



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – November 29, 2018

(On if there is any update on CB Aqib Talib after yesterday's practice)

"Yeah, he did a good job. He did a nice job. I think he got more and more comfortable as the practice progressed, which was a positive thing. Typically, you wonder do you actually feel like it starts to bother you as it progresses and it was the exact opposite. He's a guy that, he's played a lot of football. He's got such a good feel. But, his presence out there is such a big boost to our football team. As far as what that means for his role this weekend, we're figuring that out as the week progresses. But, it was definitely a very good step in the right direction with the way yesterday went."

(On if he's leaning towards Talib playing on Sunday)

"Yeah, I think the anticipation is we'd like that to be able to happen. What does that mean in terms of snap count? What exactly that role is? Really, it is something that we're going to continue to evaluate based on the way that his ankle responds. If things go the way that we anticipate, we hope and what we expect, then I think you can expect to see him playing. How much will be determined as the week progresses."

(On if there are any updates on RB Todd Gurley II)

"Yeah, really, great practice yesterday. I think he came out with a great energy. Did an excellent job locking in on some of the little details specific to this gameplan and some of the things that we're trying to get done on Sunday. That's what he does all the time though. That's why he's a great player. He would never say that anything was bothering him. He's so physically tough and mentally tough, but he's feeling good and we're expecting him to be his normal self."

(On if he thinks a running back can win the MVP and if he thinks a running back should have the opportunity)

"I'm not a voter for that. I know that he's certainly a very important player to us. I think it's just predicated on how you deem what is the most valuable based on the team. We've got a lot of players that are extremely important to us. We're certainly glad that (RB) Todd (Gurley II) is our running back. As far as who should be available for MVP and not, that's not for me to say. I know that he's a very good football player that's instrumental in a lot of things that we do. Couldn't be happier to work with a player like him."

(On if a quarterback is more valuable than a running back to a coach)

"You don't ever want to say one player is more valuable than the other. But I think based on the nature of the position, the quarterback typically has a lot more influence on the outcomes of the game, just based on the amount of snaps that the ball is in their hand and how you operate in a lot of the situational things where, inevitably at some point, even if you want to run it as much as possible, you're going to have to drop back and throw it. Does that mean that a running back can't be involved in the progression and things like that? No, but I think just based on the amount of opportunities to influence and affect the outcome of the game, the quarterback does have more of an influence on that based on the nature of the position."

(On having a good game coming out of the bye week last year and if there is anything he's trying to emulate from that for this game)

"I feel like the guys did a pretty good job with the game before the bye and after the bye last year. I think it's just about consistently playing good football. I think the bye did come at a good time for us – where any

time that you're going 11 weeks straight, just based on the nature of the physicality of the game, our guys were ready for a little bit of rest and recovery. I think our guys have done an excellent job taking care of themselves, getting themselves ready to go. Then, in a lot of instances, especially at this time of the year, you really maximize the physical reps, but a lot of it is that above the neck approach because of where you're at and how important it is to get these guys as fresh as possible for when kickoff comes on those Sundays or whenever it is that you're kicking off. So, I expect us to play and continue to improve like we say and I know it gets monotonous, but one of the things you see in the short time that I've been fortunate enough to be in this league, when you just look around and you have an appreciation for the good teams that are doing it the right way and giving themselves a chance to play later on past the regular season, they progressively get better. That's what we hope to do. That's what our guys are doing every single day to give themselves a chance to improve and we want to see it show up on Sundays."

(On having a transition on the coaching staff offensively going into the season and how that's gone and on Senior Offensive Assistant Jedd Fisch's role)

"Losing two great coaches like (Titans Offensive Coordinator) Matt LaFleur and (Raiders Offensive Coordinator) Greg Olson, that's tough. Fortunately for us we had some great coaches in-house that were able to seamlessly step into leadership roles and do an excellent job commanding their rooms, commanding our offense. When you talk about (Run Game Coordinator) Aaron Kromer and (Pass Game Coordinator) Shane Waldron, I feel so fortunate the things that I learned from working with them. The influence they have on our staff, they're great coaches and (Quarterbacks Coach) Zac Taylor has done a phenomenal job. With (Senior Offensive Assistant) Jedd (Fisch) he's a great coach. A guy that's had a lot of experience, a guy that I've known for a while just based on some mutual connections. You talk about a guy that's had a lot of success as a coordinator, as a play-caller, as a leader. But then just understanding the intricacies of offensive football, extremely detailed, great communicator and he's done a phenomenal job. I think the biggest thing with our staff as a whole is everybody does their role extremely well. They know exactly how they want to own that, but then we're all collectively learning from each other, positively pushing each other, like you want your players to do and I think that's what creates a healthy environment."

(On if they will keep WR Pharoah Cooper returning kicks and WR JoJo Natson returning punts)

"Yes, that's what we anticipate. We'll keep it the same."

(On OLB Dante Fowler's increased role in the Chiefs game and if OLB Matt Longacre will play more this week)

"Yeah, I think so. (OLB) Dante (Fowler Jr.) is going to play a bigger and bigger role as we move forward. Really, the reason that (OLB) Matt (Longacre) wasn't active for that game was specific to some of the things that we were going to do defensively to defend Kansas City. It's going to be a little bit different approach. Based on how this gameplan continues to evolve is something that we'll discuss as a staff as the week progresses. But, that was specific. It wasn't anything Matt did or didn't do. He's been a very good player for us, but he didn't do anything that was like, "All right, he's not playing at a certain level.' It was just specific to the gameplan."

(On having to play an early game on the eastern timezone and if there's any adjustments they've made to try to get players prepared)

"That's one of the things that we learned from last year, which was really the first time just from being when I've coached on teams in Washington and Tampa, never really had those issues come up except for maybe every couple years. Last year, we had to take six trips on Fridays and I can't remember how many of those games were actually early kickoffs. But I think are guys do an excellent job, really where I'm leaning on (Senior Director of Sports Medicine and Performance) Reggie (Scott) and (Director of Strength Training and Performance) Ted (Rath) as far as how can we get their biological clocks up to speed in terms of being able to adjust and adapt to being able to kickoff earlier than what you're really ready for being on the West Coast. We'll travel two days out in advance and we've kind of got a rhythm that we're comfortable with last year and that's something that we'll continue to do this year."

(On if Lions Head Coach Matt Patricia ever reached out to him for advice about how to handle certain situations as a head coach during the offseason)

"You know what, I've got a lot of respect. He's got a lot more experience than I do. He's been a great coach for a long time at an extremely successful place. He's got a great command on how he wants to do things. It's really cool because you get a chance at some of the owners' meetings and different things to share different ideas. But I don't think there's anything that he's going to learn from me. He's seen it done the right way for a long time and putting his imprint on it. The thing that's really been unique, really just for me being a younger coach, I felt so embraced by just the way that I've been treated where you're trying to learn, and people are willing to share – specific to like the other head coaches around the league, and that's what's been a unique thing. (Lions Head Coach) Matt (Patricia) and I certainly have a friendship and things like that, but hasn't really been anything where he's asking for advice or a perspective on stuff."