



Los Angeles Rams vs. Las Vegas Raiders
Postgame Transcripts - Rams Head Coach
Sean McVay, Rams QB Baker Mayfield,
Raiders Head Coach Josh McDaniels,
Raiders QB Derek Carr - Thursday, December
8, 2022

Rams Head Coach Sean McVay

(Opening Remarks)

“All right guys, just like we drew it up unbelievable job. (It was) really just total team effort. I can't say enough about the defense to get the stop to even allow the offense to be able to get back out on the field to go 98-yards. That's the first time under two minutes in a game-winning drive that that's happened in 45 seasons. (Chief Operating Office) Kevin Demoff just told me. Even when we're clocking it, you're having to explain to (QB) Baker (Mayfield), 'Hey, here's our clock mechanics right here. You're underneath the center. This is what the cadence is.' But guys made plays. I thought the offensive line protection was outstanding. But whether it's (WR) Ben Skowronek, whether it's (WR) Tutu Atwell, (WR) Van Jefferson, being able to finish it out. Even on the touchdown, what a catch by (RB) Cam Akers on the sideline on the previous scoring drive to even allow us to be able to get the first down where he ends up punching it

in. You can't say enough about Baker Mayfield and the leadership, the resilience, the competitiveness, and what a quick study. He just got here five minutes ago and figured it out a way to be able to do some special things tonight. There was a lot of plays that we had going in a positive direction that ended up getting called back. So just a total team win. (DB) Taylor Rapp being able to close it out. I'm really happy for these players, these coaches, they did a great job and it's a great testament to the resilience of this group. And man, you forget what winning's like and it sure is fun. (I) give a lot of credit to the Raiders. I got so much respect for (Raiders Head Coach) Josh McDaniels and that group, and you can see why they've done a great job, especially over the last few weeks.”

(On how many throws and hours of practice Baker Mayfield got prior to this game)

“Yeah, we spent a lot of...there's a lot of concept carry over with things that he's done and you should see his notebook and how quickly he got himself up to speed. But it was one practice. We had two 10-play periods, whatever it would be on a Friday, on Wednesday, so yesterday. (He) made some throws and was able to do some different things. I just can't say enough about how impressed I am with just the command, the comfort, even just the operation. (Baker) being able to just call the plays within the 42nd play clock or even 25 seconds out of a clock stoppage or it... I'm still kind of like, what the hell's going on right now.”

(On how much the last drive and winning touchdown was Baker's doing or the scheme)

“I can't take credit, that was him making plays. The guys made plays too. I thought just some of the opportunity throws, they were playing a lot of man coverage in those situations and guys were able to win. The catch down our sideline where Ben Skowronek goes up over somebody, even to be able to give

Van Jefferson the attempt when we were still backed up to draw the PI. Then when you got to get the ball into the end zone with 15 seconds left and no timeouts, for Van Jefferson to be able to win, unbelievable job right there, (RB) Malcolm Brown on a check down. Really the credit goes to the players. They made it all happen. They brought those things to life. That's how it always is. It's a whirlwind and I'm really happy for those guys."

(On how much Baker Mayfield set the cadence throughout the night)

"Yeah, it was really in some of those two-minute type of situations where you've got certain mechanics and different types of situational plays that you'll activate. But even going through where you're just clocking the ball and you're just trying to be able to stop the clock when we didn't have any timeouts left. Those are parts of day one or your early parts of training camp install that you go through situationally. On a short week, him coming in, you can only cover so much. So it was impressive. But football's football. This guy's a competitor. He's a gamer. So many great plays by a lot of guys tonight and Baker led the way."

(On his decision to start QB John Wolford)

"He felt good. They came out in a personnel grouping that we felt like might've been to kind of just dare us to try to be able to throw it. We wanted to get Baker in, whether it was the second or the third series. (We) felt good about it. I put us in a really bad spot. That third-down play call was terrible, where (Las Vegas Raiders DE) Maxx Crosby ends up tackling Tutu (Atwell) for a loss. It wasn't anything that John didn't do. We wanted to be able to get Baker an opportunity to see if he could give us a spark, certainly he did that, being able to hit Van on his first throw."

(On what kind of introduction to the locker room this is for Baker Mayfield)

"I think he'd be better equipped to answer that. But he's one of those guys that

he's excitable to be around. He's got a great passion. I think you could see that tonight. It was fun to watch those guys go to work and (I'm) really happy for Baker.”

(On how much the penalties impacted their ability on offense)

“Yeah, I think it hurt us. There was a lot of...whether it was the screen to Tutu, even when we were just trying to get in field goal range and we got the personal foul, the one play action to Van Jefferson, there was a lot of good positive plays that ended up getting taken away. We'll go back and look at those and that's part of the game. You can't worry about it. You got to be able to hit the reset button, move on to the next play. I thought our guys definitely did that.”

(On what he wants to see from Baker Mayfield the next four games)

“Yeah, I think similar to what you saw tonight and really being able to continue to get more of a big picture grasp of...it's not even a grasp, it's more of just more time to be able to give him the totality of some of the different things that we can utilize with his skill set and the 10 players playing around him. So it'll be fun. It'll be good to be able to have a couple days, these guys, you talk about two hard fought games in the last four days. I can't say enough about this group, coaches did a great job. But I think it's really just taking things a day at a time. But hopefully we'll have a little bit more things that we can present to what we know is an excellent Green Bay (Packers) team. I don't care what their record is. (We) know them too well, their personnel, their coaches and it's going to be a great challenge going to Lambeau (Field) on Monday night.”

(On what surprised him early on about Baker Mayfield)

“I would say this, I've felt good about his ability to come in and do some of the things that we were asking because I've seen him do it previously, but you never know. I had a feeling that we were going to be on our silent count,

particularly when we were in the shotgun, which is a whole different thing in and of itself because the Raiders travel well and there's a lot of fans in this area. But I think he plays fast. You could see, when he sees things, he can speed it up. He's got great upper body twitch. You could just feel, even on the third down conversion to Ben Skowronek, where he is kind of sitting in the pocket, he quickly exhausts the progression that's on the backside and he delivers a strike versus a man coverage right on the body. So I was really impressed. I don't know if I would say surprised, because I've always been a fan of the things that he was capable of, but to say that I expected this, certainly exceeded our expectations. But it was a lot of fun watching him go to work tonight.”

(On how much interaction he had with Baker Mayfield prior to him joining the team)

“Yeah, that's about it other than some texts every now and then. We obviously weren't in the quarterback market. He was training out here. Southwest flight, we got the early boarding, we sat right next to each other. It was the only direct flight from LAX to (Indianapolis) Indie. You could just see he's a man's man. He loves football. He is a great competitor. We were just talking. We weren't in the mix to even have a chance of getting him. We had just come off losing the Super Bowl and (Former Rams QB) Jared (Goff) was doing a great job for us. So that was kind of the extent of it. Then we've seen each other in passing and I've always been a fan of his. I talked to him a little bit before we played Carolina (Panthers) this year when he had the ankle injury. But it's good to be able to have him with us.”

(On who sat next to who on the Southwest flight from LAX to Indianapolis)

“I think I ended up seeing him right there and I said, ‘I'm going to prevent you from having to talk to somebody.’ It was probably...I ended up sitting next to him, but he was probably rolling his eyes. I had about 30 minutes where I kind

of let him have his quiet time and then said, 'All right, let's talk some ball man.' So it was fun."

(On how the defense adjusted after the Raiders first drive of the game)

"I think it's just execution. That was a huge play. I'm glad you brought that one up. To be able to prevent them from getting any points right there, especially when points were at a premium tonight, it was a big time play by (LB) Ernest Jones, (DB) Taylor Rapp being able to close it out. But I thought they just ended up executing and those were big, tight window throws against two of the premier players in this league in Davante and (DB) Jalen (Ramsey) being able to go at it. I just love the way that Jalen continued to compete and made his plays when they counted the most."

Rams Quarterback Baker Mayfield

(On what the last three days have been like)

"It's been pretty hectic. It's been a lot of emotions to be honest with you. A lot of things that... some tough decisions, but everything happens for a reason. I'm thankful. I just prayed about it and it worked out, you know? I just, right now, I just have a lot of emotions, but I'm really, really blessed. I'm really thankful right now, especially just the guys here that welcomed me in and helped me do the crash course here. Obviously, (Offensive Coordinator) Liam (Coen), (QB Coach) Zac (Robinson) and (HC) Sean (McVay) helping me when I walked in, and (QB) Matthew (Stafford) helping out as well, and (QB) John (Wolford) and (QB) Bryce (Perkins). I'm thankful for that."

(On if there was something cathartic about winning in a big way)

"Yeah, I don't know if you can write it any better than that. Obviously, we'd like to be a little bit more stress free, but it's a pretty damn good story, I'll be honest with you, so it's special."

(On his hat saying “It’s not my first rodeo”)

“That was my first rodeo doing that. I’ll say that.”

(On how much he had to lean on his experience in a game where he received the playbook two days before)

“A lot when it comes to critical situations and kind of those crucial downs, especially when the clock’s rolling like that, just putting the ball up for guys like that. Knowing the clock mechanics... I had (C) Brian Allen screaming in my face with the cadence was for that because we didn’t cover it, and Sean’s yelling in my ear as well. But yeah, ball is ball and when you have guys like that around you that put you in a good spot and they help you out and those guys did it.”

(On what went through his mind when he scored a game-winning touchdown with WR Van Jefferson)

“No, Van and I go back. I’m not very happy with Van until now. I was trying to get him to come to Oklahoma. He wouldn’t text or call back. He owes me one and he got me right there. I was messing with him about that when I first got here, but seeing the coverage and I was truly shocked they pressed him up for 15 seconds left knowing that we didn’t have any timeouts left. He did a great job winning off the line of scrimmage and going and making a play. That was just a... put it up for him to make a play.”

(On if he’s heard from USC Coach Lincoln Riley in the past 24 hours)

“Yeah, I told him he’s probably going to have another Heisman Trophy winner here coming up this weekend. I talked to him briefly. I’m hoping that now I get some time off a little bit to learn the playbook a little bit more, go see him when he gets back in town. He’s always been in my corner, always communicated when things are going on. He’s had the message throughout the past few

months of, 'Stay the course, don't leave anything left unsaid and just be proud of where you are, walk out with your head held high.' He's always instilled that in me and I'm thankful for him."

(On what the crash course was like in such a short amount of time)

"I used to not necessarily complain about the fact that I had that many different offensive systems and having to learn that, but it came in handy when having to learn a crash course and being able to relate certain things. Sean's protection scheme is similar to Bill Callahan's, who I had in Cleveland, so terminology with that...that knocks out a big chunk of the learning curve and just trying to learn all the motions and the terminology for that. It's tough, but those guys did a great job of helping me out and communicating when I got off the field on the sideline and just talking about the plays that were coming up. There were still definitely some, what looked like rookie errors with formations in motions. Obviously, it hurt us late, but it worked out. But not having the timeouts to be able to call on defense, it came down to that third one stop. The defense did a hell of a job making that stop and giving us the ball back. So there's things that definitely need to be worked out, but those guys helped me out in this crash course."

(On when he knew he was going to play tonight)

"Just after that first series, we had talked about it, I was just going to be ready to play. There was kind of a shortened list of plays that I was really, really studying. I will say, we dipped out of that little list and got into some other things. But, yeah, just ready to roll. I like to compete. I love this game. And, I think for John (Wolford), it was more precautionary than anything. And he was extremely supportive on the sideline and helping me out. So it was a whirlwind."

(On his level of confidence after a win like this)

"It feels really good right now, but there's a lot to get fixed, that's for sure. That's

another thing, throughout my career so far, there's been a lot of ups and downs so this is one that I'm going to enjoy right now, but there's a lot of things to get ironed out and learn from. A lot of improvements to be made. Going into that and having to score two touchdowns late in the fourth. We'd like to have more success early and put ourselves in a better position to win. But we're going to be able to build on that."

(On his celebratory head butt with DB Robert Rochell)

"He asked me why I did it, I said it felt pretty good, so it did it. He was a little surprised, but it felt good."

(On what he wants this opportunity with the Rams to say about himself)

"To be honest with you, I'm just looking to be the best version of me possible. Learn and improve in the system, trying to take away from a great group of guys that have had a lot of success. Obviously, you know, the injuries are tough, but just trying to learn from everybody here. Take in as much as I can and let the pieces fall where they may. I can't control the future. I know I have the next four games here. I'm trying to build on that and just be the best version of me and improve."

(On his biggest takeaway from tonight's experience)

"I'm probably going to take a deep breath. Like I said earlier, I'm extremely thankful, praise the Lord. I mean, it's been a tough year, to be honest with you, and this has been a good way to kickstart this journey here. It's wild."

(On what he learned about Coach Sean McVay that made him excited to come play for him)

"That guy loves football. I mean, he's ball, ball, ball, all the time and you can tell he's so much of a relationship guy too. And we talked a lot about my coaches in the past and what made some of those guys special and just trying to point out

the things that make certain players and coaches great. And just being able to pull the best out of each person is an extremely vital task. From his perspective, he knows those guys' ins and outs and knows how to put them in good positions to win and have success. We just got to know each other a little bit and just philosophy-wise and on a personal level as well.”

Raiders Head Coach Josh McDaniels

(On losing the game)

“Obviously this is disappointing but credit to Sean and his group they obviously played hard and made one more than we did. I thought we had opportunities obviously to help close the game out, but we certainly didn't do enough. None of us did enough. Obviously, we don't have much margin for error now and we'll go back to work and try to fix some of the things that we didn't do there.”

(On the offense being conservative in key moments)

“We threw the ball in the red zone. They played good red zone defense. I thought we had a few opportunities, but again it's a good defense. They made a couple plays in the red area that we didn't. In a game like that, I thought the defense was playing well and there were a couple fourth downs where a field position was involved certainly. We made a couple decisions to obviously put it up 16-3, and then the decision to not go for it on fourth-and-one late in the game. I thought (P) AJ (Cole) had a heck of a punt down there and put it at the two-yard line and then penalties and the couple big plays obviously they drove the ball.”

(On his thought process on a third-and-seven and whether all routes were supposed to be beyond the sticks)

“I think everybody passed it. Then I think they kind of played a little bit of a zone defense and took away some of our options that were past the sticks. I think (QB) Derek (Carr) ended up checking the ball down to 'JJ' (RB Josh Jacobs).

I'd have to see just in terms of the whole film and everything else.”

(On why the team didn't win their fourth game in a row)

“I don't look at it as a step back. I mean, we didn't finish the game. That's the reality. I thought we were ready to play. I thought we competed. We got off to a decent start and then we just didn't capitalize. The bottom line is until we figure out how to stop losing games with mistakes that we do ourselves, then it makes it very difficult to win. You can't really win until you stop the losing and that's penalties, turnovers, things like that that contribute to that. We've talked a lot about that. We obviously need to do a better job of coaching and trying to get us to play better.”

(On the Jerry Tillery Penalty)

“I don't know exactly what happened, meaning in the scrum of the game at that point. I didn't get any communication relative to what was said or what was done, but I thought we had them in, I want to believe it was second and long at that point. It was the first down play, had the sack, second and long. You like your chances at that situation. You know they're going to go for it on fourth downs. They still have three downs to do it, but to give up a first down in that situation, obviously that's not an ideal scenario. I don't know exactly what happened. You'll have to talk to JT (Jerry Tillery).”

(On Baker Mayfield's performance)

“We played against him before. He's a really good competitor and made some critical throws for them. You'd have to ask them about that. We prepared for all three of them, not necessarily knowing who we were going to get and on a short week. So, I'll give them credit. He made enough plays to win.”

(On what they did to slow their passing game down)

“They took away some things down the field. We called some, we hit a couple, and then we had a few other opportunities in terms of shots and those kinds of things that they defended well. I thought they forced us to check the ball down a

little bit. That's how they play. That's a good defense. They make you go drive the ball, the long, hard way and convert their downs. You have to keep sticking runs in there, but I don't think there was one thing that happened that took away anything specifically. We didn't end up making enough plays in the passing game to help us win.”

(On getting a quarterback up to speed on short notice)

“That I don't know, that's a good question. I don't know. (Rams Head Coach) Sean (McVay) will be able to answer that question better than I would. If you have no history with the system, it'd be difficult. So, if that's the case, then certainly he (Baker Mayfield) did a good job of cramming and being able to function. I'd say the more time you have in the NFL, we all run something similar, some type of verbiage you just got to get it understood what it means to you and translate it. But again, he (Baker Mayfield) did a good job.”

(On the disconnection between building leads and finishing teams off)

“It's 60 minutes and everybody will point to the last play or the last four plays or the last drive or what have you, but there's plays in every quarter that could have helped us extend the lead. There are things we could have done in all three phases that would've put us further ahead in games. I mean there's a lot of things that go into a result in the National Football League and I'm thinking of six or eight or 10 of them right now that could've changed some outcomes and drives either way. These are hard lessons learned, they are. And like I said, you always play to win. We're aggressive and trying to do those kinds of things, but we're one yard shy of a first down on the third and one, they make a stop there and if we get it the game's over so there's a lot of things we can point to right now that would've helped us close the game.”

(On the frustration of the undisciplined penalties)

“I'd like to believe that we teach them the right way and I think our guys play the right way for the most part. I don't think we've been a team that's made a bunch of unsportsmanlike conduct fouls, late hits, unnecessary roughness. That's not

really been our MO so again, I don't know everything that was done or said or what have you but obviously those contribute to the other team having success so it's something we obviously can't do."

(On the pattern of losing games in the final stretch)

"We can't get further ahead and this is the National Football League. If you let them hang around long enough, it comes down to one possession, a couple plays and who makes them. This isn't an offense, defense, or a special teams thing, it's a team thing. We got to be able to extend the lead if we have one, and keep competing, not let our foot off the gas, no relaxing, and try to play the same way we were playing when the game starts. Obviously, I haven't done a good enough job of being able to get us to do that."

Raiders Quarterback Derek Carr

(On the outcome of tonight's game)

"Just as a team, we just didn't finish the game the right way. It's NFL, it's going to be close, it's going to be tough sometimes. And this was one of those games where, I think in the red zone, we didn't execute how we should have. We left some plays out there and some points out there. And then at the end of the game, I just didn't think we finished it how we could have finished it to win the game. And not even have to put the defense out there or anything like that. We just didn't execute."

(On the fourth double digit lead that has resulted in a loss and if it's become a pattern or if it's different with each loss)

"No, it didn't feel that way, if I'm honest. It didn't feel like something like, oh, here, it goes again, or anything. It didn't feel anything like that. At the end of the day, it's football and you're going to turn the film on and you're going to see, well, oh, that's why that happened, or why that's why that happened. And coaches don't correct it and it sucks, man. No margin (for) error. It's tough."

(On the disconnect with the team with being able to build leads but not finish games with the talent that they have)

“I'm not sure on this one because I'd have to watch it and once you watch it, it tells a lot. For me it didn't feel out of place or something didn't feel off or anything like that. It felt like we had good control of what we wanted to do. I really think it just comes down to the execution of the plays. You know some of the stuff that has hurt us in past games, that's just what it came down to at the end.”

(On how if they were taking a more conservative approach on offense rather than being aggressive)

“I'm not sure how, that's a better question for (Raiders Head Coach) Josh (McDaniels). Whatever call we're trying to execute at a high level. There was times where there's run and then pass checks and different things based on looks that we get and all that kind of stuff. So sometimes thinking it up that way too. But for me personally, whatever Josh is calling, we're just trying to execute that and make it happen.”

(On how frustrating the small errors in the game were)

“Yeah, absolutely. It hurts. It hurts but we put ourselves in that position, right? We won however many games in a row but it doesn't mean you win the next one. And you try and talk about it, preach about it, work so that doesn't happen but it happened to us today. It's hard. It's tough, but we put ourselves in that position. It's nobody else's fault.”

(On how frustrating it is that they lost two games to teams on losing streaks and lost to the Rams today with their new quarterback)

“Yeah, it's tough, but that's the NFL, these are professionals. [There're] really cool stories and cool moments for some guys, and I'm sure (QB) Baker

(Mayfield) will love that moment for the rest of his life. To come in and be able to do what he did on just a short notice, to learn the playbook, again, I don't know what he knew before, what schemes he was in and all that, but you have to give credit to them for those moments. So, it's frustrating, it's tough, but it's not something that we like to talk about, like, 'Hey, this is big opportunity because of this.' It's professional football and you're going to get everybody's best no matter who's playing, not playing, all that kind of stuff."

(On his interception down by the goal line)

"I don't know if I got tripped. I don't know what happened. Something happened, but I was throwing it to (WR) Mack (Hollins) in the back of the end zone. The safety took (TE) Foster (Moreau) and I was going to throw it to Mack and something happened as I was throwing it. So, something happened but Mack was open. I was trying to give him a ball for a touchdown, and that's the hard part, because that's points, that's the difference in the score. It's tough, it was that close to having a touchdown and, you know, everyone's feeling better about today."

(On if his team is in a different place after this loss)

"Yes, definitely a different place than we were, for sure. Short answer, yeah, absolutely. We're in a different place as a team, and I mean, I love these guys. I'd go to war with them anytime. I love this group and where we're at right now, where we're headed, but there's no margin for error. We have to do whatever we can to win the next one."

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