



Rams DL Aaron Donald – Media Availability – December 17, 2020

(On his experience in Defensive Coordinator Brandon Staley's system)

"It's been great. I feel like we're playing consistent football in his defense, he is putting us in a lot of great positions. Every week is something different, so teams aren't really able to pinpoint what we're going to do. It's been great. We got to just keep it up, because it's a fun defense to be a part of, definitely when you're winning and you're dominating week-in and week-out. I'm enjoying it."

(On facing a winless team this late in the season)

"I would say dangerous. It's the National Football League too. I've been on the opposite side of having the talent, but not putting it all together when we were in St. Louis, so I understand what it's like. I still believe they have a good team. They've got good football players. We don't want them to beat us. You've got to go to the mindset that it's going to be a dog fight, regardless of the record, you don't look at the records, you just look at the team, the guys you're going against. We're trying to find a way to fight through this game and trying to win."

(On ILB Kenny Young's pick-six and Donald's involvement in the play)

"Well, it was good. It was a big-time play, a game-changing play for us, a play we needed. For that to turn and play out how it did it was great. I started the jog late because I started to pass (ILB) Kenny (Young) up and I was trying to talk to him as I was going out to the field, I was a little faster than him, so I had to slow it down."

(On he and CB Jalen Ramsey leading Young into endzone and what that means to him)

"That's what you want. He's a leader, he's a playmaker, you expect stuff like that. We needed a play. He had (Patriots QB) Cam (Newton) blocked out to the point where he couldn't get to Kenny and we punched it in. Playmakers make big-time plays. Him blocking and then Kenny making a big play that was a big-time play for us. We got to continue to do that to try to get to where we're trying to get to."

(On being 3.0 sacks away from the Rams Franchise Sack Record and if it would mean anything to him)

"Yeah, that would. I just found that out two seconds ago. I'm just going to keep playing ball, just keep playing, let the game, come to me and we'll see what happens. My main focus is doing what I can do to help this team to win. It's about winning games and we're on the verge of doing that. Hopefully we have a lot of success, a lot of production to show for it too."

(On leading the league in the sacks and if he likes leading or chasing sack leaders)

"Honestly, I try not to pay attention to a lot of that because we still got three games left, so it's still early. I just play the game. I tend not to try to pay attention to certain things, not trying to put stress on myself and just let the game come to me. We got the hot hand right now and this team is playing great football right now. We're winning, so I'm going to keep trying to play at a high level to help this team to continue to win. And that's me being on the football field, being productive and doing what I can do."

(On if he ever met Hall of Fame DE Deacon Jones)

"I've never met him. I've never met (Hall of Fame DE) Deacon Jones"

(On the stadiums without crowd noise)

"Well, it definitely is different. It's a lot more quiet, you're feeding off your teammates more than the fans. You kind of get adjusted to and get used to it. I can't wait until we get a packed house when we're winning big games and making plays with thousands of fans yelling, making noise for us."

(On a comment or sounds he's heard in a stadium without fans)

"You hear everything, it's like a practice. You can hear everything, so that's just what it's like. At times it's kind of awkward when it gets super quiet and they cut the sound off. It was an adjustment we had to do. Hopefully, down the road, this thing will be done and we will be able to have fans."

(On the defensive mindset to be plus one in the turnover margin as a team)

"Well, just trying to get the ball, turn the ball over. Have more turnovers than the opposite defense and keep feeding our offense the ball. If we do that, we know no good things are going happen. And when you are making those big-time plays, we feed off that as a team. We just got to continue to play like that."

(On his feelings towards DL Michael Brockers having a big game against the Patriots)

"I was pumped. I was happy, I was happy for 'Brock' (DL Michael Brockers). I was happy because he's making the plays, helping us win that game too. It definitely was a fun day. Everybody was making play, everybody was having fun, everybody was into the game. It was exciting. When you're playing games like that and everybody around you are making plays, man, it's definitely fun. That's what football is about at the end of the day. It's our job, but it's still a game at the end of the day, so you want to enjoy it. Those are the type of moments you remember when it's all said and done."

(On Ramsey campaigning for Donald to be Defensive Player of the Year in Donald's postgame interview)

"It's all love. You appreciate that from your guys. It's just all love."

(On holiday gifts and how they're handled in position groups)

"Well, we got gifts picked up for people. We just get a box, we throw names into it and you pick it out the box and then that's what you got. I got (DL Morgan) Fox, so I got a nice little gift for Fox. He's going to have him a nice Christmas, let's just say that."

(On what he's seen from Jets QB Sam Darnold and the Jets issues in pass protection)

"Obviously they're not playing how they want to play, but I think he's a good quarterback. I think he's really mobile, he can move, he can make things happen with his feet and get himself out of trouble. He looks like he's strong, because there's a couple of times where it looked like he got sacked, but he was able to break off and make something happen. He's a solid quarterback. As a defensive line, we've been studying that, understanding that plays aren't going to come easy, we've got to earn them. We just got to do our job. I think he's a good quarterback. They got some good players around him, some good young players as well. We just got to do our job."

(On Jets LT Mekhi Becton)

"He's a big guy that playing physical, playing good football. He looks comfortable in what he's doing as far as pass sets and the run game. He's playing with some confidence it looks like."

(On clinching a playoff berth with a win on Sunday and if he's aware of that and the importance of getting back in the playoffs)

"We're aware of that. That's what you you train for, that's what you work for, to get put in a position that to make it to the playoffs, because that's the ultimate goal is to be a World Champion. We're still a ways away from that, but you know, that's one step closer to what we were trying to accomplish. We know what's riding on that. We know what we got to do as a team. So our mindset is, we're locked in, guys are locked in at practice, everybody doing what they need to do. We know it's going to be a dog fight."

(On wearing the Oakley COVID Face shield at practice)

"The whole team is wearing them. Actually, I'm wearing that and I got a visor. We try to be as cautious as we can, so we'll be healthy and ready to play on Sundays. It's good. I don't mind doing it at practice. If anything, you get a little extra condition with all that over your face."

(On how long the team has been wearing the face shields at practice)

"The last couple of weeks we've been having them on. Pretty much the second half of the season, I think we've been having it on and moving like that. At first it was weird, kind of complained about a little bit, but it is what it is. We got to do what we got to do to make sure we're healthy and able to play come Sunday."