



## **Los Angeles Rams Transcripts - Head Coach** **Sean McVay - Monday, December 5, 2022**

### **Head Coach Sean McVay**

#### **(Opening statement)**

“I’ll just start out with the injuries. Really, as far as the injuries, the only one...(DB) David Long (Jr.) got his groin, he’ll probably be out for this week. We’ll see where that’s at but I would imagine that he will most likely be out for this game. (WR) Ben Skowronek banged up his shoulder, but he should be day-to-day, feel good about the availability and then (QB) John Wolford with his neck, got some soreness. He’ll be day-to-day as well and that’s kind of where we’re at injury-wise.”

#### **(On if QB Matthew Stafford’s injury is long term and if he expects him to be ready for OTAs)**

“No, no, I would expect him to be ready to go and have a good, healthy offseason.”

#### **(On what the conversations have been like about Stafford being done for the season and going forward with his health)**

“I think the biggest thing is this guy wants to compete, he wants to be out there. Putting him on IR was a result of the spinal cord contusion and to my understanding, that’s kind of where we’ve left those conversations just to give

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him the clarity of that was what we felt like was best, that was what the doctors felt like was best and whenever that ends up being where he is fully medically cleared, there's a loose timetable on that. But it's more about having a healthy offseason, but we have constant dialogue. I think in these types of situations, I think the most appropriate perspective, at least for me, is just to take it a day at a time and try to be the best that I can be for these players, for these coaches in the midst of a really challenging season that we're battling through right now.”

**(On if he’s seen growth from RB Cam Akers from when he was away from the team in the middle of the season to last night)**

“I was proud of (RB) Cam (Akers). I've been impressed with the way that he's handled it. I thought he ran hard, I thought he had a great play energy about himself the way that he was able to level off both of his touchdown runs. Even on the first drive, I thought he was instrumental in getting us going, so I am proud of him. I think he'd be better equipped to answer that, but what he's done is exactly what we've asked and for that I'm grateful and I thought he did a really nice job of giving us a chance to win a game yesterday.”

**(On if QB Bryce Perkins will start considering the short week and Wolford’s injury)**

“I think you have to have the mindset for both guys. With the short week, you're naturally trimmed, you're limited with your practice opportunities. So really, we'll get into this film, we'll figure out what we think is going to be the best way to try to put together a game plan in all three phases, but to say that you wouldn't need to have both those guys ready to go, that's definitely something that we have to keep in mind.”

**(On some of the improvements that have stood out to him lately)**

“I think you probably saw. I think we were able to run the football. I thought

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(WR) Tutu Atwell and (WR) Brandon Powell were really big, bright spots for us. I thought the way that Cam ran and leveled things off, I thought the way that we were able to kind of be in sync in some of the things that we were looking to in terms of our intent on the offensive line. I thought (DT) Michael Hoecht was excellent on the defensive side of the ball. I thought for the most part, some of those younger players on the defensive line did some really good things. I thought (LB) Bobby Wagner shined bright as hell, really brought everybody with him and those are some things that I saw in terms of the improvement.”

**(On when he noticed Hoecht could be a pretty good outside linebacker or edge rusher)**

“Probably two weeks ago, otherwise we would’ve done this a lot sooner (laughs).”

**(On if he feels the coaching turnover has contributed to their struggles this season and if he’s getting what he wants from his assistant coaches)**

“Yeah, that’s a question that would take a long, long time to go through but everything matters. The answer is yes, these guys are doing a very good job. There’s been a lot of reasons that I can point to that are definitely being noted. From my perspective, from what we’re looking for for everybody’s roles and responsibilities from our coaches to players to the leadership that I want to provide the clarity for what those things are that I have definitely not done a good enough job on in a lot of instances. We’ve had a lot of things that are out of our control that I think have been critical factors as well. But I think the main thing I would say that I’ve realized if you talk about just relative to that question in general, the turnaround and how much shorter that was relative to when our season finished up, in addition to having as much turnover on the staff and even with some of the different guys that are playing. You aren’t able to develop the foundational elements of how you want to operate on both sides, nor provide probably the clarity of exactly what is needed for people that maybe

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haven't been here. That's no one's responsibility but my own. It's never too late to be able to fix some of those things but I do think that when you're not getting those results, everything is heightened. The goal is for when we do get back to operating the way that we're accustomed to and the way we expect to and anticipate to, making sure that we don't let some of those little things that maybe I've let slip over the previous couple years go unnoticed even when we try to get back to operating the way that we are. But ultimately to answer your original question, that is a factor. I think the turnaround, the timing of it, but ultimately it falls on my leadership and for that I've learned and I will continue to learn from the mistakes and make sure we don't repeat them."

**(On the defensive disconnect and lack of cohesion that took place during the final Seahawks scoring drive)**

"There wasn't lack of cohesion at all. It was a lack of execution in some instances. The goal was when they got into where it would potentially be field goal range, obviously you want to try to be able to win the football game. Then when you look at how much time's left and different things like that, it felt like alright, if they did get into field goal range, let's prevent them from scoring a touchdown so that you go into overtime. With the amount of time that was left in the way that you have to operate, to say you want to get into a big known passing situation, I didn't think that was in our best interest and our best way to try to be able to win the football game if you look at when we get the ball back offensively. So that's why, whether you're alluding to the utilization of timeouts, things of that nature, the goal is to not let them score a touchdown. Obviously once they got close to that field goal range, the third and 10, we can be a lot tighter and not allow them to complete something underneath and be able to get vertical. For that got to have better situational understanding and awareness and that starts with us communicating it to our guys. Then once they got into that area, what you didn't want to do is allow them to be able to huddle up, get a clean operation. They had a clock stoppage from the previous

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one right before the touchdown. They ended up running kind of a pin boot where they did a good job with the tight ends timing and flow. He was able to step up with that little cavity that was created and (Seattle Seahawks WR) DK's (DK Metcalf) a big guy coming across the middle and he threw it in between a lot of guys with a perfect accurate throw to be able to win and you give them credit for making that play.”

**(On if he feels QB Matthew Stafford not throwing in the offseason impacted the team going into the season)**

“I definitely think it had an impact because you talk about rapport, establishing a rapport, a rhythm, a comfort not only with, everybody wants to talk about he and (WR) Cooper (Kupp), but even just some of the newer pieces. Yeah, otherwise I'd say, ‘Why the hell do we practice?’ I think it definitely had an impact without a doubt.”

**(On what he wants to see from QB Matthew Stafford in the offseason to avoid what happened last offseason)**

“Honestly, I would tell you this, I think that's a question to be answered at a later time. I'm trying to do the best I can in this situation right now. Those will be things that definitely need to be addressed and thought through. I want to try to do everything in my power for these players and coaches to just be here right now and not look too far ahead.”

**(On his impression of the Raiders)**

“I think this is a team that their record doesn't at all reflect what a good football team they are. They've obviously won a handful in a row. I think they're excellent, I think they're well coached in all three phases, I think they've got key critical players at the right spots to really be able to influence and affect the game in all three phases. We'll get into it. I'll talk to you guys on Wednesday as well and have a little bit better insight when I've kind of been able to digest a

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little bit more film. But I think a lot has been made over... Obviously I think (Raiders QB) Derek Carr is an excellent player, (Raiders RB) Josh Jacobs has been outstanding and (Raiders WR) Dvante (Adams) is as good as it gets. The offense has really been firing through those three over the last handful of weeks. They've gotten a lot of different guys involved. I've seen (Raiders WR) Mack Hollins has made a bunch of different plays and then defensively, obviously they've got two legitimate guys that are coming off the edge. Once I really dive into this film, I'll be able to have a better feel. Just watching it from afar and then my respect for (Raiders Head Coach) Josh (McDaniels) and what he brings to the table as a coach and (Raiders Defensive Coordinator) Patrick Graham and those guys is extremely high, and I know what great coaches they are.”

**(On WR Tutu Atwell playing well the past few weeks and why it has taken this long to get him going)**

“I think last year he had the injury and I think just sometimes opportunities are presented and (he) probably should have had more opportunities this season. Last year was more of a result of the injury and the depth that we ended up having at that position with guys that we already knew were ready to roll. This year probably should have gotten more opportunities earlier on in the season and that's something that I won't run away from because all this guy has done is answer the bell when he is had his chances.”

**(On where he saw the most growth last night)**

“I think it was the things that I was kind of talking about where you just look at there was better continuity, I thought our operation overall was better offensively. We were able to get in and out. You look at the 10-play opening, scoring drive. I thought that was a couple of third down conversions, some good hard runs, some different things that I thought were excellent that takes all 11 to be able to execute. I talked about just some of the improvement, you're

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getting a lot of guys... Even just being able to get to (DB) Cobie Durant in there yesterday, I thought he had some real bright spots, (DB) Russ Yeast as well. So you're seeing some younger guys. Whether it was the Tutu's that we talked about, I thought Cam (Akers) was a bright spot even though he is not necessarily a younger guy. Those guys on defense and Michael Hoecht, and then Bobby Wagner I thought shined as bright as anybody. But that's been consistent that's not necessarily a new development for us."

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