



Los Angeles Rams vs. Los Angeles Chargers Postgame Transcripts - Saturday, August 16, 2025

Rams Asst. Head Coach/Pass Game Coordinator Aubrey Pleasant

(Opening Remarks)

"Start off again to thank the Rams organization, the Kroenke family, specifically [Rams Owner] Mr. Stan [Kroenke] and Josh [Kroenke] for allowing [Head Coach] Sean [McVay] to give me this unbelievable opportunity to fill in as head coach. I can't be thankful enough. Also thank you [Rams President] Kevin Demoff, [General Manager] Les Snead and [VP of Football & Business Administration] Tony Pastors who've known me since my start here and they've watched me accelerate throughout my career. I couldn't be more thankful. I think it's very important to acknowledge that these young men went out there and played against a starting crew from another team. They fought competitively and they did it together. Usually when you go through ups and downs in life, it's all about how you respond. I couldn't be happier to lead a group of men that went out there and responded together and collectively. Coach McVay always talks about our style of play. Playing fast, fundamentally sound, attacking, being situationally smart, taking care of the ball and taking it away. I think in all facets of the game today, you saw that represented. I couldn't be more proud to lead this team."

(On how the offensive line performed)

"Yeah, they did an unbelievable job. I think in this game I've learned... my first opportunity in the NFL was with the offensive line and running backs and I really understand how important it's for the game to start up front. Even when they broke the huddle, they took the field with a charge. They aggressively attacked the line of scrimmage, and they protected and they gave us some opportunities. More importantly on those long drives, and maybe it didn't come out with points. I just made sure I encouraged them because I saw the fight for us to be able to punch it in together."

(On what stood out to him regarding QB Stetson Bennett's demeanor in his two opportunities during his two-minute drills)

"The response. You're going to hear me say response a couple times in this press conference. It's very important when you give up the interception the way you do in that situation and then you come back and you just respond. That's what life's about and that's what we want to see specifically from a quarterback who's high stakes and anytime they gamble in that situation it can be difficult. But he wasn't and he was trying to be aggressive. It was very important that we acknowledge that. I just really understand his cool, calm demeanor. We've all seen him win a couple national championships in college and you see some of that thread work with his confidence and his belief in his teammates and the same that they have in him."

(On the confidence boost Bennett felt after that last drive)

"It's unbelievable. Earlier we talked about establishing our style play. I talked about being situationally aware. We were in an o-zone situation, the situation that we've practiced multiple

times. To see us go out there and execute it but also see other receivers that stepped up, that was awesome.”

(On QB Matthew Stafford’s workout before the game)

“At this point in time, anything regarding Mr. Stafford, I’m going to wait for Coach McVay to address you guys on Monday.”

(On if Stafford attending today’s game)

“Anything regarding Mr. Stafford, I’m going to let Sean go ahead and regard that. To be honest with you, I was so tapped into the ones that had jersey’s on, honestly, that’s what I’d say.”

(On Bennett’s growth over the past few years)

“Well, we talk about communication both being verbal and nonverbal. That means a lot, especially as a leader. You can see through his body language, his disposition, and his continued steady state that he’s had a lot of physical, emotional and I’d say spiritual growth as well.”

(On RB Jarquez Hunter’s running style and how he’s growing)

“He has a unique style of running that’s a little bit different than some of the other backs, and I think anytime you can have that versatility only makes you stronger offensively. There was a joke in the defensive back room during camp. We say we guarantee whoever hits him in the first play is probably not going to make that tackle. He does a good job running behind his pads and staying forward. For an offensive line, that’s all they want to see is to get those chains moving and it keeps it easier for the quarterback and for the offensive coordinator to stack plays.”

(On his thoughts of CB A.J. Green’s performance)

“I thought A.J. really came out hot. I think the thing that we understand really early is they were taking those three by one isolations into the boundary and after a couple plays back-to-back, he stood up and realized what it was going to be. I think that was with their first group where they were trying to get quick and easy throws and explosive plays to get those guys out. I was very proud with how he responded.”

(On what younger players stood out to him)

“It is very hard not to give respect to all the receivers. That entire young crew, no matter if it was [Wide Receiver Tru] Edwards with the long, it was [Brennan] Presley at the end, if it was, Tru making sure he got in that position. It’s unbelievable how much our young receivers really took the bull by horns today. I also want to give a shout out to some of the younger players who are playing on defense because sometimes defensively, when there’s nothing to really acknowledge, that means they did their job. That’s a hard thing sometimes to understand in this NFL, but I want to give them respect and give a shoutout to my leader [Rams Defensive Coordinator] Coach Chris Shula because he did a phenomenal job calling the game and making sure it fit with our offense.”

(On his message to Bennett after the interception before the next drive)

“Reset. Breathe. We’re all here for a reason. Then what we do is we respond to them. People are looking more for our response than necessarily our actions. Those things carry weight. I wanted him know that I was with him and I just wanted him to keep fighting.”

(On his postgame words exchanged with Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh)

“Well, as coaches we’re professional critics, right? And at the same time, I’m doing that immediately to myself. What are some things that I could have done better? [Head] Coach [Jim] Harbaugh and I have known each other for quite some time. When I was a young coach in the NFL, he actually tried to get me to come to the University of Michigan a couple times. We’ve

known each other throughout our career. It's the kudos and respect for each other. He's known me since I was a young coach and he was just giving kudos to my progression."

(On if the day met his expectations)

"My father always said, 'Luck is when preparation meets opportunity.' This is something I've been preparing for quite some time. It's something that I'm proud of. I understand that I'm standing on the shoulders of those who have come before me. I think it's very important that I represent this thing correctly. So far from the game, I thought everything was pretty good. Maybe after that long explosive touchdown, I could have gone for two to put us in the field goal winning situation. I'm already thinking about that because I want to be a little bit better, but that's my job. I think if my players know I'm trying to get better, they only do the same thing."

Rams QB Stetson Bennett

(On how he reset after throwing an interception and bouncing back in the two-minute drill)

"They made a great play. It was hard to see. It was really good play. Then we [need] to go win a football game and our defense did a great job of giving us that second opportunity after we didn't convert on the first one. So, just play the next play."

(On if the game has slowed down for him)

"Yeah, I think I'm confident in our calls and getting the job done. Obviously, there's some stuff that we got to go clean up. But yeah, I'd say so."

(On if QB Matthew Stafford was on the sideline)

"I was so locked in each and every snap. I didn't really look too closely."

(On his thoughts about the performances from the wide receivers today)

"[They're] playing really well. They were fighting. There are two fourth down conversions on two different drives, maybe on the same one... I'm pretty tired right now (laughter). But yeah, just fighting it for me. Playing great."

(On his big touchdown throw to WR Mario Williams)

"Oh, on the touchdown. That was sweet. There was a look in practice that was like that and [he] stepped up, great protection. He ran a great route, kind of stuck it in there. [The] safety kind of hung over there on the left hash and just getting the ball up and down. That was a fun one. That was a fun time."

(On what OC Mike LaFleur told him after the touchdown to WR Mario Williams)

"I honestly don't know. He was kind of smiling and yeah, I can't remember exactly what he said."

(On what it means to beat a team that played their starters earlier in the game)

"I think everybody in our locker room just saw it as a great opportunity and we were excited to go out there because they're going to be a really good football team. We just saw a great opportunity and like the coaches say, 'We're just testing our moves right now.' We're not game planning. They're not either. Just going out there."

(On what the game-winning drive does for his confidence)

"Oh man, that it's not over until it is. Just keep going and keep swinging."

(On his comfort from year one to year three being on the field)

"I think we're back to playing football more so than whatever it might be. You know what I'm saying? I think that's a lot of... when you first get here, at least for me, and when I say here, I mean the NFL or a new league, it was the same going from high school to college and then college to the NFL. It's just

like I don't know, whatever might be. But it's football and I think that's the best explanation I can give."

(On the different circumstances year-over-year and how he feels now from a confidence standpoint)

"Yeah, again, it's just every single play, every single snap going out there. Coaches say, 'It comes from within,' and I think we've got a great group of guys in there, every single person. The motivation comes from within. It's not necessarily external. Yeah, [I'm] just attacking this new groove."

(On what it feels like to play with the spark and confidence he played with tonight)

"I don't know. I feel like I'm just listening to the play call and trying to execute it to my best ability."

(On calming his teammates down before the two-point conversion attempt and if he was also calming himself down)

"Yeah, I think it was for me as much as it was for them. Let's go execute and they made a good stop on that one, but we got this next play. Let's go execute that one."

(On whether he believes he can contribute with the first team offense if he was called upon)

"Yeah, I think it's the same thing. We're just trying to execute every single play and do it the best for the Rams."

(On what this victory means to him)

"It was pretty cool. I'm not going to lie. I was tired out there. It was a hard fought one and I think everybody out there at the end... defense getting us the ball back. It was pretty sweet."

(On what part of the game was tiring)

"Yeah, I think just the number of plays, throws, whatever it was."

(On what was special about his first few throws to WR Xavier Smith)

"[Wide Receiver] Xavier Smith is an awesome football player. If I'm going to be totally honest with you, that feels like it was four years ago, the first quarter (laughter). I'm going to have to go re-watch the film, but he's an awesome football player."

Chargers HC Jim Harbaugh

(On his overall thoughts of the game)

"My overall thoughts are that I know it's preseason. They talk about it's just preseason, but it feels like regular season to me right now. It'll probably be for another 24 hours and maybe even longer, but a tremendous thing to learn from in this game. I'm confident we'll dig into it."

(On WR Tre Harris' performance)

"I thought all the receivers did an outstanding job. [Wide Receiver] Tre [Harris] had some big catches, showing the catch radius, showing the ability to catch it over the middle, catch and run, and catch on the sideline. I thought he had a heck of a game. [Wide Receiver] [KeAndre Lambert-Smith] 'KLS' [did] the same. I'm really impressed with 'KLS' on the gunner rep he had and the tackle and the toughness. I thought both of those players, Tre and KeAndre, showed a lot of grit."

(On WR Tre Harris' development)

"He's a very confident player. He's the kind of guy that just keeps building and that's what we've noticed throughout training camp and it's always great to see that kind of hard work pays off, and it always does. Hard work always pays off."

(On WR Quentin Johnston's injury)

"[Wide Receiver] Quentin [Johnston] suffered a concussion and that's never a good thing. The way it

looked there at the time looked like it could have been a lot worse. He was taken for more evaluation, but he was talking. He remembered the play and he was moving good. So, in that way, it's a good thing.

(On if WR Quentin Johnston went to the hospital)

"Yes, for precaution to make sure that everything was looked at [and for] X-rays."

(On which hospital WR Quentin Johnston went to)

"No, I don't sorry."

(On WR Luke Grimm's punt return touchdown)

"I thought it was outstanding. I thought the blocking was smart, was crisp. It was a great return by Luke, set up great. There are guys that had a chance to block in the back and they didn't. They trusted their training and their coaching. It was great to see it executed for a touchdown. That was huge."

(On WR Luke Grimm's future with the team after his preseason performances)

"It sure bodes well for him. And the great CT (TeRah) Edwards made the huge play. It's been great. All three preseason games, guys stepping up. I mean literally screaming with how they play that they belong and they can help our foot football team and we can count on them. It's a magical thing."

(On if he had a good view of the DL TeRah Edwards' interception)

"It was pretty much right in front of me, the interception and the run, good ball security. I'm just fired up for him."

(On QB Justin Herbert and how the first team offense looked)

"I thought they moved the ball down there really well. We had the screen call that didn't work but I thought they looked pretty sharp. I was happy with the action that both our first team defense and first team offense got in this game. I think we needed it. I think it helped us."

(On if he has a comment for the latest sanctions from the NCAA)

"Like I said to you last year, not engaging. Not engaging."

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