



Los Angeles Rams Transcripts - Head Coach
Sean McVay, QB Matthew Stafford,
Linebacker Bobby Wagner - Wednesday,
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Head Coach Sean McVay

(On an injury update for the team)

“Yeah, so (OC) Brian Allen will be out with his knee. We're going to be smart with (WR) Cooper Kupp, (TE) Tyler Higbee, (DT) Aaron Donald, and (WR) Brandon Powell. They've got some different things from the game where we're just being smart. I don't expect it to affect their game status. (DB) David Long (Jr.) will be limited. (DC) (Cobie) Durant will be limited, as will (DB) Taylor Rapp.”

(On how he addresses the mental mistakes made by the team)

“Yeah, urgency on communication. That's where it really starts. That's one of the things that we've prided ourselves on for the last five years, now this being the sixth year. It hasn't been up to our standards, particularly on the offensive side of the ball, and even with what ended up occurring (on) special teams with the block punt. So these are things that are correctable. But it's hard to really beat another team if you don't stop beating yourself. So those are the things that we'll continue to focus on, great communication, great command, great

clarity from us. I do believe those things are correctable and I think that's going to be reflected this week.”

(On how he gets WR Allen Robinson more high probability looks in the game)

“Yeah, we just got to play better offensively.”

(On the desire to have WR Odell Beckham Jr. return after his recent tweets about potential offers)

“(VP of Football Communications) Artis (Twyman) made me aware of that right before I walked over here. I love Odell. We have constant dialogue. I think he also knows that, certainly I don't think that's the last one that would come from us. I'm not familiar exactly what it is. He knows how we feel about him. We got a little bit of time, but love Odell, nothing but good things coming from me.”

(On if there is anything specific he wants to focus on in practice this week)

“Yeah, I think it goes back to kind what I was talking about. It the communication. It's the overall execution of the fundamentals, the techniques, guys being able to press it where the ball's designed to be able to hit, and we got to be able to win the one-on-one matchups. In a lot of instances sometimes it's just, hey, our guy versus their guy and some of these situations based on how many guys they want to account for or how many they want to commit to the box and that's where we got to be able to do a good job. But it's about the efficiency, can't take negatives. If we do that, just like any other offense, you give yourself a chance to be able to be in much more favorable down in distances. That's going to be a consistent theme for us, no matter whether we're in a good situation or whether we're in a little bit of a rut right now. The one thing I think is important for our players to contextualize is that, let's not allow six hours of football to change the whole sense of who we are, what

we've become. If you're not careful, you can let the outside in narrative dictate that. But, I was talking to the coaches about it, if you look at on Monday before that Monday night game kicked off before we were playing the 49ers, we had come off of two games in a row where we had played not great, but good enough to be able to see like we're making good steps in the right direction. And then these last two games haven't been that. And we've got a decision to be able to make in terms of how we respond and I do trust that that response is in alignment up to this point with exactly what we're hunting up to have a good performance against the Panthers on Sunday.”

(On if he’s decided who plays left guard and center this week)

“(I) have not yet.”

(On the passing game and how to distribute targets more)

“Yeah, you said it. There's just so many different things. It depends on what type of passes you're talking about, the different types of concepts. Obviously, certain things take time to develop so there's a lot of layers to it.”

(On how he would assess OT Joe Noteboom’s year so far)

“I think it's been some things that are in alignment with what we expect from Joe. Then there's some things that he could do at a higher level. I think he'd be the first to be able to tell you that. The consistency is something that we're hunting up from all of our players. But the good thing is that you've seen enough positives over the course of Joe's career to really be able to build on it. Let's learn from those things. He still is a young developing player, but we want to be able to see that growth and maturation occur a little bit more quickly. I do have a lot of confidence in Joe that that will get done.”

(On how he works with the team not knowing what quarterback will play for the Panthers this week)

“Yeah, I think what you do is you go based on... because with (Offensive Coordinator) Ben McAdoo being the new coordinator, you look at the games that they've played, the preseason. It is a little bit different approach than what they've had in previous years. Then if it is a different quarterback, you look at the different ways that he's been utilized. What is his skill set? And then how do we make sure we play good sound ball on defense.”

(On LB Leonard Floyd's performance)

“Yeah, I mean I think the stats can tell a part of the story. But there are definite situations where he's influencing and affecting the ball to have to come out. It might not show up on the stats sheet, but that does go noticed in our building. He's always a guy that's played with a relentless motor. I think even going back to a couple weeks ago, we were thinking, 'Goodnight, he might be out for the year with what occurred during practice.' For him to even put himself in a position to be ready to play, and do what he did against the Cardinals was pretty impressive. So he's doing a good job and I know he'll be... just like what was asked about Joe. There's things that we can improve upon without a doubt. But I've been pleased with Leonard.”

(On what he sees from the Carolina Panthers defense in terms of pressure and the back end)

“Yeah, I see just a really good, sound defense. They play aggressive. They do a good job of being able to mix it up. They do a good job of getting off the ball with the first level of their defense. Then they've got speed on the second and third levels. So good players, good sound system. I'll be interested to see is there any sort of differences. You could still see a lot of the identities of what (Carolina Panthers Interim Head) Coach Steve Wilkes or an (Carolina Panthers Defensive Coordinator) Al Holcomb defense. They definitely have their imprint on this and they've played a lot of really good football, like you mentioned, through these first five weeks.”

(On how he prepares for the coverage concepts that the Carolina Panthers run on defense)

"I think they did some of that though. You can see that those guys have had their imprint on it. It's situationally driven, but depending upon how they wanted to play... A lot of times their fronts and their coverages are all married together. There are some things that they've done that are reflective of that background that you alluded to. Then (Former Carolina Panthers Defensive Coordinator) Coach Snow definitely had his imprint on it. I'm not as familiar with his background, but the odd spacing upfront, whether that shows up, we've got to be ready to prepare for that. But also, you don't want to get into that guessing game. It's about being able to play good sound football. I think that's kind of where we're at as an offense in particular as well.

(On last year's November losing streak and if he uses anything from that experience to help with today's situation)

I think you do. You always use examples of how guys overcome adversity, but I think you also want to be in the moment. I think the big thing for us is, and I try to stay not necessarily unaware, but try not to let the outside in influence my thought process and the way that I go about interacting with our players. Because all we can control is nothing that's happened before, but let's fix it and then let's move forward and let's be totally and completely present. It's cliché, but it really is true. You got to really talk to yourself, you can't listen to yourself. I think our players have done a good job and 'Hey, what is the focus and concentration? It's on a great week of preparation. Let's do a great job of trying to go compete, the right way, with the spirit that we need and see if we can come away with our third win and then give ourselves a chance to get rested and hopefully get a lot of bodies back over that bye (week). But that's where we're at. You know what, I'm grateful for this opportunity because sometimes growth cannot occur unless you go through these types of experiences. Even

though in the midst of it, it doesn't feel great, sometimes when you look back on those tough examples, those are the most rewarding times that I think really bring and bond people together and you learn about people. That's what we're going to do. I'm excited about the opportunity. I don't want us to be in this spot, but we're going to do everything we can to fight out of it, I know that much.”

(On the advice he would give a young high school reporter)

“That’s a good question. I think the best advice is build and develop relationships. Be genuinely interested in the kinds of questions that you're asking. When you listen, then you give yourself a chance to learn, and then you'll continue to have that growth that's reflected in what you're hunting up.”

Quarterback Matthew Stafford

(On the team being in problem solving mode and how the week started off)

“Good, a lot of communication. Everybody is putting their heads together, trying to figure out what's the best approach going forward, how to get that done. Like it is every week in the NFL, it's about trying to get to 1-0 this week. What’s happened happened, what's in front of us is in front of us, but what we can do is be here right now and try to attack this week the best we can.”

(On how he feels physically)

“I feel pretty good. Yep, I feel good.”

(On if he is a voice to the younger players about mental mistakes)

“Yeah, definitely. I think it's something that is huge in the game of football. You look around the league, those teams that are doing a great job of everybody being on the same page and communicating well, they're playing good football.

That's really one of the main things that's probably holding us back. When we do the right thing and we communicate the right way and we do all the things we're supposed to do, it looks pretty good at times. We've just got to do that on a more consistent basis."

(On if he notices differences in practices after Coach McVay mentions mental mistakes)

"From him? No, I think we're just doing everything we can as players. They do a great job of teaching us around here and what we're expected to go do out there. It's on us as players to go out there and make that thing come to life and that's what's what we try to do in these practices."

(On if he feels like the players have a voice and a place to present ideas to the coaching staff)

"I think it's always been a collaborative effort no matter what the record is or what the outside narrative is. We are always understanding that everybody in this building has good ideas and ideas that can help us. We continue to try to talk, communicate, collaborate, and come up with things that work."

(On if he watches film when he goes home or if he likes to get away from it)

"I think you've got to trust the process that's gotten you here. I've been playing this game a long time, had a lot of experience, both good and bad in situations. If you start grasping at straws and thinking this or that or this is going to make you better, a lot of times it's just continuing to do your process and do it as well as you possibly can, trust that process. Then when you get out there on game day, go trust that as well. You can't be sitting there on game day going, 'Oh, did I not put the work in? Did I do this? Did I do that?' You just trust what you know has always worked for you and continue to go out there and play free."

(On if he will be watching the Dodger's playoff game and Dodgers pitched Clayton Kershaw tonight)

"Oh yeah, I'll be watching. I watched last night too. I couldn't say up for the whole thing because I get here too early, but I'm glad they won."

(On how his relationship on the field is improving with OL Jerimiah Kolone and if he expects him to perform well this weekend)

"It's been good. Obviously, a bunch of game experience for him in the last two weeks. He's continuing to get better as a young player and as far as expecting him to be there, I think we're kind of in that flux mode, just trying to figure that one out as we speak."

(On what stands out to him about the Carolina Panthers on film)

"Playmakers at all three levels. 53 (Panthers DE Brian Burns) is doing a heck of a job, 7 (Panthers LB Shaq Thompson) has been there a long time, been making plays since I was a young guy in Detroit I feel like, and two corners that are really good players, really three. All are high picks and fast, twitched up dudes, a really impressive group. Obviously in probably a little bit of a transition with what's going on there in the last week to 10 days, so there's an element of that for us to try to understand and get ready for. You really just got to go out there and trust your rules and go play."

(On if he has been on a team that has had to deal with the amount of injuries as this team has in his career)

"I probably have, yeah. Back in the day I would think. There have been some years where it's gotten down the line as far as guys that you started the season with to different guys. But it's part of it. It's NFL football, there's injuries in a lot of places. Obviously, there's been some tough ones up front with some guys that are really talented players, but our guys are stepping in and learning on the fly and doing a great job of being tough and physical and all the things you

need them to be.”

(On his long completion to WR TuTu Atwell and what that does for young players confidence)

“It was great. Great to throw the ball down the field and connect on one. Obviously, he did a nice job running by a really solid corner and made a catch that was somewhat contested towards the end. It was good to see that from him. He's continuing to develop like we've said. His role is expanding and we've got to continue to try to find ways to give him the football and give him chances and give him opportunities.”

(On what he has seen from OL Oday Aboushi and OL Matt Skura thus far)

“It's been good. I think they're just trying to get up to speed as fast as they possibly can. I don't have a ton of reps under my belt with either one of them. Obviously, I played with Oday in Detroit so I know what he's about a little bit. I'm just getting to know Matt. Just trying to get those guys up to speed as fast as possible and let those guys be able to play fast, free, communicate, do all those kind of things that they're going to need to do.”

(On if he takes pride in the small victories while the team is struggling)

“There's things to build on yeah, not enough positive things in my opinion. Our standards have got to be higher to have more positive plays, big plays, third down conversions, touchdowns, all those kind of things to put points on the board. There are a few things that we can take from each game that are positives, but there's plenty of stuff to clean up that we can be a lot better at.”

(On why he thinks the team has struggled to score points in the fourth quarter this season)

“I can't put my finger on that for you right now. I don't think it's going to happen in any quarter enough, to be honest with you. We've got to do a better job of

putting points up early and often, and that's what we are striving to do."

Linebacker Bobby Wagner

(On the mood in the locker room following two losses in a row)

"I think the mood is good. I think everybody's hungry. We understand that we're close and we just got to eliminate some of the plays that's hurt us and just be locked in on the little things. I really feel confident with us being able to kind of turn our things around."

(On how he communicates as a veteran in the locker room to combat and change mental mistakes)

"That's a good question. I think you just talk about it. The biggest thing that I feel like somebody that has experience can do is walk somebody through your process because we were once young players, we were once players early on, we were making mental mistakes. If you are able to share those scars and share those experiences that you've dealt with because I think the biggest myth is that as you get older, nothing bad happens. They forget that you had to go through that transition, you had to go through those times where things weren't great or everything looks like it's good, but it took a lot of work, it took a lot of trial and error, it took a lot of failure to get to that point. Just remind them what that failure looked like early on in your career that got you to this point."

(On if there has been any follow-up from the Santa Clara Police Department regarding what happened during the game against the 49ers)

"Not that I know of. I'm good as far as I can tell. We'll see."

(On his reaction to DT Aaron Donald lining up to rush outside at points during the previous games)

“I think we move around a lot of places and last game he got to be off the ball a little bit. We saw what that looked like, having him coming off the ball I think is not pretty for the offenses. He's just a very talented, amazing player. You can put him anywhere. If you can create that one-on-one matchup, he's going to win it every time so that's kind of what was happening.”

(On if DT Aaron Donald lining up to rush outside gives the defense extra energy)

“I think whenever he puts his jersey on, I think we're pretty good, to be honest.”

(On how much he is thinking about the roughing the passer rule when he is rushing))

“I'm not really thinking about it. It's not something you can think about. Even the play that happened the other day, you have to brace yourself. If he doesn't put his arm out, he falls on his head, then we're talking about head impact to the ground. They make it really hard for a defensive player to try to... but there's certain things that you can't do in mid-air. I've seen some superheroes do it, but this is not comics. I don't really think about it. You just do the best that you can and hope that they don't flag it because there's guys that are thinking about it and are doing everything that they can and it still gets flagged. At the end of the day, we have to just play defense because this is not a game that you can go out there and think too much where you're just constantly worried about something that's going to slow you down.”

(On if there is anything about the roughing-the-passer rule that he feels needs to be adjusted)

“I saw somebody mention that we should be able to review it. I think that'd be a nice little step because even that play, he had the ball, so the only way for him to not land on the quarterback is to drop the ball, but the whole point is to get the ball. It puts us in quite the bind there.”

(On how you generate more takeaways without forcing it)

“I think you just capitalize on the ones that come to you. I really think that they're going to come, even like when (DB) Jalen (Ramsey) got that sack, can we go for the ball? It's just different things, being more mindful. The people that have been the best at it, whenever you ask them a question, ask them how they do it, you think it's going to be some crazy thing that they practice, but really, they're just mindful. I think you could just be more mindful of trying to get the ball away.”

(On DB Jalen Ramsey recording the first sack of his career against the Cowboys)

“I didn't know that. I thought he had like multiple sacks until he said something.”

(On if he remembers his first sack)

“Yeah, actually it was in the preseason against (Former Broncos and Colts QB) Peyton Manning. He's one of those guys you watched growing up and by the time I was in the league, he was pretty stationary, so I got a good lick on him.”

(On if he said anything to Peyton Manning after his first sack)

“I don't know. I was a rookie trying to be respectful. I probably said something, but a lot of stuff happens in the game that you don't remember saying stuff wise. I don't know.”

(On what getting a sack as a defensive back does for the defense as a whole)

“I think it's a thing that offenses have to pay attention to, especially a guy like (DB) Jalen (Ramsey). Jalen can do a lot of amazing things which is why it surprised me that was his first one. I think maybe all the other ones were TFLs (tackle for losses). You have to account for him, account for a guy like that,

account for our nickels and you have to slide to that protection. Again, a lot of it is trying to create one-on-ones, so if you slide that way, AD (DT Aaron Donald) is over there. Again, you've got to pick your poison."

(On his favorite high school memory that is not football related)

"Can I say basketball? My last game I ever played in basketball I did score 26 points. We have haters to the left. Cameras don't need to go towards that way, he knows who he is. But my last game playing basketball I think I had like 26 points. I knew that I probably wasn't playing basketball after this, so I pretty much shot it often."

(On him saying he had 'like 26 points')

"I'm saying it's 26 or above. It's not below that number. I know that for a fact."

(On what position he played in basketball in high school)

"Guard. We played that offense where it's like one tall guy and everybody else was short. We had a center who was like 6'8" and everybody else was hovering around five something. We just passed and screened away. They didn't want to play that day, so I took all the shots."

(On when they are facing a team with questions at quarterback if they study coordinator concepts and tendencies)

"I think it kind of depends on the person. I think this situation, you want to study the quarterback, what he likes to throw, what he likes to do. Sometimes different coordinators will put some stuff in there that is better for this quarterback than the previous one. You kind of look at that, but I think for this game, overall concepts will be pretty much the same. This quarterback (Panthers QB P.J. Walker) definitely can run the ball, so you've got to be conscious of it. I don't see them putting quarterback power into the mix, but it's definitely something you have to be conscious of, him being able to run and

scramble.”

(On if he is expecting Panthers QB P.J. Walker to start)

“That's who I see for now. You watch film on everybody, but it would lead me to believe that he's going to be the next guy up.”

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