



DENVER BRONCOS POSTGAME QUOTES

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DENVER BRONCOS vs. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sports Authority Field at Mile High • Sunday, October 31, 2016

Postgame Quotes Summary (click links for easy navigation):

Broncos Quotes: [Head Coach Gary Kubiak](#) (press conference); OLB [Von Miller](#) (press conference); CB [Bradley Roby](#) (press conference); QB [Trevor Siemian](#) (press conference); OLB [DeMarcus Ware](#) (press conference); DE [Jared Crick](#); ILB [Todd Davis](#); CB [Lorenzo Doss](#); TE [Virgil Green](#); CB [Chris Harris Jr.](#); S [Justin Simmons](#); S [Darian Stewart](#); WR [Demaryius Thomas](#); RB [Juwan Thompson](#); S [T.J. Ward](#); NT [Sylvester Williams](#); DE [Derek Wolfe](#)
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BRONCOS HEAD COACH GARY KUBIAK

Opening Statement

“First off, injury-wise, [CB] Kayvon [Webster] is dealing with a hamstring right now. I’m very proud of our football team and the effort of our football. We made enough mistakes to probably lose two or three games in all honesty. We found a way to win. We were missing some pieces, we were battling our tail and lost [Defensive Coordinator] Wade [Phillips]. There were a lot of things going on that you usually don’t find a way to get a victory in the league, but we found a way to win. I’m very proud of them doing that. Obviously we have to play a lot better, but I’m proud of the victory.”

On an update on Phillips

“Everything I’ve been told right now, he’s doing great. [Vice President of Public Relations] Patrick [Smyth] told me there was a report out there that maybe something happened to his leg. That’s not true. He’s fine. He’s upbeat. He watched the end of the game. We’ve been in contact with Laurie, his wife. He talked to me before he left the field, so we were just being smart. All indications are that Wade is doing great and he will be back quickly.”

On how the defense responded when Phillips was injured

“[Linebackers Coach] Reggie [Herring] took over. Reggie has done that before. When I was at Houston, I lost Wade for a couple of games and Reggie called the game. Reggie has done that. I’m really proud of him. I gave him a game ball. When it happened, I got on the headset a couple of times and he told me to shut the hell up and get off the headset. He did a good job. Reggie is a fine coach. He’s been a teacher for Wade for many years and he really stepped up and did a great job today.”

On why CB Aqib Talib did not play

“His back has been bothering him. He had a couple of rough days this week. He practiced Friday, it was a good day. He came back and it tightened up on him on Saturday. We took a look at him this morning and just felt like we had to do the smart thing. We’re hoping he’s back this week. It’s really good where [CB] Bradley [Roby] goes in and plays his tail off and [CB Lorenzo] Doss plays. We had some key components down. When you talk about losing [RB] C.J. [Anderson], ‘B-Marsh’ [ILB Brandon Marshall] and Aqib, we had some players step up to the plate. That’s what this league is all about.”

On switching coordinators in the middle of the game

"The thing that's really tough, is remember, that guy coaches a position. Not only did Reggie have three linebackers he was working with today because 'B-Marsh' was out; he was coaching all of those guys and now he has to call the game. It puts him in a dual role. It makes it tougher on everybody. Give [Defensive Line Coach] Bill [Kollar], 'Pug' [Outside Linebackers Coach Fred Pagac], [Defensive Backs Coach] Joe Woods and [Assistant Secondary Coach] Samson [Brown], give all of those guys credit. They came together and helped. I thought we played our tail off and made some big stops. I'm just very proud of how they pulled it together."

On how the running game performed

"It was nonexistent. We come out and go right down the field and look like a good, sharp football team and then we couldn't get out of our way about the next three or four series. I'm disappointed. I know that we were missing C.J. today, but that's a done deal. We have to improve. Losing [RB Devontae] Booker for a few series was a factor in the game. Now we're down to one back and trying to play [RB] Juwan [Thompson] at two spots. I'm proud of the fact that we mustered up a couple of big drives in the second half, but we turned the ball over in the red zone. We were 2-for-6 and still won the game. That usually doesn't happen."

On the defensive stand with three minutes left in the game

"I would say that it was huge because if they score, obviously they're going to go for two. They have us pinned down there and we had a couple of issues. That was a big stand and then making a stand at the end against [Chargers QB] Philip [Rivers]. I think we got three turnovers and yet he has them in position. There were a lot of mistakes for both football teams. It was a very hard-played football game. We found a way to survive."

On being aggressive on offense late in the game

"It was very important because we weren't running the ball very well. We had to go make some plays. [TE] Virgil [Green] made some big plays and 'D.T.' [WR Demaryius Thomas] makes the next big play. We needed to punch the ball in the end zone right there. If we played good red zone football today, we're going to look like a really good football team. That's the thing that kept us from finishing up some plays. We needed to stay aggressive and make some plays."

On his concern with the offense

"Well I'm concerned. I'm concerned with penalties, I don't have a number. I know we had some big holding calls and some third and longs. We have to find a way to find some consistency. We're young in the backfield. The quarterback, fullback and halfback. They're all first time players. It is what it is. We have to find a way to be consistent with that group."

On Doss' performance

"Obviously Doss did not find out until this morning that he was going, when we knew Aqib couldn't go. Good job by him stepping up and making some plays. Again, he made a great catch on him in the end zone. He had him covered really well. You look at what Doss did and what Bradley did. You watch those guys come together after losing their leader in Aqib. I'm very proud of them."

On QB Trevor Siemian's performance

"Let me go back and look. Obviously Trevor made some key plays in the game. There were some big drives and key plays. I know he got hit way too much and I have to go see why. We help Trevor when we run the ball and we didn't run the ball today. That's important to our team."

On why the run game succeeded last Monday compared to today

"I have to go figure it out, I know that. We came out throwing, but we did last week, too. It's when you balance yourself up and all of a sudden I think we were four runs and 16 passes and just totally out of whack in what we were trying to do. I have to go take a look. I know [FB] Andy [Janovich] played with a club today. I have to go see if that was a factor. We have to go put all those things together and find out."

On whether the defense rallied around Phillips

“No doubt. You’re sitting there watching one of your soldiers like that and they’re worried about him. The good news is, Wade was responding to all of us on the sidelines. I didn’t see it, so I don’t know exactly what happened. He was responding and our guys did the right things by him and making sure that he was okay. The players responded and played their tails off for Reggie and the defensive coaches.”

On his assessment of the team midway through the season

“Obviously we have a big game in Oakland this weekend, a first place game. Our division is a great division, in my opinion, this year. It’s going to take a lot of big games down the road but at the halfway mark I think we know the things we have to improve upon. That’s what is extremely important. I think if you take the word consistency. That’s something we’re going to have to find here down the stretch.”

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER VON MILLER

On the defense’s mindset throughout the game

“We were just trying to go out there and get another turnover. We knew exactly what type of team that we were playing. I said it every single time, all of the games that we play against the Chargers come down to the wire so we really didn’t ease up until 0:00.”

On having OLB DeMarcus Ware return to the lineup

“It was great. I thought that play was a sack. That’s right in his back yard, legendary, taking a couple of weeks off and he’s right back like he never missed a step.”

On Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips’ injury

“I didn’t really know what was going on. I was asking around trying to get some information, but when you look down at him, he seemed to be alright. I looked down and he just seemed to let everybody do their job and when they were carting him off he gave a finger up. All of the information that we got back, he’s going to be fine.”

On whether he was worried about Phillips during the game

“I was definitely worried, it’s Coach Phillips. I was definitely worried about him, but right when we came in from halftime they had a lot of information for us saying that he was going to be alright.”

On how Ware’s return impacted his play

“It was great. He has a legendary presence when he’s on the football field. He was all over the place today and just looking at him you wouldn’t think that he took off so many weeks. There is so much stuff that I can say about DeMarcus. It’s a true blessing having him here. He leads by example; you break your arm and you come back and you’re still able to make plays. That speaks volumes to me, ‘Shaq’ [OLB Shaquil Barrett], [OLB] Shane [Ray] and all of the other guys on our team. He’s a legendary player. He’s a living legend for us and I’m just truly blessed to have him on our team.”

On having more sacks against QB Philip Rivers than any other quarterback

“This is a trick question (laughs). Philip Rivers is the type of quarterback that he is. He makes the AFC West the AFC West. He definitely makes the AFC West great. He’s a true competitor. He’s a legend as well. He’s been playing a very long time and still playing at a high level. He definitely makes coming to work and playing in the AFC West wonderful.”

On whether Rivers spoke to him on the field

“He doesn’t talk to me. He doesn’t talk to me, but he’s just a true competitor. He’s like one of those friends, when you let him win he’s just rubbing it in your face so you don’t want it to happen. We go out there and we lay it all down and try to be on top of all of our assignments and he still finds windows to make plays so hats off to Philip. He’s a great quarterback.”

On the turnovers the defense forced

“That’s the type of defense that we play. There’s enough to go around for everybody. It’s great on our team. No one is waiting around for somebody else to make a play. We’re all out there trying to make plays from left corner to right corner and everybody

in between. We all feel like this next play is our chance to make a play for our team and that type of mentality really drives the type of style that we play on defense.”

On if the defense plans beforehand the number of points to keep an offense under

“Zero. It’s the National Football League, they’re going to score points and they’re going to score touchdowns. We just have to come out with the win.”

On the ‘next-man-up’ mentality with numerous starters out

“Not only did the players on the football field, but our staff and the front office guys, it’s next-man-up. Coach Wade went down and [Linebackers Coach] Reggie Herring was right there. He gave us a speech and made everybody feel comfortable that he was more than capable of running the defense. He’s been there when Coach Phillips started that thing. We all had confidence and we have confidence in everybody on our football team. It’s next-man-up mentality.”

BRONCOS CORNERBACK BRADLEY ROBY

On his mindset with CB Aqib Talib missing the game

“My mindset with Aqib down was another chance for me to get out there on the field a little bit more. This year I haven’t been on the field as much and you definitely have to take advantage of those opportunities you get. When Talib said he wasn’t playing and he said he was going to be down, I just looked at it as I have to step up and use this opportunity to get better.”

On what happened on his interception return for a touchdown

“He did an under route, we were in man coverage and I was trailing behind him. I saw out of the corner of my eye that the ball was kind of high, I anticipated the drop and when it flew in the air, I just kind of found it and took it to the house.”

On Chargers’ quarterback Philip Rivers’ throwing motion

“The way he throws is kind of a low delivery, so that was one thing we emphasized with the d-line; they always do a great job of getting their hands up and knocking the ball down. We had at least four or five of those today and they were crucial.”

On what the defense was thinking when Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips was injured

“It was just another person that was down. Talib was down, at the beginning of the game [CB] Kayvon Webster was down, so us as corners knew we had to step up because we only had three guys left. When Wade went down, it was like ‘Man, what’s going on?’ I was going to make sure he was OK and all sings were saying that he’s good and he’ll be fine. [Linebackers Coach] Reggie [Herring], our linebackers coach, he stood up and was like ‘I got this, I got you. Wade and I [run] this defense together and I’m more than capable.’ We just rallied around him.”

On the defense scoring touchdowns and if they think about that during a game

“I think that it’s something that we cultivated last year; we did that last year and we continue to do that. I think it’s part of the players on this team and on this defense. We’re playmakers and it can come from anywhere. I think that’s one of the bigger reasons we got to the Super Bowl last year and that’s one of the reasons why we continue to be successful.”

On CB Lorenzo Doss’ performance today

“Doss stepped up big. It was his first game being able to get in that action and he dropped two picks. We always clown him because he drops them in practice, but he’s always there so the next thing is just catching it. He made a great play on fourth down on the goal line and the sky is the limit for him as well. He’s just learning from all of us and he played great today.”

On Philip Rivers’ performance today

“He’s a true competitor and he’s definitely one of the most competitive quarterbacks in this league. He’s one of the smartest [quarterbacks] and you can’t really trick him. The way they set their offense up he’s able to see what you’re in before he snaps the ball and he makes great decisions. He’s always a tough battle when we play him and I like playing against guy like that because it raises my level as well.”

BRONCOS QUARTERBACK TREVOR SIEMIAN

On getting the win despite struggling at times on offense

“Obviously getting the win, whatever it takes. It’s our job to win games. We had a lot of help from the defense so we found a way to get it done. There were a lot of inconsistencies across the board and I think that I have a lot of room to get better. We found a way to win, which is nice.”

On Denver’s offense performing at a higher level when the running game is working efficiently

“I think you have to give a lot of credit to San Diego. They do a lot of different things schematically and they have a lot of good personnel up front especially with [DE Joey] Bosa in there. A lot of credit to them, but I think our offense, along with a lot of other teams in the league, works better when we have both working. That’s what we’re going to work on, just trying to be more consistent across the board.”

On how he thinks he has improved as a quarterback halfway through the regular season

“I think I’m getting better. I’m growing a lot certainly. Each week I feel like I’m seeing something new and I’m trying to learn from it. Obviously, I’m on a great team with a great defense so it helps that we’re still winning some games and there’s still room for improvement. That’s encouraging.”

On his lost fumble in the red zone in the second quarter

“It was just a mix-up. I think I thought [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] was going to go out when he went in and against that pass rush down there when you hold the ball, they’re going to make you pay. That’s my fault. I have to find a way to get out of there and get rid of the ball. I’ve got to look at it.”

On not having running back C.J. Anderson and how it changed the Denver offense

“We missed him a lot in the run game and in protections, but I think [RBs Devontae Booker and Kapri Bibbs] did a good job stepping up. Obviously, there’s a little bit of a drop off when you don’t have C.J. in there but those guys were really impressive with the way they handled things. I think obviously they’d tell you that they’d like to have more yards on the ground, but everybody played well out there.”

On what he’s learned after his first seven games under center for the Broncos

“I could be up here for a while talking about that. I think I’m growing. Seeing different looks is invaluable. It’s one thing when you see it a first time, but when you get to see it a second and third time, I think it lets you play a little faster. I’m going back and watching tape and trying to see where I can get better. I’m having a ton of fun actually.”

On whether he feels more comfortable throwing the ball to receivers like Sanders and Demaryius Thomas when they may be covered

“I have a couple times. I think you said it. You have to give those guys a chance when it’s one-on-one. One of the things we’ve talked about is that those guys will take pretty much anybody one-on-one. If we have those guys going down the field and we have something dialed up, then I’m going to try to give them a chance knowing that they’re going to make plays if I give them a shot.”

BRONCOS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER DEMARCUS WARE

On how his arm felt

“My arm felt really good. I think I just have to get used to doing a lot of my power moves again, getting my strength back. From a pain standpoint, it felt really good.”

On how the defense responded when Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips went down

“Wade is like my dad. You get a little sentimental a bit but you can also see a lot of the guys saying, ‘Now, since Wade is gone, let’s pick up where he left off.’ When [Linebackers Coach] Reggie [Herring] started calling the plays, making sure that everybody is on board with every single play that he is calling. All the guys said, ‘You know what lets corral and win this game for Wade.’ The

play calling stayed the same. Reggie's been with Wade for so long, so they know what personnel and what type of calls we are going to have. Nothing changed at all."

On whether he played as much as he thought he would and how his body responded

"I played actually a little bit more than I thought I would. It was one of the plays that pissed me off a little bit and I stayed out there a little longer than I should, but when you talk trash a little bit, sometimes it wakes up the monster and that's what I feel like. It heightens my senses a little bit and played a little bit harder. But the plays that I played, I gave it all I had and we were able to get a win."

On staying in the game after situational plays

"I am only supposed to play third down and there was a couple plays guys started talking trash and I was like, 'Well, then I guess I need to stay out here and take the trash out.' That's how I felt. I stayed out there a couple plays and we were able to get a big stop on the goal line."

On his and QB Philip Rivers exchanges

"We did. Actually he was like, 'Who are you? I don't even know you right now.' And I don't talk trash, so I just said whatever."

On stopping the Chargers four times at the goal line

"We were just telling the guys this is like their goal line stance and that we need to solidify ourselves. We didn't have one of those types of stances all season and we know how fast he gets off the ball. He's a great quarterback. We were just making sure that if he passes the ball, we contest every single pass, and if they run it; I'm not sure if they were on the four yard line or two yard line, making sure that they don't get any runs in."

On S T.J. Ward's sack

"We feed off of those big plays. If it's a sack, a batted ball down, an interception and T.J. had one of those big plays that we had at the beginning. From that it just trickled into [CB Bradley] Roby's interception and [S Darian] Stewart's interception. I told them, 'Don't have me out there blocking,' because I'm not one of those guys that's going to block and you score the touchdown. But those are the big plays that we needed to win the game."

On what needs to happen against Oakland

"I just tell guys to be themselves. Sometimes you don't need that extra motivation when you know what is at stake. If you want to be the best, you have to bet the best. This team right now is in the way. They are a great team and have been playing really well the whole season. To be a great team you have to be able to win on the road, so this is that big challenge for us this week."

On when he knew he was going to play in today's game

"I knew I was going to play in my mind. I just keep quiet. At the end of the day, once you put the pads on you let the lion out of the cage and everyone knows that he's there. I just kept quiet and chomp at the bit each and every day and get ready for this game."

BRONCOS DEFENSIVE END JARED CRICK

On his reaction to Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips' injury

"That was kind of weird, but we got the word that he's going to be OK. We got the word right after the game that he was going to be alright. We've just got to go back on the field and do our job, and that's what Wade wanted for us and that's what we did."

On the defense's performance today

"We got good pressure today. That's what we wanted to do. That's what we prepared for all day and we executed. That was the biggest thing for us. We did our jobs and that's what we've got to do week-to-week."

On how important it is to win divisional games

“Division games are big, so we got this one tonight and have another one next week. We’ve got to prepare like we did this week. If we go down there and get a win, it’s going to be big for us. Division games are always big. You’ve just got to keep it rolling. We’re playing good right now.”

On playing San Diego better in the teams’ second matchup

“Guys were better prepared this week, not that we didn’t prepare well the Thursday night game. Guys were just ready to go. We knew this was a division game and we had to get this win. We’re at home and we had a great crowd tonight. We want to win every game obviously. This one’s a big win we had to have.”

On what Phillips means to him personally and to the defense as a whole

“Wade, he’s been big for us. He’s a great coach and we love playing for him. To find out he was alright, it gave us confidence to go out there and just play ball.”

On limiting Philip Rivers’ offensive output

“Guys were just doing their jobs, executing the defense. We get good pressure on everybody, so if we can get pressure on them it doesn’t matter what quarterback it is. You’re going to get him rattled a little bit and they’re not going to be on their game. That’s our job as defensive linemen and outside backers.”

BRONCOS INSIDE LINEBACKER TODD DAVIS

On the Broncos’ defensive approach today

“I think we just wanted to [go out and] make a turnover. We want to make a big play. If anybody is going to make a big play, the defense wants to do it. That’s our goal.”

On the injury Broncos Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips suffered

“He’s our leader, our D-coordinator and our play-caller, and we were definitely worried for him. But I want to give a big ups to [Linebackers] coach Reggie Herring. He came in, he stepped in, did a great job and made some great play calls. We had a couple interceptions while he was in. We made some good plays.”

BRONCOS CORNERBACK LORENZO DOSS

On the impact of P Riley Dixon’s big fourth quarter punt

“Yeah, it’s a change of field. We just knew we had to go back and play some more defense. We just did our job.”

On the fourth-down stop at the end of the game

“[CB] Chris [Harris Jr.] and I had great communication. We locked it, and I just felt the throw. I played it and I got my hands on it.”

On the impact the defensive veterans have on the younger players

“Every time I came off the field today, [CB] Kayvon Webster was telling me what he could see from the sideline. He was helping me, [CB] Aqib [Talib] was helping me, Chris and [CB Bradley] Roby, the whole secondary was just motivating me to do my job, and that’s what I did.”

On how fun it is to be a part of the Bronco’s defense

“It’s fun. It’s fun being a part of the ‘No Fly Zone’. This is the best secondary in the league. It can’t get any better than this. I just wanted to come in, step in and do my job.”

On how much a game like this boosts his confidence

“It’s big. Next week we have a big game and we just have to do our job. We have a great coaching staff, great players, and like I said, we just have to do our job.”

BRONCOS TIGHT END VIRGIL GREEN

On the offensive adjustments the Broncos made to improve their run game in the second half

"I don't want to say we made too many adjustments. I just think we just all started getting on the same page. We're at home. This is a division game. We had to win that game, and everybody stepped up and made big plays throughout the second half."

On what he thinks the Broncos will need to improve in the red zone

"You know, I'd have to check the film. I know for me, down in the red area, I wasn't impressed with my blocking in the run game. I know for me, I can definitely improve on that."

On looking ahead to next Sunday's game at Oakland

"Another division game. We're going to be amped up for that. We've got to go out there and get another [win]."

On the tight ends getting more offensive touches this week compared to last

"That was great. I had fun running the routes out there, catching the ball and running after the catch. But I think a lot of the run game stuff helps some of that stuff. [QB] Trevor Siemian did a good job moving. The O-line did a good job pass blocking. I had a fun time tonight."

On the Chargers' resiliency late in the game

"It's been like that for them all year. They've had a bunch of close games. The Chargers are a good team. Our division is a strong division this year. You never know what you're going to get on Sunday. I'm definitely excited to play the Chiefs, the Raiders and our division. I'm ready to go."

On the competitiveness of the AFC West

"It is going to be a rough game next week. But I think we're ready to step up to the challenge, correct the mistakes we had today, build on some things we need to do and go out there and execute."

BRONCOS CORNERBACK CHRIS HARRIS JR.**On play of younger defensive players**

"The young guys came in and prepared well. They listen out there on the field whenever I have to give them checks. They did a great job listening. That's what they've got to do, just come in, play their role, don't try to do too much and just listen to me when I give them the checks."

On how S T.J. Ward performed

"Like a Tasmanian Devil, that's what I call him. I call him Taz. He's acting crazy on the field, so sometimes I have to calm him down a little bit. That's the type of fire we need."

On the fourth-and-goal stop late in the game

"We blitzed every play, all-out blitz every play. That's just what we do."

On playing at Oakland next week

"We love that. This is a big game for us. We're already hyped up for this game. This is a championship game. You can't win the Super Bowl unless you win the AFC West, so this is the first step. We know what to expect – great receivers next week – so we're going to be ready."

On it being a back-and-forth type of game

"I wouldn't say it was like. I think we punched them way more, but we just didn't finish the game. We kept playing with them. We had opportunities to end the game way earlier and we just kept playing with them and playing with them."

BRONCOS SAFETY JUSTIN SIMMONS

On the development of the young defensive players

"It's great. Now the vets know that they can count on us. When they feel nicked up and they're not really feeling too well going into certain game plays, they know that they can count on us to take a few reps off of their backs and make sure that we get them to the postseason so that we can go ahead and win another Super Bowl."

On when he noticed the injury of Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips

"I actually saw the hit, so immediately. It was pretty bad. I'm glad everything is OK with him. We haven't received the 'play-by-play', so to speak, but 'Kube' [Head Coach Gary Kubiak told us that he's doing well. He was definitely on the back of our minds for the rest of the game."

On if it helped having played San Diego recently

"It helped a great deal. Obviously they had a great game plan going into that game 17 days ago so it played a big role because there wasn't much tape that they could look off of at the Texans game. We played a pretty solid game all four quarters and going into this one, maybe they threw in a few plays, but it's pretty much the same team and who wants it more."

On if he was aware of the starters that would be missing on defense

"We knew those guys were battling throughout the week with practice and getting the reps in so that just means an opportunity. That means for the young guys, that we have to step up, we have to make our plays when our numbers called and that's what we did today."

BRONCOS SAFETY DARIAN STEWART**On the injury to Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips**

"We had to play for somebody and when that happened, I knew that he wanted to be out there. The most important thing for us was just going out here and getting this win for him."

On what he was thinking when Phillips went down

"I was actually right there by it and we got the note that he's alright and we have to keep praying for him."

On the defense forcing multiple sacks and turnovers

"It was a hard fought battle and we just wanted to be the best defense on the field. The defense that created the most turnovers was going to win this game, and we were able to do that."

On the divisional victory

"This was a playoff game for us. To get where we have to go, we have to win these types of games and this was a big test for us. We had guys out and we needed other guys to step and they did. I'm happy we're where we're at and we'll get ready for Oakland."

On the play of S.T.J. Ward

"Dog, relentless and just an aggressive player. He was special tonight-- sack, pick and probably had like 13 tackles. He's all over the field and he's one of those players that are important to this defense."

BRONCOS WIDE RECEIVER DEMARIUS THOMAS**On getting the victory**

"The main thing was coming out and getting this win. It wasn't easy, by far. It was a team effort. Of course we've got some things to do on our side, and of course as a team, but all we wanted to do was get this win and get our first division win."

On the ability to make big plays when needed

“That was big for us. [TE] Virgil [Green] came up with big plays and [WR] Emmanuel [Sanders] did as well. Even [RB Devontae] Booker had good runs down at the end, on third-and-whatever-it-was. That’s what we’ve got to do. We’ve got to keep fighting and keep our defense off the field and put points on the board.”

On moving on to the Raiders

“They’ve got a great team. We’ve got to go there and they just won. They’re a great team to go against and we’ve got to get back to work.”

On what the offense needs to do to be more consistent

“The group of 11 guys on the field has got to figure out how to get the ball into the end zone. Whatever the coaches call, we’ve got to execute it.”

On the team’s ability to overcome injuries

“We always say, ‘next man, step up’. We’re built that if somebody goes out, the next guy steps up and has got to play. The guys that came in did a great job.”

On his big sideline catch

“It was just the time of the game. I got my chance, I got a deep ball. I had one earlier in the game that I didn’t make a play on. I told myself ‘next time you get a chance, make a play’. That’s what I did.”

BRONCOS RUNNING BACK JUWAN THOMPSON

On contributing in his first game of the season

“If they give me that one opportunity, I’m going to try and make the best out of it.”

On scoring a touchdown

“I’m happy about it, but the win is most important. You can get as many touchdowns as you want, but if you don’t get the win, it’s pointless. We’re going to celebrate all together today.”

On the running backs picking up where injured RB C.J. Anderson left off

“I mean we’ve still got to get better as a unit. One guy goes down doesn’t mean the team doesn’t go down. We’ve just got to keep pushing and figure out what our flaws lay.”

On what he’s done to stay physically prepared to play

“I just treated it like I was active. You never know what’s going to happen in practice or in a game, so you’ve just got to prepare like you’re going to be the starter that week.”

On the importance of today’s game given the competitiveness of the AFC West

“It was a big one, and we’ve got to go straight to Oakland. It’s a big match up. We’ve played them here and there, and it’s been a great battle through the years. We’re just looking forward for a good game.”

BRONCOS SAFETY T.J. WARD

On recording an interception and a sack in the same game

“I did didn’t I. That’s what I like to do, being able to play different positions. These are the types of games I like to have.”

On being nicknamed the Tazmanian Devil

“My teammates started calling me that towards the end of my first year here, so two years ago. It’s more of a defensive thing with us, but you know how things catch fire. It’s cool. I like Taz. He was one of my favorite characters growing up.”

On he and S Darian Stewart both getting interceptions

"I told him on the sidelines, I said, 'Stew, we both got picks and we both were on the cover (of the game program) today.' We've got to be on the cover every week."

On more impressive defensive plays

"I can't pick one over the other because they all helped us get this victory. Some were just later than others. The goal-line stop, two-point conversion, all the picks, [S Justin] Simmons' sack at the end, there were a lot of good plays made."

On the play of the younger players

"I give them lesson just for being able to listen and take in everything we're throwing at them. It's a lot. Sometimes when you look at it as a veteran, you forget their point-of-view not knowing that we had our rookie, younger years where we weren't where we're at. We take it slow with them. They've caught on and they listen. That's the best thing. They listen. They take it to the field, so that's why they performed the way they did."

BRONCOS DEFENSIVE TACKLE SYLVESTER WILLIAMS

On the performance of the younger players on the defense

"Watching the work that they put in over time, throughout training camp and the off season, you're seeing those guys and you know that they're preparing and you just wait for them to get the opportunity."

On if anything changed once Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips went down

"At the end of the day, the first thing we were worried about is helping one of our leaders and making sure that he was OK. When we heard that he was OK, it was like, 'OK, let's get this win for him now.' We're a family before anything so when we see a person goes down or anything like that; the first thing we're about is their health. Once we figure out their health, then we go out and try to get a win for them."

BRONCOS DEFENSIVE END DEREK WOLFE

On if the Broncos defense takes a different approach to Chargers QB Philip Rivers

"I think we do that against any team, especially Rivers. He's a great competitor. You've got to bring it nonstop. They could be down 20 points and come back. They showed it today that they're never down, so we've got to keep coming."

On what was going through his mind late in the game

"We were being aggressive, trying to get to [Rivers] and get him on the ground. And Philip being the competitor that he is, he's going to take advantage of those situations."

On the injury to Broncos Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips

"[Linebackers Coach] Reggie [Herring] did a great job. As far as knowing when [Phillips] was OK, I didn't know until we walked in here. So it was like: 'We've got to go out here and do this for Wade so he's not so worried.' Because we know he's watching somehow. Somehow he's watching the game. It was important for us to get that one for Wade."

On what grade he would give the Broncos midway through the season

"I'd give us like a B+ right now. I think there's a lot of improvement that we need to make. We've got to play the run better on defense. We've got to stop giving up these big plays. That's what it comes down to, is giving up big plays. Then on offense, we've got to score points."

On how much he's looking forward to playing the Raiders on *Sunday Night Football* next week

"It's a big game. You look forward to big games. You look forward to every game, but you don't look forward to those games that don't mean anything. This means a lot. It's a playoff game basically. It's going to be fun."

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS HEAD COACH MIKE MCCOY

Opening statement

"It's an unfortunate situation to see what had happened during the game so from the Chargers we wish [Broncos Defensive Coordinator [Wade [Phillips]] all the best. With regards to the game, it's a good football team but too many mistakes and missed opportunities in all three phases. We didn't capitalize on some things they did so we put ourselves in some bad situations."

On the decision to throw four straight passes at the end of the game

"We called the plays we did. We didn't finish them and we didn't score. It didn't work."

On the decision to not run the ball at the end of the game

"It didn't work. We can't second guess it now. We didn't call it and we didn't score. That's all you can do."

On whether Philip Rivers checked out of any runs at the end of the game

"The plays that we ran, he ran."

On whether play calling decisions were changed based on how Denver's defense was playing

"Every time you get a play call, you run it. You try to do what's best for your team in that situation."

On the decision to go for two after penalty in fourth quarter

"Regardless of the penalty, we were trying to get it to be a field goal game. And as you could see, it was hard to move the ball against them as it was. We thought if we could get into field goal range in a three-point game then we can get a field goal at the end of the game. So we decided to do that. If we only got one [point] then we still needed a touchdown, whether you make it or don't make it. If you don't make it, it's a five-point game. If you kick an extra point it's a four-point game and you still need a touchdown there. I understand if they went down and kicked a field goal. I wasn't counting on moving the ball and kicking a field goal. That's why we played it out that way."

On the pressure Denver put on Rivers

"They've got a great defense. I mean you look at the team and it feeds off of turnovers. It starts up front with their front getting after the quarterback. You look at the holes and things like that and it creates problems for you. They did a nice job."

On if Denver had changed anything from the previous meeting in San Diego

"I think that there are some schemes in place and that is expected defensively. There is going to be adjustments as you play teams. There is going to be something that comes up as you keep seeing the same thing. Special teams are the same things. If you see a tendency, then you'll have to expose it."

On special-teams miscues

"We address that every week. It's unacceptable to have a blocked kick. We knew what they were doing and we didn't block it correctly. They came through the gap and got the block. We need to catch the ball at the end."

On the performance of the return teams

"We got to do a great job with blocking. When they do kick it short, the guys up front need to block for the returners so you got to do what you can do."

On throwing the ball four times at the goal line

"We called what we called and it didn't work. Of course we can look back now but we didn't score."

On how he felt the defense played

"I think there are a lot of positives out there with the play in the short field. Held a couple to field goals. A number of three and outs during the game. I think we're going to look at the film and be sick because we miss a number of opportunities for interceptions. Too many of those that could have held them to a scoreless drive. But overall I think there's going to be a number of positives with what they did."

On what the offense can do to prevent turnovers

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"I think anytime you get pressure on the quarterback, hands on the balls and you stop the run. But I think [RB] Melvin [Gordon] ran outstanding today. The way they play defensively, they live off of turnovers. Look at the past couple of years with this defense when you turn the ball over they do a great job. That's one big emphasis that we talk about during the week is turning the ball over. Because if you turn the ball over, you're just feeding into the defense. This team feeds off of turnovers and we learned that today."

On where the team now stands after loss to Denver

"There are some things every week that you have to correct. There's plenty of mistakes that we made today. Each week as you look at teams or look at your team and analyze the things you need to correct. The past two weeks we did enough that we needed to do to win games at the end. We have plenty to learn from today."

On closing the gap on special teams

"Every man has to do their job better. You have to look at yourself first and see what you're doing and how you correct those things as coaches. We talked about the gap and that's where it came through. They saw something and got us. So those are the things that you have to clean up because mistakes in the kicking game are game changing games."

On the missed field goal

"I didn't look at the replay but the guy just missed it. That's another critical error in the game that we can't have."

On the tipped passes at the line of scrimmage

"I got to look at the film to see where they were and to see if they pushed in the pocket. I know there were a few times where a guy was standing at the line of scrimmage and was getting pushed. Guys coming underneath putting their hands up. Each situation is different and I have to look at that on film and have a better answer tomorrow. Was it from push or was it them just tipping some balls."

On Gordon's play during game

"He ran the ball physical and he did a nice job. Downhill he got open down the field a couple times. But like we've been talking about, I'm very pleased what he's done and where he's at not just in the running game but in the passing game running routes, and then the protection part of it. He's a physical one and he did a nice job for us."

On the issues T Joe Barksdale had with the Broncos defense

"I'll have to look at the film to see exactly where he was. He looked like he was on the line scrimmage and then there were others where he was deeper and a problem getting the snap. I'll see what it is and what penalties were thrown and evaluate it from there."

On Gordon's performance today

"I think Melvin has a ton of confidence as of right now with the way he has played and what he has done. He has played at a high level for us. And there are some things where you look back the past couple weeks where he could've blocked a little cleaner. There's also been a cut or two that he's missed. But I'm looking forward to seeing the film and watching how he played today."

CHARGERS QUARTERBACK PHILIP RIVERS

On the loss

"You understating it when you say they're a pretty good team. That's a really good team. We split with them this year. We didn't play our best and they're to be commended for causing us to not play our best. There's another team over there trying to beat us and they did that today. It wasn't my best game by any means, but I think the two turnovers were key. I wished I would have thrown the one a little bit better. As we know this ball is not round, it's funny sometimes and they scored there. [WR] Griff [Whalen] and I weren't on the same page there. We're in a tough spot with what we're doing with receivers, shuffling them around. It's not an excuse, but Griff and I have never done that route. You feel like you should be able and I didn't do a good enough job reading his body language on that one. Thankfully the defense got a turnover there so we could get it right back and then we went 98 yards on the best defense in the league to score. The other one was the first one, the one turnover that was really an ill-advised throw. I had nobody and I was trying to throw it to [WR] Travis [Benjamin] in the spot that it was either him

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maybe or nobody, but they drove on it. They beat him to that spot, they intercepted it and had a touchdown three plays later. Two turnovers led directly to 14 points. When you do that against this defense, you're probably not going to win. I feel like that's their formula for winning. That's been their formula for winning the last few years. They had one of, if not the best quarterback of all time the last few years so that defense with him was even better. Now obviously they're forming, leading turnovers and scored touchdowns in defense. They're tough to beat. All of that considered, we gave ourselves a chance to win and we fought like crazy but came up short."

On San Diego's run game

"After the fact you kind of go, 'shoot, maybe we should have ran once or twice down there [in Bronco's territory.] But when you're going and you're in the heat of it, you feel like you have a chance to throw it and score with what we called. That third down miss to [TE Antonio] Gates is what I'm really sick about. They brought up the same coverage four straight plays and are going to have an unlocked defender every time. I was trying to lay that quarter out to Gates like I've done a lot of times over the last 10 years, and just missed him. If we hit that there we would have had a chance at a two-point conversion to tie it up. We fell a little short there and our defense did a heck of a job in getting it right back for us. Again, our defense kept us in the game. Our defense deserves a heck of a lot of credit because they kept it as the game that it was and the offense just couldn't ever get over the hump. We had two really good goes, the first drive of the game and then the 98-yard drive. Those two were great but other than that, we couldn't sustain anything against those guys."

On offensive lull throughout the game

"I think they're the number one defense in the league. I feel like it's the kind of thing that I expected. Obviously I didn't expect to turn it over three times, and I thought we'd do a little better fronting some drives or doing more in some of those drives, but this is what this defense does. We got off to a heck of a start. I think the six of eight they've given up in the first round of the game, we've done it twice, a little six but then we hit a little lull. That's a good defense over there. I'm really aggravated about the second interception of the game, the one that Travis ran out before they score a touchdown. I'm really aggravated about that one. That one was what I'd call a bad decision because I came into this game saying a punt is a good play, a punt is okay. If we keep punting and pin them down in there, it's going to be a field position kind of game and it was. When you turn it over three times, one for a touchdown and the second one they score three plays later, those two directly led to 14 points. Obviously we just have to make those plays."

On keeping the season going after this loss

"I'm fired up. We have two at home to get 5-5, get the bye and we go. We have a six game season. This feels a little bit like our 2007 season to me. I don't think we're nearly as healthy as we were in 2007 at this point in the year considering all of the injuries that we got today, but it feels a little bit like that. We him-hawed around and found a way to get to 5-5 and never looked back. I believe we can win every game, but I removed myself from being quarterback and looked at the three game stretch we just finished. I said, 'we have to get two out of three' and we did when probably most picked us to lose all three. Shoot, we beat the odds there and we're going to go home and win two and get to 5-5. I can't wait."

On his discussions with the referees at the end of the game

"I don't know that in those four downs that I had any chatter. I had a little bit in the first two-point conversion but we'll watch the tape. There was nothing with the referees. It was all questions and never anything crazy from that standpoint. But we had our chances. We had four shots from the two to make it a two-point game and we didn't do it. Our defense deserves a lot of credit because they kept us in it."

On what the team's defense does for the offense

"They kept getting it back for us. In that lull, they kept getting it back for us. It was 10-7 at the half and my thought was, 'what did we think this was going to be?' This is what we thought, that it was going to be a three-point game one way or the other. We battled them to the end but made too many mistakes and they caused a handful of them. That's a heck of a group up front, that's a heck of a group they have at secondary. Our prayers are with Bronco's [Defensive Coordinator] Coach Wade [Phillips] and we hope he's alright. That's a heck of a coaching staff over there that's defending as well. We knew with was going to be easy but if we could have just done a little more. A lot of that is self-inflicted. That's a good team over there."

On Denver's pass rush

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“It’s a heck of a group and I thought our guys up front fought like crazy. I took a few hits, but that’s part of playing this position in this league when you play against that pass rush. They didn’t have a sack fumble though and that’s what they do. I thought we did a good job of managing that as best as we could and we still ended up with a lot of yards. The game is about scoring one more point than the other team and a lot of yards against that defense. We didn’t score enough points and so they won today. We split with the Denver Broncos this year. We would have loved to have beaten them twice, but we didn’t get it done.”

CHARGERS RIGHT TACKLE JOE BARKSDALE

On whether the loss stings

“It does, but it’s part of the business. Things aren’t going to go your way every Sunday. Whether it be calls, play calls or result. Things just aren’t going to go your way every time. I commend my teammates for sticking together, and we’re going to have to get back at it. The season’s not over, it’s only halfway through. I feel like we’re getting better every week, so all we can do is play for the next one.”

On QB Philip Rivers’ spirit and attitude

“He’s a competitor. I guarantee you that’s why half of the free agents they’ve ever signed have come here. He’s a really good quarterback and good leader. Sometimes he does a good job of being the voice of reason for the team.”

CHARGERS WIDE RECEIVER TRAVIS BENJAMIN

On what went wrong offensively for the Chargers

“They got points from their defense and we just had to eliminate our mistakes and just go out and play our game. This is a tough loss for us since it’s a divisional game. We just have to go out next week and try to bounce back.”

On what caused the offense to struggle after a fast start

“The first drive we came out and scored. After that, we just kept stalling. We couldn’t complete third downs. We had false starts and holding penalties that also pushed our offense back. So, we just have to go out and correct those things and keep moving forward.”

On his third quarter touchdown catch in the back of the end zone

“It was a double move. We had been working on it a lot during practice. I knew that if I could get leverage on [Broncos CB Lorenzo Doss] on the inside then [QB] Philip [Rivers] would put it out there for me. I just locked in on the inside and tipped the ball and got one hand out there and brought it in. It was a great catch for me but two hands are usually better than one. I don’t work on one hand (catches) at all. I always go for two hands.”

On how important it was to at least show up and play well in a big road divisional game before heading back home

“It was very important. Every game is important from now on for us. We’re 3-5 now. We want to be over .500 and try to keep stacking wins. Hopefully everyone else will fall and we’ll just keep thriving.”

On the Broncos’ defense

“We all know that they’re front seven is incredible and the back end with [Broncos CB Chris] Harris [Jr.], [Broncos CB Aqib] Talib and [Broncos S T.J.] Ward and all those guys. That’s probably the best defense in the game. We just have to eliminate our mistakes and keep pushing forward with this offense.”

On what makes the Broncos’ defense so good

“They capitalized on our mistakes. They always had 10 or 11 guys around the ball so each and every time there was a tipped ball or a ball on the ground, they were going the other way with it.”

CHARGERS RUNNING BACK MELVIN GORDON

On whether there was a slow start offensively

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"It took until the second half and that's not how it should be. We know we're an explosive offense and we know what type of team Denver is. We can't start off slow, we have to come out and be ready to go from the get-go."

On the goal-to-go calls in the fourth quarter

"Whatever they call up, we have great guys around us to make plays all over. We have [TE] Antonio Gates, we have [WR] Dontrelle [Inman], [WR Travis] Benjamin and we have a lot of guys to make plays so it is what it is. We just have to keep fighting."

On the incident with Broncos Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips

"I was running a bullet and I think [Broncos OLB] Von [Miller] had pushed me out and I didn't know I hurt him, I didn't even know it was me. I hope he's OK. You're in a game and usually if it's a player, they usually catch you, regardless of what side it's on. They try to catch you. I just kind of ran into him and I couldn't stop. I was going too fast. I'm really sorry about that, especially when I found out that I was the one that kind of hurt him and there wasn't any mean intention on that."

On whether he's frustrated with the offensive play

"It's frustrating, it's always frustrating when you lose. We just couldn't get things rolling in the first half on our end of the ball and we have to fix that. We know what type of offense we are, we just have to come out hot."

CHARGERS CORNERBACK CASEY HAYWARD

On missed opportunities on defense

"Early in the first half we had some chances to make plays. We dropped some interceptions. You wish you could have those plays back because their defense made those plays in the first half. We've got to try to match good defenses. We're a good defense, so when we're playing against good defenses we know it's going to be a battle."

On forcing takeaways

"We matched them, but they weren't in big moments. Early in the first half I dropped a pick-six. I wish I could have that back. The outcome changes. Even though we had a fumble on that same drive, it's not a touchdown. We just have to find a way to make plays when our time comes. Causing turnovers is a major key on defense. Turnovers, tackles for losses, basically anytime you can get the offense the ball back is a key."

On how disappointing this loss was

"The worst part is that it's a division game. We try to win every game, of course. Every week you try to be 1-0. This was a division game and we had our chances to win that game. Shout out to them. They're a good team. They've got a good defense and some good players on offense. They made key plays when they had to."

On his pick-six

"I don't really remember it really. I just remember the ball being in the air. I was in the right spot at the right time, and I caught the ball. I made a play. I told [Broncos CB] Bradley [Roby] after the game I had to match him. I'm cool with Roby, so I told him I had to match him."

CHARGERS TIGHT END HUNTER HENRY

On the fight of team

"We fight hard but we just gave them too much and it just sucks. We gave them a touchdown and we gave them a couple turnovers. We put our defense in a bad position. It hurts and it sucks."

On whether this game is a game that could have been

"Like I said, we made a lot of mistakes and it just sucks and it happens. We just have to learn from it and move on."

On their fourth quarter goal line stand

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“We just didn’t execute. We just didn’t make plays and we have to learn from them and come back next week.”

CHARGERS OUTSIDE LINEBACKER MELVIN INGRAM

On how much this team has grown

“We’re never going to be the same. You’re not the same person that you were yesterday. You either get better or you get worse. We’re trying to get better every week. We hold each other accountable to get better every week.”

On how well the defense is playing

“We pride ourselves on that. We go out every day and grind, grind, grind. We want to be known as one of the best defenses in the league and those are the things you have to do to be known as one.”

CHARGERS INSIDE LINEBACKER KOREY TOOMER

On the turnovers that led to San Diego points

“As a defense you’ve got to (force turnovers) and that’s what we fed off of. There were a couple of missed opportunities, but we couldn’t go back and get those so we made up for it in the second half. It is what it is but it comes down to the fact that we didn’t win the game despite those turnovers.”

On how forced turnovers benefit the offense

“Those were big plays. As a defense, we went out and practiced this week and worked hard on forcing turnovers and we came up with a few of them. We were able to put our offense in good position to go and score touchdowns.”

On the Broncos’ defense

“What can you say, it’s Denver. They always have a great defense. We just need to keep showing up as a defense, as a team and play well.”