



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – Dec. 24, 2019

(On an update regarding CB Jalen Ramsey's injury)

"He (CB Jalen Ramsey) had a grade-two strain of the 'LCL' (lateral collateral ligament) and he'll be out for the game (Week 17)."

(On what Ramsey has brought to the team since being acquired)

"He's done a really nice job. He's made a big, big impact. I like his daily demeanor, too. Just with the way that he practices, he's a smart, conscientious football player. Asks good questions, he's very coachable, receptive to some of the things that (Cornerbacks Coach) Aubrey (Pleasant), 'E' (Safeties Coach Ejiro Evero), (Defensive Coordinator) Coach Wade (Phillips), all those things. I've really enjoyed being around him. It was great to see him make a big-time play the other night on that pick. You can just feel, he's had a presence since he's been playing. He enables us to do some different things flexibility-wise. It's been good having him."

(On which knee Ramsey injured)

"I can't remember. One or the other (laughs)."

NOTE: The Rams Communications Department confirmed Ramsey's left knee is injured.

(On if Ramsey's knee injury will require a procedure)

"I don't think so. I think it's – more than anything – just being smart. He came back in and it shows you how tough he is, what a great competitor. When you are looking at something like this, you just want to be smart. Typically, it's something that can take anywhere between a month, a month and a half. It should heal on its own."

(On if there are any players he will not play ahead of Sunday's Week 17 game)

"No. We're going to try to go win this football game and do what we can to make sure that we have a good week of preparation. I think we owe it to the guys – to the players on this team – to try to compete to the best of our ability, like we've talked about all along. That's the approach that we'll take. We've naturally gotten a chance to look at a lot of guys, just based on the nature of how things played out. That's been a positive. Everybody that's able to play – as if we were playing in a playoff game – we're going to approach it that way."

(On who will start in Ramsey's position)

"We'll look at the way that we'll activate some of the different personnel groupings. Expect to see a little bit more of (CB) David Long (Jr.), (CB Nickell) Robey(-Coleman) – he's got the ability to play outside and inside. You get (DB) Dont'e Deayon up, you've got some corners that you feel good about. Then, you have some flexibility with some of our safeties that can do some different things, which is a nice bonus for us as well."

(On if he feels like something has positively changed to have a more effective passing game)

"I would just say, really, when you look at the last four games, I think three of the four, there's been some positive things that we've seen. Certainly, it's never perfect, but starting with when we played Arizona and

leading into Seattle – obviously the Dallas game wasn't anywhere close as a team. Then, there were some positives against the 49ers. We've got to make sure that we're doing enough to try to get the results that we want as well. I think there have been a lot of things that have gone in the right direction, have been better than what the inconsistencies that we've had over the course of the year represented. That is a positive, and look to see if we can finish this last one off the right way."

(On QB Jared Goff's recent performances)

"I think he's (QB Jared Goff) done a good job. In a lot of those instances, there's different phases of the pass-game. Some of the things that we're doing on early downs are different than your third-downs and the redzone. I think for the most part, there's been more efficiency, I think he's made better decisions. Any time that you're talking about the pass-game, it's also a representation of all 11 (players). You've got to have protection, you've got to play within the timing and rhythm. Guys have to separate, you've got to distribute the field the right way – a lot of things have gone into that. Then, there's been some different things that we've done, whether it be positives in the screen-game, guys running after the catch, some of the different things off the play-action or the movement. Different phases, but I think overall, there's been an improvement in the pass-game in general. I think if you just kind of segmented all the different phases, there's been some positives in each of those as well."

(On TE Tyler Higbee being the fourth tight end to have four consecutive game with 100-plus receiving yards and what kind of weapon he has discovered in Higbee and if it makes him look forward to next season)

"It's been great. I think the thing that's really beneficial for him (TE Tyler Higbee) is that he can contribute and he's made his plays on all three downs. A lot of instances, you can see a lot of certain guys production occur – the known passing situations, first and second down off the play action or different things like that. He's made plays in the drop-back game, he's made plays in the screen game, he's made plays in the play-action. He's done a lot of different things. You look at the second down we had in the redzone where he got it down to like the 1-yard, right inside the 1-yard (line) on the little option route that he had. He's doing it in a variety of ways so his opportunities aren't limited because he can play on all three down. He's showing what a versatile player he is. I think in a lot of instances, his willingness to compete without the ball has opened up some of those opportunities in the pass-game, where he's got a great feel. Jared's doing a nice job getting through some of his progressions and finding him. Clearly, you can see those two have a great rapport. I've been really happy for him. We've talked about it before, but it's great for him because he's always been a glue guy, he's always been a guy that people have really respected in this locker room. If you ask any one of the players about him, everybody loves Tyler Higbee. He's always got a smile on his face, he's a pro the way that he goes about his work. Then, to see him have that success, it's fun to see because of the hard work and the way that he goes about it day in and day out, he's being rewarded with the production and the success that he's had. It's been a big boost to the offense as well."

(On what T Andrew Whitworth means to him since Whitworth came to the team the same season that he became head coach of the Rams)

"He's meant a lot. He's a special individual. Like I've said before, one of the most empathetic individuals I've ever met in my life. I think that's a rare quality, I think it's a great quality for any leader to possess. He's got a great wisdom, he has been playing for 40 years too, so he's got a lot of experiences to draw on. It's a relationship that I certainly cherish. He's helped me a lot, as you're still getting familiar with how to best handle this role and navigate through the things that occur on a daily basis. Somebody like him has been instrumental. When you look at when we first got here as a staff, working with (General Manager) Les (Snead) and his group, for him to represent, like he and (WR) Robert Woods, really, to represent your first two free agent signings. It's hard to find two better representations and representatives of what it looks like to go find the right kinds of guys that are wired in all the right ways and then are also great competitors."

(On if he has seen a veteran player like WR Robert Woods keep improving annually)

"I think the great ones do that. He's such a great competitor. I think anybody that's great at what they do, they never let the complacency set in even if they have a certain amount of success. I think in a lot of instances, the human inclination and the human nature is to say, 'I've had this success, I'm going to do the same thing and get the same results.' In such a competitive business like this, that's just not the case and he never lets the complacency set in. He's really hard on himself, he practices hard. The way that he works

day in and day out enables him to get better because he's so intentional, he's so detail oriented. I think he's extremely mentally tough. You talk about a guy, that we all know what a nice guy he is, you guys have known him for a while from covering him back to USC. His game day demeanor, the energy and what type of competitor he is, that's a different animal when he puts that helmet on and he's competing in between those white lines. It is fun to see and you love working with guys like him."

(On his favorite Christmas present to open as a kid)

"I'll give you this, receiver gloves. That's how bad I am. I was looking for the receiver gloves, I wanted to get the cool Nike ones and all I could get was some Easton baseball gloves. It was a disappointing day. Those were what I was hoping for. I'm low maintenance, all right. Merry Christmas, guys."