



## LOS ANGELES RAMS

### Rams Defensive Coordinator Wade Phillips – Media Availability – Dec. 26, 2019

#### **(Opening Remarks)**

“Hope everybody had a Merry Christmas. We are looking forward to this ballgame. I know it’s a sudden end when you know it’s the last game, but we’re still looking forward to this week and having a winning season. We’re playing on pride and character and that’s two things I think we really have with this football team and the guys that we have. I’m looking forward to it.”

#### **(On how he would evaluate the defense this season)**

“About 8-7. We lost some close games that we won last year, basically. Some areas we’ve really done well – better than we did last year’s team. I think most, the run-game, those kind of things overall – yards-per-carry is way down from last year. But, we didn’t get as many turnovers – that’s a key thing, too.”

#### **(On how OLB Dante Fowler Jr. has played this season)**

“(OLB) Dante (Fowler Jr.) had an outstanding year. I think everybody can see that. He’s had what – 11.5 sacks already? Any time you get double-digit sacks, you’re up there as far as your production. He’s made a lot of plays behind the line of scrimmage, too. I don’t know the exact number, but he’s made a lot of tackles for loss, also. He’s had a very good season.”

#### **(On if he plans to be back with the Rams next season and if he wants to continue coaching)**

“I love coaching. That’s what I do and that’s what I enjoy doing. We did a lot of good things this year. Not enough, obviously, to be in the playoffs, but I thought we did a lot of good things as a team and defensively. I enjoy working with players, I think we’ve got a really good group. I think – like I said last week – they’re fighters. We didn’t end up winning that ballgame, but I thought we showed a lot of fight as a defense and a team. I enjoy coaching, I want to continue.”

#### **(On CB Jalen Ramsey missing Week 17 and the opportunity that presents younger players)**

“I think you saw (CB) Jalen (Ramsey) had an interception and caused the other interception in the ballgame against a good football team (San Francisco) with good receivers. He had an outstanding game. We did lose him this week so it does give our younger guys a chance. When you’re playing the last game and you’re not in the playoffs, you really want to see some guys get an opportunity that hadn’t had it. You’re looking at their future and you’re hoping that these guys will step up when they get the opportunity. That happens all across the board with whoever – linebackers, D-line, whoever. Whoever you have, you’d like to play them a little bit more to see where they are in their game.”

#### **(On if he has had any indication from Head Coach Sean McVay or the team that he will be coaching next season)**

“No, I’ve heard a lot of rumors out there, I don’t pay any attention to rumors. Like wherever I’ve been, I’m going to do the best that I can do. If that’s not good enough for somebody, then it isn’t. We want to finish with a winning season, I know that.”

#### **(On if he feels like he performed well this season)**

“That’s up to somebody else. We lost two years in a row to Pittsburgh when I first started in the AFC Championship game, then they won the Super Bowl. Then, we lost to Oakland and they won the Super

Bowl and we got fired. Those things happen. Like I said, it's up to somebody else to judge those things. You never know what's going to happen in football. I know one thing, I'm going to do the best I can do and I'm going to be the best assistant coach I can be."

**(On what he has seen out of Cardinals RB Kenyan Drake over the last two weeks)**

"I saw him go for 166 (yards) last week, so with an 80-yard run. We were impressed with him last game we played them. They got behind, so they didn't get to run the ball as much as I'm sure they'd like. They do have a really good running game. I think (in) average per carry, they're right up there in the top of the league. He's (Cardinals RB Kenyan Drake) showing he can be an outstanding back. It's going to be a challenge for us to stop him and their running game."

**(On what DL Michael Brockers and LB Cory Littleton has meant to his defense)**

"Both of them are outstanding players that are consistent. We look for consistency, but those two guys – (DL Michael) Brockers consistently plays the run really well against usually the best big offensive tackle they have, (LB) Cory (Littleton) just makes plays all over the field. Makes the most tackles of anybody on our team. Also, gets turnovers, interceptions and fumble recoveries. He's played really well, both of them played really well the last three years for us."