



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – December 12, 2018

(On the offensive line's performance over the last few games and if there's a specific cause and what they can do to get back on track)

"Yes, I think really unless we know what they're being asked to do on every single play, really, I would say as an offense we expect to play better. I think it starts with me with the play selection, putting our guys in good spots and then it's our ability to execute. But you do want to give credit to the defensive fronts, they've done a nice job. When you talk about whether it's you're asking about protection, different things like that, it's really about all 11 and we got to do a good job. Starting with the coaches, putting our players in positions, giving them clarity, asking them – making sure that they know exactly how we want to get the things done that we're trying to execute. And then it's about everybody playing within the timing, the rhythm of whatever that specific play is and the ball coming out and guys separating in that time. I would say that it's a combination of some different things, I wouldn't say it's been a falloff or anything like that. There's been specific instances and plays that might stand out when you're just looking at it that it's, you know, typically uncharacteristic of what we've put on tape. But like anything else, we learn from it, our guys will respond the right way and we got a great challenge this week, and that's what you love about football. You don't have too long to feel sorry for yourself about things not working out, we move forward and that's exactly what our players will do."

(On what went into the decision to bring back OL Jamil Demby)

"He was a guy that we felt good about. It was a tough decision when you have him on the practice squad and then somebody wants to be able to take him and put him on their active roster. But he was a guy that (Run Game Coordinator) Coach (Aaron) Kromer felt strongly about. He had done some nice things throughout the course of the preseason and we kind of had that spot to give. We were a little more thin than most teams at the offensive line spot with really seven guys on the active and then those two guys that are up that both had to play the other night. So, you want to be able to continue to add some depth to that room and somebody that we had some history with that we felt good about."

(On if signing Demby gives an indication of the health of the offensive line or if it's merely an extra body)

"Yep, it's merely an extra body and we really had a spot to give at that position. Where we were carrying eight and then when (Giants G) Jamon (Brown) ended up leaving us, we didn't end up actually replacing an offensive lineman with that spot. It was more of a reflection of some of the nice things that he had done and then us having a spot to give."

(On if he is aware of Eagles Head Coach Doug Pederson saying that QB Carson Wentz wasn't going to practice, his status possibly being up in the air and how does that affect the way they prepare for them)

"Yes, we had had heard that. Doesn't affect much because (Eagles QB) Carson's (Wentz) a great football player, but they also were able to win a Super Bowl with (Eagles QB) Nick (Foles) playing really high-level football. So, for us I think some of the things specific to accentuating those players' skill sets might be a little bit different, but we haven't gotten any word – we know he didn't practice, but we don't know anything about his game availability. They do a great job offensively and you see a lot of like concepts whether Nick's playing or whether Carson's playing. Certainly, we are aware of that, but it doesn't change anything in terms

of our focus, our concentration and our preparation with regards to just the way we go about today and the rest of the week as it progresses."

(On his opinion of QB Jared Goff's performance over the last couple of weeks and if he saw anything in common between Goff's performances against Detroit and Chicago)

"I think it's a combination of some different things. We try to look at things with the entire picture in mind. I think he's done a really nice job this year. I think anytime that you get some pressure, it's always a little bit more difficult to operate. When you got it clean and you got the ability to be able to progress, see the coverage, different things like that. It's always difficult to navigate when you're playing against some good defenses where they are able to apply pressure. But our production offensively is a reflection of the entire unit and then also us as coaches. The number one thing is, that's where – last week was a great humbling day, certainly for me like I mentioned, and you get a chance to really look at yourself and you don't have any time to feel bad about it. You got to look at it, you can't avoid some of the things that led to us not playing well but I think (QB) Jared's (Goff) played really well. He made a couple throws too with some people in his face that were pretty impressive the other night. He'll be the first to tell you he's got to take good care of the football and we can't make some decisions. But I think I also got to stop putting our players in some spots that aren't really conducive for finding a way of having success on those given plays. If everybody executes their role to the best of their ability, we feel like more times than not good things will happen for our offense."

(On if in situations where you can't get the run going or the play actions, is it up to the quarterback to make those throws with the pressure)

"Yeah, I mean I look at it as it's up to me to have a better feel for the flow of the game and not put us in positions where some of those things can occur. And then he's got a level of responsibility as our leader of our offense and doing some different things. But, for us, we always talk about making good decisions from the quarterback spot. There were some times where there wasn't a whole lot of decisions we can make other than really throwing it away. The best part about Jared is he does a great job learning from it, he doesn't let it affect his ability to move forward. I though his demeanor throughout the course of the game, as frustrating as the other night was, was exactly what we love about him. Even keeled, wasn't flustered at all, but he knows that he can play better, and everybody can do a little bit better. And we feel like if we do that as a group, it will lead to the results that we've gotten more times than not this year."

(On if the Eagles are a different team this season compared to when they played Philadelphia last year and how Eagles RB Darren Sproles changes things)

"They've got a great system and then they've got great players to be able to match and put those guys in spots. I think when you really look at it, getting (RB Darren) Sproles back, he's really kind of one of the ultimate guys that can do a lot of different things coming out of the backfield. He's stout enough to compete in protection. When you get him matched up, he does a great job. He had a big third down conversion last week where he's running a rail route down the right sideline against Dallas. So, he's a big-time weapon for them. (Eagles TE) Zach Ertz, like we mentioned, is having one of the more prolific seasons as a tight end and really can do a lot of different things. Got great hands, ability to separate. Then, you look at (Eagles WR Nelson) Agholor and you look at some of those guys with (Eagles WR) Alshon Jeffery doing a lot of things. Then, (Eagles WR) Golden Tate is a guy that you know is a really good football player. I thought he did some great stuff against Washington, but finding creative ways to get the ball in his hands. Then, (Eagles RB Josh) Adams out of Notre Dame has done a nice job at the running back spot. (Eagles QB Carson) Wentz is getting healthier, like you can see. He's playing really good football right now and you just cut up and watch just some of the stuff that he's done, it's been really impressive. But if he's not able to go, (Eagles QB) Nick Foles certainly has played really good football and kind of led them to a world title last year. So, no matter who it is, it's going to be a great challenge for our team."

(On if he feels any drop off as a playcaller since WR Cooper Kupp has been out of the lineup given the way the trio of starting wide receivers with him, Robert Woods and Brandin Cooks complemented each other the first part of the season)

"I don't think you want to take away – (WR) Josh (Reynolds) has done a great job. We feel more than confident in Josh's ability where he's been a starter. We've played really good football when he's been a guy that's been playing almost every single snap. But to say that you're going to replace a player like (WR)

Cooper Kupp – I'm not saying like replace Josh with Cooper, but when you miss a player of his caliber, no matter what his role is – and really similar with (RB) Malcolm Brown as well – you miss those guys because it's all about the entirety of what you can present, what these players are able to do and then us putting them in the spots that allows them to try to have success. Cooper was having a great year, doing a lot of different things, but I think, really, our receiving group as a whole – and you add Josh right into that mix – has become really part of that group that's playing really well. To say that you don't miss Cooper wouldn't be fair, but that's not a reflection of – Josh has played starting-caliber football. You look at whether it's the Kansas City (Chiefs) game, the Green Bay (Packers) game, made a handful of plays that enabled us to be able to win that. Did a good job against Detroit (Lions) as well. I don't think, really, any of us played up to the standards that we expect to against the (Chicago) Bears last week. So, to say that you don't miss those guys wouldn't be accurate, but it's not a reflection on how Josh has played because he's certainly done a great job."

(On how RBs Justin Davis and John Kelly performed against the Bears on Sunday night)

"Obviously, we don't want to get the holding call that starts us really far back, from (RB) John (Kelly), but those guys are just continuing to progress. I don't think we were able to get any sort of rhythm offensively where you're really sustaining drives, so that was more a result of (RB) Todd (Gurley II) being able to stay in. It wasn't like you're really sustaining drives back and forth and he needs a blow here and there. I think in an ideal situation, in a scenario we're able to have a little bit more continuity offensively within the framework of our drives, and then that is when you need to have (RB) Justin (Davis) or John Kelly come in and spell Todd a little bit. So, we'll see. Hopefully that'll be the case this week, but again, it's a good challenge for us going against (Eagles Defensive Coordinator) Coach (Jim) Schwartz and the Eagles defense."

(On what he saw from WR Robert Woods on tape from his time with the Buffalo Bills and what made him confident in signing Woods as a free agent)

"Really, it goes back to kind of like what we've talked about before. I remember evaluating him, or just watching him play at USC, even as a true freshman when he's making plays. He had a great body lean where he could open his stride up, put it down, make all his routes look the same. You could see the ability to create after the catch. Good, aggressive hands. Then, when you continue to watch him, sometimes it's harder to evaluate a receiver because a lot of it is predicated on the opportunities that you're getting or some of the circumstances and situations. You could see a guy that consistently separated. Working with (Redskins Wide Receivers Coach) Ike Hilliard in Washington, he actually coached him in Buffalo as well and thought the world of him. Then, when you kind of go back and you really evaluate him closely, you see a guy that's making a lot of plays, doing a great job. You talk to (Run Game Coordinator) Coach (Aaron) Kromer about him, he's going to compete with and without the football. He's been even better than what I expected, as much confidence as we had when we were able to sign him. His versatility, what he does, his leadership, just kind of the way that he goes about his business day-in and day-out, you love working with guys like that."

(On if he considers signing Woods to have been a steal)

"Yeah, I think so. I think his agent would probably say that too."

(On bouncing back from losses, what he believes that's a product of and how the team typically responds to losses including this week)

"We try to be the same. We try not to let the circumstances dictate our response, whether it's good or bad. That consistency, like you hear us talk about, allows us to hopefully be consistent with regards to the way that we're performing on Sundays. That's the truest measurement of performance, but I would say it's a credit to our players' mental toughness and their ability to know, 'Okay, let's look at what the reason was why we weren't able to obtain the outcome that we wanted to. What can we do to try to fix that?' We want to be solution-oriented and if we do that, then we can have an eyes-up, moving forward mentality. We don't want to allow previous things that didn't work out in our manner, to affect our ability to respond, be in the present and focus on getting better. That's one of the things I think is important. We talk about it all the time, not allowing the past to hijack your ability to move forward, but you don't want to avoid it. We're not going to make excuses, but sometimes these setbacks, like we said, are great opportunities to respond. You can

really show a lot more when you do go through some adversity than when everything always works out in your favor."