



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – November 13, 2019

(Opening Remarks)

"I want to start out by wishing (The Athletic Reporter) Vinnie (Bonsignore) the best and congratulate you in your new endeavors. Hate to see you go, but like we've talked about before, really respect the way you go about it. You can feel the work that you put in and you'll be missed by us. You've done a great job and I've enjoyed getting to know you over these last couple years. I know we'll stay in touch, but congratulations on everything.

With the injuries, we put (LB) Bryce Hager on 'IR' (injured reserve) as we did with (C) Brian Allen. So, the two spots that we had to fill, (DB) Dont'e Deayon and (OL) Chandler Brewer – we brought them up to the active roster and that's where we're at for now."

(On if he's had to do extra preparation with the changes on the offensive line and how much of their evaluation will take place during Sunday's game)

"It'll be a combination of both. I think (Bears Defensive Coordinator) Coach (Chuck) Pagano does a nice job mixing it up. Clearly, they've got a great scheme, they've got some special players. It is a good challenge, but it's one that we embrace. We're confident about the guys' ability to step in. Kind of still working through exactly what that lineup is going to look like. This is part of doing our job. Inevitably, these things do come up. Like we've talked about before, we've been really fortunate – and this year especially makes you appreciate what we've had the last couple of years. But that being said, we're excited about the opportunity to attack this challenge and see how it goes on Sunday."

(On if the Rams will have any representatives at free agent QB Colin Kaepernick's open workout on Saturday)

"We feel good about our quarterback situation right now. Haven't had a chance to really go into deep dialogue with (General Manager) Les (Snead), but we do keep our workouts and those things in-house, which is the standard operating procedure. The focus is on the Bears for us right now, so that's where we're at."

(On if Snead would be the one to contact regarding if the team will send a representative to Kaepernick's workout)

"I would think yes. Put that on Les (laughs)."

(On if he has to make changes to the offensive scheme with multiple changes in personnel on the offensive line)

"I think that's always a part of it with your gameplan, regardless of whether you have guys in or out. Part of the weekly preparation entails, 'All right, what's your protection plan specific to some of the things that you want to do, how you want to run the football?' A lot of instances, it's No. 1 predicated on your players and then No. 2, on their players and how you want to make sure that you're putting your guys in as favorable spots as possible. So, to answer your question: yes, but that is consistent with all weeks. But, it's going to be especially relevant just given some of the things that we're operating with right now."

(On if the injuries this season are just laws of average after previous seasons' health)

"I think there are some instances where things just can't be preventable. But, there are some things that I think have remained consistent in terms of avoiding some of those soft tissues (injuries) that the other things that do inevitably occur around the league. I think our guys have done a great job following the protocol to try to avoid those. It has been one of those deals where it's been a little bit abnormal, but I think the way that this game goes, sometimes those things happen and we've got to be able to adjust and adapt accordingly."

(On what he says to QB Jared Goff in terms of counseling him going into this week, staying on point and not worrying about the changes happening with the roster)

"It's just that. He's got a very difficult job to do to play the quarterback position in and of itself. There's an element of trust with your teammates, with the coaches, with some of the things that we're going to do and just, 'Hey, do your role to the best of your ability,' which we know how much the quarterback position has on their shoulders. I do think that it's so difficult. You start worrying about things that are out of your control. You've got to trust your teammates, you've got to trust your coaches are going to try to put you in the best positions and then execute your role within the framework of each individual play. That's the challenge and that's the thing that we'll echo and articulate to him. I think that's going to be very important for him to play like we expect."

(On the Bears being the first team to slow down the Rams' offense last year and how much of what they did in last year's game has he seen pop up in other teams)

"Everybody has made a big deal of they've played the 6-1 type structures. We've seen that a couple times this year. Really haven't seen much of it as of late. Then, obviously, that was a big part of what New England did in the Super Bowl. They were a great defense, period. They still are a great defense, but they did do some different things schematically that – I don't run away from the fact that I didn't handle that night well at all. Those are things that didn't go our way, but we have seen some similar things. Those things fit within the framework of the Bears system and specifically under (Broncos Head Coach/Former Bears Defensive Coordinator) Coach (Vic) Fangio."

(On if he was as shocked as everyone else that WR Cooper Kupp went from 220 yards to 0 yards or if the Steelers were doing things that made that explainable)

"Yeah, there were some instances where they were doubling him. You could see in some of those known passing situations, they were very aware of where he was at. That was something that we kind of anticipated. You've got a lot of confidence in (WR) Cooper (Kupp), he did a couple things. There's a couple plays that I think he would say he could do better on as well. That's kind of part of the game. You've got to be ready to have other guys step up if that's what the opposing defense activates. That's why we do have five eligibles. If it's not one of them, then the other four, we've got confidence to separate and get them the football."

(On the new linemen and if the calls for the offensive line are a cooperative effort or if he has the same people doing the calls)

"It's something that you kind of work through, especially with some of the circumstances we were navigating through the other day. You do have an approach that you take. It's a little bit more seamless when you're at home and you have ability to utilize your verbal cadence. But when you are on the road, there's some mechanics that we were working through that guys were doing some things for the first time ever. I think it's a great challenge and I thought it was a good opportunity for us to evaluate some of these guys in a live-game setting. To see (OL) Austin Corbett seamlessly step in, do a nice job at the left guard spot. To see (T) David Edwards start the game off playing really well at the right guard spot and then transition outside. I think it's unfortunate, you hate to see your guys get injured. Anytime that occurs, you never like that. When it does occur, you get the chance to really evaluate guys and I thought they took advantage of those opportunities to be evaluated and to step up."

(On if he is anticipating having to go to nonverbal signals at home in the Los Angeles Coliseum because of the Bears fan base)

"That is some thing that's come up for us. We're not going to be surprised, but we're hopeful that our fans show up, and excited about being back at home."