



POSTGAME QUOTES

**Carolina Panthers vs. Los Angeles Rams
Sunday, September 8, 2019**

Los Angeles Rams

***Head Coach Sean McVay
Los Angeles Rams***

RE: Game summary

Good hard fought win today. I thought Carolina did a great job. Credit to Coach Rivera and his group - made it as difficult as it gets, but ultimately it's about coming on the road and finding a way to get a win and we did that as a team and that's the goal. The beauty of it is there's a lot of things, starting with myself, we can look at and get cleaned up and move forward – get cleaned up. Looking towards a very, very good New Orleans Saints football team coming to our place next week. At the end of the day we got some big turnovers from our defense. It was great to see Todd Gurley finish that game. You get into a four-minute situation and he's able to close it out. I think he finished just under 100 [yards]. I think he and Malcom (Brown – RB) did an excellent job in addition to our offensive line, really getting great push – especially as the game wore on where we were able to get off some more rushing attempts where we were heavy throwing it early on in that game. That was the biggest thing was to be able to come away with a win and ultimately, we did that as a team.

RE: Todd Gurley late game performance

I think each game dictates a different response to that, but today (that) was the case for sure. I thought he did a great job closing it out, really kind of helped out to get to the 2nd and short – then we were able to finish it out where he gets another good run right there – able to bounce it. I thought he had some great runs – running through some arm tackles. You could see the explosion once he gets to the second and third level and then like anything else, you get yourself in the game shape. It's humid out here, but he made some big time runs. Really, he and Malcom (Brown) both; really our running back group as whole was outstanding.

RE: Was heat a factor with Todd Gurley game strategy

It was more the flow of the game more than anything else. We were just kind of feeling it out. Skip (Peete – RB Coach) does a great job of kind of having the autonomy to be able to roll them and the confidence that we have both in Todd and Malcom, that was kind of really more than anything else.

RE: First time players

I think until we go back and look at the tape there is always, first and foremost, there's going to be things that I feel like I can do a better job of in terms of enabling our players to get into the flow and a rhythm of a game. I thought the Panthers defense did a good job. They've got some great players over there, but as the game wore on I thought our players did a great job executing. Really, until I go back and look at the film and to be able to individually isolate each individual performance it's hard kind of just seeing it first-hand. But I thought there was some good and some bad and ultimately being able to get the win. Now one thing you don't do is take any wins for granted in this league. We'll take that.

RE: Malcom Brown as goal-line situation running back choice

It wasn't necessarily that. He was up in that series based on the flow and how many plays Todd (Gurley) had played prior to that. It didn't really have anything to do with where we were at on the field as much as it was – OK, we're going to get Malcom in in this series and that was something that was pre-determined, but they both did a great job today.

RE: Concerned about Special Team breakdowns today

You know what, there are things I think we expect to do a little bit better, but I know this – I know our Special Teams unit, I know John Fassel, myself, Matt Daniels – we'll go to work. We'll look at it. We'll find a way to get it corrected and I have a full confidence that we'll be better next week.

RE: Taylor Rapp (S) play with Eric Weddle (S) out

Yeah, Taylor Rapp and Marqui Christian (S) both stepped up in a big way. When you lose somebody like Eric with what he means to our team – the communication – some of those things – it can be deflating, but I thought our guys did a great job handling it. Certainly, you're never going to be able to replace an Eric Weddle, but I thought, you know, in the midst of a little bit of adversity, which inevitably you're going to face throughout the course of a season, our guys handled that pretty well. Like I said, I can't wait to go back and look at this film; dive into it and figure out how we can be better next week.

RE: Update on Eric Weddle injury

He's in concussion protocol right now. We'll have a little bit more information on him tomorrow.

RE: Jared Goff performance

I thought in the key moments he made some great decisions. There were some big 3rd– down conversions on some drives that we had to respond to and then I thought there were some plays that whether it was me putting him in a bad spot or I think that's he'll make those throws more times than not, you can see...first game there's always going to be a couple of things we all want to do a little bit better and we'll hopefully continue to improve as the season progresses.

RE: Inches away at times

Yeah. There were a couple of plays that we could have made here or there that I think our guys will make more times than not and then there were a couple of plays where you say – that's a great play. I thought Bradberry's pick where he undercut Robert Woods on the deep in breaking route was, you know, we kind of got a look that we wanted, but he made a great play right there. I've got a lot of respect for the Panthers team. You look at the way they continue to compete and made it tough all the way down to wire – it's a tough football team right there.

RE: Two back offensive system

I wouldn't say that. It was more just the flow of the game and then we'll continue to evaluate as the season progresses. Todd (Gurley) is our starting Back. I feel really good about him. That was the first action a lot of our guys have gotten in a while and in a different environment. We got a lot of snaps. You can feel...that heat wears on both teams and it's a different element. We've got to do a good job of kind of having a feel as a staff to be able to adapt and adjust accordingly.

RE: Looking for specific improvements going forward

I think it's just the little details – whether it's some of the techniques –whether we're running the football – whether we're throwing it – the way we distribute the field –the way we read with our feet a quarterback – the

way that we get lined up on defense and have some urgency; the way that we protect up front in the punt phase; all those things are things that the experience is where you expect to get better. We always talk about repetition is the mother of learning and getting those reps today, we expect to learn from it and continue to move forward.

RE: Linebacker Corey Littleton play

Just great athleticism. A guy that can really compete. Defend in the run. Defend in the pass. He's always active and he made a big pick for us in a crunch-time situation that ended up being a big play for us to ultimately win that game.

RE: Questions answered from last year

I don't think that was anything we worried about. We just wanted to come here and get to 1-0. There are a lot of things we expect to do better, but we know it's the 2019 season. Never take for granted a win and looking forward to seeing if we can find a way to get to 2-0 next week against the reigning NFC South Division champs.

Quarterback Jared Goff
Los Angeles Rams

RE: Summary of how it went today

I thought there were a lot of good things and a lot of bad things. I think your first game of the year, similar to every year, you come out, and you think you know what to expect but kind of really don't know until you get out there and go through a few series and that was no different today. It did take us a minute to get rolling but I thought we did it, a few times we got in a good rhythm and began to start going. It felt like we were about to turn that corner and put the game away and never really did. I think that interception kind of put us back a little bit. It was a lot of good things and I think ultimately whenever you come on the road, especially a one o'clock start on the East Coast and come away with a win, you take it anyway that you can get it.

RE: Todd Gurley

He has been the same dude that you guys have seen every single day since I have been his teammate. I am so proud of him, everything that he has done. I was talking about earlier, there was a lot of outside noise around him obviously, but we felt confident with him inside the team, and it showed today. I think he looked like he always does today. I tried to tell everyone he looks exactly the same and no one wanted to believe me. I started him in fantasy this week, so helped me out and I think I had Greg (Zuerlein) too, so I think we had a good day.

RE: Todd Gurley continued

Yes, third and fourth quarter, I think that has been a trend, since I have been with him. When they get tired, he doesn't, and he finishes off games for us. It is a credit to the o-line and what they are able to do with movement wise and the way that were scheming some stuff up. I mean he was breaking some tackles in the back field and getting 10-yard gains and that's what he has done his whole life, and it's never changed. I think there was a lot of skepticism about him, but I don't know a thing more to say other than he just keeps producing on the field, that's all he keeps doing.

RE: Offensive line

They did a great job, they did a tremendous job. I thought those two young guys stepped in tremendously and have done so good and today was a good showing by both of them. Me and Brian (Allen), our rapport has only

grown and only grew further more throughout this game. They did a great job. I think I may have gotten hit once and one of them was probably self-inflicted. They did a great job.

RE: Malcolm Brown

Malcolm (Brown) has been that steady workhorse for us as well I think in the same way. Whenever we kind of needed a run, he was always there. Malcolm doesn't get a lot of credit at times, but he has been a steady guy that we have needed, really truly needed for the last few years, has just produced. He just goes out there and produces, doesn't say much, and just does his thing. I am very thankful to have both him and Todd.

RE: Value of relying on a two running back scheme

It's huge. I think defenses are going to present us with a different challenge every game. I think this one in particular they were playing really soft and were giving us a good chance to run the ball and when teams do that, we will run the ball and we will run the ball well. Hopefully that will get them to step up, so we can go over the top. I think today was a good example of a disciplined game. They were doing one thing defensively and I tried to stay disciplined with where I was throwing the ball and not forcing anything and I know we ran the ball. It was a good job by us offensively, we just need to finish the game off, close the door.

RE: Cooper Kupp

Cooper (Kupp) looked great. Cooper did a great job. Just having him back and his overall feel is so tremendous. I think there are times where I will lean on him and ask him what he is seeing, and he sees it just like I do, it's like having another quarterback out there. He has a great feel. He is obviously such a great player and I'm happy to have him back.

RE: The topic of last year being over

Yes, it's official now, I hope I don't have to talk about it much more. We can talk about this game and then this season. It feels good. Like I mentioned, anytime you can come on the road and play a good time with Carolina and a good defense, and be able to produce, and our defense played the way they did, it's tough. Anytime you get on the road, especially in that first game, you don't really know what to expect. Get on the road and play an early start, it's a tough job to do and we did it today.

RE: How good does it feel to get the contract over with and just play football?

All I have to do is play, and it's great. I was excited about it earlier in the week and still am. I think it's something that has allowed for me to play completely freely and just focus on winning at all times and what I can do to make myself better. Once again, I am very thankful for the Rams and them taking ultimately a chance a few years ago on me, but showing their commitment once again.

RE: Was there any rust from not playing in the preseason?

I don't think so. I think we kind of went through the same thing last year when we didn't do it. I think regardless of you playing in the preseason or not, first games are different. The different speeds, a different tempo, I think if we had or if we hadn't, we would have to come out and kind of catch our rhythm anyways. I think it does take those few series and being able to kind of see what they are doing, like I said, and settle in. I thought we did, I thought we did settle in, and just want to push it over the hill.

***Defensive Tackle Aaron Donald
Los Angeles Rams***

RE: Defense's performance

We played good at times, but we've got to watch the film and see what the mistakes were and try to fix them.

RE: Carolina's approach against Donald

I was getting attention, but other guys made plays and we won.

RE: Personal frustration

I'm just not satisfied, I'm just not happy. That's just the way I played, and there's things we can do better. That's just the way I am, so I just have to keep working.

RE: Today's game

We found a way to win, that's important. I'd rather build off of what we did wrong in a win than a loss.

Linebacker Clay Matthews

Los Angeles Rams

RE: Today's game

The difficulty of coming on the road, week one, playing a good opponent. We obviously know what their record was last year, but with their offense and what they possess, the weapons they have, it's a great road victory. Wins are hard to come by in this league. Is there room for improvement? Absolutely. There were plenty of plays offense, defense, special teams that we need to clean up and we'll do that. The fact that we were able to get the win, come on the road and do it the first week of the year is what this is all about. That is what we set out to do. We'll go back, and we'll make the corrections we need. Go into week two against the Saints and have to play a little bit better.

RE: Expectations of Cam

We came in here anticipating MVP Cam. Obviously he didn't scramble as much as many would have thought. If that's because he's getting older and wiser from taking hits, or if it was the ankle then so be it. We tried to play a little bit more four-man rush and get after him. Make him make the throws and fortunately for the most part we made the plays we needed to.

Linebacker Cory Littleton

Los Angeles Rams

RE: Cam's health affecting game plan

You always expect their 100 percent. Anything that he ever had going on with him didn't matter today. We just expected to play a great Carolina team.

RE: Cam's ability to stretch the field

He always has a deep threat, because that's Cam Newton. He's a big guy, so the vertical threat is always there. All we can do is play our defense as called, and keep going.

RE: Team's performance

If anything I think we started off a little slow. We could be a lot better. Not saying we didn't play a great game today. Throughout the season we plan on doing just that, getting better and stacking wins.

Running Back Todd Gurley II
Los Angeles Rams

RE: Your contribution towards today's win
Felt good.

RE: Goal line carries by Malcom Brown
You saw the game. You saw how he did. He did damn good. Malcom is a great running back. He's been here the same amount of time as me. He went in there and did his thing like he always does.

RE: What was it like to see Malcom Brown have a nice day today
It was awesome.

RE: What was it like to finish the way you did
Four-minute situation. Get a first down. Get out of here. Go back to LA with the win.

Running Back Malcolm Brown
Los Angeles Rams

RE: Today's increased role
A little bit, but I wasn't banking on anything. I always come prepared, since my rookie year. I feel like I always prepare myself to the best of my abilities, so however my number is called I just have to go out there and win.

RE: Team's high expectations
Yes, no doubt. The stakes are high and there are high expectations, but this team is built for that. We've got a lot of guys that don't fold under pressure. We don't think about pressure or anything. We always say, 'we apply the pressure.' We just have to come out, week in and week out, and work on our game. Work on our craft throughout practice, and do our thing.