



Los Angeles Rams Transcripts - Head Coach Sean McVay, Defensive Back Jalen Ramsey - Saturday, October 1, 2022

Head Coach Sean McVay

(Opening remarks)

“Okay guys, I'll start off with the injuries. (OC) Brian Allen will be out for the game with his knee, (DC) Cobie Durant will be out with his hamstring, (DB) David Long (Jr.) with his groin. Expect (DB) Jordan Fuller to be ready to go, will be a full participant today. (DC) Derion Kendrick will be a full participant. And then we had a little issue with (OG) David Edwards. He'll be out for the game as well, which is a bummer, but want to make sure that (we're) communicating that to you guys and we'll move forward the right way.”

(On if David Edwards has COVID-19)

“No, what it is, is he wasn't feeling too great. He came in day after we had some individual stuff, said he was a little bit foggy. Obviously, you can't be too careful with some of these things. We went through the protocol, he'll be in concussion protocol right now, and so as a result of that, he'll be out for the game. But it was great for him to be able to kind of communicate. We took the right steps, especially, with the situation that occurred on Thursday. But really just in general, regardless of whether or not that happened with (QB) Tua

(Tagovailoa), (it's) something we take very serious and I appreciate him handling it the right way. I know he wants to be out there with his teammates, but he's going to be in that concussion protocol and hopefully we'll get him back next week."

(On when David Edwards entered concussion protocol)

"This morning."

(On player safety and his thoughts on the (Dolphins QB) Tua Tagovailoa situation)

"I think the biggest thing is that it's about the person before the player. And some of these things, when you realize this game is so important to so many of us, and when you're in the midst and in the moment of it, you think that this is just going to be forever, but you realize this is a small blip in time. There's so many things to life with family, with friends, with the people that love and support you and care about you unconditionally, and I think it's our job as coaches and really in general to look out for the person one, the player next. And these are things that (I) certainly don't take lightly. I know that I'm not the expert in that arena, but I also defer to those guys and I think being able to have relationships where you're able to kind of understand where they're coming from and then you can almost take the decision out of their hands because these guys are such competitors and there's an element of, 'I don't want to let people down.' And you got to be able to help them realize you're not letting anybody down. This is a small blip, we're going to be smart with this. This game has brought so many blessings, but you have to be able to draw the line in terms of, 'Alright, what's really the most important thing in the big picture?' And certainly safety always is that at a premium for us."

(On whom will play guard)

"There's a good chance that (OL) Bobby Evans will step in there. A lot of

moving parts.”

(On problem solving and how it's been for him)

“You know what it's been? When you have the right mindset about it, it's been exciting because nobody's flinched from our players. Those guys are excited about their opportunity. Whether it's (OT) AJ (Alaric) Jackson stepping in after (OT) Tremayne Anchrum (Jr.) goes down against the Falcons, whether it's (OT) Bobby Evans even last week when (OT) Rob (Havenstein) goes down, steps in, he's played a lot of football. Game's not too big for either of these guys. But you know what it's been, it's been a good illustration of the importance of developing the total team, making sure that when you say 'next man up', you can really mean it. And I love the response from our players about, hey, let's put our arm around the guys that are stepping in, let's go compete in the best of our ability with the mindset and mentality that's championship caliber.”

(On if the Tagovailoa situation brought heightened awareness)

“Heightened awareness. I just acknowledge in that situation. Whether that happened or not would have zero to do with our approach with David Edwards. But I know there's been a lot of, I don't want to say speculation, but a lot of questions in that situation and particular brought light to a lot of questions. And so, I feel really good about the processes and the procedures that have been in place since I've been here and in this role as it relates to the communication with the medical group. I know the NFL's doing everything in their power to do the right thing by the players and I fully believe that.”

(On the league having priorities on uniform infractions and taunting)

“I think you want to listen, learn, and then be able to make the appropriate responses as it relates specifically to the health and safety. It's deferring to those experts, making sure that there's a real connection between coach and player, whoever it is that you're talking about and then be able to support them,

number one. Some of those other things, those are interesting. You're talking about like the uniform violations and taunting? I think the intent...here's what I would say. I think the intent as it relates to the taunting is in the right place, and then sometimes there's an element of, 'Alright, how do you let guys continue to compete?' Here's what we worry about. We worry about how are the games officiated? What are we really trying to get done? And let's make sure that we have a swag, confidence and ability to enjoy the emotions that I think are healthy about this game, while not taking it to a point where it gets officiated in a manner that hurts our team. And so, you want to keep educating guys on that. Whether or not I agree with the way that it's looked at has zero to do with, 'Hey, we've got to just be in alignment with what's being officiated.' And we always want to be a classy operation, but we also want to be emotional and experience those real things that I think are when guys are at their best. And so, where is that balance? I think it's more about just connecting with the guys, them understanding that and I do know that all of our guys on our team are emotional in a good way, and they want to do nothing but help our team continue to perform and be in the right spots throughout the course of the game."

(On if he cares about continued uniform violations for players)

"I mean, here's what I care about. I care about being as supportive as I can to our players and having them focus on the things that are in alignment with playing good football. I would like to say, what's the intent behind it? And then, you just try to educate guys moving forward. But again, it's something that I want to try to minimize the amount of distractions and other things that take away from the player's focus and concentration on playing good football and enjoying that as much as possible. And you know, those are interesting things. I just always want to be supportive to our players."

(On if DC Derion Kendrick cleared concussion protocol)

“Yes, he did.”

Defensive Back Jalen Ramsey

(On how he would describe the rivalry between the Rams and the 49ers)

“A great NFL rivalry, I guess you could say.”

(On why it was important for him to step up as a leader in the secondary despite all the injuries)

“I talked about it a little bit last week. I want to make sure that we don't lose a step so everybody in the secondary is strong. Being one of the leaders in the room I've got to make sure that my game is strong so they can feed off my confidence and my energy and my play out there.”

(On the challenge of playing a non-mobile quarterback this week and if he likes it better than playing against a quarterback who can run more)

“It's different. Even though we have played mobile quarterbacks, they've all been a little bit different, just their play styles. (49ers QB) Jimmy (Garoppolo) is definitely different than them. I'm not going to say I like it better or worse, it doesn't really matter to me personally. I think he does a good job leading their team. Whatever people want to say about Jimmy, he's been successful. He's done a good job leading them, so that's what that is. We know that part, respect that, but it is what it is. We are going to play our game.”

(On how a defensive back approaches a team that gets the ball out quickly)

“It just depends, it's a lot that goes in to it. It depends on our coverage, depends on our technique that we're using, depends on what we're trying to accomplish in that moment and on that play. I don't know if I could really give you like a

solid answer, I'm sorry.”

(On the growth of DB Nick Scott)

“I think a lot of it comes just from his mindset. He has an amazing mindset, a very similar mindset that I have out there when you want to make as many plays as you can make for the team. You want to be great, you want to be a tone setter right? A game changer, that's the mindset he has. When I first got here, I joke with him about this sometimes even now, he didn't have that mindset much or he had that mindset only for special teams. He never looked at himself as like, ‘Man, I'm like an actual really good safety. I could do really good safety for this team.’ As soon as he started to actually be like, ‘No, I'm more than just a special teams player. I can do whatever I put my mind to and just work for it,’ it all started to come to life for him, honestly. Once he got those opportunities, he was ready for it. He sees those moments and now we see him doing what he's doing now, making a lot of plays and being a leader in our secondary.”

(On when players have freedom to make plays and what that does for their confidence)

“It does a lot, it can do a lot honestly. I think it's really when technique meets the opportunity, when it meets with the opportunity that comes and you seize the opportunity and you see like, ‘Okay, I will get these opportunities and if I'm doing everything that I have to do in my power to be in that position and with the right technique, I can make those plays.’ It'll just build a confidence and let you know in your head, ‘Okay, I need to continue working with my technique, I need to continue working on studying and being in the right place at the right time.’ It can definitely build confidence and I'm glad that it happened for our guys (inaudible).”

(On his thoughts about the head injury to Dolphins QB Tua Tagovailoa)

“It's unfortunate anytime anybody gets injured, but there is stuff that we have to do before we can play. If I was hurt, if I messed up my, I don't know whatever, Lord forbid. If I got hurt and I physically could not play, then it doesn't matter how bad I want to play, I wouldn't be able to play and they would not let me play, the coaches and the staff wouldn't let me play. I would like to think it's like that everywhere. If you cannot play, then you won't play. I think that they probably tried to do the right thing. I don't know, I'm not in their locker room. Tua, I'm sure he wanted to play, wanted to be out there for his team. He's their franchise quarterback, right? I'm sure his teammates wanted him to play, I'm sure the organization wanted him to play. But if he was in a situation where it wasn't smart for him to even be out there, I would like to think that they wouldn't have put him out there. Personally, I don't think any foul play or anything like that was any type of intention. I would pray not, but, I guess we'll see. Like I said, I hope he is good, but at the end of the day, it's not any of my business. I just hope he's good and I hope they didn't do anything wrong, didn't do any type of wrong to him. But there's tests you have to take. We've got to do stuff at the beginning of the year, when we don't even have concussions, like baseline tests, 30-minute tests, all types of crazy stuff. There is stuff in place to make sure guys are good and guys are healthy. But speaking about this, I think that question is great. That's is an amazing question. Player safety should be one of the most important things talked about, it should probably be talked about more. And getting fined for socks? No for real, let's talk about it. Like getting fined for socks or getting fined for tights or 'bs' or anything like that. That needs to not be talked about as much. We need to talk about player safety. That's the stuff that they need to put an emphasis on, not freaking, 'Oh his socks are too high, his socks are too low or something like that.' That's so lame, I'm so beyond that. I get fined every week, y'all probably know. It don't matter to me no more, I'm going to continue to get fine cause I'm going to be swaggy out there. I'm going to wear the same thing this week too, so I'm ready for the fine, come on with it. I play the game with integrity, I play the game the right way, I

try to make sure people are safe. Obviously, I want to go out there and hurt my opponents here and strike fear and all that, but I don't want to injure nobody. That's what the game is about, it's not about the other 'bs'. Maybe I could start the conversation right now. That's what it needs to be about. It needs to be about player safety, all that good stuff. How can we protect the players as much as we can so we can go out there and give you all a good performance and have entertainment to watch, and still at the same time be swaggy. If we want to go out there and look good and it's not hurting the integrity of the game, why are y'all fining me \$10,000 for my socks? That don't make no sense. It's cool, I'm going to get fined again. I'm going to do something. I'm going to give all that money, and I'm going to just match the money and give it to charity. That's what I'll do. I'll figure out some charities to match the money and give it to. But these high school kids, they think I'm swaggy. They think I look good on game day and they think I play the game the right way. Anyway, I just went on a little rant, but you had me thinking like that's what it's about right? We want to think about protecting guys and making sure guys not hurt, injured, and the integrity of the game. Not my damn socks.”

(On why he feels the league places a higher priority on other protocols versus safety)

“I have no clue. It's so lame. I'm going to keep it honest. It's so lame. I might get fined for this. Because I don't know, I really don't know, my agent's probably going to hit me up about this. I might get fined for this, but I think it's lame. I think it's lame. It's not fun and it's not doing anything for... we're not taking away from the integrity of the game. Like who cares about that, right? These kids think that's cool, like they want to fine us and do all of that, but then they want to glorify us, and promote us and make money off of us when guys are out there like swagging out and then they monetize it. Like the kids, they're going to want to go buy the stuff that we wearing, right? What (are) all celebration like little kids doing? My little nephew, he hit the gritty, he scored touchdown. Like

these were things where they used to like fine and taunting and all that. Kids look up to us, that don't take away from the integrity of the game. So I do think it's lame. I don't know why they put such a high emphasis on that and then on the back end try to monetize off of it, right? Like it's just lame to me. Whatever though.”

(On the impact he wants to leave for high school kids after his recent visit to Long Beach Poly)

“Yeah. I have a passion for the youth, anything that's going on with the youth. I think obviously the youth is the future, right? Whether that's education, sports, whatever the case might be. So I kind of was trying to find ways to give back to the youth in other ways that I'm already doing like with the education and charity stuff. I haven't really done... I don't really do camps and stuff like that. So I was like, what can I do for certain kids. One day I want to be a high school coach. That's my dream. Hopefully I have the patience to do that. I want to be a high school coach. I just think that would be fun, helping high school guys who, it might be their last time playing or they might be going on to college, helping give them some inspiration or some game that will help them like move the game forward. Like we're playing at the professional level, at the highest level, and they're in high school playing it. But if I can give them tips to make the game like kind of the same and make them enjoy it a little bit more, I'm all for that. So I'm just going around like different little high schools. I said I was going to do five obviously like my number, sticking with that theme, but I'll probably end up going to more than five. (I'm) having a good time with it. So I'm going with a couple friends, a couple special guests here and there. Going to some schools that have some good DBs obviously, some good teams. It's been fun. I like high school football so that's really where that came from. Just trying to push the game forward to help the game.”

(On his familiarity with the history of Long Beach Poly)

“A little bit. Obviously like (Former Rams WR DeSean Jackson) DJ was on our team last year. He went there, Snoop Dogg went there, Giveon, some history there.”

(On if he gets fined every week and what’s the issue)

“Every week. Week one got fined. Week two got fined. Week one they said that my knee pads didn't cover my knees which...come on y'all. If I had on pants right now and I was walking, they would probably come up, right? That's insane. Anyway, got fined for that. I tried to appeal it because I'm trying to explain to them the same way. ‘Like yo, this is just common sense. The pants are going to come up when I'm running full speed.’ (I) sent them pictures, everything. I tried. The pants were just coming up. They just reduced it. So I still got fined. They reduced it a little bit but still got fined. Whatever. Y'all saw (K) Matt Gay's post, he was mad about it. Like they're kickers. Next week, they fined me for... they said I didn't have the right socks on. They said I don't have the right socks on. But it was really because I was wearing yellow tights. That's why it was because I was wearing yellow tights. I looked good though that game and got some good compliments and it was swaggy and it was cool. And I didn't get no warning. Okay, so this is really the thing and this is why I'm like kind of taking my stance on it right now. Cause I go up to... there's always a person on the sideline pre-game and I go up to them and I say, ‘What do I need to fix?’ They'll tell you, like they're supposed to tell you and they write it down on a list and they'll tell you what you need to fix. For three weeks in a row nobody has told me I need to fix anything and I went up to them and was like, do I need to fix anything? So last week I wore the same thing. In essence, I tried to wear the same exact thing and I went up to them. But in pregame I didn't have knee pads in so I went up to him, I was like, he got to say something to me this time obviously, right? I went up to him and he said you got to put knee pads in. I said, ‘Is that it?’ He was like, ‘Yeah, put knee pads in, then you're good.’ So I went and put knee pads in then yesterday I got fined for

the same thing. So I'm like 'Man it is what it is at this point. I'm going to just keep on being swaggy.' That's it. It's a little lame to me. It's lame but it is what it is. Am I going to get fined for this? Do I get fined for this? I might get fined for this if I get fined for this. Hey matter of fact I might get fined for this so if y'all got any more questions, let's get it out of the way now so I don't get more fines for it. For real."

(On the problem with the yellow tights)

"That's what I said! I said it's team colors. It is not like I wore...it's not like I wore red. I said, 'So look, week one we wore white.' I said, 'Some people wore blue tights, some people wore white tights. Y'all didn't say nothing when I wore the white tights and it looked good. We had the white on the yellow with the white types and blue whatever.' Right? Then I'm like, and then I wore yellow tights. We had on yellow pants, yellow tights. It looked good, right? I am not tripping. Then last week we had the blue with the yellow. It looked good. Like it isn't like I'm wearing green. I am not wearing nothing crazy, right? I don't know. They don't know. It's not really the same. It's not the same, anyway."

(On if the league stresses the protocols to him and other players and if the players communicate that to the NFLPA)

"Oh, they know, and they aren't doing nothing about it. Don't get me started on that either. Don't get me started on them. They got to do better. They got to do better."

(On if he thought about recording the meetings with the officials)

"I probably get fined for that too cause they going to be like, 'Why'd you have your phone on the sideline in pregame?' I don't know but I should have. I went straight up to the dude last week. I said. 'What I need to fix?' I looked at him just like this. He's like, 'You don't have no knee pads in.' I said, 'All right,' so I put knee pads in, I'm good. He said. 'You good.' That's it. I wasn't good. Got

fined ten thousand.

(On who he is going up to before games to get checked)

“I don't even know their exact title, but like if you watch when the DBs come out, like they'll do it when different units come out. They stand right by the unit and just he just has a piece of paper like on a clipboard. He looks at everybody real quick and he writes something down if need be. Then he'll go, when we get ready to go in, he'll go give it to (Equipment Director) (Brendan) Burger. He'll give it to Brendan and Brendan will come in the locker room and he'll literally go down the list and tell everybody, ‘aight, you need to fix this or you need to fix that, you need to fix this.’ Like, yo, it's so crazy, right? Like in my career I've gotten fined for...I've gotten fined for socks, I've gotten fined for tights, I've gotten fined for my t-shirt hanging out too much. Like the other stuff I'm cool with, right? Like if I get fined if I hit somebody in the head, I should get fined for that. Right, that's not player safety. That's cool. I got fined for stuff like that. I think I got fined for taunting last week and I ain't even get no penalty during the game. I ain't even get no taunting penalty during the game and I got fined for taunting. I ain't even really... I don't even think I taunted nobody for real, for real. I'm going to appeal it. But after they see this interview, I probably am not getting money back. Anyway man. I'm tired of it, but I'm going to keep swagging. That's it.”

(On his opinion of the referees)

“The refs were great. If that's the case, make sure they see this. Because I'm probably going to have to use that in the appeal.”

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