



**Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – September 10, 2020**

**(On if he feels like any team has an advantage going into the season with no preseason tape)**

"I would say that it's an even playing field. There's some differences in terms of, you don't know what to expect, really from our defense, we've had some continuity on offense, but special teams and defense, you don't really have any inventory of what we're going to kind of do. Kind of the same thing with their defense. We have some familiarity with what 'Bones' (Cowboys Special Teams Coordinator John Fassel) is going to do schematically, but he's always great about putting in his little tweaks and wrinkles. Then I'll be interested to see kind of the collaboration of (Offensive Coordinator) Kellen Moore's offense with (Head) Coach (Mike) McCarthy's, but it's going to be a great challenge for our team. We're excited about it."

**(On if it put more pressure on adjustments throughout the game)**

"I think you would say that every game you always want to make sure that you're aware of having adjustments, because sometimes what you see on film is totally different dependent upon how that team game plans for you and vice versa. So, that's going to be a huge part of it, but it kind of is every single game, but you could make the case that it's going to be extremely important this opening weekend."

**(On how much was K Greg Zuerlein battling last season physically)**

"He was so tough. He would just kind of push through and persevere. He's been a great player. I mean, you look at our first year that we were all together in '17 (2017) he's Special Teams Player of the Year and was instrumental in winning a lot of games had another great year in '18 (2018) and last year he still made some kicks. But missed some ones that he's accustomed to. I think he got healthy and I think he's feeling good right now, which hopefully he has a great season after we play him."

**(On if he has any official word on RB Darrell Henderson Jr. or is that still being worked out)**

"We're working through it. He's trending in the direction that we think he's going to be able to play, but you don't want to speak too soon if he has any sort of setback. He is doing the things that make us feel good as a coaching staff that he looks like he'll be ready to go, if he continues on this same path."

**(On what he needs to see from Henderson physically on Friday and if he will have limited snaps)**

"I think you feel good that he could play right now. In a lot of instances, especially with the soft tissue, you're relying on the players' feedback. Like, 'Hey, can you open up? Do you feel like you're good to go?' For him to be out there practicing, he's feeling good as far as a limited snap count, all those things will work themselves out. We'll see how the week progresses."

**(On his concerns going into the season with limited opportunities this offseason)**

"I think we're really just excited about playing football. I think, like we talked about, there are teams that are on the same playing field. You look at Coach McCarthy in his first year with the (Dallas) Cowboys, but I think just playing live football where you're tackling, you want to minimize the penalties, the pre-snap issues in the absence of preseason games and even some of those competitive opportunities against other clubs in practice. Those are the things that you're just excited and interested to see, but I am confident that our guys have done a good job of putting themselves in position to be ready to go. And now we've got to go see it on Sunday."

**(On if he feels like he has enough versatility to help energize the run game with the additions to the coaching staff)**

"As far as just making sure that you have different tools you can activate to keep people off balance. Changing the launch point or different types of blocks at the point of attack with different run schemes. It's like making for a lineman, that's equivalent to giving receivers all angles of the cut and that's exactly what we try to do. I am very confident in the coaching staff that we have in place. Then ultimately, the players being able to execute that. I think you'll see some things that are reflective of everything you're talking about and hopefully we go do the thing."

**(On how the first scrimmage game in SoFi stadium helped him realize how tough it will be to keep everyone intense without any fans and to keep everyone safe)**

"It's definitely given us some insight, where you get a feel because the magnitude of the stadium and one of the things that makes the NFL so special is the atmospheres and the environments and it's a different one. We're still getting a chance to play football. I think for the NFL to be able to get to this point and do all the things with the limited issues that really each of the clubs has had, is a real credit to them and the teams being able to follow the protocols and that's why you're confident that we can pull this thing off. I'd be a lot more excited – I am excited anyways, but I'd be more excited if we had fans. So, it's a very positive thing that we're able to pull this off in spite of all the circumstances, but nonetheless, those two scrimmages were very valuable for us to get a feel for what it'll be like on Sunday night."

**(On how much DT Aaron Donald has improved over the past four seasons)**

"I think the best players are the ones that never let the complacency set in. He's always been a complete player, long before I got here and really since he got into the league. He made an immediate impact. I think it's just tightening the screws, being more on the details, being more consistent in every single phase. I think it's just that approach. Then when you just watch him play, if you just said, 'All right, I'm going to watch him every single snap' and you watch the consistency with the effort, his big picture understanding, all the little things that he's able to pick up on. He's a great player, but I think it's just, he just is sharpened in his toolbox in every little thing every single year. You can appreciate those nuances of his game for sure."

**(On if everyone will see the same Donald or a new Donald this season after changing defensive coordinators)**

"Well, he has been pretty damn good the last couple years. One of the things that's always important as you know, is to maximize your guys and especially your great players like (DT) Aaron (Donald). So, I'll tell you what, you'll be able to tell me the answer to that on Sunday evening."

**(On how he feels about having a connection and an extra voice around in Offensive Coordinator Kevin O'Connell)**

"Yeah, it's great. He's a great coach, great communicator. I think as important as our rapport is the rapport I've watched him develop with our quarterbacks with (QB) Jared (Goff) and (QB) John (Wolford) and his mastery of the position, his experience, having played, his ability to see the big picture and kind of make the complex simple. Those are very, very important things. Just the way he sees the game has been a huge help for our team and for our offensive staff and for our offensive players. We're certainly glad to have (Offensive Coordinator) Kevin (O'Connell) on board with us."

**(His thoughts on Donald being rated as an average run defender by ESPN)**

"I'm not going to address things that I think have no merit."

**(On if he thinks they are correctly evaluating how Donald is being used in his scheme)**

"Any breath of Aaron (Donald) not being a great player, immediately loses credibility with me."

**(On what ILB Kenny Young has shown throughout camp)**

"He's done a great job. He really has. I think when he came in midway through the year, it was hard for him to really get a grasp, not even get a grasp, but just get an opportunity to compete for our defense, because in a lot of periods, he's giving us looks for the opposing defense, but you could feel the athleticism, the explosion, ended up just showing up so much there, that he ended up creating and carving out a role for himself on (special) teams and did a nice job in that phase. Then I think as his opportunities have come on

the defensive side of the ball over the last few months, he's really shown himself to be a very good player. He was playing when Baltimore was rolling and he was playing significant snaps for that defense before we traded for him. We're glad to have Kenny, and we expect him to have a role for us for sure."