



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Run Game Coordinator Aaron Kromer – Media Availability – Dec. 4, 2019

(On how excited the team is about Sunday’s Week 14 matchup against the Seahawks)

“This is a big game because it’s the next game. As all coaches would say and every player would say, today is a big day, because it’s today. When you get in these situations, when you’re in the hunt for anything, you wake up in the morning and you do the best you can in that moment and in that day. When you get to these games, you do the best you can in these games. We expect full focus and concentration every day, every meeting, every play. In a game like this, we expect the same thing, to know what to do and how to do it is the most important thing.”

(On if he finds it difficult to control the anxiousness of getting ready for the game)

“Like I said, the big thing is that we have something to look forward to. When you have something to look forward to, it’s a lot easier to gain energy and gain focus. We have a lot of young offense linemen playing. So, every play might be a new experience for them, and this game will just be the same way.”

(On if seeing the final score from the Seahawks vs. Vikings game on Monday put a little spring in his step knowing the team is a little closer to the Wild Card)

“I do. As an offensive line, or as a coach I think, do you feel a little bit of juice from that? Yeah. Any time you have a chance to keep moving, you feel better about it and you feel like you’re doing something in the right direction. When it’s all said and done, as a performer, you’re only as good as the last move. You’re only as good as your last block, your last throw, and then you have to move on to the next one. In order for us to stay in the hunt or continue to have this uplifting feeling, would be to stack one play at a time, as bad as it sounds. As much as it’s a cliché, it’s the most important thing, is to handle what you have to handle right now.”

(On the younger guys responding this season and playing well and how he’s seen their preparation evolve as playing is going from being a luxury to now being a necessity)

“When you do look at our offense line, you know you’re looking at guys with two or three-game, four-game experiences of playing in the National Football League. What you sense is they are good, smart football players that have played physical. When we keep the game in the hand, when we keep it in check, it’s any offensive lineman’s dream, as opposed to when you get down a couple and you have to come back by throwing the ball every play. That’s when it’s a struggle on everybody on the offense or defense, for that matter. When you can keep the game in hand and you’re continuing to stay efficient on first and second down, when you’re able to run the ball and gain yards on first and second down, everything changes, everything stays on track and stays the way you want it. You can go back to the huddle with a comfort and – quietness in your mind that, hey we’re going to be able to continue to run – have every play in our menu available – as opposed to maybe going to a two-minute drill or something like that.”

(On if he had a conversation with T David Edwards about the penalties and how to move past them)

“Yeah, I’ve coached for 19 years in the NFL and that this is the first year that some of these calls are being made. We have to be aware of the fact that they are going to make these calls. We have made ourselves aware, like I said, it’s (T) David’s (Edwards) fourth or fifth game starting and moving from guard to guard. When you see something like that happen where you have multiple penalties, the number one thing is to

find a solution and not make an excuse and that's what David did right away. What is the solution? Well, if they are calling you for holding, move your feet more and stay in front of the guy so you don't have to understand the reaction and the responses that might happen. Or a hold that you might not thought was a hold as a player and you say, 'Well, what can I do technique-wise to change that?' That's the most important thing, none of his penalties were an egregious penalty where he was attempting or going out of his way to hold a guy. He just got caught in a bad position and didn't get out of it fast enough. So, how do you do that? Accelerate your feet and have superior feet to the defender."

(On if he feels comfortable with the way they have unleashed RB Todd Gurley II in the last few games and the way he's responded)

"I think the most important factor in that question is that we've had efficiency when we have run the ball. When you have efficiency, you can hand it to the running back again because it is second-and 4, second-and-6. You might have gotten a first down and now you're in a situation where you can hand the ball off again or have a hard play-action fake. That's when the games have not worked in our favor that way. We haven't been able to do that. I don't think there's ever been a choice not to give someone the ball, it was a choice that the game brought upon us as it unfolded."