



Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – September 24, 2020

(On whether RB Malcolm Brown will practice today)

“(RB) Malcolm (Brown) will, yes. (RB) Cam (Akers) will be the only guy that we don't expect to practice today.

(On how Akers is coming along)

“He's coming along, maybe a little bit slower than I had expected, but he's making progress. We'll see where he's at tomorrow.”

(On whether the scenario surrounding Chargers QB Tyrod Taylor affects his decision-making)

“I'm not in a position to talk about the medical stuff. I think we always want to be so careful with some of the procedures that we're trying to get done to give the players the opportunity to play and you can't be safe enough with that. But, to comment on those kinds of things, I think I'd kind of be out of my realm there.”

(On if not playing in Buffalo in a long time in itself presents a challenge)

“Nope. It's been a while since we had played in Philly, too (laughs). So, the last time I was in Buffalo was in the preseason in the early days when I was with the Washington Football Team. Definitely a different atmosphere now without the fans, you realize how much they bring to it. I know Buffalo's got a great history, great fan base, but that's a really tough football team and we're excited about the opportunity to play them.”

(On his evaluation of defensive pressure on the quarterback)

“I think the tape is always where the truth is revealed and we talk about each play as its own entity. I think stats can be totally misconstrued. Affecting and influencing the quarterback from a defensive perspective is exactly what we're interested in. It might not go down as a sack, but if you force pressure in his face and he's got to get out of the pocket and throw the ball away, it ends up being a win on the defense's part in our favor. So, affecting the quarterback in as many ways as you can is what's important and it can be reflected in sacks, turnovers, throwaways, batted balls. There's a lot of different things. That's why I think it's nice to have some of these overarching numbers, but each play individually, with so much going on, is where the truth is really revealed.”

(On his assessment of WR Van Jefferson to this point and what he would like to see from him next)

“I think he's done a nice job. I think the best thing for him is that he's got great veterans and a great receiver coach in (Wide Receivers Coach) Eric Yarber and (Assistant Wide Receivers Coach) Zac Robinson, great receiver coaches that are helping kind of guide him. I thought he made some really big plays the other day to be able to catch the play-action. One of the most unsung plays of the day I thought was the third-and-7 where he catches it for six and a half yards, enables us to be able to go for it on fourth down in a situation where (CB) Darius (Williams) had just gotten the turnover, it's 21-16. Even though we didn't get a touchdown, we still got field goal out of that drive. I think he's mature beyond his years for a rookie, but he's got great guys to be able to learn from. I think it's just continuing to increase the ownership, the knowledge, the details of the position and how his position operates within our offense.”

(On the status of DL A'Shawn Robinson)

“Yeah, he's making good progress. He's been on a good routine and rhythm with some of our guys. As far as when we started talking about the opportunity for him to return, that'll be after that six weeks. But, we

will be excited if we're fortunate enough to get a player of his caliber back and to add to the depth that we already have upfront."

(On whether LB Terrell Lewis will return to the active roster next week)

"I don't know that yet. We'll wait and see. He is progressing well. Exactly what the parameters are around that if he could return next week, I don't have that. I haven't got that far with (Vice President of Sports Medicine and Performance) Reggie (Scott), but he's working. He's doing a good job with his rehab and kind of the same with A'Shawn (Robinson). But, we'll be able to revisit the possibility of him returning sooner than A'Shawn."

(On his assessment of K Samuel Sloman's performance so far)

"I think he's done a nice job and I think there's a couple things where – you look at the blocked extra point that we had the other day. I mean, you've just got to get some more height under it. He didn't hit it clean and didn't have much trajectory underneath the ball. It was a flat line-drive that that's going to get blocked regardless of how good the protection is. But he's got a nice way about himself. I do like his mental toughness. I like how he's kind of unfazed. I think you want to give them some understanding that he's done a lot of good things, too. I thought the most impressive thing I've seen from him was the response after he clings the upright against Dallas, ended up making an extra point, a couple of field goals that we had to have in that game when you end up winning by three. So, I think it's been positive. There's definitely some room for improvement, but I don't want to be too quick to judge with two games of inventory for a guy that didn't have a preseason. It's a rookie kicker. There's so much involved just from a mental approach that I do feel good where he's at and you want to continue to just monitor that and see him progress. I think as he gains experience, his confidence will come with that as well."

(On if he's comfortable with the run-pass balance two weeks into the season and how long before he says 'This is who we are')

"I think it's every game. I think the run-pass balance can get really skewed. The way that you kind of break it down is situationally and based on 'D-and-D's' (down-and-distance's) because I don't think you're going to find many people that have any run-pass balance in third-and-5-plus. I'd be willing to bet you that the league is pretty pass heavy there. So I think when you look at it, you want to monitor all right personnel groupings that we're doing when you're in some of these normal down-and-distances, and just making sure that you're aware of your self scout, but also we're going to run the plays that we feel like give us the best chance to move the football and score points. That's what I'm most interested in. I want to see us score as many points and move the football efficiently. If that means throwing it 60 times or running at 60 times, we're going to do whatever we think is best. In a lot of instances, what does end up revealing itself is when you seem to be balanced, usually that's when you can kind of have the run and the pass and defenses have to honor both. So, want to be able to have the balance if it's necessary, but if teams are just going to load up and dare you to throw it, I think the good offenses have the ability to do both and that's what we want to be able to do a kind of on our terms, if you will."

(On how leading in the game impacts whether or not they run or pass)

"Not too much. It's a different thing when you're in like a four-minute situation and you're just trying to run the clock out. If it was a normal third-and-2, you might compete a little bit. But, the game that we had against Philly where you're just trying to end the game in a four-minute, you know that if (WR) Cooper (Kupp) gets a first down, we're going to be able to take three knees and the game will be over. So, it is by situation, but I think two games is a real, real small inventory to kind of get carried away. I think we've done some good stuff, but by no means is that good enough for us to just be complacent and not continue to really push it. That's why we've got to have a great day today. The Bills, they've done a really good job and (Bills Head) Coach (Sean) McDermott, he'll have these guys ready to go. No doubt about it."

(On what the Bills defense does exceptionally well)

"They make you earn every single yard. They do a bunch of good stuff where they play the run tough. They're very fundamentally sound. They tackle well. You can see they're in tune in their coverage contours. They mix it up just enough where they're bringing more than four to keep you honest. Then, I think situationally, they do a really good job of when they get in the favorable down-and-distances for themselves, they're activating a bunch of different guys. They keep you honest. Coach McDermott, even going back to

when he was in Carolina and I was in Washington, I think he does an excellent job. You can see he understands offensive football, how to attack protections, how to play route concepts and coverage contours, and then how to put his guys up front in good positions to be able to aggressively play the run and the pass. This is reflective of everything that you look for in a good defense when you flip this Buffalo film on.”

(On how closely he is monitoring the health of Buffalo’s two linebackers)

“You monitor it, but they've got pretty capable guys that played well. You know, (Bills LB A.J.) Klein is a guy that's played a lot of really good football for New Orleans that we're familiar with, that steps in. (Bills LB Matt) Milano and (Bills LB Tremaine) Edmunds are excellent football players, but they've got depth at that inside linebacker position. I would expect those guys to play, but if not, they've still got very capable, really good football players behind them. So, it's still the same defense. I don't think they're really changing the way that they play things because you've got really good players, whether it's the starting two, or you end up getting some of their other players.”

(On what allows Bills QB Josh Allen to be so accurate and not throw any interceptions)

“I think (Bills Offensive Coordinator) Coach (Brian) Daboll has done an excellent job and you can really see there's a connection between those two and a rapport. It's a mixture of they get the runs, these 'RPO's' (run-pass-option) going, and then they do a great job with their play-actions. They can spread you out in their empty (set) and I think he's just got a good feel for what they're trying to get done. Coach Daboll is putting their good players in the right positions and then those players ultimately are the ones that have to execute and that's what they're doing. Then when things go off-schedule, his ability to be able to make plays out of rhythm where he's breaking contain, eyes down the field, whether it's as a runner or as a passer, is really impressive. You see some of the throws that he's able to make and the accuracy that he's throwing the football consistently with throughout the course of these first two games. You see why he's putting up the numbers that he is and why their offense is as productive as it's been. So, our guys have their work cut out for them, but we're excited about the challenge.”