



RAMS POSTGAME QUOTES 11-6-22

HEAD COACH SEAN McVAY

(On today's game)

"First of all congratulations to the Bucs on the win – they did a good job, found a way. There's really no other way to put it, this is a tough pill to swallow. I thought our defense did enough to be able to win that football game, clearly offensively not even close to good enough, I'm a big part of that. [We] had our opportunities, had our chances to be able to make plays, had a chance to be able to close the game out there – didn't really get that done. You give credit to the Bucs defense, but we've got to really figure out a lot of different things to be able to do. Whether it's different players, whether it's different schemes, different things like that, but this is not good enough, I have to do better too, I'm a huge part of this and that's just the reality of where we're at right now."

(On if he can diagnose the issue with his offense)

"There's a lot of different reasons, it's not one thing. Whether it's not blocking, taking sacks on second down, inefficient runs on early downs, not doing what we're supposed to do, bad play calls. It's not one thing because if it was, then you could figure out, 'alright these are some easy solves', there's a lot of different things. Not good enough not even close to good enough, you know like I said, I'm a part of that."

(On when it may be time to hit the panic button despite there being a significant amount of games remaining)

"I don't necessarily think that it's the panic button, but changes have to be made, adjustments have to be made, we can't continue to go on like this and what that looks like, I don't necessarily have the exact answers right now. What I don't want to have anything to be misunderstood that I'm not in this with those guys, I'm a big part of this, I have to do better. We're going to stay connected throughout this but we do have to be able to look inward and figure out what are some of the solutions, changes, adjustments, different things that we have to do to be able to get different results and different production from our offense."

(On what he told his defense following this evening's game)

"You guys played good enough to be able to win, we're going to stay connected, we win and lose as a team but there's no way around it. You guys were at the stadium today, you saw it, I thought defensively [we] played to be able to win the football game. We didn't do it as a team and that's the tough part about it but you keep it real and tell them the truth."

(On if he was confident going into the Buccaneers game-winning drive)

"I was confident in the defense, we give up the big seam on the first play of that drive and they had enough opportunities. And credit them to be able to make the plays, they got some clock stoppages with some completions out of bounds. Overall, it should've never gotten down to all of that, we should have been able to close out that game, should have given better clarity on some of the different things especially when we were able to circle the edge on the jet sweep because even if we were able to get the first



down and get out of bounds we'd still be able to run out the clock, but those are things that I've got to be better as a head coach to be able to create clarity, be able to put our guys in better spots. You know, that's what you sign up for, this is a sick feeling but you have to continue to go to work. The season goes on [and] we've got to figure out some different things. I don't have all the answers right now but we're going to work to try to figure out what that looks like, and that's all we can do."

(On if he is comfortable with who he is starting on the offensive line)

"I think it's hard for me to say that – comfortable, no. There's a lot of things that we've got to continue to look at. Whether this is the best five, I'll look at the tape and we'll figure it out. Again, it's not all on one position, I'm right there with them, in it with them but it wasn't good enough."

(On what he meant he would look at changes in scheme or personnel)

"I think everything has got to be up for debate, you have to be able to look at it but the one thing is, is that as coaches we're responsible for identifying the problems and try to provide solutions and then the players' job to go execute and be able to get it done. I have to be able to do my part first and foremost for them to be able to do theirs and that's where you always look at, you want to look inward first. What that looks like, [we'll] try to continue to put our heads together with these coaches, figure out how to best maximize the players that we do have and put them in better spots. There were some opportunities that we had but overall, the expectations, the standards that we have as a staff and I know that I have for these players, I have to be better, we have to be better. I think we can be, and then I think the players can execute better as well."

(On if they struggled due to a lack of preparation)

"There's a lot, but you always look at those types of things. Credit coach [Todd] Bowles, they did a good job, they were really regulated for the most part in some of those early downs so it wasn't like anything that we didn't expect, [it] comes down to some execution, but there is absolutely no doubt about it that there's some opportunities for our guys to be in some better spots, and there's some opportunities for our guys to execute better without question and so like I'll continue to say and I'll always say, we're in this together, we're going to fight our way out of it and continue to keep battling."

QUARTERBACK MATTHEW STAFFORD

(On the frequency of three-and-out drives)

"You have to go look at each one of them individually, there's no question about it. The fact of the matter is that we've got to play better. It starts with me. I touch the ball every single play. I can be a whole lot better than I was tonight. If I'm better, we probably come out with a win. [It was a] disappointing night for me. I wish I could have played how I'm typically used to playing. I just missed too many opportunities down there in the red zone – some throws I know I can make, that I've made a million times in my life, but didn't make them today and just plays we didn't make. So, that's the name of the game. Scoring points – we didn't do enough of it."



(On the Rams having the opportunity to win the game)

"Yeah, I mean I don't want to sit there and think about that to be honest right now. I'll look at this game [and] find a way to be better. It's not about just going out there and working hard. We have to find a way to be better. We have guys that put their head down and go to work every single day – come to work ready to roll. The fact of the matter is we just have to continue to push ourselves to play better, myself included."

(On last offensive drive of the game)

"We ran it three times and didn't get the first and had to punt it back. [We] didn't have an efficient run on first down and then second down we tried to get around the corner and did a nice job. It's such a tough play because 'Coop' (Cooper Kupp) has to stay in bounds and was there an opportunity to [get the first down]? Who knows – it's just such a tough play. I thought he did the exact right thing. Then third down, we tried to end the game on the ground and didn't get it done."

(On if the offensive performance was disappointing with such a strong defensive performance)

"It's frustrating, you know. There [are] plays out there to be made that I'm not giving guys chances to make or we're not making. I just wish I would have played better, because if I had played better, we probably would have won the game."

(On if he had the option to change the play calls on the final offensive drive)

"It was probably one of our more efficient runs of the second half, to be honest with you. So, I mean I think it's the right call. We're putting the ball in one of our best player's hands and giving him an opportunity to go. With the field there, I thought... what did we get, five or six on that play? That's not a bad play on second-and-10. It's just he has to stay in bounds. I thought he did the right thing, and it was a really good play by him. We just didn't get the opportunity to end it on our terms."

(On what he'll take from this game to propel himself through the rest of the season)

"You know, we made a couple big plays in the passing game, but my biggest frustration was our inefficiency, my inefficiency. The whole season, I feel like I've done a decent job of keeping the ball in play, giving our guys opportunities to make catches and you know, kind of keep the chains moving. It hasn't been good enough in a lot of instances – there's no question about that. Tonight, I definitely was not good enough in some of those instances where it's second-and-10 and I can get us to maybe third-and-5, and I don't give the guy a chance to make a catch to get us in a better third down situation. Just behind the sticks way too much. It's tough to play that way against a defense like that and that's how you have a night like tonight."

(On the hope for not giving the ball back to the Buccaneers in the final sequence)

"That's what you want on offense, right? You want the opportunity to be able to kneel on it. We were four or five yards away. Tom [Brady] is a heck of a player – he did a great job. I thought our defense played great all night. That's a lot to ask to have them do that twice there late in the game. We definitely had our opportunity, and we didn't capitalize, and that is just really disappointing."



(On what needs to change for the Rams)

“I just need to play better. From a player’s perspective that’s what you can do, right? Show up every single day and try to be better than you were the day before and continue to stack those days. I think that’s the only way to approach it. If you sit there and start looking around trying to grab straws doing all that kind of stuff to figure something out, I don’t know if that’s the right approach. I think the right approach is looking inward - trying to figure out how each individual person can be better. If we do that, good things will happen.”

TIGHT END TYLER HIGBEE

(On if there’s anything specific to fix with the offense)

“It’s about being more consistent – guys looking themselves in the mirror, going on seeing if they’re putting in everything they can.”

(Of if it hard as an offensive player to lose a game when the defense played well)

“One hundred percent. They came out and put great effort in. This one is on us because you never want to be on that setting.”

WIDE RECEIVER COOPER KUPP

(On the Rams’ final drive of the game)

“First run, we get one [yard]. Second down – jet sweep. Obviously, the emphasis is staying inbounds, making sure all of those timeouts get burned. I tried to get around the edge there, ‘Higs’ (Tyler Higbee) did a great job and was able to grab his defensive end, so they got strung out. You know when you’re in that moment, you have to make a decision. Can you guarantee yourself the first down and potentially stop the clock, or do you want and try to put your foot in the ground and cut back? Where do you want to draw the line? It just happens quick, and I have to go back and watch it, but in the moment and at that time, it was just about getting down, staying inbounds and making sure that last timeout was used to give us a chance on third down to be able to convert. On third down, we didn’t convert.”

(On how the loss affects the Rams)

“Anytime you lose, I think it’s a gut punch. I feel like defensively they played so well – they did such a great job for us. Offensively, we just couldn’t put points up, couldn’t sustain drives. We just didn’t execute well enough. It’s frustrating, but you know it is a loss, you have to be able to move, get back to work and find a way to right the ship. We’ve got to find a way to put points on the board and sustain drives.”

(On Head Coach Sean McVay saying ‘changes need to be made’ and what adjustments he sees necessary)

“I don’t know. It’s tough without watching the film. I don’t know. I’m not going to sit here and say I’ve got the answers, but I agree. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over – we have to find a way to change up and manufacture points. Just find a way to put points up on the board. The defense has done such a great job and we’ve let them down. So, we keep saying ‘come back and go to work’ – it’s not a



shortage of effort, but at some point, how much more effort can you give? You have to change something. You have to find a way to be efficient and score points.”

(On the frequency of three-and-outs)

“We have done a terrible job, I think, of staying ahead of the sticks. When you play in a ‘get back on track game,’ it makes it tough. We have to be efficient – we have to find ways to gain three, four yards. Be efficient – gain three or four yards, don’t move backwards. It sets you up in great spots. It sets you up in great spots to be able to get the coverages you want [and] things that you’re looking for that give you opportunities to throw the ball down the field and to be able to get some good plays off that you really like. We just haven’t done a good job of doing that. It all comes down to execution.”

LINEBACKER BOBBY WAGNER

(On team after a tough loss)

“It is unfortunate. I feel like we held them out of the endzone pretty much the whole game. Then we [had] that big fourth down stop and then got back on the field and they drove the ball down the field and scored. It’s unfortunate – we’re definitely going to feel this one. We have to go back to the drawing board [and] there is still a lot of season left. It is up to us to control how the rest of the season goes.”

(On how long you can stay motivated when the team is not meeting expectations)

“Until there is no season left. You have to have the mentality. Our belief in one another is not wavering. I believe in our offense, defense, special teams – everything. I believe we have the guys to be able to solve these problems. We feel this one and we go back to the drawing board and see what we can do next.”

(On relying on the offense not running the clock out to end game)

“No, we’re just doing our job. That’s our mentality. We don’t play offense. We’re just controlling what we can control. Every time we go out there, we try to keep them from scoring points. That is what we did until the last play. If anything, that is on us. We shouldn’t have let them score no matter where the ball was at [and] no matter how much time was left. Defense was on the field and with the opportunity to get off the field and we didn’t do that. I think that’s the sentiment – regardless of what the offense does, when we go out there it’s an opportunity to be a great defense and we didn’t make plays at the end.”