



**Rams Head Coach Sean McVay – Media Availability – December 2, 2020**

**(On injuries)**

“Everybody’s feeling pretty good. (DL) Sebastian (Joseph-Day) had a little bit of a hip that limited him today. (OL) Brian Allen’s knee is still limiting him a little bit, but other than that everybody’s feeling good.”

**(On OLB Ogbornia Okoronkwo returning this week)**

“I think this is the week for him. It would be good to get him back.”

**(On the matchup between Cardinals WR DeAndre Hopkins and CB Jalen Ramsey)**

“These guys have a lot of experience playing against one another. Two great players, two perennial Pro Bowlers, All Pros. You see the plays in the production that (Cardinals WR) DeAndre (Hopkins) has made throughout the course of his career. He can do it all. They do a great job of trying to make sure he gets his touches. There will be some situations where he and (CB) Jalen (Ramsey) will be going against one another. Jalen’s had a great season. He’s done so many things. I think Jalen is a guy that’s not just playing star coverage, he’s playing all over the field. He’s a great football player for us. I know that he relishes the opportunities to go against great players that he has a lot of respect for. I’ve talked to him about DeAndre and I know he feels really strongly and respects his game. That’s what you love about the NFL.”

**(On the Cardinals defense)**

“This is a really good football team. What’s occurred in the past has nothing to do with this game. There is continuity at the coordinator spots, but these guys are playing really well. They have great playmakers in all three phases. I think (Defensive Coordinator) Coach (Vance) Joseph does an excellent job. You see the impact players. Obviously, (CB) Patrick Peterson has been producing at such a high level. (OLB) Chandler Jones, not being there, you know what a great player he’s been. I think (S) Budda Baker has ascended into one of the best players in this league. If you watch and you say, ‘What does it look like to compete with a relentless passion every single snap?’ you watch #32 (Budda Baker) for their defense. I think (OLB) Markus Golden’s been a really good addition for them. They’re getting really good play on all three levels. They play hard, they’re an aggressive defense and it’s going to be a really good challenge for us. Everybody’s looking forward to bouncing back and it’s not going to be easy, but that’s what you love about the opportunity to respond and that’s exactly what I believe our guys will do.”

**(On if it is a relief getting consistency from K Matt Gay)**

“Yes. I think it was a step in the right direction. It’s been two weeks and he was automatic the other day. He is definitely demonstrating all the things that you look for in somebody that, hopefully, is that long-term solution, like we talked about. I really like his demeanor. I liked the way he’s handled himself. He has a great way about himself and the production speaks for itself. I’m looking forward to seeing that continue. Looking forward to seeing, hopefully, just more extra points. Not as many field-goal opportunities but finishing drives in the red zone and then a lot of kickoffs. But a good opportunity for him to show why we have such a high level of confidence in him through the two weeks that he’s played with us.”

**(On if he is confident QB Jared Goff will bounce back after Sunday’s loss and how he looked a practice today)**

“Yeah, I am. He looked good. I mean, it’s practice. You have to attack the week the right way with a great week of preparation and then we have to play when the game counts. You can never truly simulate that once you get to this point in the season, but you can create competitive reps. That’s something that we try to do. Try to stress our guys throughout the course of the week and that’s really for all three phases. But I

liked the way that he started out. One of the things that you do really appreciate about him is he steady, he's neutral. He's coming back ready to go, and that's what you want. You don't want somebody that's going to ride the emotional roller coaster. I think there's too many ebbs and flows, especially at that quarterback position. I am looking forward to seeing him bounce back. I know he's going to do everything in his power to have the right kind of preparation with he and (Offensive Coordinator) Kevin (O'Connell) this week and hopefully it leads to a good performance."

**(On how the wind advisory affects practice)**

"Yeah, it definitely does. Because of the wind advisory and tomorrow being a really important workday – I think last week with the short week, I probably did our guys a disservice not giving us an opportunity to practice with the fundamentals and the techniques. I thought it was the right decision, but you always have to be honest with yourself, reflect, and look back. I think it's important enough that we'll do virtual meetings in the morning, and then we'll go down and practice that SoFi (Stadium) tomorrow in a more controlled setting because we need to get that work in. You can see the amount of good work that gets in, even though it is minimal once you get this late in the season, is something that you can't take for granted. That's what we'll do tomorrow as a result of the wind advisory."

**(On how SoFi Stadium has influenced whether he would like an indoor or outdoor practice facility)**

"I think you'd like to have the availability for both. I just know out here, once it gets later in the season, it's nearly impossible. We've had different challenges each of the last few years since I've been here, whether it be the fires or whether it be the winds. Those are things that are really important. You don't get enough time to practice. Fortunately for us, we do have SoFi. But we'll see, talking about a new facility. That's probably about 15 years away right now (laughs). What are we talking about? Let's just get our eighth win, lets try to go get ready for this. We will go to SoFi and practice. You want to talk about a new facility, I'll be aged about 50 years by then."

**(On how happy he is with the offensive line) is**

"I think they've been pretty steady for the most part. I thought last week was not one of their best performances for the expectations that we have. I think you have to give San Francisco credit, but I think, for the most part, we've done a better job of handling movement, covering people up in the run game and creating movement. We weren't really able to really do that, with the exception of a couple of runs. I've been pleased with them and I think (Run Game Coordinator) Coach (Aaron) Kromer does an outstanding job, but I do think last week wasn't reflective of the standards and the expectations. I know those guys are itching to be able to get a chance to compete against a tough front this week."

**(On Cardinals QB Kyler Murray)**

"When you watch him, the one thing that stands out is this guy's playing the quarterback position at a high level. He can stand in there, he can recognize coverage, he can progress through things. When he ends up breaking contains, he's keeping his eyes down the field. And then when he is activated as a runner, he's a great quarterback that has amazing running skills. What I'm so impressed with is his ability to slip punches. Usually you see guys that run the football and carry as much as him, they're taking a lot of shots. He just has such a great way about being able to slip those punches, almost like a great boxer. You never saw Floyd Mayweather really get caught. That's kind of how I look at him, but then he's got the speed and athleticism like (Former Falcons QB Michael) Vick to be able to run away from you. You see some of the runs that he's making against All Pro type of players and he's running away, separating. Sometimes you're watching and you're saying, 'Holy, this is a joke, man. I can't believe we got to freaking defend this guy'. But as a fan of the game, this guy's awesome. Not looking forward to having to play him twice a year, but I do know that our defense is excited about the challenge. He's a great player. He's a great quarterback. (Cardinals Head Coach) Kliff (Kingsbury) does an outstanding job with him and I've been very impressed with the way that he handles himself. I love what type of competitor he is when I watched the way he handled himself throughout the course of games. His guys believe in him and that's what you look for in a quarterback."

**(On Goff improving his play last December)**

"I just remember he finished strong. I know that you earn every opportunity to play well. I thought he did a great job against the Cardinals. You have to have great preparation. He got into a good rhythm early, guys

made plays for him, he was able to hit somethings where guys were creating after the catch. Then I thought he saw the field well, I thought guys protected. He was able to progress, hit spots, and do a bunch of different things that are reflective of playing the position at a high level. Being a great point guard, distributing the ball, and he was really efficient on third downs. Those are the things that we're looking for and he's done that in spurts this year. It's not a matter of is he capable of it? It's just a matter of let's be more consistent, let's understand the focus and concentration required snap in and snap out. The one thing too is, with the position being as difficult as it is, inevitably, I don't care how great you are, there's always going to be a couple of plays each game you want back. We just have to make sure that, situationally, we have a great understanding and like we talked about, continue doing a great job of trying to take care of the football and make good decisions snap in and snap out. This isn't an ability question. It's just let's go get an opportunity to play at the level that he has and now we have to do it."

**(On coaching the players to bring out their best)**

"You really keep it real and you say, 'What we can't allow is the 49ers to beat us twice.' The best thing is as a competitor, any great competitor – you show me a great competitor and I'll show you somebody that's responded from adversity. You can't allow setbacks to just be demoralizing. You use it as a setup for a comeback and you have to really continue to believe it. All you can do is be totally present. What happened in the 49ers game, has nothing to do with what we're going to do this week, unless we allow it to. I know I didn't feel that at all from our players. Are they disappointed we didn't get it done? Yeah. But I can promise you this, we'll be a lot more disappointed if we allow it to filter into this week. I haven't sensed that at all. I know our coaches are excited about the preparation. I thought the players handled today really well and we have to stack a couple more good days and then let's go let it all hang out on Sunday against the Cardinals."