



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – Dec. 5, 2019

(On updates regarding TE Gerald Everett and T Rob Havenstein)

“They’re (TE Gerald Everett and T Rob Havenstein) in the same kind of status as they were. Still day-to-day and we’ll see how they’re feeling later on this week. Making good progress – whether that means they’re able to go or not, we haven’t determined that yet.”

(On if there would be hesitation to put Havenstein in the game with how T Bobby Evans has played in his absence)

“(T) Bobby (Evans) has done a really nice job and Rob’s put a lot of good tape on. He’s put a lot of really good film on display for the last couple years. When he’s ready to go, we’ll evaluate that deal. He’s done a great job mentoring Bobby in the meantime. I think that says a lot about just the type of guy he is and we know what a productive player he’s been for us.”

(On if coaching changes from one segment of the season to the next)

“I would say it’s an ongoing evolution of staying up to date with the constant changes that go on both with your team or with the opponent. Kind of just staying up to date with what goes on. Nothing really changes – I think the changes occur every single day. To be able to seamlessly handle those and have a consistency, process and rhythm that you want to be committed to while also not being so set in it that you can adjust and adapt. I’d say that’s probably the best way that we would look at that. The one thing that does adjust once you get into the later parts of the season – just with the way that the physicality of this game kind of takes a toll on guys as they start to accumulate the game reps, you want to be smarter about still getting all the work you need to prepare for a game. But, you do pull back a little bit physically in some of the early parts of the week.”

(On the challenges that come with going against the speed and physicality in Seahawks Head Coach Pete Carroll’s defense)

“I think you see that. The one thing that I think he’s (Seahawks Head Coach Pete Carroll) done such a great job of since he’s been there – and really going back to his time at ‘SC’ (University of Southern California) – there’s a clear-cut philosophy, there’s an identity that they want to embody. You can see it show up on the tape. I think that’s a big thing and you talked about it, it’s physicality, it’s speed, it’s all about the ball where they’re relentlessly pursuing it. You look at the amount of times that they’ve forced more fumbles than anybody in the league. They’ve done a great job – especially over the last few weeks – of taking the ball away. They’ve got a great leader in (LB) Bobby Wagner, they’ve added some guys that you’re certainly feeling a lot on the tape when you watch the impact that their D-line’s making. You add (S) Quandre Diggs on the backend and to accompany him with the two corners they have – (SS Bradley) McDougald’s a really good football player, (LB) K.J. Wright’s been doing his thing for a long time. They’re very, very difficult, sound. They play hard, they play physical, they play fast. I think those are all the things you see that show up on the tape.”

(On the challenges in gameplanning against a Seahawks team that makes a lot of off-schedule plays)

“I think, really, that’s been consistent since (Seahawks QB) Russell (Wilson) has been the quarterback. He does a great job of using his athleticism to buy time, but still remain a passer. A lot of those off-schedule

plays too – now that you’re seeing – occur in the pocket. There’s a timing and rhythm that you want to operate with, but then certain things break down. He’s got such a good feel that if the protection is there or there’s nobody that got edge, he can just move and be able to keep his eyes down the field and be able to hitch in place. He’s got such a great spatial awareness that you see him – and then guys have a good feel for being able to work. Then, when he does break contain, that’s where you’re really thinking, ‘Man, there’s a chance for him to create big plays all the time.’ They’ve got the weapons to be able to do that with him running the show.”

(On if he got any calls or texts regarding his comment about not being an idiot with RB Todd Gurley II because there was a lot of reactions to it)

“A couple of my friends, just being able to like screenshot something, but I didn’t see on the internet.”

(On if any other coaches texted him)

“No. I think you try to learn from it, but if you saw it, I was saying ...I don’t really think I’m an idiot most of the time. Do you think I’m an idiot? (laughs)”

REPORTER: “In the Steelers game, maybe.”

(On response)

“Touché. I like that, all right. Hey, shots fired, I got that. That’s almost as good as her leaving the hair gel for me (laughs).”

(On what the difference is when he has LB Clay Matthews in the lineup)

“Just the impact that he (LB Clay Matthews) can make. This is a very versatile player for us. He can do a lot of different things. He has consistently done a great job of understanding how to affect the quarterback. He’s seen so many different things, too that he’s able to anticipate and knows what to expect. I think you’re just seeing a really high level of play from him since he’s been healthy, since he’s been able to go. Then you’ve missed him, but I thought it as a good reflection of the depth with somebody like (OLB) Samson (Ebukam) stepping up. Clay has done a great job for us.”

(On if he feels like his defense is better equipped to handle the Seahawks now than it was before)

“I think we expect to play better in some areas. We know what a great challenge it is, but I’ve got a lot of confidence in our defense. I’ve got a lot of confidence in the plan and our ability to be able to execute it, while also having a healthy respect for the opponent that we’re going against. We’ve got to be at our best. We’ve got to make sure that we come in with the same focus, concentration and urgency that we had going into that Arizona game. When your best players play their best, usually that ends up being a good thing for us.”

(On when they played the Seahawks before and it came down to the last kick and how different both teams are now two months later)

“You can’t say, because we didn’t. It’s hard to say. When you look at it, you always try to just reflect on, ‘All right, when you don’t get the results that you want, all right, what are we doing to try to make sure that our processes is in alignment?’ Even thinking back to last year, you have an appreciation for just what a fine line it is. It comes down to one possession, you end up making those plays. Both of our games against them last year come down to the last possession. We were fortunate enough to come out on the right end of that. First game that we played them this year, it goes their way. We’ve just got to do a great job controlling what we can. To say what would have happened had we made that, it didn’t. We’ve just got to be able to handle whatever it is that’s in front of us and kind of just be where our feet are planted.”