



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – Dec. 18, 2019

(On if there are any updates on CB Troy Hill)

“We’re just day-to-day, we’re going to take it day-to-day with him. We will do that up until later on this week – pain tolerance, just to kind of see how he’s feeling. The good thing is, if it is something where we are going to decide to let him rest and not play, then you do feel good about (CB) Darious Williams stepping up.”

(On what his optimism level is on TE Gerald Everett)

“I think, again, we’re just kind of feeling it out. We will see how today goes, and then, I will be able to have a better idea once we actually get a physical practice in and see what that looks like. Part of that too, is as we complete the gameplan and kind of figure out exactly what that looks like and what his involvement would be, if he is feeling good enough.”

(On K Greg Zuerlein)

“Again, it’s one of those things that, because we haven’t physically gone yet, we’re going to wait until tomorrow. We’re going to wait as long as we can until we actually kick him, let him use all this time that he does have to try to get as healthy as possible, and then we’ll get a feel Thursday or Friday on how he’s feeling, if he’s going to be able to kick, if not, then we’ll have that alternative plan.”

(On if there is any type of movement on the alternative plan if Zuerlein can’t play against the 49ers)

“We’ve got some guys coming in. I’m so used to today being Thursday, today is actually Wednesday, but in a normal week, this is like our Thursday. On Thursday of this week – which would be equivalent to a Friday on a game week – we’ll have some guys that we could bring in and work out, if that something where (K) Greg (Zuerlein) isn’t able to go.”

(On T Rob Havenstein’s progress)

“Making good progress.”

(On if Havenstein will play against the 49ers)

“I don’t know yet. It was good to get him back out on the field. Again, I know I’m kind of answering the same questions, but until we really physically go, it’s hard for me to truly give you guys a real answer to some of these questions, and I’ll have a much better feel based on how today’s practice – where we will get some good physical work in – goes for those players.”

(On when his focus is on the offensive side of the ball what’s he makes of the defense’s up and down season)

“My focus is on this team. There’s a lot of time that you spend, and you want to make sure that you have rapport relationships and an understanding of everything that’s going on. I think that’s part of the role. It’s hard to explain. There’s been some instances where you do give the offense it’s credit, but we’ve played so well, and I do think that’s more what we are and we’ve got to consistently do that. I think a lot of the things last week, really, just boiled down to just some of the fundamentals, the techniques that our guys are more than capable of executing at a high level, because we’ve seen that. You do give Dallas some credit. Then, I think when you look at the other outlier performance, with the Baltimore game, I think it was a

combination of, I think we certainly could have helped in some instances of putting our guys in some good spots. It was an impressive operation, and kind of caught them when we were really rolling. Those are outliers. You want to be consistent week in and week out, but I am confident that we are a very good defense.”

(On Week 15 missed tackles and if as a coach that is alarming to see)

“I think it’s difficult because as you start to get later on in the season, you’re limited in your opportunities that you can physically compete. Those things can kind of come into play. I know our guys do a great job of emphasizing that every single day. It just boils down to the small margin for error on when you do miss those tackles and then what it leads to. Then they were able to consistently kind of just have efficient runs, kind of be ahead of the sticks. And then there were some instances where guys – you end up having one of our better players who’s had a great season, misses a tackle when he’s unblocked, they avoid it and then we end up having two guys rub right into each other and that ends up leading to a long touchdown. You got to look at each play as its own entity, like I’ve said over and over, but I am confident that our guys are wired the right way to respond. I trust in this group, I believe in these players and I think we know we’ve got a great challenge against the Niners but, I think we’ll have a better showing this week.”

(On what he’s liked about CB Darious Williams performance this season)

“I think last week, you get a large sample size to really evaluate him. It’s not too big, he understands the techniques, the fundamentals that we want to be able to operate with. He understands the coverage concepts and where he fits based on how certain route combinations play out. He’s a guy that even going back to last year – I can think of a handful of times when we’ve got great receivers and he’s given those guys outstanding looks and really challenging them and competing, really caught my eye last year. Then as he’s gotten more comfortable with the system, had a year to really digest what we’re trying to get done, you’re starting to see that translate when he gets his opportunities. He’s a good football player.”

(On having two Pro Bowlers which is a drop off from the last couple of years and if that is a reflection of the team and individual performances)

“I would say this, I think we’ve got a lot of really good football players. I think that it’s great to be able to see (DT) Aaron (Donald) and (CB) Jalen (Ramsey) get recognized by their peers and how you end up kind of getting voted in to the Pro Bowl. There’s a lot of guys that we believe in as coaches – we know what they’re capable of. Sometimes it is a reflection of, like what you said, the team’s success. When you end up having more success as a team usually that leads to a lot of people getting the appropriate credit that they deserve and that’s what the last couple of years have entailed. But, I certainly still think we’ve got a really good roster, really good players, and a lot of guys that could certainly make a case to be in that conversation. But, it’s always about the team.”

(On if you are comfortable when looking at staffing, particularly the offense)

“I feel good about it. I feel very fortunate to work with the group that we do have. But, you are always evaluating. The one thing, for myself in this role, is that you’re constantly evaluating all the elements that this role entails, and you always want to continue to do it at a high level. The way that you do get better, is you surround yourself with people that are better than you. We’ve got a lot of good people here, but I think it’s always continuing to find that good balance of, what does it look like structurally, really, for our organization, in terms of that set up, want to be able to get the best people here. I think you are always looking at those things, but I feel really good about what our group has done, if you are asking about that.”

(On if you can imagine not being the playcaller for a team you are coaching)

“It’s hard to say. I think you’re early on in the stages of it. Certainly, I’m continuing to try and figure out what’s the best rhythm to operate with on a day-to-day basis for our football team, because ultimately that is your job, is to make sure that you have a good feel for everything that is going on and then putting your players in a position on all three phases to try to have success week in and week out. If I felt like there was a set-up where we would be a better football team, if that wasn’t the case and it enables you to do some other things, I would never say never, but those are always things that you evaluate. Right now, our focus is on the (San Francisco) 49ers, doing a great job. When the offseason hits, whenever that is, there will be some time for us to be able to really look inward and figure out what’s going to be the best thing for the Rams moving forward.”

(On RB Todd Gurley II being named a Pro Bowl alternative this season)

“Yeah, I think it says that his body of work over the course for his career has earned the respect that’s merited. There have been some different reasons why the production is what it is, and a large part, not exclusive to what he can control. So, I think he has got respect around this league, I think that’s been earned and been merited by his body of work and I think we have all seen that.”

(On if you are surprised at where the Rams right now this year, since you took over as head coach)

“If you said, ‘This is where we would be at,’ I don’t think anybody would be satisfied or think that’s how it would go, but this is where we are at. I think in a lot of instances, this would give you a perspective. Certainly, some of these you kind of have to embrace the adversities that we faced, and it forces you to go one of two ways – you either fold or you continue to fight, and you get stronger as a result of pushing through. We have said it over and over, this is a really competitive league it’s very tough to win week in and week out, injuries play the part. We make no excuses. We are what we are right now, and we are going to continue to battle and try to finish this thing out the right way, however it ends up. But, to say you are surprised, I think that would probably be accurate, but this is where we’re at and we are going to keep battling and fighting. I think we will all be better for this and I’m very appreciative and thankful for some of the adversities that we faced because you really get a chance to learn about people and find out why a lot of the things you felt so good about, whether it be with your coaches or with your players, are accurate because it’s easy when everything is going really well and easy to lead from the front and there’s really no real adversity, but you find out about people when you do go through some of these things. That’s been a blessing.”