFL this season.
- The Chargers held the Broncos to 84 yards on the ground marking the sixth straight opponent the Bolts have held to less than 93 yards on the ground to start the season. It marks the first time in franchise history that the Chargers have held their first six opponents in a season to less than 93 yards rushing.
- Punter Drew Kaser had an outstanding game tonight. Kaser averaged 47.4 yards per punt as four of his five punts landed inside the 20. His punts included a career-long 60 yarder and later a 59 yarder.
- Melvin Gordon carried the ball a career-high 27 times and his night included a career-long 48-yard run.
- Hunter Henry caught his third touchdown pass in as many games tonight against the Broncos. He joins Keenan Allen (2013) and LaDainian Tomlinson (2001) as the only rookies in team history since 2000 to score touchdowns in three straight games.
- Josh Lambo hit a career-best four field goals tonight, connecting from 37, 21, 31 and 32 yards.
- Defensive tackle Caraun Reid drew a holding penalty in the end zone tonight that led to a safety. Reid has now contributed to nine points this season. He returned a fumble 61 yards for a touchdown in the Chargers' Week 3 game at Indianapolis.

CHARGERS HEAD COACH MIKE MCCOY

Opening statement:

"What a performance. Like we always do around here, we made it a little interesting at the end for you guys so you can write about something. Outstanding team performance from everybody, all three phases doing whatever it took to win, and that is what it all came down to at the end there. Defense came up big at the end. Just really please with the way they came out, the way the preparation was this week. I've been telling you guys forever, I love this football team and the type of players we have here, the way they work every day, what they do, it means the world to me. They deserve this. Long time coming. Very happy for the team."

On what he made of this rookie class tonight, especially with field position in the fourth quarter:

"We've been saying all along the type of guys they are, the players, not just on the field but the preparation and the way they work. This is the team we are. I've been saying for a long time that this is a good football team. Been saying for a long time. This is only one game, though, so we've got to improve. It's when you work your tails off every day. You've got great leaders in the locker room. You've got a great coaching staff. We don't listen to any of the noise on the outside. We just keep working. That's all you can do. Our record was what it was coming into this game, but we know what kind of team we are. I think if you saw this team—you'll probably see it because Joel (Price) was in there recording some things, you'll probably see some things on our website—the attitude of our team before we went out for the opening kickoff is something special. I love this football team. I can't thank them

enough. This was a huge win. We talked about it this morning in our team meeting. I love this football team. The great thing is, Philip Rivers became the all-time leading passer here tonight. What a stud he is.”

On the work the defense did throughout the game:

“Lights out. I think the way they played early on, getting turnovers, rolling a lot of bodies. We dressed six defensive linemen today, the way they kind of just rolled through it, it was a great team effort. Everybody who had a jersey today, you were playing, and they fought their tails off. Everybody had a great game, and we just kept on going after them. We had a great plan coming in, I say it every week, but we executed today. We made plays and did whatever we had to do to win this game. That’s all it was about, winning.”

On looking miserable in the fourth quarter:

“Welcome to my world. You’ve seen the last couple weeks, haven’t you? We made it a little too interesting there, but like I tell you every week, we are going to learn from it every week. We are going to learn a ton from this game. We are going to learn so much from it as a team, but the most important things was that we found a way to win today. We talked about it all week long on a short week after a brutal loss, but we came back and stuck together, and we’re a team. Can’t say enough about our team.”

On how big Jatavis Brown’s plays were on the sack and forced fumble:

“Huge. It’s huge in two-minute drives when they’re moving certain things. Anytime you get a sack on the quarterback, the odds of scoring go way down. And then to get a turnover there is huge, but I’m just very please with the way our entire team played today.”

On a divisional win:

“How long has it been since we won a division game? Anybody? How long? Hasn’t been too long, has it? So we can throw that question out, alright? That’s done. You guys are done with that one. We have a bad record though, gosh. Took a lot of time. What was your question again? I’m sorry. Was waiting for a division question.”

On how a team can be galvanized by a division win, especially beating the Super Bowl champions:

“Not a lot of people want to believe me, but I’ve been saying we’ve got a good football team. Been saying it all season long. But this is one game though and we’ve got to get better. We’ll play better next week. That’s our goal. But I think that as the season is going on and guys are playing more. We’ve played a ton of guys. We played a ton of guys for the first five weeks for the season for a number of different reasons. I think when you have the coaching staff we have and the way they work, and the leaders on our team, and you stick together through an unbelievable amount of adversity from early in training camp when Stevie (Johnson) went down and things went on throughout, we just keep on playing. You guys get sick of me saying it, but it’s the next man up. We’ve got a lot of young players that are contributing, and the more early in training camp when Stevie (Johnson) went down and things went on throughout, we just keep on playing. You guys get sick of me saying it, but it’s the next man up. We’ve got a lot of young players that are contributing, and the more they play, the better they’re going to be. Everybody on this roster, I’ve always said, if you’re on the 53, you’ve got a chance at playing at some point in time. That’s what’s happening right now.”

On the outside noise and if he feels there’s a monkey off his back regarding job security:

“When I say the noise on the outside, it’s because of our record. I’m worried about our team. I am solely worried about one thing every day, and it’s our football team. That’s all I worry about, and I’ll do the same thing this week. Every day when I go to work, I worry about doing my job to the best of my ability. That’s all I’m ever going to do here. When people hear things about certain players, we hear about injuries from time to time, ‘What are you going to do without these players,’ and so on—we’re not going to have any excuses here. We keep on playing, busting our tails off every single day. It’s the next man up and that’s the way we do it. That’s why you see our team fight as hard as they do. It’s because of the type of people we have here. So, they want to bring people down at times, but we just keep on fighting.”

On the commentators calling you the ‘most relieved man in America’:

“There’s nothing like winning. There’s nothing like winning. Especially beating a good football team in front of our home fans, awesome. It’s great.”

On Philip Rivers passing Dan Fouts as the all-time leader in passing yardage and 13th-most in league history:

“Those are two phenomenal quarterbacks. I think the San Diego Chargers organization is very fortunate to have two of the best of all-time. Philip is the best in the business. He’s been that way for a long time. I’ve been fortunate to be with him the last four years. Being in Denver and playing against him a couple of times. I hate to bring it up but that opener in 2008 was pretty good when I was in Carolina, playing against him here. He’s a special player and it doesn’t matter who’s in the huddle with him, he just shows up to work every single day, busts his tail, does his job, leads this organization, goes out and performs week in and week out at the highest level. That’s the only way he knows how to play. More important than any of that stuff, he’s one of the greatest human beings around.”

On what the team’s message was today:

“I think this was an opportunity for our football team to go out on national television and show everybody what type of team we are. I think if you talk to every coach or team that we’ve played, they know what kind of team we are. Unfortunately, we haven’t finished some games. We finished tonight and we won. Doesn’t matter how it happened but we won, and that’s what it’s all about.”

I think everyone's been in a fight in every game we've played this year. They know that, they know what kind of team we are. Most importantly, our football team, our organization knows what kind of team we have."

On what led to the decision to go for it on fourth down:

"They say in the good and bad, you learn something every week, so you go with it. I thought it was a good opportunity to go, and I'm glad we got it."

On going for it on fourth down more often:

"We'll see what the situation of the game is. It's how you run the football, how much do you need. I'll have to see the film to see how many yards we got or how long we got on that. We didn't need that much but as long as you get it, that's all that matters."

On what he was thinking when he looked like he was bent down praying during the fourth quarter:

"I did that a lot at the end of the game. Probably just saying, 'Come on.' There were a lot of situations that came up at the end of the game. The way it's gone the first couple weeks, the first couple of those games we got lost at the end there, and you start to say, 'Come on, somebody make one play for us,' and that's what we did tonight."

On the energy in the locker room after the game:

"Fired up. I'll say though that it was the exact same way as it was before we went out for opening kickoff. The energy, the excitement, the way the guys were going in there. We had a lot of confidence going into this game because of the way the team has worked and what we needed to do. That's the type of players we have. They only know how to do it one way. They work their tails off every single day. You look at the game and every game we've played. You see practices and the way they work, meetings and all that stuff. They bust their tails off and when you do it, good things happen. I can't be happier for our football team."

On moving from Travis Benjamin to Dexter McCluster for punt returns:

"Dexter, as you know from the injury report, had a little ding during the week, so we weren't sure what he was going to be able to do and we were very fortunate to get him to play as much as we did today. It was kind of more, we actually did tell him the first time he was out there to fair catch the ball, but the competitor he is, he saw a big crease and he said, 'I'm not fair catching this sucker,' and he took it and made the yards he did. That was a switch we needed to make."

On his evaluation of Joey Bosa during the game:

"He's really done a nice job, Joey, but we dressed a certain number of defensive linemen today so we could keep them all fresh. I'd have to really watch the film because I was watching so many things. There were a couple plays, those sacks that he had last week, that you see at the tail end of things, but the effort and energy he plays with, I was really pleased with the way and the energy the defense was the entire game, not just him."

CHARGERS QUARTERBACK PHILIP RIVERS

On how much this win in particular means to the team

"It meant a lot. I know you all can't imagine but you can only imagine how tough it's been in some of the losses we've had because you get labeled as a bad team. I know some of the mistakes we've made, that's what bad teams – 1-4 teams – do. But we've been so good in so many of those games so we knew what we were capable of. Obviously losing ten straight division games, Denver is on a 15 game division road win streak – something had to give tonight and it feels good to win a division game at home. I can't say enough about our defense. They were awesome. I wish we would have scored some more touchdowns, but we kept getting points and we didn't turn it over. This is how teams win in this league. I see it every weekend all over. I see teams win and this is how they win. It's not pretty, it's not perfect. You punt some. I think sometimes we set a standard that we're going to go up and down the field and score 31 every week. And we can do that, but you have to win games like this. These are games you win. And that's the same team that won the Super Bowl last year. Now, I say all of that really excited, but we're still 2-4. So we have a long way to go. But hopefully this can kick start a run. Hopefully we can get two in a row now."

On breaking the Chargers all-time passing yards record, passing Dan Fouts in particular:

"This one was definitely special. I knew coming in it was 125 yards or whatever, not that you think about that. I'm trying to find a way to help us win. And that's no guarantee against this defense. I think making it even more special was wearing the uniforms we have. I know they didn't wear the all blue there, but that color blue was what they wore back in that era when Dan (Fouts) was playing. So that made it even more special. And just very thankful. You think about all of those yards, how many guys were on the other end of the pass, how many guys were in front fighting like crazy blocking for you and how many coaches have called plays and done preparation for you. So you see how many people are involved in that and I'm just thankful. Really, that's the word that comes to mind – thankful. To be able to be here that long, have that accomplishment and have so many people be a part of it."

On putting records in perspective when trying to focus on winning:

"I think you appreciate that even more later on but I've allowed myself to even appreciate it now. I think as a 26 or 27 year old you go, 'Aw it's just another game, we'll worry about this later,' but I think now I can separate the two. I can understand what I have here with my team and that's where all my focus is. But I can also allow that to set in because it was a childhood dream of mine to play quarterback in the NFL. Some of these guys that you see I think, 'what in the world, I had a poster of him on my wall and now I'm on a list next to him!' So I can enjoy that and be thankful for it and certainly will be even more down the road."

On what the win meant for Coach Mike McCoy:

"Well it meant a ton for Mike (McCoy) and it wasn't talked about a bunch on the team. As a veteran player on the team, I felt it. And not that if it didn't go well I expected – not necessarily – I had no idea. We're also not playing dumb. We knew that we had to get this thing going in a hurry. That's just what this league is. It was big. For our fans, they were tired of seeing us lose like that. For the Spanos', for Mike and our team – it was big in a lot of ways. Now we get a little three day weekend to take a breath, then we go to Atlanta, then right back to Denver. So hopefully this is the start of a good run. This little mini bye week thing came at a perfect time because not only do we have a lot of guys on the IR, but we have a lot of guys playing who are worn out from playing these two games in five days."

On Hunter Henry:

"He's awesome and he's going to be an awesome tight end. I'm very thankful. He has a long way to go obviously to even say this about him and Antonio (Gates). They're different but I'm thankful, as we transition Antonio – as long as he's going to be here, hopefully a long time – but to have a guy like Hunter (Henry) coming in. I knew he was going to be good but I didn't – gosh, he's a heck of a player. He understands the game and he's a complete – I would describe him as a football player. That's the ultimate compliment my dad would say, if he called somebody a football player and I'm kind of that way too. He's just a football player and I'm so excited he's here."

On Jatavis Brown's sack and forced fumble:

"There's another guy. We thought he was going to be a good player for us but to have to play almost every snap as a rookie, if you would have asked us in OTAs. We knew he was going to be a player for us because he has great instincts and he can fly, but they were huge. Our defense was awesome, they were flat out awesome. That was exciting, it was too exciting at the end. I don't really call that exciting at the end but it was exciting and fun watching them all day and giving us opportunities. I wish we would have sealed it sooner. We had that 3rd and 2 at that three minute mark when they used their last timeout and that was our chance to end it with us on the field. We didn't get it done but a win is a win."

On the close ending with the onside kick:

"It's just crazy. Right there, we get the onside kick, it's 21-13, we take two knees and it's over. It felt like a little bit more of an escape the way the game ended. But, again, we can't say much, we lost 10 straight division games in a row but we won all three phases of that game. And we made it more exciting than it needed to be at the end."

On the 4th down conversion in the first half:

"That was good. I just thought with where we were in the game early, the score, and coming up just barely short; I didn't have a doubt and man it was close. Melvin (Gordon) did a nice job of reaching and getting it."

On building on the momentum of winning:

"I hope so because I know that we were trying to act like there's no cloud or mental affect to losing these games but I know I felt it. Not only when I was out there playing, but on the sideline too. I must have walked one hundred laps from end to end because you just feel like, 'goodness, are we going to find a way to win this?' And we did. So I think now we can hopefully – we don't have momentum going to Atlanta. You know how I feel about momentum from week to week. But we now are like, 'Guys that's how you beat a good team. That's what it feels like.' Complimentary, back and forth, not pretty – but you find a way to win. Now we get to go to Atlanta who has Seattle this week. Atlanta – a team who is as hot as any. That will be a big one."

CHARGERS TIGHT END HUNTER HENRY**On being a part of Philip Rivers record night:**

"It's really cool to be able to do that. I've been watching him since I was a kid. He's tremendous. He puts me in great spots. He put the ball in a perfect spot. I just knew it was a big play for us, especially when you can go down and score on the first drive. That's huge. I didn't really know the implications at the time. I mean definitely afterward, it's pretty cool."

On finally finishing out a game in the fourth quarter:

"We kept it closer than we really wanted to, it's huge to get a win. We know were a good team we just had to go out there and play till the end."

On the dramatic finish from the sidelines:

"Definitely nerve racking, but I think we all had faith."

On the team's mentality going into this game:

"Definitely going into the game, we knew it would be a hard fought win, and we needed this one. We made it closer than we had to but in the end a win is a win."

On the lack of touchdowns in the red zone:

"We got to finish in the red zone that's something we definitely got to improve on. We won that's all that matters."

On catching a touchdown pass in consecutive games:

"I'm an easy going guy I'm going to take it how it is. It's awesome. I'm glad I could contribute to this team and help us win a game. I'm going to stay humble and continue to go to work, because it's a long season and we want to continue to win."

On his relationship with Antonio Gates:

"He was really proud of me tonight, and he told me that. It's awesome to have that kind of guy on your side, he's arguably the best ever playing this position so being among his presence is an honor. And im happy to call him a good friend."

On the connection he has built with Philip Rivers:

"It built over a long time and it's built throughout the season the first five game, and now going into the sixth I think its going to contribute to build."

On how much fun it is playing in a nationally televised game:

"Oh it was a blast. My parents are here which is awesome to see them and all that, but it's just awesome to go play in front of all my friends and family back home who wouldn't normally be able to catch that kind of game. It's fun to play good and get the win."

CHARGERS TACKLE JOE BARKSDALE**On his feelings about all of this:**

"I don't even know what to call that game. I need a pacemaker after that one. It feels good to win though. This is what we've been working for since camp. Me and a couple teammates were talking the other day, the best part about football is winning and when that gets taken away from you for so many weeks you get a little bit discouraged, the clouds seem to roll in a little bit. But this one feels good and I feel like we can keep getting better when we go on the road."

On how badly they wanted to win:

"It's been almost a month since we've won a game. That's 30 days. You can look at it as Sunday's but there's weeks leading up to that. To have your hard work pay off, I can't explain it. And, you know, we had our quarterback break his franchise record so that was pretty cool."

On the defense making big plays:

"To be honest with you, you have to give kudos to the scouting department. We had a lot of first year guys out there making great plays; scouting department and coaches. But at the end of the day, what you see from the defense, offense, and special teams there's more of a team atmosphere. We're playing for each other now. Guys are on one page and they're having success."

CHARGERS QUARTERBACK KELLEN CLEMENS**On being on the field tonight:**

"It's taken a long time. So, yeah, it's fun to be out there and contribute even in a small way."

On how big of a win this is:

"It's big. All bad streaks end with one game and all good streaks start with one game. So hopefully we can keep this going."

CHARGERS DEFENSIVE END JOEY BOSA**On what it feels like to get this win:**

"It means everything. We needed this to get on a roll and the team's really happy right now. Let's continue on to next week."

On the defense making big plays:

"It was amazing. I'm really proud of our defense. We really stepped up when all eyes were on us. That was kind of the message this week that all eyes were going to be on us and we just had to truly believe that we were going to get the win. We came out there and really just played."

On how his body is feeling:

"It's a little rough today with the finger and a lot more plays than last week after this short week. But we have a long week to recover and just have to move onto next week."

On what Mike McCoy's message was after the game:

"That this is what it's all about. We're so blessed to get to come and play with a bunch of guys that just love to play football and come out on primetime in San Diego, California and get to play football. We're just blessed."

On the energy of the crowd:

"I thought it was awesome. It was real loud when their offense was out there. We had a lot of support I thought. By the end of the game we definitely were rocking. So, it was a lot of fun."

CHARGERS NOSE TACKLE BRANDON MEBANE

On the dramatic finish and onside kick:

“Yeah it was a little tense. You don’t want the game to come down to that but you know this is the NFL so things happen like that.”

On keeping the Broncos off the scoreboard for most of the game:

“You got to give credit to them. They’re a great team. They’re the champions for a reason. They got a lot of heart. They don’t give up over there. When you’ve got a team like that you got to keep playing. They can come back at any time.”

On what this win means for the team:

“Just a new start. The season hasn’t gone how we want it to but this is a new start. We’re going to continue playing and take it one game at a time.”

On whether the team saved Mike McCoy’s head coaching job:

“We don’t really focus on that, but hopefully we do. He’s a good coach and he deserves the best.”

On the defense’s overall play:

“No matter what that situation was we were going to come in there and keep getting the ball back to our offense. Like I said they’re a great offense you got to give credit to them and we pulled it out.”

On the defense making turnovers and breaking the losing streak:

“It’s something we talk about and something we do every time. Winning in the NFL is very hard, a lot of people think it’s easy but winning in the NFL is very hard.”



BRONCOS INTERIM HEAD COACH JOE DeCAMILIS

Opening statement:

“After the game some injury updates, Cody (Latimer) had a concussion and Emmanuel (Sanders) had a left hip. Those are the two injury updates for you for after the game.”

On the slow starts the last couple of weeks:

“Yeah, it’s something we have to address for sure. It’s been pretty consistent and I think whatever we can do to try to get that corrected will help us down the road. Obviously, when Kube (Kubiak) comes back I’m sure he’s going to have a plan for that and we’ve got to follow suit with that plan. It’s not just a player issue as far as getting the slow starts because obviously coaching for one we’re not getting them going fast enough. I wish I got them going faster tonight.”

On Trevor Siemian throwing a lot tonight and having no running game:

“Yeah, I said that going in they have a heck of a front. You have to give them credit. [Just] like we talked about all week, it was a tough game because I knew they had lost a bunch of close games and they just hadn’t closed out, but they closed out tonight. You have to give Mike credit, you have to give their staff credit, [and] you have to give their players credit. I think what they did is they tried to shut the running game down as much as they could and make us throw the ball and we’ve got to react to that.”

On if Trevor was 100 percent:

“Yeah, we wouldn’t have put him out on the field any other way. We knew that going in that he was close to it and he showed some toughness going out there but we wouldn’t have put him out there if we didn’t think that he was healthy enough to play for sure.”

On if he was frustrated on the second to last kickoff and if he was hoping for a pooch kick:

“Yeah, we didn’t execute the way we wanted to. We wanted to hit that ball a little bit. I wouldn’t say a pooch kick. We still wanted it deep, but we wanted it inside the 10. We didn’t want a touch back right there. Obviously we could have maybe got some field position right there, garter some field position, we didn’t do that. That’s why I said it wasn’t just one phase. We made mistakes. We all make mistakes, so we have to get them corrected.”

On if he thought that this game was a wake-up call for the team:

“Yeah, I do. I think we’ve got to obviously do a better job at getting started, and then the positive I thought, was I thought they fought their tails off to be honest with you. When you look at the end of the game, having a chance to win that game [is] incredible really, because you’ve got basically two onside kicks on it. I thought our guys just stayed in it, hung in there, and we’ve got a lot of grit and determination in that room and I think that they are going to bounce back.”

On Kayvon (Webster) coming back in the game:

“He made a big play didn’t he on the one punt? We had him backed up on that one. Unfortunately they got to drive on us, but we just have to keep working man. We have to work in all phases and get ready for Houston. That’s the big key.”

On how the game went without Gary Kubiak:

“I mean we lost so obviously it didn’t go as well as it should have. I thought that the communication during the game from upstairs was excellent. We ended up challenging a play and we ended up getting a turnover off that challenge so I thought it went well. I just wish we could have got a win for the city [and] got a win for the organization. I’m sick to my stomach. It’s sickening. I hate to lose man, that’s all. That’s a bunch of warriors out there fighting and I wish we could have done more to help.”

On if he had contact with Gary today:

“Yeah, I talked to him today. I broke down and called him and he was great. He’s been so supportive this week. Like I said, it wasn’t his fault we lost, so we have to get it cleaned up.”

On addressing the penalties:

“Yeah, I mean it’s a discipline issue on penalties a lot of times. We’re going to have to correct them, we’re going to have to make sure that we look into if there’s anything that’s a trend. So that’s part of it, and then we just have to make sure that in those crunch time situations we can’t have those penalties. It’s just something that we don’t do and we have to get it corrected quickly.”

On his expectations going into the game and how they matched up with his expectations as a head coach:

“I know he’s got a tough job I can tell you that. Hopefully I did the right things for the most part. Like I said, the ultimate is to win the game and we didn’t do that, so obviously I’m not happy that we didn’t win. That’s the biggest key.”

On teams copying what Atlanta did and if he thought that Philip Rivers copied them a little bit in the beginning of the game:

"Yeah, that was the difference. I thought they did try to follow a little bit of the tempo, but they run a lot of crossers and things to mess up the man. That guy is a great player. They did a lot of things to hurt the man coverage and we adjusted and I thought we shut them down. The second half, Patrick correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that they gave up 100 yards or something like that the second half. So, our defense buckled down. We should've made more plays to help them."

On putting Aqib Talib in on the kick return:

"Yeah, we needed to try to make a play right there. He got the worst possible punt he could get for that one. I mean, the ball was going away. You have to give credit to that kid, because he obviously had a bad week last week and he came in and did a good job tonight. It's just frustrating. We get three turnovers on special teams and you don't win the game. So that's not the way you want to be for sure."

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN

Offensively, what was the biggest difference between the first and the second half?

"We had a lot of self-inflicted wounds. Those are tough to overcome. We didn't make the most of our opportunities early in the game. I think we showed a lot of resilience there at the end but it was a little too late for us."

How did your shoulder feel?

"I thought it was fine. I didn't really have any problems with it. It held up for me pretty well."

How concerning are the slow starts?

"I think it's something that we have to address. When you look, it's just one thing here, one thing there. It's really close. Again, I thought we showed a lot of resilience but it was too little too late, too much to overcome."

Did you think the hail mary had a chance at the end?

"Yeah, I was kind of upset about that. I don't think I even got it in the end zone. I probably threw it too soon. It's a shame because you get a chance to tie the game up there at the end, but I don't even think I got it in there. That was my fault. I'd like to do that one again."

The slow start for you, is that related to being out for a little while?

"I can't tell you. It didn't feel like that. Off the top of my head there are a handful of plays that if you make, you don't know how it turns out so I'd like to go back and watch it. Give a lot of credit to San Diego. They did a good job mixing up looks and they played well all across the board."

What's the feeling of the team now, losing two in a row?

"This is a tough league and we were playing a tough team. We knew that going in. I think the one thing about this team is the resilience and that was a staple of us last year as well. All of those guys in the locker room, the whole game the sense was that we were going to figure it out and get this thing going and make a run at it. Again, it was just too little, too late."

On the absence of Head Coach Gary Kubiak:

"It's tough to tell because you might get a chance to talk to him in between series but he's got so much going on during the game that for me it's tough to tell how much of a difference that makes. I thought Joe (DeCamillis) did a good job communicating with everybody. He really did a good job with the group."

Are defenses forcing you to be patient?

"I think so. I think we got behind a little bit early and the combination of Demaryius (Thomas) and Emmanuel (Sanders) might scare some people and they want to keep a lot of things in front of them. That's just how the game unfolded. Each team plays it a little bit different. Again, it's tough when you're down so much, you're just playing into their favor when you're dinking the ball like that. I think we'll get it fixed though, I feel pretty good about that."

Do you think you'll lobby to get the ball first if you win the coin toss?

"No that's not my bag. I don't think that was it at all. We were fortunate enough that San Diego's offense was 1-5 in the red zone so they gave us plenty of chances. It's on us to make the most of opportunities when we get the ball."

On interim head coach Joe DiCamillis:

"The one good thing about it is that Joe D. is who he is day in and day out. I thought he handled an obviously tough situation as good as he could and he was the same guy he's been ever since I've known him. I know a lot of guys appreciated that. He did a heck of a job I think."

BRONCOS LINEBACKER VON MILLER

On how the team's mistakes effected the outcome of the game:

"That is always a factor when you lose. We had a lot of mistakes. Defensively, we didn't play up to the type of defense that we know we can play. This is the second week in a row that we let a team drive down on the first drive and score. We need to get that fixed. I believe in this team. We have a great group of guys in this locker room. The good thing is, we have been here before. We have lost two straight and been able to bounce back from that. We know what it feels like unfortunately. We are going to enjoy this time off then get back in the lab and grind before the Houston Texans coming up."

On if they made an adjustment that prevented the Chargers from getting in the end zone as the game progressed:

"We have a great defense; we just have to get it calibrated from the beginning. It is always tough when you lose. I wish I had the words to say what is going on. We lost, San Diego got the better of us today but we will see them again in two weeks but we have the Texans coming up."

On what made them lose on the road:

"It is what it is. We have a great team. I would take some other accomplishments we have as a team over being undefeated on the road. It is unfortunate that we lost. We have a great team and 4-2 is not too bad. We just have to grind it out and get back to the team that we want to be."

On how difficult it was getting to Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers with how quickly he was getting the ball out:

"It is always tough. They did a great job blocking up front. Philip did a great job of staying tight in the pocket and not dropping back too deep and getting the ball off. He is one of the best quarterbacks in the National Football League and he went out and showed it today."

On Broncos running back C.J. Anderson's comment about a lack of emotion from the defense at the beginning of the game:

"I don't know, that is the no fly zone. Those guys are a little more high strung than the rest of us. Emotionally, I don't see that. For the secondary, maybe he was talking about those guys. We felt pretty good going into that game and we felt pretty good at the start of the game. Unfortunately, we just let them score."

On the rivalry between the Broncos and the Chargers:

"It's always like that. The game that we just played and every single game we have played here has been identical. We just were able to come away with the win [in the past]. They did a great job, they did a great job today. They had position the whole entire game and we weren't able to switch into gear."

BRONCOS LINEBACKER BRANDON MARSHALL

On how he felt about the defense's performance overall:

"It was a tough ballgame. Things like this happen. We wanted to get a turnover on defense but that didn't happen. It was just a tough game; we didn't get it done."

On his opinion about San Diego's performance in tonight's game:

"They jumped on us early offensively. They played well. I think we came back and we responded well but we couldn't get any points on the board or anything going until late."

On if the Chargers defense showed anything different than what they watched on film:

"They tried to do a little bit what Atlanta did. They didn't show anything too different. Every offense's first 15 plays are going to be scripted. I think that is when they showed the most unique things."

On if he felt that they could stay in the game by settling for field goals:

"Absolutely. We wanted to hold them to no points but the field goals definitely kept us in the game. I think we did a good job with that because we had short field most of the time because we got field goals."

On if he feels any frustration walking away from this game:

"I think we just have to get back to doing what we do. It is tough to say. We held them to 19 points. They had the safety but we almost had the fourth quarter comeback. It is tough to say man."

BRONCOS SAFETY WILL PARKS

On why they get a slow start:

"It's football. You never know what you are going to get. I can tell you this though, we're going to go back to the drawing board and we're going work hard. It's over with now and there's nothing we can do about it but we're going to go back and fix all the mistakes, all the penalties and go back to do what we do best and that's stopping the ball."

On if he noticed a difference with the head coach missing:

"We miss Kub (Gary Kubiak) like crazy. All we've been talking about is Coach Kub this week and getting the win for him. Obviously we didn't get it done but I can tell you that we played our heart out, that's for sure."

On if it's tough having a short week:

"I'm blessed to be here, nothing can be tough for me. I don't have any complaints. It's a grind, but it's a grind that I'm grateful for."

On how big turnovers were:

"It's big. It's definitely a part of the game. We look forward to taking possession every time we get out there."

On how the defense settled as the game went on:

"It was definitely a step in the right direction. Obviously we didn't get the win but we handled our business."

On if the defense was tired from being out on the field so much:

"We weren't tired; we just made a couple little mistakes, that was all. We're going back to the drawing board and we're going to do what we've got to do."

On if he's trying to be encouraging to the offense:

"Always. If I'm a rookie, five-year vet, it doesn't matter to me. All I want to do is make them believe."

On if it's frustrating for the defense to see all of the 3-and-outs:

"It's nothing for us. That's why we are the Broncos defense, No Fly Zone. We go out there to get the job done. Sometimes when that happens, we have to be prepared to take care of the stack ups."

BRONCOS CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR

On the two long drives the Chargers started with:

"They just made plays. We've got to do better in the first quarter. In the first quarter we've been terrible. We've got to come out and get those stops at the beginning."

On what it is about the first quarter that they get such a slow start:

"I'm not sure. It's just something that we've got to fix. I don't know what it is, if we've got to practice coming out earlier or just make sure at the beginning of practice we start faster. I guess that's something that we can work on."

On the difference in the second half holding the Chargers to field goals:

"We just finally settled down. We just didn't make enough turnovers. We've got to make more turnovers. They had a great game plan. Shout out to their coaches and Philip Rivers. They did a great job today."

On what it was like without Coach Kubiak today:

"It's always hard when you don't have your leader, but it's on us to make plays. It's on us as a team. We've got a veteran team. Even if coach is out, we're still expected to handle business."

On why they struggled:

"I can't put my finger on it. We've just got to figure it out and get back to what we do in practice. Get back to the little things. Hopefully that will get it turned around."

On if they thought they might win at the end of the game:

"We're never going to quit. We always have a chance to win but we just made too many turnovers. When you make that many turnovers, it's hard to come back."

On all of the mistakes:

"We just killed ourselves with penalties. We killed ourselves with turnovers. We just didn't play good enough football to win. If you beat yourself like that, you're definitely going to lose."

On if it's harder to lose a division game:

"This game definitely hurts, but we've got a big game coming up on Monday night. We need to be able to bounce back for that one."

On what they do to bounce back:

"We just try to get back to the little things, try to figure out what we need to do. We've got a great test going against Brock (Osweiler). He's very familiar with us. So we've just got to get back to our stinger; get our stinger back. Work hard and get ready for next week."

On if it frustrates him when the offense struggles to move the ball:

"We didn't do our part either. It's a team game. We've just got to find a way to start clicking early. We're clicking too late and by the time we start clicking, it's hard to come back."

BRONCOS SAFETY T.J. WARD

On how many times teams have been able to score on the opening drive:

"Whether it's the first drive, second, third fourth or at the end of the game, if you give up a certain amount of points, there's only those amount of points for the whole quarter. So it doesn't matter when they score, but you're right, we do have to limit guys from scoring on the opening drive. They're building momentum and it's working against us."

On when they adjust on the later drives:

"I think it's more about effort on our part on that first drive. I think we're coming off too slow. We're not being aggressive or firey enough. Teams are taking advantage of that."

On how we don't see the Broncos lose to division teams:

"We lost two games last year in a row. I'm not comparing to last year because it's not last year's team but, a loss is a loss. I really don't care who we lose to, a loss is a loss."

On taking care of Brock (Osweiler) and the Texans on Monday night:

"It's the next game. We've got to win, regardless of who it is. We're playing the Texans, not Brock and the Texans. The complete team has to be there; offense, defense, special teams. If we don't do that, we're not going to win."

On the slow starts the last couple of games and if he can figure out what it is causing it:

"I'm trying to. I can't figure it out yet, but we've got to go see what's going on on the film. Personally, I think it's just the lack of intensity starting the game."

On how to motivate from there:

"We've got to find it within ourselves, that's all."