



## LOS ANGELES RAMS

### Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – November 15, 2018

#### **(On his reaction to moving the Monday Night Football game to Los Angeles)**

"We were excited about the opportunity to play in Mexico City, but I think it's a great demonstration of the league's consideration for our players – when you talk about all the efforts that are being made to take care of them, to put them in safe atmospheres and environments. If you're talking about putting them on a field that could potentially put them at risk, this is clearly the right thing to do and I think the players feel appreciated about that. It's something we feel good about. We're certainly not going to complain about getting a chance to play at the Coliseum and in front of a great atmosphere on Monday night."

#### **(On if it gives them an advantage to be at home on Monday night against the Chiefs)**

"Oh yeah, certainly. I think the atmospheres and the environments that we've seen from the Coliseum thus far, has been exactly what you want. You talk about creating a home-field advantage, being able to do some things. Monday night, only game that's on, against a great opponent – we have a lot of respect for them. Excited about having a great week of preparation and hopefully being ready to go on Monday night when we kickoff."

#### **(On if the decision to stay in Colorado Springs was easy to make once it was confirmed the game was being moved rather than returning immediately to Los Angeles)**

"Yeah, it did. With all the things going on right now, I think there's some guys that, at the time, wouldn't have been able to get back into their houses. There's a lot of things that we were doing here. One of them was, obviously, to get ready for playing in the elevation and different things like that. It does still serve you well to train in these environments, even going back down to where we'll be at with just the altitude as far as when we're in L.A. So, it'll help us out. Then really, we looked at it as another chance to kind of get away before the bye week, continue to connect as a team where there's not any real distractions. Then, being able to have guys' families here as well with what (Owner/Chairman) Mr. (E. Stanley) Kroenke and (Executive Vice President of Football Operations/Chief Operating Officer) Kevin Demoff ended up setting up, I think enabled guys to feel good about staying here. We'll go back on Saturday and then have Sunday and all day Monday to get ready to go."

#### **(On how much being in Colorado Springs and connecting as a team and with their families helps the players with everything that's going on)**

"I think so. I think, if anything, the last week has really made you appreciate the perspective that this gives you. What's so special about football is the brotherhood that you share with the teammates, the coaches, the rapport and just the camaraderie. There's nothing like it. To be able to go through some of these things, to also know that when you're going through real life adversity outside of football, that you have a support system, you have people that care about you unconditionally – that's what's real. I think that's made you appreciate things and like we've talked about, just giving you a perspective on not getting worked up over things that – I'm really talking to myself as far as just kind of the little bubble that we live in."

#### **(On if he talks to CB Marcus Peters about going against his former team, the Chiefs)**

"Yeah, we'll talk about it. There's still a few days to go before that time comes. But, we have dialogue, whether it's playing the Chiefs or anybody throughout the course of the week. Certainly, you don't shy away from the fact that there's some elements that, he's got a history there, did a lot of great things. He's got

close friends on the team and a history and a lot of relationships. So, I don't think you ever shy away from those conversations. But as far as the expectations for (CB) Marcus (Peters), we expect him to play at a high level. I know he'll be excited about the opportunity to play on Monday night. He'll have a lot of family, I think, coming from Oakland to be able to support him in L.A. It wouldn't be anything different, but you don't ignore the fact that this is his former team and that naturally comes with some other feelings, just based on the history and the relationships you have."

**(On Peters having the reputation of being hard to coach and if McVay has ever experienced that)**

"I haven't seen any of that. I think the one thing that I've really appreciated in my dealings personally with Marcus is how receptive he is to being coached. He's clearly a very smart, instinctual player. He's got a good feel for the game. He's passionate about it. I think that I've been able to learn some things from him and enjoy being around him. I think what we've seen from him is a mentally-tough player. Physically, he's extremely talented and really enjoyed the time with him and continuing to look forward to working with him in the future."

**(On if Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes compares to any other quarterback)**

"I think just based on the nature of (Chiefs Head) Coach (Andy) Reid's history with a Brett Favre and just the arm talent and ability to speed it up – things like that – you could say that. I think what you're seeing is a great player. Really, I've been so impressed with his ability to sustain from the way he started against the (Los Angeles) Chargers in Week 1 and going back to how well he played against Arizona (Cardinals). You look at the explosives, the ability to create on-schedule. You can see, he's really recognizing coverage – eye-manipulations and understanding where the ball should go based on the concept that Coach Reid's calling. Just clearly, some of the throws. You think about it on Monday night when they're playing Denver (Broncos) earlier in the season, he gets flushed to his left on a third-and-long and throws all the way across his body to (Chiefs TE Travis) Kelce. He's made some plays that you just sit back and you can't help but just say, 'Wow, what a great play.' They've got that that consistently shows up on their tape with, really, their offense as a whole. He's doing an excellent job leading. I think Coach Reid's system is sound and he does an excellent job calling plays and putting those guys in good spots. You see why they're arguably the best offense, or one of the best offenses in the league without a doubt."

**(On how the team is doing health-wise)**

"We're good. We're feeling pretty good right now. I'll be interested to see – looking forward to getting (WR) Pharaoh Cooper back out there, seeing how physically ready he is to go and if that affects whether he is active on gameday or not. But for the most part, we're very healthy right now and that's a credit to (Senior Director, Sports Medicine and Performance) Reggie (Scott) and his staff."

**(On how he expects the Rams defense to respond against the Chiefs after last week's performance)**

"I expect them to respond with a great week of preparation. I think our defensive coaches have started putting together a good gameplan that we feel like is conducive for putting our players, number one, in good spots. Then doing some things that try to take away what they've had a lot of success with. It's easy to say, 'Oh, you're going to stop one thing or the other,' you can't do that. This is a great offense that has a variety of ways that they can beat you and attack you. We've got to be sound. We've got to make sure that we keep our gap integrity in the run game, we're sound with our coverage matches. It's going to be a great challenge, but I think our guys will be excited about the opportunity to compete against one of the best offenses in the league, for sure."

**(On if the Chiefs are a team that he regularly watches and studies to see if there's something he can mimic)**

"Oh, for sure. I think, like you've heard me say before, really our coaching staff as a whole, is a fan of the game. There's so much good tape. With the ability to easily access it week-in and week-out, it'd be silly for us not to be able to look and see what the heck they're doing. Every single week, they do something and you say, 'That's pretty good.' Guys are making great plays. I'd be lying if I said we haven't stolen some of their stuff this year (laughs). They do a great job."

**(On if he's planning to use their plays on them)**

"You'll have to wait and see (laughs)."

**(On how Colorado Springs has been)**

"It's been great. I think The Broadmoor (Resort) has done an excellent job really accommodating us. What a beautiful place. You can just appreciate – it's just the fresh air, the amenities that this thing has and then, I haven't really had a chance to get out and explore. We're in the midst of game planning and things like that, but I know our players have enjoyed it. They got a chance to go to the (Denver) Nuggets-(Houston) Rockets game the other night. I think it's been a great getaway for the team to be together and kind of bond. Certainly, the facilities have been excellent for us."

**(On if he spoke with the Patriots about their time at Colorado Springs last year)**

"I did. I got a chance just to be able to – one of the things that you appreciate about getting to know some of these guys. (Patriots Head) Coach (Bill) Belichick was very helpful with regards to just saying how their process was. That was something that we actually reached out to them, knowing that they played Oakland (Raiders) last year in (Mexico). It was something that we felt good about, using the resources with Reggie Scott, (Director of Strength Training and Performance) Ted Rath and from a sports science approach. Some of the things that we did last year, we felt like it was a good fit. But certainly, anybody like a Bill Belichick, if they're able to give you a perspective, it'd be silly not to be able to listen and try to apply it if it fits for us."

**(On if he was on board with Marcus Peters' response to Saints Head Coach Sean Payton)**

"You know what, I think it's a fine line. I think that you want to allow people to be themselves. As long as it doesn't take away from the team, his ability to play at a high level regardless of whatever those things are. I think you guys were more uncomfortable than I am answering this question right now (laughs). But, no, honestly as long as it doesn't hurt the team and it's all in good nature, I think we're okay with that. I think we take a commonsensical approach. If it's something that goes to that fact of where you're like, 'Okay, we know that.' I think Marcus knows what that line is and I want to be consistent. But you also don't want to be naive to the fact that guys have fun. I like talking a little bit back and forth with some of the defensive or offensive guys that you know when you have a relationship with. I know (Saints Head) Coach (Sean) Payton and Marcus have competed against each other. I think there's a mutual respect, but there's a competitive nature and that's what makes this game fun."