



**Rams Defensive Coordinator Brandon Staley – Media Availability – September 23, 2020**

**(On ILB Micah Kiser winning NFC Defensive Player of the Week)**

“I think that (ILB) Micah (Kiser) is certainly deserving of the award and, you know, I’m really happy with how we played. I think for him to have a performance like that in his second game, really as a starter, against a tremendous opponent, you know, obviously very excited for him. I thought he played better as the game went on. I thought he really got into a comfort zone. You saw all the qualities that made him one of the all-time leading tacklers in ACC history, and a guy that we have held in such high regard in our building. I think that you also have to give his teammates a lot of credit. I think upfront our defensive line was really, really good in the run game, kept him clean on a lot of those plays. I felt like it was a result of a lot of team defense. Then certainly his position coach, (Assistant Head Coach/ Linebackers) Joe Barry, Joe has taken on a lot of linebacker projects over the last four years. You think about (Broncos LB) Mark Barron, you think about (Raiders LB) Cory Littleton, and now, you know, guys like Micah and (ILB) Kenny (Young). Joe has just been tremendous and we’re so fortunate that he’s coaching Micah, but obviously very happy for Micah.”

**(On the qualities of RB Troy Hill that make him a good fit at nickel)**

“Yeah, I think (CB) Troy (Hill) has a lot of the qualities that we specifically value at the nickel position. I think what we value at nickel is a little bit different than most. You know, we want a guy that can cover man to man. I think his ability outside at corner really expresses itself inside his style of play. It does happen quicker inside, and he has a lot of short-space quickness to compete with these slot wide outs. So, it really starts with his ability to cover man to man in the slot. And then, you know, Troy’s one of our best tacklers and I think outside – when I first got here, I said, ‘Hey man, this guy can really tackle.’ And the way we play that nickel is in the way a lot, in the run game, and so I felt like he would really be a presence in that second level as a really good tackler. And then, you know, he’s such a calm guy. You can’t play star if you are sped up, you just can’t. You have to have a steady, calm presence. I was around (Broncos Cornerback) Bryce Callahan in Chicago, who I felt like was one of the best nickels in the league and that’s how Bryce was. He’s a guy that could play outside, but inside he was just so steady, so calm. We ask our stars to see a lot and I think that Troy can do that and I really feel like he’s getting better every time out, because he is sort of new to the position. So, every time he goes out there, he gets better and better. But really excited about what he gives us in there.”

**(On how rewarding it was to see Hill’s interception Sunday)**

“Just such a great way to finish the game. You’re always talking about finishing and, you know, that’s two weeks in a row and in a two-minute situation that we’ve been able to close the game out, which is the ultimate way to finish the game as a defensive team, is be able to finish it with a takeaway. You know, he was in the right position, doing exactly the right thing. I thought Troy played a much cleaner game than he did in the first game, from a technical standpoint. And I thought he was in position to make a lot of plays. You know, there was one that (Eagles QB) Carson (Wentz) threw in the middle of the game that Troy and Micah were kind of right in the way of and it could have gone either way. Then I think, you know, for Troy, he’s a guy that’s been here from the beginning. He’s the guy that’s seen a lot here with the Rams since (Head Coach) Sean (McVay) has been here and kind of been a guy under the radar, behind the scenes and who’s just improved. I think he’s just a great example for young players. If you just hang in there, if you keep improving, you do the things the right way then eventually your hard work is going to pay off.”

**(On CB Jalen Ramsey as a leader within the defense and what is his leadership style)**

"I absolutely think he's a leader within our defense. It starts with his mind, the way he thinks. He has command over all the position groups in the secondary. His approach to the game, in terms of taking a receiver out of the game, understanding formations, splits, personnel groupings, time and score, who's the opposing quarterback. He does a really good job with our younger secondary players in terms of, 'Hey, this is how you have to prepare to play this team or this particular receiver or this particular quarterback.' He does a really nice job with that. He has good gameday eyes. You know (CB) Jalen (Ramsey) as a guy, because of his presence, because of how productive he is, people are going to follow him and it's that example that he sets. And sometimes when it's not going well, you know, people are looking at him. I think that that's where he's taken a big step forward. He knows that eyes are on him and that people are counting on him, not to just be a shutdown corner, to be a complete corner. That includes, you know, taking a leadership role and we think he's doing a good job. He's continuing to grow in that way and I'm excited about how he played the other day. I thought that he was outstanding in that game."

**(On if he plans for teams to not go against Ramsey and how much pressure that puts on the other cornerbacks)**

"We're certainly aware that people may that approach, but we moved him around some in that game, as you guys probably saw and they can't avoid him forever. The way we play in the coverage systems, you saw in two-minute, they had to go at him on the backside with (Eagles TE Dallas) Goedert late in the game where we forced the ball to go back to Jalen. So, you know, he's going to have his opportunities. He had two really, I think big opportunities. (Eagles WR) DeSean (Jackson) had a blaze out on him early in the game that he swallowed up pretty easily. And then he took away (Eagles TE Zach) Ertz a couple of times on third down. He's just playing really good football for us, but we know that if the ball goes elsewhere, that we're going to have a lot of good players waiting for him there. You know, you guys were seeing (CB) Darius (Williams) and Troy and these two safeties we have with 'JJ' (John Johnson III), (Jordan) Fuller, and 'T-Rapp' (Taylor Rapp) and then Micah and Kenny. We've have people waiting for their opportunity to capitalize on that, and it's a luxury to have a player like Jalen for sure."

**(On what he sees from Bills QB Josh Allen)**

"(Bills QB) Josh (Allen) has been fantastic. You've got to give credit to (Offensive Coordinator) Brian Daboll and that offensive staff. Sean (McDermott), the head coach there. He's really grown as a player, you know, improved in every way. He's got, I think, leadership ability and toughness that the team responds to. You take a look with the playoff game that they had, you know, just kind of willing them to a lot of big plays and comebacks. He's improved as a passer. I think he's gotten more confident within their system. He's operating with command, which is what you ultimately want to see from a young quarterback, is to take that step with the command of the offense and it certainly looks like he has that. Then their personnel department, they've done a really good job of surrounding them with weapons. You know, they made the trade for (Bills WR) Stefon (Diggs). They drafted well with (Bills TE Dawson) Knox, the tight end, (Bills RB Devin) Singletary, (Bills RB Zack) Moss – the two runners. They acquired (Bills WR Cole) Beasley and (Bills WR) John Brown in free agency a couple of years ago and their line doesn't get enough credit for how well they play as a group. So, I think the byproduct of a franchise that's going in the right direction and Josh has certainly done his part and improving his game."

**(On how the defense can stress Allen into making bad decisions)**

"I think that, just like any defense would try and accomplish, try to mix it up, try to play with some variety, try to create some post-snap decision making for him. Not make it so obvious, you know, pre snap where he can play the game on his terms. You've got to make it more like rush hour traffic than cruise control, make it more like New York City traffic, than a trip on I-90 in upstate New York. It's got to be more stressful for him. You try to make it like that, if you can. And then the thing about playing against a guy like Josh is that it's just the down's never over until it's over and that's what we've seen these first three weeks. This being the third week, is that all these quarterbacks are extremely dangerous at the end of the down. And, you know, certainly in those 'got to have it' situations, third down, two-minute red area."

**(On the improvements he has seen from S Jordan Fuller from Week 1 to Week 2)**

"He played much closer to his capacity. He played a lot better game. He tackled extremely well. He was physical, showed range, showed command in the deep part of the field, running the show for us. Much, much better."