



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – Dec. 12, 2019

(On if there are any injury updates on the team)

“Not yet, really, it’s the same as what it was yesterday. (T) Rob (Havenstein) is scheduled to practice. We just finished up a walk-thru and then we will have practice here in about 30 minutes or so. (TE) Gerald (Everett) will be out, he actually was sick today as well. I sent him home with a stomach virus, but then Rob is scheduled to practice, so we will see how he is feeling.”

(On if Everett is just out for today)

“For today, Yeah.”

(On if he had more time to study the Cowboys and if he is surprised a team like the Cowboys are under .500 with the amount of talent they have)

“You see a really good team when you look at the tape – they’re very dangerous and explosive in really all three phases. Sometimes, it’s such a competitive league, how things shake out, whether you end up winning or losing, is such a small margin for error. I know this, what you look at and what you see on tape is a very good football team and we’ve got to be ready to go. They are in first place in their division. They have a lot of great players, great coaches and we know this team from playing them the last couple of years and we certainly know what a great challenge it’s going to be for us at their place.”

(On if he notices QB Jared Goff and TE Tyler Higbee’s relationship off the field)

“Oh yeah, those guys are good buddies. I think we’ve got a connected team overall, but those are two guys, I know they hang out outside of the facilities. They are good buddies.”

(On if he thinks Goff’s and Higbee’s off-the-field connection can carry over to the field)

“That’s a good question. I think there is so much communication that goes on in the absences of coaches in the huddle, at the line of scrimmage, that’s one thing that I’ve gain an appreciation for. Getting the talk to our linemen more, even just talking to the players when you just realize when you’re on the sidelines, there is so much that goes on in-between those lines. I certainly don’t think it hurts their rapport. I think there is a certain comfort level because of that relationship that exists. I’ve heard this said before, that ‘Loyalty is having the strength to tell people things they need to hear, not what they want to hear.’ I think when you have a great relationship, like those two do, a loyalty can exist. Sometimes you don’t have to worry about being able to have conversations that sometimes help you move forward, that I think is beneficial for any team to have, but I think it’s especially helpful when you do have that foundational relationship like those two.”

(On if there is a sense of waking the sleeping giant that they don’t want to wake up when facing the Cowboys when considering how they are performing and the talent on their roster)

“I think we are playing a great team that’s been in the playoffs. We played them in the divisional round last year. They won their division. They’ve played really good football in some instances. Then, they’ve had some things similar to us that I’m sure they expect to play at a higher rate. There is no doubt that our players take this very seriously. They know the level of urgency and the edge that’s going to be needed for us to be able to come away with the win at their place. I think they’re a really tough team, I don’t know about a sleeping giant, they’re a giant in terms of getting ready for them and getting ready to go. There’s a lot of

respect on our end. I think you throw records out the door. That's the one thing this year – especially as it kind of demonstrated – when you look at it and you see when this team is really operating on all three levels, at the efficient level is that that they're capable of and that they've done for a good portion of this season, it's going to take a great effort from our team to get it done.”

(On what he remembers from the Ram's last regular season game versus the Cowboys in 2017)

“It was a big game. I thought that game, really in a lot of ways, represented because of the caliber of team that they were being our fourth game like you mentioned. I thought it was a great step to be able to go on the road against a team that had a first-round bye the previous year. I want to say they had gone like 7 and 1 at their place. For us to be able and go in there and be able to get it done, especially coming from behind. I thought it was a true team effort. Defense got great stops. Offensively, we ended up coming from behind. Everybody remembers the (RB Todd) Gurley seam play that kind of gave us the lead and we never relinquished it. Then (K) Greg Zuerlein was unbelievable with all the kicks that he made, so it was a great team win. I thought to be able to finish that first quarter of the season 3-1 gave the guys a lot of good feelings – it was a special memory. We're got to be ready to go again.”

(On what he remembers about Gurley's big play against the Cowboys last year)

“I just remember seeing how explosive he is. It's one of those deals, (QB) Jared (Goff) did a great job getting the ball out in the timing and rhythm, got through his progression. He hits Todd on the seam, see (WR) Josh Reynolds make a great crack-back block that would be illegal now on (Cowboys S) Jeff Heath. I just remember thinking wow, it was like he was shot out of a canon. You talk about signature play – kind of similar to the screen he had against Tennessee. Those are a couple of those plays that you sit back as a coach and you're thinking, ‘Damn, I'm glad he's on our team. That was a really good play. At the moment too, we really needed that.’”

(On if he has seen Gurley have any of those wow moments this season)

“Yeah, I think his touchdown last week. I haven't seen a stiff arm like that, that was a wow moment. I thought that was an exclamation point on the game too, especially because of the way the second half had gone. he had some good runs and some big time plays, but I thought that play really put an exclamation point on the night's work where he bounces it out. (Seahawks CB Tre) Flowers has been a physical corner that'll come up in run support and ended up catching him perfectly with a stiff arm and ends up going in on the left side to go up and score 28 right there. That was big, so that was a wow moment for me.”

(On any other moments besides Gurley's stiff arm that was a wow moment for him)

“When you look at the Arizona game, I thought one of the runs he had at the end of the first quarter. It's a shame the one got called back where he scored the touchdown, that was a great moment. Then I thought the one run on the similar concept that he had at the end of the first quarter where he's running through tackles, you hear the crowd going crazy. Where I was looking I couldn't see – it was almost a response where you think ‘Oh, shoot did the ball get fumbled?’ It was because he was still up breaking tackles, that was another wow moment. There's one for you and each of the last two weeks, how's that? (laughs).”